

# 2021



07

Agriculture  
and forestry

Neuchâtel 2021

## Agriculture and food

Pocket statistics 2021



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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
Federal Statistical Office FSO

**Published by:** Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

**Information:** agrar@bfs.admin.ch, tel. +41 58 467 24 39

**Editor:** Sibylle Meyre, FSO

**Series:** Swiss Statistics

**Topic:** 07 Agriculture and Forestry

**Original text:** German

**Translation:** FSO language services

**Layout:** DIAM Section, Prepress/Print

**Graphics:** DIAM Section, Prepress/Print

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Printed in Switzerland

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**FSO number:** 1112-2100

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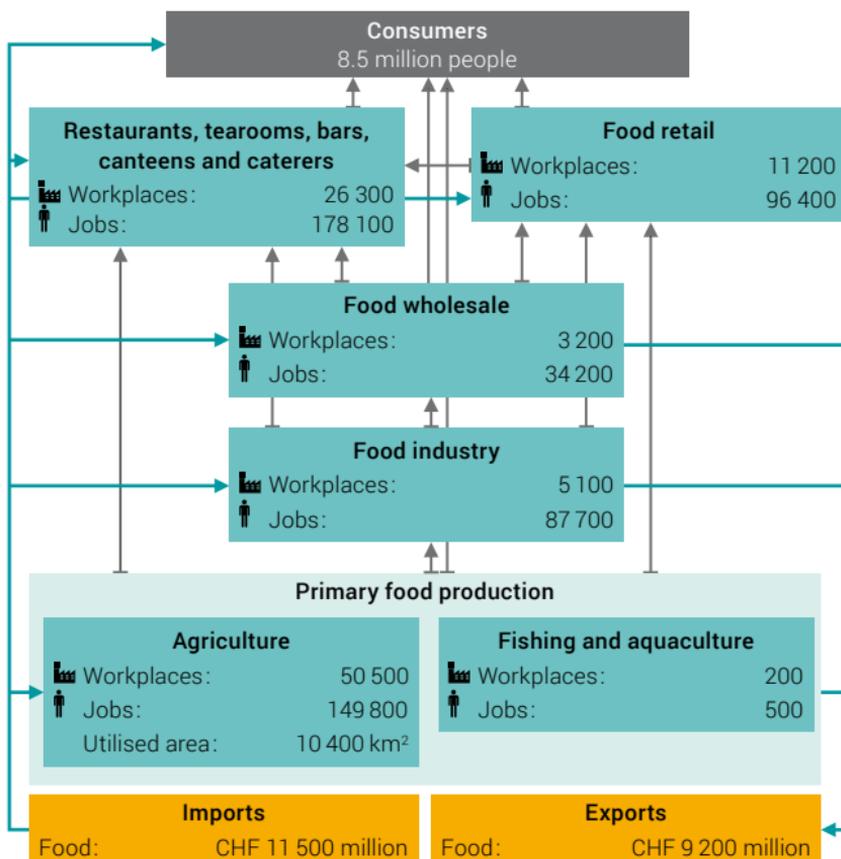
### Data relating to the graphs can be found at:

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# 1 Overview

## The food supply chain in Switzerland, 2018



— domestic food flows

— food flows with the rest of the world

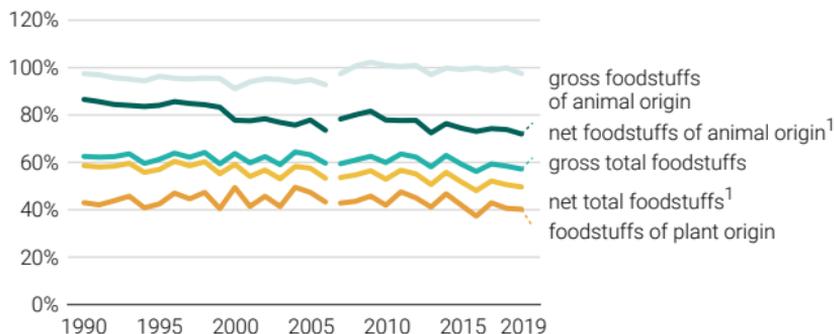
Sources: FCA – Foreign trade statistics;  
FSO – STATENT, STATPOP, Farm structure survey

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## 2 Context

### Self-sufficiency rate

#### By usable energy



<sup>1</sup> excluding animal production based on imported feed

new calculation method since 2007; 2019 (provisional)

Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

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### Gross self-sufficiency rate of 57%

Since the early 20th century, Switzerland's resident population has grown by a factor of 2.6 to over 8.6 million (2019). At the same time, breeding and technical progress in agriculture has seen food production increase. This has meant that 60% of food consumption (in terms of usable energy) has been covered by domestic production over the past 30 years. In 2019 the gross self-sufficiency rate fell to 57%. With regard to livestock products, domestic production also depends on imported fodder. Net self-sufficiency (2019: 49%) includes only food produced with domestic fodder.

## 3 Agricultural structures

### Farms

Thousands of farms

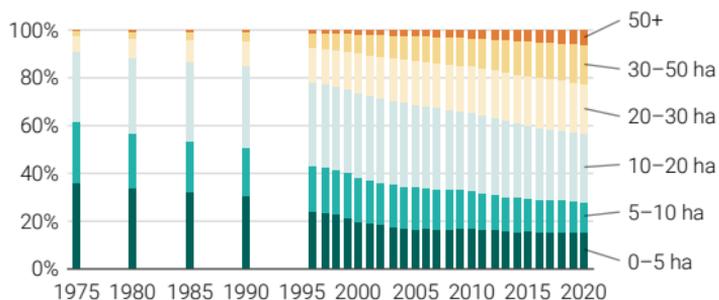


Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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### Farms by size

Size classes in hectares of utilised agricultural area per farm

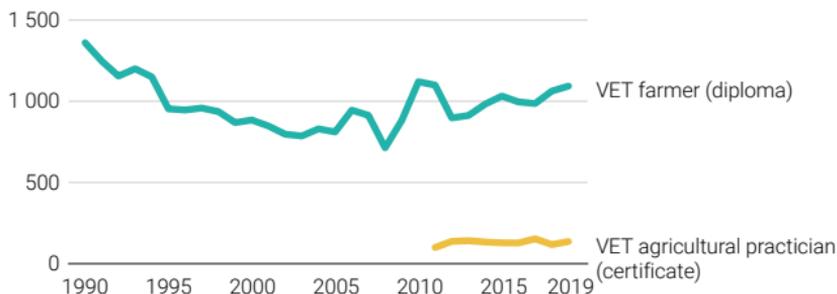


Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

© FSO 2021

## Education and training in crop and livestock farming

### Number of vocational qualifications



Federal VET Diploma; Federal VET Certificate

Source: FSO – Vocational education and training statistics (SBG-SFPI)

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### Farms continue to increase in size

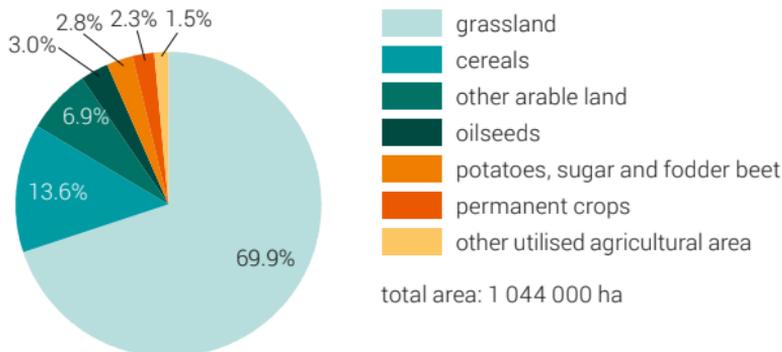
The number of farms declined from 111 302 in 1975 to 49 363 in 2020. While the number of conventional farms has fallen, organic farming has gained in importance since the 1990s. The number of organic farms rose from 900 in 1990 to 7561 in 2020.

In 2020, farms had an average utilised agricultural area of 21 hectares. That was more than twice as much as in 1975.

From 2008 onwards, vocational education and training in the agricultural sector has shown an upward trend. In 2019, 50 more apprentices graduated with a federal VET diploma or certificate than in the previous year.

## Utilised agricultural area, 2020

### Excluding summer pastures

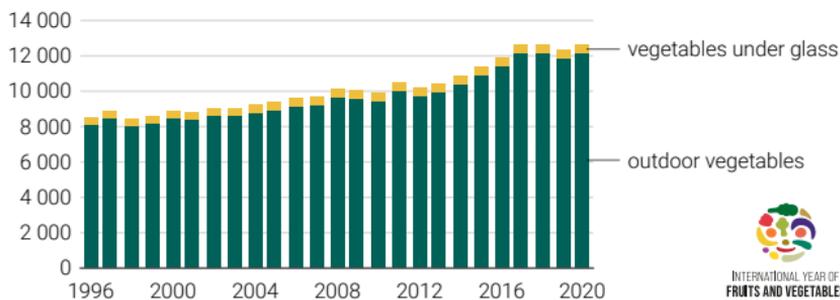


Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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## Vegetables

### Hectares

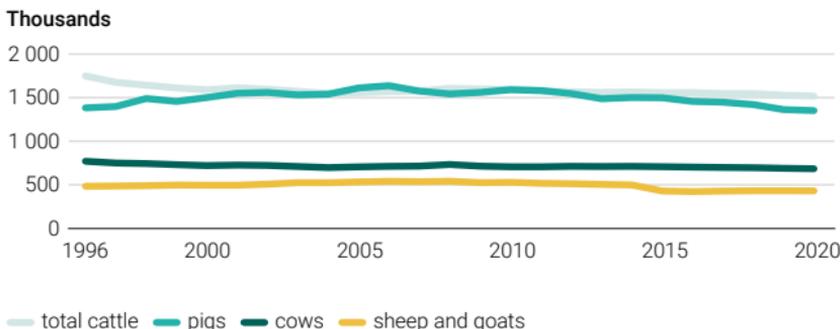


Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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## Numbers of livestock



from 2015, reference day has been moved from early May to 1st January

Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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## Vegetable plot surface areas are increasing

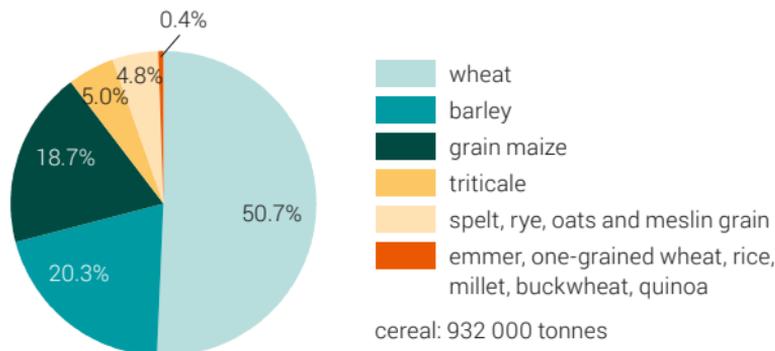
In 2020, the utilised agricultural area measured some 1 million hectares. Of these, 730 000 hectares were grassland. This was followed by cereals (142 000 ha), the most important arable crop. Between 1996 and 2020, vegetable plot surface areas increased by 48%. In 2020, it amounted to around 13 000 ha outdoors and in greenhouses combined. 2021 is the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

## The number of cows is falling

Cattle numbers fell by 13% between 1996 and 2020 to 1.5 million. In 2020, the number of cows was about 680 000, the lowest value since 1996. The number of pigs was roughly 1.3 million in 2020.

## 4 Primary production

### Cereal production, 2019

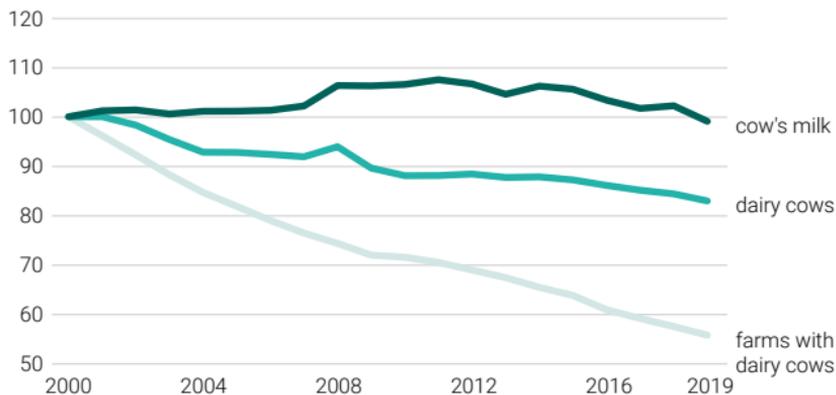


Source: SFU – Crop production

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### Production of cow's milk

Index 2000 = 100

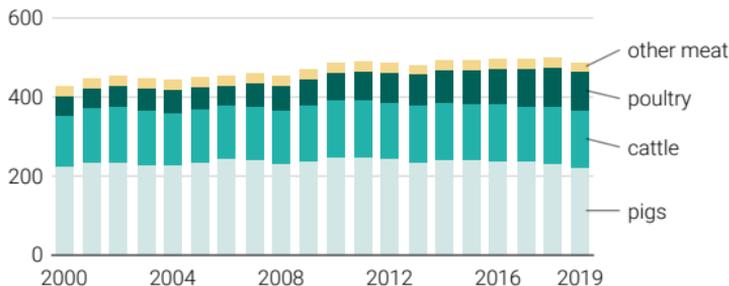


Sources: FSO – Farm structure survey; SFU – Dairy statistics

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## Meat production<sup>1</sup>

Thousands of tonnes



<sup>1</sup> usable output, carcass weight

Source: FSU – Animal production

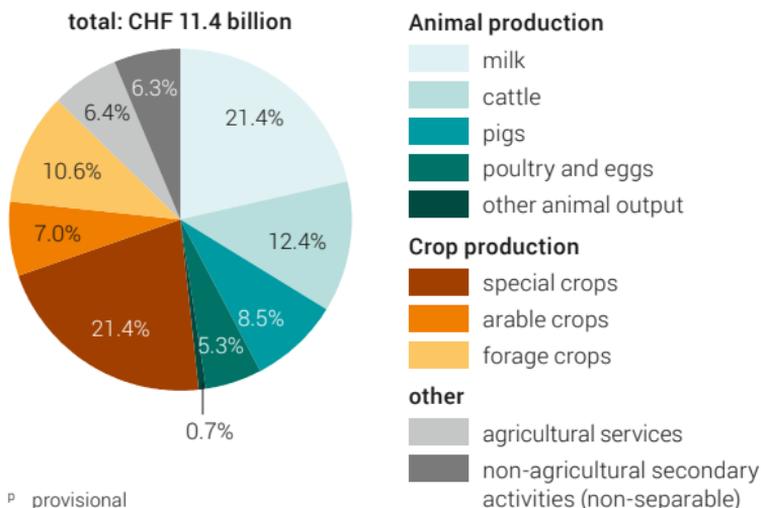
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## Poultry is popular

In 2019, around 932 000 tonnes of cereal were produced, 6% more than in the previous year. Wheat accounted for around half of the cereal yield.

In 2019, 3.8 billion kg of milk was produced. The general decrease in the number of dairy cows and dairy farms continued in 2019. In 2000, a dairy farm had on average 15 dairy cows. This figure increased to an average of 22 in 2019. In 2019, 490 000 tonnes of meat were produced, 45% of which was pork. In 2019, poultry production increased to around 100 000 tonnes, i. e. twice as much as in 2000.

## Total output of agriculture, 2019<sup>P</sup>

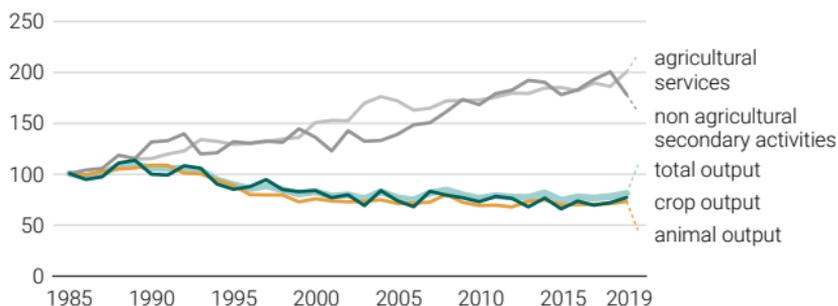


Source: FSO – Economic accounts for agriculture

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## Output of agriculture

To current prices - Index 1985 = 100



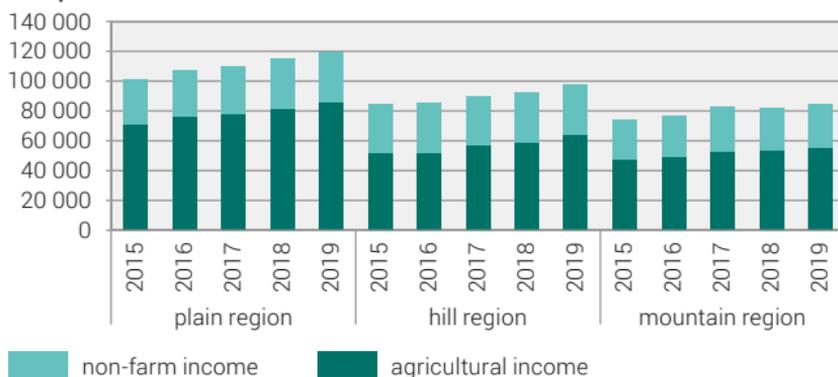
output to basic prices includes subsidies on products and excludes taxes on products; 1985–2017: definitive, 2018: semi definitive, 2019: provisional

Source: FSO – Economic accounts for agriculture

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## Total income per farm

### CHF per farm



Source: Agroscope – Farm Accountancy Data Network

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### Income differs between regions

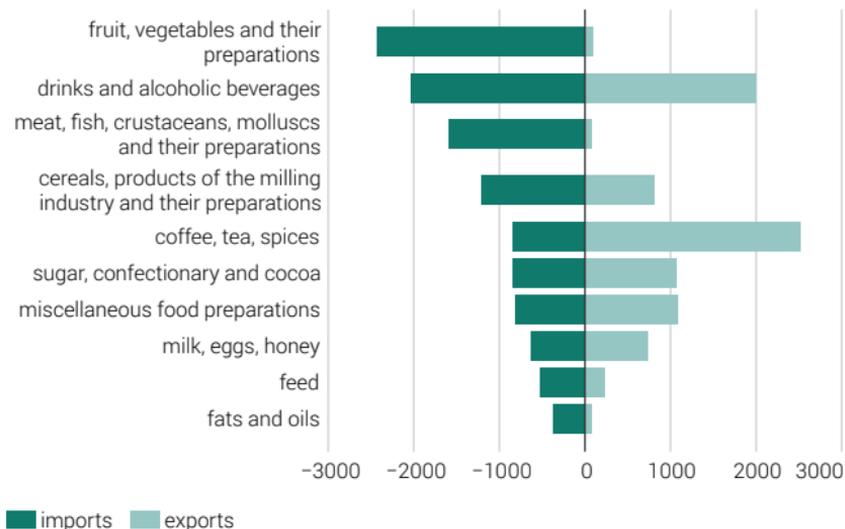
The total output of Swiss agriculture in 2019 was CHF 11.4 billion. Animal products accounted for 48% and crop production for 39% of agriculture's output value. The share of agricultural services and non-agricultural secondary activities in the total output increased from 5% in 1985 to 13% in 2019.

The agricultural income per farm was an average of CHF 74 200 in 2019 (5% higher than in 2018). Non-agricultural income accounted for almost a third of household income and was therefore very important to farming families. Household income tended to be lower in hill and mountain regions (19% and 30% respectively) than in the plain region.

## 5 Food industry, trade, catering

### Imports and exports of the most important foodstuffs, 2019

CHF millions



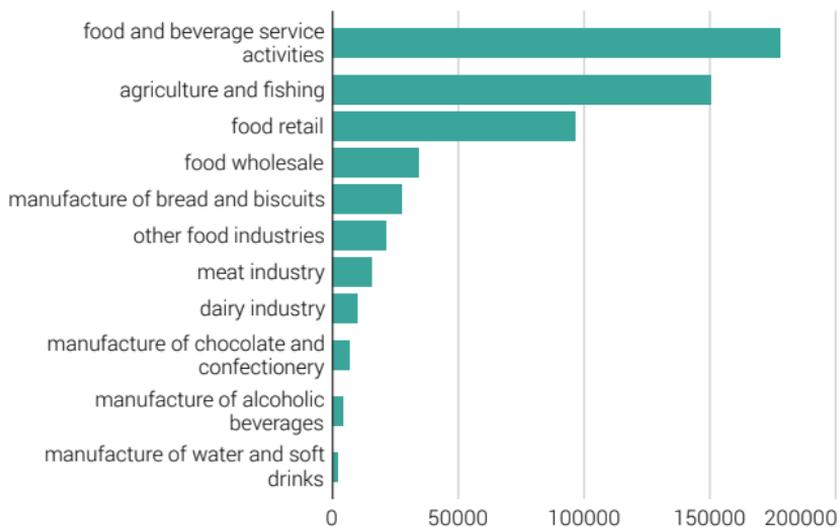
Source: SCA – Swiss foreign trade statistics

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#### Fruit and vegetables are the most commonly imported foodstuffs

In 2019, fruit and vegetables were the most commonly imported agricultural products in terms of value. The most common exports were not cheese or chocolate, but beverages containing water, and coffee.

## Jobs in the food supply chain, 2018



Source: FSO – Structural Business Statistics (STATENT)

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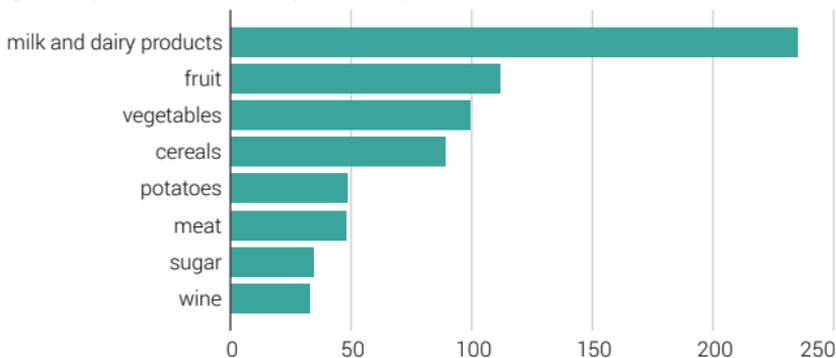
### 11% of all jobs are in the food supply chain

In 2018, some 100 000 businesses operated in the food supply chain. Of Switzerland's total workforce of some 5.2 million, approximately 550 000 people, representing 11% of jobs, worked within the food supply chain in 2018. Most were employed in food and beverage establishments, primary production (agriculture and fishing) and in food retail.

## 6 Consumption

### Consumption of selected foods

Kg of raw product per head per year, 2019 (provisional)

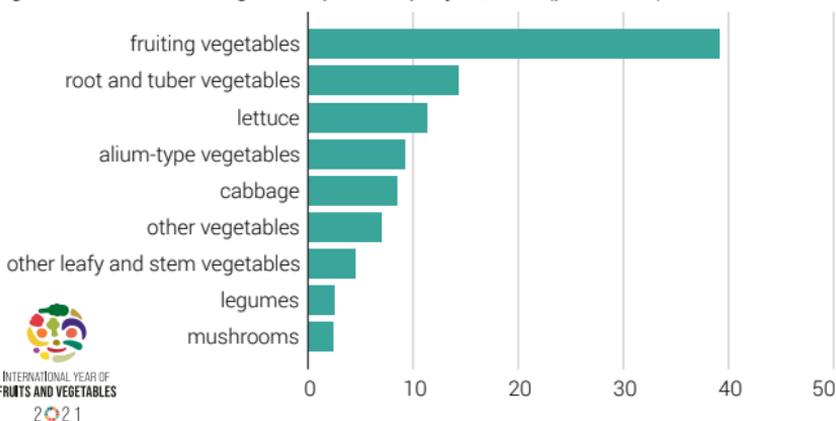


Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

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### Vegetable consumption, 2019

Kg of untrimmed fresh vegetables per head per year, 2019 (provisional)

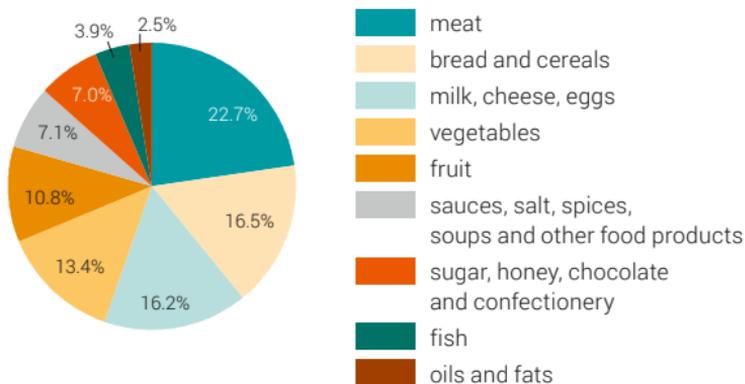


INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES  
2021

Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

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## Household consumption expenditure for food, 2018



average number of persons per household: 2.2

Source: FSO – Household Budget Survey

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### Households spend 12% of their budget on food

In Switzerland, dietary energy supply was 12 600 kJ per capita per day in 2019, taking account of waste (e.g. unsold or spoiled food, peelings). According to the 6th Swiss nutrition report, the target range for daily energy intake for an adult person is between 7500 and 10 500 kJ.

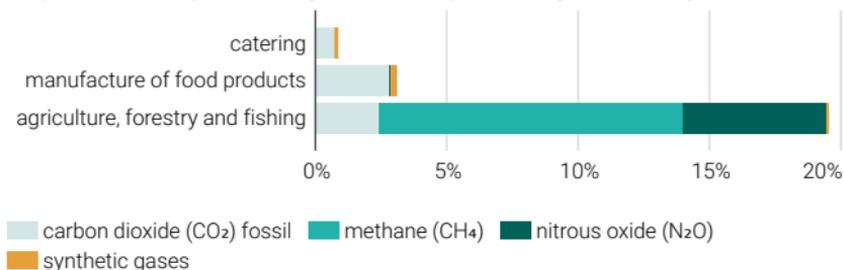
In 2019, approximately 834 kg of food were consumed per person. 525 kg were from plant-based and 308 kg from animal production.

In 2018 an average household spent roughly 12% of its budget, i. e. on average CHF 1200 per month on food, including meals and drinks in restaurants. An average of CHF 62 was spent on fruit and around CHF 77 on vegetables.

## 7 Environment

### Greenhouse gas emissions from the food supply chain, 2018

Proportion of total greenhouse gas emissions produced by the economy

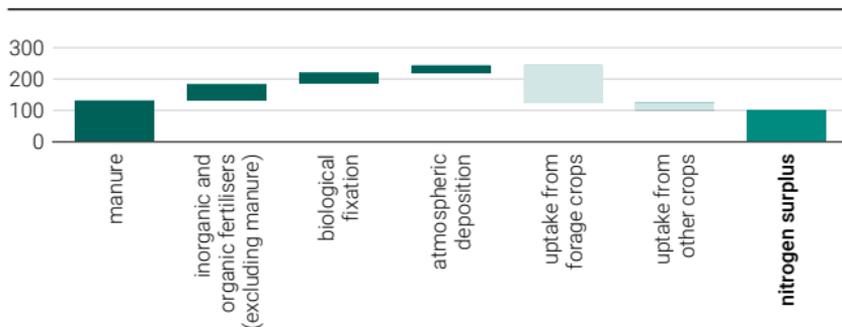


Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

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### Nitrogen balance of agricultural land, 2018<sup>1</sup>

Amounts of nitrogen inputs and uptake from agricultural land in thousands of tonnes



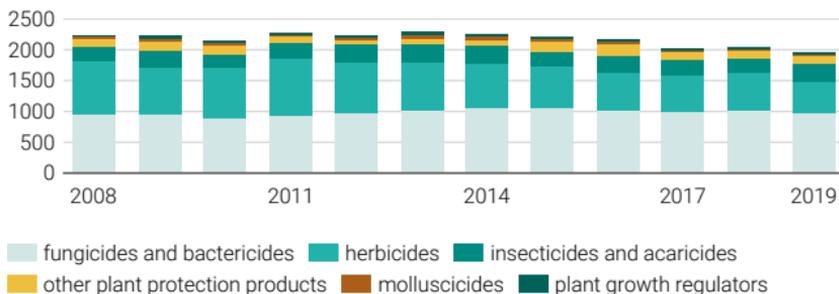
<sup>1</sup> according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) method

Source: FSO – Nitrogen balance

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## Sales of plant protection products

### Tonnes of active substances



Source: FOAG

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## Nitrogen surplus continues

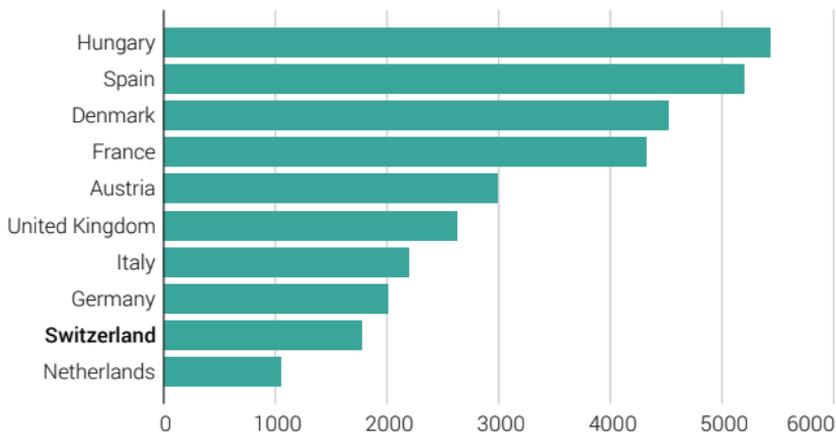
The sectors of the food supply chain caused 23% of the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the economy as a whole in 2018. The largest share of the total methane and nitrous oxide emissions were caused by agriculture, in particular from cattle and fertilisers.

Nitrogen can become a pollutant in the environment (as ammonia in the air or as nitrate in groundwater). In the 1990s, the annual nitrogen surplus on agricultural land amounted to 81 kg per hectare (5-year average 1990/94). Since then, the surplus has declined, reaching an average for 2014/18 of approximately 68 kg per hectare.

In 2019, a total of 1950 tonnes of pesticides were sold. This was 100 tonnes fewer than in the previous year.

## 8 International comparisons

### Agricultural area in m<sup>2</sup> per capita, 2019

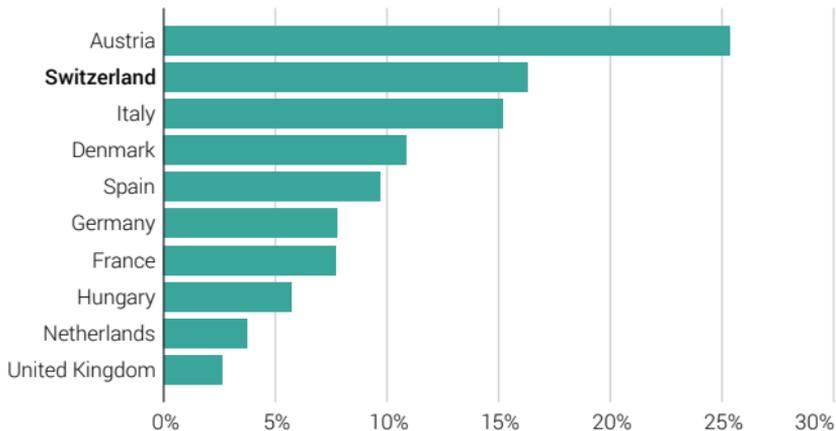


Source: Eurostat

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### Organic agriculture, 2019

#### Share of organically farmed utilised agricultural area

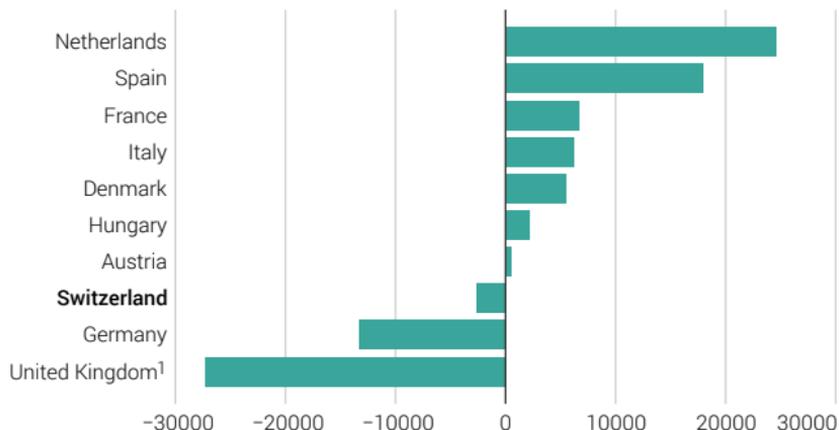


Source: Eurostat

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## International trade of food, beverages and tobacco, 2020

Balance in EUR millions



<sup>1</sup> data 2019

negative values represent an import surplus; positive values represent an export surplus.

Source: Eurostat

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### In European comparison, Switzerland's per capita agricultural area is small

Switzerland, like the Netherlands, is among the European countries that have a small agricultural area per person. The share of the utilised agricultural area that is organically farmed, however, is twice the European average. Austria is the leader in organic farming.

The United Kingdom (2019), Germany and Switzerland (2020) imported more food than they exported in terms of value. The Netherlands and Spain, in contrast, stand out as export countries in terms of food.

## 9 Key cantonal figures

### Population and workplaces, 2018

Cantons	Population in thousands	Farms	Of which organic farms	Cheese dairies	Large supermarkets (1000–2499 m <sup>2</sup> )	Restaurants
ZH	1 521	3 346	412	18	82	3 172
BE	1 035	10 396	1 313	123	66	2 369
LU	410	4 561	419	41	23	762
UR	36	563	61	10	0	133
SZ	159	1 558	171	15	11	470
OW	38	614	188	13	X	84
NW	43	426	79	12	X	91
GL	40	365	96	6	X	132
ZG	127	557	87	5	10	279
FR	319	2 762	197	114	18	676
SO	273	1 362	168	5	20	635
BS	195	13	4	0	17	578
BL	288	908	141	0	30	464
SH	82	544	35	0	7	209
AR	55	699	134	7	0	169
AI	16	461	27	X	X	60
SG	508	3 950	482	62	23	1 384
GR	198	2 278	1 307	32	16	832
AG	678	3 206	284	5	48	1 223
TG	276	2 559	341	32	13	628
TI	353	1 092	146	13	20	1 344
VD	799	3 680	304	61	44	1 937
VS	344	2 756	342	33	18	1 483
NE	177	796	87	14	10	464
GE	499	386	41	X	28	1 590
JU	73	1 014	166	7	6	190
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>8 545</b>	<b>50 852</b>	<b>7 032</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>21 358</b>

X: Not indicated due to data protection (between 1 and 3 workplaces)

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