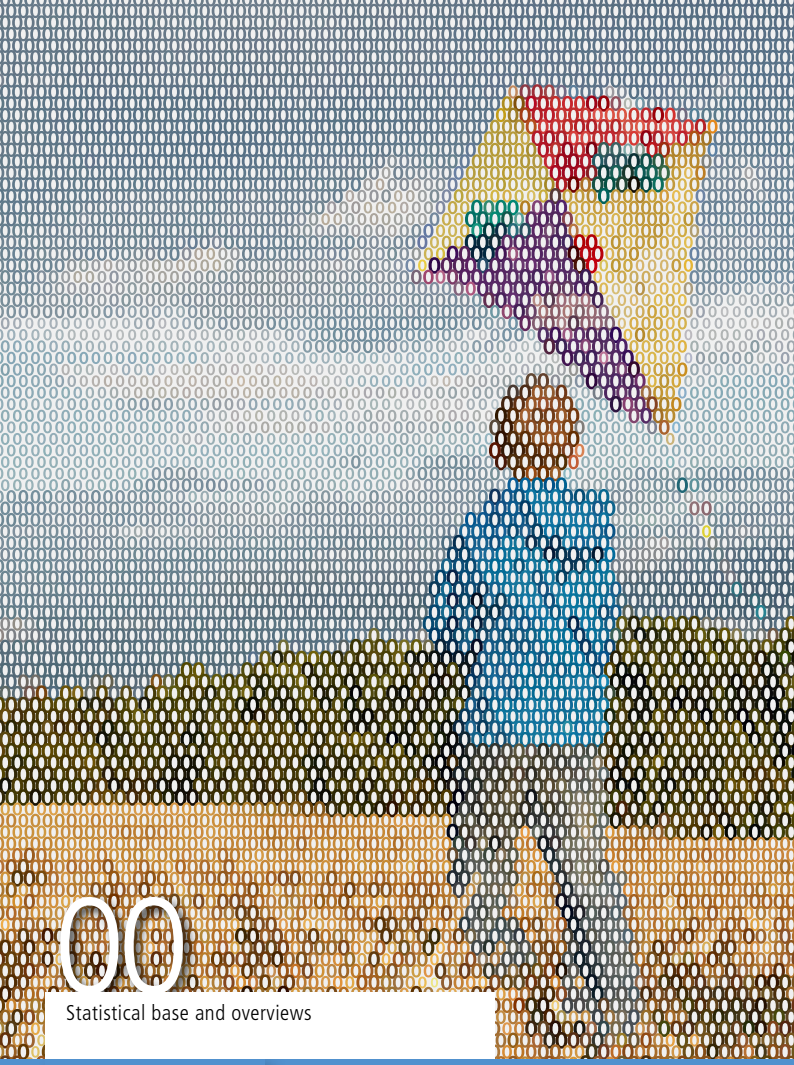

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Statistical base and overviews

025-1900

Statistical Data on Switzerland 2019

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Three dots (...) instead of a figure means that the data has not (yet) been gathered or calculated.
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Abbreviations for names of cantons:
These are explained in the table on page 4.

Rounded figures:
In general, figures are rounded up or down, which may cause the sum of rounded figures to differ from the end total.

Sources:
Statistical results are usually presented here without reference to sources. Such information is extensively presented in our portal "Statistics Switzerland"
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Contents

Foreword	3
Population	4
Territory and Environment	9
Employment and Income	11
National Economy	14
Prices	16
Industry and Services	17
Agriculture and Forestry	20
Energy	21
Construction and Housing	22
Tourism	23
Mobility and Transport	24
Switzerland and Europe	26
Banks, Insurance	28
Social Security	29
Health	32
Education and Science	34
Culture, Media and Information Society	37
Politics	39
Public Administration and Finance	41
Crime and Criminal Justice	43
Economic and Social Situation of the Population	45
Sustainable Development	49
Regional Disparities	50
Switzerland and its Cantons	51

Foreword

Dear readers,

While 2018 saw a wealth of events at the FSO, 2019 will also bring a number of changes in terms of statistics, particularly in the field of politics with the federal elections taking place in October. An analysis of the share of the vote of parties and elected members will be published just after the event. In other areas, previously unpublished data on active ageing were disseminated in January as part of the UN programme on population ageing, the Swiss Health Survey 2017 will enable results on alcohol consumption to be published in November and the initial results of the special education statistics will be released in October.

This edition of Statistical Data on Switzerland offers some new features compared with previous editions such as the new statistics on built heritage that were released at the very end of 2018 during the European Year of Cultural Heritage. A distinction is made between historic monuments, archaeology and built heritage sites. You will find the main results in the culture, media and information society chapter. In the industry and services chapter, the new topic of multinational businesses and foreign affiliates is now illustrated by a new graphic, the work and income chapter is enhanced by information on low wages and the mobility and transport chapter now includes passenger transport and more detailed civil aviation data.

Statistical Data on Switzerland is available in printed, electronic and digital format, adapted to mobile devices such as tablets and telephones. In addition to providing the same content as the standard version, the digital format offers extra interactive functions such as maps and graphics. You can see our figures by clicking on certain areas.

We also invite you to visit our website www.statistics.admin.ch where you will find more detailed information on all areas of official statistics in the form of tables, graphics, publications, maps and interactive data that make it possible to create customised tables. The infographics have been updated with the publication of the Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland and illustrate each of the 21 statistical topics.

I hope you enjoy exploring our most recent data on Switzerland and we also invite you to take a look at our Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland that is published every year at the same time as the Statistical Data on Switzerland.

Georges-Simon Ulrich

Director General
Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

Neuchâtel, March 2019

Permanent resident population by canton, 2017

At year-end	Total in '000	Foreigners in %	Urban in %	Density km²	Population growth 2010–2017 in %
Switzerland	**8 484.1**	**25.1**	**84.8**	**212.1**	**7.8**
Zurich (ZH)	1 504.3	26.7	99.3	905.8	9.6
Bern (BE)	1 031.1	16.2	74.6	176.5	5.2
Lucerne (LU)	406.5	18.4	63.7	284.4	7.7
Uri (UR)	36.3	12.0	88.5	34.3	2.5
Schwyz (SZ)	157.3	21.1	82.0	184.8	7.2
Obwalden (OW)	37.6	14.7	27.2	78.2	5.6
Nidwalden (NW)	43.0	14.6	50.6	178.0	4.7
Glarus (GL)	40.3	24.1	76.3	59.3	4.5
Zug (ZG)	125.4	27.9	100.0	605.4	10.9
Fribourg (FR)	315.1	22.5	74.9	197.8	13.1
Solothurn (SO)	271.4	22.3	86.1	343.4	6.3
Basel-Stadt (BS)	193.9	36.0	100.0	5 247.8	4.8
Basel-Landschaft (BL)	287.0	22.5	97.6	554.5	4.6
Schaffhausen (SH)	81.4	26.0	89.8	272.8	6.5
Appenzell A. Rh. (AR)	55.2	16.3	76.6	227.2	4.1
Appenzell I. Rh. (AI)	16.1	11.4	0.0	93.4	2.7
St. Gallen (SG)	504.7	24.0	82.5	258.7	5.4
Graubünden (GR)	197.9	18.6	44.8	27.9	2.7
Aargau (AG)	671.0	24.9	85.0	481.0	9.7
Thurgau (TG)	273.8	24.7	67.1	317.2	10.2
Ticino (TI)	353.7	27.9	92.7	129.0	6.0
Vaud (VD)	793.1	33.5	89.6	281.1	11.2
Valais (VS)	341.5	23.0	78.7	65.5	9.2
Neuchâtel (NE)	178.0	25.4	89.9	248.3	3.4
Geneva (GE)	495.2	40.1	100.0	2 014.7	8.2
Jura (JU)	73.3	14.7	53.3	87.4	4.7

Permanent resident population in the largest cities, 2017

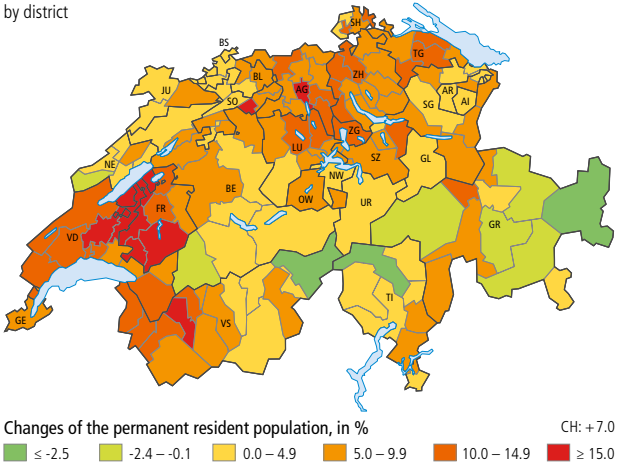
	City		Urban agglomeration	
	in '000	Population growth 2010–2017 in %	in '000	Population growth 2010–2017 in %
Zurich	409.2	9.8	1 369.0	9.5
Geneva	200.5	7.0	592.1	8.7
Basel	171.5	5.1	547.8	5.1
Lausanne	138.9	8.7	420.8	11.0
Bern	133.8	7.6	418.2	6.7
Winterthur	110.9	9.5	141.6	9.0
Lucerne	81.4	5.0	229.4	6.3
St. Gallen	75.5	3.5	166.8	3.9
Lugano	63.5	5.4	151.2	7.1
Biel	54.6	6.7	105.7	6.3

The population is mostly urban

Today (2017), 84.8% of the urban population live in areas with an urban character (urban cores and areas under the influence of urban centres). About half of the population live in one of Switzerland's five largest agglomerations (Zurich, Basel, Geneva, Bern and Lausanne).
In 2017, population growth in areas with an urban character was stronger than in areas beyond the influence of urban centres (2017: +1.0% compared with –0.5%).

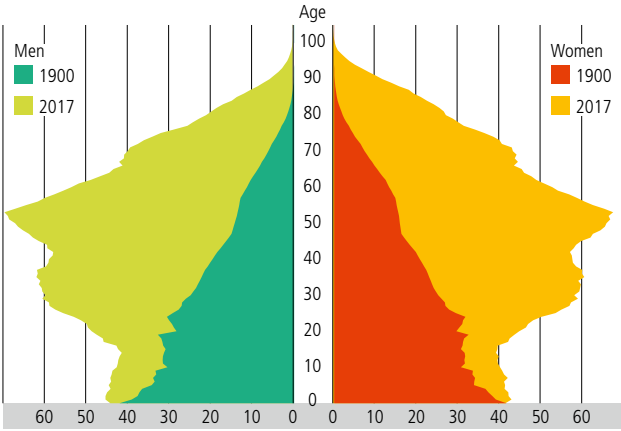
Population growth, 2010–2017

by district



Age structure of the population

Number of persons in '000



Ageing society

During the course of the 20th century, the proportion of elderly people (65 years or older) increased, while that of young people (under age 20) and people of working age (aged 20 – 64) declined. As a result of this process, the shape of the age "pyramid" has been transformed into one of a "fir tree" (2017) in which the baby boom generation (born between 1940 and 1971) predominates. Younger generations, in contrast, are smaller and the ageing of the population will continue. The proportion of persons aged 65 and over is expected to rise from 18.3% (2017) to over 26% in 2045.

Chidren born alive, 2017

Total	87 381
Boys for every 100 girls	105.6
Proportion of children out of wedlock in %	25.2
Children per woman [1]	1.5

1 Average number of children that would be born to a woman over her lifetime given the age-specific fertility rates in the year of observation

Deaths, 2017

Total	66 971
Age at death (years)	
0 – 19	494
20 – 39	858
40 – 64	7 395
65 – 79	16 696
≥ 80	41 528

International migration, 2017

Immigration	170 945
of which foreigners	147 142
Emigration	124 997
of which foreigners	93 157
Net migration	45 948
Swiss	–8 037
Foreigners	53 985

Internal migration [2], 2017

Total movements	510 066

2 Movements between communes, excl. movements within a given commune

Marriages, 2017

Total	40 599
Swiss/Swiss	19 558
Swiss/Foreign	7 972
Foreign/Swiss	6 550
Foreign/Foreign	6 519
Average age at first marriage (years)	
Single men	32.0
Single women	29.9

Divorces, 2017

Total	15 906
with minors involved in %	45.3
Duration of marriage	
0 – 4 years	1 900
5 – 9 years	3 917
10 – 14 years	3 039
15 or more years	7 050
Total divorce rate [3]	38.7

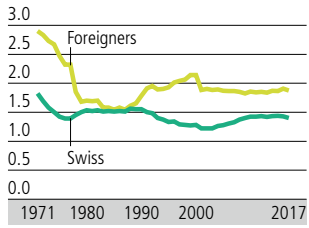
3 Proportion of marriages, ending in divorce sooner or later, based on the divorce rates of the year of observation

Multiple births [4], 2017

Total	1 590
of which twin births	1 566

4 Number of deliveries; children born alive and stillborn children

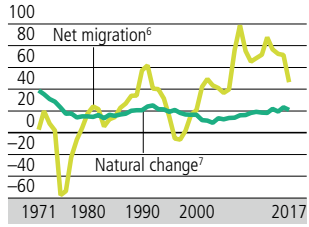
Total fertility rate [5]



5 Average number of children per woman, see note 1

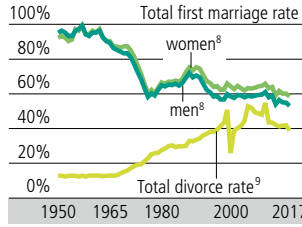
Net migration and natural change

in '000



6 Until 2010, change of status included, since 2011 incl. conversions from non permanent residence status

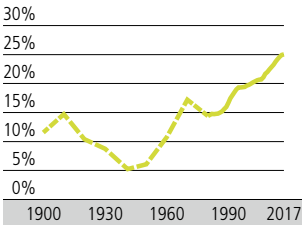
Marriages and divorces



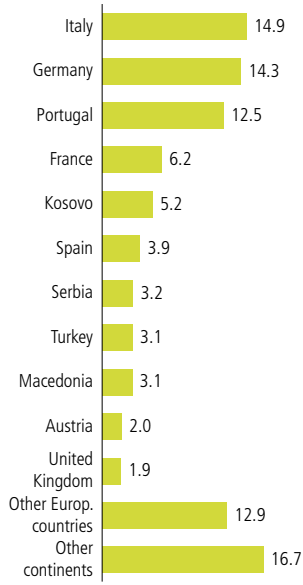
8 Probability of first marriage for a person under the age of 50 based on the age-specific first marriage rates of the year of observation

9 See note 3. Since 2011, divorces between two foreigners are not always recorded

Share of foreign permanent resident population



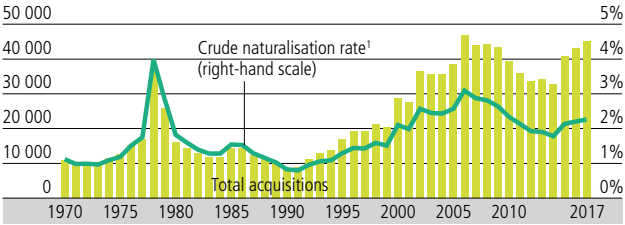
Foreign permanent resident population by nationality, 2017 in %



Foreign permanent and non permanent resident population by type of permit, 2017 in '000

Total	**2 202.4**
Resident – B permit	693.2
Permanent resident – C permit	1 318.6
International officials and diplomats	29.7
Temporary resident (L permit)	86.7
Asylum seekers – N permit	24.2
Provisionally accepted – F permit	41.0
Non-attributable	8.4

Acquisition of Swiss citizenship



1 Number of citizenship acquisitions per 100 holders of annual and permanent residence permits at the beginning of the year

Foreign population: more than half were born in Switzerland or have been residents for at least 10 years

Foreigners account for 25.1% of the permanent resident population. More than half of the residents without a Swiss passport (55.5%) have lived in the country for 10 years or more or were even born here. In 2017, 44 949 persons (2.3% of the foreign permanent resident population) obtained Swiss citizenship. The foreign population is young: for every 100 foreigners of working age (aged 20–64) there are only 11 aged 65 and over (compared with 37 among the Swiss). 30.0% of children born in Switzerland in 2017 had foreign citizenship. In 2017, the number of immigrations decreased by 10.8% compared with the previous year. Of these immigrants, 57.8% came from EU/EFTA countries.

Increasingly multifaceted living patterns

In 2016, only 28% of private households belonged to the household type "Couple with children". Of the households with at least one child under 25 years, 15% are lone parent families and 5.8% patchwork families. These high figures are the result of a great number of divorces (15 906 in 2017). Furthermore, the proportion of non-marital births doubled between 2000 and 2017, from 11% to 25.2%.

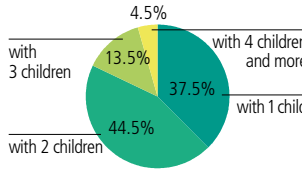
The decision to get married and start a family is being made increasingly late in life: The age at first marriage among women rose from 24 (1970) to 29.9 (2017) and among men from 26 to 32 years; the average age of mothers at first birth rose from 25 to 30.8 years.

The traditional middle-class "single breadwinner" model is now the exception: In 2017, almost eight in ten mothers in couple households were in employment. It still holds true that fathers tend to do more paid work (generally full-time) and mothers are mainly responsible for house and family work.

Private households, 2016	in '000
Total	**3 675.1**
Single-person households	1 298.9
Family households	2 349.6
Childless couples	1 008.2
Couples with child(ren)	1 035.9
Lone parents with child(ren)	220.7
Non-family households	84.8

Family households with children, 2016

Children under 25



Main languages, 2016[1]	in %
German	63.5
French	22.9
Italian	8.5
Romansh	2.5
English	2.8
Portuguese	3.8
Albanian	2.4
Serbo-Croatian	5.7
Spanish	1.1
Turkish	0.5
Other languages	6.1

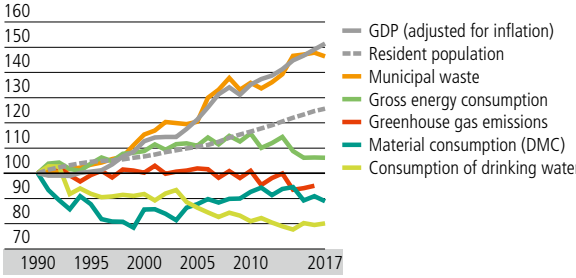
1 Resident permanent population aged 15 or more and living in a private household. Several languages possible

Religious affiliation, 2016[2]	in %
Protestant	24.5
Roman Catholic	36.5
Other Christian communities	5.9
Jewish religious community	0.3
Islamic religious communities	5.2
Other churches and religious communities	1.4
No affiliation	24.9
Unknown	1.3

2 Resident permanent population aged 15 or more and living in a private household

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Population

Use of resources and emissions Index 1990 =100



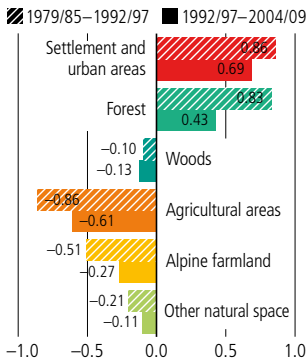
A growing population and economy are usually accompanied by a rise in the consumption of natural resources and an increase in emissions – unless behaviours change or technological advances lead to improved efficiency. The volume of municipal waste, for example, tends to grow at roughly the same rate as the gross domestic product (GDP). Greenhouse gas emissions, on the other hand, have remained relatively constant since 1990. Drinking water consumption has even decreased despite the needs of a growing population and economy.

Land use
Period of survey 2004–2009

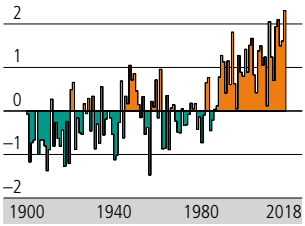
	km²	%
Total surface area	**41 290**	**100**
Forest and woods	12 930	31.3
Agricultural areas	9 678	23.4
Alpine farmland	5 139	12.4
Settlement and urban areas	3 079	7.5
Lakes and watercourses	1 774	4.3
Other natural space	8 690	21.0

Within 24 years, settlement and urban areas have grown by 23%, mainly at the expense of agricultural areas. According to the latest figures, settlement and urban areas constitute 7.5% of Switzerland's surface area and 4.7% of the surface is sealed.

Change in land use
in square metre per second



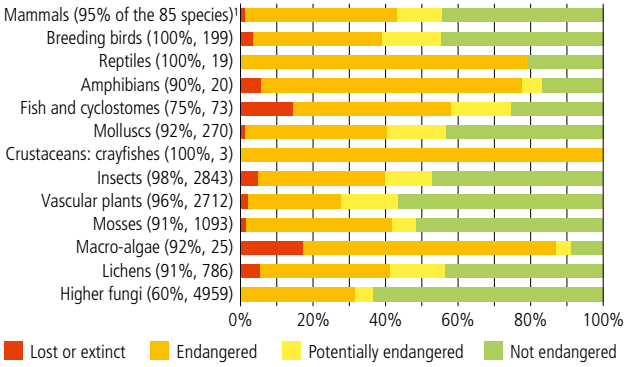
Temperature fluctuations
Deviations from long-term mean value 1961–1990, in °C



The air temperature varies from year to year and is characterised by colder and warmer periods. 9 out of 10 of the warmest years in Switzerland since records began in 1864 have been in the 21st century and 2018 was the warmest year so far.

Endangered animals and plants (red lists)

Status 1994–2018, depending on the species group

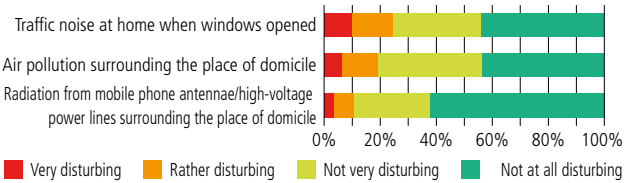


1 Reading aid: The endangerment status was assessed for 95% of the 85 mammal species. Data are deficient for the remaining species.

There are around 46 000 known species of flora, fauna and fungi in Switzerland. Of the species examined, 35% are on the red list, i.e. they are considered endangered, missing or extinct.

Perception of environmental conditions in the place of residence, 2015

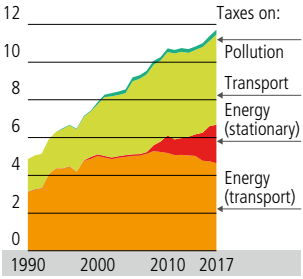
Share of population



In 2015, 24% of the population found traffic noise at home with open windows to be very or rather disturbing. 19% were of this opinion with regard to air pollution surrounding the house and 10% with regard to radiation from power lines or mobile phone antennas. These perceptions approximately correspond to those observed in 2011.

Environmentally related taxes revenue

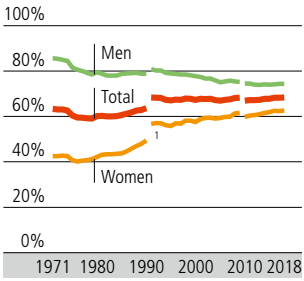
CHF billion, at current prices



Environmentally related taxes make environmentally damaging goods and services more expensive and encourage consumers and producers to think about the consequences of their decisions. In 2017, environmentally related taxes revenue corresponded to 6.2% of total revenue from taxes and social contributions.

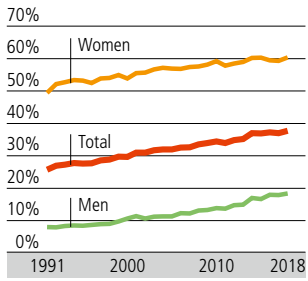
▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** →
Look for statistics → Territory and Environment

Labour force as % of the permanent resident population (15+)

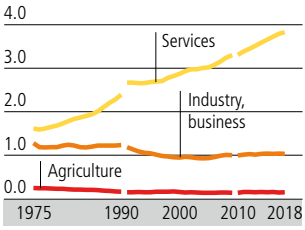


1 New calculation method from 1991 resp. 2010 onwards

People in part-time employment as % of the employed persons



People employed[1] by economic sector in millions



1 New calculation method from 1991 resp. 2010 onwards

Employed persons according to employment status[1]
Permanent resident population, in '000

2nd Qtr	2017	2018
Total	**4 641**	**4 672**
Self-employed	596	606
Family workers	97	96
Employee	3 741	3 761
Apprentice	207	208

1 Sociological definition

Persons in employment by type of authorisation and gender in '000

2nd Qtr	1991	2000	2005	2010	2015	2018
Total	**4 042**	**4 014**	**4 126**	**4 477**	**4 885**	**5 046**
Swiss	3 014	3 069	3 094	3 268	3 398	3 478
Foreigners	1 028	944	1 032	1 209	1 487	1 568
Permanent residents	534	569	557	584	687	743
Temporary residents	172	175	228	337	433	433
Seasonal workers[1]	85	25	–	–	–	–
Cross-border workers	183	140	176	228	295	314
Temporary visitors	21	20	53	42	46	44
Other foreigners	34	15	18	17	26	33
Men	2 370	2 265	2 284	2 472	2 659	2 760
Women	1 672	1 749	1 842	2 006	2 226	2 285

1 As of 1.6.2002 seasonal work permits are no longer issued

Considerable increase in women's participation in labour market

Between 2013 and 2018, the number of women in employment increased at a greater rate than that of employed men (+7.2% to 2.285 million compared with +6.8% to 2.760 million). Part-time employment has also been increasing for many years. In 2018, 60% of women were working part-time (2013: 58.7%). In contrast, 18% of men worked part-time, although this percentage has also increased (+3.5% points compared to 2013). The increase in women's labour force participation and in part-time employment can be attributed to the tertiarisation of the economy. 86.9% of women in employment in 2018 worked in the tertiary sector (men: 67.2%) and part-time employment is mainly found in the service sector (9 out of 10 part-time jobs).

Foreign workers

Foreign workers are an important factor in the Swiss labour market. Since the 1960s, their share of the labour force has always exceeded 20%; in 2017, it was 31%. Foreign labour is particularly important in the industrial sector (2017: 39.1%; Service sector: 29.6%).

In 2017, 78.6% of foreigners in employment were citizens from an EU or EFTA country. Two thirds of the permanent resident population from the EU came from Germany (24%), Italy (20.6%) and Portugal (20.4%).

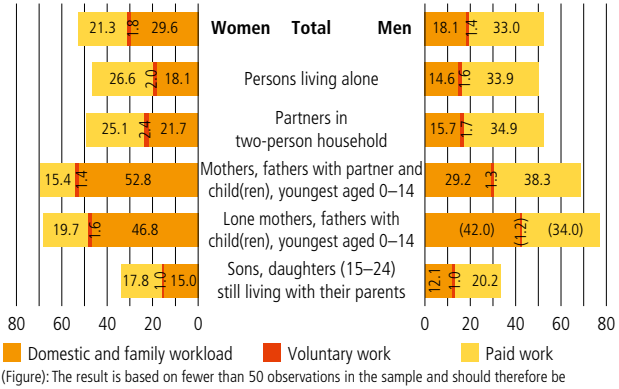
Unemployment rate[1] by major region and other criteria

2nd quarter	2005	2010	2015	2017	2018
Switzerland	**4.4**	**4.6**	**4.4**	**4.4**	**4.6**
Lake Geneva region	6.5	7.0	6.7	8.0	7.2
Espace Mittelland	4.0	4.6	3.7	3.6	4.3
Northwest Switzerland	4.1	4.7	3.8	4.0	4.4
Zurich	4.2	4.0	4.3	3.4	4.4
Eastern Switzerland	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.4	3.0
Central Switzerland	2.9	3.1	3.4	2.5	3.2
Ticino	6.1	5.2	6.5	6.8	6.1
Men	3.9	4.3	4.3	4.0	4.1
Women	5.1	5.1	4.6	4.8	5.2
Swiss	3.2	3.5	3.1	3.1	3.1
Foreigners	8.9	8.5	8.2	7.9	8.8
15–24 years	8.8	7.5	6.9	6.9	6.4
25–39 years	4.4	5.2	4.8	4.7	5.4
40–54 years	3.3	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0
55–64 years	3.7	3.4	3.5	3.7	4.1

1 Unemployment rate based on ILO

Time spent on paid work, on domestic and family workload and on voluntary work, 2016

Persons aged 15 to 64 by family situation: hours on average per week



(Figure): The result is based on fewer than 50 observations in the sample and should therefore be

Involvement in voluntary work, 2016

as a percentage of permanent resident population age 15 and older

	Total	Informal	Organised
Total	**42.7**	**31.7**	**19.5**
Men	41.4	28.4	21.7
Women	44.0	34.9	17.4

Wage level[1] per main region, economy as a whole, 2016

Median, in Swiss francs

		Professional position			
	Total	a	b	c	d
Switzerland	**6 502**	**10 310**	**8 328**	**6 977**	**5 935**
Lake Geneva region (VD, VS, GE)	6 591	11 048	8 831	7 285	6 000
Espace Mittelland (BE, FR, SO, NE, JU)	6 426	9 620	7 621	6 899	5 956
North-western Switzerland (BS, BL, AG)	6 700	10 745	8 723	7 484	6 129
Zurich (ZH)	6 869	11 339	9 310	7 521	6 065
Eastern Switzerland (GL, SH, AR, AI, SG, GR, TG)	6 092	8 920	7 413	6 364	5 657
Central Switzerland (LU, UR, SZ, OW, NW, ZG)	6 451	9 786	7 808	6 571	5 952
Ticino (TI)	5 563	8 558	6 793	5 921	5 067

1 Standardised monthly wage: full-time equivalent based on 40 hours a week and 4 1/3 weeks a month. Wage components: gross wage including 1/12 of 13th month salary and 1/12 of special annual payments
a = top, upper and middle management; b = lower management level;
c = lowest management level; d = no management function

Low wages

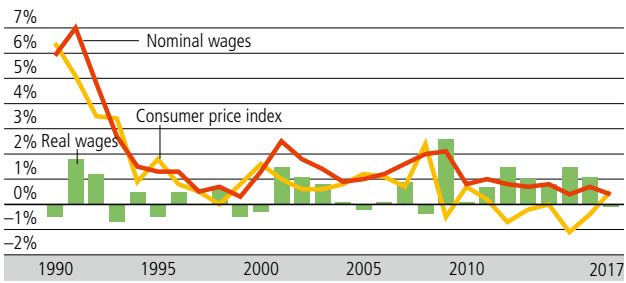
In 2016, there were almost 329 000 low wage jobs in Switzerland, i.e. wages below CHF 4335 gross per month for a full-time job (a job is considered to be "low wage" if the wages are less than two thirds of the gross median wage). It should be noted that over time there has tended to be a decline in the proportion of low wage jobs in the economy as a whole from 11.4% in 2008 to 10.2% in 2016. Economic sectors characterised by a high rate of low wage jobs include retail trade (25.7%), the manufacture of wearing apparel (38.9%), the restaurant sector (50.5%) and personnel services (59.1%). In 2016, almost 474 000 persons had low wage jobs and 66.4% of these were women.

The wage gap between women and men

In 2016 the monthly gross median wage of women in the overall economy was CHF 6011 and that of men CHF 6830. The wage gap between women and men was 12.0%. In the private sector in 2016 the wage gap was 14.6% whereas in the public sector it was 12.5%. 57.1% of the wage gap in 2016 (private sector) can be explained by objective factors such as education, age, professional position and economic activity. This leaves 42.9% of the pay gap unexplained. In comparison, the unexplained share of the wage gap in the public sector was 34.8%.

Evolution of nominal wages, consumer prices and real wages

Change compared with the previous year in %



▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Employment and Income

Stable growth of the Swiss economy in 2017

Economic activity in Switzerland in 2017 measured by GDP recorded an increase in growth of 1.6% at previous year's prices identical to the increase of 2016.

This growth is in keeping with a contrasting environment characterised by a marked downturn in the contribution of foreign trade and strong growth in investments in capital goods. Without taking non-monetary gold into account, the balance of goods and services increased by 5.4% in 2017. This downturn compared with 2016 (+12.1%) is due to a deterioration in the balance of services (–2.5%) while the balance of goods (excluding non-monetary gold) continued to grow (+9.4%). Compared with the weak growth in the export of services (+0.7%), the export of goods (excluding non-monetary gold) was more dynamic (+6.2%). The rise in the export of goods was largely from the chemical and pharmaceutical industries.

For the fourth consecutive year, investments showed a marked increase (+3.3%). This rise may be explained by a further increase in investments in capital goods (+4.5%) sustained in particular by R&D expenditure. With regard to the production approach, the value added in the manufacturing industry continued to expand (+4.2%) on the result measured in 2016 (+2.5%). The situation nonetheless remained disparate at economic branch level and many industry sectors still faced difficulties although the chemical and pharmaceutical industries recorded strong growth. Following three difficult years, the value added of banks began to rise again (+2.1%).

Gross domestic product (GDP) and its components

Percentage change over previous year at prices of preceding year

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016[p]	2017[p]
GDP	**–2.2**	**3.0**	**1.7**	**1.0**	**1.9**	**2.4**	**1.3**	**1.6**	**1.6**
Final consumption expenditure	1.6	1.6	0.9	2.2	2.6	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.1
Gross capital formation	4.1	–5.4	11.9	–9.7	–9.8	5.8	3.9	–2.2	3.1
Exports of goods and services	–10.0	12.8	4.9	1.1	15.2	–6.2	2.6	6.7	–0.4
Imports of goods and services	–3.8	8.1	9.2	–2.6	13.5	–7.7	4.5	6.0	–0.8
GDP in CHF billion at current prices	589	609	621	626	638	650	654	660	669

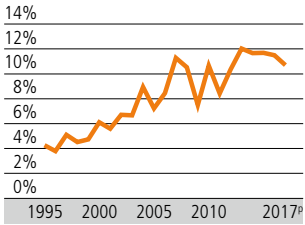
Importance of relations with the rest of the world

From 1997, foreign trade played a leading role in the growth of the GDP. In fact, the periods of strong growth have coincided with booming foreign trade. Exports are the component of the GDP which made the largest contribution to growth during the lean years (1997 to 2000 and 2004 to 2007). One of the consequences of the dynamism of exports was an increase in the share of the foreign contribution (balance between exports and imports) to the GDP, showing the growing significance of the rest of the world to the Swiss economy. In 2009, however, Switzerland suffered the brunt of the slowdown in the global economy, which resulted in a negative contribution by foreign trade to growth.

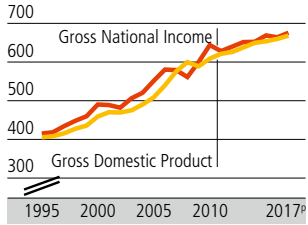
Since the financial crisis of 2008, foreign trade's contribution to growth in GDP has become more erratic. In 2017, this contribution was a positive one. The GNI registered an increase of 1.8% (2016: –0.6%). This

trend mainly results from the larger decline in property income paid abroad (–5.9%) compared with the decline in income received from abroad (–1.6%). The decrease in property income paid and received from abroad can be explained in both cases by the marked decline in income from direct investment.

Share of the external sector in GDP
at current prices

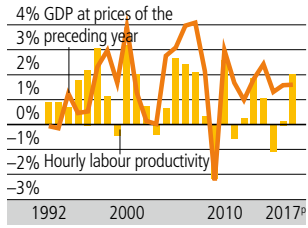


GDP and GNI at current prices
in CHF billion

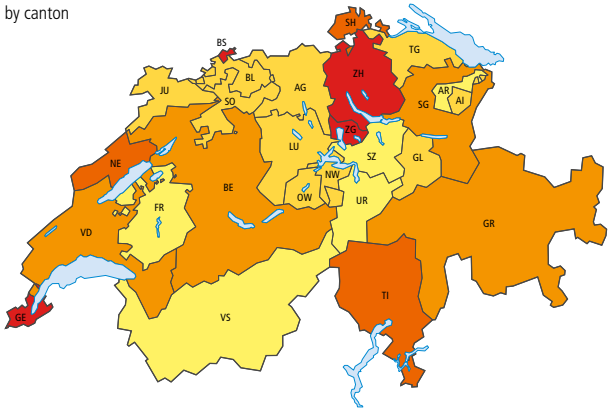


Once economic activity measured by GDP is known, one can investigate the efficiency with which productive resources (labour and capital) are utilised. Labour efficiency is measured by hourly labour productivity, i.e. the value added created by hour worked.

Annual growth rate



Gross domestic product per inhabitant, 2016
by canton



Gross domestic product per inhabitant at current prices, in Swiss francs

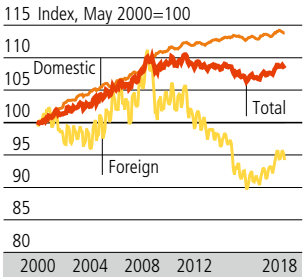
< 60 000 | ≥ 60 000 | ≥ 70 000 | ≥ 80 000 | ≥ 90 000 | CH: 78 869

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → National Economy

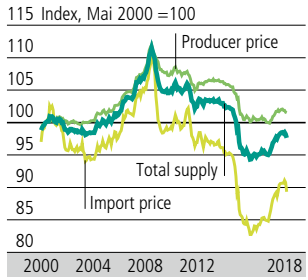
Changes in consumer price index changes in yearly average in %

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	**0.0**	**–1.1**	**–0.4**	**0.5**	**0.9**
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	0.9	–0.8	0.4	0.4	1.3
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	1.0	0.0	–0.5	0.5	0.7
Clothing and footwear	–1.3	0.3	1.3	2.8	1.6
Housing and energy	1.0	–0.6	–0.1	1.2	1.3
Household goods and services	–1.0	–2.1	–2.2	–1.8	–0.5
Health	–0.9	–0.4	–0.4	–0.5	–1.0
Transport	–1.2	–4.4	–2.4	1.5	2.7
Communications	–2.3	–0.9	–1.5	–1.6	0.4
Recreation and culture	0.1	–2.0	0.8	1.0	1.7
Education	1.6	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.1
Restaurants and hotels	0.7	0.0	–0.2	0.4	0.5
Other goods and services	–0.8	–0.8	–1.8	–0.4	0.5

Consumer price index by origin



Producer and import price index



International comparison of price indices, 2017 EU-28 = 100

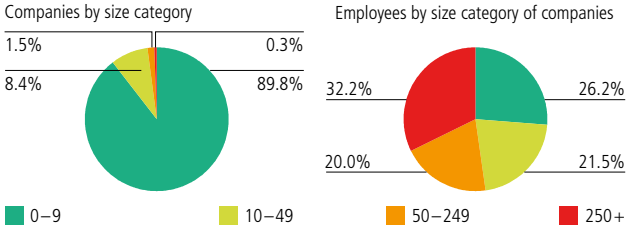
	Switzerland	Germany	France	Italy
Gross domestic product	152	107	110	99
Actual individual consumption	167	104	107	102
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	169	101	114	111
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	128	95	109	95
Clothing and footwear	147	105	104	104
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	180	111	114	91
Household furnishings, equipment and maintenance	124	102	106	105
Health	208	102	99	122
Transport	120	106	106	101
Communication	123	101	97	109
Recreation and culture	158	104	109	102
Education	232	115	101	96
Restaurants and hotels	162	110	118	105
Miscellaneous goods and services	168	99	104	100
Actual collective consumption	180	123	128	110
Gross fixed capital formation	135	118	113	85
Machinery and equipment	112	98	106	97
Construction	175	139	119	77
Software	97	98	102	102

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Prices

More than 99% of enterprises are SMEs

More than 99% of all enterprises in Switzerland are small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) i.e. enterprises with fewer than 250 employees. The proportion of micro-enterprises (with fewer than 10 employees) in 2016 is larger in the service sector than in the secondary sector (90.7% compared with 80.0%). The average size of enterprises also differs accordingly (service sector: 7.2 employees; secondary sector: 12 employees). Over two thirds of employees work in SMEs; around one third in large enterprises (with fewer than 250 employees). Slightly more than a fourth of jobs (26.2%) are accounted for by micro-enterprises and over a fifth (21.5%) by enterprises with 10 to 49 employees. In 2016 the share of total employment represented by the tertiary sector in the case of private enterprises was 71.9%. Overall in private enterprises nearly 158 000 employees worked in the primary sector, 1 083 000 in the secondary and 3 173 500 in the tertiary. The healthcare and retail sectors counted the most employees in private enterprises (397 300 and 345 400 employees respectively).

Company size[1], 2016



1 Only market-oriented companies. The size of a company is determined by the number of employees

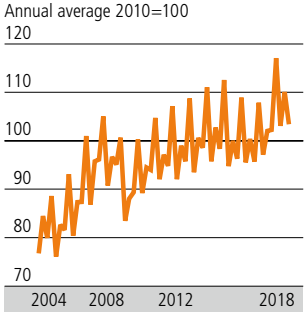
Market-oriented companies and employees by economic activity

according to NOGA 2008, in '000	2016 Companies	2016 Employees
Total	**586.2**	**4 414.3**
Sector 1	**53.6**	**157.5**
Sector 2	**90.6**	**1 083.3**
of which:		
Manufacture of food, beverage and tobacco products	4.4	99.3
Manufacture of textiles, apparel and leather goods	2.9	14.9
Manufacture of wood and paper products, and printing	9.8	69.1
Manufacture of pharmaceutical products	0.2	45.4
Manufacture of metal products	7.4	83.5
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products; watches and clocks	2.0	108.2
Manufacture of electrical equipment	0.8	33.0
Electricity, gas and steam supply	0.8	30.3
Construction of buildings and Civil engineering	8.9	109.8
Sector 3	**442.0**	**3 173.5**
of which:		
Wholesale trade	23.9	230.8
Retail trade	35.3	345.4
Accommodation	5.5	74.4
Food and beverage service activities	23.5	167.3
IT and other information services	16.2	89.5
Financial service activities and insurance	6.5	192.7
Architectural and engineering activities	24.8	126.0
Administrative and support service activities	3.6	20.4
Human health and social assistance	64.8	576.9

Business demography, 2016

Economic activity (NOGA 2008)	New companies	Created jobs	High-growth companies
Total	**39 125**	**53 031**	**4 157**
Sector 2	**4 912**	**8 047**	**931**
Industry and Energy	1 713	2 421	498
Construction	3 199	5 626	433
Sector 3	**34 213**	**44 984**	**3 226**
Trade and repair sector	4 511	6 283	504
Transport and warehousing	885	1 228	164
Accommodation, food and beverage service activities	1 228	2 444	286
Information and communication	2 191	2 967	276
Banking and insurance	1 432	2 121	152
Real estate activities and services	3 548	5 277	484
Professional and scientific activities	8 156	10 049	561
Education	1 949	2 238	147
Health and social services	4 472	5 383	425
Arts and recreation	2 215	2 950	146
Other service activities	3 626	4 044	81

Production in the secondary sector



Overall production in the secondary sector (industry and construction) grew by 26.1% between 2004 and 2017. The trend is highly cyclical. Furthermore, the Swiss economy was hit by the financial crisis in 2007 and in 2015 by the Swiss National Bank's decision to abandon the minimum euro exchange rate. This decision meant that Swiss products became more expensive for foreign purchasers and led to a decline in turnover for the mainly export-oriented industry. Whereas in 2015 nearly all sectors made losses in production compared with the previous year, in 2016 the situation improved. In 2017, almost all sectors recovered resulting in an increase in secondary sector production (+4.4%).

Employment

From 2004 to 2017 the number of secondary sector jobs (excl. construction) rose by 1.6%. Between the 1st quarter 2006 and the 3rd quarter 2008, employment growth was strong. With the financial crisis came a slump in the labour market: by the 1st quarter 2010 the number of jobs had fallen to the level of the 4th quarter 2006. By mid-2012 industry had recovered somewhat only to undergo further decline. Until the 2nd quarter 2013 and again in 2015 and 2016 the number of jobs fell slightly. From 2004 to 2017 employment in construction rose by 16%. During the same period the number of tertiary sector jobs (excl. construction) rose by 20%. Particularly strong growth was seen between 2006 and 2008 and from 2011 to 2013.

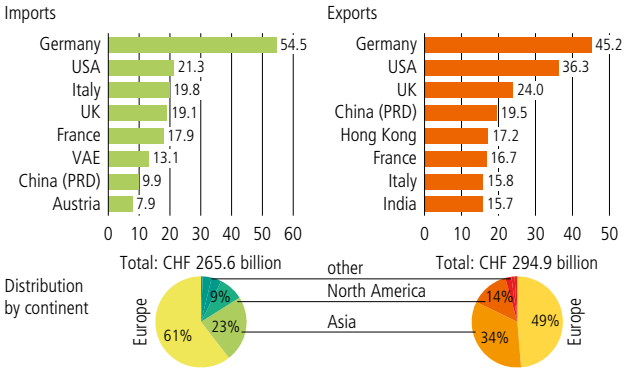
Retail sales variation from the previous year in %

		2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	**Nominal**	**0.3**	**0.1**	**–3.2**	**–1.8**	**–0.5**
	Real	**1.6**	**1.0**	**–1.4**	**–1.2**	**–0.5**
of which:						
Food and beverages, tobacco products	Nominal	1.1	1.3	–1.4	0.2	–0.2
	Real	–0.1	0.4	–0.7	–	–0.6
Non food (excl. fuel)	Nominal	–0.3	–0.2	–3.3	–3.3	–1.2
	Real	2.0	1.6	–0.8	–1.6	–0.1
Fuel	Nominal	1.2	–3.9	–14.5	–5.3	3.7
	Real	3.3	–0.8	–1.1	0.4	–3.5
Total excluding fuel	**Nominal**	**0.3**	**0.4**	**–2.4**	**–1.6**	**–0.9**
	Real	**1.3**	**1.0**	**–1.0**	**–1.1**	**–1.0**

Retail trade

After years of strong turnover (2002–2008), in 2009 in the wake of the global financial crisis, Swiss retail trade suffered from a slight decline. The increasingly small rises in turnover in the following years came to an abrupt end in 2015 due to the revaluation of the Swiss franc against the euro and the subsequent price increases of Swiss products which in turn led to greater numbers of Swiss consumers making their purchases abroad. The fall in turnover continued in 2017, although to a smaller extent.

Foreign trade: our key partners, 2017 in CHF billion



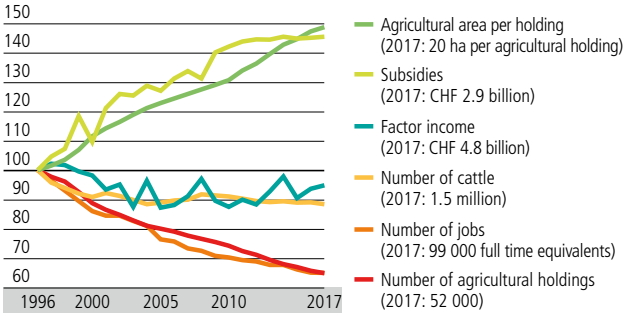
Foreign trade: the key goods in CHF million

	Imports			Exports		
	2000	2016	2017	2000	2016	2017
Total	**139 402**	**266 137**	**265 572**	**136 015**	**298 408**	**294 894**
of which:						
Food, beverages and tobacco	7 197	10 132	10 590	3 239	8 355	8 682
Textiles, clothing, footwear	8 905	9 516	10 550	3 891	3 466	4 200
Chemicals	21 899	43 627	46 741	35 892	94 277	98 596
Metals	10 735	12 997	14 481	10 892	12 114	13 645
Machinery, electronics	31 583	28 653	30 393	37 137	31 080	32 054
Vehicles	14 903	19 080	19 003	3 054	5 087	5 422
Watches	1 622	3 863	3 545	10 297	19 407	19 921

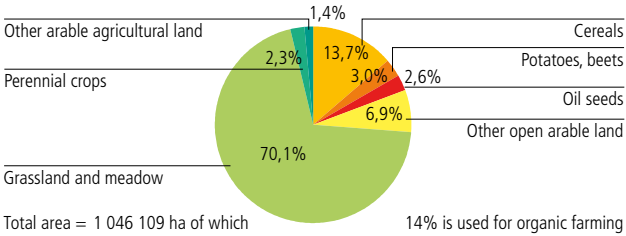
▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Industry and Services

The agricultural and alpine agricultural areas together make up 36% of the total area of Switzerland. The number of farms is generally decreasing although the actual farms are getting bigger and the organically farmed area is increasing. Animal production is the predominant branch of farming. Forest and woodland account for 31% of Switzerland's territory. The forest area has notably increased in the Alps. Two thirds of trees are coniferous. In 2017, 4.7 million m³ of timber was harvested. The landscape is therefore largely shaped by agriculture and forestry. In 2017, the share of agriculture and forestry in the gross value added of the Swiss economy was 0.7%.

A few key indicators in agriculture — Index 1996 = 100



Agricultural area used, 2017 — Excl. summer pastures

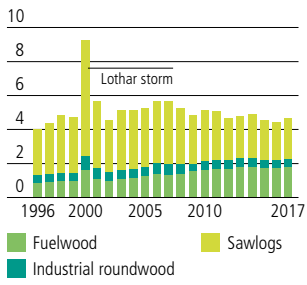


Total area = 1 046 109 ha of which 14% is used for organic farming

Output of agriculture[1], 2017	in %
Crop output	40.0
Cereals	3.6
Forage plants	9.1
Vegetables and horticultural products	13.6
Fruits and grapes	4.5
Wine	4.0
Other crop outputs	5.1
Animal output	48.8
Cattle	13.4
Pigs	8.6
Milk	20.4
Other animals and animal products	6.3
Agricultural services output	7.0
Non-agricultural secondary activities	4.2

1 Total value = CHF 10.3 billion

Logging — in million m³



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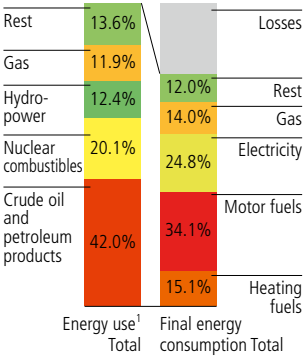
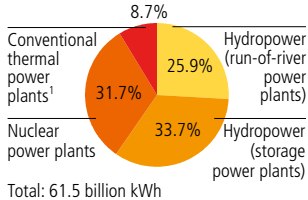
Total energy use and final consumption, 2017



1 Excl. import surplus of electricity (1.8%)

Electricity generation by power plant type, 2017



Total: 61.5 billion kWh

1 Incl. district heating power stations and various renewable energies

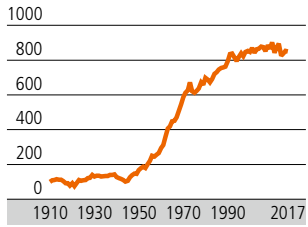
Renewable energy, 2017

Share of final consumption	in %
Total	**22.33**
Hydropower	11.94
Solar power	0.95
Ambient heat	1.96
Biomass (wood and biogas)	4.92
Wind power	0.05
Renewable energy from waste	1.51
Energy from sewage treatment plants	0.20
Biogenic fuels	0.79

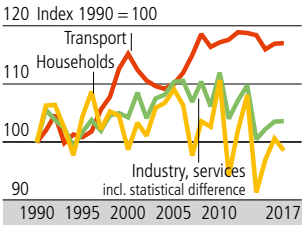
Increased consumption

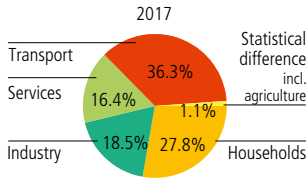
Final energy consumption is closely linked to economic development and population growth. Increasing numbers of inhabitants, larger dwellings, growing production, rising consumerism, heavier motor vehicles etc. lead to increased energy consumption unless this is compensated for by greater energy efficiency. In 2017, transport was the largest consumer group with around 36% of the final energy consumption. 64% of the final consumption were covered by fossil fuels and 22.3% came from renewable energies, mainly hydropower.

Final energy consumption in '000 TJ



Final energy consumption by consumer groups





▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Energy
▶ **www.bfe.admin.ch** (Federal Office of Energy) → Supply → Statistics and Geodata

Construction expenditure in CHF million, prices of 2000

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2016
Total	**34 198**	**47 588**	**43 708**	**49 240**	**56 199**
Public expenditure	11 389	14 507	15 983	15 958	18 800
Civil engineering	6 791	7 740	10 060	9 649	10 597
of which roads	…	…	5 221	4 739	4 401
Building construction	4 599	6 767	5 923	6 309	8 203
Private expenditure	22 809	33 081	27 725	33 281	37 399
of which housing	…	…	17 147	22 995	25 979

Housing construction

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2016
New residential buildings with appartments	20 806	16 162	16 962	14 736	12 701
of which single-family dwellings	16 963	11 200	13 768	9 387	6 830
New dwellings	40 876	39 984	32 214	43 632	52 034
with 1 room	2 122	2 010	528	725	1 698
2 rooms	4 598	5 248	1 779	3 913	9 136
3 rooms	7 094	8 937	4 630	10 608	16 015
4 rooms	11 557	12 487	10 783	15 438	15 616
5 rooms or more	15 505	11 302	14 494	12 948	9 569

Housing supply

	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017
as of year-end	2 702 656	3 140 353	3 574 988	4 079 060 [2]	4 469 498
of which remained empty in %	0.74	0.55 [1]	1.26 [1]	0.94 [1]	1.62 [1]

1 As of 1 June following year
2 As of 2009 the housing stock is calculated on the basis of the Buildings and Dwellings Statistic (BDS)

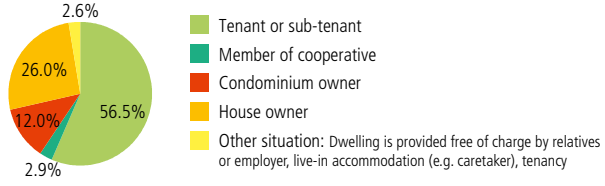
The single-family house remains the most important building category

Single-family houses as a percentage of total building stock rose from 40% to 57% between 1970 and 2017. In contrast, the number of newly built single-family houses in 2017 fell by 4.9% compared with the previous year.

Continuous increase in the home ownership rate since 1970

At the end of 2017, 38.0% of households in Switzerland lived in their own dwelling. This corresponds to 1 413 352 households. Since 1970 the home ownership rate has risen continuously (1970: 28.5%, 1980: 30.1%, 1990: 31.3%, 2000: 34.6%). The number of dwellings in condominium ownership has shown the greatest increase. Their number rose from 237 716 to 445 559 between 2000 and 2017 (+87%). However, the majority of privately owned dwellings continue to be composed of households who own the house in which their dwelling is located (2000: 809 731, 2017: 967 793).

Type of occupant of occupied dwellings 2017



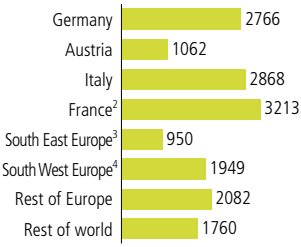
▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Construction and housing

Main tourism indicators

	2015	2016	2017
Supply (beds) [1]			
Hotels and health establishments	273 507	271 710	275 203
Holiday homes	…	163 045	159 063
Collective accomodation	…	123 208	116 640
Campsites	124 284	123 344	123 096
Demand: overnight stays in '000			
Hotels and health establishments	35 628	35 533	37 393
Holiday homes	…	6 808	7 319
Collective accomodation	…	5 270	5 398
Campsites	2 657	2 786	3 174
Duration of stay nights			
Hotels and health establishments	2.0	2.0	2.0
Holiday homes	…	6.7	6.8
Collective accomodation	…	2.6	2.6
Campsites	3.0	2.9	2.9
Gross occupancy rate: hotels and health establish.			
as percentage of beds surveyed [1]	35.7	35.7	37.2
Tourism balance of payment CHF million			
Revenue from foreign visitors to Switzerland	15 753	15 772	16 025
Expenditure made by Swiss tourists abroad	15 675	16 072	16 147
Balance	78	–300	–122

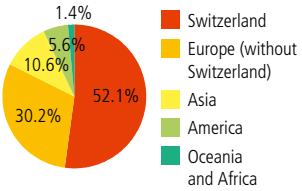
1 Annual average number of beds surveyed in open and temporarily closed establishments

Foreign travel destinations of Swiss tourists[1], 2017
in thousands



1 Permanent resident population aged 6 and over, trips abroad with overnight stays; Total: 16.65 million
2 including overseas departments, Monaco
3 Greece, Turkey, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Albania, Slovenia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia
4 Spain, Portugal, Andorra, Gibraltar

Overnight stays in tourist accommodation
by visitors' country of residence, 2017



Travel behaviour

In 2017, 90.1% of people over 6 years old living in Switzerland undertook at least one private trip with overnight stays. To be more precise, each person undertook on average 3.3 trips with overnight stays and 10.0 day trips. More than half (56%) of all trips with overnight stays were long trips (minimum 4 overnight stays). Trips abroad represented 67% of trips with overnight stays and 10% of day trips.

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Tourism

Commuter traffic

Some nine out of ten employed persons in Switzerland were commuters in 2017, i.e. people who leave the building in which they live to get to their place of work. Of these, about 71% worked outside their commune of residence.

Daily mobility, 2015

Average per person[1] per day, in Switzerland

	Distance in km	Travel time in min.[2]
Total	**36.8**	**82.2**
Trip purposes		
Work and education	10.8	20.2
Shopping	4.8	11.5
Leisure	16.3	42.2
Business travel	2.6	3.8
Giving people lifts	1.8	3.4
Other	0.7	1.1
Means of transport		
On foot	1.9	29.8
Bicycle	0.8	4.0
E-bike	0.1	0.3
Motorcycle (incl. moped)	0.5	1.0
Car	23.8	33.9
Bus (incl. postal bus)	1.1	3.4
Tramway	0.4	1.5
Train	7.5	6.7
Other	0.7	1.8

1 Permanent resident population of Switzerland aged 6 years and over
2 Excluding waiting and transfer times

Transport infrastructure

Switzerland's transport infrastructure is well developed in international comparison. It covers 2% of Switzerland's territory and almost a third of its settlement and urban areas. Apart from roads and railway lines, there are also 127 km of cog railway lines, 327 km of tramlines and almost 1000 km of cable cars across Switzerland. In air traffic, the three national airports (Zurich, Geneva and Basel) connect Switzerland to European and global centres and a total of eleven regional airports are primarily used for business, tourism and work aviation.

Infrastructure and network length

	In km	Year
Road		
National highways	1 855	2017
of which motorways	1 458	2017
Cantonal roads	17 843	2017
Communal roads	51 859	2017
Rail transport		
Route network, railways	5 177	2015
Shipping		
Route network, public passenger vessels (incl. car ferries)	562	2015

Air passengers: scheduled and charter traffic 2017

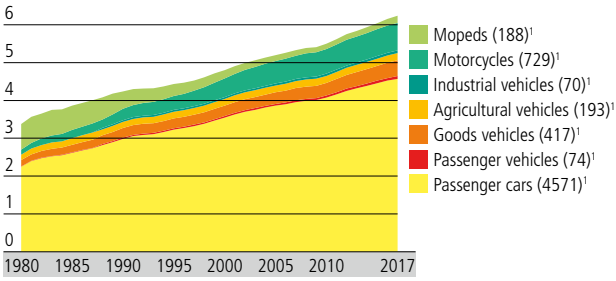
Passengers arriving and departing, in 1000

Total airports	54 912
Zurich	29 361
Geneva	17 260
Basel-Mulhouse	7 869
Regional airports	422

In 2017, Swiss airports registered 0.5 million take-offs and landings in scheduled and charter flights and 54.9 million passengers (local and transfer passengers). While the number of flight movements for scheduled and charter flights has decreased by 13% since 2000, passenger numbers have increased by 60%. These opposing trends are due to larger aeroplanes and higher seat load factors.

Stock of road motor vehicles

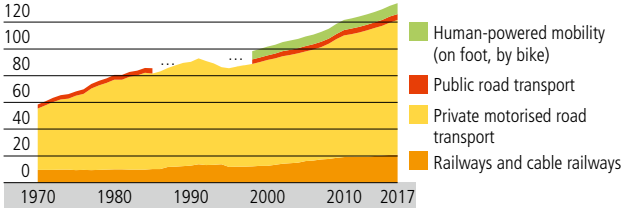
in millions



1 In brackets: stock in 2017, in thousands

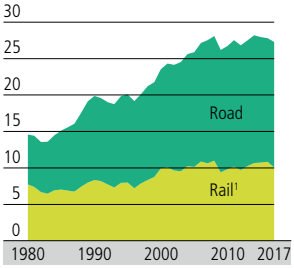
Passenger transport performance

in billion person-km travelled per year

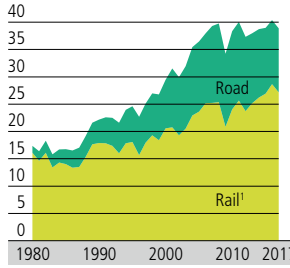


Goods transport performance

All transport,
in billion tonne-kilometres per year



Transalpine goods transport,
in million tonnes per year

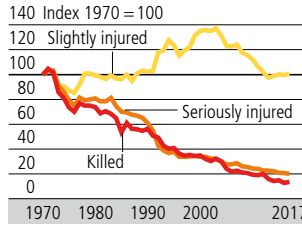


1 Net tonnes/tonne-kilometres not including the proper weight of goods vehicles (incl. trailers), containers and swap bodies in intermodal transport

Road accidents by mode of transport, 2017

Road traffic	
Persons killed	230
Persons seriously injured	3 654
Persons slightly injured	17 759
Rail traffic	
Persons killed	21
Air traffic (civil aviation only)	
Persons killed	13

Victims of road accidents



▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Mobility and Transport

	Year	Switzerland	Germany	Greece
Inhabitants in '000	2017[4]	8 484	82 522	10 768
Inhabitants per km²	2016[4]	211	...	82
People under 20 in %	2017[4]	20.0	18.4	19.4
People over 64 in %	2017[4]	18.3	21.2	21.5
Share of foreign nationals	2017[4]	25.1	11.2	7.5
Live births per 1000 inhabitants	2016	10.4	9.6	8.6
Births outside of marriage in %	2016	24.2	35.5	9.4
Female life expectancy at birth (in years)	2016	85.6	83.5	84.0
Male life expectancy at birth (in years)	2016	81.7	78.6	78.9
Total area in km²	2009[5]	41 285	357 108	131 957
Share of agricultural areas	2009[5]	36.9	52.2	40.1
Share of forest and woodland	2009[5]	30.8	32.3	30.7
Greenhouse gas emissions in CO_2 equivalents (t per inhabitant)	2016[5]	5.7	11.0	8.5
Employment rate	2017	84.0	78.2	68.3
Women	2017	79.3	74.0	60.3
Men	2017	88.5	82.4	76.4
Unemployment rate (15–74) ILO-based	2017	4.8	3.8	21.5
Women	2017	5.1	3.3	26.1
Men	2017	4.6	4.1	17.8
15–24 year-olds	2017	8.1	6.8	43.6
Long-term unemployed based on ILO-definition (15–74) in % of the enemployed	2017	34.7	41.7	72.8
Gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant, in purchasing power standard (PPS)	2017	46 800	37 100	20 200
Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)	2017	0.6	1.7	1.1
Gross energy consumption, TOE[1] per inhabitant	2016	3.1	3.8	2.2
Share of renewable energies in gross energy consumption in %	2016	20.8	12.3	10.9
Beds in hotels and health establishments per 1000 inhabitants	2017	32.4	22.0	73.8
Cars per 1000 inhabitants	2016[5]	543	546	479
Road accidents: fatalities per 1 million inhabitants	2016[5]	26	39	76
Expenditure on social security in a % of GDP	2016	28.1	29.4	26.6
Cost of the healthcare system in % of GDP	2016	12.2	11.1	8.5
Infant deaths[2]	2016	3.6	3.4	4.2
Young people (18–24) without post-compulsory education in %	2017	26.6	35.6	13.4
Persons (25–64) with highest educational attainment at tertiary level in %	2017	42.6	28.6	31.0
Education expenditure in % of GDP	2015	5.1	4.5	3.7
At-risk-of-poverty rate[3]	2017	...	9.0	12.8
Median of the equivalised disposable net income, in purchasing power standard (PPS)	2017	27 602	21 179	9 063
Housing costs as % of the disposable household income	2017	...	26.3	41.1

1 Tonnes of crude oil equivalent
2 Children who died in their first year of life per 1000 live births
3 As % of all employed persons
4 On January 1st
5 On December 31st

Spain	France	Italy	Netherlands	Austria	Sweden	U.K.	EU-28
46 528	66 989	60 589	17 082	8 773	9 995	65 809	511 523
93	106	204	498	106	24	271	118
19.8	...	18.3	22.3	19.6	22.9	23.5	20.9
19.0	...	22.3	18.5	18.5	19.8	18.1	19.4
9.5	6.9	8.3	5.4	15.2	8.4	9.2	...
8.8	11.7	7.8	10.1	10.0	11.7	11.8	10.1
45.9	59.7	28.0	50.4	...	54.9	...	...
86.3	85.7	85.6	83.2	84.1	84.1	83.0	83.6
80.5	79.5	81.0	80.0	79.3	80.6	79.4	78.2
505 991	632 834	301 336	41 543	83 879	441 370	248 528	...
50.8	46.5	48.7	50.8	34.0	8.5	64.1	...
25.2	25.9	31.0	10.7	40.6	63.3	13.1	...
7.0	6.8	7.1	11.4	9.1	5.3	7.3	8.4
73.9	71.5	65.4	79.7	76.4	82.5	77.6	73.4
68.8	67.6	55.9	75.2	71.8	80.7	72.9	67.9
78.9	75.6	75.0	84.2	81.0	84.3	82.3	78.9
17.2	9.4	11.2	4.9	5.5	6.7	4.4	7.6
19.0	9.3	12.4	5.3	5.0	6.4	4.2	7.9
15.7	9.5	10.3	4.5	5.9	6.9	4.5	7.4
38.6	22.3	34.7	8.9	9.8	17.8	12.1	16.8
44.5	45.1	57.8	39.5	33.4	18.5	25.9	44.7
27 600	31 100	28 900	38 400	38 100	36 300	31 600	30 000
2.0	1.2	1.3	1.3	2.2	1.9	2.7	1.7
2.6	3.7	2.6	4.6	3.9	4.9	2.9	3.2
14.3	9.9	16.8	4.7	29.7	37.1	8.1	13.2
41.2	19.7	37.0	15.8	69.5	24.6	...	...
492	479	625	481	550	477	474	...
39	52	54	37	50	27	28	...
24.3	34.3	29.7	29.5	30.3	29.6	26.2	28.1
9.0	11.5	8.9	10.4	10.4	10.9	9.8	...
2.7	3.7	2.8	3.5	3.1	2.5	3.8	3.6
33.8	16.5	30.8	27.9	20.4	28.5	15.4	25.9
36.4	35.2	18.7	37.2	32.4	41.9	42.8	31.5
4.2	5.5	4.1	5.4	5.4	7.1	5.7	5.0
13.1	7.4	12.3	6.1	7.7	6.9	9.0	9.5
15 333	20 624	16 213	21 195	23 112	20 752	17 369	...
18.2	17.6	16.3	23.4	17.9	21.7	24.8	20.9

Total assets and profits of banks, 2017

Bank categories	No. institutions 1990	No. institutions 2017	Total assets CHF million	Profit/ Loss	Number of staff in full-time equivalents
Total	**625**	**253**	**3 249 443**	**7 900**	**110 415**
Cantonal banks	29	24	575 343	2 936	17 322
Major banks	4	4	1 566 435	3 161	39 786
Regional and savings banks	204	62	118 131	417	3 855
"Raiffeisen" banks	2	1	225 253	894	9 079
Other banks	5	14	209 474	711	7 749
Branches of foreign banks	16	23	93 320	217	1 079
Private banking	22	6	6 198	50	531

Balance-sheet structure of the banks, 2017

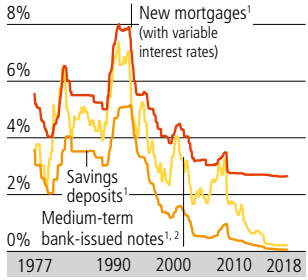
Assets	in %
Total	100
of which foreign	41.6
Liquid assets	15.7
Claims against banks	8.2
Claims against customers	19.3
Mortage claims	30.6
Participating interests	4.1
Tangible assets	0.7
Other	21.4
Liabilities	
Total	100
of which foreign	43.4
Liabilities towards banks	12.0
Customer deposits issued	55.0
Medium term bank-issues notes	0.3
Loans and debenture bonds	13.1
Other	19.5

Insurance benefits, 2017

In direct Swiss business

Insurance type	CHF million	In %
Total	**29 824**	**100**
Life	12 804	42.9
Health	7 886	26.4
Road vehicle	3 687	12.4
Accident	2 013	6.7
Personal liability	796	2.7
Fire	450	1.5
Other	2 288	7.7

Interest rates



1 Up until 2007, average of all cantonal banks, 2008 average of 60 institutions (including all cantonal banks)

2 Up until 2007 for 3–8 year term, from 2008 for 5 year term

Exchange rates in Switzerland[1]

	2014	2016	2018
$ 1	0.915	0.985	0.978
¥ 100	0.865	0.908	0.886
€ 1	1.215	1.090	1.155
£ 1	1.507	1.335	1.306

1 Bank purchase rate, mid-year

Private insurance, 2017

in CHF million

Insurance type	Premiums[1]	Benefits[1]
Total	**127 273**	**77 891**
Life insurance	31 410	30 651
Insurance against accident and loss	47 857	31 044
Reinsurance	48 006	16 196

1 At home and abroad

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Money, banks and insurance

▶ **www.snb.ch**/en (Swiss National Bank)

▶ **www.finma.ch** (Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority) → Private Insurance

The three tiers of the social security system

Social security in Switzerland is based on a three-tier system:

In addition to individual means of subsistence, the first tier includes the coverage of basic needs. It is available to everyone and includes the education and legal system as well as public security.

The second tier includes all social insurances and is intended to cover risks associated with old age, illness, disability, unemployment and maternity.

The third tier includes social assistance in a broader sense. Economic social assistance, also called social assistance in the narrow sense, is the last level in the social security system. It is only called upon when other benefits such as social insurances are unavailable or are exhausted. Furthermore recipients must be in a situation of need and it is only paid to persons in modest financial situations.

Before social assistance is solicited here, a series of means-tested social benefits are available in the third tier, aimed at avoiding dependence on economic social assistance. These include supplementary benefits, advance alimony payment as well as cantonal housing benefits, family benefits, unemployment assistance and old-age and disability benefits.

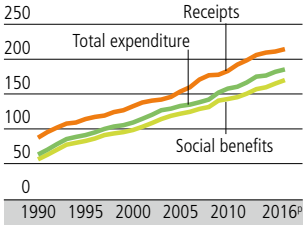
Total expenditure on social security

In 2016, total expenditure on social security amounted to 185 billion francs. 170 billion can be attributed to actual social benefits. About four fifths of these are spent on social insurances (the second tier of the social security system).

Social security: expenditure and receipts
in CHF billion, at current prices

	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016 p
Total expenditure	63.1	109.0	157.8	181.7	185.3
of which social benefits	56.1	98.2	142.8	165.0	170.0
in % of GDP	15.7	21.4	23.5	25.2	25.8
Total receipts	87.3	132.4	183.1	211.2	214.4

Social insurance: expenditure and receipts in CHF billion



Social contribution by function, 2016 p

	in %
Old age	42.1
Sickness / healthcare	31.2
Disability / Infirmity	8.8
Survivors	4.9
Family / children	5.9
Unemployment	3.8
Social exclusion	3.0
Housing	0.5

Expenditure on benefits

The distribution of social benefits among the different risks and needs (functions of social benefits) is extremely uneven: more than four-fifths of social benefits are attributed to old-age, sickness/healthcare and disability.

Social insurance: beneficiaries, 2017 en 1000

OASI: old-age pensions	2324.8	Occupational pensions: disability insurance	117.3
AVS: supplementary benefits	54.1	Disability insurance	249.2
OASI: survivors' benefits	186.3	Additional disability benefits	70.1
EL (OAI): old-age pensions [1]	204.8	Supplementary disability insurance	114.2
EL (SI): survivors' benefits [1]	3.8	Accident insurance [2]: survivors' pensions	18.9
BV: old-age pensions	773.3	Accident insurance [2]: disability benefits	81.3
BV: widows' and widowers' pensions	189.6	Unemployment benefits [3]	330.5

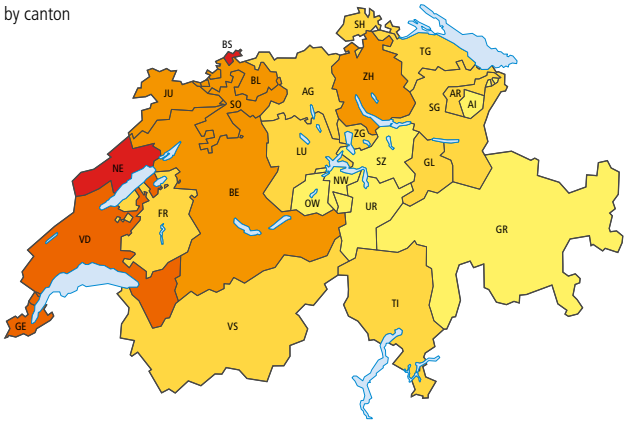
1 Supplementary benefits for the old age and survivors' insurance
2 Accident insurance (figures 2016)
3 Unemployment insurance

Health insurance

The average annual cantonal premiums per insured person for the compulsory health insurance rose from CHF 2091 (2002) to 3605 (2017). In 2017 the average annual premium was CHF 4224 for adults, CHF 3724 for young adults and CHF 1103 for children. Great differences can, however, be observed between cantons. In 2017 the average annual premium was CHF 4812 in Basel Stadt and CHF 2633 in Appenzell Innerrhoden.

Social assistance rate, 2017

by canton



Proportion of social assistance beneficiaries as percentages of the resident population

< 1.5 | 1.5 – 2.9 | 3.0 – 4.4 | 4.5 – 5.9 | ≥ 6.0 | CH: 3.3

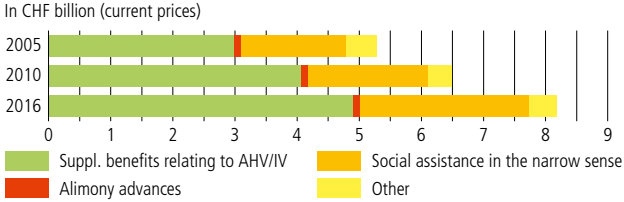
Rising expenditure on social assistance

In 2016, net expenditure on social assistance in the broader sense totalled CHF 8.2 billion, i.e. approximately CHF 208 million more than in the previous year (+2.6%). About 60% of this expenditure went on supplementary benefits relating to OASI and IV (CHF 4.9bn), and another third on social assistance in the narrow sense (CHF 2.7bn). The remaining benefits belonging to social assistance in the broader sense (old age and disability benefits, unemployment assistance, family benefits, advance alimony payments and housing benefits) together accounted for just 6.8% of expenditure.

At CHF 972 per capita, the average annual expenditure for social assistance in the broader sense was 1.4% higher than the previous year. Expenditure for social assistance in the narrow sense by beneficiary rose by 1.0% from CHF 9859 in 2015 to CHF 9961 in 2016.

The cantons were the principal disbursers of social assistance in the broader sense. In 2016 they bore 44.6% of net expenditure, 36.8% was borne by the communes and 17.9% by the Confederation.

Net expenditure on means-tested social benefits



Social assistance beneficiaries

In 2017, 278 345 persons, 3.3% of the total population, were supported by social assistance. There are considerable regional differences: the highest rates are found in larger and medium sized towns with a distinct inner-city character. Groups of persons who are to a greater degree dependent on social assistance are over-represented in these towns. This includes for example, single parents, foreigners and the long-term unemployed.

The risk of becoming reliant on social assistance varies greatly depending on a person's age, family structure and nationality.

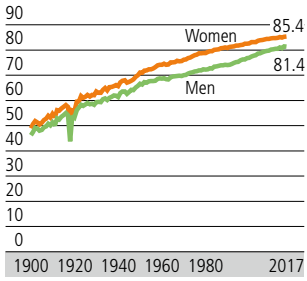
Social assistance rates are highest among children and young people under 18. In general, rates tend to diminish with increasing age. They are lowest (social assistance rate 0.2%) among persons aged 65 and over, who receive support when needed from the OAS supplementary benefits.

Social assistance rate, 2017
in %

Total	**3.3**
Age group	
0–17 years of age	5.3
18–25 years of age	3.8
26–35 years of age	3.9
36–45 years of age	3.9
46–55 years of age	3.5
56–64 years of age	2.9
65–79 years of age	0.2
Swiss nationals	2.3
Men	2.4
Women	2.2
Foreign nationals	6.3
Men	6.0
Women	6.7

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Social security

Life expectancy



Life expectancy has shot up during the last century, largely as a result of falling infant and child mortality. Life expectancy has also continued to increase in recent years. Since 1991 it has risen for women by 4.2 years and for men by 7.3 years (2017). Men tend to die earlier (before the age of 70), in particular due to accidents and acts of violence, lung cancer as well as ischaemic heart disease.

Self-rated health, 2017

In 2017, 86% of men and 83% of women described their health as good or very good and only 4% of men and women qualified it as bad or very bad. However, temporary physical and mental problems seem to affect work and everyday life. Swiss inhabitants were unable for health reasons to go to work for an average of 8 days in 2017.

Infectious diseases[1], 2017

Acute gastro-intestinal infections	8 977
Meningitis	55
Hepatitis B	35
Tuberculosis	533
AIDS	67

1 New cases

Accidents, 2017

	Men	Women
Occupational accidents	198 971	69 866
Non-occupational accidents	319 384	226 905

Disabled[1], 2017

Degree of disability	Men	Women
40–49%	5 554	6 516
50–59%	15 251	15 690
60–69%	7 411	6 743
70–100%	88 252	73 271

1 Receiving govt. disability pensions

Causes of death, 2016

	Number of deaths		Death rate[1]	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
All causes	**31 283**	**33 681**	**508.0**	**352.0**
of which:				
Infectious diseases	359	393	5.9	4.1
Cancer, all types	9 371	7 830	156.0	106.0
Circulatory system	9 357	11 355	144.0	98.1
Ischemic heart disease	3 854	3 136	60.1	27.3
Cerebrovascular diseases	1 381	2 097	20.9	18.8
Respiratory diseases, all types	2 183	1 925	33.4	18.9
Accidents and violent deaths	2 173	1 542	40.6	18.6
Accidents, all types	1 329	1 223	23.3	12.2
Suicide	759	257	15.5	5.2

1 Age-standardised death rate per 100 000 inhabitants

Infant mortality

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017
per 1000 live births	15.1	9.1	6.8	4.9	3.8	3.5

Consumption of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs, 2017

Illegal drugs are mainly used by teenagers and young adults. In 2017, approximately 12% of 15–39 year-olds consumed cannabis. Much more serious from the public health angle is the consumption of tobacco and alcohol. About 27% of the population as a whole smoked at the time of the survey in 2017: 23% of women and 31% of men. The percentages have fallen slightly compared to 1992, but in comparison with the 2012 Health Survey, they have remained stable. The percentage of people drinking alcohol every day has fallen to 11% (1992: 20%). 15% of men and 7% of women consumed alcohol on a daily basis.

Services, 2017 in % [1]

	Men	Women
Physicians' consultations	74.4	87.9
Hospitalisation	10.6	13.4
Home care	1.8	3.8

1 Population from age 15

Physicians and dentists
per 100 000 inhabitants

	1990	2017
Physicians with private practice [1]	153	222
Dentists	48	51

1 Since 2008, physicians with ambulatory sector as main function

Hospitalisation rate in acute hospitals, 2017 in % [1]

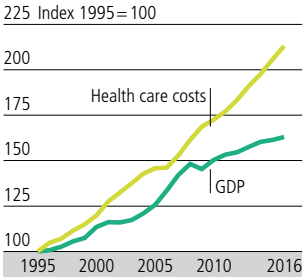
	Total	Men	Women
15–59 years old	10.2	8.4	12.2
60–79 years old	24.4	27.3	21.7
80+ years old	44.2	50.4	40.5

1 of the corresponding population category

Nursing homes
in '000

	2010	2017
Total nb. of clients	138.9	158.3
of which:		
Clients ≥ 80 years old	105.7	119.6
Men	26.8	33.1
Women	78.9	86.6

Health care costs



In 2016, 12.2% of the GDP went on health (1990: 8.3%). Development of supply is a fundamental factor in this increase: e.g. expanded facilities, growing specialisation and greater use of technology and greater comfort. The impact of the ageing population is not so significant.

in CHF million	2006	2016
Total	**55 185**	**80 499**
Inpatient curative care	12 713	15 759
Outpatient curative care	13 744	21 422
of which:		
Hospitals	3 064	6 796
Medical practices and outpatient centres	6 257	9 200
Dentists	3 462	4 002
Rehabilitative care	2 433	3 560
Long Term Care	10 496	15 646
Ancillary Services [1]	2 010	5 977
Medical goods [2]	9 875	13 148
of which:		
Pharmacies	5 909	7 113
Physicians	2 827	4 318
Prevention	1 425	1 884
Administration	2 489	3 103

1 Such as laboratory analyses, radiology, transport; as of 2010 services of general interest included
2 Medicines and therapeutic apparatus

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Health

Moving towards a Swiss educational system

Switzerland's education system is characterised by strong federalism. The diversity of the different education systems is particularly noticeable in compulsory schooling: depending on the canton, in lower secondary schools, there are two, three or four different performance levels.

The Swiss education system is changing. Along with the harmonisation of compulsory education, children will be expected to attend school for eleven instead of nine years. In most cantons, attendance at the previously optional pre-school level is now compulsory. In the last two decades, the national structures have also been reformed beyond compulsory education (introduction of the vocational Matura and the universities of applied sciences as well as the implementation of the Bologna reform). These reforms are also reflected in increasing demand for education.

Students

	Number in '000			% of women		
Educational level	2000/01	2005/06	2016/17	2000/01	2005/06	2016/17
Total	**1 441.7**	**1 496.1**	**1 602.9**	**47.8**	**48.1**	**48.5**
Compulsory education	957.2	957.3	936.6	48.7	48.6	48.5
Pre-school	156.4	156.1	170.8	48.5	48.4	48.7
Primary	473.7	454.1	486.8	49.3	49.2	49.1
Lower secondary	278.5	298.4	247.5	49.7	49.6	49.2
Special syllabus schools	48.6	48.7	31.4	37.9	37.7	34.8
Upper secondary	315.7	324.5	365.6	47.8	47.5	47.5
Higher education	160.5	204.7	300.8	41.9	46.8	49.7
Advanced vocat. training	38.7	38.2	56.7	43.1	43.6	44.1
Universities and institutes of technology	96.7	112.4	148.5	45.6	49.1	50.4
Universities of applied sciences [1]	25.1	54.1	95.6	25.9	44.4	52.1

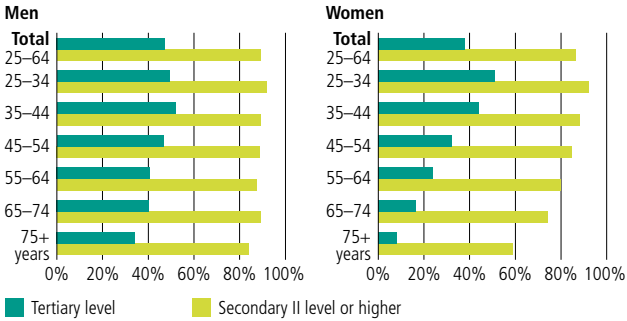
1 Including universities for teacher education

The gender gap has narrowed

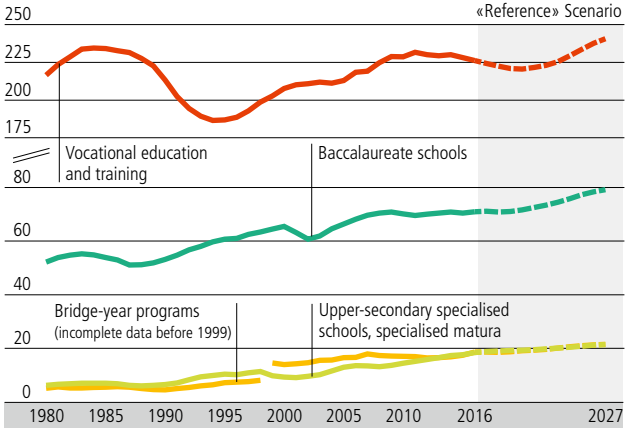
Women have been the main beneficiaries of the educational boom in recent decades. Today almost as many women as men undertake and complete post-compulsory education or vocational training. Whereas the gender ratio in the universities and universities of applied sciences is now almost even, men are still more likely than women to complete higher vocational education. Accordingly, on average men still remain longer in education than women. Conversely, girls are more successful in compulsory education: they are transferred to a special class less frequently and at the lower secondary level they attend schools with higher educational requirements.

Particularly striking differences still exist in the choice of subject area. This applies to both vocational training and university. Job sectors are dominated by either men or women, not least due to traditional role models. In the industry and handicrafts sector, men predominate; in the retail, health and personal care sectors, women are in the majority. At the university level men still tend to opt for technical, scientific and business fields, while women choose the humanities, social work and the arts.

Education level, 2017 Share of the permanent resident population



Students in the upper secondary level In '000



Increased participation in education

Over the past thirty years the participation in education at upper secondary level and especially at tertiary level has risen considerably. Educational courses giving access to universities are particularly concerned. The percentage of people taking the Matura examinations for example (vocational Matura and academic Matura) rose from 25.7% in 2000 to nearly 40% in 2016 (including specialised Matura). The number of students at higher education institutions more than doubled between 2000 and 2016. This is in no small part due to the establishment of the universities of applied sciences and teacher education.

In accordance with this development the educational level of the Swiss population is expected to rise considerably in the coming years. The percentage of persons with a tertiary-level qualification in the population groups aged 25–64 is expected to rise from 40% in 2014 to 50% by 2027.

Selected educational qualifications, 2017

Educational level	Total	% of women
Upper secondary level		
Academic baccalaureate	17 918	58.0
Vocational baccalaureate	14 320	47.0
Voc. training certificate [1]	68 780	45.6
Higher education		
Higher vocational training		
PET diploma	8 754	49.0
Swiss Federal diploma	2 954	29.9
Swiss Fed. prof. diploma	14 448	38.2
Universities of Applied Science		
Diploma	1 064	49.2
Bachelor's degree	16 922	55.6
Master's degree	4 367	53.8
Universities		
Licentiate/Diploma	104	78.8
Bachelor's degree	14 473	52.4
Master's degree	13 981	51.0
Doctorate	4 151	44.8

1 Includes Swiss Federal vocational diploma

Teachers, 2016/17
University staff, 2017

	Full-time equivalents	% of women
Compulsory school [1]	59 172	75.3
Pre-school	9 139	94.6
Primary school	30 449	82.5
Lower secondary school	19 583	54.6
Upper secondary school [2]	17 412	43.6
Universities	43 315	44.4
Professors	4 072	22.8
Other lecturers	2 768	28.8
Assistants [3]	22 066	43.8
Univ. of applied sciences [4]	17 225	46.8
Professors	1 834	29.9
Other lecturers	5 880	42.1
Assistants [3]	4 155	44.4

1 Excluding schools with a special curriculum, double counts possible
2 Schools providing general and vocational education
3 Including scientific staff
4 Including universities for teacher education

Public expenditure on education, 2016

	in CHF billion
Total	**37.2**
of which costs of teaching staff	24.7
Compulsory school (incl. pre-school)	16.6
Special schools	1.9
Basic vocational training	3.6
General schools	2.3
Higher vocational training	0.4
Universities	8.1
Undistributed funds	0.6

Further education

The majority of the population in Switzerland (nearly 80% of the permanent population aged 25–64) undertook further education in one form or another in 2016. It appears that the integration in the labor market and the level of education are positively associated with participation in continuing education courses.

Focus on research

Research and development (R&D) is an important factor for a national economy. With 3.4% of its GDP being spent in this area (2015), Switzerland is one of the most R&D-oriented countries in the world.

In 2015 around CHF 22 billion was spent on domestic R&D. Of this, around 71% was in the private sector, 27% in universities and the remaining 2% was divided between the Confederation and various private, non-profit organisations.

In 2015 the corresponding expenditure by the private sector abroad amounted to CHF 15.3 billion, almost as high as the inland expenditure of CHF 15.7 billion.

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Education and science

The Swiss press in upheaval

The market for daily newspapers has changed fundamentally since the turn of the century. In German-speaking Switzerland, the free newspaper "20 Minuten" has become the largest daily with 1.3 million readers per edition. In French-speaking Switzerland, "20 minutes", with 496 000 readers, is also the most widely read title. In Italian-speaking Switzerland, a newsstand newspaper, the "Corriere del Ticino", is still the leading daily (98 000 readers). However, "20 minuti", which was launched 2011, already has almost 92,000 readers.

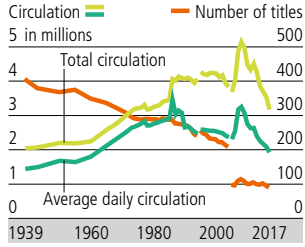
Internet and mobile telephony

Towards the end of the 20th century, the upsurge in mobile telephony preceded that of the internet, before the shift to mobile internet took place. The number of mobile phone lines increased from 0.1 million in 1990 to 11.1 million at the end of 2017, equating to 131 lines per 100 inhabitants. While the number of regular internet users (those who use the internet several times a week) aged 14 years and over was 0.7 million in 1998, this figure was 5.8 million at the beginning of 2018. The convergence can be clearly seen in the rapidly growing number of mobile phone contracts enabling internet access. The number of users rose from 3.4 million in 2010 to 8.4 million in 2017. E-commerce is in the midst of a boom: the number of people making at least one online purchase in the last 12 months has increased by 50% since 2010 reaching 4.9 million in 2017.

The ten largest libraries

In 2017, the ten most important libraries measured by their holdings had collections totalling about 56.9 million copies.

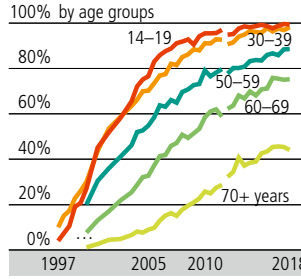
Evolution of paid newspapers



Source: Association Swiss Media/WEMF (considered are publications of general interest published at least once a week)

Internet usage

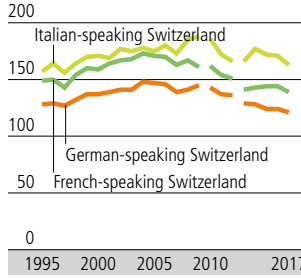
Regular Internet users[1]



1 Respondents who stated that they use the Internet several times per week. Source: Net-Metrix-Base, FSO

Television usage

in minutes per day and per inhabitant



Source: Mediapulse AG; since 2013 Kantar Media, 1983–2012 Telecontrol (based on population over 3 years of age, mean per day Monday–Sunday)

Radio usage

in minutes per day and per inhabitant

	2007	2012	2017
German-speaking Switzerland	105	110	98
French-speaking Switzerland	98	93	79
Italian-speaking Switzerland	99	105	99

Source: Mediapulse AG Radiocontrol (based on population over 15 years of age, mean p.d. Monday–Sunday)

Historic monuments and museums

In 2016, around 75 000 historic monuments across Switzerland were protected. Almost 4% of these were monuments of national importance, while the remainder were of regional or local importance. Nearly one in ten protected monuments was a scared structure. In 2017, there were 1111 museums in Switzerland. These were home to a total of 71.3 million works and other objects and they generated 13.5 million admissions.

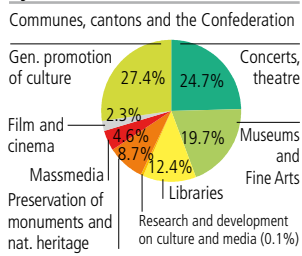
Spending on culture and media by private households

In 2016 approximately CHF 15.5 billion was spent on culture and media. This is equal to an amount of CHF 354 per month and per household and a share of 6.7% of total consumer spending. At 85% or CHF 13.2 billion, spending on the media – e.g. on newspapers, books, television and internet subscriptions (combined subscriptions included) as well as receiving and recording devices – accounted for the bulk of all cultural expenditure. Leaving media spending to one side, at CHF 705 million, the greatest expenditure goes to theatre and concerts.

Cultural funding by the public sector

In 2016, about a fourth of total public spending on culture by the Confederation, cantons and communes, i.e. CHF 752 million, went to the sector "concerts and theatre". Some CHF 601 million was spent on the "Museums and Fine Arts" sector. This was followed by the sectors "Libraries", "Preservation of Monuments and National Heritage", "Mass media" and "Film and cinema", with contributions ranging from CHF 377, CHF 266, CHF 140 to CHF 70 million.

Use of public spending by cultural sector, 2016

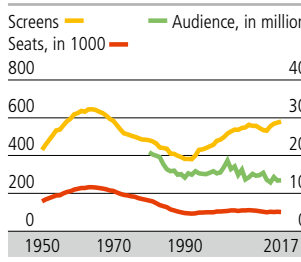


Source: FSO/Federal Finance Administration (FFA)

Film and cinema in Switzerland

In the early 2000s, approximately 1300 films were shown every year in Switzerland. Today this number is about 1900. During the same period, the share of Swiss films has increased from around 10% to 15%. The box office market share of Swiss films has been approximately 5% on average since 2000.

Cinema

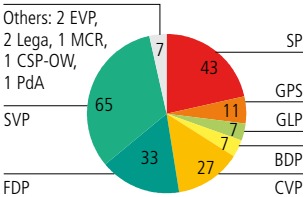


▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Culture, media, information society, sport

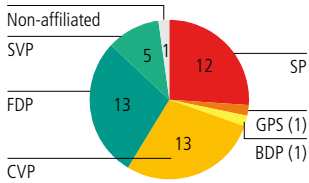
The political system

The Swiss Confederation, today made up of 26 cantons, has been in existence since 1848. The Government (Federal Council) is a collegial body consisting of 7 members (from 2016: 2 FDP, 2 SP, 2 SVP, 1 CVP). They are elected by both chambers in parliament: the National Council (representing the people, 200 seats) and the Council of States (representing the cantons, 46 seats). The Swiss political system is also characterised by far-reaching democratic rights (initiatives and referendums) and popular votes.

National Council, 2015: distribution of seats



Council of States, 2015: distribution of seats



National Council Elections, 2015

	Share of the votes in %	Seats	Women	Men	Percentage of women
FDP	16.4	33	7	26	21.2
CVP	11.6	27	9	18	33.3
SP	18.8	43	25	18	58.1
SVP	29.4	65	11	54	16.9
GLP	4.6	7	3	4	42.9
BDP	4.1	7	1	6	14.3
GPS	7.1	11	5	6	45.5
Small right-wing parties [1]	2.6	3	1	2	33.3
Other parties [2]	5.3	4	2	2	50.0

1 SD, EDU, Lega (2 seats, 1 woman), MCR (1 seat)
2 EVP (2 seats, 2 women), CSP, PdA (1 seat), Sol., splinter groups (CSP-OW 1 seat)
See below for abbreviations

National Council Elections 2015

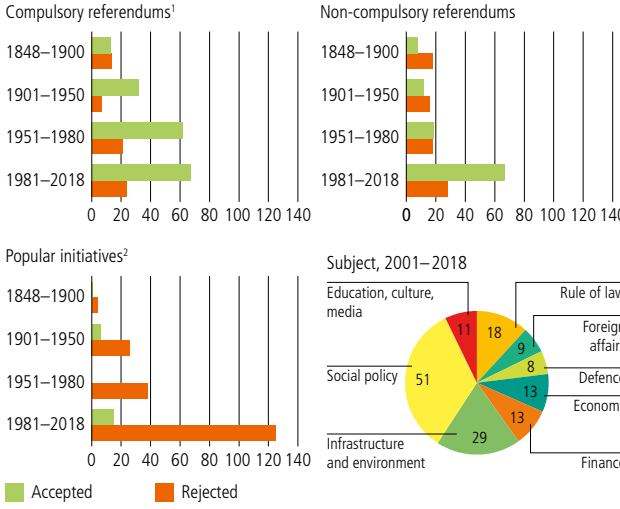
There were two winners of the national council elections in 2015: with a considerable increase in votes, the Swiss People's Party (SVP/UDC) which showed the greatest electoral strength (29.4%) achieved by a party since the first proportional representation vote in 1919 and secondly, the Radical Democratic Party/The Liberals (FDP/PLR) which increased its share for the first time since 1979. Losses were registered by the new centre parties, the Conservative Democratic Party (BDP/PBD), the Green Liberal Party (GLP/PVL) and the Christian Democratic People's Party (CVP/PDC) which reached a record low level. The trend observed from the 2011 national council elections – in which the emerging new centre parties (GLP/PVL, BDP/PBD) brought about a reduction in political polarisation – came to a halt and was, to some extent, reversed.

Parties abbreviations

FDP Radical Democratic Party [1]
CVP Christian Democratic People's Party
SP Social Democratic Party
SVP Swiss People's Party
BDP Conservative Democratic Party
EVP Evangelical People's Party
CSP Christian Social Party
GLP Green Liberal Party
PdA Labour Party
Sol. Solidarity
GPS Green Party of Switzerland
SD Swiss Democrats
EDU Federal democratic union
Lega Lega dei Ticinesi
MCR Mouvement Citoyens Romand

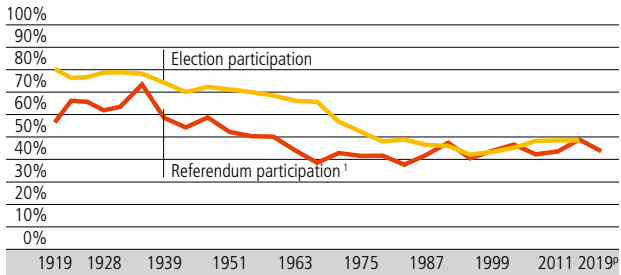
1 2009: merger of the FDP (Free Democratic Party) with the LPS (Liberal Party) under the designation "RDP. The Liberals"

National Popular Votes



1 Includes counter proposals to popular initiatives
2 Includes popular initiatives with counter proposals

Participation rate in national elections and referendums



1 These are average values for referendums that took place within two years before and two years after the respective National Council elections. Until 1931, within one and a half years before and one and a half years after the elections, in accordance with the three-year cycle that was the norm at that time.

National participation in referendums and elections

While voter participation stood at 80% in the 1919 National Council elections, this was followed by a continuous decline reaching a temporary low of 42% during the 1990s. Since then a slight recovery has been observed with 48% of voters participating in the 2015 National Council elections. In contrast, voter participation in national votes has been influenced by considerable variations due to the different referendum proposals. While voter participation in national votes was on the decline in the 1980s it has since stabilised. It even increased slightly in 2018 at 44% compared with the 1990s (43%) and 1980s (40%).

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Politics

Final accounts of the public administration[1] in CHF billion

	Revenue			Expenditure			Surplus		
	2000	2010	2017	2000	2010	2017	2000	2010	2017
Total[2]	**164.4**	**193.9**	**221.6**	**152.6**	**191.4**	**216.0**	**11.8**	**2.5**	**5.6**
Confederation	52.0	63.5	73.0	48.2	60.3	68.9	3.8	3.1	4.1
Cantons	63.2	77.3	89.2	60.3	76.1	88.2	2.8	1.2	1.0
Communes	42.1	42.7	48.0	40.6	43.2	48.4	1.5	–0.5	–0.3
Social insurances	44.9	54.4	63.5	41.6	55.8	62.6	3.4	–1.4	0.9

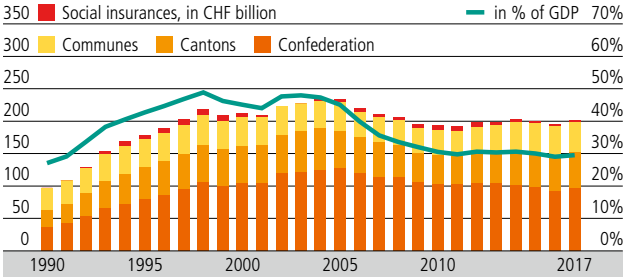
1 According to the FS model (national)
1 Double counts not included in total

Public administration debt[1] in CHF billion

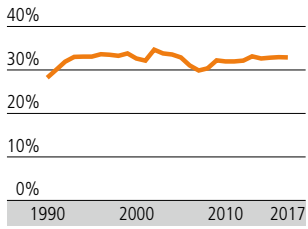
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017
Total[2]	**96.9**	**207.0**	**185.6**	**196.4**	**191.5**	**197.3**
Confederation	36.6	104.5	104.0	98.2	92.7	97.1
Cantons	26.9	58.0	43.4	54.9	55.8	56.4
Communes	33.4	44.4	39.6	44.5	44.4	45.2
Social insurances	–	5.7	7.4	2.6	2.6	2.2
Per inhabitant, in francs[3]	14 343	28 731	23 584	23 583	22 745	23 257

1 According to the GFS model (international))
2 Double counts not included in total
3 At current prices

Public debt



Public spending ratio in % of GDP



The public spending ratio measures the expenditure of public authorities expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). It includes expenditure by the Confederation, the cantons and communes as well as public social insurance funds.
Despite a considerable increase since 1970, in international comparison Switzerland is in a good position: it has one of the lowest public spending ratios of all OECD countries. Most European countries register markedly higher public expenditure.

Switzerland's public debt ratio according to the Maastricht definition is also relatively low compared with other OECD countries; between 1990 and 2003, however, it rose continuously. Thanks to a strong economic recovery until 2008, together with the shedding of surplus gold reserves of the Swiss National Bank as well as various structural measures (i.e. relief programmes, debt and expenditure brakes), the reduction of public debt was possible on an ongoing basis from 2005 to 2011. In 2012 debt temporarily increased slightly and then subsequently fell again from 2015 onwards. At the end of 2016, the debt rate was 29%.

Revenue: Public administration[1]
in CHF billion. Following deductions in double payment

	2010	2015	2016
Total	**193.9**	**214.6**	**215.7**
Ordinary receipts	193.9	213.9	215.1
Operating revenue	183.0	203.6	204.9
Tax revenue	161.5	180.2	182.7
Patents and commissions	3.9	3.7	2.6
Compensation	16.6	18.2	18.1
Miscellaneous revenue	0.4	0.9	0.8
Transfer revenue	0.5	0.7	0.7
Financial revenue	8.8	8.2	8.0
Investment revenue	2.1	2.2	2.1
Extraordinary receipts	0.0	0.6	0.6
Extraordinary revenue	0.0	0.5	0.4
Revenue from extraordinary investments	0.0	0.1	0.3

1 According to the FS model (national)

Public administration expenditure by function[1]
in CHF billion. Following deductions in double payment

	2010	2015	2016
Total	**191.5**	**213.0**	**212.9**
General administration	13.9	18.7	15.9
Public order and security, defence	14.5	16.1	16.3
Education	32.7	36.8	37.2
Culture, sport and leisure, church	5.0	5.4	5.6
Health care	11.4	14.3	14.7
Social security	75.3	83.8	86.2
Transport and telecommunications	16.6	16.9	16.7
Environmental protection and spatial planning	5.9	6.1	6.1
Economy	7.6	8.8	8.3
Finance and taxes	8.7	6.1	5.9

1 According to the FS model (national)

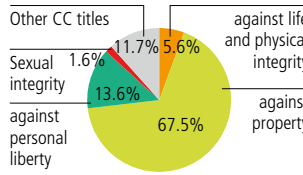
▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → General Government and finance
▶ **www.efv.admin.ch** → Topics → Financial statistics

Crime figures offer only a limited reflection of the reality of criminal behaviour: On the one hand, criminal standards and sanctions are affected by changes in society and on the other, crime figures are also strongly influenced by manpower resources, prosecution priorities, the efficiency of the police and justice system and the population's readiness to report crime. It is generally hard to determine which causes are responsible for changes in crime figures and to what extent.

Crime reporting

In 2017 the following number of offences were recorded in the Police Crime Statistics: 439 001 under the Swiss Criminal Code (SCC), 80 074 under the Narcotics Act (NarcA) and 38 054 under the Foreign Nationals Act (FNA). The detection rate for homicides was 95%, for property offences 22%.

Offences according to Criminal Code titles 2017

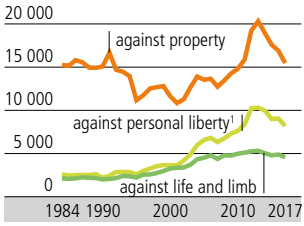


With regard to domestic violence, 17 024 offences were recorded. Half of these offences were committed within an intimate relationship. The breakdown by nationality and residence status shows that offenders were of Swiss nationality in 48% of Criminal Code offences and 56% of Narcotics Act offences. Foreigners with residence constituted 31% and 23% of offenders. This means that a substantial part of foreign delinquency is "imported", namely 21% (Criminal Code) and 22% (Narcotics Act). For offences against the Foreign Nationals Act, 83% of offenders were non-residents.

Convictions

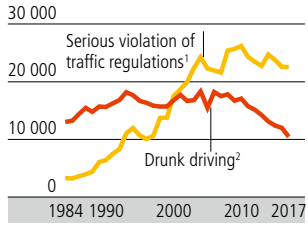
Whereas in the mid-1980s, slightly more than 45 000 convictions against adults were registered, this number has now more than doubled and in 2016 was approximately 105 000. Depending on the law under which the conviction was made, the trend varies greatly. Since reaching an all-time high in 2013, a decline of 15% has been recorded for crimes against the Swiss Criminal Code. With regard to the Road Traffic Act (SVG), ever increasing road traffic checks have led to more cases with convictions over a longer period. Conviction figures have however decreased since 2014. The number of convictions against the Narcotics Act have been stable for several years. Convictions for crimes against the Foreign Nationals Act have fallen by 12% since 2013 reaching 17 000 in 2017.

Selected offences SCC



1 Threat, coercion, trafficking in human beings, deprivation of liberty and abduction, hostage taking, unlawful entry

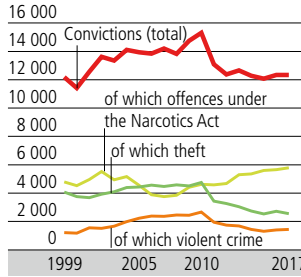
Selected offences RTA



1 Art. 90.2 RTA
2 Over the legal alcohol limit (Art. 91 Para. 1, Part 2 RTA)

Juvenile convictions

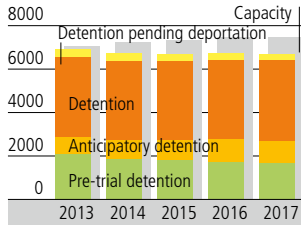
Convictions of minors showed a clear decline between 2011 and 2012 (–19%). There has been quite an upward trend as concerns offences under the Narcotics Act. The number of thefts and serious vio-lent crimes have considerably decreased.



Imprisonment

In Switzerland in 2017 there were 106 (mostly small) prison establishments with a total of 7468 detention places. On the reference day of 6 September 2017, 6863 persons were in detention. Thus, the total occupancy rate was 92%. Of the 6863 inmates, 69% were serving custodial sentences, 24% were in pre-trial detention, 4% were in detention subject to coercive measures under the Foreign Nationals Act, and the remaining 3% were detained for other reasons.

Prison population by sentence type

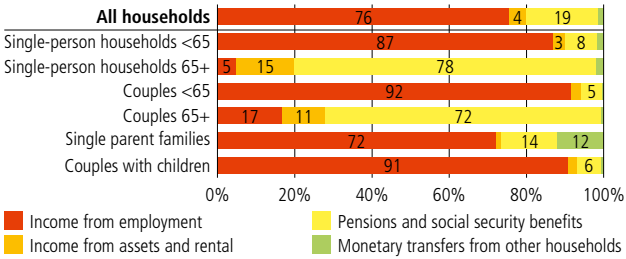


Recidivism

The reconviction rates of adults convicted in 2013 for crimes and less serious offences, over an observation period of 3 years (i.e. until 2016) was 20%, for minors.

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Crime and criminal justice

Composition of gross income by household type, 2012–2014



Household budgets: Income

Averaged out over all households, income from employment at 76% represents the main component of household income. The second important component consists of pensions from the first and second pillars of the Swiss pension system and other social security benefits at 19%. The remainder of household income is made up of income from assets and transfers from other households.

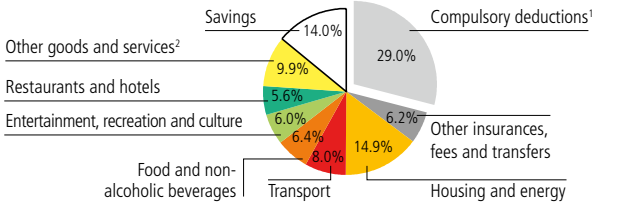
The picture becomes more differentiated when the composition of household income is considered by household type. This shows, for example, that in households aged 65 and over, pensions represent the major part of the household income, but income from employment and, in particular, income from assets play a relatively important role. Transfers from other households represent an important source of income only in specific types of households, such as single-parent families, where the average amounts to 12%.

Household budgets: Expenditure

The variations in the composition of spending are less pronounced. Compulsory deductions, which comprise 29% of gross income, are the largest item. In the area of consumer expenditure, the largest item is expenditure on housing at 15%. Other large items include expenditure on food and non-alcoholic drinks, on transport and on entertainment, recreation and culture.

After all expenditure has been deducted, on average 14% of the gross income is left for saving. There are significant differences in this area depending on household type. Households over the age of 65 on average save less than younger households. Sometimes this figure is even a minus, which means that these households are living on their capital, among other things.

Composition of household budget, 2012–2014

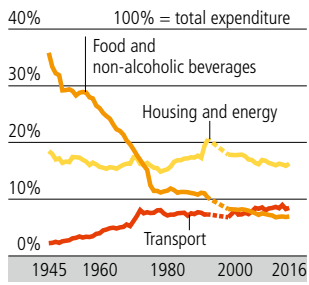


1 Taxes, social insurance contributions, basic health insurance premiums, transfers to other households
2 Less sporadic income

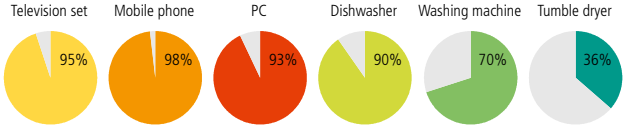
Household expenditure over time

The composition of household expenditure has changed significantly over time. These changes are considerably larger than the differences between households today. For example, the share of total expenditure represented by expenditure on food and non-alcoholic drinks in 1945 was 35%, but nowadays this has fallen to 7%. In contrast the proportion of other expenditure has increased, such as expenditure on transport, which has risen from around 2% to 8%.

Trends in selected household expenditure items



Availability of selected consumer goods, 2016

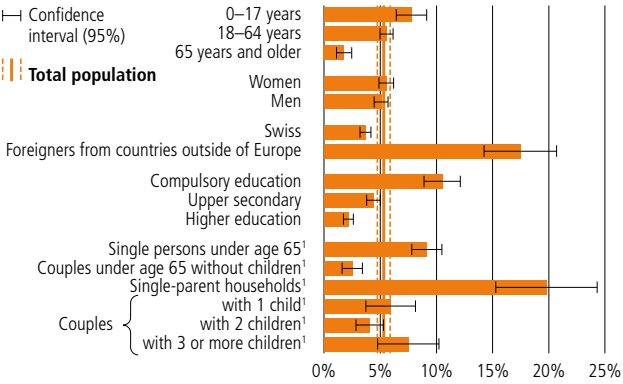


Availability of consumer goods

Information about the availability of a selection of durable consumer goods shows that households in Switzerland are very well-equipped with IT hardware. A total of 93% of people live in a household with a computer and 98% in a household with a mobile phone. These proportions are continuing to rise: in 1998 only 55% of people lived in a household with a computer.

In the case of household appliances, such as dishwashers, washing machines and tumble dryers, there has also been an increase. In 2016 more than 90% of the population lived in a household with a dishwasher, while in 1998 the figure was only 61%.

Material deprivation rate by various socio-demographic characteristics, 2016



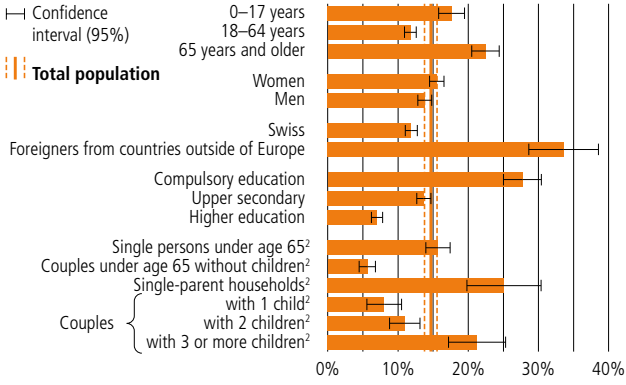
1 Persons in a household with these characteristics

Material deprivation
The reasons for not owning a durable good are not necessarily financial. In 2016, less than 2% of people living in Switzerland went without a computer for financial reasons; as far as owning a car for private use is concerned, this percentage was almost 6%. One of the most common material deprivation is caused by a lack of financial reserves. 22% of the population living in private households did not have the means to meet unexpected expenses of CHF 2500. This is followed by deprivation which affects the perceived inconveniences with regard to the residential environment. 18% of the population say that they are exposed to noise from neighbours or the street, 11% are confronted with problems of crime, violence or vandalism and 13% with a too wet accomodation. In addition, 9% of the population could not afford a week's holiday away from home each year.

Monetary poverty and risk of poverty
In 2016, 7.5% of the permanent resident population in private households in Switzerland was affected by income poverty. This corresponds to approximately 615 000 persons. The average poverty threshold, based on the social subsistence level, was CHF 2247 per month for a single person and CHF 3981 per month for two adults with two children. According to the relative at-risk-of-poverty concept, 14.7% or some 1 202 000 persons were at risk of poverty. The risk of poverty's threshold for a single person was CHF 2483 per month for a single person (60% of the median of the equivalent available income) and CHF 5214 for two adults with two children.

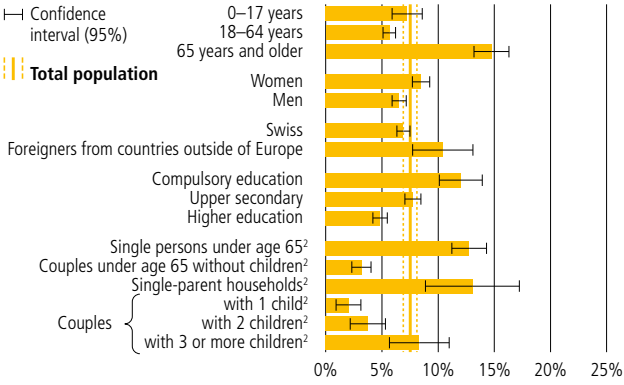
Poverty of employed persons
People living in households with high labour participation tend to have the lowest poverty rates. Successful integration in the labour market generally offers effective protection from poverty. Nevertheless, in 2016 some 3.8% or approximately 140 000 individuals were affected by poverty despite being in employment.
The phenomenon of working poverty is best understood in relation to the (longer term) security and insecurity of the employment situation. If working conditions and methods can be considered as clearly or tending to be insecure, the risk of poverty is greater.

Risk of poverty rate[1] by various socio-demographic characteristics, 2016



1 Based on the income without considering any assets
2 Persons in a household with these characteristics

Poverty rate[1] by various socio-demographic characteristics, 2016



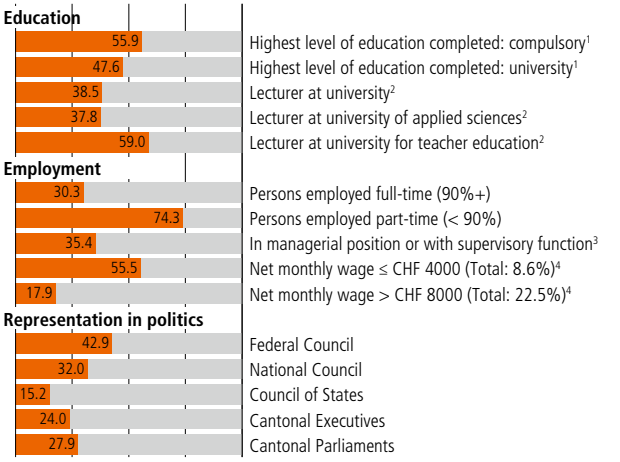
1 Based on the income without considering any assets
2 Persons in a household with these characteristics

Inequalities in income distribution

Inequalities in income distribution are assessed on the basis of equivalised disposable income. This is calculated as follows: A household's compulsory expenditure is deducted from the household's gross income; the resulting balance is divided by the equivalent size of the household. Thus the equivalised disposable income acts as an index of people's standard of living, regardless of the type of household in which they live. In 2016, the equivalised disposable income of the wealthiest 20% of the population was 4.2 times greater than that of the poorest 20%.

Key data on gender equality

Percentage of women (latest available data 2016–2019)



1 Resident population aged 25–64
2 Professors, other lecturers, assistants and research staff
3 Employees
4 Full-time employees, economy as a whole

▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Economic and social situation of the population

2030 Agenda goals monitoring

The United Nations' 2030 Agenda constitutes a new worldwide reference framework, which steers the activities of Switzerland in the area of Sustainable Development. The MONET indicator system was extended in order to monitor the achievement of the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda. Twenty-three particularly significant indicators have been designated as key indicators. Seventeen of them, one per objective, are presented below.

Assessment:

- Positive (towards the goal of sustainable positive development)
- Negative (against the goal of sustainable development)
- Unchanged

Targeted trend / Observed trend

Goal 1: No poverty No significant change in the poverty rate	↘ →
Goal 2: Zero hunger The nitorgen balance from agriculture decreases	↘ ↘
Goal 3: Good health and well-being The number of potential years of life lost are decreasing	↘ ↘
Goal 4: Quality education Teenage reading skills are improving	↗ ↗
Goal 5: Gender equality The wage gap between women and men is gradually narrowing	↘ ↘
Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation No significant change in the amount of nitrate in groundwater	↘ →
Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy The part of renewable energies in relation to final energy consumption is increasing	↗ ↗
Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth No significant change in the percentage of youg people neither in employment nor in training	↘ →
Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure Material intensity is decreasing	↘ ↘
Goal 10: Reduced inequalities The income distribution between the richest and the poorest has not changed significantly	↘ →
Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities No significant change in the proportion of housing costs in the poorest families budget	↘ →
Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production Total production of municipal waste is increasing	↘ ↗
Goal 13: Climate action The decrease in greenhouse gas emisssions does not fully correspond to the decline required to fulfill the intended target	↘ →
Goal 14: Life below water The total nitrogen load in the Rhine in Basel is decreasing	↘ ↘
Goal 15: Life on land The populations of breeding birds at risk of extinction are on the decrease	↗ ↘
Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions The number of victims of serious violent offences is decreasing	↘ ↘
Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals Official development assistance is rising	↗ ↗

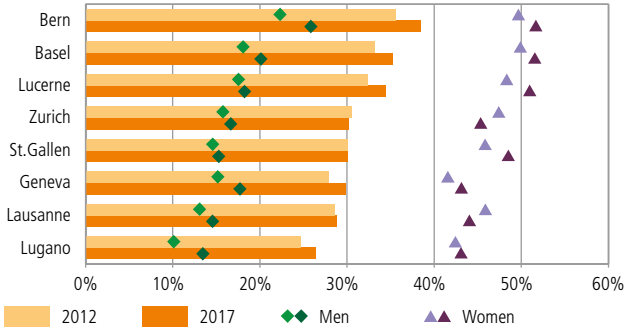
▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Sustainable Development

City Statistics: the Quality of Life in the Cities

The City Statistics (formerly known as Urban Audit) in Switzerland has applied and extended the OECD framework for measuring the quality of life for their cities. Here are two indicators presented as an example.

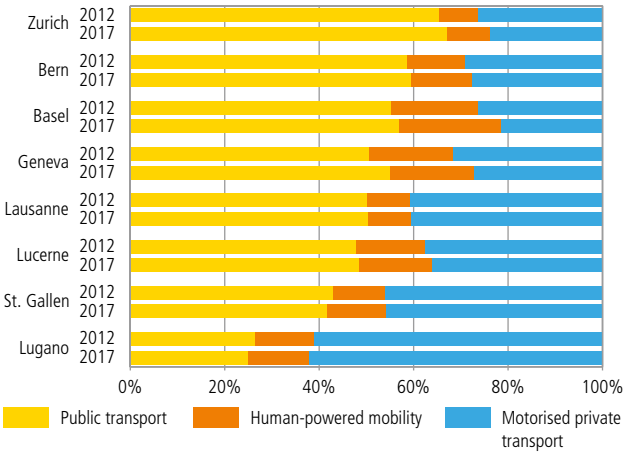
Part-time employment

Share of employed persons with a work-time percentage of < 90%



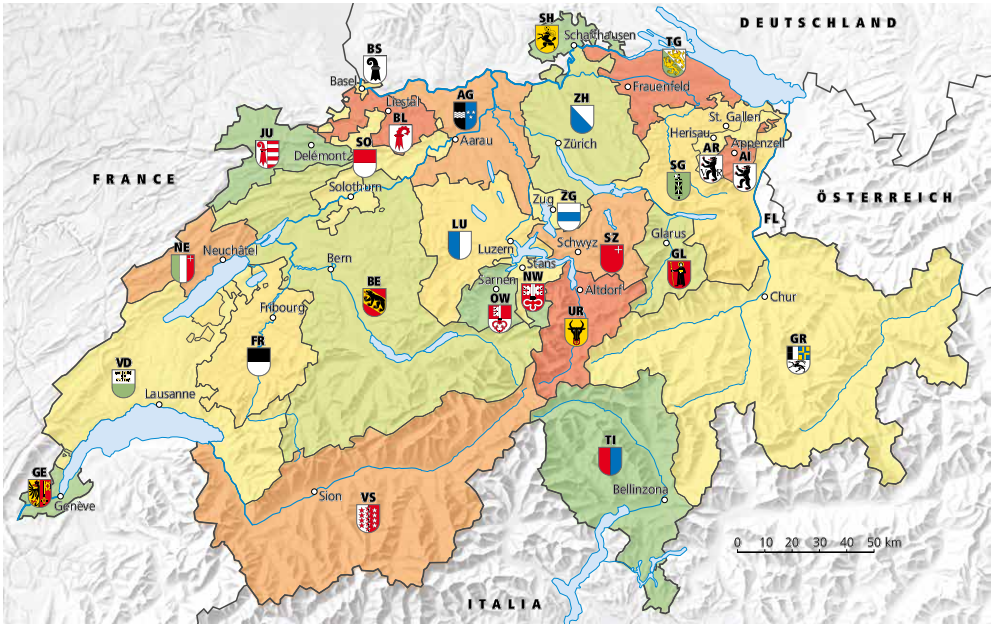
Choice of transportation mode

For commute



▶ **www.statistics.admin.ch** → Look for statistics → Cross sectional topics → City Statistics (Urban Audit)

Switzerland and its Cantons



26 cantons
143 districts
2212 municipalities

Situation on 1.1.2019

○ Cantonal capital

For the key to the canton abbreviations, see the table on page 4

2019 Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland

The Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland is the standard reference work on Swiss statistics. It provides a comprehensive picture of Switzerland's social and economic situation and contains, along with numerous tables, illustrated overviews of all themes of public statistics. The whole yearbook is published in German and French; in addition, a cross-section summary with the most important statistical information is available in English and Italian. The latest results from the land use statistics are shown in map form in a separate chapter.

Published by the Federal Statistical Office. 672 pages (hardback), CHF 120. Available from bookshops or directly from NZZ Libro. Email: nzz.libro@nzz.ch

Graphical Statistical Atlas of Switzerland 1897–2017

In 1897, when statistics was still in its infancy, the Federal Statistics Bureau published its 'Graphical and Statistical Atlas of Switzerland', a real highlight of graphic representation at that time. It was Switzerland's first atlas, presenting several topics in one volume. This impressive work, which gives an insight into the realities of Swiss society at the end of the 19th century will also be honoured on the occasion of the Statistical Yearbook's anniversary, as the Federal Statistical Office has decided to publish a reproduction of this work as an appendix to the 2018 Yearbook, enriched with some of the latest maps.

Published by the Federal Statistical Office. 64 pages (hardback), CHF 34 (excl. VAT).
The Atlas can also be ordered separately. Available at the Federal Statistical Office. Email: order@bfs.admin.ch

All FSO's statistics available online can be accessed via the Swiss Statistics responsive website **www.statistics.admin.ch**: press releases, continuously updated results in the form of indicators, graphics, infographics, tables and interactive data cubes as well as maps and atlases produced by the FSO. Data is listed under the heading "Catalogues and Databases" under "Look for statistics". The website is available in German, French, Italian and English, with some content also in Romansh.

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