

2022



07

Agriculture
and forestry

Neuchâtel 2022

Agriculture and food

Pocket Statistics 2022



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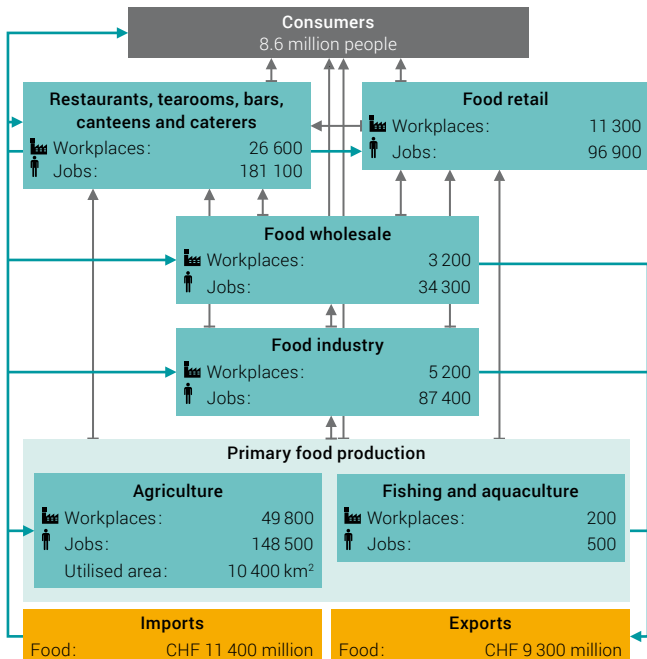
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1 Overview

The food supply chain in Switzerland, 2019



— domestic food flows

— food flows with the rest of the world

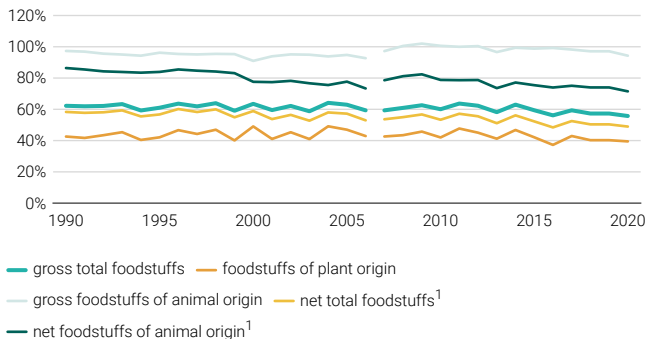
Sources: FOCBS – Foreign trade statistics;
FSO – STATENT, STATPOP, Farm structure survey

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2 Context

Self-sufficiency rate, 1990–2020

By usable energy



¹ excluding animal production based on imported feed
New calculation method since 2007; 2020 (provisional)

Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

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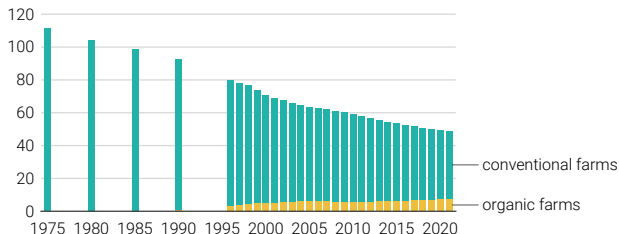
Gross self-sufficiency rate of 56%

Since the early 20th century, Switzerland's resident population has grown by a factor of 2.6 to over 8.7 million in 2020. At the same time, breeding and technical progress in agriculture has seen food production increase. This means that from 1990 to 2014, around 60% of food consumption (in terms of usable energy) was covered by domestic production. Since then, the gross self-sufficiency rate has never exceeded this figure, falling in 2020 to 56%. For the net self-sufficiency rate (2020: 49%), with regard to animal products, only those produced with domestic fodder are included.

3 Agricultural structures

Farms, 1975–2021

Thousands of farms

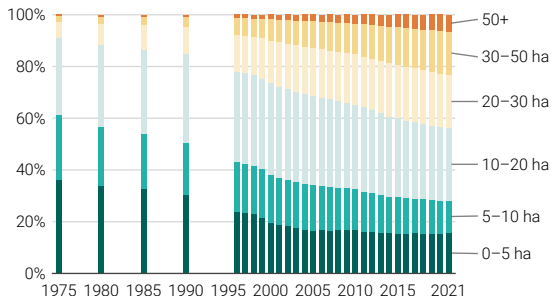


Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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Farms by size, 1975–2021

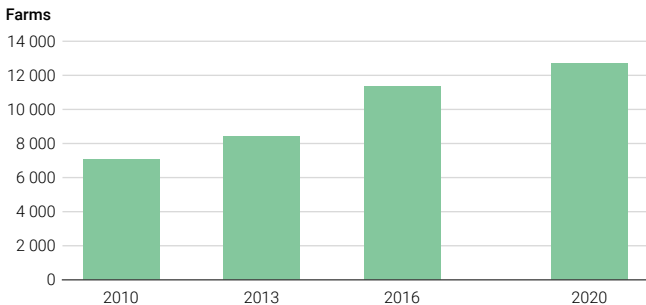
Size classes in hectares of utilised agricultural area per farm



Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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Direct sale of agricultural products to final consumers, 2010–2020



Source: FSO – Farm Census, additional survey

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Farms are growing in size and increasingly sell direct

The number of farms declined from 111 302 in 1975 to 48 864 in 2021. While the number of conventional farms has fallen, the number of organic farms has risen from 900 in 1990 to 7670 in 2021.

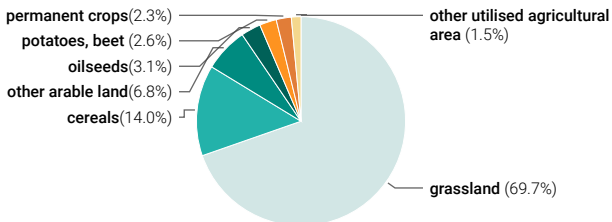
In 2021, farms had an average utilised agricultural area of 21 ha. That was more than twice as much as in 1975.

The number of farms selling produce direct from the farm rose from 7000 in 2010 to more than 12 600 in 2020. This was one in four farms. Other diversifications include forestry work, processing of farm products, work for other farms, accommodation, handicrafts, social work, gastronomic services and aquaculture.

Utilised agricultural area, 2021

Excluding alpine areas

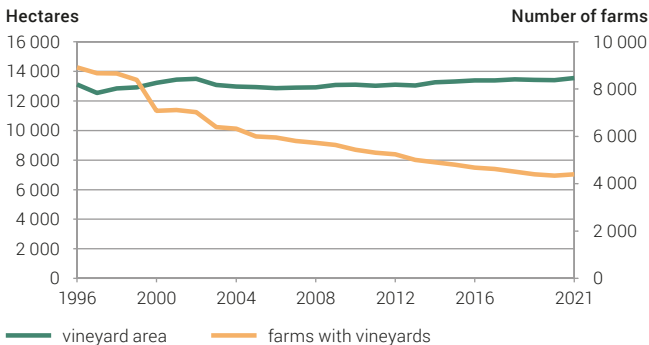
Total area: 1,042,000 ha



Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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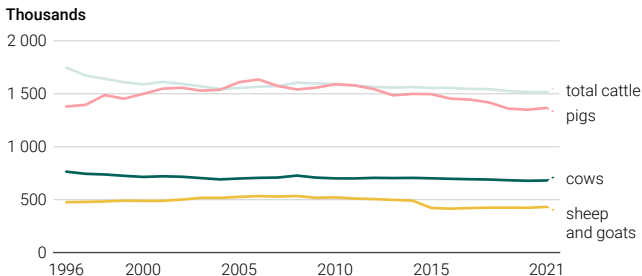
Vineyards, 1996–2021



Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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Numbers of livestock, 1996–2021



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

Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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Fewer farms cultivating area under vines

In 2021, the utilised agricultural area measured some 1 million hectares. Of these, 726 000 ha were grassland. This was followed by cereals (146 000 ha), the most important arable crop.

The area under vines has stabilised at around 13 000 hectares in the last 25 years. The decline in the number of farms cultivating this area reflects the structural change in viticulture.

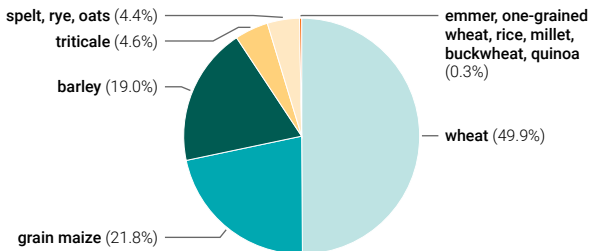
The number of cattle is falling

Cattle numbers fell by 13% between 1996 and 2021 to 1.5 million. In 2020, the number of cows, around 678 000, was at its lowest since 1996. In 2021, it recovered slightly, and with 681 000 cows almost returned to the level of 2019. The number of pigs was roughly 1.4 million in 2021.

4 Primary production

Cereal production, 2020

Cereals: 1 010 000 tonnes

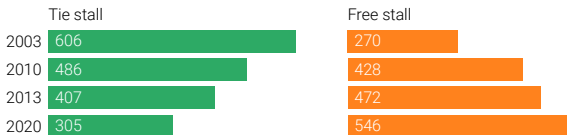


Source: SFU – Crop production

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Housing systems for cows, 2003–2020

1000 spaces

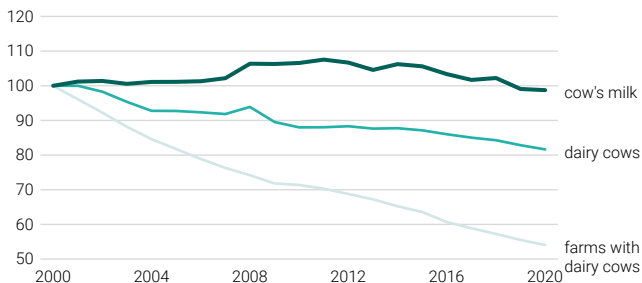


FSO – Farm structure survey, complementary surveys

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Production of cow's milk, 2000–2020

Index 2000 = 100



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

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Wheat is the main cereal crop

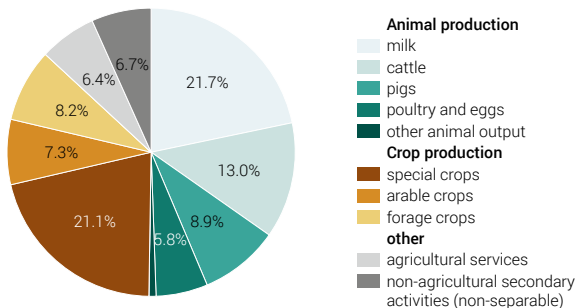
In 2020, around 1 010 000 tonnes of cereal were produced, 8% more than in the previous year. Wheat accounted for about half of cereal yields. Cereals have a variety of uses, from human nutrition to animal feed.

New stable systems are gaining acceptance

Cow husbandry is shifting from traditional tie stalls to loose housing. In the years 2010 to 2020, some 120 000 new places were created for cows in loose housing. This meant that in 2020, 64% of cow places were in loose housing.

Total output of agriculture, 2020

Total: CHF 11.4 billion, 2020 provisional

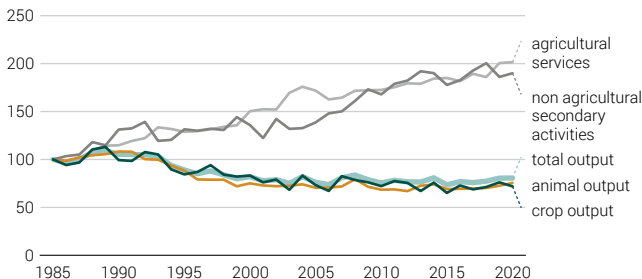


Source: FSO – Economic accounts for agriculture

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Output of agriculture, 1985–2020

To current prices - index 1985 = 100



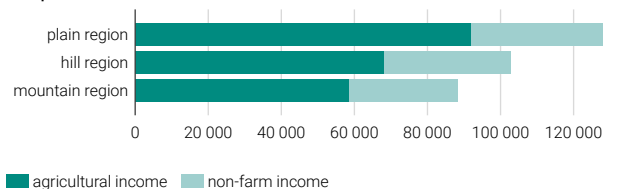
output to basic prices includes subsidies on products and excludes taxes on products;
1985–2018: definitive, 2019: semi definitive, 2020: provisional

Source: FSO – Economic accounts for agriculture

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Total income per farm, 2020

CHF per farm



Source: Agroscope – Farm Accountancy Data Network

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Income differs between regions

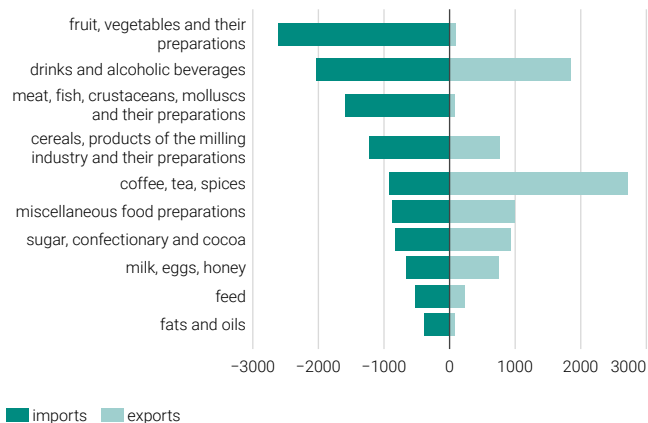
Total output of Swiss agriculture in 2020 was CHF 11.4 billion. Animal products accounted for 50% and crop production for 37% of agriculture's output value. The share of agricultural services and non-agricultural secondary activities in the total output increased from 5% in 1985 to 13% in 2020.

The agricultural income per farm was an average of CHF 79 200 in 2020 (almost CHF 5000 higher than in 2019). Non-agricultural income accounted for roughly a third of household income and was therefore very important to farming families. Household income tended to be lower in hill and mountain regions (26% and 36% respectively) than in the plain region.

5 Food industry, trade, catering

Imports and exports of the most important foodstuffs, 2020

CHF millions



Source: FOCBS – Swiss foreign trade statistics

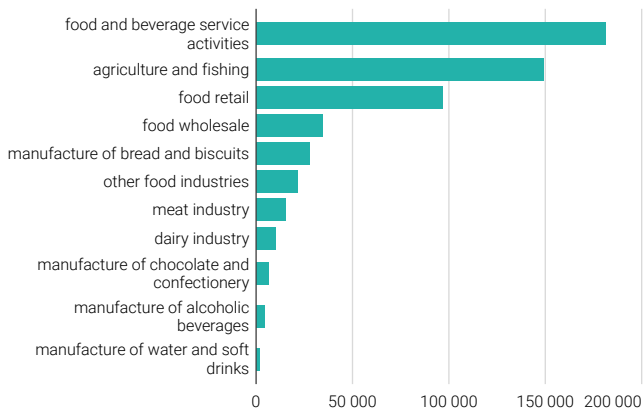
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Fruit and vegetables are the most commonly imported foodstuffs

In 2020, 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, 2019

Number of jobs



Source: FSO – Structural Business Statistics (STATENT)

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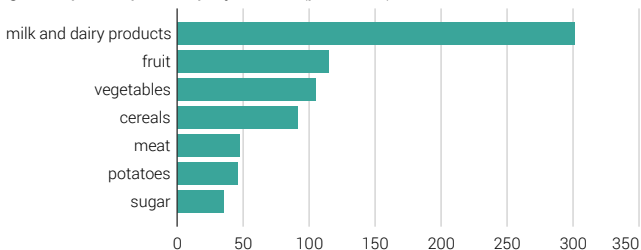
10% of all jobs are in the food supply chain

In 2019, some 100 000 businesses operated in the food supply chain. Of Switzerland's total workforce of some 5.3 million, approximately 554 000 people, representing 10% of jobs, worked within the food supply chain in 2019. Most were employed in food and beverage establishments, primary production (agriculture and fishing) and in food retail.

6 Consumption

Consumption of selected foods, 2020

Kg of raw product per head per year, 2020 (provisional)

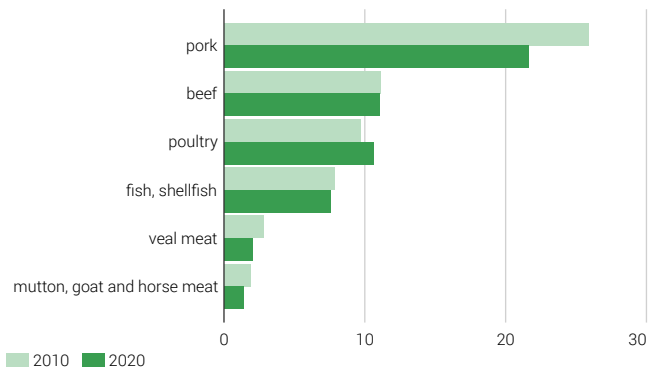


Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

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Meat and fish consumption, 2010 and 2020

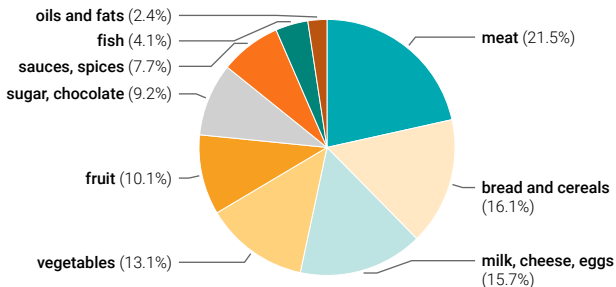
Kg per head per year, 2020 (provisional)



Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

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Household consumption expenditure for food, 2019



average number of persons per household: 2.1

Source: FSO – Household Budget Survey

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Households spend 12% of their budget on food

In Switzerland, dietary energy supply was 12 800 kJ per capita per day in 2020, taking account of waste (e.g. unsold or spoilt food, peelings). According to the 6th Swiss nutrition report, the target range for daily energy intake for an adult person is between 7500 kJ and 10 500 kJ.

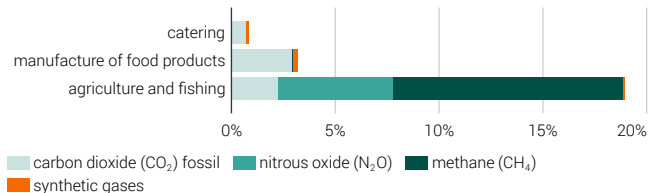
In 2020, approximately 844 kg of food were consumed per person. 532 kg were from plant-based and 312 kg from animal production, with meat consumption of 47.4 kg per person.

In 2019 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 125 was spent on meat.

7 Environment

Greenhouse gas emissions from the food supply chain, 2019

Proportion of total greenhouse gas emissions produced by the economy

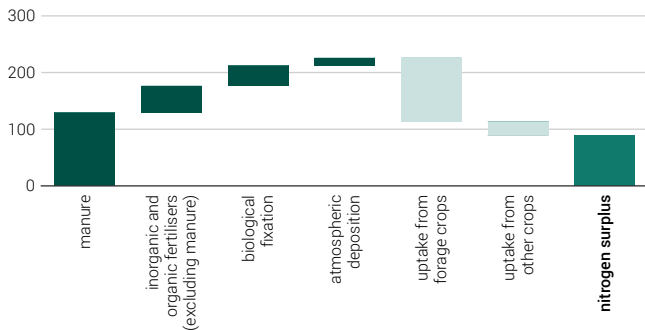


Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

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Nitrogen balance of agricultural land, 2019¹

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



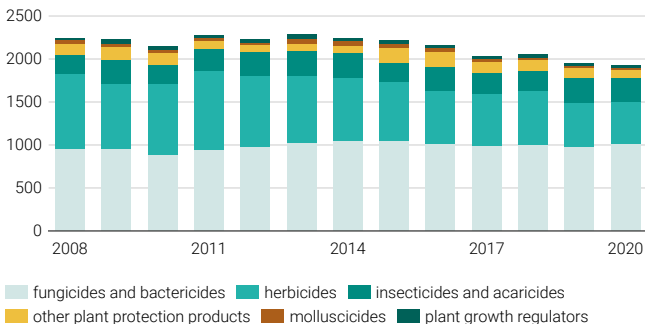
¹ according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) method

Source: FSO – Nitrogen balance

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Sales of plant protection products, 2008–2020

Tonnes of active substances



Source: FOAG

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Nitrogen surplus continues

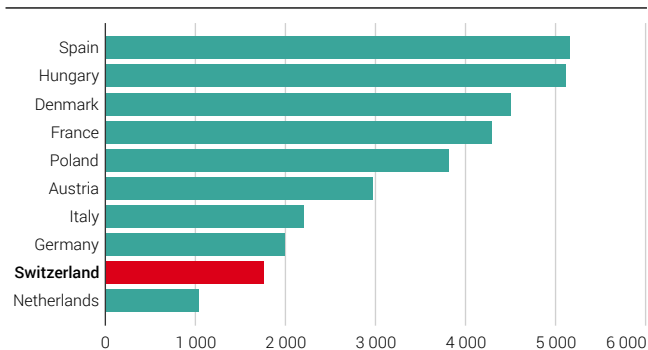
The agriculture, fishing, food manufacturing, and hospitality sectors accounted for about 23% of the total economy's greenhouse gas emissions in 2019. The largest share of the total methane and nitrous oxide emissions were caused by agriculture, in particular from cattle and fertilisers.

Nitrogen can become a pollutant in the environment (as ammonia in the air or as nitrate in groundwater). The three-year average for 2017-19 shows a total nitrogen surplus of 95 000 tonnes on agricultural land. This represents 63 kg per hectare.

In 2020, a total of 1930 tonnes of pesticides were sold. This was 23 tonnes less than the previous year.

8 International comparisons

Agricultural area in m² per capita, 2020

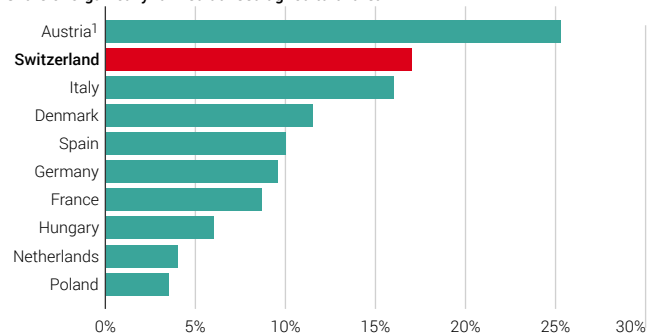


Source: Eurostat

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Organic agriculture, 2020

Share of organically farmed utilised agricultural area



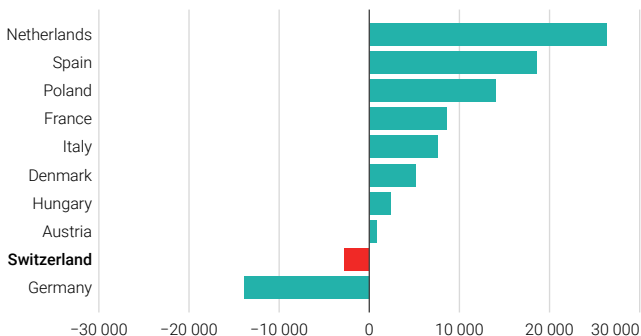
¹ 2019 data

Source: Eurostat

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International trade of food, drinks and tobacco, 2021

Balance in EUR millions



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 one of the European countries with 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.

Germany and Switzerland imported more food in 2021 than they exported in terms of value. The Netherlands, Spain and Poland, in contrast, stand out as export countries in terms of food.

9 Key cantonal figures

Population and workplaces, 2019

Cantons	Population in thousands	Farms	Of which organic farms	Cheese dairies	Large supermarkets (1 000–2 499 m ²)	Restaurants
ZH	1 539	3 258	428	17	85	3 242
BE	1 039	10 254	1 352	134	67	2 387
LU	413	4 494	434	40	24	768
UR	37	546	61	9	x	141
SZ	160	1 539	175	15	11	477
OW	38	609	188	13	x	89
NW	43	421	81	10	x	98
GL	41	355	96	16	x	128
ZG	128	549	90	4	10	285
FR	322	2 726	218	113	16	679
SO	275	1 337	178	5	20	632
BS	196	12	4	0	17	586
BL	289	907	151	x	30	478
SH	82	534	35	0	6	204
AR	55	690	136	9	x	159
AI	16	446	29	x	x	59
SG	511	3 904	486	65	23	1 367
GR	199	2 250	1 305	28	16	848
AG	686	3 132	292	7	47	1 221
TG	280	2 531	359	33	12	645
TI	351	1 081	148	13	21	1 338
VD	805	3 617	341	63	45	1 976
VS	346	2 667	363	33	18	1 504
NE	176	776	101	15	10	465
GE	504	387	51	x	27	1 625
JU	74	1 016	182	8	6	193
Switzerland	8 606	50 038	7 284	657	524	21 594

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

Sources: FSO – Farm structure survey, STATENT, STATPOP

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The information in this publication contributes to the measurement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) **no. 2 and 15** of the UN's 2030 Agenda. In Switzerland, the MONET 2030 indicator system is used to track the implementation of these goals.



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