



# Press release

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## 21 Sustainable Development

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Monitoring of the 2030 Agenda sustainable development goals in Switzerland

### **2030 Agenda in Switzerland: an initial assessment using 85 sustainable development indicators**

Neuchâtel, 10 July 2018 (FSO) – **The monitoring of 2030 Agenda in Switzerland expresses contrasting and somewhat contradictory trends with regard to the goals pursued. Thirty nine indicators show a development in line with expectations, fourteen show a reverse trend while twelve do not show any marked change. These are the findings of the monitoring system published for the first time by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).**

This range of 85 indicators, broken down into the United Nations' 17 sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda (SDGs), was developed to statistically monitor the implementation of these goals in Switzerland. Based on the baseline assessment of the situation of the SDGs implemented by the Federal Administration on behalf of the Federal Council (see box below), this range of indicators shows contrasting and somewhat contradictory trends with regard to the goals pursued.

Around twenty indicators cannot yet be assessed as the time series are too short. Almost every indicator benefits from being put into perspective with other indicators from the system, whether within the same goal or across several goals as illustrated by the following indicators that demonstrate the complexity involved in this process.

#### **“Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth” SDG no. 8**

The “per capita gross domestic product” indicator linked to this SDG shows a trend that is compliant with the goal pursued and is a sign of Switzerland's wealth and prosperity. This observation, however, may be offset by the “material footprint” indicator of the same SDG that considers, in addition to raw materials extracted in Switzerland, the total mass of raw materials used abroad in the production and transport processes of goods and services consumed in Switzerland. The development of this indicator shows that our consumption of resources is steadily increasing while

the goal strives for the sparing use of natural resources in Switzerland and in the countries from which we import goods and services.

**“Foster innovation” SDG no. 9**

The Swiss economy remains innovative as demonstrated by the “expenditure on research and development” indicator that shows development that is compliant with SDG no. 9 to which it is linked. According to this SDG, technological progress is at the basis of efforts made to fulfil the environmental goals such as optimal use of resources and of energy. Innovation may therefore also contribute to the implementation of SDG no. 8 mentioned above. Nevertheless, it should be stated that not all research and development expenditure is necessarily relevant to sustainable development.

**“End poverty” SDG no. 1**

Switzerland is unfamiliar with extreme poverty. Nonetheless, in 2016, one person in thirteen in Switzerland lived below the poverty threshold. The “poverty rate” indicator does not show any marked change although a downward trend was targeted. This indicator may also bring an additional insight to SDG no. 8 cited above that calls for the sharing of wealth and completes SDG no. 10 that aims to reduce inequalities in countries.

**Immediate use of the monitoring system**

The 85 indicators of the monitoring system were integrated by way of a summary into Switzerland’s country report “Switzerland implements the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” adopted by the Federal Council on 20 June 2018. This report will be presented during the UN’s high-level political forum for sustainable development on 17 July in New York.

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**Online:**

To the indicators: <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/sustainable-development/2030-agenda-goals-monitoring.html>  
2030 Agenda in Switzerland: <https://www.eda.admin.ch/agenda2030/en/home.html>  
2030 Agenda in UN: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>

Further information and publications: [www.bfs.admin.ch/news/en/2018-0305](http://www.bfs.admin.ch/news/en/2018-0305)  
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Federal Office for Spatial Development’s (ARE) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) received this press release 3 working days in advance.

### **MONET indicators**

Switzerland has had a sustainable development monitoring system since 2003. This MONET system of indicators (acronym for the German “Monitoring der nachhaltigen Entwicklung” (Monitoring Sustainable Development)) is a joint activity carried out by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) with the support of the Federal Office for Spatial Development (ARE), the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The MONET system of indicators makes it possible to determine the extent to which Switzerland is on the path to sustainable development. It adopts a comprehensive approach to measure sustainable development, that is to say by considering the living conditions of the present generation, the distribution of resources within this generation and with other countries, the human, economic, social and natural heritage we are passing onto future generations and, lastly, the efficiency with which we use the resources available to us. The MONET system is based on a theoretical framework and methods that correspond to international recommendations in this area.

The MONET system was extended at the Federal Council's request to take into account the 2030 Agenda goals and its targets adapted to the Swiss context. These targets are derived from the baseline assessment established by the Federal Administration in 2017 that surveyed the activities used by the Confederation at national and international level and determined the state of the implementation of the SDGs. This extension of the MONET system is thus based on a political framework. There are 85 indicators dedicated to the monitoring of these targets, 35 of these originating from the MONET system. Each indicator is published following a common canvas. Around twenty indicators are also shown by gender enabling the importance given to gender equality in the 2030 Agenda to be taken into consideration. Regular updates of these indicators are planned.

The monitoring of the SDGs at global level is assured by the UN through its series of 232 indicators. Some of these were used for monitoring the SDGs and the targets adapted to the Swiss context.