

# 2020



07

Agriculture  
and forestry

Neuchâtel 2020

## Agriculture and food

Pocket statistics 2020



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Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA  
Federal Statistical Office FSO

**Published by:** Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

**Information:** agrar@bfs.admin.ch, Tel. 058 467 24 39

**Editor:** Sibylle Meyre, FSO

**Series:** Swiss Statistics

**Topic:** 07 Agriculture and Forestry

**Original text:** German

**Translation:** FSO language services

**Layout:** DIAM Section, Prepress/Print

**Graphics:** DIAM Section, Prepress/Print

**Online:** [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch)

**Print:** [www.statistics.admin.ch](http://www.statistics.admin.ch)  
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Printed in Switzerland

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**FSO number:** 1112-2000

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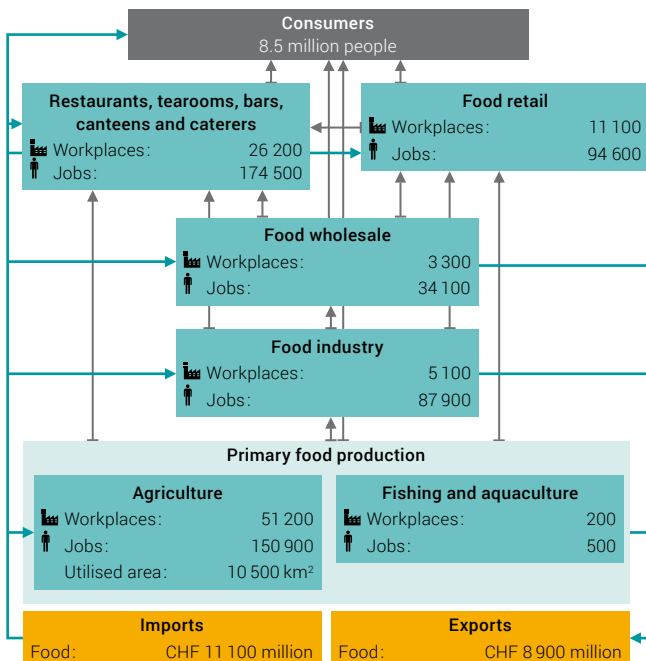
### Data relating to the graphs can be found at:

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# 1 Overview

## The food supply chain in Switzerland, 2017<sup>1</sup>



— domestic food flows    — food flows with the rest of the world

<sup>1</sup> workplaces and jobs, 2017: provisional

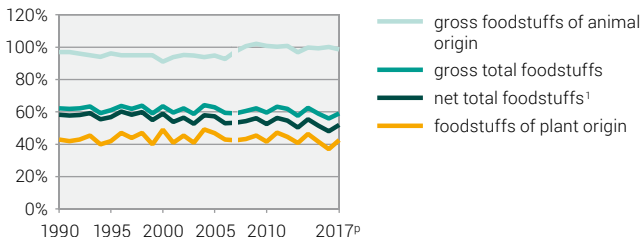
Sources: FCA – Foreign trade statistics;  
FSO – STATENT, STATPOP, Farm structure survey

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## 2 Context

### Self-sufficiency rate

#### By usable energy



<sup>1</sup> excluding animal production based on imported feed

<sup>P</sup> provisional

new calculation method since 2007

Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

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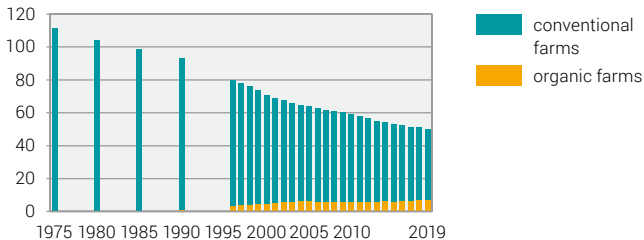
#### Gross self-sufficiency rate of 59%

Since the early 20th century, Switzerland's resident population has grown by a factor of 2.6 to over 8.5 million (2018). At the same time, breeding and technical progress in agriculture has seen food production increase. This has meant that 60% of food consumption (in terms of usable energy) has been covered by domestic production over the past 20 years. In 2017 the gross self-sufficiency rate was 59%. With regard to livestock products, domestic production also depends on imported fodder. Net self-sufficiency (2017: 52%) includes only food produced with domestic fodder.

## 3 Agricultural structures

### Farms

Thousands of farms



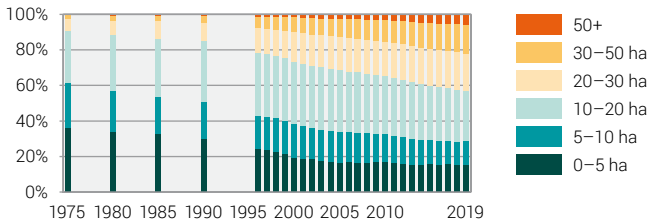
Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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### Farms by size

Size classes in hectares

Utilised agricultural area per farm

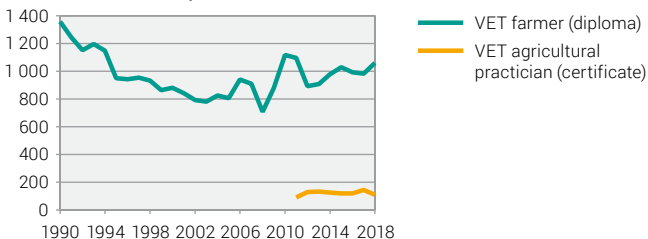


Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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## Education and training in crop and livestock farming

### Number of vocational qualifications



Federal VET Diploma  
Federal VET Certificate

Source: FSO – Vocational education and training statistics (SBG-SFPI)

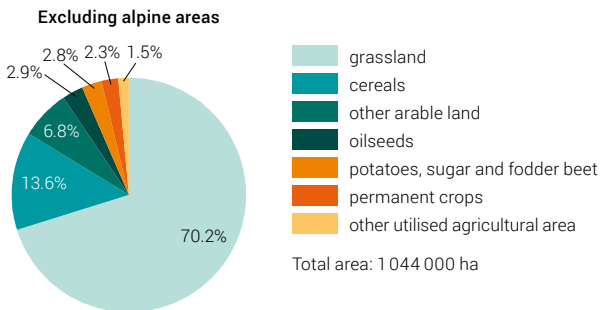
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### Farms continue to increase in size

The number of farms declined from 111 302 in 1975 to 50 038 in 2019. While the number of conventional farms has fallen, organic farming has gained in importance since the 1990s. The number of organic farms rose from 900 in 1990 to 7284 in 2019.

In 2019, farms had an average utilised agricultural area of 21 hectares. That was almost twice as much as in 1975. As a result, the number of large farms with 50 or more hectares increased. These 2900 large farms (6% of all farms) had almost 205 000 hectares of utilised agricultural area (20% of the total utilised agricultural area).

## Utilised agricultural area, 2019

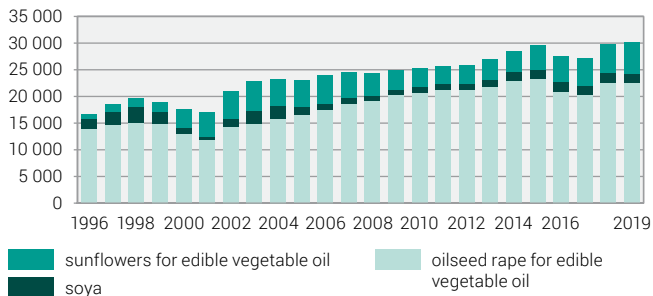


Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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## Oilseed for edible vegetable oil

Hectares



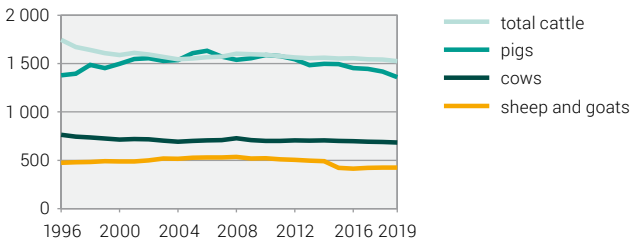
Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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## Numbers of livestock

Thousands



From 2015, reference day has been moved from early May to 1st January.

Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

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### Grassland accounts for 70% of the utilised agricultural area

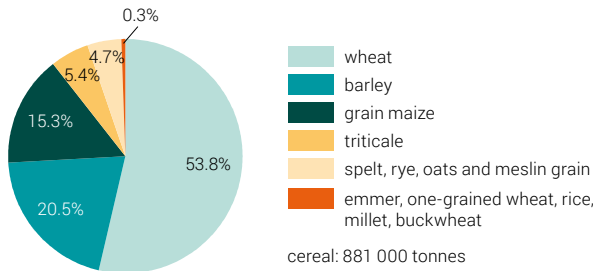
In 2019, the utilised agricultural area measured some 1 million hectares. Of these, 730 000 hectares were grassland. This was followed by cereals (140 000 ha), the most important arable crop. The total area used to grow oilseed are increasing in size.

### The number of cows is falling

Cattle numbers fell by 13% between 1999 and 2019 to 1.5 million. In 2019, the number of cows was roughly 680 000, the lowest value since 1996. The number of pigs was roughly 1.4 million in 2019.

## 4 Primary production

### Cereal production, 2018

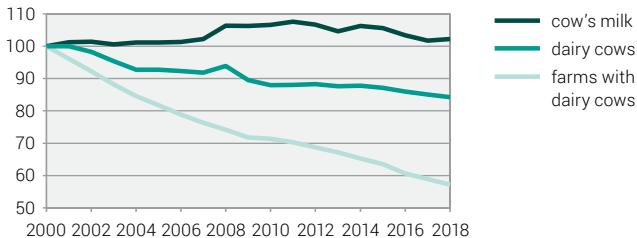


Source: SFU – Crop production

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### Production of cow's milk

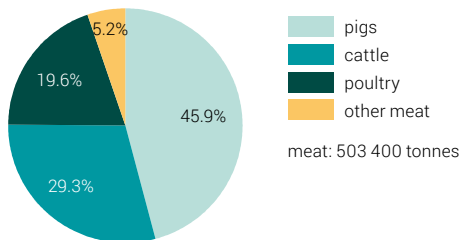
Index 2000 = 100



Sources: FSO – Farm structure survey; SFU – Dairy statistics

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## Meat production<sup>1</sup>, 2018



<sup>1</sup> usable output, carcass weight

Source: FSU – Animal production

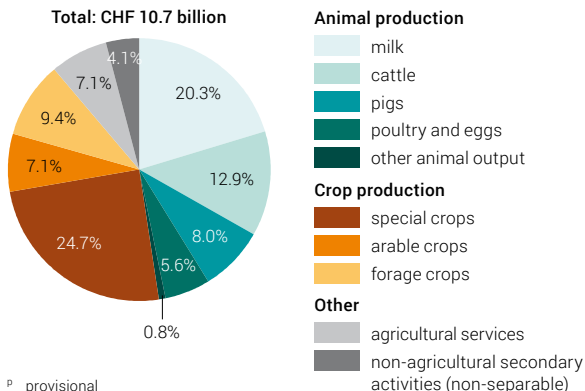
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### In terms of area used, wheat is the main cereal crop

In 2018, around 881 000 tonnes of cereal were produced, almost 10% less than in the previous year. Wheat accounted for just over half of the cereal yield. Cereal may be used for diverse purposes, whether for human consumption in the form of bread, pasta, grains and flakes (muesli) or as animal food. It may also be used in the production of beer and starch and also as seeds.

In 2018, 3.9 billion kg of milk was produced. The general decrease in the number of dairy cows and dairy farms continued in 2018. In 2000, a dairy farm had on average 15 dairy cows. This figure increased to an average of 22 in 2018. Meat production rose by 18% between 2000 and 2018. This increase was particularly pronounced for poultry.

## Total output of agriculture, 2018<sup>P</sup>

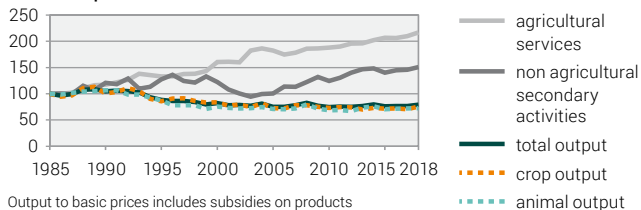


Source: FSO – Economic accounts for agriculture

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## Output of agriculture

To current prices – Index 1985=100



Output to basic prices includes subsidies on products and excludes taxes on products.

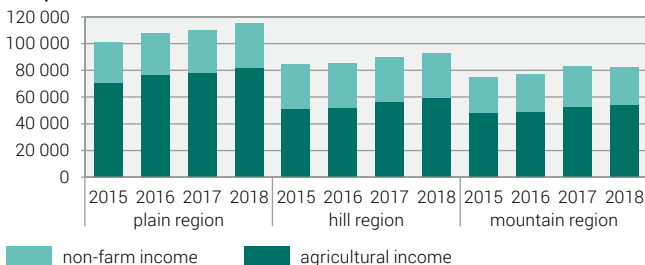
1985–2016: definitive, 2017: semi definitive, 2018: provisional

Source: FSO – Economic accounts for agriculture

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## Total income per farm

### CHF per farm



Source: Agroscope – Farm Accountancy Data Network

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### Income is regionally different

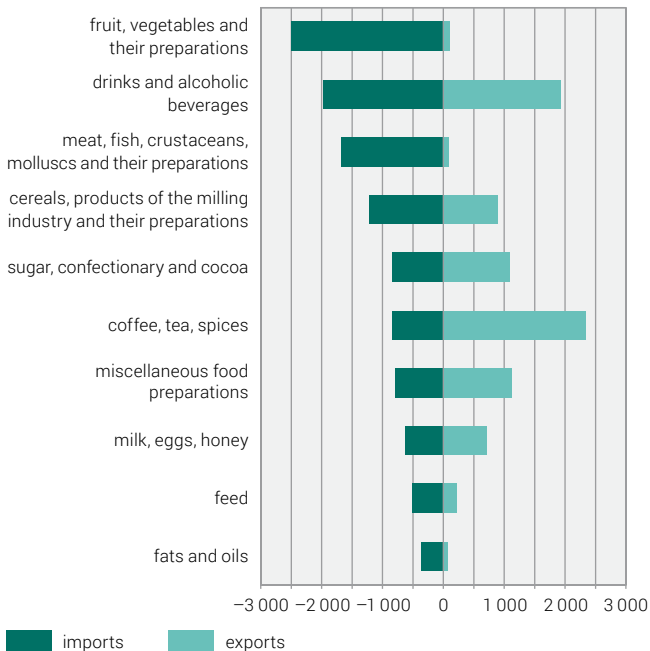
Total output of Swiss agriculture in 2018 was CHF 10.7 billion. Animal products accounted for 48% of agriculture's output value. Milk production alone made up 20% of the total output (CHF 2.2 billion). Agricultural services and non-agricultural secondary activities contributed considerably more to the total output than in 1985.

The agricultural income per farm was an average of CHF 70 600 in 2018 (4% higher than in 2017). Non-agricultural income accounted for roughly a third of household income and was therefore very important to farming families. Household income tended to be lower in hill and mountain regions (20% and 29% respectively) than in the lowland region.

## 5 Food industry, trade, catering

### Imports and exports of the most important foodstuffs, 2018

CHF millions

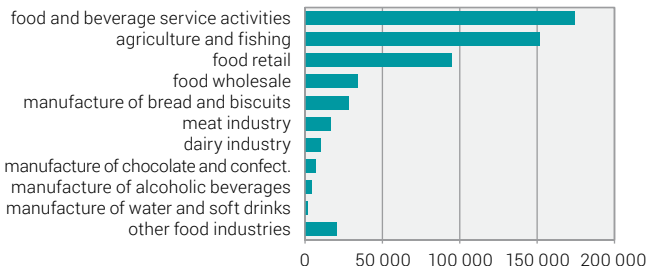


Source: SCA – Swiss foreign trade statistics

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## Jobs in the food supply chain, 2017<sup>P</sup>

### Number of jobs



<sup>P</sup> provisional

Source: FSO – Structural Business Statistics (STATENT)

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### Fruit and vegetables are the most commonly imported food-stuffs

In 2018, fruit and vegetables were the most commonly imported agricultural products in terms of value. The most common exports were not cheese or chocolate, but beverages containing water, and coffee.

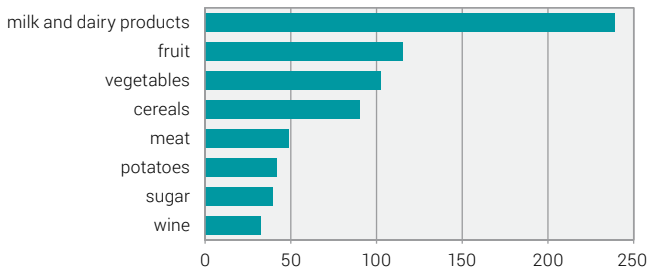
### 11% of all jobs are in the food supply chain

In 2017, some 100 000 businesses operated in the food supply chain. Of Switzerland's total workforce of some 5 million, approximately 548 000 people, representing 11% of jobs, worked within the food supply chain in 2017. Most were employed in food and beverage establishments, primary production (agriculture and fishing) and in food retail.

## 6 Consumption

### Consumption of selected foods, 2017<sup>P</sup>

kg of raw product per head per year



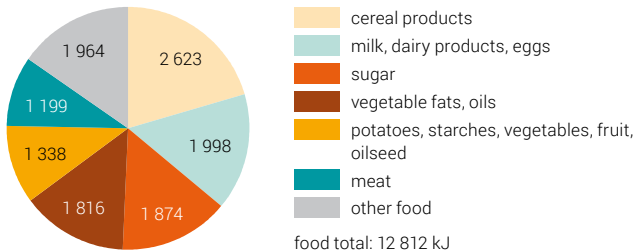
<sup>P</sup> provisional

Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

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### Food consumption in energy, 2017

kJ per head per day

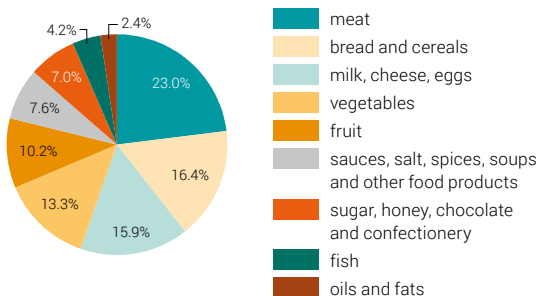


Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

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## Household consumption expenditure for food, 2017



average number of persons per household: 2.2

Source: FSO – Household Budget Survey

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### Households spend 12% of their budget on food

In Switzerland, dietary energy supply was 12 800 kJ per capita per day in 2017, taking account of waste (e. g. unsold or spoiled food, peelings). The target range for daily energy intake for an adult person is between 7500 and 10 500 kJ.

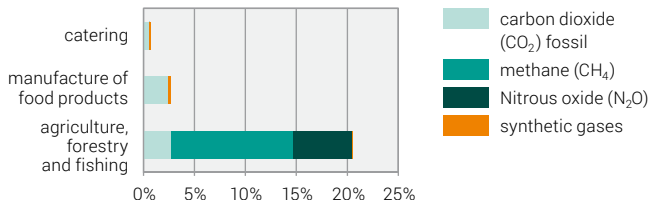
In 2017, approximately 842 kg of food were consumed per person. 530 kg were from plant-based and 312 kg from animal production.

In 2017 households spent roughly 12% of their budget, i. e. on average CHF 1200 per month on food, including meals and drinks in restaurants. At approximately CHF 134 per month, meat was the largest food expenditure item, followed by the group “bread and cereals”.

## 7 Environment

### Greenhouse gas emissions from the food supply chain, 2017

Proportion of total greenhouse gas emissions produced by the economy



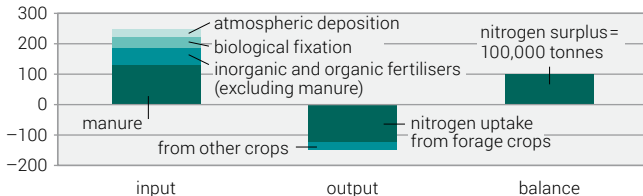
Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

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### Nitrogen balance of agricultural land, 2017<sup>1</sup>

Amounts of nitrogen inputs and uptake from agricultural soil

Thousands of tonnes



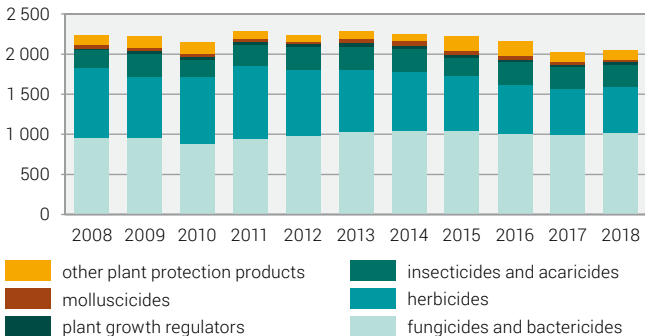
<sup>1</sup> according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) method

Source: FSO – Nitrogen balance

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## Sales of plant protection products

### Tonnes of active substances



Source: FOAG

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### Nitrogen surplus continues

The sectors of the food supply chain caused 24% of the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the economy as a whole in 2017. The largest share of the total methane and nitrous oxide emissions were caused by agriculture, in particular from cattle and fertilisers.

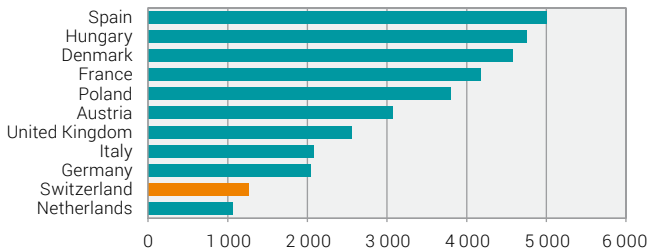
Nitrogen can become a pollutant in the environment (as ammonia in the air or as nitrate in groundwater). In the 1990s, agriculture was responsible for an annual nitrogen surplus of over 80 kg per hectare. Since then it has declined and in 2017 was approximately 66 kg per hectare.

In 2018, a total of 2050 tonnes of pesticides were sold.

## 8 International comparisons

### Utilised agricultural area per capita, 2016

m<sup>2</sup> per capita

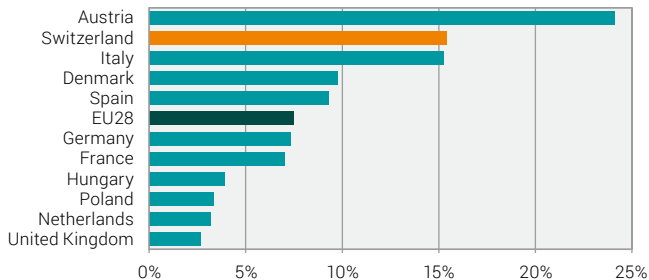


Source: Eurostat, FSO

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### Organic agriculture, 2018

Share of organically farmed utilised agricultural area

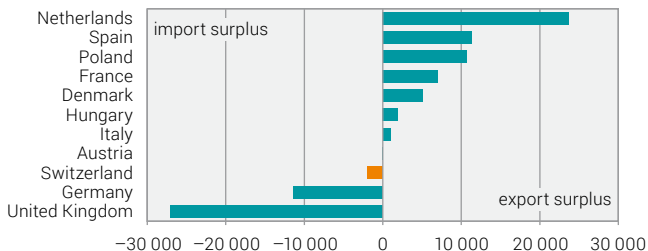


Source: Eurostat – Farm structure survey

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## International trade of food, beverages and tobacco, 2018

Balance in EUR millions



Source: Eurostat

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### In European comparison, Switzerland's per capita agricultural area is small

Switzerland, like the Netherlands, is among the European countries that have a small utilised agricultural area per person. The share of the utilised agricultural area that is organically farmed, however, is twice the European average. Austria is the leader in organic farming.

In 2018, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland and Austria imported more food than they exported in terms of value. The Netherlands and Spain, in contrast, stand out as export countries in terms of food.

## 9 Key cantonal figures

### Population and workplaces, 2017

| Cantons            | Population<br>in thousands | Farms         | organic<br>farms | Cheese<br>dairies <sup>p</sup> | Large super-<br>markets <sup>p</sup><br>(1 000–2 499 m <sup>2</sup> ) | Restau-<br>rants <sup>p</sup> |
|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| ZH                 | 1 504                      | 3 432         | 388              | 17                             | 58  | 3 140                         |
| BE                 | 1 031                      | 10 561        | 1 256            | 124                            | 50  | 2 346                         |
| LU                 | 407                        | 4 601         | 393              | 41                             | 13  | 765                           |
| UR                 | 36                         | 569           | 58               | 9                              | –   | 128                           |
| SZ                 | 157                        | 1 581         | 165              | 12                             | 7   | 491                           |
| OW                 | 38                         | 625           | 183              | 13                             | X   | 92                            |
| NW                 | 43                         | 434           | 76               | 9                              | X   | 94                            |
| GL                 | 40                         | 370           | 88               | 4                              | X   | 130                           |
| ZG                 | 125                        | 560           | 85               | 6                              | 5   | 254                           |
| FR                 | 315                        | 2 840         | 184              | 117                            | 11  | 680                           |
| SO                 | 271                        | 1 358         | 149              | 5                              | 8   | 625                           |
| BS                 | 194                        | 13            | 3                | –                              | 6   | 576                           |
| BL                 | 287                        | 902           | 135              | X                              | 10  | 465                           |
| SH                 | 81                         | 572           | 31               | –                              | X   | 215                           |
| AR                 | 55                         | 709           | 121              | 9                              | –   | 178                           |
| AI                 | 16                         | 465           | 26               | X                              | X   | 63                            |
| SG                 | 505                        | 3 993         | 459              | 65                             | 23  | 1 401                         |
| GR                 | 198                        | 2 318         | 1 302            | 32                             | 11  | 835                           |
| AG                 | 671                        | 3 256         | 281              | 6                              | 29  | 1 208                         |
| TG                 | 274                        | 2 569         | 315              | 38                             | 14  | 629                           |
| TI                 | 354                        | 1 098         | 141              | 14                             | 8   | 1 350                         |
| VD                 | 793                        | 3 628         | 277              | 59                             | 34  | 1 939                         |
| VS                 | 341                        | 2 956         | 323              | 31                             | 16  | 1 488                         |
| NE                 | 178                        | 807           | 80               | 13                             | 5   | 472                           |
| GE                 | 495                        | 382           | 33               | X                              | 23  | 1 599                         |
| JU                 | 73                         | 1 021         | 153              | 8                              | 4   | 193                           |
| <b>Switzerland</b> | <b>8 484</b>               | <b>51 620</b> | <b>6 705</b>     | <b>637</b>                     | <b>344</b>  | <b>21 356</b>                 |

<sup>p</sup> provisional

X: Not available due to data protection (between 1 and 3)

Sources: FSO – Farm structure survey, STATENT, STATPOP

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