

2023

02

Territory and
environment

Neuchâtel 2023

Environment

Pocket Statistics 2023



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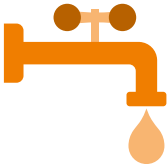
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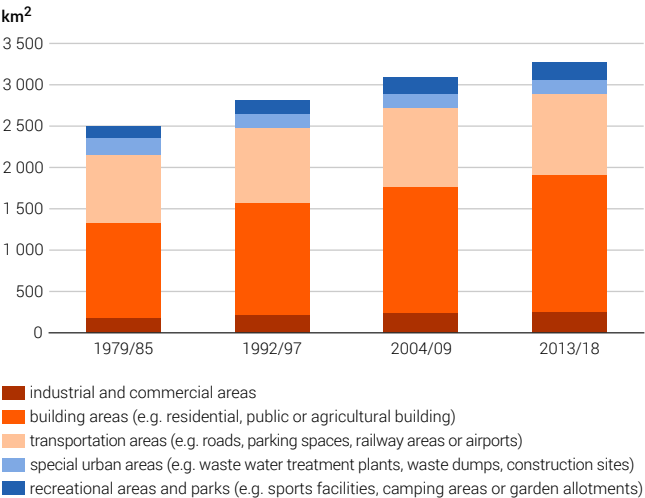
People change the environment by using natural resources and generating waste and other emissions. On the other hand, environmental conditions also have an effect on people and can prompt them to respond to certain circumstances.

1 Use of natural resources

The consumption of drinking water in Switzerland has decreased by 21% since 1990. In 2021, 914 million cubic metres of drinking water were produced, which corresponds to 287 litres per person per day (excluding own supply from commerce, industry and agriculture).



Settlement and urban areas



Source: FSO – Land use statistics

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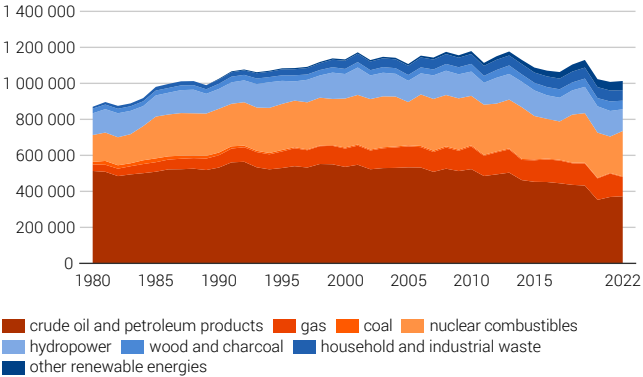
Within 33 years, settlement and urban areas have grown by 31% or 776 km², mainly at the expense of agricultural areas.



In 2022, around 4% of utilised agricultural area and 15% of arable and perennial crop areas benefited from **pollination** by insects.

Energy use

Terajoules



Source: SFOE – Overall energy statistics

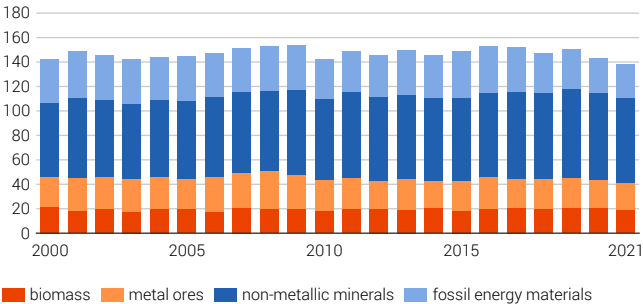
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Since 1990, gross energy consumption has increased by 0.7% and stood at 1 025 380 terajoules in 2022. Of this, 23.6% came from renewable sources (1990: 14.7%).

Material footprint

Raw material consumption (RMC)¹

Million tonnes



¹ modelling estimates
2021: provisional

Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

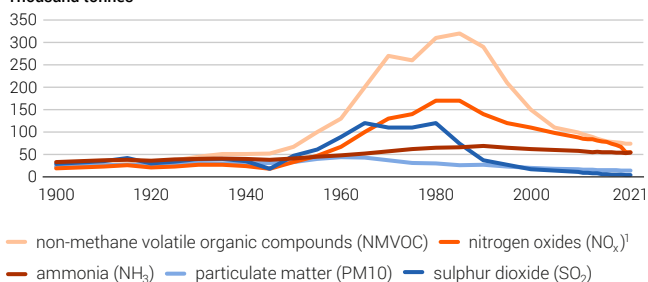
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In 2021, Switzerland's material footprint was nearly 16 tonnes per person. 41% of the raw materials were extracted in Switzerland.

2 Emissions and waste

Emissions of air pollutants

Thousand tonnes



¹ NO_x comprises NO and NO₂. Emission values are given in NO₂.

Source: FOEN – EMIS

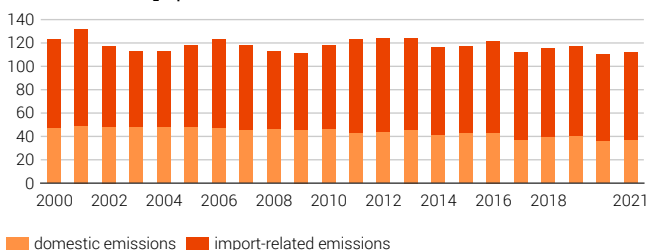
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Emissions of most air pollutants in Switzerland have decreased since the 1990s.

Greenhouse gas footprint

Greenhouse gas emissions due to final domestic demand

Million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent

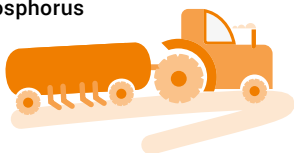


Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

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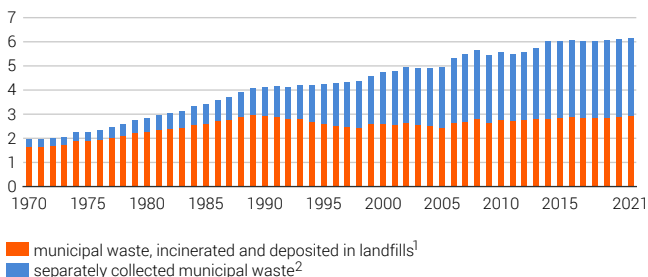
In 2021, Switzerland's greenhouse gas footprint was 12.8 tonnes of CO₂ equivalents per person, 67% of which was emitted abroad (2000: 62%).

Over the last ten years, **the nitrogen surplus** of agricultural areas has averaged 95 000 tonnes, and the **phosphorus surplus** 5000 tonnes per year.



Municipal waste

Million tonnes



¹ The figures from 2004 include only domestic waste without imports.

² Total comprising compost, paper and cardboard, glass, tin, aluminium, PET, textiles, batteries (since 1993), electrical and electronic devices (since 2001)

Source: FOEN

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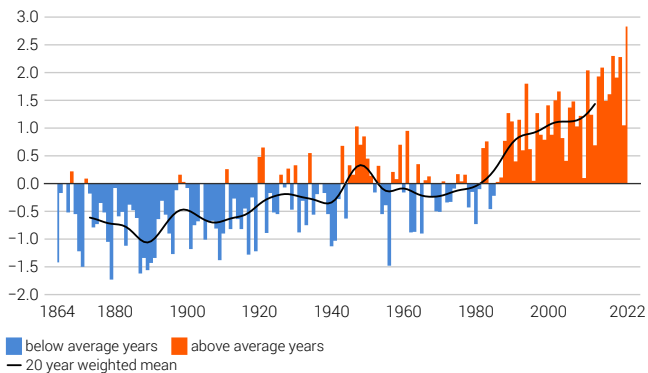
In 2021, 701 kg of municipal waste was generated per person. 52% of this was separately collected and recycled.

3 Environmental situation

Mean annual temperature

Deviation from the long-term mean (1961 to 1990)

Degrees Celsius



Source: MeteoSwiss

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The seven highest annual mean temperatures since the start recordings in 1864 were all registered after 2010. 2022 was the warmest year to date.

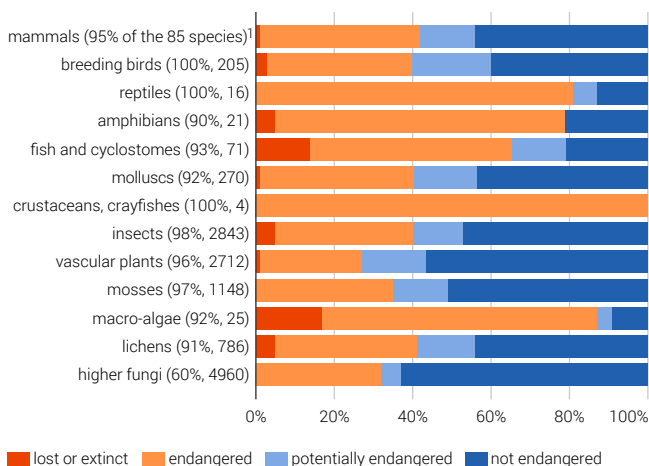


The pollution of **rivers and lakes** by nitrate and phosphorus has declined in recent decades. Elevated concentrations are still measured mainly in agricultural areas. Active substances contained in pesticides exceed the limit value

of the Waters Protection Ordinance at about 2% of the **groundwater** measuring stations.

Endangered animals and plants (Red lists)

Status 1994 to 2022, depending on the species group



¹ Reading aid: The endangerment status was assessed for 95% of the 85 mammal species. Data are deficient for the remaining species.

Source: FOEN

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According to the red list, 35% of plant, fungus and animal species in Switzerland are classified as endangered, missing or extinct.

In 2019, 84% of the population assessed the **quality of the environment** in Switzerland as very good or quite good. Only 13% of the Swiss population considered environmental quality worldwide to be very good or quite good.

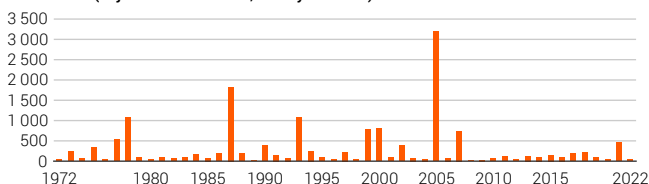


4 Effects on society

Damage caused by natural events

Floods, debris flows, landslides and rockfall¹

CHF million (adjusted for inflation, base year 2022)



¹ Rockfall taken into account since 2002

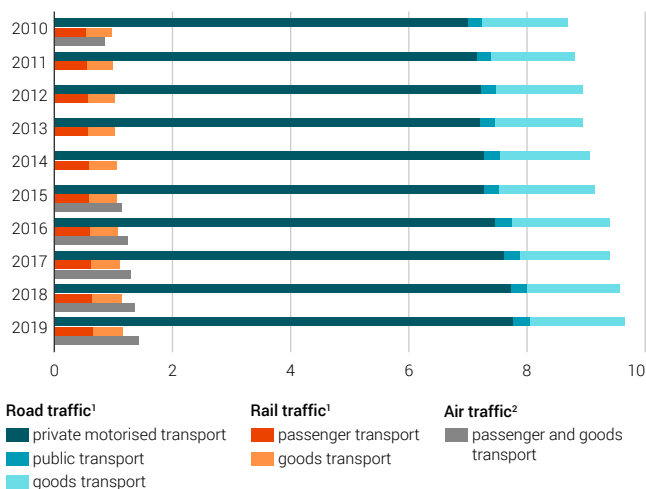
Source: WSL

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From 1972 to 2022, damage caused by natural events (floods, debris flows, landslides and rockfall) totalled CHF 15.5 billion.

External costs of road, rail and air traffic

CHF billion



¹ territoriality principle: traffic within Swiss borders

² half distance principle: air traffic within Swiss borders and half distances from Switzerland to destinations abroad and vice versa

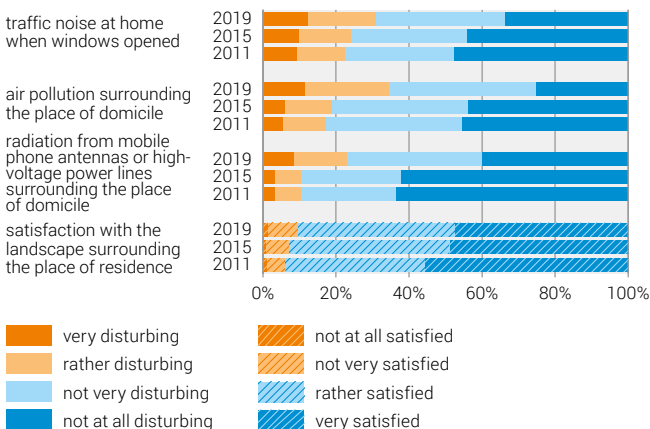
Sources: FSO; ARE

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External costs are not borne by those responsible but mostly by the general public. In transport, these types of costs are usually incurred in the environmental and health sectors.

Perception of environmental conditions in the place of residence

Share of population



Source: FSO – Omnibus surveys 2011, 2015 & 2019

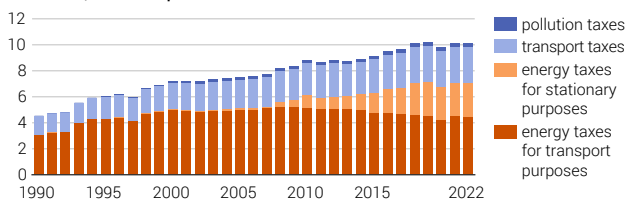
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In 2019, 31% of the population said they were very or rather disturbed by traffic noise at home, 34% by air pollution surrounding the house and 23% by radiation from high-voltage power lines or mobile phone antennas.

5 Reactions from society

Environmentally related taxes revenue

CHF billion, at current prices



2021: provisional, 2022: estimates

Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

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In 2022, revenue from environmental taxes amounted to CHF 10.1 billion. Its share of the total revenue from taxes and social contributions stood at 4.9% in 2021.



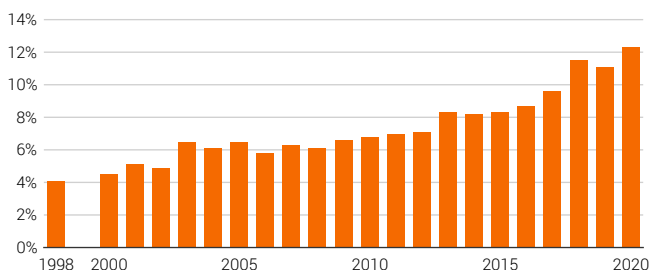
Between 2000 and 2021, **employment in the environment sector** more than doubled. In 2021, there were 162 000 full-time equivalents, which represented 4.1% of total employment (2000: 2.2%).

7% of the country's territory are areas of national importance, which primarily benefit the **protection of species and habitats**.



Consumption of organic products

Share of private household expenditure on products with an organic label out of the total expenditure for food and drink



Source: FSO – HBS

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In 2020, around 12.3% of private household's total expenditure on food and drink was spent on organic products.

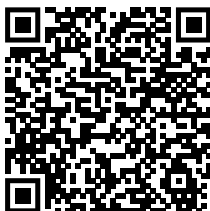
Circular economy:

In 2021, 14% of material consumption came from recycled waste (2000: 8%).



These and other environmental indicators and data as well as supplementary information are available on the Federal Statistical Office's website:

www.statistics.admin.ch → Look for statistics → 02 Territory, environment



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