

2018

07

Agriculture and
forestry

Neuchâtel 2018

Food and Agriculture

Pocket Statistics 2018



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Statistical Office FSO

Published by: Federal Statistical Office (FSO)
Information: agrar@bfs.admin.ch, tel. +41 58 467 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
Front page: DIAM Section, Prepress/Print
Map: DIAM Section, ThemaKart
Printed: in Switzerland
Copyright: FSO, Neuchâtel 2018
Reproduction with mention of source authorised
(except for commercial purposes).
Print format orders: Federal Statistical Office, CH-2010 Neuchâtel,
tel. +41 58 463 60 60, fax +41 58 463 60 61,
order@bfs.admin.ch
Price: free of charge
Downloads: www.statistics.admin.ch (free of charge)
FSO number: 1112-1800



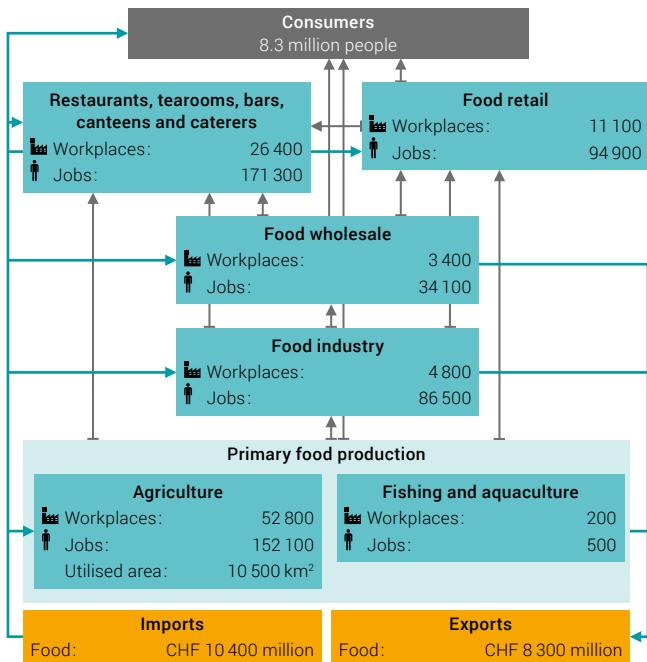
Table of contents

These Pocket Statistics provide concise data, facts and useful information about Switzerland's food supply chain, with a focus on agriculture. The key figures give an overview of the status and changes in individual areas.

1	Overview	4
2	Context	6
3	Agricultural structures	8
4	Primary production	14
5	Food industry, trade, food and beverages	20
6	Consumption and health	24
7	Environment	30
8	International comparisons	32
9	Key cantonal figures	34

1 Overview

The food supply chain in Switzerland, 2015¹



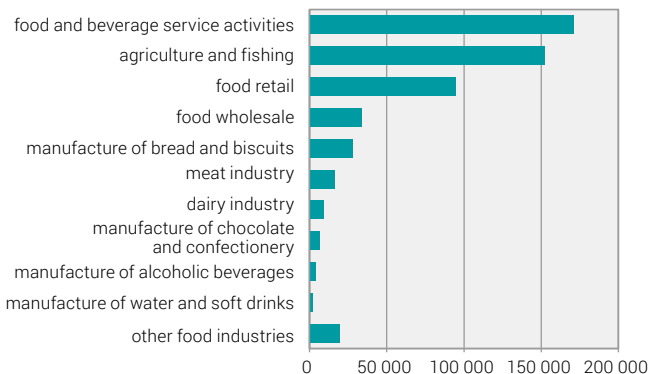
¹ workplaces and jobs, 2015: provisional

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

© FSO 2018

Jobs in the food supply chain, 2015¹

Number of jobs



¹ provisional

Source: FSO – STATENT

© FSO 2018

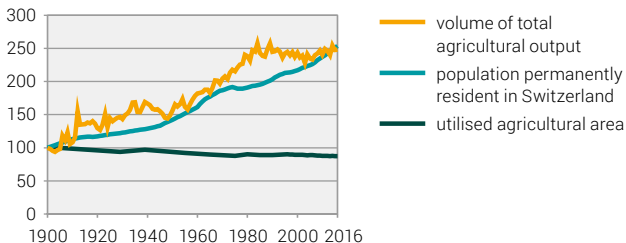
The food supply chain describes the different processes from raw material production in agriculture and fishing to processing and from retail to the food on consumers' tables. It has key economic significance for Switzerland.

In 2015, some 100 000 businesses operated in the food supply chain. Of Switzerland's total workforce of some 5 million, approximately 547 000 people, representing 11% of jobs, worked within the food supply chain in 2015. Most were employed in food and beverage establishments, primary production (agriculture and fishing) and retail.

2 Context

Population and agriculture

Index 1900=100

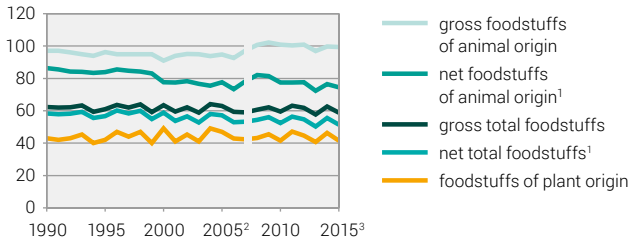


Sources: FSO – EAA, STATPOP, Farm structure survey

© FSO 2018

Self-sufficiency rate

By usable energy in %



¹ excluding animal products manufactured from imported feed

² new calculation method since 2007

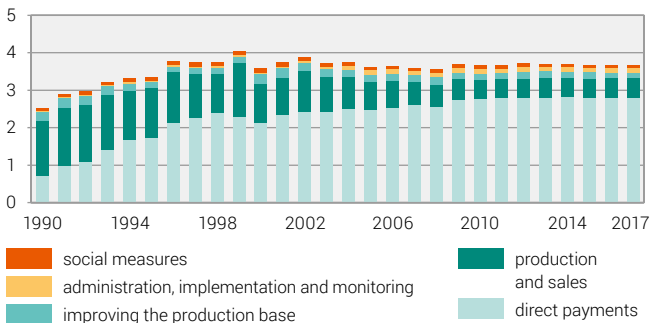
³ 2015: provisional

Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

© FSO 2018

Federal expenditure on agriculture and food

In CHF billions



Source: FFA – Federal budget

© FSO 2018

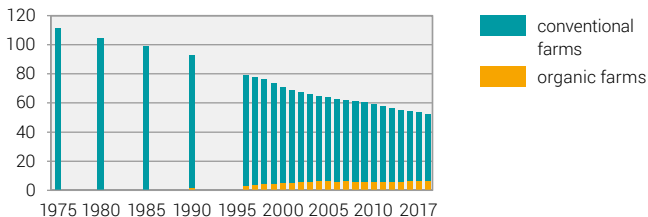
Since the early 20th century, Switzerland's resident population has grown by a factor of 2.5, to over 8.4 million in 2016. At the same time, breeding and technical progress in agriculture has seen food production increase. This has meant that around 60% of food consumption (in terms of usable energy) has been covered by domestic production over the past 20 years.

The Confederation spent some 5.3% of its total budget on supporting food production in 2017. This is intended to ensure that through sustainable and market oriented production, agriculture can make a key contribution to supplying the population with food, conserving natural resources, preserving the countryside, allowing decentralised land settlement and ensuring animal welfare.

3 Agricultural structures

Farms

In thousands of farms



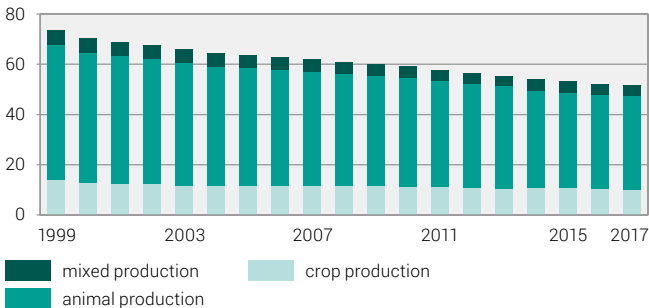
all data according to the currently valid definition of a farm

Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

© FSO 2018

Farms by type of farming

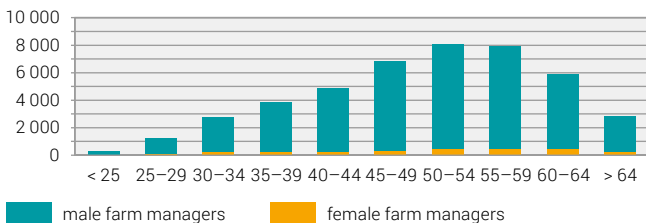
In thousands of farms



Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

© FSO 2018

Farm managers by age group¹, 2017



¹ Farm managers whose age is known (approx. 90%).

Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

© FSO 2018

The number of farms declined from 111 300 in 1975 to 51 600 in 2017. The remaining farms now cultivate an area that is over twice the size per farm compared with 1975. The number of organic farms accounted for 13% of all farms in 2017.

The majority of farms (72%) are active in livestock farming (livestock and livestock products). Their number has decreased by almost a third since 1999. The greatest decline has been seen for farms focusing on perennial crops (–45%).

In 2017, 48 500 men and 3100 women managed a farm. 55% of these men and 59% of these women were over the age of 50. This indicates that these women, for example, took over the farm from an older husband who was no longer entitled to direct payments due to the age limit (age 65).

Numbers of livestock

In thousands (rounded)

	1997	2007	2017 ¹
cattle	1 670	1 570	1 540
of which cows	740	710	690
horses	50	60	60
sheep	420	440	340
goats	60	90	80
pigs	1 390	1 570	1 440
chickens	6 350	8 100	11 410

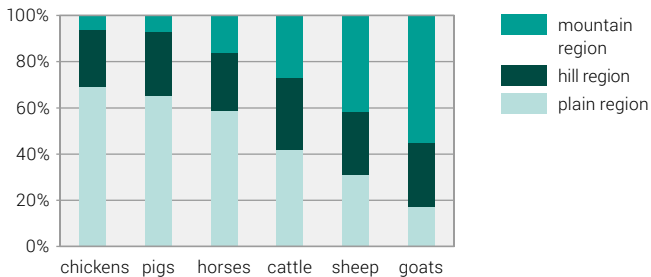
¹ From 2015 reference day moved from early May to 1 January.

Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

© FSO 2018

Livestock by region, 2017

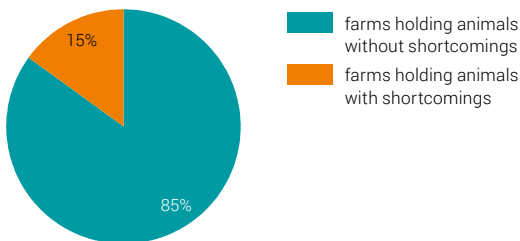
Proportion of animals



Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

© FSO 2018

Animal welfare inspections on farms, 2017



basic inspections: 12 258

Source: FSVO – Animal welfare

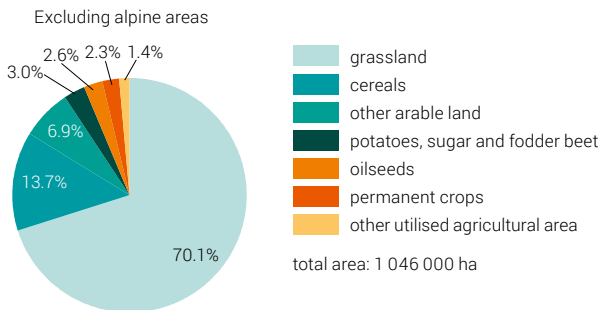
© FSVO 2018

Cattle numbers fell by 8% between 1997 and 2017. On account of a turbulent dairy market, the number of cows has fluctuated in recent years. Between 2016 and 2017, the number of animals in the categories cattle, horses and pigs decreased while poultry numbers continued to increase.

Chickens, pigs and horses were mostly reared on lowland farms. Meanwhile, goat and sheep farming is typical of hill and mountain regions.

In line with legislation, animal welfare on farms is inspected at least once every four years. In 2017, the cantons carried out 12 258 animal welfare inspections on farms. 31% of these checks were unannounced. There were complaints concerning animal production in 15% of all cases.

Use of utilised agricultural area, 2017



Source: FSO – Farm structure survey

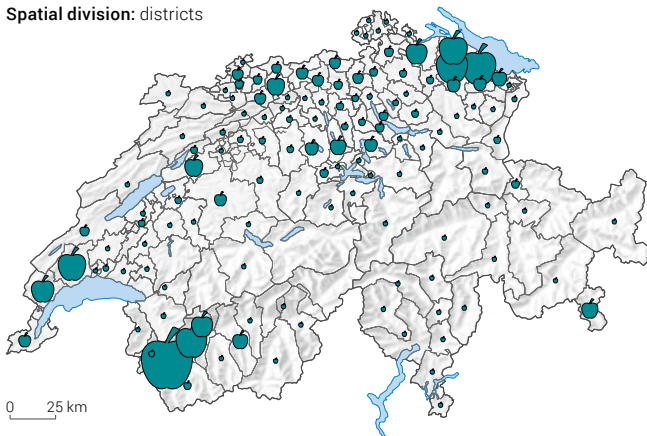
© FSO 2018

In 2017, grassland accounted for 70% of the utilised agricultural area. This was followed by cereal (14%), the most important arable crop.

Apple, pear, apricot, cherry and plum trees account for the majority of orchards (excluding standard fruit trees). Kiwis, elderberries and nuts are less common. Fruit production is concentrated in a few regions. For instance, the cantons of Valais and Thurgau together account for over half of Switzerland's orchards. "The Swiss fruit type of the year 2018" is the German Prune. The cantons of Basel-Landschaft and Aargau produce the greatest number of plums.

Fruit plantation, 2017

Spatial division: districts



Fruit plantation¹ in hectares



1312



500



≤ 10

CH: 7 152

¹ For easier readability, the size of symbols with a value below 10 has been enlarged.

4 Primary production

Crop production¹

In thousands of tonnes

	2006	2011	2016 ²
cereals	1 013	999	743
potatoes	392	515	362
sugar beet	1 243	1 828	1 277
vegetables	289	425	398
fruit and berries	356	439	299

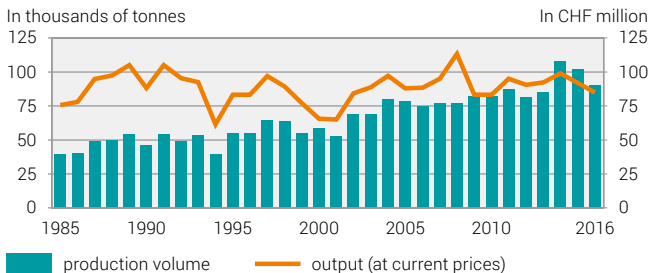
¹ gross production minus losses in the field and on the farm

² provisional

Source: SFU – Crop production

© FSO 2018

Oil plants production and output¹

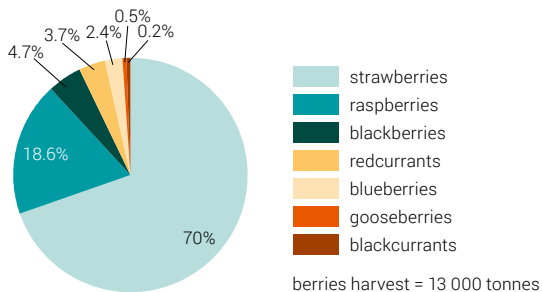


¹ 2016: provisional

Source: FSO – Economic accounts for agriculture

© FSO 2018

Berries harvest, 2016



Source: SFU – Crop production

© FSO 2018

The cold and wet spring in 2016 with frosty nights in April and an overcast June also caused problems for arable crops. Yields per hectare were generally lower than the average of the previous 5 years. In particular, the domestic production of cereal was so low that the Federal Council authorised an additional import quota of bread wheat.

Rapeseed is the most important oil plant in Switzerland. After two large rapeseed harvests in 2014 and 2015, oil processors reduced the contractual quantity with the producers for 2016.

In 2016, 13 000 tonnes of berries were harvested. 9200 tonnes of these were strawberries, followed by raspberries with 2400 tonnes.

Animal production¹

In thousands of tonnes

	2006	2011	2016 ³
meat ²			
cattle	135	144	144
pigs	244	249	239
sheep	6	5	5
poultry	52	73	91
cow's milk	3 932	4 117	3 957
hens' eggs	36	44	54

¹ gross domestic production

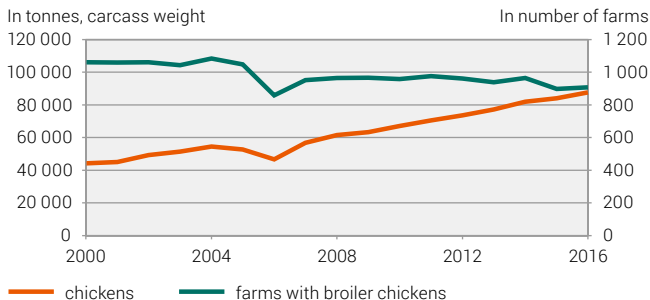
² usable output, carcass weight

³ provisional

Source: SFU – Animal production

© FSO 2018

Broiler chickens

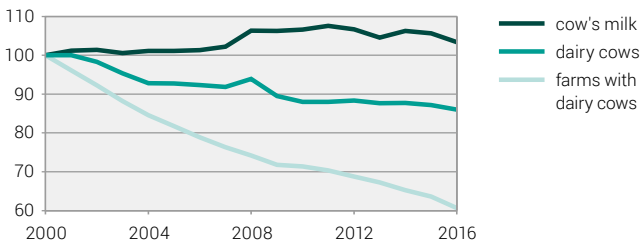


Sources: FSO – Farm structure survey; SFU – Animal production

© FSO 2018

Production of cow's milk

Index 2000=100



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

© FSO 2018

Between 2000 and 2016 meat production rose by 17% as a result of growth in livestock numbers, which was especially marked for poultry.

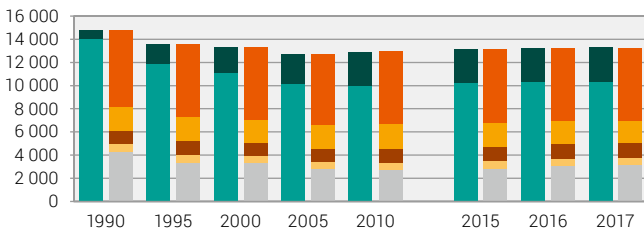
From 2000 to 2016, chicken production doubled. The increase was interrupted in 2006 by the risk of bird flu. Poultry consumption has since recovered with domestic production continuing to grow steadily.

In 2016, almost 4 billion kg of milk was produced. The decrease in the number of dairy cows and dairy farms also continued in 2016.

From output to sector income of Swiss agriculture

At current prices

In CHF millions



+ Resources

- other subsidies on production (direct payments)
- output to basic prices (including subsidies on products less taxes on products)

– Uses (costs of production)

- intermediate consumption
- fixed capital consumption (depreciation)
- compensation of employees
- other taxes on production, rents and interests

= Balance

- sector income (net entrepreneurial income)

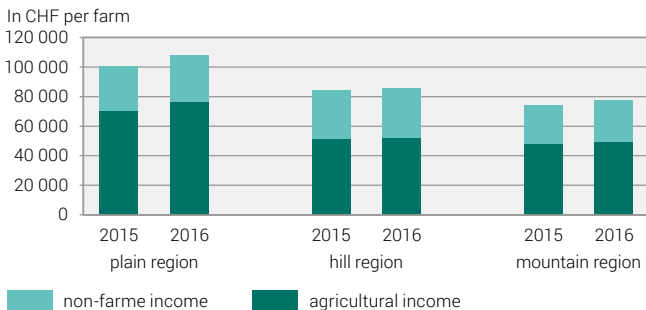
2015: semi definitive, 2016: provisional, 2017: estimate

Source: FSO – Economic accounts for agriculture

© FSO 2018

The economic accounts for agricultural provide information on the value added and income of the Swiss agricultural sector. Between 1990 and 2017 the sector resources declined by CHF 1.5 billion (–10%). Their composition also changed: The State lowered its price support for agricultural commodities and focused more on direct payments. Expenditure (costs of production) fell by CHF 0.3 billion

Total income per farm



Source: Agroscope – Farm Accountancy Data Network

© FSO 2018

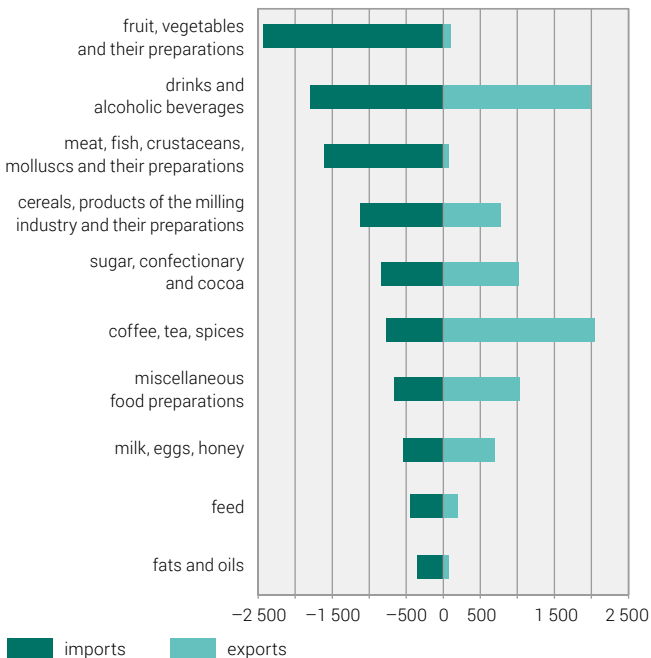
(-2%), due in particular to cheaper agricultural input (e.g. fodder). Sector income, which compensates all self-employed farming families' labour and assets, fell by 27%. Over the same period, the farming families' input of labour declined by 40%.

The agricultural income per farm was an average of CHF 64 300 in 2016 (5% more than in 2015). The average income per self-employed person working on a family farm was CHF 47 200. Non-farm income contributed roughly a third of total income and was therefore very important to farming families. Total income tended to be lower in hill and mountain regions than in lowland farms.

5 Food industry, trade, food and beverages

Imports and exports of the most important foodstuffs, 2016

In CHF millions

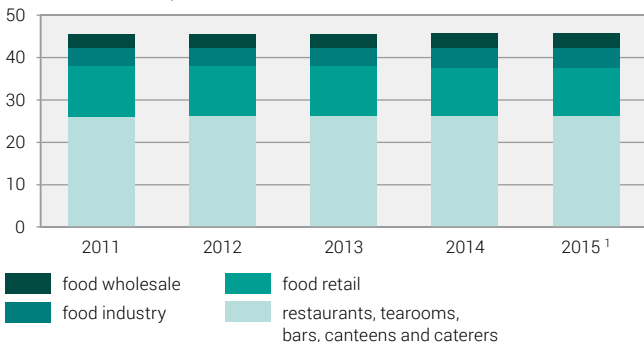


Source: SCA – Swiss foreign trade statistics

© FSO 2018

Workplaces in the food industry, trade and catering

In thousands of workplaces



¹ provisional

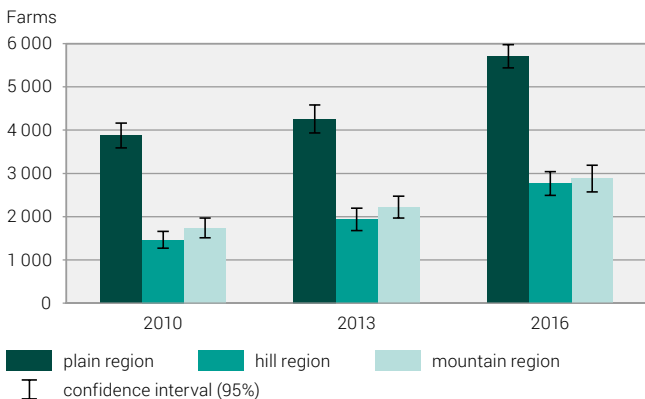
Source: FSO – Structural Business Statistics (STATENT)

© FSO 2018

In 2016, 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 (e.g. in capsules).

In addition to the approx. 53 000 farms, there were almost 46 000 businesses in the downstream food industry, trade and catering sectors in 2015. Whereas farms declined by 7% between 2011 and 2015, the food industry had 15% more businesses.

Direct sale of agricultural products to final consumers



Source: FSO – Farm Census, additional survey

© FSO 2018

Agricultural products are increasingly sold by farms directly without an intermediary. Since 2010, the number of farms offering direct sales increased by 60% to 11 360 in 2016. In the lowland region, one in four farms and in hill and mountain regions one in five farms offered their goods for sale (e.g. in a farm shop). Direct sales are an additional revenue opportunity for farms. Other activities associated with farming include forestry, timber transformation, processing of agricultural products, work for other farms, gastronomic offerings, accommodation and leisure activities.

Normal weekly working hours for full-time employed people, 2016

Hours per week



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

Source: FSO – Swiss Labour Force Survey

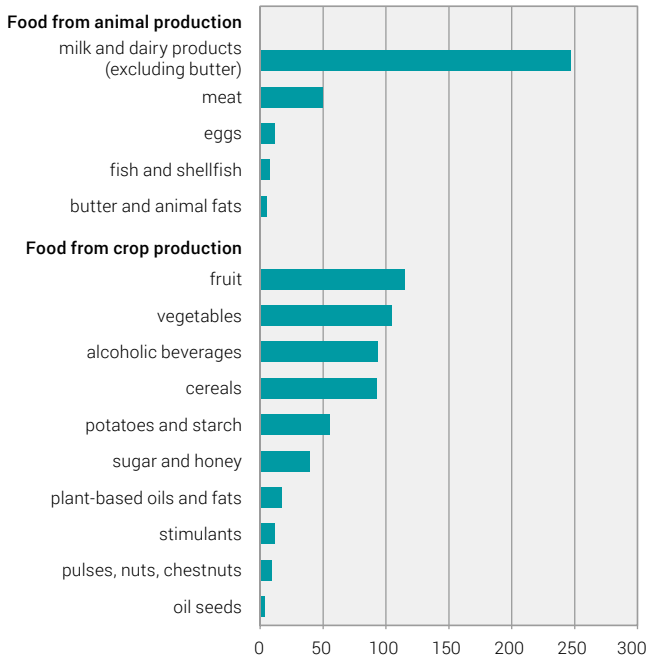
© FSO 2018

The normal weekly working hours in the restaurant and hotel industry and in agriculture and forestry are among the highest of all economic sectors.

6 Consumption and health

Food consumption¹, 2015

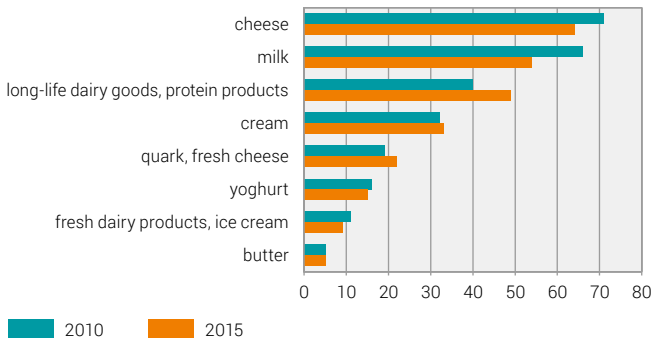
In kg of raw product per head per year



¹ Represents food potentially available. Quantities actually consumed are lower because of losses (e.g. unsold or spoiled food)

Consumption of milk and dairy products

In kg per head per year¹



¹ in whole milk equivalent, butter with 83% milk fat

Source: SFU – Food balance sheet

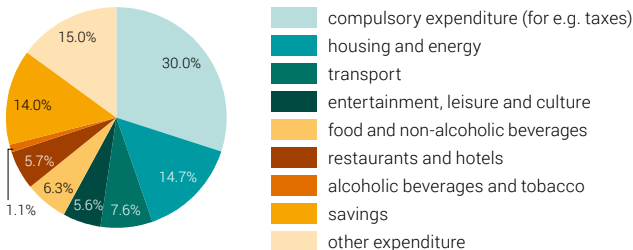
© FSO 2018

In Switzerland, dietary energy supply was 12 900 kJ per capita per day in 2015, including losses (e.g. unsold or spoiled food). The target daily energy supply for an adult is between 7500 kJ–10 500 kJ.

In 2015, approximately 865 kg of food were consumed per person. 544 kg were from crop and 322 kg from animal production. Between 2010 and 2015, the consumption of milk fell by 18% and that of cheese by 9%. Long-life dairy products and milk protein products (e.g. milk powder, condensed milk, milk proteins) recorded an increase of 23%.

Household expenditure, 2015

Proportion of gross household income

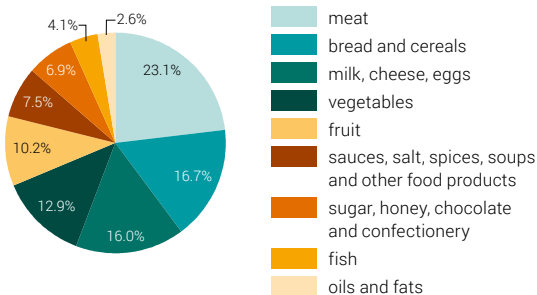


average number of persons per household: 2.2

Source. FSO – Household Budget Survey

© FSO 2018

Household consumption expenditure for food, 2015



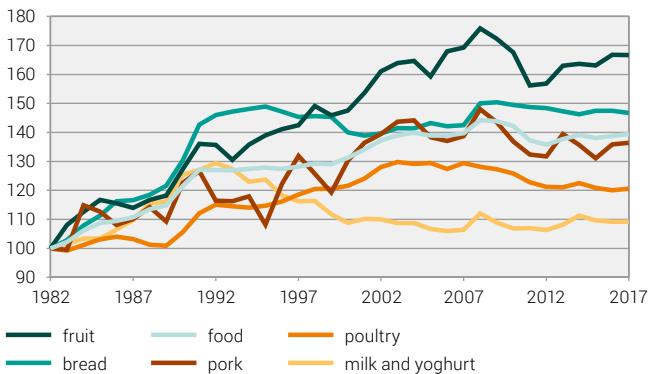
average number of persons per household: 2.2

Source. FSO – Household Budget Survey

© FSO 2018

Consumer Price Index

Index December 1982=100



Source: FSO – Consumer Price Index (CPI)

© FSO 2018

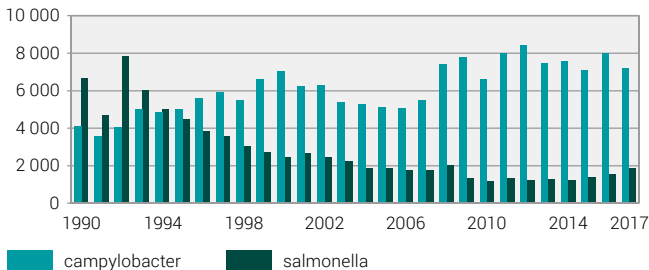
In 2015 households spent roughly 12% of their budget, i.e. on average CHF 1200 per month on food, including meals and drinks in restaurants. At approximately CHF 132 per month, meat was the largest food expenditure item, followed by the group “bread and cereal products”.

Overall food prices rose by almost 40% between 1982 and 2017. Within this product group fruit and bread became disproportionately more expensive, while during the same period prices for milk and yoghurt fell below the overall trend of food prices.

Food poisoning

The most common zoonoses reported in humans

Number of cases



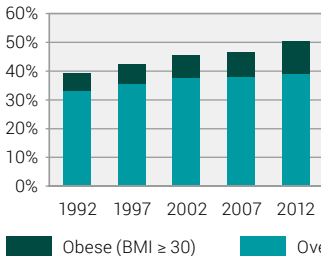
Source: FOPH – Epidemiology

© FSO 2018

Overweight and obesity

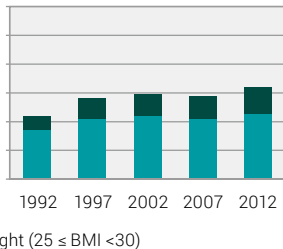
Men

Resident population aged 15 or over



Women

Resident population aged 15 or over



Source: FSO – Swiss Health Survey

© FSO 2018

Alcoholic beverages consumption

In litres per capita and year



Source: RFA – Alcohol Statistics

© FSO 2018

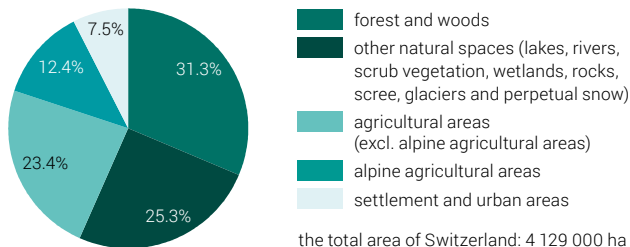
Food poisoning usually occurs when food is not heated properly or if it is spoiled. The diarrhoea pathogen campylobacter has long been the most common zoonosis. The main source of infection is the consumption of raw meat. Salmonella infections are less frequent than in the 1990s, which can largely be attributed to successful control of infected laying hens.

The proportion of overweight or obese people rose between 1992 and 2012. In 2012, some 51% of men and 32% of women were overweight or obese.

In the long-term, a trend towards decreasing alcohol consumption has been observed. For the actual average consumption of alcoholic drinks in 2016, beer came in top place with 55 litres per person, followed by wine with 34 litres.

7 Environment

Land use, 2004/2009¹



¹ areas surveyed between 2004 and 2009

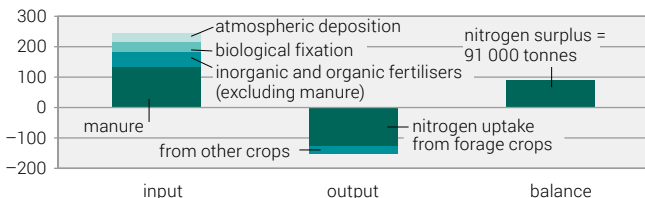
Source: FSO – Swiss Land Use Statistics (NOAS04)

© FSO 2018

Nitrogen balance of agricultural land, 2015¹

Amounts of nitrogen inputs and uptake from agricultural soil

In thousands of tonnes



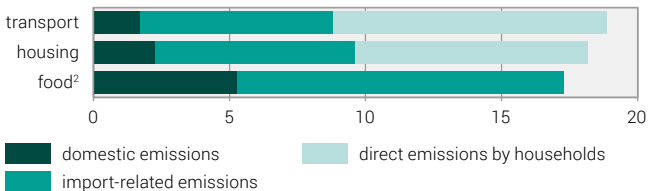
¹ according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) method

Source: FSO – Nitrogen balance

© FSO 2018

Household's greenhouse gas footprint by expenditure categories, 2015¹

Million tonnes of CO₂ equivalents



¹ pilot accounts; greenhouse gas emissions included: CO₂, CH₄, N₂O

² food, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages and tobacco

Source: FSO – Environmental accounting

© FSO 2018

The agricultural and alpine agricultural areas together make up more than one third of the total area of Switzerland. Between 1985 and 2009, 850 km² of this area was lost, equivalent to the size of the canton of Jura.

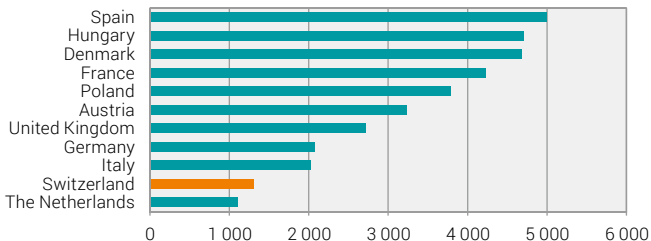
In the long-term, the nitrogen surplus from the agricultural area (including alpine meadows) is on the decline. According to the 2015 nitrogen balance, there was a nitrogen surplus of 60 kg/hectare. In the 1990s this figure was over 80 kg/hectare per year. Nitrogen can become a pollutant in the environment (as ammonia in the air or as nitrate in groundwater).

Final demand for food by the Swiss population in 2015 caused greenhouse gas emissions of 17 Mt CO₂ eq. This includes not only emissions occurring in Switzerland but also those abroad. These are “hidden” in the imports.

8 International comparisons

Utilised agricultural area per inhabitant, 2013

In m² per inhabitant

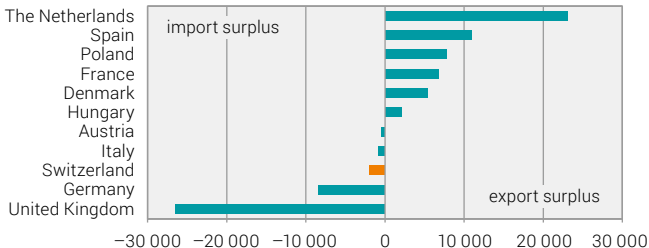


Source: Eurostat – Farm structure survey

© FSO 2018

International trade of food, beverages and tobacco, 2016

Balance in EUR millions

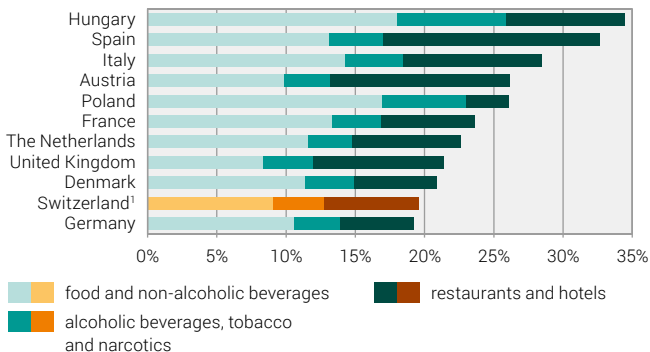


Source: Eurostat

© FSO 2018

Income of households spent on food, catering and hotels, 2015

In % of total expenditure for final consumption of the households



¹ provisional

Sources: Eurostat; FSO – National Accounts

© FSO 2018

Switzerland and the Netherlands are among the European countries that have a small utilised agricultural area per person. In 2013 this area was 1300 m² per person.

In 2016, the United Kingdom, Germany and Switzerland imported more food than they exported in terms of value.

In 2015, an average of 25% of total consumer spending in the EU28 went on food.

9 Key cantonal figures

Population and workplaces, 2015

Cantons	Population in thousands	Farms	Cheese dairies ¹	Bakeries ¹	Large super- markets ¹ (1 000–2 499 m ²)	Restau- rants ¹
ZH	1 466	3 599	20	205	56	2 987
BE	1 017	10 891	132	227	46	2 238
LU	399	4 691	42	89	12	723
UR	36	584	10	10	0	125
SZ	154	1 637	8	36	8	452
OW	37	649	14	12	2	93
NW	42	450	13	6	1	85
GL	40	375	3	11	3	120
ZG	122	573	7	22	5	259
FR	307	2 910	111	60	10	642
SO	266	1 384	6	54	8	627
BS	192	11	0	33	6	539
BL	283	936	0	36	11	457
SH	80	573	0	12	2	211
AR	55	725	9	10	1	185
AI	16	475	1	10	1	68
SG	499	4 112	68	125	22	1 346
GR	197	2 407	32	54	11	806
AG	654	3 407	4	101	27	1 163
TG	267	2 660	38	50	12	636
TI	352	1 130	12	64	9	1 310
VD	773	3 637	63	147	33	1 817
VS	336	3 191	33	66	16	1 399
NE	178	834	15	39	5	447
GE	485	390	1	68	22	1 506
JU	73	1 022	5	17	4	197
Switzerland	8 327	53 253	647	1 564	333	20 438

¹ provisional

Sources: FSO – Farm structure survey, STATENT, STATPOP

© FSO 2018

Would you like more information?

Visit our website:

www.statistics.admin.ch → Look for statistics → 07 – Agriculture and forestry

For more information:

- Agroscope (www.agroscope.ch)
- Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG/
Agricultural report (www.blw.admin.ch/
www.agrarbericht.ch)
- Federal Food Safety
and Veterinary Office FSVO (www.blv.admin.ch)
- Federal Office
for the Environment FOEN (www.umwelt-schweiz.ch)
- Federal Finance Administration FFA (www.efv.admin.ch)
- Swiss Customs Administration (www.ezv.admin.ch)
- Eurostat (ec.europa.eu/eurostat)
- FAO (www.fao.org)
- Swiss Farmers' Union (www.sbv-usp.ch)

Orders

Tel. +41 58 463 60 60

Fax +41 58 463 60 61

order@bfs.admin.ch

Price

free of charge

Downloads

www.statistics.admin.ch (free of charge)

FSO number

1112-1800

Statistics
counts for you.

www.statistics-counts.ch