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Statistical base and overviews

025-2000

# Statistical Data on Switzerland 2020



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These are explained in the table on page 4.

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

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Statistical results are usually presented here without reference to sources. Such information is extensively presented in our portal "Statistics Switzerland" [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch)

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Dear readers,

The new decade brings with it new, significant challenges for the world of statistics. For instance, the path was paved for further steps towards state digitalisation last year: in September, the Federal Council gave the green light for the reuse of administrative data. The FSO was commissioned with implementing the programme, which strives to standardise and harmonise the Federal Administration's data.

Another challenge is the implementation of the Open Government Data strategy 2019–2023 according to which all of the Swiss Federal Administration's published data should be openly available on the [www.opendata.swiss](http://www.opendata.swiss) website in a user-friendly format. Other state levels, enterprises with close connections to the Federal Administration and higher education institutions are also encouraged to work towards this goal.

At the end of 2018, a web publication on experimental statistics [www.experimental.bfs.admin.ch/de](http://www.experimental.bfs.admin.ch/de) was released online to mark the occasion of the Swiss Statistics Meeting. This is regularly updated and presents innovative statistics which are based on new methods or data sources and which still need to be further developed and consolidated.

In 2020, Switzerland will also host a major statistical event which the Federal Statistical Office will organise. The 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Data Forum will welcome experts in data and statistics from around the world to Bern for a week in October to discuss current global challenges in these fields. The "Road to Bern" ([www.roadtobern.ch](http://www.roadtobern.ch)) was also launched at the end of 2019. This is a series of events that will take place during 2020 to pave the way for the UN World Data Forum (UNWDF). The UNWDF is directly linked to the 2030 Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Detailed information on all areas can be found on our website as usual [www.statistik.admin.ch](http://www.statistik.admin.ch). The information is presented in various formats for your individual needs (tables, graphs, maps, interactive data, infographics, publications, interactive visualisations).

We hope you enjoy reading this publication.

Georges-Simon Ulrich

Director General  
Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

Neuchâtel, March 2020

**Permanent resident population by canton, 2018**

	At year-end	Total in '000	Foreigners in %	Urban in %	Density km <sup>2</sup>	Population growth 2010–2018 in %
<b>Switzerland</b>		<b>8 544.5</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>213.7</b>	<b>8.6</b>
Zurich (ZH)		1 521.0	26.9	99.3	915.8	10.8
Bern (BE)		1 035.0	16.3	74.7	177.2	5.6
Lucerne (LU)		409.6	18.5	63.8	286.6	8.5
Uri (UR)		36.4	12.3	88.6	34.5	2.9
Schwyz (SZ)		159.2	21.6	82.0	187.0	8.5
Obwalden (OW)		37.8	14.7	27.4	78.7	6.3
Nidwalden (NW)		43.2	14.7	50.6	179.1	5.4
Glarus (GL)		40.4	24.1	76.5	59.4	4.6
Zug (ZG)		126.8	28.3	100.0	612.3	12.1
Fribourg (FR)		318.7	22.7	74.9	200.4	14.4
Solothurn (SO)		273.2	22.6	86.0	345.6	7.0
Basel-Stadt (BS)		194.8	36.4	100.0	5 271.1	5.3
Basel-Landschaft (BL)		288.1	22.8	97.6	556.6	5.0
Schaffhausen (SH)		82.0	26.1	89.8	275.0	7.4
Appenzell A. Rh. (AR)		55.2	16.3	76.6	227.5	4.2
Appenzell I. Rh. (AI)		16.1	11.3	0.0	93.6	2.9
St. Gallen (SG)		507.7	24.1	82.4	260.2	6.0
Graubünden (GR)		198.4	18.6	44.8	27.9	3.0
Aargau (AG)		678.2	25.1	85.0	486.1	10.9
Thurgau (TG)		276.5	24.9	67.1	320.3	11.3
Ticino (TI)		353.3	27.8	92.8	129.1	5.9
Vaud (VD)		799.1	33.2	89.6	283.3	12.0
Valais (VS)		344.0	22.7	78.8	66.0	10.0
Neuchâtel (NE)		176.9	25.3	87.8	246.7	2.8
Geneva (GE)		499.5	40.0	100.0	2 032.1	9.1
Jura (JU)		73.4	14.7	53.3	87.6	4.8

**Permanent resident population in the largest cities, 2018**

	City		Urban agglomeration	
	in '000	Population growth 2010–2018 in %	in '000	Population growth 2010–2018 in %
Zurich	415.4	11.4	1 384.7	10.8
Geneva	201.8	7.7	597.3	9.6
Basel	172.3	5.5	550.2	5.5
Lausanne	139.1	8.8	424.6	12.0
Bern	133.9	7.6	420.0	7.1
Winterthur	111.9	10.4	143.4	10.0
Lucerne	81.7	5.4	231.2	7.2
St. Gallen	75.8	3.9	167.2	4.2
Lugano	63.2	4.9	151.1	7.0
Biel	55.2	7.7	106.9	7.5

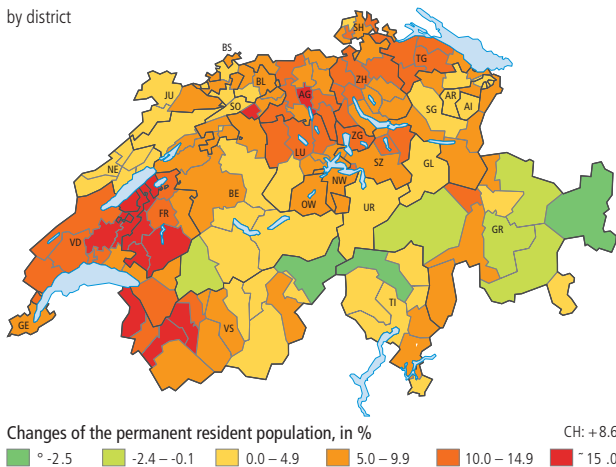
**The population is mostly urban**

Today (2018). 84.8% of the 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 2018. population growth in areas with an urban character was less marked than that in areas beyond the influence of urban centres (2018: +0.7% compared with –0.8%).

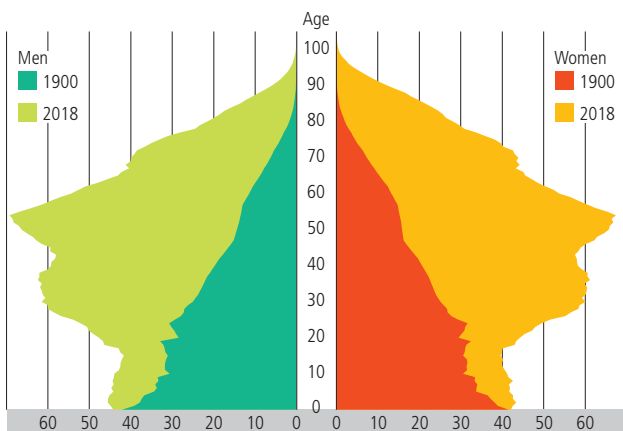
## Population growth, 2010–2018

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 (aged 65 and over) 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 (2018), in which the baby boom generation (born between 1940 and 1971) predominates. Younger generations, in contrast, are smaller. The proportion of persons aged 65 and over is expected to rise from 18.5% (2018) to over 26% in 2045.

**Children born alive, 2018**

<b>Total</b>	<b>87 851</b>
Boys for every 100 girls	105.1
Proportion of children out of wedlock in %	25.7
Children per woman <sup>1</sup>	1.5

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2018**

<b>Total</b>	<b>67 088</b>
Age at death (years)	
0–19	507
20–39	821
40–64	7 474
65–79	16 766
≥80	41 520

**International migration, 2018**

Immigration	170 085
of which foreigners	146 183
Emigration	130 225
of which foreigners	98 431
Net migration	39 860
Swiss	–7 892
Foreigners	47 752

**Internal migration <sup>2</sup>, 2018**

<b>Total movements</b>	<b>517 244</b>
------------------------	----------------

<sup>2</sup> Movements between communes. excl. movements within a given commune

**Marriages, 2018**

<b>Total</b>	<b>40 716</b>
Swiss/Swiss	19 660
Swiss husband/Foreign wife	7 920
Foreign husband/Swiss wife	6 481
Foreign/Foreign	6 655
Average age at first marriage (years)	
Single men	32.1
Single women	30.0

**Divorces, 2018**

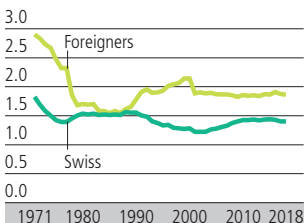
<b>Total</b>	<b>16 542</b>
with minors involved in %	45.7
Duration of marriage	
0–4 years	1 973
5–9 years	4 003
10–14 years	3 154
15 or more years	7 412
Total divorce rate <sup>3</sup>	40.2

<sup>3</sup> Proportion of marriages. ending in divorce sooner or later. based on the divorce rates of the year of observation

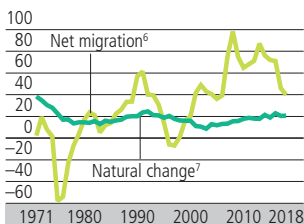
**Multiple births<sup>4</sup>, 2018**

<b>Total</b>	<b>1 611</b>
of which twin births	1 579

4 Incl. children born alive and stillborn children

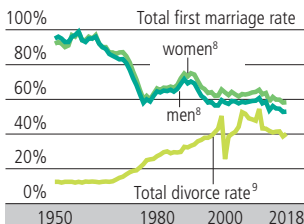
**Total fertility rate<sup>5</sup>**

<sup>5</sup> Average number of children per woman, see note 1

**Net migration and natural change**  
in '000

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

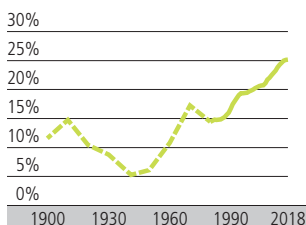
<sup>7</sup> Live births minus deaths

**Marriages and divorces**

<sup>8</sup> 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

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

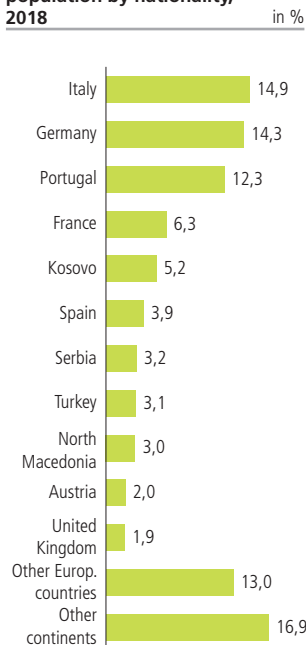
### Share of foreign permanent resident population



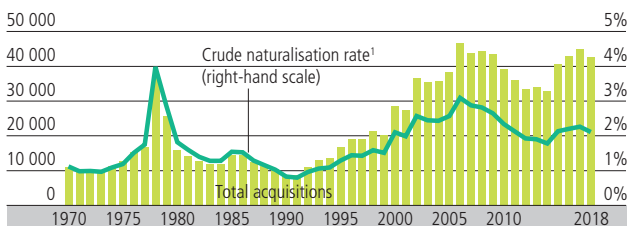
### Foreign permanent and non permanent resident population by residence permit, 2018 in '000

<b>Total</b>	<b>2 224.4</b>
Resident – B permit	694.8
Permanent resident – C permit	1 342.2
International officials and diplomats	29.9
Temporary resident (L permit)	85.9
Asylum seekers – N permit	15.4
Provisionally accepted – F permit	46.7
Non-attributable	9.6

### Foreign permanent resident population by nationality, 2018



### Acquisition of Swiss citizenship



<sup>1</sup> 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 resident for more than 10 years

Foreigners account for 25.1% of the permanent resident population. More than half of the residents without a Swiss passport (56.4%) have been living in Switzerland for more than 10 years or were born here. In 2018, 42 493 people (2.1% 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 38 among the Swiss). 29.8% of children born in Switzerland in 2018 had foreign citizenship. In 2018, the number of immigrations fell by 0.5% compared with the previous year. 58.6% of immigrants came from EU/EFTA countries.



## Diversity of household types

In 2018 only 25% of private households belonged to the household type «Couple with child(ren) under age of 25. 15% of households with at least one child under the age of 25 were one-parent families. and 6.0% patchwork families. These high figures are the result of a great number of divorces (16 542 in 2018). Furthermore, the proportion of non-marital births more than doubled between 2000 and 2018, from 11% to 25.7%.

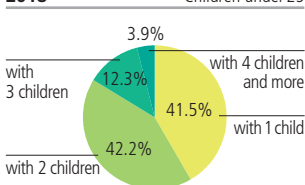
The decision to get married and start a family is being made increasingly late in life: The age at first marriage among women rose from 27 (1970) to 29.9 (2017) and among men from 26 to 32 years. The average age of mothers at first birth rose from 25 to 30.9 years.

In 2018, roughly eight in ten mothers were working - however mostly only part-time. Fathers still mainly work full-time.

### Private households, 2018 in '000

<b>Total</b>	<b>3 755.7</b>
One person household	1 340.3
Couples without children	1 026.4
Couples without child(ren) under 25 years	938.8
Lone parents with child(ren) under 25 years	171.8
Other households with several persons	278.4

### Family households with children, 2018 Children under 25



### Main languages, 2018<sup>1</sup> in %

German	62.9
French	22.9
Italian	8.4
Romansh	0.5
English	6.6
Portuguese	3.6
Albanian	2.7
Serbo-Croatian	2.4
Spanish	2.4
Turkish	1.1
Other languages	6.1

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

### Religious affiliation, 2018<sup>2</sup> in %

Protestant	23.1
Roman Catholic	35.2
Other Christian communities	5.6
Jewish religious community	0.2
Islamic religious communities	5.3
Other churches and religious communities	1.3
No religious affiliation	28.0
Unknown	1.4

<sup>2</sup> Resident permanent population aged 15 or more and living in a private household

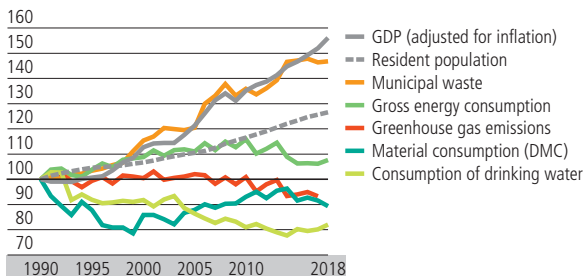
## Coexistence presents challenges

In 2018, 34% of the permanent resident population in Switzerland said that they felt disturbed by the presence of persons they perceived to be different on the basis of their nationality, religion or skin colour. Nevertheless, the population remained largely open-minded. A majority were in favour of more rights for foreign nationals; particularly with regard to the right to family reunification (2018: 61% were in favour of this). 59% perceived racism as a very serious social problem and 55% believed that the integration of migrants in Switzerland worked well.



## 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

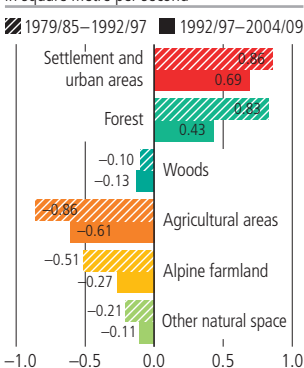
Period of survey 2004–2009

	km <sup>2</sup>	%
<b>Total surface area</b>	<b>41 290</b>	<b>100</b>
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.

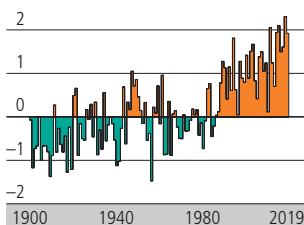
## Change in land use

in square metre per second



## Temperature fluctuations

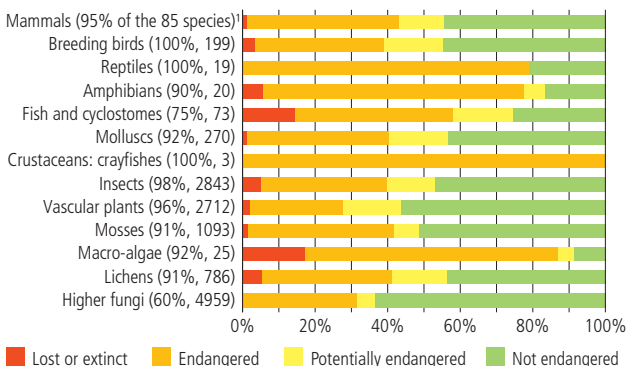
Deviations from long-term mean value 1961–1990, in °C



The air temperature varies from year to year and is characterised by colder and warmer periods. The five warmest years in Switzerland since records began in 1864 have been measured after the year 2010 and 2018 was the warmest year so far.

**Endangered animals and plants (red lists)**

Status 1994–2018, depending on the species group

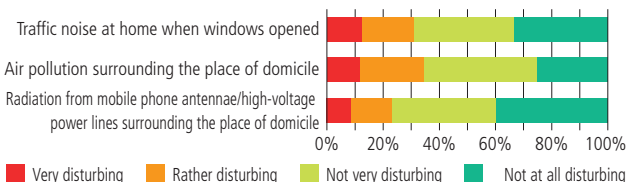


1 Reading aid: The endangerment status was assessed for 95% of the 85 mammal species. Data are deficient for the remaining species.

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, 2019**

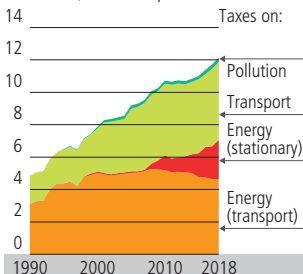
Share of population



In 2019, 31% of the population found traffic noise at home with open windows to be very or rather disturbing. 34% were of this opinion with regard to air pollution surrounding the house and 23% with regard to radiation from power lines or mobile phone antennas.

**Environmentally related taxes revenue**

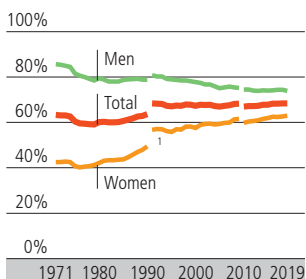
CHF billion, at current prices



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 2018, environmentally related taxes revenue corresponded to 6.3% of total revenue from taxes and social contributions.

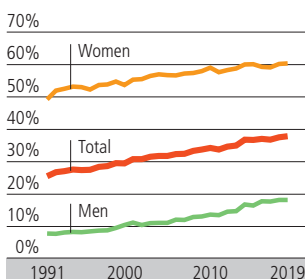
► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) →  
Look for statistics → Territory and Environment

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

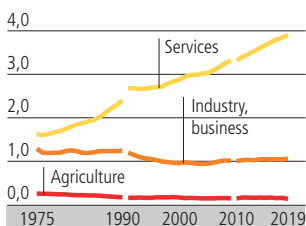


1 New calculation method from 1991 resp. 2010 onwards

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



## People employed<sup>1</sup> by economic sector in millions



1 New calculation method from 1991 resp. 2010 onwards

## Employed persons according to employment status<sup>1</sup>

Permanent resident population, in '000		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr	2018	2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 672</b>	<b>4 723</b>
Self-employed	606	603
Family workers	96	87
Employees	3 761	3 836
Apprentices	208	197

1 Sociological definition

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

2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr	1991	2000	2005	2010	2015	2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 042</b>	<b>4 014</b>	<b>4 126</b>	<b>4 477</b>	<b>4 885</b>	<b>5 099</b>
Swiss	3 014	3 069	3 094	3 268	3 398	3 489
Foreigners	1 028	944	1 032	1 209	1 487	1 611
Permanent residents	534	569	557	584	687	753
Temporary residents	172	175	228	337	433	458
Seasonal workers <sup>1</sup>	85	25	—	—	—	—
Cross-border workers	183	140	176	228	295	320
Temporary visitors	21	20	53	42	46	44
Other foreigners	34	15	18	17	26	36
Men	2 370	2 265	2 284	2 472	2 659	2 769
Women	1 672	1 749	1 842	2 006	2 226	2 330

1 As of 1.6.2002 seasonal work permits are no longer issued

## Considerable increase in women's participation in labour market

Between 2014 and 2019, the number of women in employment increased at a greater rate than that of employed men (+6.7% to 2.330 million compared with +5.3% to 2.769 million). Part-time employment has also been increasing for many years. In 2019, 60.2% of women were working part-time (2014: 59.9%). In contrast, 18.1% of men worked part-time, although this percentage has also increased (+1.4% points compared to 2014). The increase in women's labour force participation and in part-time employment can be attributed to the tertiarisation of the economy. 87.3% of women in employment in 2019 worked in the tertiary sector (men: 67.4%) 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 2018, it was 31.4%. Foreign labour is particularly important in the industrial sector (2018: 38.9%; Service sector: 30.0%).

In 2018, 78.3% 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 (23.7%), Italy (20.3%) and Portugal (19.8%).

### Unemployment rate<sup>1</sup> by major region and other criteria

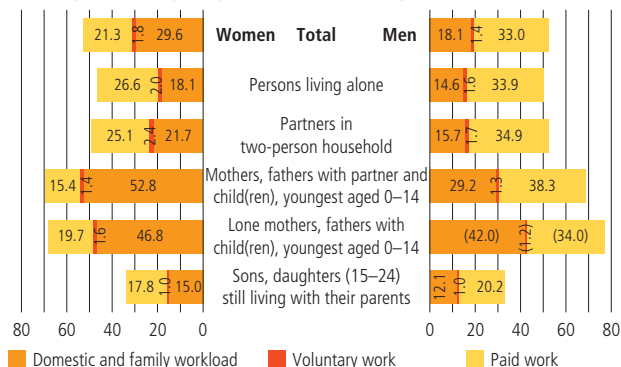
2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	2005	2010	2015	2018	2019
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Lake Geneva region	6.5	7.0	6.7	7.2	7.4
Espace Mittelland	4.0	4.6	3.7	4.3	3.6
Northwest Switzerland	4.1	4.7	3.8	4.4	3.0
Zurich	4.2	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.3
Eastern Switzerland	3.8	3.7	3.7	3.0	3.0
Central Switzerland	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.2	(2.1)
Ticino	6.1	(5.2)	6.5	6.1	5.5
Men	3.9	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.9
Women	5.1	5.1	4.6	5.2	4.4
Swiss	3.2	3.5	3.1	3.1	3.0
Foreigners	8.9	8.5	8.2	8.8	7.3
15–24 years	8.8	7.5	6.9	6.4	6.2
25–39 years	4.4	5.2	4.8	5.4	4.2
40–54 years	3.3	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.9
55–64 years	3.7	3.4	3.5	4.1	3.9

1 Unemployment rate based on ILO

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

### 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 interpreted with great caution.

### Involvement in voluntary work, 2016

as a percentage of permanent resident population age 15 and older

	Total	Informal	Organised
<b>Total</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>19.5</b>
Men	41.4	28.4	21.7
Women	44.0	34.9	17.4

**Wage level<sup>1</sup> per main region, economy as a whole, 2016**

Median, in Swiss francs

	Total	Professional position			
		a	b	c	d
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>6 502</b>	<b>10 310</b>	<b>8 328</b>	<b>6 977</b>	<b>5 935</b>
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

<sup>1</sup> 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**

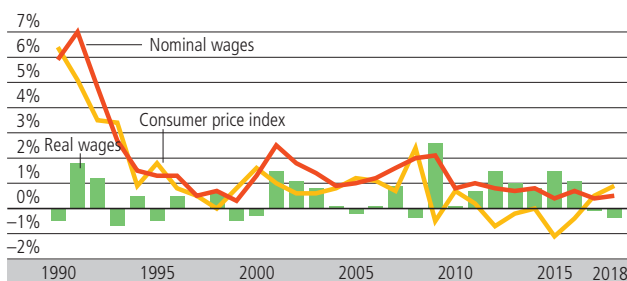
In 2016, there were almost 329 000 low wage jobs in Switzerland, i.e. wages below CHF 4335 gross per month for a full-time job (a job is considered to be "low wage" if the wages are less than two thirds of the gross median wage). It should be noted that over time there has tended to be a decline in the 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](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Employment and Income

## Sustained growth of the Swiss economy in 2018

Economic activity in Switzerland in 2018 measured by gross domestic product (GDP) recorded growth of 2.8% at previous year's prices, 1 percentage point more than the increase of 2017.

This sustained growth is in keeping with a favourable environment characterised by a marked recovery in the contribution of foreign trade and strong momentum in the manufacturing industry. Without taking non-monetary gold into account, the balance of goods and services increased by 17.3% in 2018. This increase compared with 2017 (+5.3%) was due not only to strong growth in the balance of services (+31.3%) but also to continued growth in the balance of goods (excluding non-monetary gold) (+11.9%). Whereas the rise in the balance of services could mainly be explained by a drop in the import of services (-4.3%), that in the balance of goods (excluding non-monetary gold) was due to exports being more dynamic than imports (+7.1% and +5.7% respectively). The increase in the export of goods was largely due to trade in raw materials, to the chemical and pharmaceutical industries as well as to the instruments industry, watches and jewellery.

After four years of strong growth, investments rose moderately (+1.1%). This rise can be explained by a downturn in investments in capital goods (+1.1%) which were no longer supported by R&D expenditure. With regard to the production approach, the value added in the manufacturing industry continued to expand (+3.9%) on the result measured in 2016 (+3.7%), after the end of the minimum EUR/CHF exchange rate. The situation nonetheless remained disparate at economic branch level and many industry sectors still faced difficulties although some industries such as the chemical and pharmaceutical industries recorded strong growth. As a result of important international sporting events (football world cup and winter Olympics) the Arts, entertainment and recreation sector and other service activities recorded very strong growth (+24.9%).

### Gross domestic product (GDP) and its components

Percentage change over previous year at prices of preceding year

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2017 <sup>p</sup>	2018 <sup>p</sup>
<b>GDP</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Final consumption expenditure	1.6	0.9	2.2	2.6	1.4	1.6	1.4	1.2	0.8
Gross capital formation	-5.4	11.9	-9.7	-9.8	5.8	3.9	-0.9	3.6	0.6
Exports of goods and services	12.8	4.9	1.1	15.2	-6.2	2.6	6.3	-0.2	2.9
Imports of goods and services	8.1	9.2	-2.6	13.5	-7.7	4.5	5.7	-0.6	-0.3

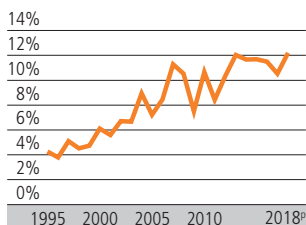
GDP in CHF billion at current prices	609	621	626	638	650	654	662	670	690
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### Importance of relations with the rest of the world

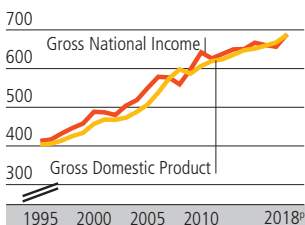
From 1997, foreign trade played a leading role in the growth of the GDP. In fact, the periods of strong growth have coincided with booming foreign trade. Exports are the component of the GDP, which made the largest contribution to growth during the lean years (1997 to 2000 and 2004 to 2007). One of the 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 to growth by foreign trade.

Since the financial crisis of 2008, foreign trade's contribution to growth in GDP has become more erratic. In 2018, this contribution was a very positive one. The gross national income registered an increase of 5.0% (2017: -0.7%). This trend was mainly due to a larger decline in property income paid abroad (-16.2%), compared with the decline in income received from abroad (-6.3%). The decrease in property income paid and received from abroad can be attributed in both cases to a marked decline in income from direct investment.

**Share of the external sector in GDP**  
at current prices

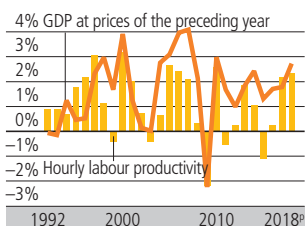


**GDP and GNI at current prices**  
in CHF billion



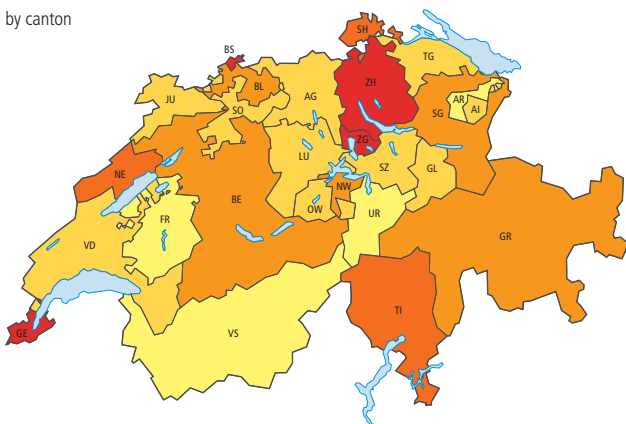
Once economic activity measured by GDP is known, one can investigate the efficiency with which productive resources (labour and capital) are utilised. Labour efficiency is measured by hourly labour productivity, i.e. the value added created by hour worked.

**Annual growth rate**



**Gross domestic product per inhabitant, 2017**

by canton



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

< 60.0  
  60.0 – 69.9  
  70.0 – 79.9  
  80.0 – 89.9  
  ≥ 90.0  
 CH: 79.2

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → National Economy

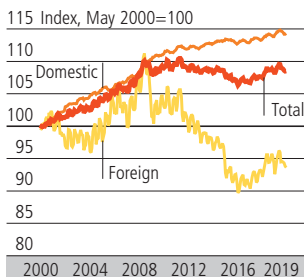


## Changes in consumer price index

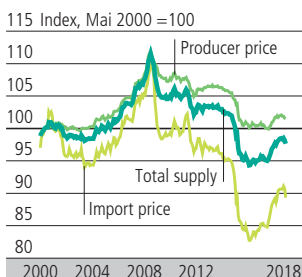
changes in yearly average in %

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	-0.8	0.4	0.4	1.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	0.0	-0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8
Clothing and footwear	0.3	1.3	2.8	1.6	1.9
Housing and energy	-0.6	-0.1	1.2	1.3	0.4
Household goods and services	-2.1	-2.2	-1.8	-0.5	1.7
Health	-0.4	-0.4	-0.5	-1.0	-0.2
Transport	-4.4	-2.4	1.5	2.7	0.4
Communications	-0.9	-1.5	-1.6	0.4	0.8
Recreation and culture	-2.0	0.8	1.0	1.7	-0.3
Education	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.1	0.7
Restaurants and hotels	0.0	-0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6
Other goods and services	-0.8	-1.8	-0.4	0.5	0.6

## Consumer price index by origin



## Producer and import price index



## International comparison of price indices, 2018

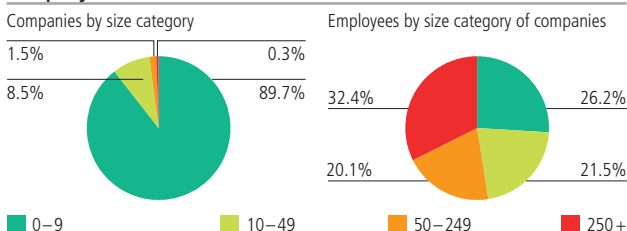
EU-28 = 100

	Switzerland	Germany	France	Italy
Gross domestic product	146	107	109	99
Actual individual consumption	159	103	107	101
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	160	102	115	111
Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotics	120	95	114	95
Clothing and footwear	122	99	110	101
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	172	109	114	92
Household furnishings, equipment and maintenance	119	103	106	103
Health	207	103	97	121
Transport	116	106	107	101
Communication	117	99	96	111
Recreation and culture	150	104	108	101
Education	219	114	98	94
Restaurants and hotels	154	110	118	104
Miscellaneous goods and services	160	99	103	99
Actual collective consumption	173	123	126	110
Gross fixed capital formation	131	118	110	85
Machinery and equipment	109	98	106	96
Construction	170	137	113	78
Software	94	99	102	102

## 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 2017 is larger in the service sector than in the secondary sector (90.6% compared with 80.1%). 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 (26.0%) are accounted for by micro-enterprises and over a fifth (21.5%) by enterprises with 10 to 49 employees. In 2017 the share of total employment represented by the tertiary sector in the case of private enterprises was 72.1%. Overall in private enterprises 1 581 100 employees worked in the primary sector, 1 087 600 in the secondary and 3 219 100 in the tertiary. The healthcare and retail sectors counted the most employees in private enterprises (406 300 and 343 840 employees respectively).

### Company size<sup>1</sup>, 2017



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

### Market-oriented companies and employees by economic activity

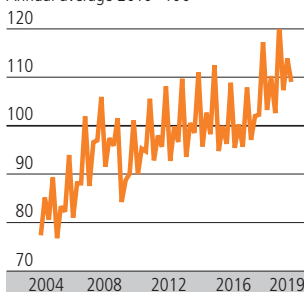
	2017	
according to NOGA 2008, in '000	Companies	Employees
<b>Total</b>	<b>590.3</b>	<b>4 464.8</b>
<b>Sector 1</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>158.1</b>
<b>Sector 2</b>	<b>90.5</b>	<b>1 087.6</b>
of which:		
Manufacture of food, beverage and tobacco products	4.6	101.1
Manufacture of textiles, apparel and leather goods	2.9	14.8
Manufacture of wood and paper products, and printing	9.7	67.4
Manufacture of pharmaceutical products	0.3	46.0
Manufacture of metal products	7.4	84.4
Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products; watches and clocks	2.0	108.0
Manufacture of electrical equipment	0.8	32.4
Electricity, gas and steam supply	0.8	30.2
Construction of buildings and Civil engineering	9.2	110.1
<b>Sector 3</b>	<b>446.8</b>	<b>3 219.1</b>
of which:		
Wholesale trade	23.4	228.8
Retail trade	34.9	343.8
Accommodation	5.4	74.1
Food and beverage service activities	23.1	167.9
IT and other information services	16.5	93.8
Financial service activities and insurance	6.6	184.4
Architectural and engineering activities	24.7	128.5
Administrative and support service activities	3.4	20.3
Human health and social assistance	66.5	591.7

## Business demography, 2017

Economic activity (NOGA 2008)	New companies	Created jobs	High-growth companies
<b>Total</b>	<b>39 303</b>	<b>53 480</b>	<b>4 186</b>
<b>Sector 2</b>	<b>5 035</b>	<b>8 176</b>	<b>888</b>
Industry and Energy	1 879	2 683	475
Construction	3 156	5 493	413
<b>Sector 3</b>	<b>34 268</b>	<b>45 304</b>	<b>3 298</b>
Trade and repair sector	4 403	6 081	525
Transport and warehousing	953	1 334	181
Accommodation, food and beverage service activities	1 136	2 006	306
Information and communication	2 292	3 105	292
Banking and insurance	1 349	1 955	147
Real estate activities and services	3 605	5 474	503
Professional and scientific activities	8 315	10 610	582
Education	2 042	2 382	137
Health and social services	4 526	5 535	420
Arts and recreation	2 164	2 943	126
Other service activities	3 483	3 879	79

## Production in the secondary sector

Indexed change in the quarterly results  
Annual average 2010=100



Overall production in the secondary sector (industry and construction) grew by 31.6% between 2004 and 2018. 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 2018, almost all sectors recovered resulting in an increase in secondary sector production (+4.4%).

## Employment

From 2004 to 2018, the number of jobs in industry rose by 2.2%. Between the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2006 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2008, employment growth was strong. With the financial crisis came a slump in the labour market: by the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2010, the number of jobs had fallen to the level of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2006. By mid-2012, industry had recovered somewhat only to undergo further decline. After three years with declining employment (2015–2017), employment increased for the first time again in 2018. From 2004 to 2018, employment in construction rose by 18%. During the same period, the number of tertiary sector jobs rose by 26%. Particularly strong growth was seen between 2006 and 2008, from 2011 to 2013 and in 2018.

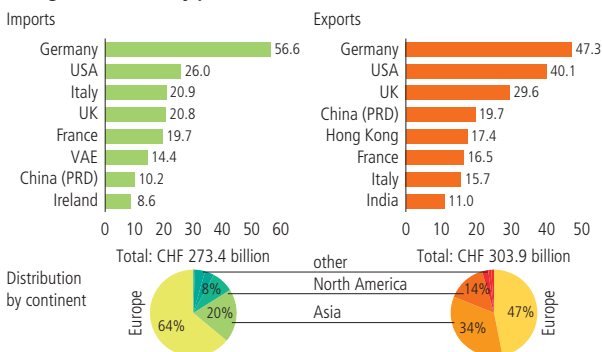
Retail sales		variation from the previous year in %				
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	Nominal	0.1	-3.2	-1.8	-0.5	0.3
	Real	1.0	-1.4	-1.2	-0.5	-0.1
of which:						
Food and beverages, tobacco products	Nominal	1.3	-1.4	0.2	-0.2	1.5
	Real	0.4	-0.7	—	-0.6	-0.2
Non food (excl. fuel)	Nominal	-0.2	-3.3	-3.3	-1.2	-1.4
	Real	1.6	-0.8	-1.6	-0.1	-0.9
Fuel	Nominal	-3.9	-14.5	-5.3	3.7	3.9
	Real	-0.8	-1.1	0.4	-3.5	-4.3
Total excluding fuel	Nominal	0.4	-2.4	-1.6	-0.7	0.1
	Real	1.2	-0.8	-1.0	-0.6	-0.2

## 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. Nominal turnover rose again slightly in 2018 (in real terms: -0.1%).

## Foreign trade: our key partners, 2018

in CHF billion



## Foreign trade: the key goods

in CHF million

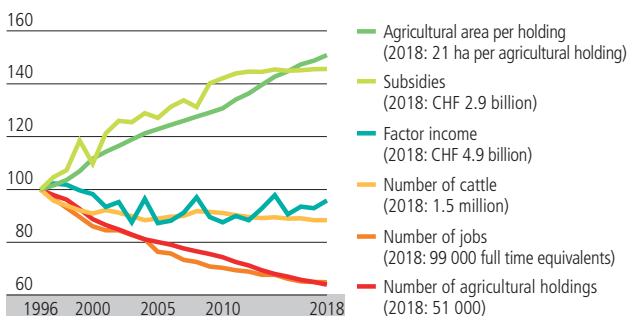
	Imports			Exports		
	2000	2017	2018	2000	2017	2018
<b>Total</b>	<b>139 402</b>	<b>265 572</b>	<b>273 389</b>	<b>136 015</b>	<b>294 894</b>	<b>303 886</b>
of which:						
Food, beverages and tobacco	7 197	10 590	10 862	3 239	8 682	8 980
Textiles, clothing, footwear	8 905	10 550	11 662	3 891	4 200	4 863
Chemicals	21 899	46 741	50 159	35 892	98 596	104 372
Metals	10 735	14 481	15 907	10 892	13 645	14 402
Machinery, electronics	31 583	30 393	32 079	37 137	32 054	33 520
Vehicles	14 903	19 003	19 299	3 054	5 422	5 020
Watches	1 622	3 545	4 007	10 297	19 921	21 180

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://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 2018, 5.2 million m<sup>3</sup> of timber was harvested. The landscape is therefore largely shaped by agriculture and forestry. In 2018, the share of agriculture and forestry in the gross value added of the Swiss economy was 0.7%.

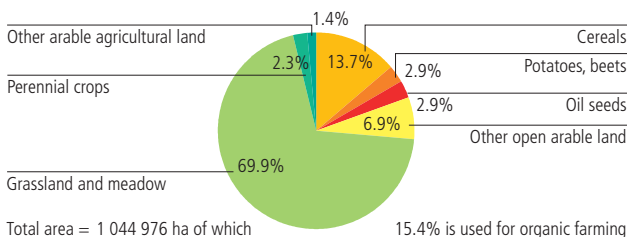
## A few key indicators in agriculture

Index 1996=100



## Agricultural area used, 2018

Excl. summer pastures

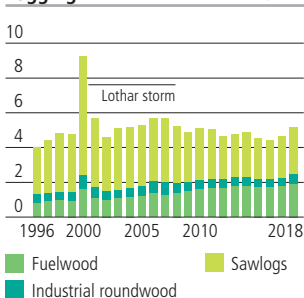


## Output of agriculture<sup>1</sup>, 2018 in %

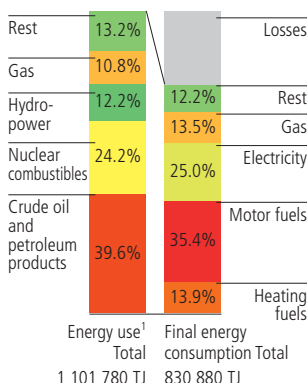
Crop output	41.2
Cereals	3.2
Forage plants	9.4
Vegetables and horticultural products	13.1
Fruits and grapes	5.9
Wine	4.7
Other crop outputs	4.8
Animal output	47.5
Cattle	12.9
Pigs	8.0
Milk	20.3
Other animals and animal products	6.3
Agricultural services output	7.1
Non-agricultural secondary activities	4.1

<sup>1</sup> Total value = CHF 10.7 billion

## Logging in million m<sup>3</sup>



## Total energy use and final consumption, 2018

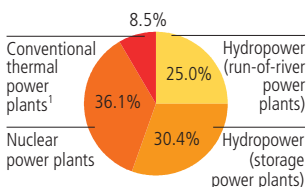


<sup>1</sup> Incl. export surplus of electricity (0.5%)

## 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 2018, transport was the largest consumer group with around 38% of the final energy consumption. 63% of the final consumption were covered by fossil fuels and 23.3% came from renewable energies, mainly hydropower.

## Electricity generation by power plant type, 2018



Total: 67.6 billion kWh

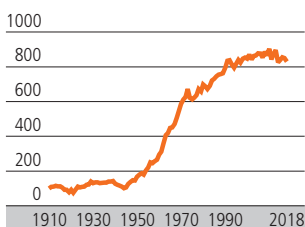
<sup>1</sup> Incl. district heating power stations and various renewable energies

## Renewable energy, 2018

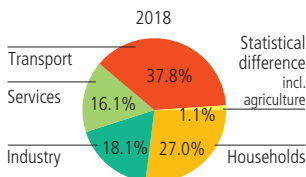
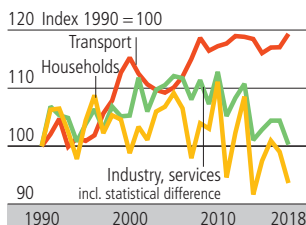
Share of final consumption in %

Total	23.3
Hydropower	12.4
Biomass (wood and biogas)	5.0
Ambient heat	2.0
Renewable energy from waste	1.5
Solar power	1.1
Biogenic fuels	1.1
Energy from sewage treatment plants	0.2
Wind power	0.05

## Final energy consumption in '000 TJ



## Final energy consumption by consumer groups



► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Energy

► [www.bfe.admin.ch](http://www.bfe.admin.ch) (Federal Office of Energy) → Supply → Statistics and Geodata

Construction expenditure	inCHF million, prices of 2000				
	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>34 198</b>	<b>47 588</b>	<b>43 708</b>	<b>49 240</b>	<b>56 744</b>
Public expenditure	11 389	14 507	15 983	15 958	18 617
Civil engineering	6 791	7 740	10 060	9 649	10 391
of which roads	...	...	5 221	4 739	4 502
Building construction	4 599	6 767	5 923	6 309	8 226
Private expenditure	22 809	33 081	27 725	33 281	38 127
of which housing	...	...	17 147	22 995	26 110

Housing construction		1980	1990	2000	2010	2017
New residential buildings with apartments		20 806	16 162	16 962	14 736	12 315
of which single-family dwellings		16 963	11 200	13 768	9 387	6 570
New dwellings		40 876	39 984	32 214	43 632	50 209
with 1 room		2 122	2 010	528	725	1 896
2 rooms		4 598	5 248	1 779	3 913	9 770
3 rooms		7 094	8 937	4 630	10 608	15 254
4 rooms		11 557	12 487	10 783	15 438	14 267
5 rooms or more		15 505	11 302	14 494	12 948	9 022

Housing supply		1980	1990	2000	2010	2018
as of year-end		2 702 656	3 140 353	3 574 988	4 079 060 <sup>2</sup>	4 528 902
of which remained empty in %		0.74	0.55 <sup>1</sup>	1.26 <sup>1</sup>	0.94 <sup>1</sup>	1.66 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As of 1 June following year

<sup>2</sup> As of 2009 the housing stock is calculated on the basis of the Buildings and Dwellings Statistic (BDS)

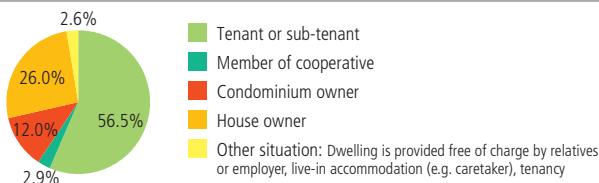
### The single-family house remains the most important building category

Single-family houses as a percentage of total building stock rose from 40% to 57% between 1970 and 2018. In contrast, the number of newly built single-family houses in 2018 fell by 0.4% 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](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Construction and housing



## Main tourism indicators

	2016	2017	2018
<b>Supply (beds)<sup>1</sup></b>			
Hotels and health establishments	271 710	275 203	274 792
Holiday homes	163 045	159 063	154 149
Collective accommodation	123 208	116 640	115 680
Campsites	123 344	123 096	120 042

## Demand: overnight stays in '000

Hotels and health establishments	35 533	37 393	38 807
Holiday homes	6 808	7 319	7 530
Collective accommodation	5 270	5 398	5 440
Campsites	2 786	3 174	3 580

## Duration of stay nights

Hotels and health establishments	2.0	2.0	2.0
Holiday homes	6.7	6.8	6.6
Collective accommodation	2.6	2.6	2.5
Campsites	2.9	2.9	2.9

## Gross occupancy rate: hotels and health establish.

as percentage of beds surveyed <sup>1</sup>	35.7	37.2	38.7
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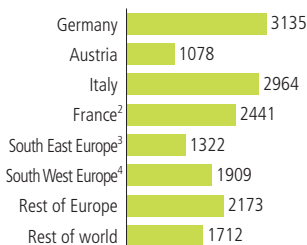
## Tourism balance of payment CHF million

Revenue from foreign visitors to Switzerland	15 756	16 228	16 596
Expenditure made by Swiss tourists abroad	16 225	17 570	17 949
Balance	-469	-1 342	-1 352

<sup>1</sup> Annual average number of beds surveyed in open and temporarily closed establishments

## Foreign travel destinations of Swiss tourists<sup>1</sup>, 2018

in thousands



<sup>1</sup> Permanent resident population aged 6 and over, trips abroad with overnight stays;

Total: 16.7 million

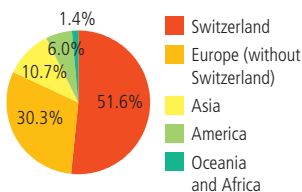
<sup>2</sup> including overseas departments, Monaco

<sup>3</sup> Greece, Turkey, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Albania, Slovenia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia

<sup>4</sup> Spain, Portugal, Andorra, Gibraltar

## Overnight stays in tourist accommodation

by visitors' country of residence, 2018



## Travel behaviour

In 2018, 90.6% 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 3.2 trips with overnight stays and 10.6 day trips. More than half (57%) of all trips with overnight stays were long trips (minimum 4 overnight stays). Trips abroad represented 67% of trips with overnight stays and 12% of day trips.

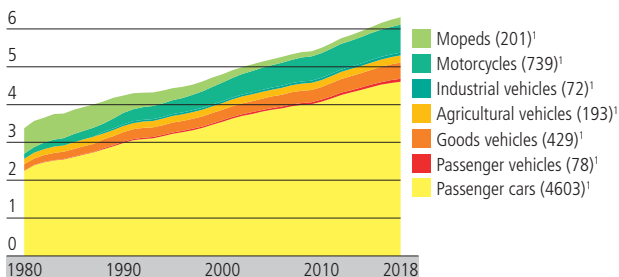
► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Tourism

## Infrastructure

Switzerland's transport infrastructure is well developed in international comparison. It covers 2% of Switzerland's territory and about a third of its settlement and urban areas (according to the Land use statistics 2004/09). Amongst other infrastructure, there are 5177 km of railway lines (situation in 2015), 1859 km of national highways (2018) and 17 816 km of cantonal roads (2018) across the country.

### Stock of road motor vehicles

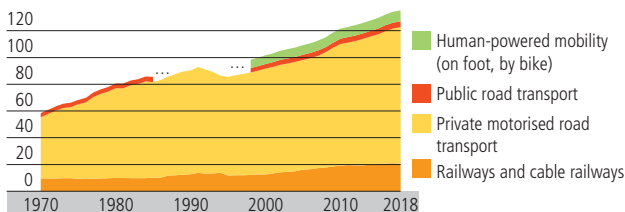
in millions



1 In brackets: stock in 2018, in thousands

### Passenger transport performance

in billion person-km travelled per year



### Daily mobility, 2015

Average per person<sup>1</sup> per day, in Switzerland

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

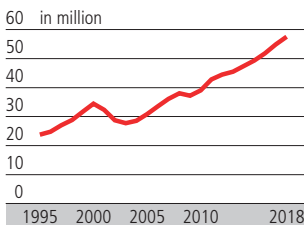
## Commuter traffic

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 this number, 71% worked outside the commune in which they live.

## Number of air passengers

In 2018, Swiss airports recorded almost 58 million individual arrivals and departures on scheduled and charter flights. This was 23 million or 67% more than in 2000.

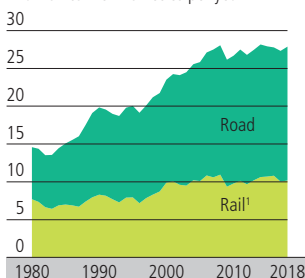
## Air passengers<sup>1</sup>



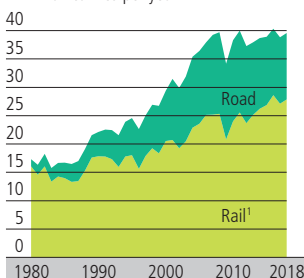
<sup>1</sup> Only scheduled and charter flights; local and transfer passengers arriving and departing

## Goods transport performance

**All transport,**  
in billion tonne-kilometres per year



**Transalpine goods transport,**  
in million tonnes per year

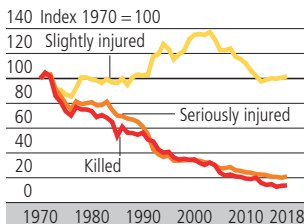


<sup>1</sup> Net tonnes/tonne-kilometres not including the proper weight of goods vehicles (incl. trailers), containers and swap bodies in intermodal transport

## Accident victims by mode of transport 2018

Road traffic	
Persons killed	233
Persons seriously injured	3 873
Persons slightly injured	17 958
Rail traffic	
Persons killed	14
Air traffic (civil aviation only)	
Persons killed	33

## Victims of road accidents



## Transport costs and funding

In 2016, transport in Switzerland generated total costs of CHF 89.7 billion (excluding waterways). In addition to expenditure on means of transport (58%) and infrastructure (17%), this also included the cost of accidents (11%) and costs for transport-related damage to the environment and health (13%).

## Costs and funding of transport 2016

	Total costs, in CHF bn	User financing, in %
Road <sup>1</sup>	72.3	85
Rail	11.2	45
Air <sup>2</sup>	6.2	79
Waterways <sup>3</sup>	0.3	64

<sup>1</sup> Excl. human-powered mobility

<sup>2</sup> Excl. general aviation

<sup>3</sup> Status in 2015

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Mobility and Transport



	Year	Switzerland	Germany	Greece
Inhabitants in '000	2018 <sup>4</sup>	8 484	82 792	10 741
Inhabitants per km <sup>2</sup>	2017 <sup>4</sup>	212	234	82
People under 20 in %	2018 <sup>4</sup>	20.0	18.4	19.4
People over 64 in %	2018 <sup>4</sup>	18.3	21.4	21.8
Share of foreign nationals	2018 <sup>4</sup>	25.0	11.7	7.6
Live births per 1000 inhabitants	2017	10.4	9.5	8.2
Births outside of marriage in %	2017	25.2	34.7	10.3
Female life expectancy at birth (in years)	2017	85.6	83.4	83.9
Male life expectancy at birth (in years)	2017	81.6	78.7	78.8
Total area in km <sup>2</sup>	2009 <sup>5</sup>	41 285	357 108	131 957
Share of agricultural areas	2009 <sup>5</sup>	36.9	52.2	40.1
Share of forest and woodland	2009 <sup>5</sup>	30.8	32.3	30.7
Greenhouse gas emissions in CO <sub>2</sub> equivalents (t per inhabitant)	2017 <sup>5</sup>	5.6	11.0	8.9
Employment rate	2018	84.2	78.6	68.2
Women	2018	79.9	74.3	59.9
Men	2018	88.5	82.9	76.6
Unemployment rate (15–74) ILO-based	2018	4.7	3.4	19.3
Women	2018	5.1	2.9	24.2
Men	2018	4.4	3.8	15.4
15–24 year-olds	2018	7.9	6.2	39.9
Long-term unemployed based on ILO-definition (15–74) in % of the enemployed	2018	34.7	40.9	70.3
Gross domestic product (GDP) per inhabitant, in purchasing power standard (PPS)	2018	48 100	37 800	21 100
Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices (HICP)	2018	0.9	1.9	0.8
Gross energy consumption, TOE <sup>1</sup> per inhabitant	2017 <sup>5</sup>	3.1	3.9	2.3
Share of renewable energies in gross energy consumption in %	2017 <sup>5</sup>	21.6	13.3	12.0
Beds in hotels and health establishments per 1000 inhabitants	2018	32.4	22.3	76.5
Cars per 1000 inhabitants	2017 <sup>5</sup>	539	553	...
Road accidents: fatalities per 1 million inhabitants	2017 <sup>5</sup>	27	39	68
Expenditure on social security in a % of GDP	2017	28.3	29.7	25.2
Cost of the healthcare system in % of GDP	2017	12.3	11.2	8.0
Infant deaths <sup>2</sup>	2017	3.5	3.2	3.3
Young people (18–24) without post-compulsory education in %	2018	27.1	35.5	12.0
Persons (25–64) with highest educational attainment at tertiary level in %	2018	43.7	29.1	31.7
Education expenditure in % of GDP	2016	5.0	4.5	...
At-risk-of-poverty rate <sup>3</sup>	2018	7.4	9.0	10.9
Median of the equivalised disposable net income, in purchasing power standard (PPS)	2017	27 018	21 250	9 018
Housing costs as % of the disposable household income	2018	24.8	26.1	40.9

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 1<sup>st</sup>

5 On December 31<sup>st</sup>



Spain	France	Italy	Netherlands	Austria	Sweden	U.K.	EU-28
46 658	66 926	60 484	17 181	8 822	10 120	66 274	512 379
93	106	203	501	107	25	272	118
19.8	24.3	18.2	22.2	19.5	23.1	23.5	20.8
19.2	19.7	22.6	18.9	18.7	19.8	18.2	19.7
9.8	7.0	8.5	5.8	15.7	8.8	9.5	...
8.4	11.5	7.6	9.9	10.0	11.5	11.5	9.9
46.8	59.9	32.8	51.0	...	54.5	48.2	...
86.1	85.6	85.2	83.4	84.0	84.1	83.1	83.5
80.6	79.6	80.8	80.2	79.4	80.8	79.5	78.3
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	...
7.3	6.9	7.1	11.2	9.3	5.2	7.1	8.5
73.7	71.9	65.6	80.3	76.8	82.7	77.9	73.7
68.6	68.2	56.2	75.8	72.0	81.0	73.2	68.3
78.8	75.8	75.1	84.7	81.6	84.4	82.6	79.2
15.3	9.1	10.6	3.8	4.9	6.3	4.0	6.8
17.0	9.1	11.8	4.0	4.7	6.2	4.0	7.1
13.7	9.0	9.7	3.7	5.0	6.4	4.1	6.6
34.3	20.8	32.2	7.2	9.4	17.4	11.3	15.2
41.7	41.6	58.1	36.6	28.9	17.2	26.2	42.9
28 100	32 100	29 700	39 900	39 400	37 300	32 500	31 000
1.7	2.1	1.2	1.6	2.1	2.0	2.5	1.9
2.8	3.8	2.6	4.6	3.9	5.0	2.8	3.3
13.0	10.4	18.1	5.5	28.9	41.5	9.8	13.9
41.6	19.5	37.4	16.7	69.8	24.9	...	...
504	491	637	487	555	479	476	...
39	54	56	36	47	25	28	...
23.4	34.1	29.1	29.3	29.4	28.8	26.3	27.9
8.9	11.3	8.8	10.1	10.4	11.0	9.6	...
2.6	3.8	2.6	3.5	2.9	2.4	3.8	3.5
32.6	15.7	31.6	27.5	19.9	29.2	15.2	...
37.3	36.9	19.3	38.3	32.7	43.2	43.2	...
4.1	5.4	3.8	5.5	5.4	7.1	5.4	...
13.0	7.1	12.3	6.1	8.0	7.1	11.4	9.6
15 508	20 338	16 506	21 184	23 343	20 159	18 043	...
17.3	17.5	16.2	23.4	18.1	21.6	25.9	21.1

**Total assets and profits of banks, 2018**

Bank categories	No. institutions		Total assets	Profit/	Number of staff in
	2000	2018	CHF million	Loss	full-time equivalents
<b>Total</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>3 225 003</b>	<b>11 512</b>	<b>107 388</b>
Major banks	3	4	1 520 781	4 913	37 050
Cantonal banks	24	24	600 318	2 934	17 357
Stock exchange banks	57	43	228 729	1 521	15 723
Foreign-controlled banks	127	74	222 561	235	14 805
"Raiffeisen" banks	1	1	225 333	541	9 215
Other banks	7	14	209 730	664	7 672
Regional and savings banks	103	60	120 283	409	3 915
Branches of foreign banks	23	23	90 944	232	1 129
Private banking	17	5	6 323	63	523

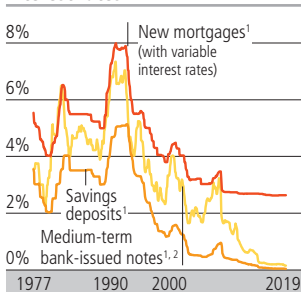
**Balance-sheet structure of the banks, 2018**

Assets	in %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
of which foreign	39.8
Mortgage claims	32.0
Claims against customers	18.6
Liquid assets	15.8
Claims against banks	7.5
Claims from securities transactions	6.4
Participating interests	4.1
Other	15.6
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
of which foreign	41.4
Customer deposits issued	56.3
Loans and debenture bonds	12.3
Liabilities towards banks	11.8
Liabilities from securities transactions	3.9
Other	15.7

**Insurance benefits, 2018**

In direct Swiss business

Insurance type	CHF million	In %
<b>Total</b>	<b>30 531</b>	<b>100</b>
Life	13 176	43.2
Health	7 907	25.9
Road vehicle	3 762	12.3
Accident	2 101	6.9
Personal liability	779	2.6
Fire	421	1.4
Other	2 386	7.8

**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 Switzerland¹**

	2015	2017	2019
\$ 1	0.963	0.985	0.994
¥ 100	0.795	0.878	0.912
€ 1	1.068	1.112	1.112
£ 1	1.471	1.268	1.268

1 Bank purchase rate, mid-year. 2019: average rate

**Private insurance, 2018**

in CHF million

Insurance type	Premiums¹	Benefits¹
<b>Total</b>	<b>115 037</b>	<b>97 613</b>
Life insurance	31 511	34 043
Insurance against accident and loss	42 203	31 079
Reinsurance	41 323	32 490

1 At home and abroad

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Money, banks and insurance

► [www.snb.ch/en](http://www.snb.ch/en) (Swiss National Bank)

► [www.finma.ch](http://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 2017, total expenditure on social security amounted to 190 billion francs. 175 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).

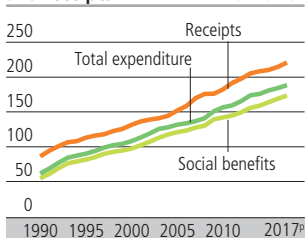
### Social security: expenditure and receipts

in CHF billion, at current prices

	1990	2000	2010	2015	2017 <sup>p</sup>
Total expenditure	62.8	108.9	157.9	181.8	189.5
of which social benefits	55.9	98.2	143.0	165.1	174.7
in % of GDP	15.6	21.4	23.5	25.2	26.1
Total receipts	87.2	132.3	183.2	211.3	222.4

### Social insurance: expenditure and receipts

in CHF billion



### Social contribution by function, 2017<sup>p</sup>

	in %
Old age	42.4
Sickness / healthcare	31.7
Disability / Infirmary	8.1
Survivors	4.8
Family / children	6.0
Unemployment	3.6
Social exclusion	2.4
Housing	1.1



## 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, 2018

in 1000

OASI: old-age pensions	2363.8	Occupational pensions: disability insurance	114.5
AVS: supplementary benefits	52.6	Disability insurance	248.0
OASI: survivors' benefits	191.1	Additional disability benefits	68.6
EL (OAI): old-age pensions <sup>1</sup>	209.2	Supplementary disability insurance	115.1
EL (SI): survivors' benefits <sup>1</sup>	3.8	Accident insurance <sup>2</sup> : survivors' pensions	18.0
BV: old-age pensions	798.6	Accident insurance <sup>2</sup> : disability benefits	79.6
BV: widows' and widowers' pensions	191.0	Unemployment benefits <sup>3</sup>	310.3

<sup>1</sup> Supplementary benefits for the old age and survivors' insurance

<sup>2</sup> Accident insurance

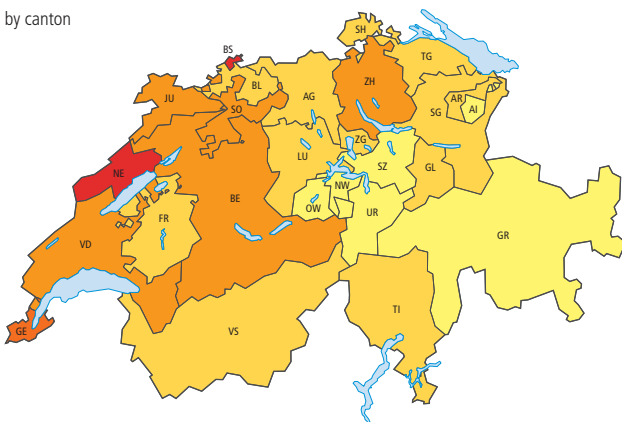
<sup>3</sup> Unemployment insurance

## Health insurance

The average annual cantonal premiums per insured person for the compulsory health insurance rose from CHF 2 091 (2002) to 3 735 (2018). In 2018 the average annual premium was CHF 4373 for adults, CHF 3 850 for young adults and CHF 1 154 for children. Great differences can, however, be observed between cantons. In 2018 the average annual premium was CHF 5 005 in Basel Stadt and CHF 2 666 in Appenzell Innerrhoden.

### Social assistance rate, 2018

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: 3.2

## Rising expenditure on social assistance

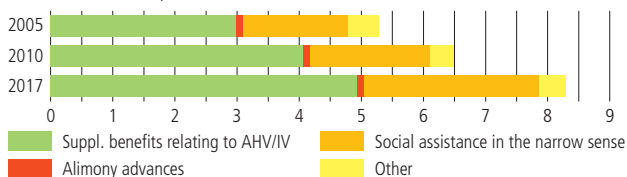
In 2017, net expenditure on social assistance in the broader sense totalled CHF 8.3 billion, i.e. approximately CHF 101 million more than in the previous year (+1.2%). About 60% of this expenditure went on supplementary benefits relating to OASI and IV (CHF 4.9bn), and

another third on social assistance in the narrow sense (CHF 2.8bn). 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 6.4% of expenditure.

At CHF 977 per capita, the average annual expenditure for social assistance in the broader sense was 1.5% higher than the previous year. Expenditure for social assistance in the narrow sense by beneficiary rose by 1.0% from CHF 9 961 in 2016 to CHF 10 116 in 2017. The cantons were the principal disbursers of social assistance in the broader sense. In 2016 they bore 44.6% of net expenditure, 36.9% was borne by the communes and 18.0% by the Confederation.

### Net expenditure on means-tested social benefits

In CHF billion (current prices)

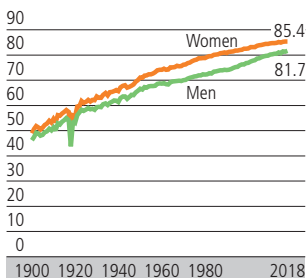


### Social assistance recipients

In 2018, 272 700 persons in Switzerland received social assistance in the form of a financial benefit on at least one occasion. The social assistance rate was 3.2% in the reporting year and 49 300 social assistance cases could be closed, resulting in a national leaving rate of 28.1% (for methodological reasons, the leaving rate refers to the year 2017). In 2018 a decrease of persons receiving social assistance von be observed; the decrease amounts to 2% compared to the previous year. The social assistance rate also fell, from 3.3% to 3.2% and once again stood at its 2015 level. This was the first decline in both the social assistance rate and in absolute numbers of social assistance beneficiaries, since 2008. The decline in 2018 was most marked among married persons (−4.0%) and persons aged 18–25 (−5.5%) and 26–35 (−4.4%). This trend was not seen among the age group of 56–64 year-olds, whose number rose slightly by 2.4%. The number of foreign nationals receiving social assistance also fell (−2.6%); that of Swiss nationals declined by −1.5%. However, the groups at risk have not changed since 2017. Children and young people, foreign nationals and divorced persons have a much higher than average risk of needing social assistance.

Social assistance rate, 2018		in %
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.2</b>
Age group		
0–17 years of age		5.2
18–25 years of age		3.6
26–35 years of age		3.7
36–45 years of age		3.8
46–55 years of age		3.4
56–64 years of age		2.9
65–79 years of age		0.2
Swiss nationals		2.3
Men		2.4
Women		2.1
Foreign nationals		6.1
Men		5.8
Women		6.5

## 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 7.6 years (2018). 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<sup>1</sup>, 2018

Acute gastro-intestinal infections	9 151
Meningitis	63
Hepatitis B	34
Tuberculosis	511
AIDS	77

<sup>1</sup> New cases

## Accidents, 2018

	Men	Women
Occupational accidents	202 277	71 398
Non-occupational accidents	328 503	236 514

## Disabled<sup>1</sup>, 2018

Pension share	Men	Women
Quarter	5 469	6 043
Half	14 994	15 151
Three quarters	7 277	6 709
Full	88 094	74 207

<sup>1</sup> Receiving govt. disability pensions

## Causes of death, 2017

	Number of deaths		Death rate <sup>1</sup>	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
<b>All causes</b>	<b>32 405</b>	<b>34 566</b>	<b>513.0</b>	<b>349.0</b>
of which:				
Infectious diseases	360	446	5.7	4.4
Cancer, all types	9 523	7 772	154.0	102.0
Circulatory system	9 589	11 453	143.0	96.0
Ischemic heart disease	3 907	3 203	59.4	27.3
Cerebrovascular diseases	1 462	2 063	21.4	18.1
Respiratory diseases, all types	2 328	2 321	34.5	22.3
Accidents and violent deaths	2 189	1 545	40.6	18.7
Accidents, all types	1 324	1 210	23.1	12.0
Suicide	773	270	15.6	5.6

<sup>1</sup> Age-standardised death rate per 100 000 inhabitants

## Infant mortality

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2018
per 1000 live births	15.1	9.1	6.8	4.9	3.8	3.3

## 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 % <sup>1</sup>	
	Men	Women
Physicians' consultations	74.4	87.9
Hospitalisation	10.6	13.4
Home care	1.8	3.8

<sup>1</sup> Population from age 15

### Physicians and dentists

per 100 000 inhabitants

	1990	2018
Physicians with private practice <sup>1</sup>	153	226
Dentists	48	51

<sup>1</sup> Since 2008, physicians with ambulatory sector as main function

### Hospitalisation rate in acute hospitals, 2018

	in % <sup>1</sup>		
	Total	Men	Women
15–59 years old	10.0	8.2	11.9
60–79 years old	24.2	27.1	21.5
80+ years old	44.7	50.9	40.9

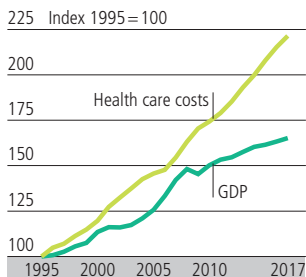
<sup>1</sup> of the corresponding population category

### Nursing homes

in '000

	2010	2018
Total nb. of clients	138.9	162.7
of which:		
Clients ≥ 80 years old	105.7	122.1
Men	26.8	34.1
Women	78.9	88.0

### Health care costs



In 2017, 12.4% of the GDP went on health (1990: 7.8%). 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		
	2010	2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>65 158</b>	<b>82 774</b>
Inpatient curative care	13 373	15 718
Outpatient curative care	17 145	22 133
of which:		
Hospitals	4 706	6 962
Medical practices and outpatient centres	7 428	9 374
Dentists	3 861	4 225
Rehabilitative care	2 764	3 663
Long Term Care	12 589	15 943
Ancillary Services <sup>1</sup>	3 526	6 561
Medical goods <sup>2</sup>	11 135	13 662
of which:		
Pharmacies	6 628	7 108
Physicians	3 143	4 630
Prevention	1 707	1 937
Administration	2 918	3 157

<sup>1</sup> Such as laboratory analyses, radiology, transport; as of 2010 services of general interest included

<sup>2</sup> Medicines and therapeutic apparatus

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://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 are 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 three 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

Educational level	Number in '000			% of women		
	2000/01	2005/06	2017/18	2000/01	2005/06	2017/18
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 433.5</b>	<b>1 486.5</b>	<b>1 616.9</b>	<b>47.8</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>48.5</b>
Compulsory education	949.0	947.7	944.7	48.7	48.6	48.5
Primary 1–2	148.2	146.5	171.9	48.4	48.4	48.4
Primary 3–8	473.7	454.1	494.0	49.3	49.2	49.1
Lower secondary	278.5	298.4	247.5	49.7	49.6	49.3
Special syllabus schools	48.6	48.7	31.3	37.9	37.7	34.7
Upper secondary	315.7	324.5	365.3	47.8	47.5	47.2
Higher education	160.5	204.7	306.9	72.3	46.8	49.9
Advanced vocat. training	38.7	38.2	59.0	52.9	43.6	44.3
Universities and institutes of technology	96.7	112.4	150.7	45.6	49.1	50.6
Universities of applied sciences	25.1	54.1	97.2	25.9	44.4	52.0

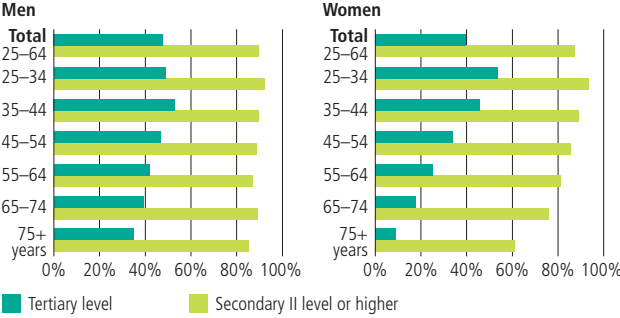
### The gender gap has narrowed

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 even, men are still more likely than women to complete higher vocational education. Accordingly, on average men still remain longer in education than women. In compulsory education, there are fewer girls than boys following a special curriculum (special classes and special schools) and at lower secondary level with basic requirements. However, there are more girls than boys in programmes with extended requirements.

Particularly striking differences still exist in the choice of subject area. This applies to both vocational training and university. Different subjects are dominated by either men or women. This can be attributed to some extent to models based on an old-fashioned distribution of roles. 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.

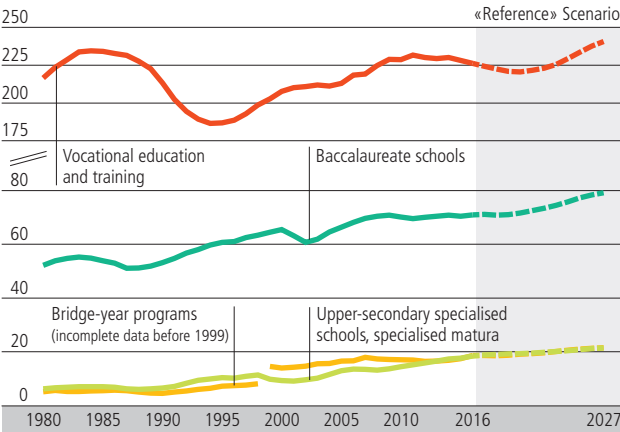
Education level, 2018

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 39.6% in 2017.

The number of university degrees more than doubled between 2000 and 2017. 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, 2018**

Educational level	Total	% of women
<b>Upper secondary level</b>		
Academic baccalaureate	18 787	58.5
Vocational baccalaureate	14 228	46.9
Voc. training certificate <sup>1</sup>	69 036	45.1
<b>Higher education</b>		
Higher vocational training		
PET diploma	9 112	50.1
Swiss Federal diploma	2 840	27.4
Swiss Fed. prof. diploma	14 575	38.3
Universities of Applied Science		
Diploma	1 066	49.1
Bachelor's degree	17 014	56.1
Master's degree	4 658	55.4
Universities		
Licentiate/Diploma	99	81.8
Bachelor's degree	14 659	51.8
Master's degree	14 158	50.2
Doctorate	4 164	44.8

<sup>1</sup> Includes Swiss Federal vocational diploma

**Teachers, 2017/18  
University staff, 2018**

	Full-time equivalents	% of women
Compulsory school <sup>1</sup>	59 828	75.9
Primary school 1–2	9 034	95.0
Primary school 3–8	31 043	83.1
Lower secondary school	19 751	55.1
Upper secondary school <sup>2</sup>	17 552	44.1
Universities		
Professors	4 116	23.4
Other lecturers	2 590	29.8
Assistants <sup>3</sup>	22 503	43.9
Univ. of applied sciences <sup>4</sup>	17 852	47.2
Professors	1 817	30.5
Other lecturers	6 195	42.4
Assistants <sup>3</sup>	4 381	45.4

<sup>1</sup> Excluding schools with a special curriculum, double counts possible

<sup>2</sup> Schools providing general and vocational education

<sup>3</sup> Including scientific staff

<sup>4</sup> Including universities for teacher education

**Public expenditure on education, 2017**  
in CHF billion

<b>Total</b>	<b>38.1</b>
of which costs of staff	25.3
Compulsory school (incl. pre-school)	16.8
Special schools	1.9
Basic vocational training	3.6
General schools	2.3
Higher vocational training	0.4
Universities	8.2
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.

**A country active in research**

Research and Development (R&D) is an important factor in a country's economic attractiveness. With a 3.4% share of R&D in the gross national product (2017), Switzerland is one of the most active states. In 2017, CHF 22.6 billion was spent on domestic R&D. 69% of this is spent by private industry and a further 28% by higher education institutions; the remaining 3% are accounted for by the Confederation and various private non-profit organisations. The R&D activities of Swiss companies abroad have a long-standing tradition. Private industry's expenditure on R&D in 2017 was CHF 15.3 billion and is thus almost as high as the CHF 15.6 spent domestically.

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://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 over 1.3 million readers per edition. In French-speaking Switzerland, “20 Minutes”, with 496 000 readers, has also become 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.

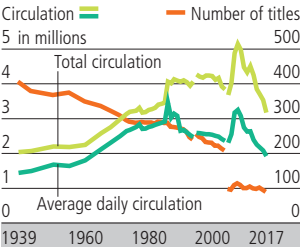
Internet and mobile telephony

Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 million or 130 per 100 inhabitants at the end of 2018. 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 had risen to 5.9 million at the end of 2019. 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. Online shopping continues to grow The number of people who made at least one online purchase over a 12-month period has risen by 50% since 2010. In 2019 there were 5.3 million online shoppers.

The ten largest libraries

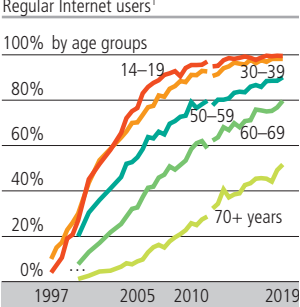
In 2018, the ten most important libraries measured by their holdings had collections totalling about 55.3 million copies.

Evolution of paid newspapers



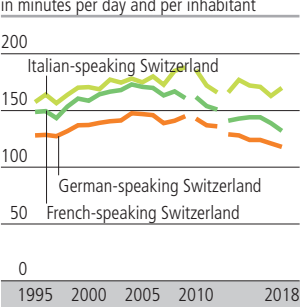
Source: Association Swiss Media/WEMF (considered are publications of general interest published at least once a week)

Internet usage



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

Television usage



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		
	2008	2013	2018
German-speaking Switzerland	109	109	102
French-speaking Switzerland	99	89	79
Italian-speaking Switzerland	99	104	97

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 monuments across Switzerland were protected. Almost 4% of these were monuments of national importance, while the remainder were of regional or local importance. One in ten protected monuments was a scared structure. In 2018, there were 1118 museums in Switzerland. These housed a total of 75.7 million works and other objects and generated 13.3 million admissions.

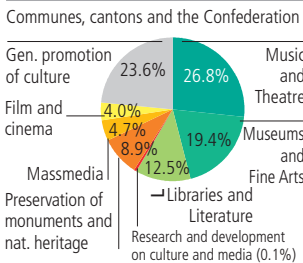
## Spending on culture and media by private households

In 2017 private households spent CHF 15.8 on culture (incl. Media), amounting to CHF 354 per household per month. This accounted for 6.7% of all consumer expenditure. At 84% or CHF 13.3 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 810 million, the greatest expenditure goes to theatre and concerts.

## Cultural funding by the public sector

In 2017, a fifth of total public spending on culture by the Confederation, cantons and communes, i.e. CHF 790 million, went to the sector "Music and Theatre". Some CHF 571 million was spent on the "Museums and Fine Arts" sector. This was followed by the sectors "Libraries and Literature", "Preservation of Monuments and National Heritage", "Mass media" and "Film and cinema", with contributions ranging from CHF 369, CHF 262, CHF 138 to CHF 117 million.

## Use of public spending by cultural sector, 2017

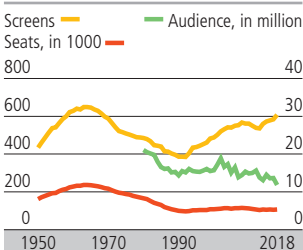


Source: FSO/Federal Finance Administration (FFA)

## Film and cinema in Switzerland

At the beginning of the 1980s, approximately 1300 films were shown every year in Switzerland; Today this number is about 2000. During the same period, the share of Swiss films has increased from around 10% to 16%. The box office market share of Swiss films was approximately 5%.

## Cinema

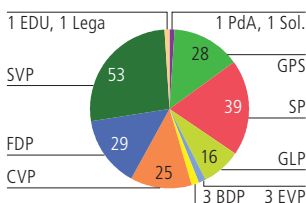


► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Culture, media, information society, sport

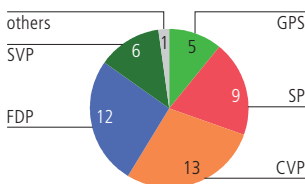
## The political system

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 (right to submit initiatives and request referendums) and popular votes.

**National council, 2019: seats**



**Council of States, 2019: seats**



**National Council Elections, 2019**

	Share of the votes in %	Seats	Women	Men	Percentage of women
FDP	15.1	29	10	19	34.5
CVP	11.4	25	7	18	28.0
SP	16.8	39	25	14	64.1
SVP	25.6	53	13	40	24.5
GLP	7.8	16	8	8	50.0
BDP	2.4	3	1	2	33.3
GPS	13.2	28	17	11	60.7
Other parties <sup>1</sup>	7.3	7	3	4	42.9

<sup>1</sup> EVP (3 seats, 2 women), CSP, PdA (1 seat), Sol. (1 seat, 1 woman), SD, EDU (1 seat), Lega (1 seat), MCR.  
See below for abbreviations

## National Council Elections 2019

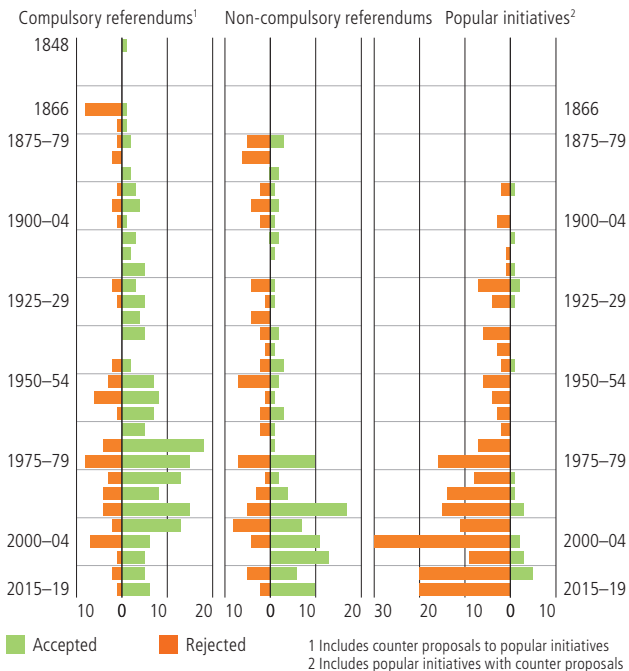
In the 2019 National Council elections, the greatest increases were made by the two green parties, the Swiss Green Party (the Greens) and the Swiss Green Liberal Party (the Green Liberals). The Greens increased their share of the vote by 6.1 percentage points to 13.2% and the Green Liberals by 3.2 percentage points to 7.8%. The party that lost the greatest share of votes in the 2019 National Council elections was the SVP with a drop of 3.8 percentage points. However, with 25.6% of the vote, they remain the National Council's strongest party. As well as the SVP, the other three Federal Council parties, the FDP, CVP and SP also suffered losses in the vote share; all three obtained the worst result in their party's history.

### Parties abbreviations

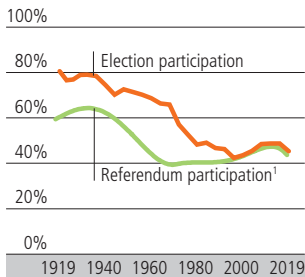
FDP Radical Democratic Party <sup>1</sup>	EVP Evangelical People's Party	GPS Green Party of Switzerland
CVP Christian Democratic People's Party	PCS Partito cristiano sociale	SD Swiss Democrats
SP Social Democratic Party	GLP Green Liberal Party	EDU Federal democratic union
SVP Swiss People's Party	PdA Labour Party	Lega Lega dei Ticinesi
BDP Conservative Democratic Party	Sol. Solidarity	MCR Mouvement Citoyens Romand1

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

## National Popular Votes (in a five-year period)

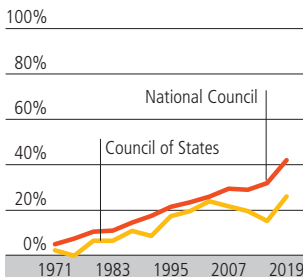


### Participation



<sup>1</sup> Trend (robust regression, based on all models from 1919 to 2019)

### Part of women elected



## 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 to over 48% has been observed. In the 2019 National Council elections, however, this rate sank again for the first time to 45%. In contrast, voter participation in national popular votes has been influenced by considerable variations due to different ballot proposals. While voter participation in national popular votes declined in the 1980s, it has since stabilised. It even increased slightly in the last five years to 45% compared with the 1990s (43%) and 1980s (40%), reaching roughly the same level as that of the National Council elections.

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Politics

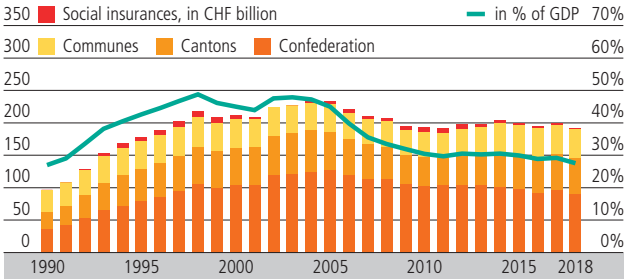
Final accounts of the public administration <sup>1</sup>							in CHF billion		
	Revenue			Expenditure			Surplus		
	2000	2010	2018	2000	2010	2018	2000	2010	2018
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>164.4</b>	<b>193.9</b>	<b>227.1</b>	<b>152.6</b>	<b>191.4</b>	<b>218.8</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>8.3</b>
Confederation	52.0	63.5	74.3	48.2	60.3	69.6	3.8	3.1	4.7
Cantons	63.2	77.3	91.9	60.3	76.1	89.3	2.8	1.2	2.6
Communes	42.1	42.7	49.6	40.6	43.2	49.3	1.5	-0.5	0.2
Social insurances	44.9	54.4	63.6	41.6	55.8	62.8	3.4	-1.4	0.8

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

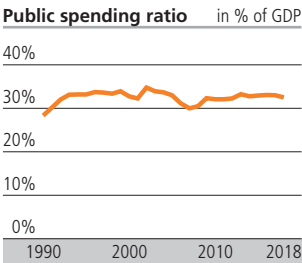
Public administration debt <sup>1</sup>							in CHF billion	
	1990	2000	2010	2015	2017	2018		
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>96.9</b>	<b>207.0</b>	<b>185.6</b>	<b>196.4</b>	<b>196.2</b>	<b>190.5</b>		
Confederation	36.6	104.5	104.0	98.2	97.1	91.0		
Cantons	26.9	58.0	43.4	54.9	55.2	54.7		
Communes	33.4	44.4	39.6	44.5	45.3	45.9		
Social insurances	—	5.7	7.4	2.6	2.2	1.2		
Per inhabitant, in francs <sup>3</sup>	14 343	28 731	23 584	23 583	23 130	22 292		

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

Public debt



The public spending ratio measures the expenditures of public authorities expressed as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). It includes expenditures by the Confederation, the cantons and communes as well as public social insurance funds. The public spending ratio has risen continuously since the 1970s and in 2002 reached its highest level ever of 34.7%. In the 1990s it had stood at 28.2%. The excellent economic situation between 2003 and 2008 and various relief measures enabled the public spending ratio to be lowered temporarily. Since 2009, the public spending ratio has risen again due to the unfavourable economic and financial situation, but remains below 33%. In international comparison, Switzerland has one of the lowest public



spending ratios of all OECD countries. Some European countries have much higher ratios that are close to or above 50%.

Switzerland's public debt ratio as defined in the Maastricht treaty is also relatively low compared with other OECD countries. The marked deficits of the 1990s led, however, to a spectacular increase in public debt levels, which doubled within a decade and at the end of 2004 stood at their highest ever level of CHF 231.4 billion. Since then, the debt ratio has shown a downward trend. Thanks to the strong economic recovery sustained 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 gross public debt was possible on an ongoing basis from 2005-2011. At the end of 2017, the debt ratio was 29.3%.

#### Revenue: Public administration<sup>1</sup>

in CHF billion. Following deductions in double payment

	2010	2015	2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>193.9</b>	<b>214.5</b>	<b>221.8</b>
Ordinary receipts	193.9	213.9	221.5
Operating revenue	182.9	203.5	211.2
Tax revenue	161.5	180.2	188.1
Patents and commissions	4.0	3.8	3.4
Compensation	16.5	18.1	18.2
Miscellaneous revenue	0.4	0.9	0.9
Transfer revenue	0.5	0.6	0.6
Financial revenue	8.8	8.2	8.0
Investment revenue	2.1	2.2	2.3
Extraordinary receipts	0.0	0.6	0.3
Extraordinary revenue	0.0	0.5	0.2
Revenue from extraordinary investments	0.0	0.1	0.1

<sup>1</sup> According to the FS model (national)

#### Public administration expenditure by function<sup>1</sup>

in CHF billion. Following deductions in double payment

	2010	2015	2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>191.3</b>	<b>213.0</b>	<b>216.2</b>
General administration	13.9	18.7	16.0
Public order and security, defence	14.5	16.1	16.6
Education	32.6	36.8	38.1
Culture, sport and leisure, church	5.0	5.4	5.6
Health care	11.4	14.3	15.6
Social security	75.3	83.8	87.3
Transport and telecommunications	16.5	16.9	16.6
Environmental protection and spatial planning	5.9	6.1	6.2
Economy	7.6	8.8	8.5
Finance and taxes	8.7	6.1	5.7

<sup>1</sup> According to the FS model (national)

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → General Government and finance

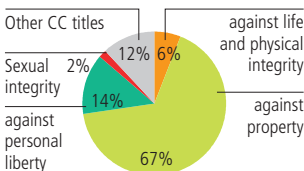
► [www.efv.admin.ch](http://www.efv.admin.ch) → Topics → Financial statistics

Crime figures offer only a limited reflection of the reality of criminal behaviour: on the one hand, sentencing norms are affected by changes in society and on the other, criminal statistics are strongly influenced by labour resources, prosecution priorities, the efficiency of the police and justice system and the population's readiness to report crime. It is hard, however, to quantify the influence of these different factors.

## Police crime reports

In 2018, the following number of offences were recorded in the Police Crime Statistics: 432 754 under the Swiss Criminal Code (SCC), 76 308 under the Narcotics Act (NarcA) and 38 4054 under the Foreign Nationals Act (FNA). The percentage of homicide cases solved was 95%, but that of property offences was only 23%. With regard to domestic violence, the police recorded 18 522 offences. Half of these offences took place within a current partnership. A breakdown of persons charged with a crime by nationality and residence status shows that 48% of offences under the Criminal Code and 56% of offences under the Narcotics Act were committed by Swiss citizens. Foreigners with permanent residence in Switzerland accounted for 31% and 23% respectively of offenders, foreigners without permanent residence for 21% in both cases. For offences against the Foreign Nationals Act, 82% of offenders were non-residents.

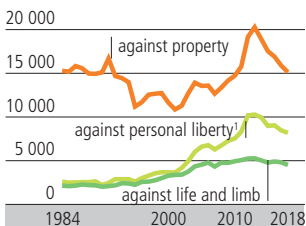
### Offences according to Criminal Code titles 2018



## Convictions

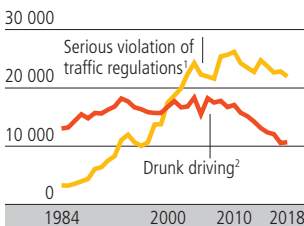
Whereas in the mid-1980s, slightly more than 45 000 convictions against adults were registered, this number has now more than doubled and in 2018 was approximately 107 000. Depending on the law under which the conviction was made, the trend varies greatly. Since reaching an all-time high in 2013, a decline of 16% has been recorded for crimes against the Swiss Criminal Code. With regard to the Road Traffic Act (SVG), the ever-increasing road traffic checks between 1984 and 2014 led to more cases with convictions. Since 2014, however, the number of convictions has declined by 4%. Since 2015, convictions against the Narcotics Act have shown a downward trend (-19%). Convictions for crimes against the Foreign Nationals Act have fallen by 7% since 2013, reaching 18 000 in 2018.

## Selected offences SCC



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

## Selected offences RTA

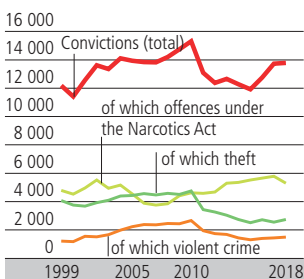


1 Art. 90.2 RTA

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

## Convictions of minors

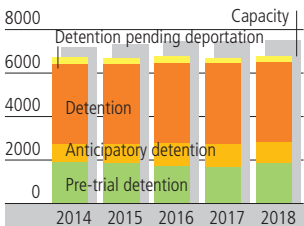
Convictions of minors showed a clear decline between 2011 and 2012 (-26%). The number of offences against the Narcotics Act increased between 2010 and 2015 and has been stable since then. Convictions for theft and violent offences have fallen considerably.



## Imprisonment

In 2018, there were 104 (mostly small) prison establishments with a total of 7 518 detention places in Switzerland. In 2018, 6 972 persons were in detention. The total occupancy rate was 93%. Of the 6 972 inmates, 67% were serving custodial sentences, 26% 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



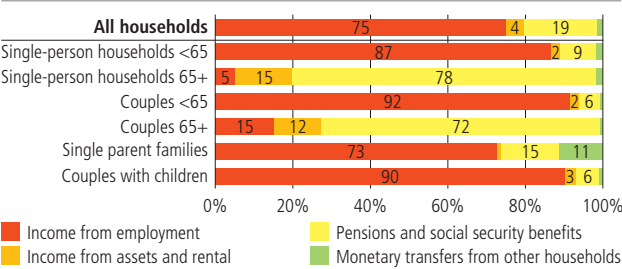
## Recidivism

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%, that of minors 27%. The lowest reconviction rate was seen among people with no previous criminal record (adults: 13%; minors: 21%).

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Crime and criminal justice



Composition of gross income by household type, 2015–2017



Household budgets: Income

Averaged out over all households, income from employment at 75% 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.

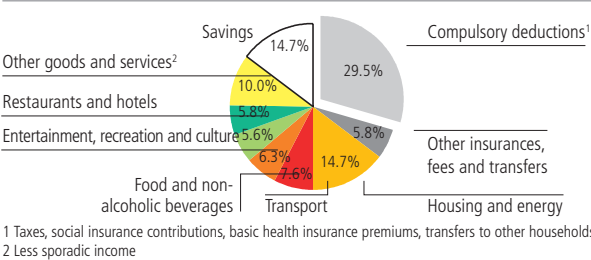
The picture becomes more differentiated when the composition of household income is considered by household type. This shows, for example, that in households aged 65 and over, pensions represent the major part of the household income, but income from employment and, in particular, income from assets 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 11%.

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 15% 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, 2015–2017

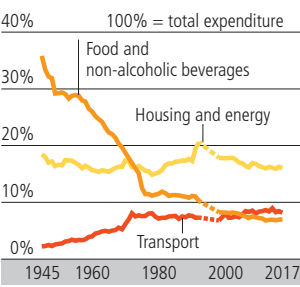


<sup>1</sup> Taxes, social insurance contributions, basic health insurance premiums, transfers to other households  
<sup>2</sup> Less sporadic income

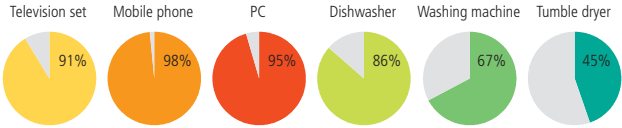
Household expenditure over time

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, 2017

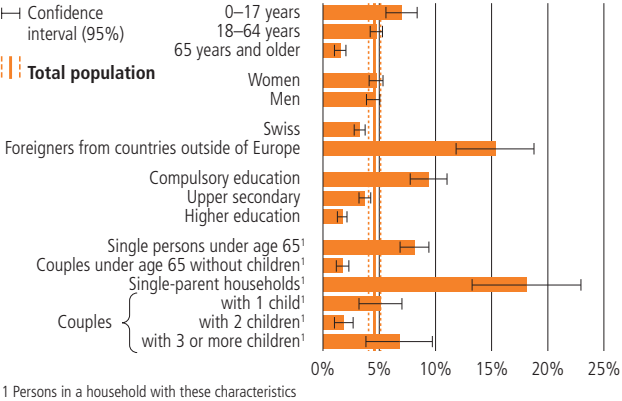


Availability of consumer goods

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 95% 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 2017, 86% 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, 2017



Material deprivation

The reasons for not owning a durable good are not necessarily financial. In 2017, 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 5%. One of the most common material deprivation is caused by a lack of financial reserves. 21% 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, 9% are confronted with problems of crime, violence or vandalism and 12% with a too wet accomodation. In addition, 9% of the population could not afford a week's holiday away from home each year.

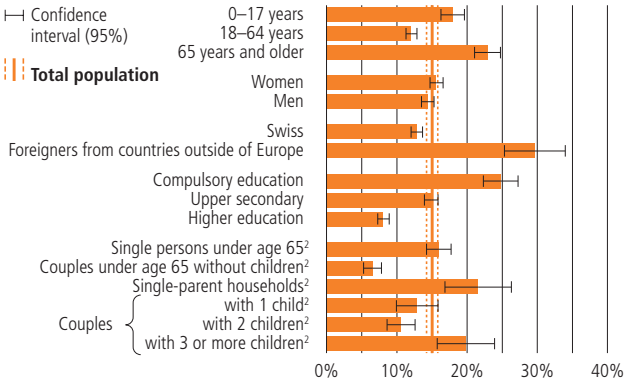
Monetary poverty and risk of poverty

In 2017, 8.2% of the permanent resident population in private households in Switzerland was affected by income poverty. This corresponds to approximately 675 000 persons. The average poverty threshold, based on the social subsistence level, was CHF 2259 per month for a single person and CHF 3990 per month for two adults with two children. According to the relative at-risk-of-poverty concept, 15.0% or some 1 245 000 persons were at risk of poverty. The risk of poverty's threshold for a single person was CHF 2502 per month for a single person (60% of the median of the equivalent available income) and CHF 5253 for two adults with two children.

Poverty of employed persons

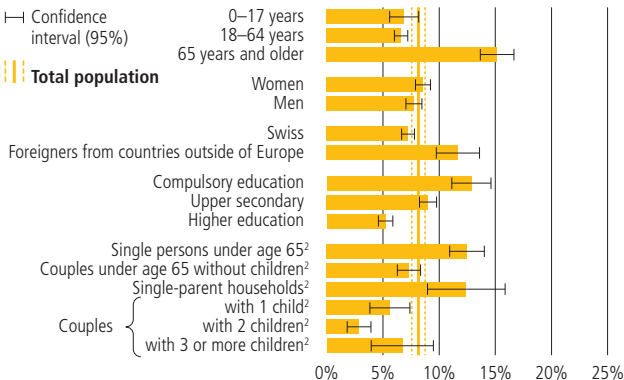
People living in households with high labour participation tend to have the lowest poverty rates. Successful integration in the labour market generally offers effective protection from poverty. Nevertheless, in 2017 some 4.3% or approximately 165 000 individuals were affected by poverty despite being 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<sup>1</sup> by various socio-demographic characteristics, 2017



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

## Poverty rate<sup>1</sup> by various socio-demographic characteristics, 2017



1 Based on the income without considering any assets

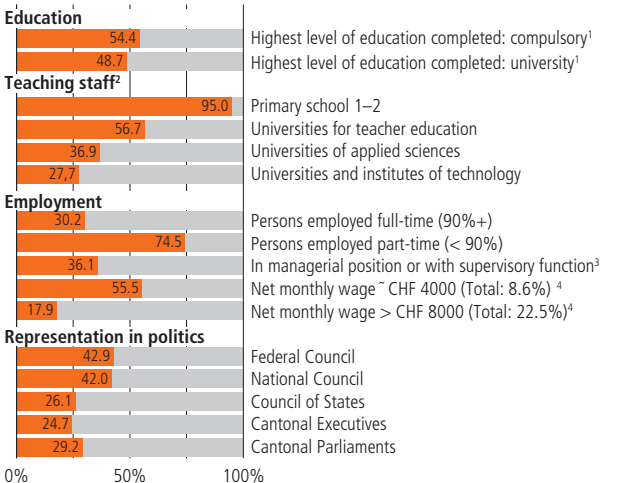
2 Persons in a household with these characteristics

## 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 2017, the equivalised disposable income of the wealthiest 20% of the population was 4.4 times greater than that of the poorest 20%.

## Key data on gender equality

Percentage of women (latest available data 2016–2020)



1 Resident population aged 25–64

2 Teachers in kindergarten or the first two years of the first learning cycle as well as professors and other lecturers at higher education institutions

3 Employees










4 Full-time employees, economy as a whole

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://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 2030 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)				Targeted trend
	Negative (against the goal of sustainable development)				Observed trend
	Unchanged				

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

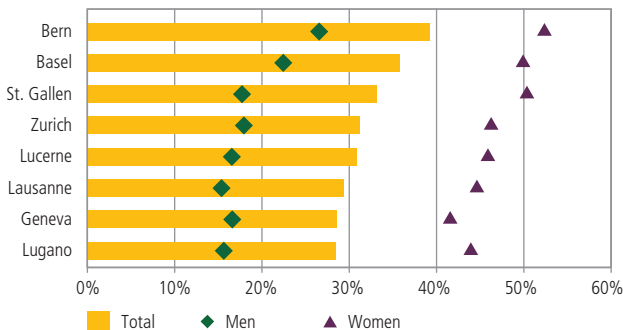
► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Sustainable Development

## 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, 2018

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



### Burglaries in dwellings, 2018

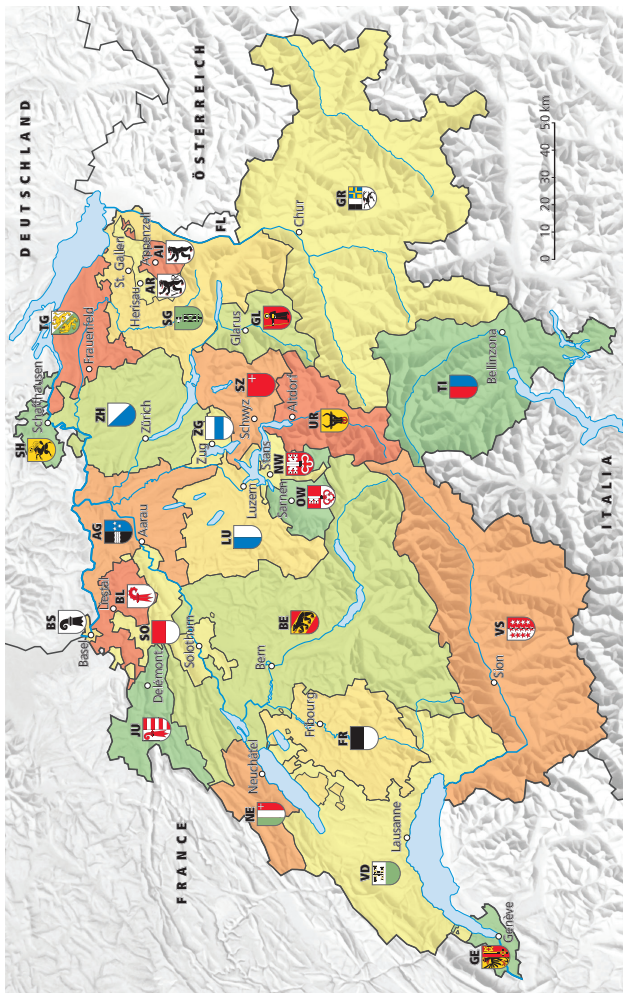
Number of burglaries with intrusions<sup>1</sup> in dwellings per 1 000 inhabitants



<sup>1</sup> Including burglaries in cellars, outside storehouses and other annexes (incl. attempts)

► [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch) → Look for statistics → Cross sectional topics  
→ City Statistics (Urban Audit)

# Switzerland and its Cantons



26 cantons  
143 districts  
2202 municipalities  
Situation on 01/01/2020  
◦ Cantonal capital

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

## 2020 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. 684 pages (hardback), CHF 120. Available from bookshops or directly from NZZ Libro. Email: [nzz.libro@nzz.ch](mailto:nzz.libro@nzz.ch)



## Statistics on Swiss Towns 2020

A total of 171 towns and urban communes form the basis of this yearbook. These include 162 urban towns and 9 other members of the Swiss Union of Cities (SSV) that have an urban character based on their traditions or development. The 81st edition of "Statistics on Swiss Towns" is being published again in cooperation with the Swiss Union of Cities. The FSO is responsible for around three quarters of the data in this yearbook, while editorial responsibility for the publication lies with the Swiss Union of Cities.

Publisher: Federal Statistical Office / Swiss Union of Cities. CHF 40.00 (for members of the Swiss Union of Cities: CHF 30.00) incl. VAT. Available from the Swiss Union of Cities (bilingual edition in French/German) [www.staedteverband.ch](http://www.staedteverband.ch), Email: [info@staedteverband.ch](mailto:info@staedteverband.ch)



All FSO's statistics available online can be accessed via the Swiss Statistics responsive website **[www.statistics.admin.ch](http://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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