

2025



02

Territory and
environment

Neuchâtel 2025

Environment

Pocket Statistics 2025



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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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

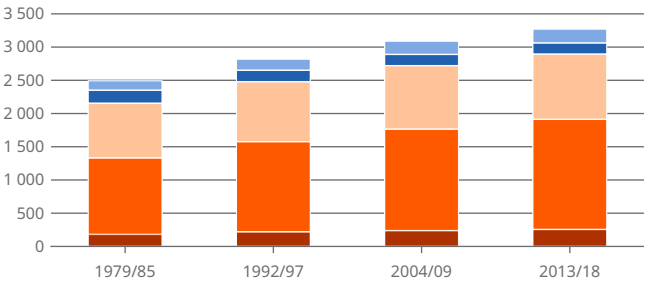
The **consumption of drinking water** in Switzerland has decreased by 20% since 1990. In 2023, 925 million cubic metres of drinking water were produced, which corresponds to 283 litres per person per day (excluding own supply from commerce, industry and agriculture).



Settlement and urban areas

km²

- 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: 30.08.2024
Source: FSO – Land use statistics

gr-e-02.03.01.03.01-ind
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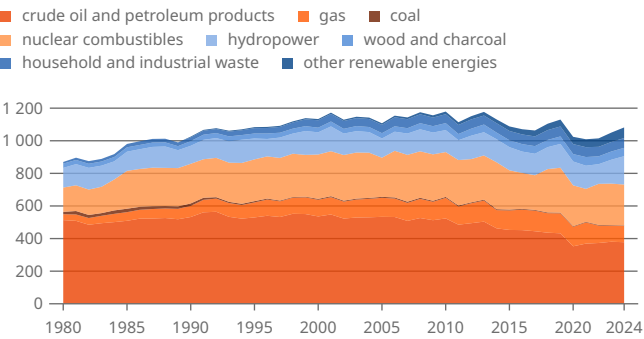
Within 33 years, settlement and urban areas have grown by 31% or 777 km², mainly at the expense of agricultural areas.



In 2024, around 4% of utilised agricultural area and 16% of arable and perennial crop areas benefited from **pollination** by insects.

Energy use

Thousand terajoules

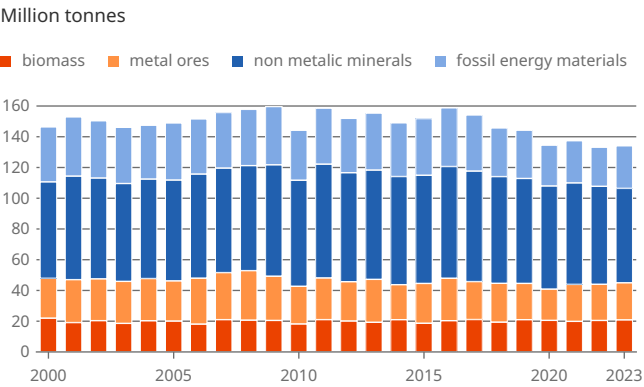


Data as on: 07.2025
Source: SFOE – Overall energy statistics
gr-e-02.03.01.05.01-ind
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Since 1990, gross energy consumption has increased by 1.2% and stood at 1 029 980 terajoules in 2024. Of this, 27.0% came from renewable sources (1990: 14.7%).

Material footprint

Raw material consumption (RMC)¹



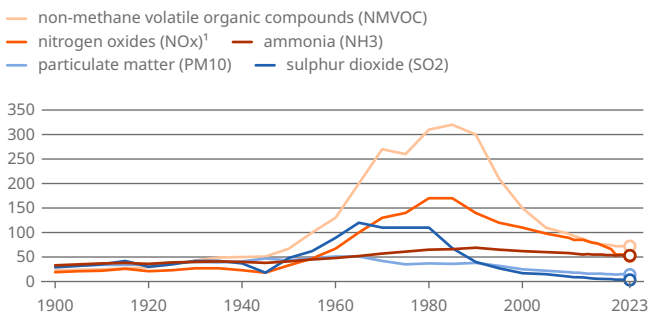
¹ modelling estimates, 2023: provisional
Data as on: 03.07.2025
Source: FSO – Environmental accounting
gr-e-02.04.10.03.16-ind
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In 2023, Switzerland's material footprint was around 15 tonnes per person. 40% of the raw materials were extracted in Switzerland.

2 Emissions and waste

Emissions of air pollutants

Thousand tonnes



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

Data as on: 25.09.2025

Source: FOEN – EMIS

gr-e-02.03.02.01.01-ind

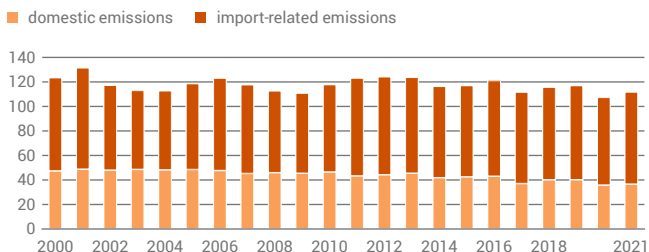
© FSO 2025

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



Data as on: 27.09.2023

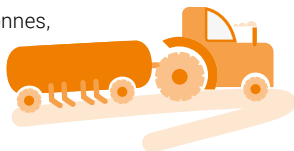
Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

gr-e-02.04.11.06.01-ind

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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%).

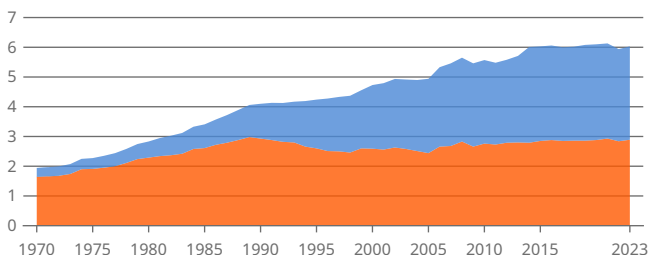
Over the last ten years, the **nitrogen surplus** of agricultural areas has averaged 96 000 tonnes, and the **phosphorus surplus** 5400 tonnes per year.



Municipal waste

Million tonnes

- municipal waste incinerated and deposited in landfills¹
- separately collected municipal waste²



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)

Data as on: 20.02.2025

gr-e-02.03.02.09.01-ind

Source: FOEN

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In 2023, 673 kg of municipal waste was generated per person. 52% of this was separately collected and recycled.

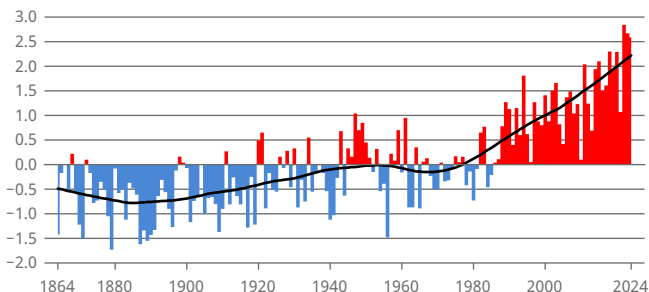
3 Environmental situation

Mean annual temperature in Switzerland

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

Degrees Celsius

- below average years
- above average years
- 30 year smoothed mean (LOESS)



Data as on: 20.02.2025

gr-e-02.03.03.03.01-ind

Source: MeteoSwiss

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



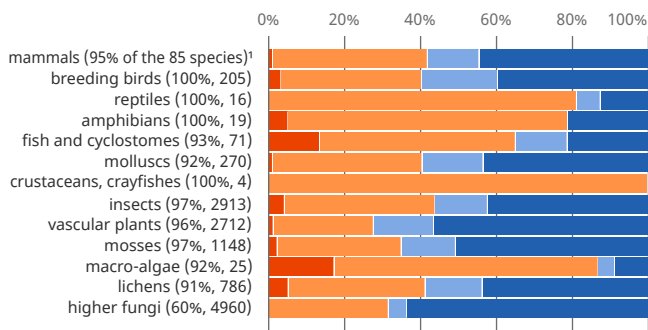
The pollution of **rivers and lakes** by nitrate and phosphorus has declined in recent decades. Elevated concentrations are still measured mainly in agricultural areas. Active substances contained

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 2025, depending on the species group

■ lost or extinct ■ endangered ■ potentially endangered
■ not endangered



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

Data as on: 20.02.2025
Source: FOEN

gr-e-02.03.03.10.01-ind
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According to the red list, 36% 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.

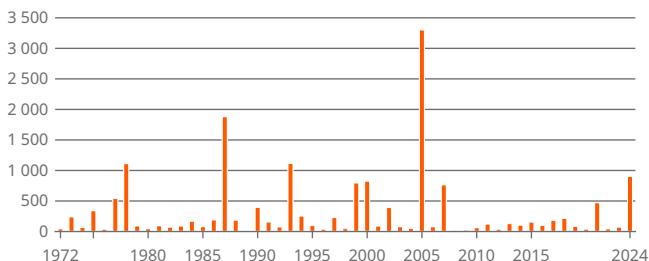


4 Effects on society

Damage caused by natural events

Floods, debris flows, landslides and rockfall

CHF million (adjusted for inflation, base year 2024)



Data as on: 25.09.2025

Source: WSL

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From 1972 to 2024, damage caused by natural events (floods, debris flows, landslides and rockfall) totalled CHF 17 billion.

External costs of road, rail and air traffic

CHF billion

Road traffic¹

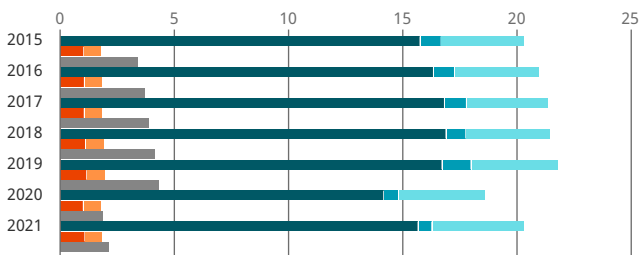
private motorised transport public transport goods transport

Rail traffic¹

passenger transport goods transport

Air traffic²

passenger and goods transport



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

Data as on: 20.02.2025

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



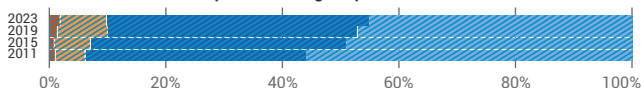
air pollution surrounding the place of domicile



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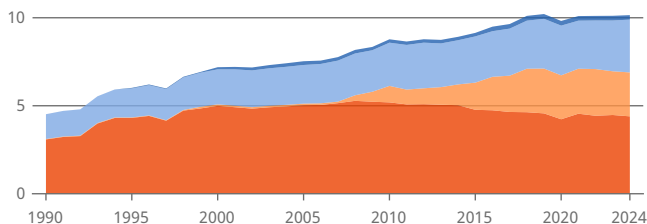
In 2023, 36% of the population said they were very or rather disturbed by traffic noise at home, 39% by air pollution surrounding the house and 25% by radiation from high-voltage power lines or mobile phone antennas.

5 Reactions from society

Environmentally related taxes revenue

CHF billion, at current prices

■ energy taxes (mobile)
 ■ energy taxes (stationary)
 ■ transport taxes
■ pollution taxes



2023: provisional, 2024: estimates

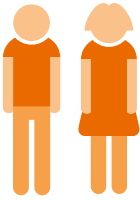
Data as on: 29.04.2025

gr-e-02.04.02.05.01-ind

Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

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In 2024, revenue from **environmental taxes** amounted to CHF 10.1 billion. Its share of the total revenue from taxes and social contributions stood at 4.7% in 2023.



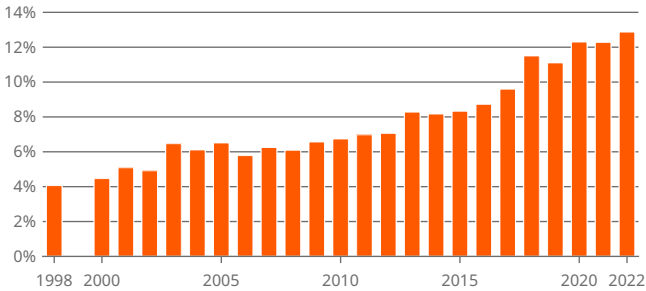
Between 2000 and 2022, **employment in the environment sector** more than doubled. In 2022, there were 167 700 full-time equivalents, which represented 4% of total employment (2000: 2.3%).

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: 25.09.2025
Source: FSO – HBS

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In 2022, around 12.9% of private household's total expenditure on food and drink was spent on organic products.

Circular economy:

In 2023, 14.5% 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 → Statistics → Territory and environment
→ Overview



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