

# 2024

## 02

Territory and  
environment

Neuchâtel 2024

## Environment

Pocket Statistics 2024



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
Federal Statistical Office FSO

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

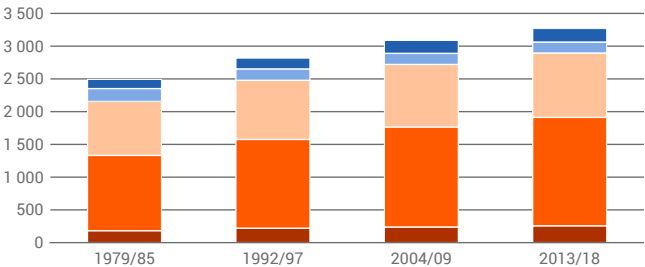
The **consumption of drinking water** in Switzerland has decreased by 20% since 1990. In 2022, 931 million cubic metres of drinking water were produced, which corresponds to 289 litres per person per day (excluding own supply from commerce, industry and agriculture).



### Settlement and urban areas

km<sup>2</sup>

- industrial and commercial areas
- building areas (e.g. residential, public or agricultural building)
- transportation areas (e.g. roads, parking spaces, railway areas or airports)
- special urban areas (e.g. waste water treatment plants, waste dumps, construction sites)
- recreational areas and parks (e.g. sports facilities, camping areas or garden allotments)



Data as on: 30.11.2021  
Source: FSO – Land use statistics

gr-e-02.03.01.03.01-ind  
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Within 33 years, settlement and urban areas have grown by 31% or 776 km<sup>2</sup>, mainly at the expense of agricultural areas.

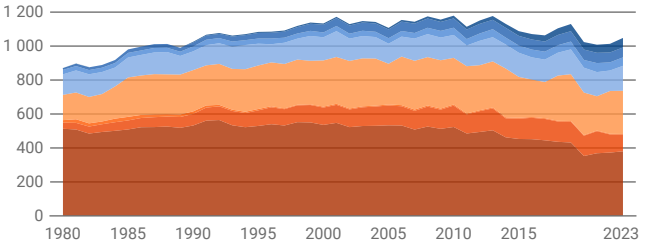


In 2023, around 4% of utilised agricultural area and 16% of arable and perennial crop areas benefited from **pollination** by insects.

# Energy use

Thousand terajoules

- crude oil and petroleum products
- gas
- coal
- nuclear combustibles
- hydropower
- wood and charcoal
- household and industrial waste
- other renewable energies



Data as on: 26.09.2024  
Source: SFOE – Overall energy statistics  
gr-e-02.03.01.05.01-ind  
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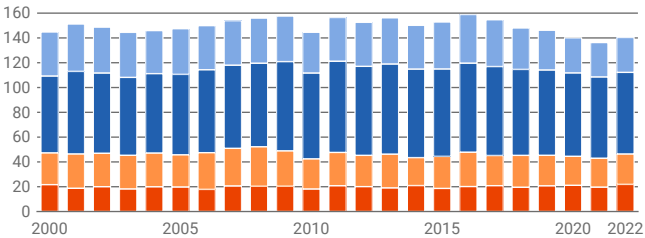
Since 1990, gross energy consumption has increased by 0.7% and stood at 1 024 990 terajoules in 2023. Of this, 25.4% came from renewable sources (1990: 14.7%).

# Material footprint

Raw material consumption (RMC)<sup>1</sup>

Million tonnes

- biomass
- metal ores
- non-metallic minerals
- fossil energy materials



<sup>1</sup> modelling estimates, 2022: provisional

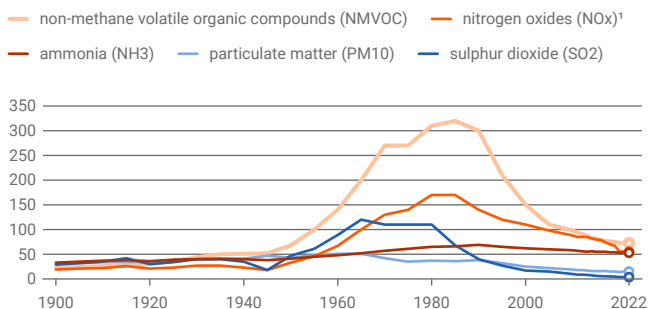
Data as on: 04.07.2024  
Source: FSO – Environmental accounting  
gr-e-02.04.10.03.16-ind  
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In 2022, Switzerland’s material footprint was around 16 tonnes per person. 40% of the raw materials were extracted in Switzerland.

## 2 Emissions and waste

### Emissions of air pollutants

Thousand tonnes



<sup>1</sup> NO<sub>x</sub> comprises NO and NO<sub>2</sub>. Emission values are given in NO<sub>2</sub>.

Data as on: 12.06.2024  
Source: FOEN – EMIS

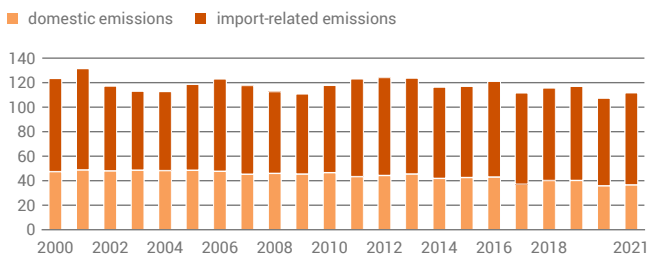
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Emissions of most air pollutants in Switzerland have decreased since the 1990s.

### Greenhouse gas footprint

Greenhouse gas emissions due to final domestic demand

Million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

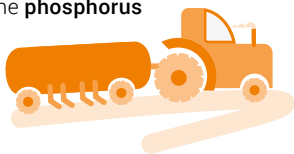


Data as on: 27.09.2023  
Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

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In 2021, Switzerland's greenhouse gas footprint was 12.8 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents per person, 67% of which was emitted abroad (2000: 62%).

Over the last ten years, **the nitrogen surplus** of agricultural areas has averaged 97 000 tonnes, and the **phosphorus surplus** 5500 tonnes per year.

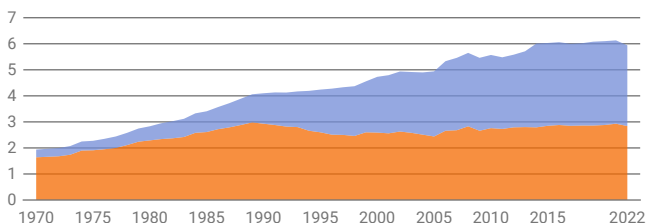


# Municipal waste

## Million tonnes

■ municipal waste, incinerated and deposited in landfills<sup>1</sup>

■ separately collected municipal waste<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> The figures from 2004 include only domestic waste without imports.

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

Data as on: 22.02.2024

gr-e-02.03.02.09.01-ind

Source: FOEN

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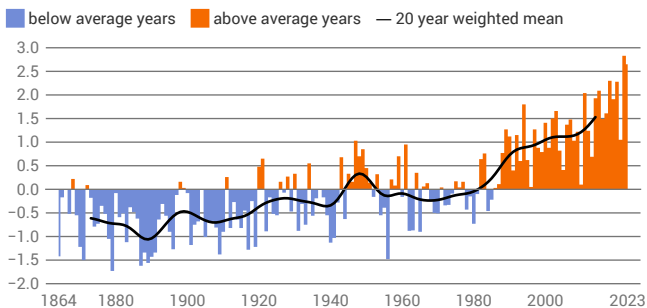
In 2022, 674 kg of municipal waste was generated per person. 52% of this was separately collected and recycled.

## 3 Environmental situation

### Mean annual temperature in Switzerland

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

Degrees Celsius



Data as on: 22.02.2024

gr-e-02.03.03.03.01-ind

Source: MeteoSwiss

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



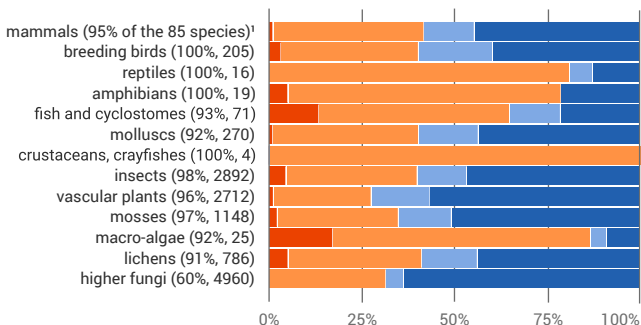
The pollution of **rivers and lakes** by nitrate and phosphorus has declined in recent decades. Elevated concentrations are still measured mainly in agricultural areas. Active substances contained in pesticides exceed the limit value

of the Waters Protection Ordinance at 1 to 2% of the **groundwater** measuring stations.

## Endangered animals and plants (Red lists)

Status 1994 to 2024, depending on the species group

lost or extinct endangered potentially endangered not endangered



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

Data as on: 12.06.2024  
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 2023, 86% of the population assessed the **quality of the environment** in Switzerland as very good or quite good. Only 18% of the Swiss population considered environmental quality worldwide to be very good or quite good.

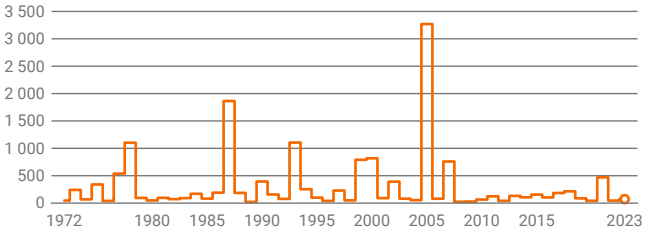


## 4 Effects on society

### Damage caused by natural events

Floods, debris flows, landslides and rockfall<sup>1</sup>

CHF million (adjusted for inflation, base year 2023)



<sup>1</sup> Rockfall taken into account since 2002

Data as on: 12.06.2024

Source: WSL

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From 1972 to 2023, damage caused by natural events (floods, debris flows, landslides and rockfall) totalled CHF 15.9 billion.

### External costs of road, rail and air traffic

CHF billion

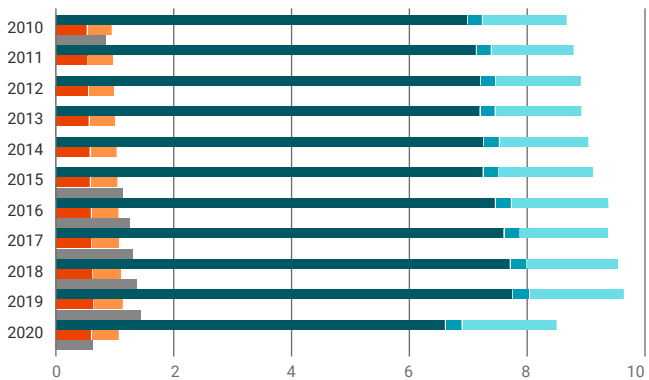
#### Road traffic<sup>1</sup>

■ private motorised transport ■ public transport ■ goods transport

#### Rail traffic<sup>1</sup>

■ passenger transport ■ goods transport ■ passenger and goods transport

#### Air traffic<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> territoriality principle: traffic within Swiss borders

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

Data as on: 22.02.2024

Source: FSO; ARE

gr-e-02.03.04.02.01-ind

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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

■ very disturbing    ■ not very disturbing    ■ not at all satisfied    ■ rather satisfied  
■ rather disturbing    ■ not at all disturbing    ■ not very satisfied    ■ very satisfied

### traffic noise at home when windows opened



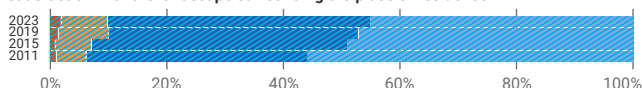
### air pollution surrounding the place of domicile



### radiation from mobile phone antennas or high-voltage power lines surrounding the place of domicile



### satisfaction with the landscape surrounding the place of residence



Change of method from 2019

Data as on: 01.02.2024

gr-e-02.03.04.05.01-ind

Source: FSO – Omnibus surveys 2011, 2015, 2019 & 2023

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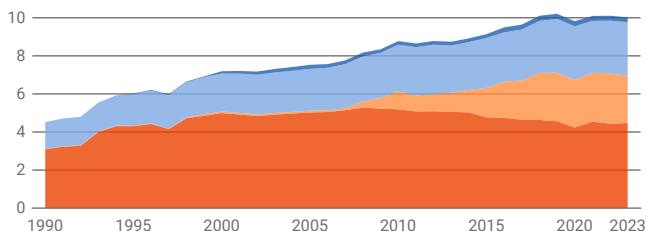
In 2023, 36% of the population said they were very or rather disturbed by traffic noise at home, 39% by air pollution surrounding the house and 25% by radiation from high-voltage power lines or mobile phone antennas.

## 5 Reactions from society

### Environmentally related taxes revenue

#### CHF billion, at current prices

■ energy taxes for transport purposes    ■ energy taxes for stationary purposes  
■ transport taxes    ■ pollution taxes



2022: provisional, 2023: estimates

Data as on: 30.04.2024

gr-e-02.04.02.05.01-ind

Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

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In 2023, **revenue from environmental taxes** amounted to CHF 10 billion. Its share of the total revenue from taxes and social contributions stood at 4.8% in 2022.



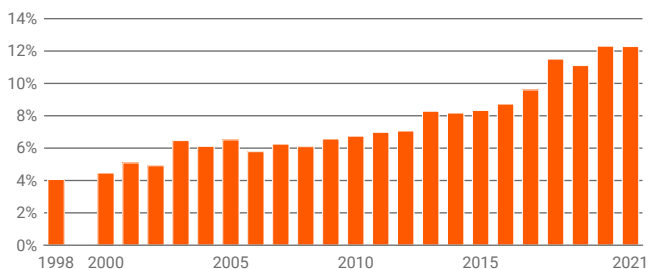
Between 2000 and 2022, **employment in the environment sector** more than doubled. In 2022, there were 167 700 full-time equivalents, which represented 4% of total employment (2000: 2.3%).

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



Data as on: 26.09.2024  
Source: FSO – HBS

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In 2021, around 12.3% of private household's total expenditure on food and drink was spent on organic products.

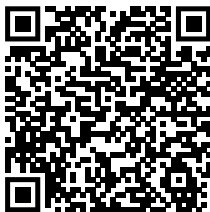
## Circular economy:

In 2022, 13.5% of material consumption came from recycled waste (2000: 8.2%).



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](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Statistics → Territory and environment



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