

07

Agriculture and Forestry

1112-1000

Swiss Agriculture

Pocket Statistics 2010



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Statistical Office FSO



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years FSO

Neuchâtel, 2010

GLOSSARY

The terms listed in the glossary are indicated in the text with an asterisk ().*

Gross value added (GVA)

Gross value added is the increase in the value of goods resulting from the production process. In the National Accounts, the gross value added is obtained by subtracting the intermediate consumption from the output.

Livestock unit (LSU)

The livestock unit allows different types of livestock to be compared with one another. One LSU corresponds to the feed eaten and solid and liquid manure produced by a 650 kg cow. On this basis, conversion factors which depend on the age and sex of the animal are used (for example, a sheep which is more than 1 year old is equivalent to 0.17 LSU).

Annual work unit (AWU)

The annual work unit corresponds to the work of one full-time job over a year (based on 280 working days).

Agriculture

The term is used in a strict sense and does not include horticultural services and small production units.

Utilised agricultural area (UAA)

Area used for crop production, excluding summer pastures and woods.

Farm

All the workers, equipment and means of production used to produce agricultural products. On the basis of the FSO's agriculture census, one farm corresponds to the following minimum standards: 1 hectare of UAA* or 30 ares under specialised cultivation or 10 ares of crops grown under protection or 8 sows or 80 fattening pigs or 300 poultry.

Output

The value of the goods and services produced for sale or for private final consumption (by producer households), for intermediate consumption on the farm (for example, forage for milk production) or for the production of fixed assets (plantations or livestock). Changes in stock are also taken into account.

NOTES

Indices

The indices are produced by dividing an annual figure by the figure for the reference year and multiplying it by 100. This enables completely different figures to be compared, provided that the same reference year is used (for example, 1996=100).

Rounded figures

Figures are rounded up or down, which means that when the figures are added together they may differ from the total.

Sources

The source is only given when the data is not provided by the FSO.

CONTENTS

For several years agriculture in Switzerland has been in a state of upheaval. The figures in this Pocket statistics give an overview of the status and the changes in individual areas of Swiss agriculture.

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Changes in agriculture are closely linked with events in other sectors of the economy, international trade, the policies of the Swiss Confederation and consumption.

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The structures characterise the types of agriculture performed in Switzerland.

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There is a long tradition in compiling agricultural statistics in Switzerland. The first survey of livestock throughout Switzerland was carried out in 1866.

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More than one third of the overall area of Switzerland is used for agriculture. As a result, agriculture has a major influence on the environment.

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Agriculture in Switzerland compared with neighbouring countries.

Key indicators at a glance

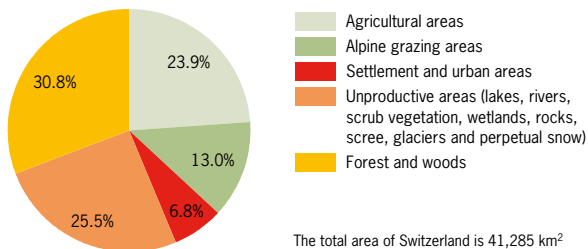
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Ten key indicators which summarise current trends.

Context

Land use

Areas surveyed between 1992 and 1997



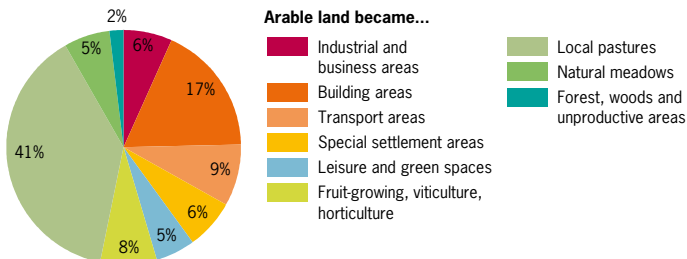
© FSO

Agricultural areas and alpine grazing areas together make up more than one third of the total area of Switzerland and, therefore, have a significant influence on the landscape.

Land use statistics show that the amount of arable land in the western part of Switzerland has decreased over the last 24 years by about 7%. This is the equivalent of more than the area of the lake of Neuchâtel. Of this 38% has been built on or concreted over.

Converted arable land in 24 years

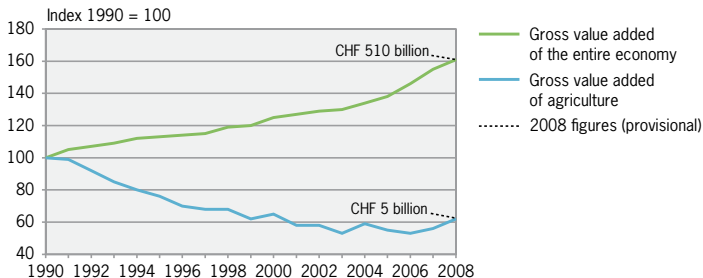
Database: Western part of Switzerland (46.9% of national territory), 1975/85–2004/09



© FSO

Gross value added (GVA*) of agriculture and the Swiss economy

At current prices

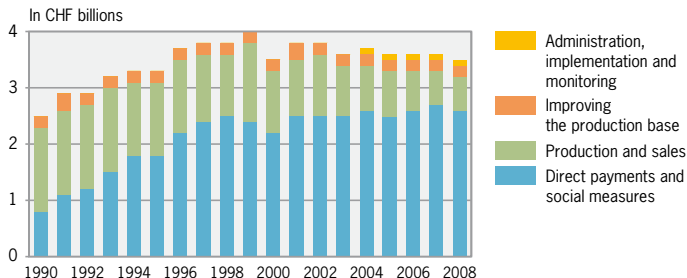


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Between 1990 and 2008 the share of agriculture in the gross value added* of the Swiss economy fell from 2.4% to 0.9%. In 2008 agriculture represented 78% of the gross value added of the primary sector of the economy.

In 2008 the Swiss Confederation spent CHF 3.6 billion on agricultural and food sectors. In line with the Confederation's agricultural policy, the agricultural sector now receives more support in the form of direct payments and less in the form of market support (production and sales).

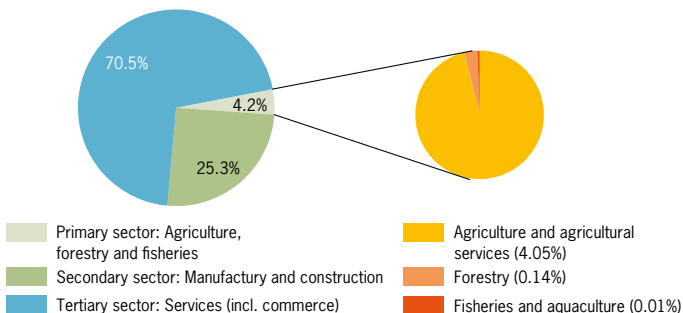
Federal expenditure on agriculture and food



Source: Federal Finance Administration

© FSO

Jobs by economic sector, 2008

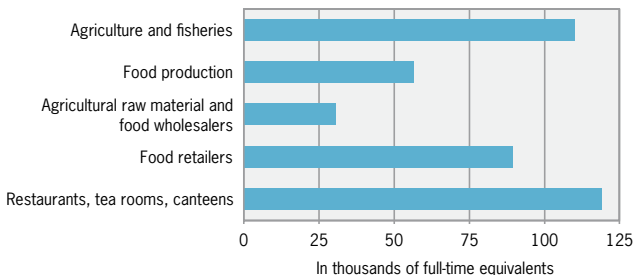


Total number of jobs = 4,200,000

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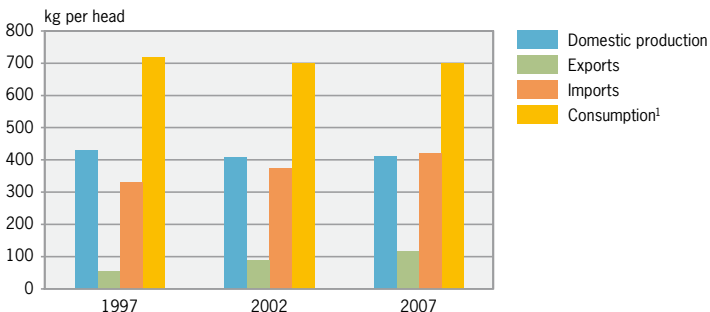
The proportion of jobs in the primary sector is 4.2%. In 2005 this figure was 4.8%. The fall is due to a reduction in the number of people working in agriculture, but is also the result of an increase in the number of jobs in the other sectors. Currently 170,000 people are working in agriculture. The majority of them (55%) work part-time. In the secondary sector, the proportion of part-time workers is 12% and in the tertiary sector 38%.

Jobs in the agriculture and food sector in 2008



© FSO

Domestic production, exports, imports and consumption



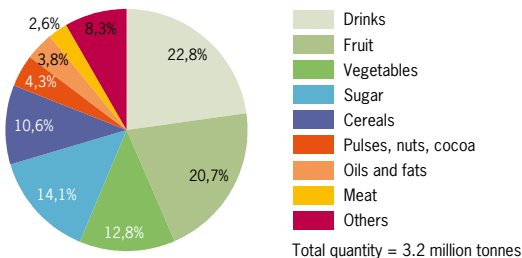
¹ Variations in stock levels accounted for

Source: Swiss Farmers' Union

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The proportion of food from domestic production which is consumed in Switzerland amounted to 54% by weight in 2007. The amount of food imported has increased and in 2006 overtook domestic production. Vegetable products make up the bulk of the imports. Exports doubled between 1997 and 2007.

Food imports¹, 2007

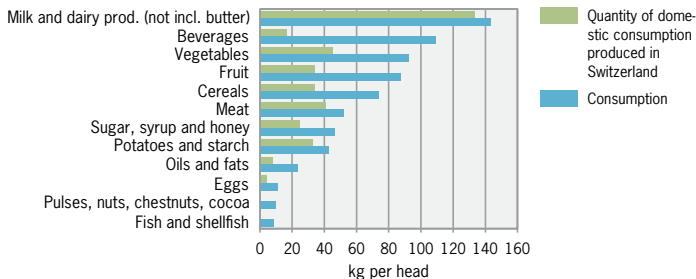


¹ Weight of the food when purchased from the retailer

Source: Swiss Farmers' Union

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Food consumption, 2007



Source: Swiss Farmers' Union

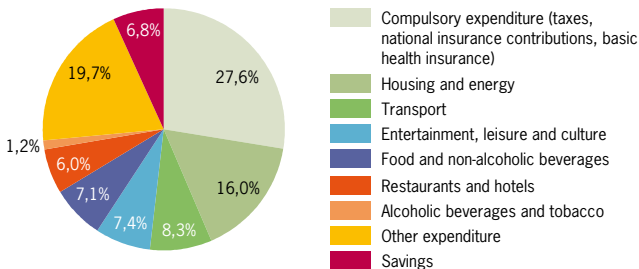
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In Switzerland an average of 140 kg milk and dairy products are consumed per person and year. Of this 93% comes from domestic production. Around three quarters of the potatoes and meat consumed are produced in Switzerland. The proportion of other foods produced domestically is significantly lower.

Households spend on average 7% of their gross income or CHF 640 per month on food and non-alcoholic drinks. Another 5% or CHF 470 per month is spent on eating out in restaurants and canteens.

Household expenditure, 2007

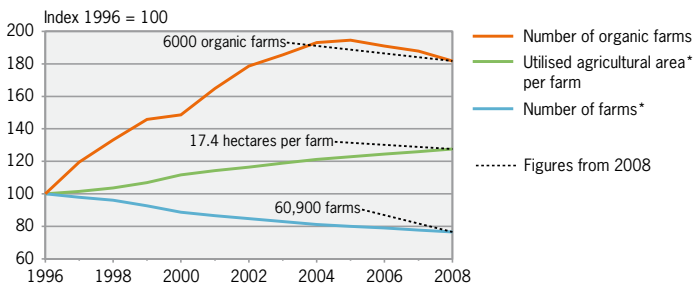
Proportion of gross household income



© FSO

Structures

Farms and utilised agricultural area

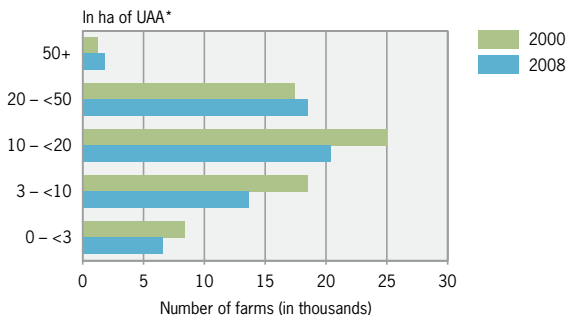


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Between 2007 and 2008 the number of farms* fell by -1.4%. A total of 870 farms closed down, which corresponds to more than the total number of farms in the canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden. At the same time, the proportion of larger farms with an area of more than 20 hectares increased and the proportion of those with less than 10 hectares fell.

The number of organic farms increased until 2005 and since then has also fallen. The decrease between 2007 and 2008 amounted to -3.3%.

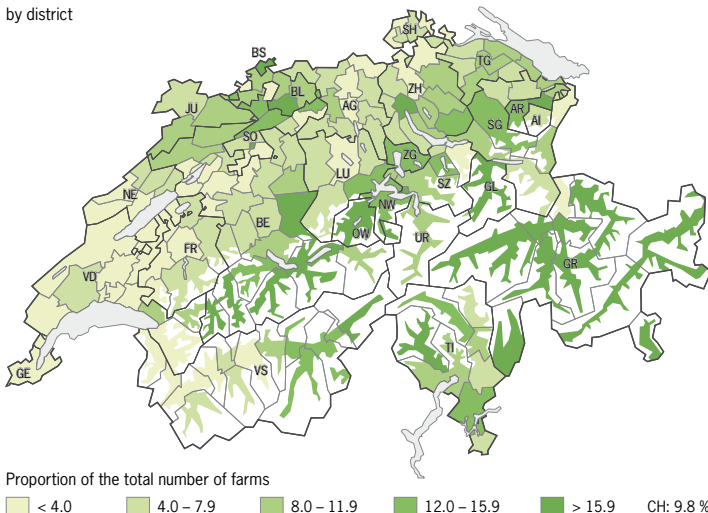
Farms by size category



© FSO

Proportion of organic farms, 2008

by district

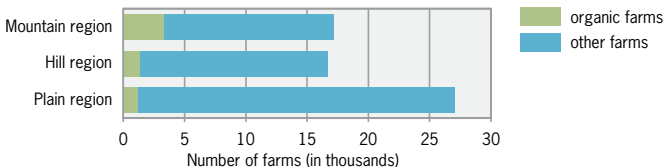


Source: Farm census

© FSO

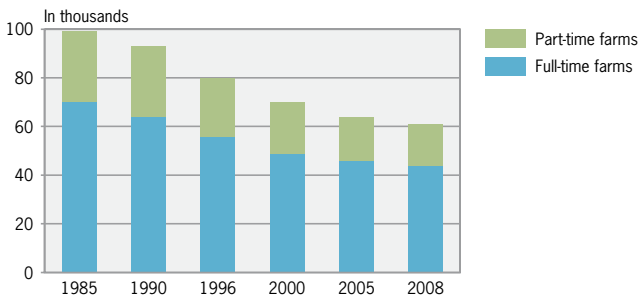
The largest proportion of organic farms is in the mountain areas, because converting to organic farming is much easier for livestock farms than it is for cropping farms or horticultural enterprises, for example. Half of all the farms in the canton of Graubünden are organic.

Farms by region, 2008



© FSO

Full-time and part-time farms



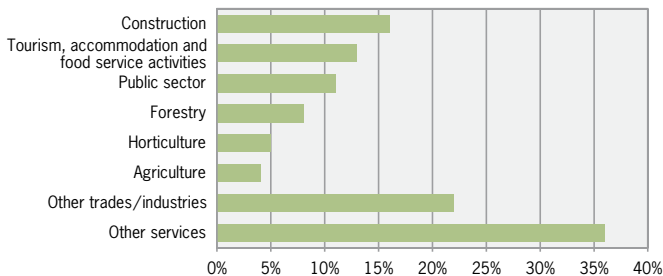
© FSO

The fall in the number of farms* affected both full-time and part-time farms. The proportion of part-time farms remained stable at around 30%.

In 2005, 59% of farmers and/or their partners had a paid occupation outside the farm.

Farmers' external employment, 2005

As % of farmers¹ who have external employment



¹ Including farmers and partners.

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Numbers of livestock on farms*

In thousands¹, in May

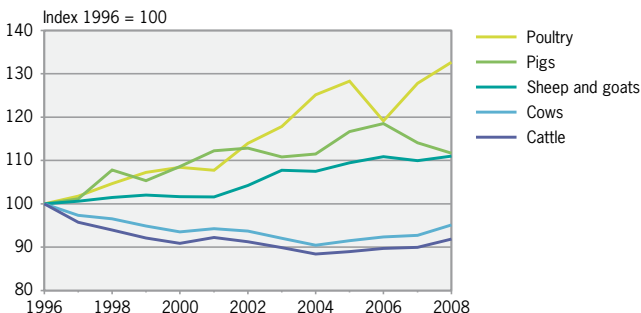
	1998	2003	2008
Cattle	1 640	1 570	1 600
of which cows	740	700	730
Horses	50	50	60
Sheep	420	450	450
Goats	60	70	80
Pigs	1 490	1 530	1 540
Chickens	6 570	7 450	8 470

¹ Rounded

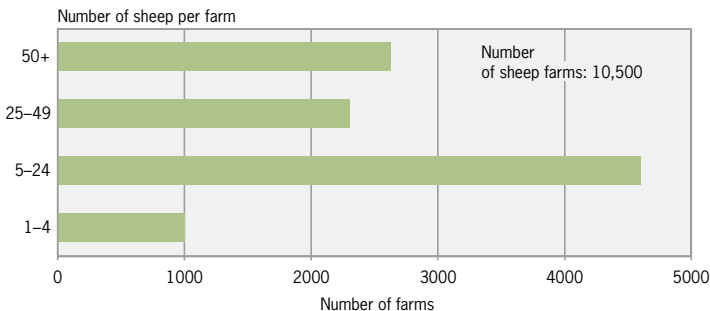
Since 1996 stocks of pigs, poultry, sheep and goats have increased. In 2006 the risk of bird flu caused a brief interruption to the increase in poultry stocks, but numbers have now recovered and in 2008 reached record levels.

Numbers of cattle fell initially during the period but began to grow again in 2004. From 2007 to 2008, the numbers of dairy cows increased rapidly by around 19,000 animals.

Growth in numbers of livestock



Sheep farms by flock size category, 2008



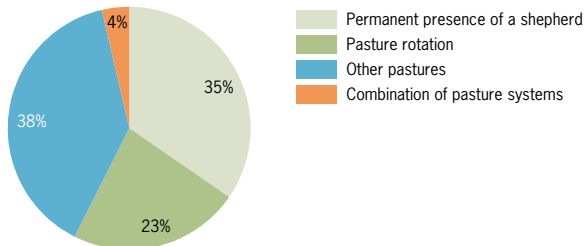
© FSO

Around 450,000 sheep are kept on farms*. Half of all sheep owners have less than 25 sheep. Sheep kept for hobby farming (a further 10-15%) are not included in these figures.

In 2007 190,000 sheep spent the summer in alpine meadows. Since 2003 direct payments have been increased for flocks managed by a shepherd. This increases the incentive for sustainable alpine sheep farming.

Summering sheep, 2008

Sheep eligible for direct payments by pasture system

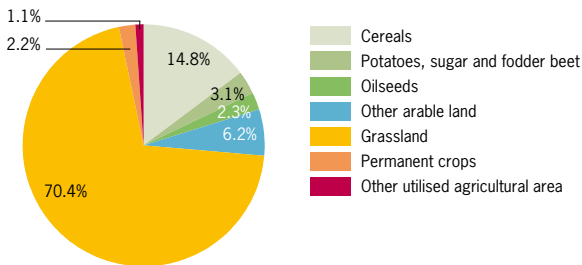


Source: Federal Office for Agriculture

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Use of utilised agricultural area, 2008

Excluding alpine areas



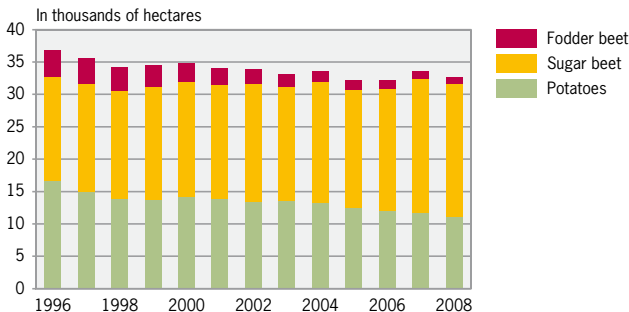
Total area = 1,060,000 ha

© FSO

Grassland makes up 70% of the utilised agricultural area*.

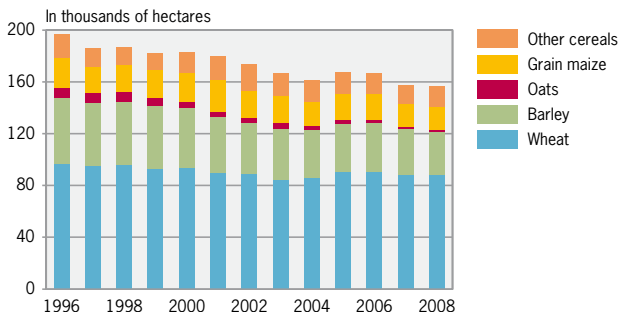
The area used for growing potatoes is steadily falling. Sugar beet is produced on a contract basis and quotas are imposed. The area of sugar beet has increased by almost 30% since 1996. On the other hand, the significance of fodder beet continues to decrease. About 1000 hectares are still grown in 2008, only a quarter of the fodder beet planted in 1996.

Area under root crops



© FSO

Area under cereals

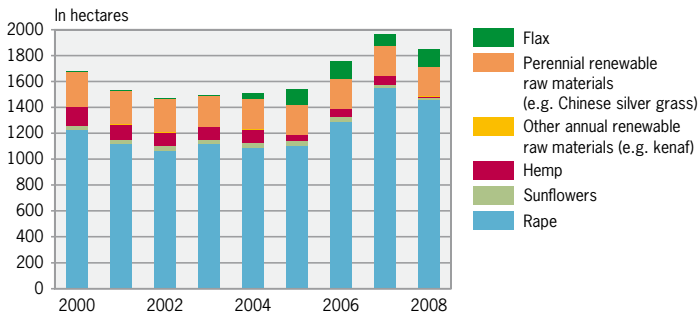


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Around 25,000 farms* grow cereal crops. The area on which cereals are grown has fallen by 21% since 1996. Bread cereals are grown over an area of 84,000 hectares and for feed cereals the figure is 72,000 hectares.

The area used for renewable raw materials amounted to 1850 hectares, with rape making up the largest proportion. Oilseed plants are used for lubricants and fuels, while fibre plants are made into insulation, packaging and textiles.

Area under renewable raw materials



© FSO

Canton figures, 2008

	Farms	Jobs	UAA*	Cattle	Dairy,cows	Pigs
		ln,thousands	ln,thousands, of,hectares	ln,thousands	ln,thousands	ln,thousands
ZH	4,092	11.9	74	95	38	40
BE	12,424	35.6	191	324	133	270
LU	5,184	14.8	78	151	65	412
UR	680	1.7	7	13	5	3
SZ	1,751	4.6	25	45	18	29
OW	734	1.8	8	18	8	12
NW	511	1.4	6	13	6	11
GL	434	1.1	7	12	5	3
ZG	607	1.7	11	20	9	22
FR	3,312	9.2	76	139	54	82
SO	1,624	4.4	33	45	17	30
BL/BS	1,028	3.2	22	28	11	13
SH	648	1.8	15	16	4	19
AR	816	1.8	12	23	10	20
AI	549	1.1	7	15	7	25
SG	4,705	12.1	73	142	62	184
GR	2,769	7.1	54	77	18	7
AG	3,808	10.8	62	90	30	98
TG	2,996	8.7	50	74	40	191
TI	1,096	2.9	14	10	4	3
VD	4,336	13.5	110	117	38	37
VS	4,264	10.2	38	32	13	1
NE	950	2.4	33	41	16	8
GE	440	1.8	11	3	0	2
JU	1,136	3.1	41	61	17	16
Switzerland	60,894	168.5	1,058	1,604	629	1,540

ZH: Zurich, BE: Bern, LU: Lucerne, UR: Uri, SZ: Schwyz, OW: Obwalden, NW: Nidwalden, GL: Glarus, ZG: Zug, FR: Fribourg, SO: Solothurn, BS: Basel Stadt, BL: Basel Landschaft, SH: Schaffhausen, AR: Appenzell Ausser-rhoden, AI: Appenzell Innerrhoden, SG: St. Gallen, GR: Graubünden, AG: Aargau, TG: Thurgau, TI: Ticino, VD: Vaud, VS: Valais, NE: Neuchâtel, GE: Geneva, JU: Jura

Canton figures, 2008 (continued)

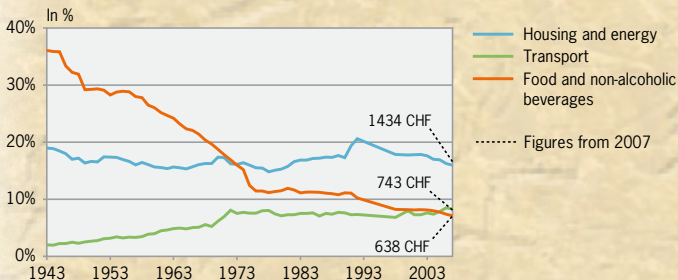
	Proportion of grassland in the UAA*	Proportion of organically managed UAA*	Output of agriculture	Subsidies ¹
	in %	in %	In CHF ² per hectare	In CHF ² per hectare
ZH	56	9	11,500	2,100
BE	73	10	9,900	2,600
LU	82	6	13,900	2,800
UR	98	14	6,300	3,700
SZ	93	10	7,700	3,000
OW	98	30	10,100	3,700
NW	98	15	9,400	3,300
GL	98	22	6,800	3,200
ZG	80	13	11,400	2,600
FR	68	3	10,500	2,300
SO	66	10	8,200	2,200
BL/BS	70	13	9,400	2,300
SH	32	3	9,500	2,000
AR	98	19	9,100	2,800
AI	97	5	11,400	3,200
SG	90	10	11,400	2,700
GR	95	57	5,000	3,500
AG	54	7	11,300	2,100
TG	61	8	17,400	2,200
TI	84	15	9,300	2,900
VD	43	3	11,300	2,100
VS	76	13	14,200	3,100
NE	85	4	7,000	2,000
GE	21	3	20,900	1,800
JU	73	7	6,000	2,200
Switzerland	70	11	10,700	2,500

¹ Data from the economic accounts for agriculture (page 22), broken down by canton (regional accounts for agriculture) which consist primarily of direct payments.

² Rounded to the nearest hundred

Historical data

Selected household expenditure

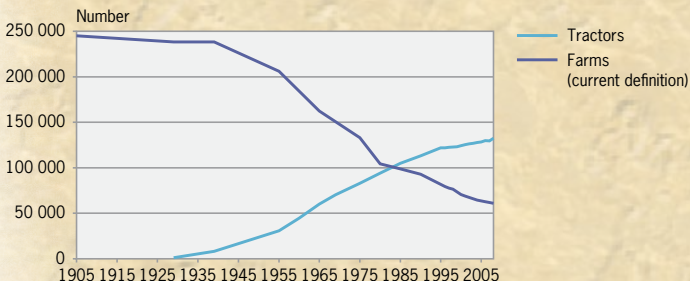


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Since the Second World War, the proportion of household expenditure on food has fallen from over 35% to around 7%. Households are spending more in other areas, such as transport and mobility.

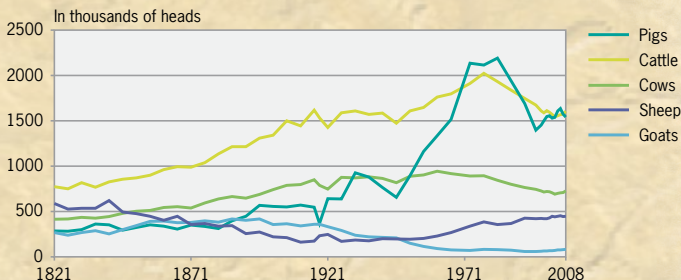
The number of farms and jobs in agriculture decreased significantly. In 1905 the average farm had around 4.7 hectares of land, while today it manages 17.4 hectares. After the Second World War, mechanisation spread rapidly. Now every farm has on average two tractors.

Farms and mechanisation



© FSO

Evolutions in the numbers of livestock

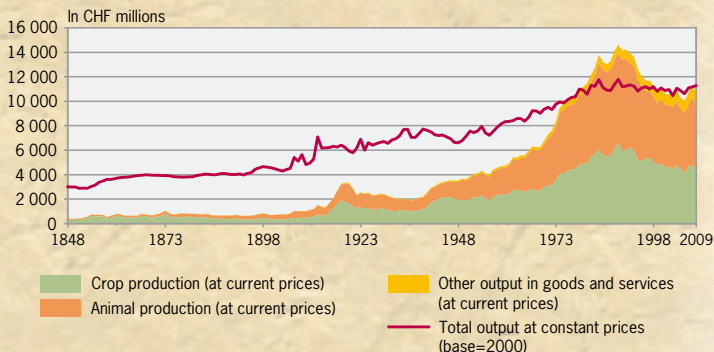


© FSO

The number of cows did not change significantly, but the same is not true for their milk production. In 1900 cows produced 8-9 litres of milk per day, in contrast to around 25 litres today.

Since 1848 Switzerland has been transformed from an agricultural into an industrial country and finally into a services oriented nation. The increase in production between the Second World War and the 1990s is the result of technical developments and agricultural policy.

Output of Swiss agriculture



© FSO

Production, yields and income

Animal production¹

In thousands of tonnes

	1998	2003	2008
Meat			
Cattle	147	137	136
Pigs	232	230	231
Sheep	6	6	5
Poultry	44	56	64
Cow's milk (total)	3,867	3,885	4,170
Chicken's eggs	35	36	37

¹ Gross domestic production

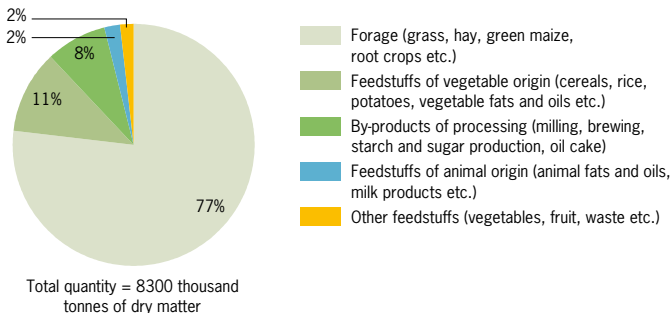
Source: Swiss Farmers' Union

In 2008 milk production reached record levels. The gradual removal of milk quotas gave dairy farmers the chance to produce more milk and many of them made use of this opportunity.

77% of feed (grass, hay, green maize etc.) is based on domestic production.

Animal feed balance sheet 2007

Domestic production and imports



Source: Swiss Farmers' Union

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Crop production¹

In thousands of tonnes

	1998	2003	2008
Cereals	1,241	847	1,021
Potatoes	560	458	408
Sugar beet	1,125	1,257	1,625
Vegetables	319	293	279
Fruit and berries	645	338	320

2008: provisional

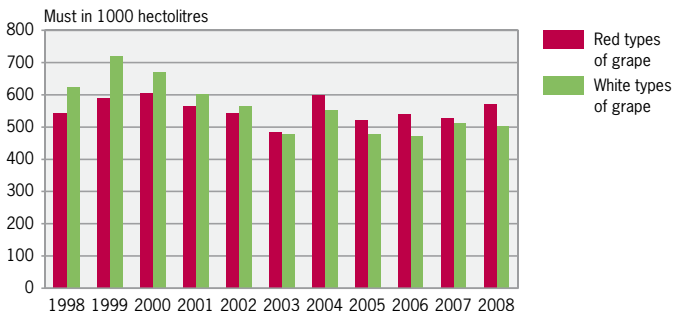
Source: Swiss Farmers' Union

¹ Gross production minus losses in the field and on the farm

Plant yields depend in particular on climatic conditions. In 2003, yields were very low because of the drought.

Until 2003 Switzerland produced more white wine than red wine. After this, the trend was for an increase in red wine production and by 2008 over 10% more red wine than white was being produced.

Grape harvest

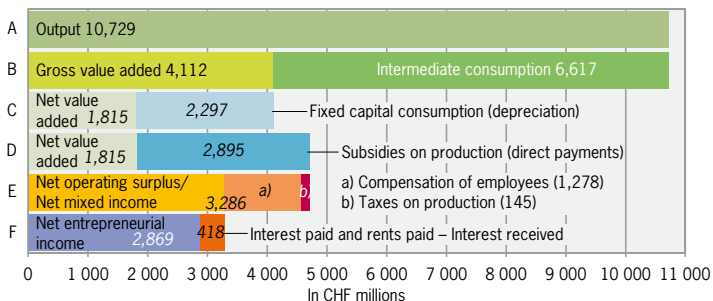


Source: Federal Office for Agriculture

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Economic accounts for agriculture, 2009¹

At current prices

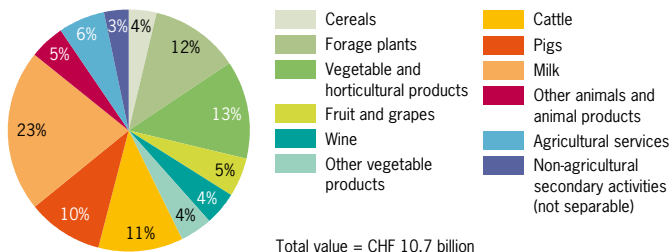


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The simplified structure of the economic accounts for agriculture is as follows:

- The total output* is the value of all the goods and services produced by agriculture (page 23).
- The gross value added* (page 5) is obtained by subtracting the intermediate consumption, in other words, the expenditure on all the goods and services used during the production process.
- Depreciation (fixed capital consumption) is subtracted from this to give the net value added.
- The subsidies (direct payments, page 5) are added as resource to the net value added.
- The net operating surplus or the net mixed income (for self-employment) is obtained by subtracting the taxes on production and the compensation of employees.
- To give the net entrepreneurial income of the agricultural sector, interest on debt and rent is then deducted. This allows self-employed people working in agriculture to pay their household expenses and income tax and to fund their pensions. This amount can be defined as the "remuneration for self-employed work".

Details of output, 2009¹



¹ Estimate

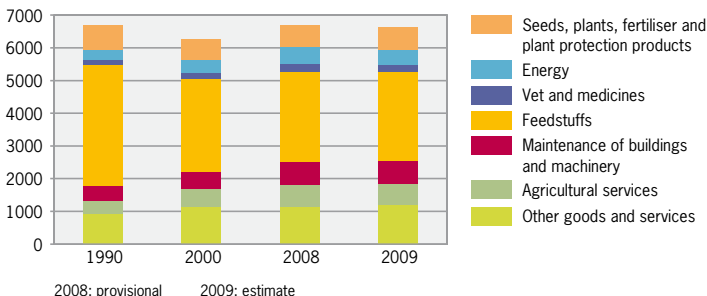
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The total value of output* in the Swiss agricultural sector fell by 5% between 2008 and 2009. This was primarily the result of decreases in the price of milk, cattle, pigs and cereals. Sales of animal products were responsible for 48% of the output and vegetable products for 43%.

Estimates indicate that expenditure on energy, feed and maintaining machinery and equipment fell slightly in 2009 compared with 2008.

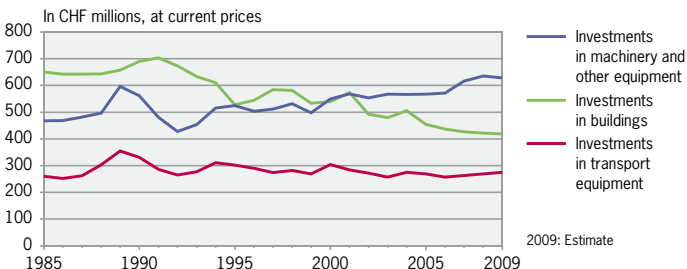
Intermediate consumption in agriculture

In CHF millions, at current prices



© FSO

Investments¹



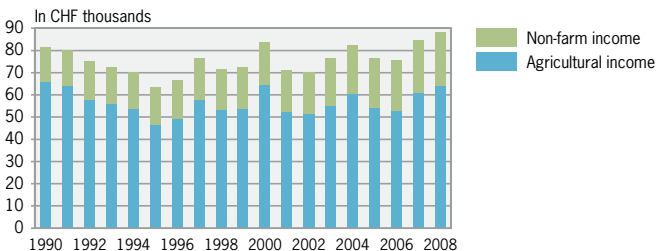
¹ Gross fixed capital formation

© FSO

Influenced by the structural changes, investments of agriculture in buildings have tended to decrease since 1990. By contrast, the investments for machinery and equipment doubled from CHF 7400 in 1985 to CHF 15,000 per farm and year. Adjusted for inflation, this represents an increase of 15%.

In 2008 average work income per family member working on farms was annually CHF 41,700 and the agricultural income per farm was CHF 64,000. Non-farm income rose from CHF 16,000 per year and farm in 1990 to CHF 24,000 in 2008.

Total income per farm

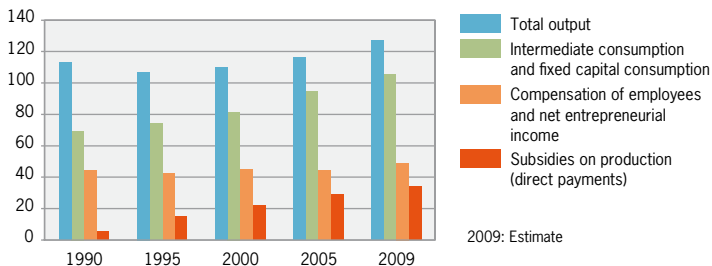


Source: Agroscope Reckenholz-Tänikon ART (Farm Accountancy Data Network)

© FSO

Output, income and subsidies in agriculture per work unit

In CHF thousands per annual work unit (AWU*), at current prices

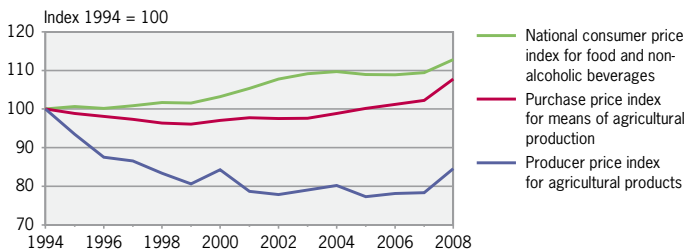


© FSO

Production costs continued to rise. Improvements in labour productivity and the provision of direct payments resulted in the average earnings of salaried and self-employed people working in agriculture being maintained and even rising slightly since 2005.

Food became increasingly expensive for consumers. At the same time, the prices paid to producers fell in the period up to 2002. Since then the indices have shown similar changes.

Price indices



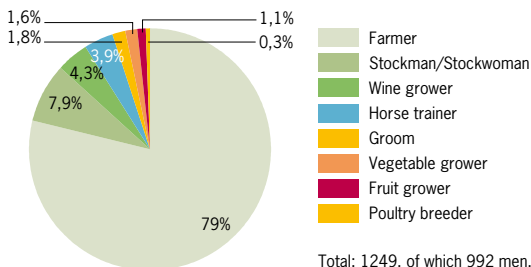
Sources: FSO/Swiss Farmers' Union

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Social factors

Education in crop production and livestock breeding, 2008

Federal vocational education certificates



Total: 1249, of which 992 men, 257 women

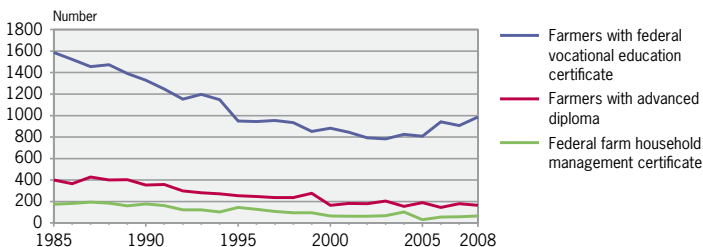
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In 2008 a total of 1249 trainees achieved a federal educational certificate in crop production and livestock breeding. Another 45 completed the vocational Matura. The number of people completing an apprenticeship in farming fell significantly until 2005. In 2008 the figure was 987 people, of whom 100 were women.

Agricultural occupations are now covered by the Swiss Vocational Education and Training Act, which has resulted in changes in the training regulations.

Education in agriculture

Vocational qualifications

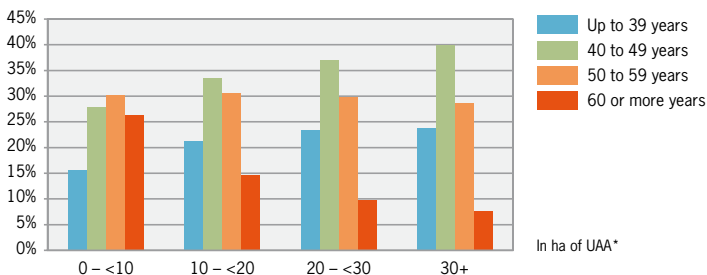


Sources: FSO/Swiss Farmers' Union

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Proportion of farmers by age group, 2008

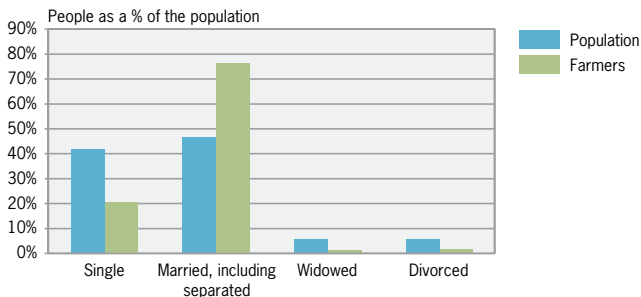
By farm size category



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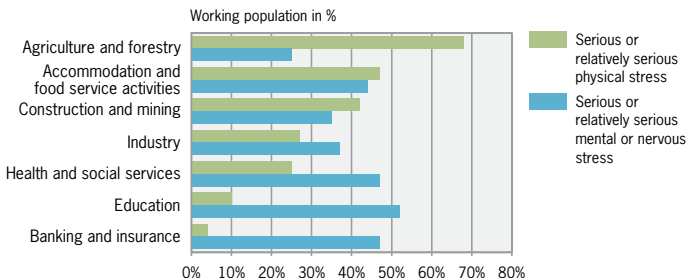
The majority of small farms under 10 hectares are run by people over the age of 50. The larger the farms, the greater the proportion of people under 50 managing them. The proportion of married people in agriculture is greater than that in the population as a whole.

Marital status, 2000



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Health in the workplace, 2007



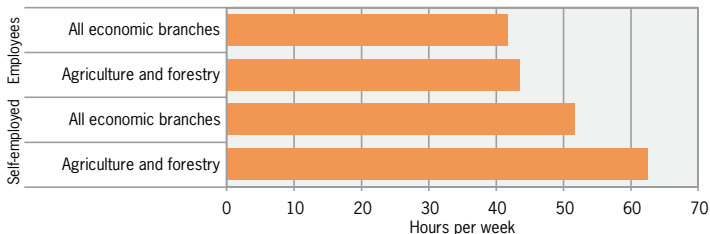
Source: Swiss Health Survey, FSO / SECO

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People working in agriculture are subjected to greater physical stresses than other workers. This is the result in particular of carrying heavy loads and being exposed to loud noise and extremes of temperature. However, farm workers are less likely to suffer from mental stress and nervous complaints than other workers.

The normal weekly working hours of full-time employees and self-employed workers in agriculture and forestry are above the average of other sectors of the economy.

Normal weekly working hours for employees and full-time self employed¹ people, 2009



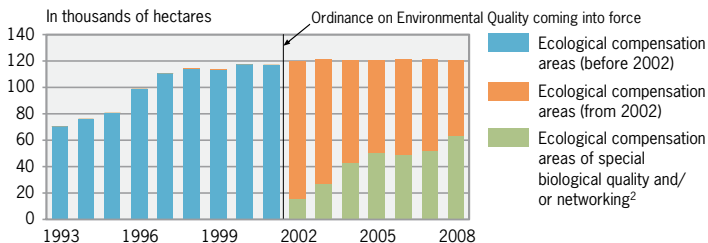
¹ Including self-employed people and employees in their own company (joint stock company and limited-liability company).

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Effects on the environment

Ecological compensation areas

Areas eligible for subsidies¹



¹ The number of standard fruit trees is converted into units of area. One tree corresponds to one are.

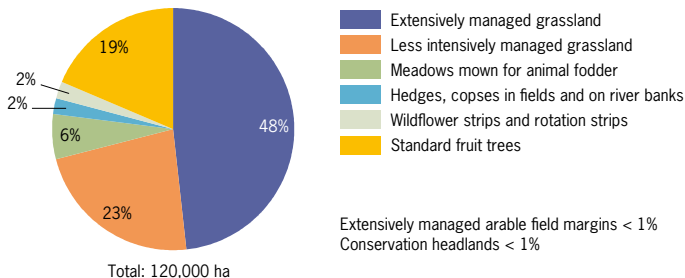
² In accordance with the Ordinance on Environmental Quality.

Source: Federal Office for Agriculture

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Switzerland has around 120,000 hectares of ecological compensation areas. Since 2002 direct payments have been introduced for areas of special biological quality and networking projects.

Ecological compensation areas, 2008

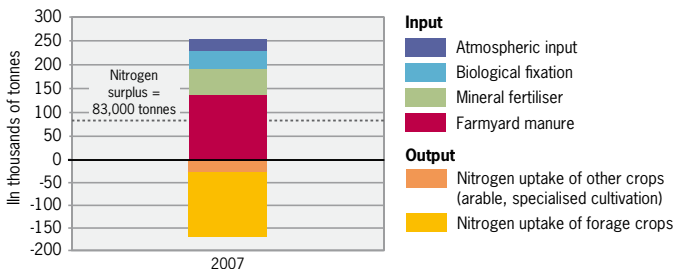


Source: Federal Office for Agriculture

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Nitrogen balance of agricultural land, 2007¹

Amounts of nitrogen inputs and uptake from agricultural soil



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

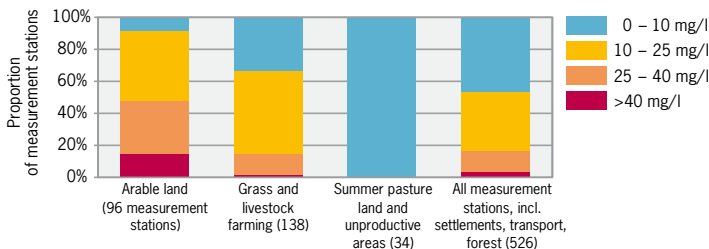
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Half of nitrogen inputs come from farmyard manure. Together with mineral fertilisers, biological fixation and inputs from the air, this results in a surplus of nitrogen. Emissions into the environment in the form of ammonia in the air or nitrates in groundwater are causing problems.

Although water quality in Swiss lakes, rivers and streams has been constantly improving over recent years, in agricultural areas nitrate concentrations in groundwater remain too high.

Maximum nitrate concentration in groundwater at 526 measurement stations, 2008

According to land use in catchment areas

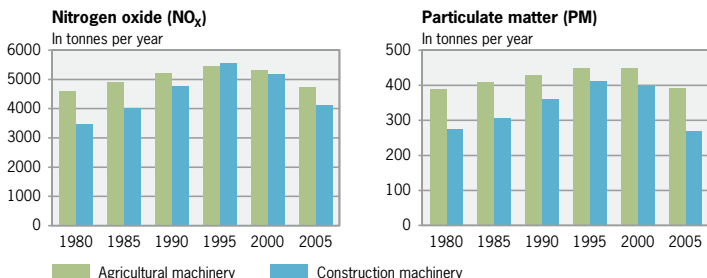


The Swiss Federal Ordinance on protection of lakes and rivers requires concentrations of nitrate in groundwater to be at the most 25 milligrammes per litre.

Source: Federal Office for the Environment

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Air pollution



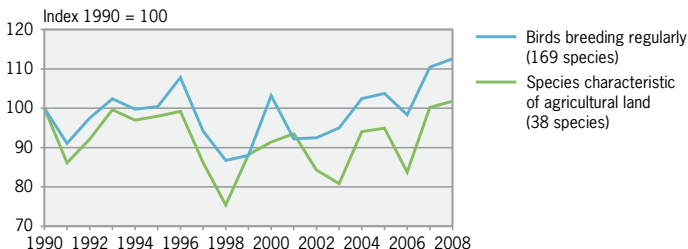
Source: Federal Office for the Environment

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Fuel consumption for agricultural machinery amounted to 126,000 tonnes of diesel in 2005 (7% of overall consumption) and 18,800 tonnes of petrol (0.6% of overall consumption). Significant amounts of air pollution are being produced. Levels of carcinogenic diesel soot emissions are particularly high because farm machinery is not fitted with particulate filters.

The growth in the populations of breeding birds is an indicator of biodiversity. The increase in the bird species characteristic of agriculture land in recent years seems to have reversed the negative trend which had been identified since 1990. However, these facts can be misleading, because populations of many agricultural species are significantly reduced, as a result of major losses before 1990.

Populations of breeding birds

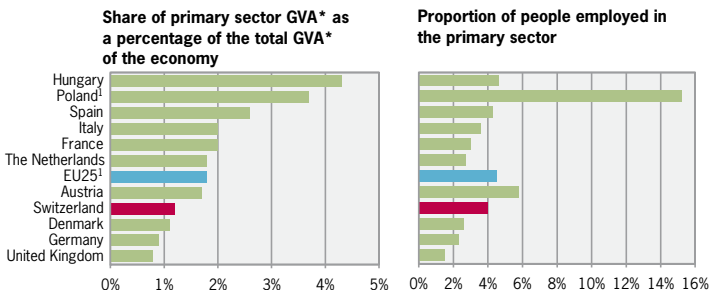


Source: Swiss Ornithological Institute Sempach, Swiss Bird Index®

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International comparisons

Gross value added (GVA*) and people employed in the primary sector, 2008



¹ Figures for 2007

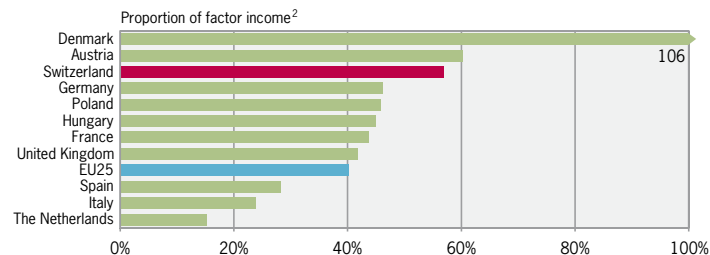
Sources: Eurostat/FSO

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When compared with other European states, Switzerland is one of the countries in which the primary sector (agriculture, forestry, hunting, fisheries and fish farming) plays a minor role in the gross value added and in the provision of jobs.

In European countries, state support for agriculture represents an important part of income. In Denmark, Austria and Switzerland, subsidies account for more than 50% of factor income.

Subsidies¹, 2008



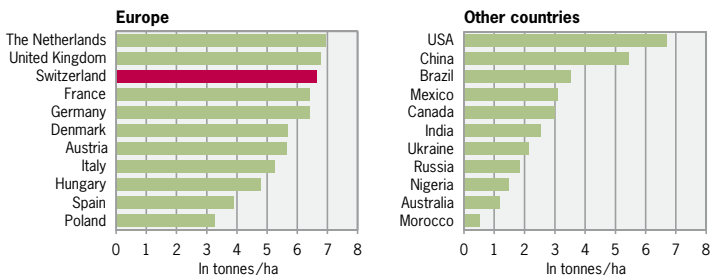
¹ Including subsidies on products and other subsidies on production.

² Factor income = net value added + other subsidies on production – taxes on production (page 22)

Source: Eurostat

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Cereal yields, 2007



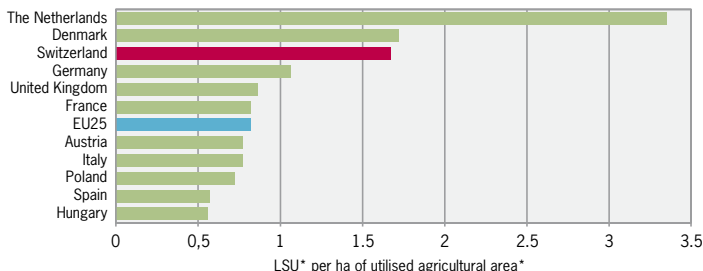
Source: FAO

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Cereal yields per hectare vary from half a tonne in Morocco to around 7 tonnes in the Netherlands. Natural factors and technology have a major impact on yields throughout the world.

The density of livestock is an indication of how intensive livestock farming is. The importance of cattle farming in Switzerland results in a relatively high cattle density.

Livestock density¹ 2007



¹ According to Eurostat standards



Sources: Eurostat/FSO

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Key indicators at a glance

Trends over the last 10 years on the basis of a selection of 10 key indicators¹:





Social factors

Indicator	Page	Trend 1999–2008 ²
Annual labour income per farm	24	
Normal weekly working hours	28	

Economy

Indicator	Page	Trend 1999–2008 ²
Number of farms	9	
Number of jobs	6	
Gross value added	5	
Producer price index	25	

Environment

Indicator	Page	Trend 1999–2008 ²
Number of organic farms	9	
Ecological compensation areas	29	
Nitrogen input	30	
Populations of breeding birds in agricultural areas	31	

¹ Key indicators make it possible to show major trends and striking facts in a way which is easy to understand. The key indicators on this page were selected from the statistical data in this document. Only data which was collected using an identical method during the period from 1999 to 2008 was taken into consideration. This explains why some subjects (particularly relating to social factors) cannot be represented using a key indicator.

² If the difference in the average values of the indicator from 1999-2001 and 2006-2008 is greater than +/- 3%, we refer to an increase or decrease. Otherwise the indicator is regarded as being stable.

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