

Statistical Data on Switzerland 2008



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Legend:

Three dots (...) instead of a figure means that the data has not (yet) been gathered or calculated.

A dash (–) instead of a figure is used for the value absolute zero.

Abbreviations for names of cantons:

These are explained in the table on page 2.

Rounded figures:

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

Sources:

Statistical results are usually presented here without reference to sources. Such information is extensively presented in our portal «Statistics Switzerland» www.statistics.admin.ch

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Revised and corrected version from 30.4.2008

[Corrections are detailed under the Swiss Statistics web site](#)

Pocket Statistics 2008: a new look

The popular "Statistical Data on Switzerland" guide has a new look for 2008. It is more colourful, and uses graphics to help readers to understand more quickly and easily the meaning of the individual statistics.

"In addition, it contains more text and explanation, which avoids possible confusion or misunderstanding."

This new guide is also longer. It now consists of 52 pages and covers all the relevant topics, with a structure identical to that of the Federal Statistical Office website (www.statistics.admin.ch->Topics) and to that of its larger relative, the Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland.

This pocket statistics guide provides a brief, essential summary of the huge volume of data collected by the Federal Statistical Office.

If you need more detailed information on individual topics, you should refer to the "Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland 2008", which is published at the same time. This provides not only detailed data, but also information about the methods and definitions which lie behind the statistics. The yearbook is accompanied by a CD-ROM which contains the text, graphics and tables in electronic form and an interactive online atlas which allows informative comparisons of international data to be made quickly and easily on the screen.

Finally, if you are looking for up-to-the-minute statistical information, you can find it on the Federal Statistical Office website at www.statistics.admin.ch. The website is highly usable and offers easy access to a wealth of statistical data. This handy, new-look pocket statistics guide includes links to the individual topics on the website, which will make it easier for you to find your way around the latest information.

I hope you enjoy reading this new Pocket Statistics guide and exploring the website.

Dr. Adelheid Bürgi-Schmelz
Director General of the Federal Statistical Office

Neuchâtel, January 2008

Further sources of information:

- Press release newsletter. You can subscribe free of charge to an e-mail newsletter consisting of the latest FSO press releases in their original wording. (To subscribe, go to www.news-stat.admin.ch). In the same way, you can receive information about the office's latest publications or announcements on specific areas (themed newsletter).
- If you need an answer to a specific question, please contact the Statistical Information Service by calling +41 (0)32 713 60 11 or by sending an e-mail to info@bfs.admin.ch.

Permanent resident population by canton 2006

	Total in 1,000	foreigners in %	urban in %	density (km ²)	population growth 1996–2006 (in %)
Switzerland	7,508.7	20.7	73.4	188	6.0
Zurich (ZH)	1,284.1	22.2	95.0	773	8.9
Berne (BE)	958.9	12.3	62.2	164	1.9
Lucerne (LU)	359.1	15.4	51.0	251	5.1
Uri (UR)	34.9	8.5	0.0	33	-2.5
Schwyz (SZ)	138.8	16.6	80.1	163	12.2
Obwalden (OW)	33.8	11.8	0.0	70	7.4
Nidwalden (NW)	40.0	9.6	87.6	166	8.7
Glarus (GL)	38.1	19.4	0.0	56	-2.8
Zug (ZG)	107.2	20.9	96.0	517	14.3
Fribourg (FR)	258.3	15.9	55.5	162	13.3
Solothurn (SO)	248.6	18.2	77.2	314	3.3
Basel-City (BS)	184.8	30.1	100.0	4,995	-5.2
Basel-Country (BL)	267.2	17.8	91.7	516	5.2
Schaffhausen (SH)	73.9	21.2	73.9	248	0.0
Appenzell A.Rh. (AR)	52.5	12.6	52.9	216	-3.0
Appenzell I.Rh. (AI)	15.3	9.3	0.0	89	3.1
St.Gallen (SG)	461.8	20.5	66.6	237	4.0
Graubünden (GR)	187.9	14.4	49.0	26	1.0
Aargau (AG)	574.8	20.1	65.4	412	8.1
Thurgau (TG)	235.8	19.5	49.3	273	4.9
Ticino (TI)	324.9	25.1	86.7	118	6.6
Vaud (VD)	662.1	28.9	74.8	235	9.2
Valais (VS)	294.6	18.4	56.7	57	8.2
Neuchâtel (NE)	168.9	23.0	74.4	236	2.2
Geneva (GE)	433.2	37.3	99.2	1,762	9.8
Jura (JU)	69.3	11.6	30.0	83	0.5

Permanent resident population in the largest cities 2006

	city		urban agglomeration	
	in 1,000	population growth in % 1996–2006	in 1,000	population growth in % 1996–2006
Total	932.3	0.6	2,754.0	7.0
Zurich	350.1	2.6	1,111.9	9.3
Basel	163.1	-5.7	487.0	1.8
Geneva	178.6	3.6	497.4	10.9
Berne	122.4	-2.8	344.7	1.9
Lausanne	118.0	3.1	313.1	7.5

Growth in urban areas

Today, a third of the Swiss population lives in agglomerations of the five largest cities: Zurich, Basel, Geneva, Berne and Lausanne. A third lives in the remaining urban areas, and a final third lives in the country. The proportion of urban residents in the population increased from 70% to 73% between 1981 and 2006, whereas the proportion living in the country declined from 30% to 27% for the same period.

Live births, 2006

Total	73,371
boys for every 1000 girls	106.1
out of wedlock, share live births (%)	15.4
multiple births	1,178
twin births	1,151
children for every 100 women ¹	1.44

Deaths, 2006

Total	60,283
age at death	
0–19	601
20–39	1,115
40–64	8,324
65–79	15,908
≥ 80	34,335

Migration, 2006

immigrants	127,586
of which foreigners	107,177
emigrants	88,218
of which foreigners	57,739
balance	39,368
Swiss	-10,070
foreigners	49,438

International migration² 2006

Total net movements	413,860
----------------------------	----------------

Marriages, 2006

Total	39,817
Swiss	20,032
Swiss/foreign	8,472
foreign/Swiss	6,594
foreign/foreign	4,719
Average age at marriage	
single men	31.0
single women	28.7

Divorces, 2006

Total	20,981
illegitimate children (%)	46.8
length of marriage	
0–4 years	2,124
5–9 years	5,776
10–14 years	4,066
15 or more years	9,015
summary of divorces ³	51.7

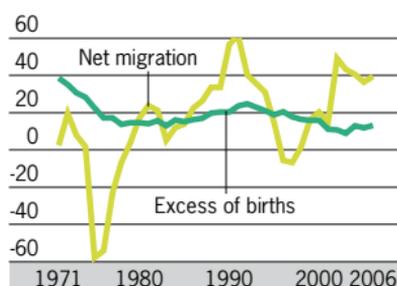
¹ Number of children that 100 women in a lifetime give birth to, based on the age-specific year of birth in year of observation

² Movement between communes, excl. movements within

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

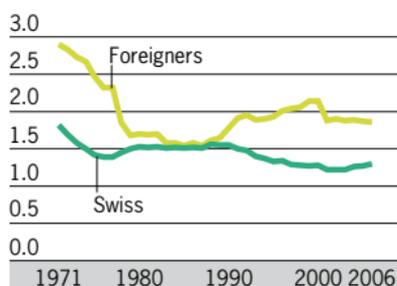
Net migration and excess of births over deaths¹

in 1,000



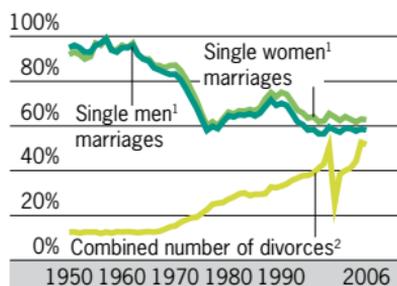
¹ Live births minus deaths

Combined births¹



¹ Number of children per women, see note 1 in left column

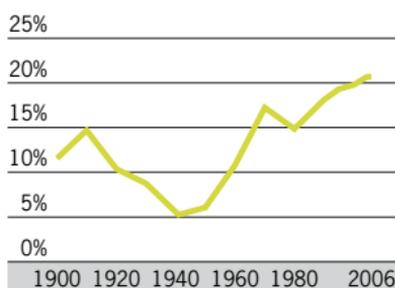
Marriages and divorces



¹ Proportion in % of single men or women less than 50 years old who marry or are married in the year under observation

² See note 3 in left column

Share of foreign permanent resident population

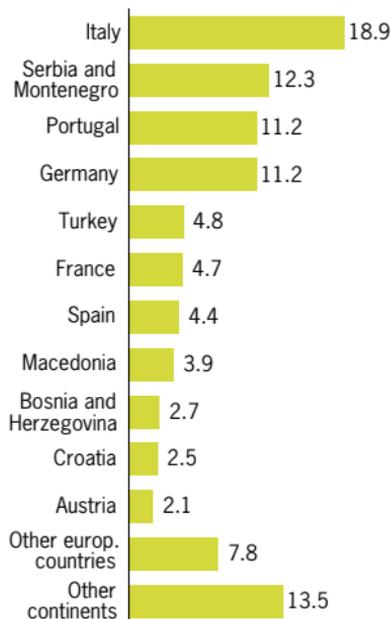


Foreign resident population by type of permit 2006

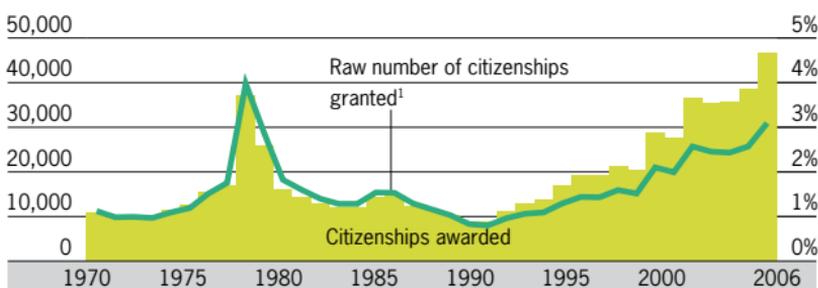
	in 1,000
Total¹	1,673.9
Resident – B permit	402.9
Permanent resident – C permit	1,081.2
Temporary resident (≥ 12 months) L permit	39.5
International officials and diplomats	27.3
Temporary resident (<12 months) L permit	74.5
Asylum seekers – N permit	19.6
Provisionally accepted – F	25.2

¹ includes adjustment

Foreign population based on type of residence permit 2006



Awarding Swiss citizenship



¹ Number of citizenships awarded as a % of the foreign permanent population

Many foreigners born in Switzerland, but not naturalized

In Switzerland, foreigners account for 20.7% of the permanent resident population. More than half of the foreign residents without a Swiss passport (54%) have either been living in Switzerland for more than fifteen years or were born here. Compared with the naturalization rate of 3.1% (2006: 46,700 people), this indicates a significant lack of integration.

The foreign population in Switzerland is young. For every 100 foreigners of working age there are only 10.6 of pensionable age (compared with 30.8 among the Swiss). This is also related to the fact that 25.7% of the children born in Switzerland in 2006 had foreign nationality. In 2006 the immigration figures increased by 7.5% over the previous year. Of these immigrants, 65.5% came from the EU or the EFTA area. In 2006, emigration figures for Italians and Spaniards were once again higher than immigration figures.

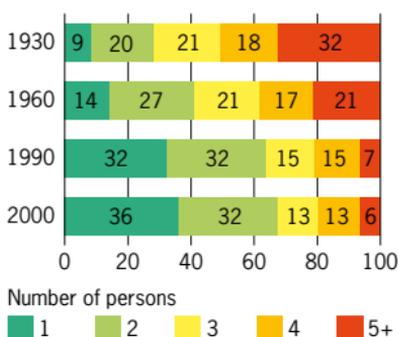
As previously, most people continue to live in a family situation.

Today, the family is still the most dominant form of living. Nearly three-quarters of the population live as couples – 48% with children, 24% without (2000). 6% live in single-parent households. The traditional family – parents with children – still dominates in the 35–49 age group (= 58%; compare, unmarried couples with children = 2%).

Also, only a minority of childless adults live alone – 28% of 21–34 year olds, and 37% of 35–49 year olds. As a general tendency, founding a family is increasingly postponed. Only every fifth woman (21%) born between the years 1965/69 has had a child before the age of 25. In the case of those women born between 1945/49 it was 44%. Young adults are staying longer at home with their parents (23% of men born between 1970/74 left home before they were twenty years old, compared with 45% of those born during 1945/49).

Size of household

In % of private households

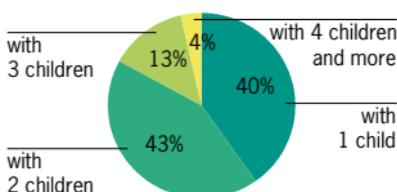


Private households, 2000

	in 1,000
Total	3,115.4
single-person households	1,120.9
family households	1,931.9
childless couples	850.2
couples with children	898.3
single persons with children	161.3
single persons with parents	22.1
non-family households	62.8

Family households with children, 2000

single children under 18

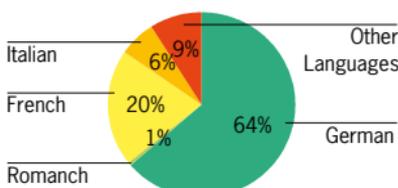


Religious denomination, 2000

Religious denomination	in %
Protestant ¹	35.3
Roman Catholic	41.8
Christian Catholic	0.2
Orthodox Christian	1.8
Other Christian	0.2
Jewish	0.2
Islamic	4.3
other churches and religions	0.8
non-denominational	11.1
no information available	4.3

¹ incl. neo-apostolic churches and Jehovah's Witnesses

Languages, 2000¹



¹ Population by main language group

Climate data 2006

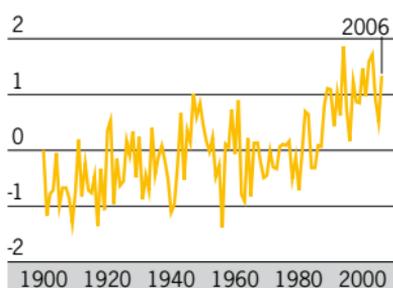
Weather station	Average temperature		Annual rainfall		Annual sunshine	
	°C	Dev. in °C ¹	mm	Index ²	hrs.	Index ²
Lugano (273 m. above sea level)	13.1	1.5	1,298	84	2,230	110
Basel-Binningen (316)	10.9	1.3	1,029	132	1,701	106
Geneva-Cointrin (420)	11.2	1.4	969	100	1,989	117
Neuchâtel (485)	10.7	1.4	1,237	133	1,714	111
Sion (482)	10.6	1.4	604	101	2,167	109
Zurich-MeteoSwiss (556)	9.8	1.3	1,135	104	1,695	114
Berne-Zollikofen (553)	9.4	1.2	1,216	118	1,775	108
St. Gall (779)	8.8	1.4	1,274	102	1,704	123
Davos-Dorf (1590)	4.2	1.4	789	73	1,878	112

¹ Deviation from long-term mean value (1961–1990)

² 100=long-term mean value (1961–1990)

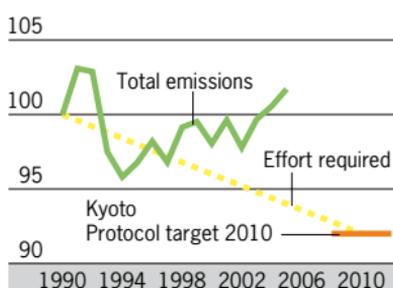
Temperature fluctuations (in °C)

Deviations from long-term mean value (1961–1990)



Greenhouse gas emissions

Index 1990=100



Climate Change

The greenhouse effect is a natural phenomenon, without which, the average temperature of the earth would be around 30°C lower. Through the emission of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and so on) man exerts an influence on the composition of the atmosphere, thus reinforcing the greenhouse effect. Consequently, a rise in temperatures has been observed since 1970 – such that cannot be explained by natural climate fluctuations.

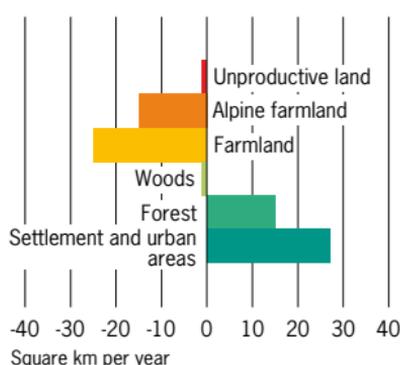
Land use

Period of survey 1992–1997

	km ²	%
Forest, woods	12,716	30.8
Farmland	9,873	23.9
Alpine farmland	5,378	13.0
Settlement and urban areas	2,791	6.8
Lakes and watercourses	1,740	4.2
Unprod. land	8,787	21.3
Total surface area	41,285	100

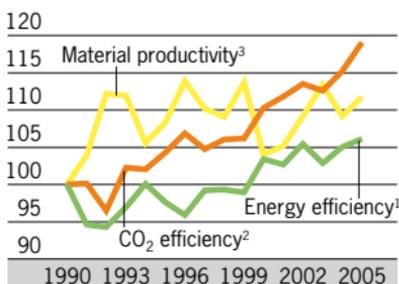
Annual change in land use

Changes 1979/85–1992/97



Eco-efficiency

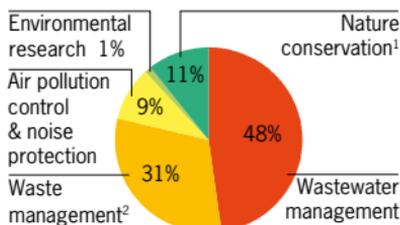
Index 1990=100



- ¹ GDP/Final energy consumption
- ² GDP/CO₂ emissions
- ³ GDP/Total material requirement

Public expenditure for environmental protection

(2005: CHF 3.6 billion)

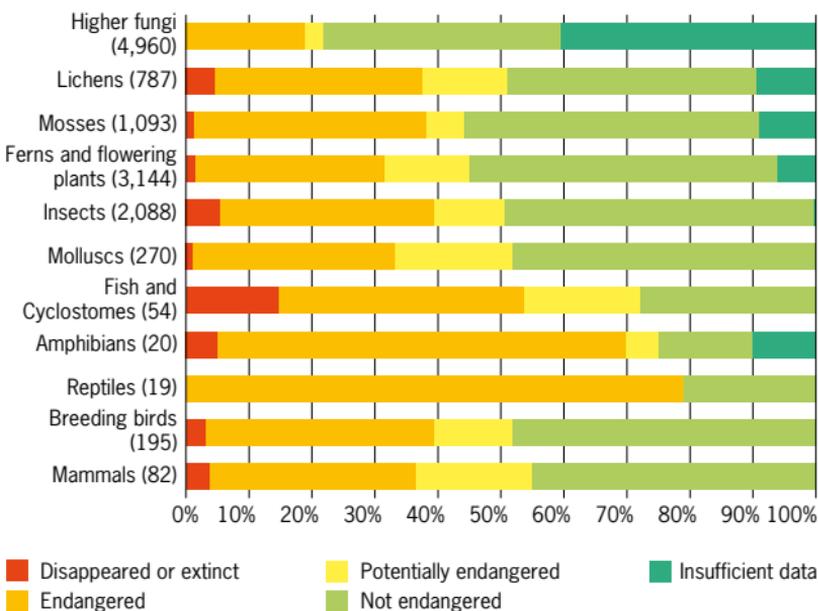


- ¹ Incl. direct payments to the agricultural industry for environmental performance
- ² Not including domestic waste incinerators

Eco-efficiency of the economy

An increase in eco-efficiency is achieved by generating more money in relation to CO₂ emissions, to the quantity of consumed energy or to the total material requirement. However, an increase in efficiency can also indicate that the service sector is increasing in importance at the expense of the energy-, material-, and CO₂-intensive industrial sector and that environmentally-polluting production processes have been transferred abroad.

Biodiversity

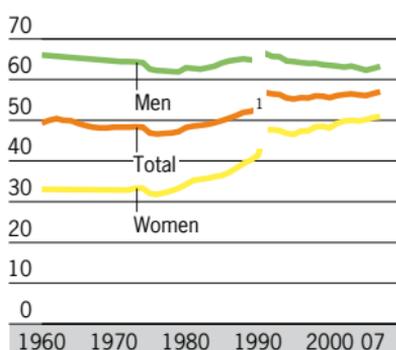


Status 1994–2007, depending on the species groups

→ www.statistik.admin.ch → Themen → Raum, Umwelt (in German)

People in employment

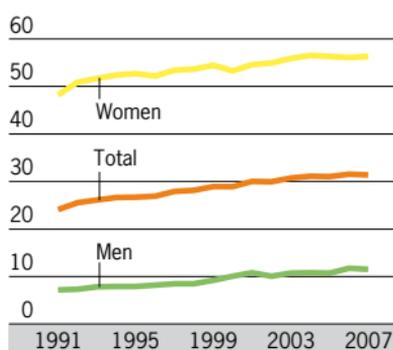
In % of the permanent resident population



¹ New calculation method from 1991 onwards.

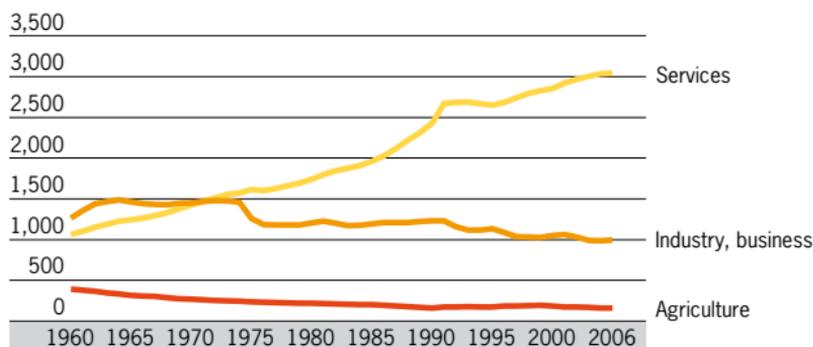
People in part-time employment

In % of the employed persons



People employed by economic sector

in 1,000



Persons in employment by residence status and gender

yearly average in 1,000

	1991	1995	2000	2004	2005	2006
Total	4,075	3,952	4,080	4,169	4,201	4,301
Swiss	3,032	2,966	3,100	3,122	3,135	3,198
Foreigners	1,043	986	980	1,047	1,065	1,103
permanent residents	556	564	595	580	574	573
temporary residents	180	205	183	226	242	264
seasonal workers ¹	72	38	23	-	-	-
cross-border workers ²	181	146	143	173	176	184
temporary visitors	20	17	20	55	56	63
other foreigners	33	17	16	13	18	19
Men	2,389	2,282	2,301	2,315	2,330	2,383
Women	1,686	1,670	1,779	1,854	1,870	1,918

¹ As of 1.6.2002 seasonal work permits are no longer issued

² Based on cross-border worker statistics since 2nd quarter 1995 (previous quarter: Central Aliens' Register)

Self-employed

Despite substantial fluctuations in the economy, the number of self-employed has remained more or less stable over the last ten years. In 2007 self-employed people comprised 14% of the workforce (1997: 15%). The financial and social situation of the self-employed is, however, precarious. In 2005, 25% of full-time self-employed people (including employees in one's own company) applied for cantonal assistance with paying health insurance premiums, against only 17% for full-time employees. The fact that one-quarter of full-time employees contributes neither to the second pillar, nor to third-pillar insurance, combined with the fact that one out of five has no daily allowance insurance for illness at all, are further indications of a critical situation.

Foreign manpower

Foreign manpower is an important element of the Swiss labour market. The strong growth experienced in the second half of the 20th century would not have been possible without the input of foreign labour and the "guest worker". Since the sixties, their share has always exceeded 20%, and today comprises 26% of the workforce. Foreign workers are particularly present in the industrial sector (2007: 34%; services sector: 24%).

Nearly two-thirds (2007: 64%) of foreign workers are nationals of an EU or an EFTA country. With a share of 37%, southern Europeans represent the largest group among foreign workers, followed by nationals from northern and western Europe (25%). 23% of foreign workers come from the western Balkan countries, or from Turkey.

Of foreign workers who immigrated to Switzerland during the past ten years, three-quarters (78%) have obtained educational qualifications at the secondary level II, or at tertiary level. In the case of earlier immigrants, this proportion reaches only 56%.

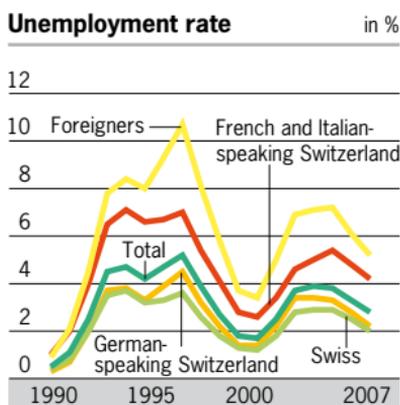
Unemployment¹

	1980	1990	2000	2006	2007
Unemployed	6,255	18,133	71,987	131,532	109,189
proportion of whom are long term unemployed ² as %	...	6.6	20.1	20.1	18.7
Unemployment rate, %	0.2	0.5	1.8	3.3	2.8
Men	0.2	0.4	1.7	3.1	2.6
Women	0.3	0.6	2.0	3.6	3.0

¹ Unemployed based on SECO figures

² Length of unemployment exceeds 12 months

Unemployment is closely related to economic trends. The unemployment rate reached an historic high (5.2%) in 1997. After falling to 1.7% (2001), it then rose once more in the following years (2004: 3.9%) and has since fallen again (2007: 2.8%). Different population groups are affected to a differing extent. The unemployment rate among low-skilled people, young people (aged 15–24), foreigners (who, many of whom, have relatively low skill levels) and in non-German-speaking areas of Switzerland, remains relatively high. The differences between men and women are less marked.



Wages level 2006

	Total	gross monthly wage median ¹			
		level of qualifications ²			
		a	b	c	d
Switzerland³	5,674	10,463	6,796	5,463	4,400
Lake Geneva region (VD, VS, GE)	5,699	10,666	6,784	5,717	4,544
Espace Mittelland (BE, FR, SO, NE, JU)	5,552	9,840	6,527	5,417	4,389
North-western Switzerland (BS, BL, AG)	5,902	10,713	6,863	5,617	4,463
Zurich (ZH)	6,154	11,904	7,510	5,635	4,470
Eastern Switzerland (GL, SH, AR, AI, SG, GR, TG)	5,302	8,848	6,250	5,154	4,332
Central Switzerland (LU, UR, SZ, OW, NW, ZG)	5,537	9,778	6,642	5,262	4,303
Ticino (TI)	4,899	8,448	5,600	5,048	3,921

¹ Standardized monthly wage: full-time equivalent based on 40 hours a week and 4½ weeks a month.

² Level of qualifications:

a = Extremely demanding and difficult tasks

b = Independent and skilled work

c = Work requiring professional/technical skills

d = Simple and repetitive tasks

³ Private and public (Confederation) sectors combined

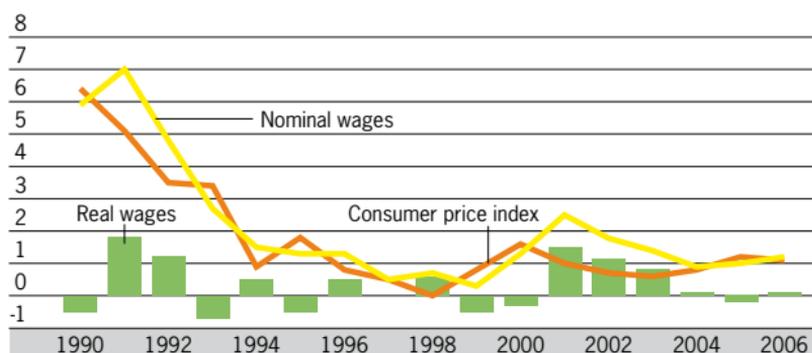
Income from employment 2006¹

	distribution in %					
	income category (CHF 1000 p.a. gross)					
	<=26	26-52	52-78	78-104	>104	no inform.
Total	15.7	18.1	26.4	14.3	13.1	12.4
Men, full time	1.6	9.0	32.8	21.5	22.8	12.4
Women, full time	5.7	23.9	33.4	14.4	8.4	14.0
Men, part time	34.9	21.8	17.5	8.7	5.6	11.6
Women, part time	42.4	29.4	12.8	3.0	1.0	11.4

¹ Employed persons, excl. apprentices

Evolution of nominal wages, the consumer price index and real wages

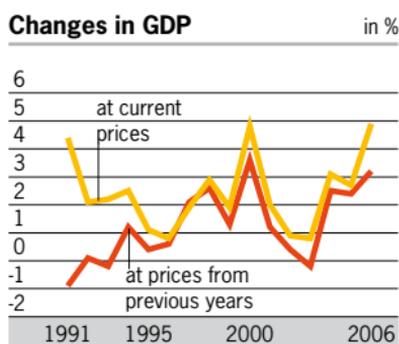
Change compared with the previous year in %



Evolution of real wages

	Base year: 1939=100					
	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006
Total	254	272	279	279	289	289
Men	241	257	264	264	271	271
Women	279	302	307	311	325	326

Trends in Switzerland's economy



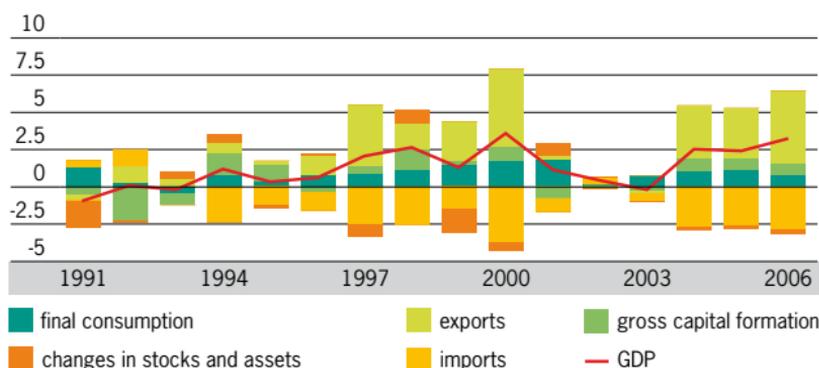
At the beginning of the 90s, Switzerland went through a period of structural adjustment with weak economic growth. Since 1997, however, the Swiss economy has picked up, albeit with a significant slow-down at the start of the century as a result, among other things, of turbulence in the financial sector.

A dynamic export sector driving the Swiss economy

The figure below demonstrates the role played by the foreign trade sector (both imports and exports) as a driving force for the economy since 1997. Indeed, periods of strong growth coincide with periods of flourishing foreign trade. Accordingly, exports were the one component of GDP which contributed to growth in the fat years (from 1997 to 2000, and again from 2004 to 2006).

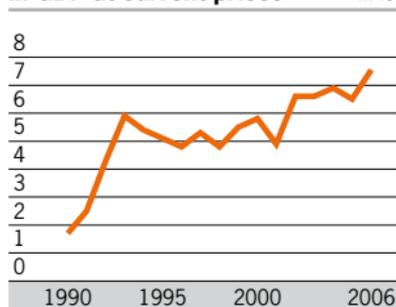
Share of components of GDP in economic growth

In % of previous year



Role of the external sector increasing

Share of the external sector in GDP at current prices

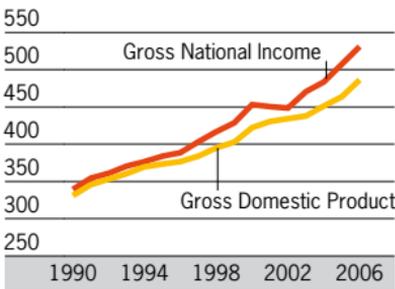


One result of strong exports is the growing contribution of net exports (the balance of exports and imports) to GDP, which clearly demonstrates the growing importance of the rest of the world for the Swiss economy.

Stronger growth in Gross National Income (GNI)

GDP and GNI at current prices

In CHF billion

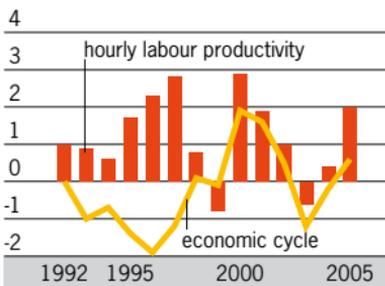


In addition to the growing importance of net exports, net income from abroad (from employment and capital) has been growing strongly in recent years. This has brought about a stronger growth in GNI than in GDP, which similarly illustrates the growing internationalisation of the Swiss economy.

The economic cycle and labour productivity

Year on change

in %



Average year on change

Period	Hourly labour productivity	Economic cycle
1991–1996	1.3%	stagnation
1996–2000	1.4%	growth
2000–2003	0.7%	stagnation
2003–2005	1.2%	growth
1991–2005	1.2%	

Once we have measured the level of economic activity by GDP, we can look at the efficiency with which factors of production are used (i.e. labour and capital). Labour efficiency is measured by hourly productivity; that is, the value added per hour of labour.

The figures and tables above present trends in labour productivity and the economic cycle between the years 1991 and 2005. An economic cycle refers to fluctuations in economic activity, that exhibit a certain regularity, and that can be measured by comparing changes in GDP over long-term trends.

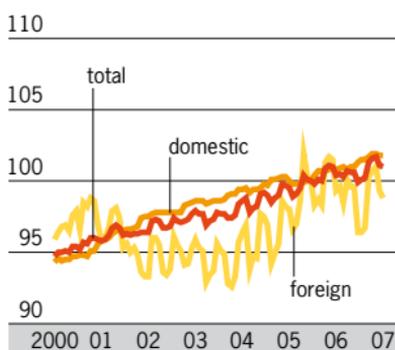
Generally speaking, labour productivity and the economic cycle tend to move in the same direction. For example, growth in the economy corresponds to a phase of accelerated growth in productivity. The period from 1991 to 1996, however, represents an exception in this respect, inasmuch as an increase in labour productivity could be observed even in a period of economic stagnation. This situation was due to a fall in the number of total hours worked in the economy for this period.

Changes in CPI

	changes in yearly average in %				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.7
Foodstuffs and non-alcoholic beverages	1.3	0.5	-0.7	0.0	0.5
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	1.1	3.5	4.7	1.1	2.1
Shoes and clothing	-0.3	-2.7	-0.1	1.9	0.3
Housing and energy	0.4	1.6	3.0	2.8	2.1
Household items and expenditure	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.3
Health care	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.0	-0.2
Transport	0.4	1.5	3.4	2.8	1.0
News and media	-0.4	-0.7	-5.7	-6.9	-3.0
Leisure and culture	0.0	-0.4	-0.6	-0.2	-0.5
Education	1.9	1.5	1.1	1.6	1.6
Restaurants and hotels	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.4
Other goods and services	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.1

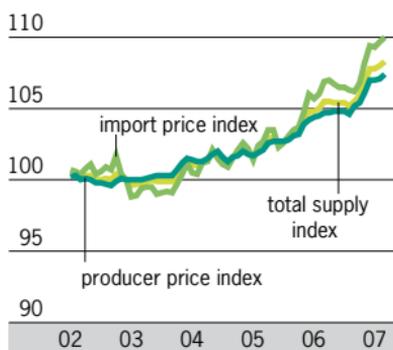
CPI by origin

Index, December 2005=100



Producer and import price index

Index, May 2003=100



International comparison of price indices 2005

EU25=100

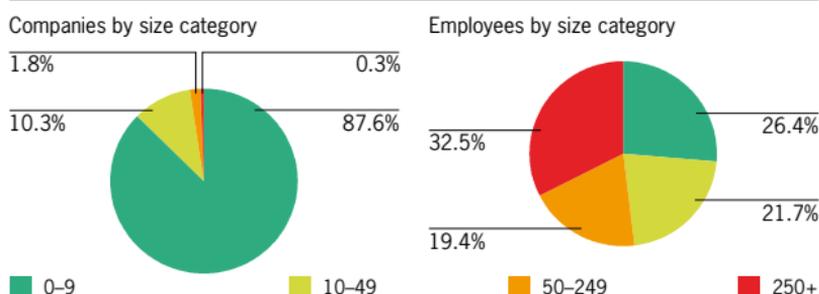
	Switzerland	Germany	France	Italy
Gross domestic product	131	104	108	102
Real individual consumption	138	105	106	104
Foodstuffs and non-alcoholic drinks	145	104	104	115
Alcoholic drinks and tobacco	97	97	110	102
Shoes and clothing	116	103	91	103
Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	171	113	118	102
Interior decoration, equipment and household management	118	96	105	105
Health care	148	101	108	125
Transportation	109	100	97	95
News and media	125	106	110	102
Leisure and culture	122	104	105	103
Education	161	138	104	111
Hotels and guest houses	123	94	110	100
Other goods and services	137	102	105	98
Real collective consumption	138	111	126	116
Gross fixed investment	122	104	108	90
Machines and devices	102	102	103	99
Construction	152	109	111	84

Continuing structural change and lasting dominance of SMEs

The structure of economy in Switzerland has continued to change between 1995 and 2005. Some areas of the secondary sector in particular, such as construction, the textile and leather industries, paper, printing and publishing and mechanical engineering, have been subject to major falls in employment levels, while the tertiary sector, such as business support services, IT, research and development and health and social services, have seen significant growth. The percentage of total employment represented by the tertiary sector has grown from 65% to 69% between 1995 and 2005 (market-oriented companies only).

The dominance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – that is, companies with fewer than 250 employees – has continued uninterrupted. They represent 99.7% of private sector companies and employ two-thirds of the working population (2005).

Company size¹ 2005



¹ Only private sector companies. The size of a company is determined by the number of full-time equivalents (part-time positions are added together to make full-time posts).

Market-oriented companies and employees by economic activity

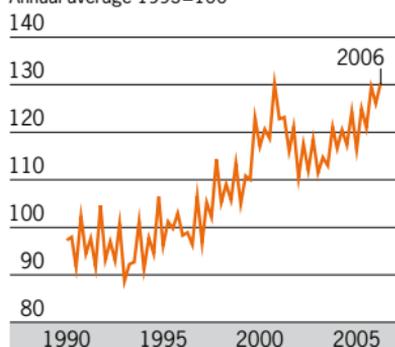
in 1,000	1995		2005	
	Companies	Employees	Companies	Employees
Total	286.1	3,118.5	298.7	3,185.4
Sector 2	74.4	1,098.3	72.5	1,000.6
Mining	0.4	5.7	0.3	4.3
Manufacturing	41.4	744.5	37.4	677.5
of which:				
Food and luxury food industry	2.9	68.7	2.3	66.6
Paper, printing and publishing	4.8	77.2	4.1	60.3
Oil and chemical industries	0.8	69.6	0.9	68.5
Metalworking industry	7.7	107.3	7.7	98.2
Mechanical engineering	3.7	113.8	3.4	98.9
Electrical and precision engineering industry	5.2	137.3	5.0	141.7
Power and water supply	0.3	18.2	0.5	24.8
Construction	32.4	329.8	34.4	294.0
Sector 3	211.7	2,020.1	226.2	2,184.8
Retail sector; repair of consumer goods	74.0	625.1	68.8	614.1
Hotels and catering	23.9	223.8	25.1	211.6
Transport, telecommunications	10.3	254.5	10.7	245.0
Banking and insurance industry	3.6	187.7	5.8	196.2
Property, rental of machinery and equipment	4.1	20.1	5.4	29.8
IT activities, research and development	5.8	36.9	11.2	72.8
Business support services	46.5	251.5	55.8	318.5
Public administration; Social security; Education	4.3	52.6	4.3	64.9
Health and social services	19.4	280.4	19.5	334.1
Other services to third parties	19.9	87.7	19.6	97.8

New companies and closures

Economic activity	New companies 2005		Number of companies	Closures 2004
	Number of companies	Total employees		
Total	11,074	22,554	11,169	43,284
Sector 2	2,148	4,691	2,411	13,781
Industry	877	1,861	1,264	8,143
Construction	1,271	2,830	1,147	5,638
Sector 3	8,926	17,863	8,758	29,503
Retail sector	2,410	4,713	3,274	10,606
Hotels and catering	341	1,301	605	3,050
Transport and communications	465	1,092	543	2,138
Banking and insurance	454	895	302	1,064
Property, business services	3,455	6,233	2,530	7,569
IT services	793	1,340	755	2,321
Education	147	293	154	801
Health and social services	250	709	145	733
Other public and personal services	611	1,287	450	1,221

Production in the secondary sector

Indexed change in the quarterly results
Annual average 1995=100



Production in the secondary sector (excluding construction) was significantly lower in the recession years between 1991 and 1993; and during 1995/96 it remained low. Towards the end of the 90s it rose considerably, only to suffer serious setbacks in the years 2002 and 2003. This sector shows an overall growth in production of 37% between 1990 and 2006.

Retail sales

variation from the previous year in percentage terms

		2002	2003	2004	2005 ²	2006
		Total	Nominal	-0.3	-0.4	2.1	1.3	1.6
	Real ¹	0.1	-0.9	1.4	1.7	1.9
Food, drink and tobacco products	Nominal	1.2	2.6	1.8	0.2	1.1
	Real ¹	-0.9	1.3	0.9	0.2	1.0
Clothing and footwear	Nominal	-1.6	-3.0	-0.5	3.6	1.8
	Real ¹	1.0	-2.6	2.4	3.8	-0.1
Other groups	Nominal	-0.7	-1.2	2.8	0.9	1.8
	Real ¹	0.8	-1.3	1.5	1.1	3.4

¹ Adjusted for price changes in accordance with the domestic consumer price index.

² From 2005 onwards, "Total" and "Other groups" do not include "Motor vehicles" and "Fuels".

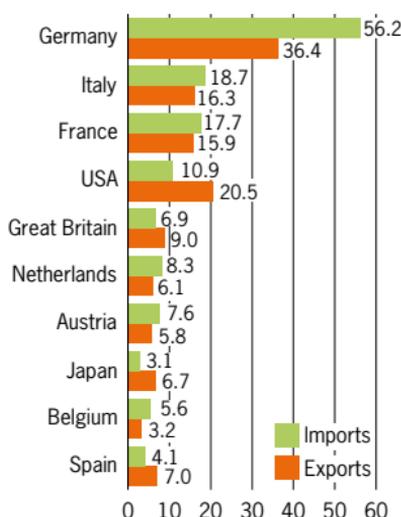
Labour costs

Labour costs include all costs incurred by the employer in employing manpower. In general they represent the largest part of production costs. In Switzerland, they are composed as follows: 82.7% salaries and indemnities, 14.8% social security contributions on the part of the employer, and 2.5% vocational training and staff recruitment costs, as well as other costs (2004).

Labour costs are a key indicator making comparisons between business locations, varying widely from country to country. At 32.9€ per hour of work performed (2004), Switzerland belongs to the top of the European field, together with Denmark (30.7€) and Belgium (30€). Neighbouring countries whose hourly labour costs exceed the European average (i.e. France, Germany and Austria) show costs between 25€ and 28€.

Foreign trade: our key partners in 2006

in CHF billion



Foreign trade represents a high proportion of gross domestic product (GDP) in Switzerland. Its most important trading partners are the industrialized countries, which accounted for 79% of Swiss exports and 88% of imports in 2006. The EU plays a particularly important role (62% of exports and 79% of imports).

Foreign trade: the key goods

in CHF million

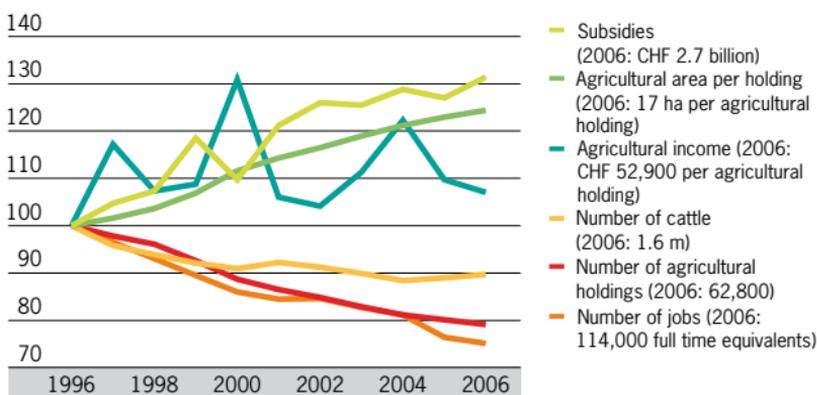
	Imports			Exports		
	1990	2005	2006	1990	2005	2006
Total	96,611	157,544	177,148	88,257	162,991	185,216
of which:						
Agricultural and forestry products	8,095	10,997	11,938	2,998	5,192	6,180
Textiles, clothing, footwear	8,806	8,846	9,392	4,984	4,200	4,406
Chemicals	10,625	32,797	35,785	18,422	54,838	62,975
Metals	9,025	12,367	15,519	7,537	11,664	13,424
Machinery, electronics	19,794	29,972	32,018	25,527	35,172	38,630
Vehicles	10,230	14,333	15,495	1,485	4,425	4,942
Instruments and watches	5,786	10,786	12,171	13,330	27,638	31,305

→ www.statistik.admin.ch → Themen → Industrie und Dienstleistungen (in German)

Agricultural land and forests account for 37% and 31% respectively of Switzerland's territory. The landscape is therefore shaped to a large extent by agriculture and forestry. These activities are important not only for food production, construction materials and renewable energies, but also for maintaining decentralised economic activity and for protecting landscape diversity. In 2006, the combined contribution of these two sectors to the gross added value of Switzerland's economy amounted to 1.2%.

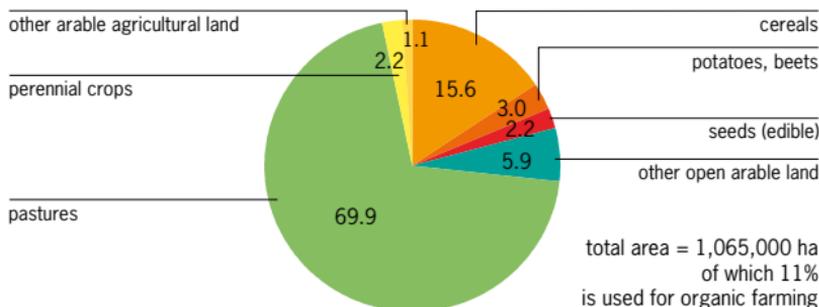
A few key indicators in agriculture

index 1996 = 100



Agricultural area used, 2006

In %, excl. summer pastures

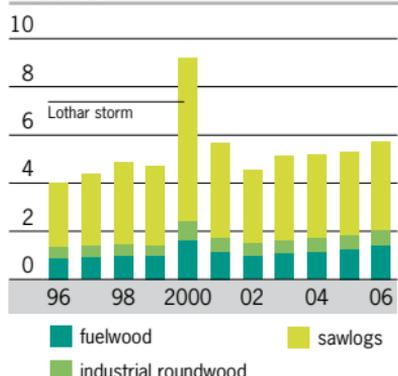


Output of agriculture, 2006

	in %
Total value= CHF 10 billion	
Crop output	41.4
Cereals	4.4
Forage plants	10.4
Vegetables and horticultural products	12.6
Fruits and grapes	5.1
Wine	4.3
Other crop outputs	4.6
Animal output	49.2
Cattle	12.2
Pigs	9.6
Milk	23.1
Other animals and animal products	4.3
Agricultural services output	6.3
Non-agricultural secondary activities	3.1

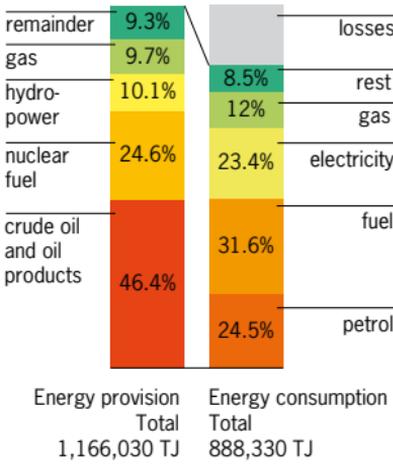
Logging

in million m³

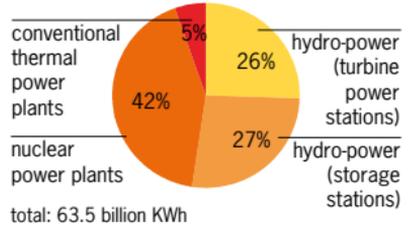


→ www.statistik.admin.ch → Themen → Land- und Forstwirtschaft (in German)

Energy provision and consumption, 2006



Electricity generation by power plant type, 2006



Renewable energy, 2006

Share of end use	in %
hydropower	10.89
solar	0.13
geo-thermal	0.71
biomass (wood and biogas)	3.62
wind	0.01
renewable energy use from waste	1.33
energy use in wastewater treatment	0.20

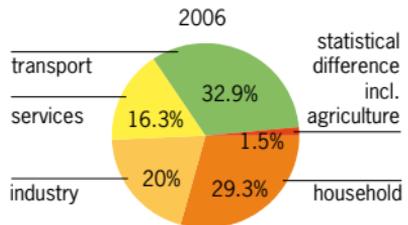
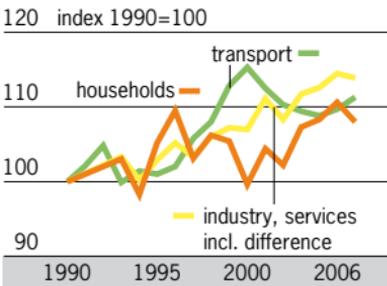
Increased consumption

Final energy consumption is closely linked to economic development and population growth. More residents, larger homes, greater production, rising consumption, heavier motor vehicles and so on, all lead to increased energy consumption in spite of improved energy efficiency. The largest energy consumption group is transport, accounting for around one-third of final energy consumption. Nearly 60% of final energy consumption is covered for by fossil fuels. Only 16.9% comes from renewable energy sources, hydro-power being the main source (10.9%).

Energy consumption in 1,000 TJ



Final consumption of energy by consumer groups



→ www.statistik.admin.ch → Themen → Energie (in German)
www.sfoe.admin.ch → Topics → Energy statistics
 (Swiss Federal Office of Energy)

Construction expenditure

in CHF million, prices of 2000

	1980	1990	2000	2005	2006
Total	34,198	47,588	43,708	47,517	46,983
Public expenditure	11,389	14,507	15,983	15,310	14,890
Civil engineering	6,791	7,740	10,060	9,358	9,153
of which roads	...	...	5,221	4,124	4,022
Building construction	4,599	6,767	5,923	5,952	5,737
Private expenditure	22,809	33,081	27,725	32,207	32,094
of which housing	...	...	17,147	21,753	21,522

Housing construction

	1980	1990	2000	2005	2006
New residential	20,806	16,162	16,962	16,990	17,192
of which single-family dwellings	16,963	11,200	13,768	12,407	12,031
New dwellings	40,876	39,984	32,214	37,958	41,989
with 1 room	2,122	2,010	528	423	480
2 rooms	4,598	5,248	1,779	1,941	2,125
3 rooms	7,094	8,937	4,630	5,756	7,126
4 rooms	11,557	12,487	10,783	13,920	15,636
5 rooms or more	15,505	11,302	14,494	15,918	16,622

Housing supply

	1980	1990	2000	2005	2006
as of year-end	2,702,656	3,140,353	3,574,988	3,748,920	3,791,574
of which remained empty (%) ¹	0.55	0.55	1.26	1.06	1.07

¹ as of 1 June following year**Trend towards larger apartments ...**

The number of apartments is growing faster than the population. Between 1990 and 2000, apartments increased by 8% and the population by 6%, bringing the average number of persons per inhabited apartment down from 2.4 to 2.3. At the same time, the average per capita living space increased from 39 m² to 44 m².

... and single-family houses

Single-family houses as a percentage of total building stock rose from 40% to 56% between 1970 and 2000. 70% of newly constructed buildings for housing purposes are now (2006) single-family homes, despite the efforts of town and country planners to counter this trend and the fact that building land is becoming increasingly scarce.

Continued low rate of home-ownership

The vast majority of dwellings (73.3%) belong to private individuals (2000) – and not, as is often supposed, to corporate bodies. Nevertheless, the home-ownership rate in Switzerland is relatively low: in 2000, only 34.6% of all permanently occupied dwellings were used by the owners themselves. That is by far the lowest percentage of all European countries. However, home ownership has increased somewhat since 1970, mainly thanks to the rapid increase in condominium-style apartment ownership.

→ www.statistik.admin.ch → Themen → Bau- und Wohnungswesen (in German)

Important tourism indicators

	2000	2005	2006
Supply (beds, places)¹			
hotels and cure centres	264,495	274,035	271,591
Demand: arrivals in 1,000			
hotels and cure centres	13,894	13,803	14,811
domestic guests	6,059	6,574	6,948
foreign guests	7,835	7,229	7,863
Demand: no. of nights in 1,000			
hotels and cure centres	35,020	32,944	34,848
Length of stay average no. of nights			
hotels and cure centres	2.5	2.4	2.4
domestic guests	2.5	2.2	2.2
foreign guests	2.6	2.5	2.5
Gross capacity utilisation: hotels and cure centres			
expressed as a % of available beds	36.2	32.9	35.2
Tourism account CHF billions			
receipts from foreign visitors to Switzerland	11,223	12,549	13,334
expenditure by Swiss nationals abroad	9,167	11,056	12,384
balance	2,057	1,493	951

Expenditure of Swiss nationals on tourism

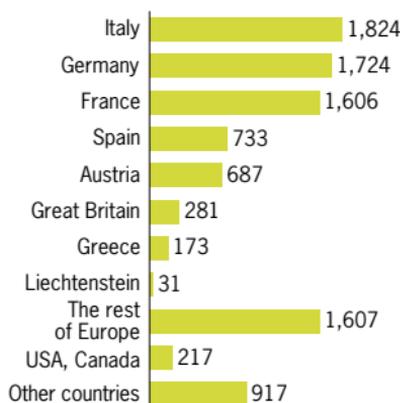
total CHF millions	18,844	...	...
of which domestic tourism represents	9,678	...	...

Revenue contribution from tourism to the Swiss economy

in CHF millions	20,901	...	...
in % of GDP	5.0	...	...

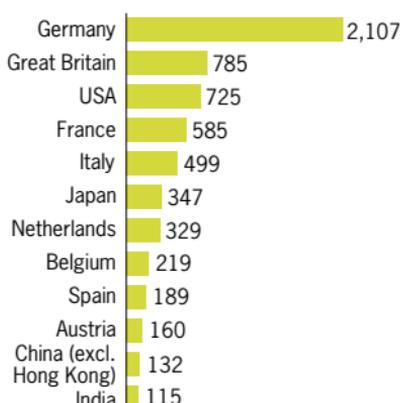
¹ total number of open and closed facilities with available beds on average over a year

Travel destinations of the Swiss¹, 2005



¹ travel abroad incl. overnight stay, in 1,000
Total: 9.8 million

Visitors to Switzerland¹, 2006



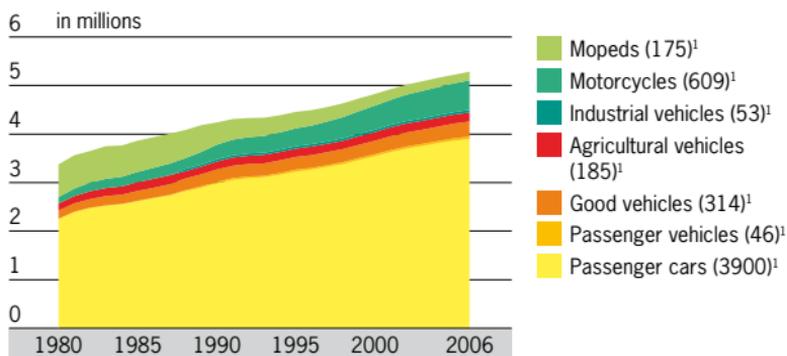
¹ arrivals, in 1,000 (total: 14.81 million of which 6.95 million accounted for by Swiss guests, excl. non-hotel tourism)

Infrastructure

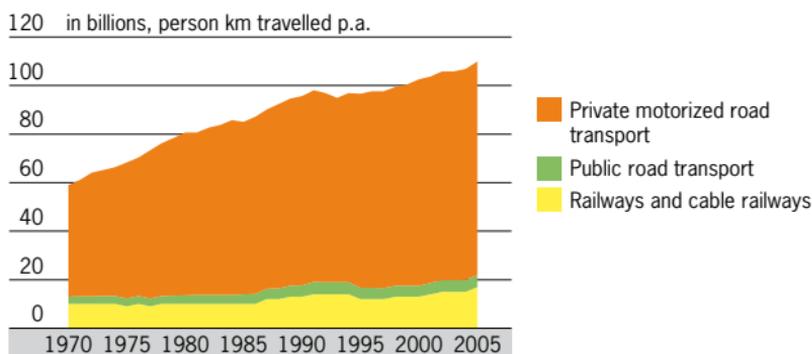
Transport infrastructure covers a third of the settlement areas in Switzerland (according to the Area survey from 1992/97).

In 2005 the railway network covered 5,062 km, national highways 1,756 km (of which motorways comprise 1,358 km), cantonal roads 18,094 km and municipal roads 51,446 km (as at 1984).

Pool of road motor vehicles



Passenger transport performance



Daily mobility, 2005

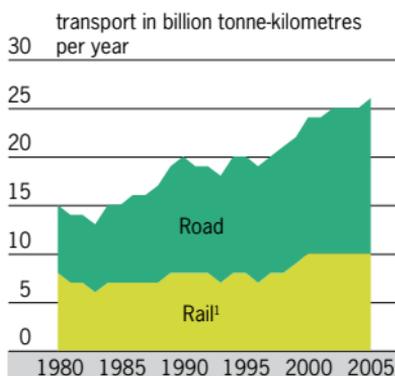
	daily distance		travel time		average per person p.d. ¹	
	(km)		(Min.) ²		journey time (km)	travel time (Min.) ²
Total	38.2		98.4			
purpose of trip purpose						
work and education	10.6		22.3			
shopping	4.4		13.3			
services and escort	0.5		1.0			
business	3.3		6.4			
leisure	16.8		50.0			
other non-specified	2.5		5.4			
means of transport						
on foot					2.1	36.9
bicycle					0.8	4.3
moped					0.1	0.2
motorcycle					0.6	1.3
car					25.5	38.4
bus/tram					1.5	6.1
post bus					0.2	0.4
train					6.2	7.2
other					1.2	3.6

¹ daily mobility of permanent population over & inc. the age of 10 in Switzerland

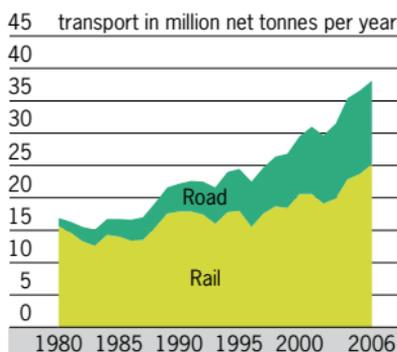
² includes waiting time

Goods transport

All transport

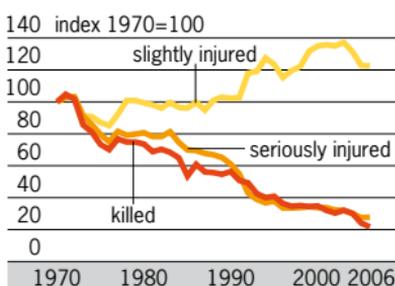


Transalpine goods traffic



¹ net tonne-kilometres not including the weight of goods vehicles (incl. trailers) containers and swap bodies in multimodal transport

Victims of road accidents



Road accidents by type of carrier

Road traffic (2006)	
Persons killed	370
Persons seriously injured	5,066
Persons slightly injured	21,652
Rail traffic:	
persons killed (2005)	39
Air traffic:	
persons killed in Switzerland (2006)	11

Transport costs

The economic cost of transport, i.e. the costs met directly by the public sector, third persons or by those using the services, reached CHF 75 billion in 2003. Mobility therefore costs us more than health care or the public educational system. Of this, road transport costs the economy around six times more than the railways. In the case of personal road vehicles (people-carriers) the cost per person kilometre is CHF 0.50. The cost per person kilometre for rail in contrast, is CHF 0.40. In goods transport the costs per tonne kilometre for heavy road vehicles reaches CHF 0.57, whereas for transport by rail it is CHF 0.27. Around 6.5 of the CHF 75 billion relates to external costs, which are borne by persons other than those who cause the initial damage (i.e. non-internalised externalities – in particular, resulting costs incurred by damage to the environment and health, as well as damage to buildings and loss of value).



	Year ¹	Switzerland	Germany	Greece
Inhabitants (at the start of the year) in 1,000	2006	7,459	82,438	11,125
Inhabitants per km ²	2005	180	231	84
People under 15 in %	2005	16.3	14.5	14.5
People over 64 in %	2005	15.8	18.6	14.5
Births per 1,000 inhabitants	2004	9.9	8.6	9.6
Births outside of marriage in %	2005	13	28	5
Marriages per 1,000 inhabitants	2005	5.4	4.7	5.5
Divorces per 1,000 inhabitants	2005	2.4	2.6	1.1
Migration balance per 1,000 inhabitants	2004	5.2	1	3.1
Foreign residents in % of total population	2004	21.8	8.1	6.9
Persons per household	2000	2.2	2.1	2.6
25–34 year olds with a university degree in %	2004	30	23	25
Internet users per 1,000 inhabitants	2005	509	455	180
Life expectancy, men in years	2004	78.6	75.7	76.6
Life expectancy, women in years	2004	83.7	81.4	81.4
Infant mortality ²	2004	4.2	4.1	3.9
Practising doctors per 100,000 inhabitants	2004	375	339	451
Cost of the health care system as a % of GDP	2005	11.6	10.7	10.1
Social security spending as a % of GDP	2004	29.5	29.5	26
Agricultural land as % of total land	2001	36.9	48.8	66
Forest land as % of total land	2001	30.8	30.2	22.8
CO ₂ emissions from the burning of fossil fuels in tonnes per inhabitant	2004	6	10.3	8.5
Cars per 1,000 inhabitants	2004	516	550	379
Road accidents: fatalities per 1 million inhabitants	2005	55	65	145
Employees in agriculture in %	2006	3.8	2.2	12
Employees in industry in %	2006	23	29.8	22
Employees in services in %	2006	73.2	68	65.9
Employment rate Women Aged 15+	2006	59.8	51.8	42.5
Employment rate Men Aged 15+	2006	75.4	66.1	64.8
Unemployment rate (according to the international definition)	2006	4	10.3	8.8
Women	2006	4.7	10.1	13.4
Men	2006	3.4	10.4	5.6
15–24 year-olds	2006	7.7	13.4	24.5
Long-term unemployed as a % of the unemployed	2006	38.5	57.2	55.6
Part-time employees Women in % ³	2006	57.5	45.3	10.1
Part-time employees Men in % ³	2006	11.2	8.7	2.7
Working week in hours	2006	41.6	40.3	40.8
Exports per inhabitant (in USD)	2004	15,691	11,024	1,356
GDP per capita in PPP US\$	2005	36,200	29,800	23,200
Average real growth in GDP per year, in %	1995–2005	1.5	1.4	3.9
Inflation rate	2006	1.1	1.8	3.3
Public surplus/deficit as % of GDP	2006	1.1	-1.7	-2.6
Public debt as % of GDP	2006	59.1	67.9	104.6

¹ Or most recent year available

² Children who died in their first year of life per 1,000 live births

³ Of employed women or men



Spain	France	Italy	Netherlands	Austria	Sweden	U.K.	EU-25
43,758	62,886	58,751	16,334	8,266	9,048	60,393	463,523
85	110	192	483	98	20	246	117
14.5	18.5	14.1	18.5	16.1	17.6	18.2	...
16.8	16.4	19.2	14	16	17.2	16	...
10.6	12.7	9.7	11.9	9.7	11.2	12	10.5
27	47	15	32	36	55	42	32
4.8	4.5	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.9	5.2	4.8
1.2	2.2	0.8	1.9	2.3	2.2	2.6	2.1
14.3	1.7	9.6	-0.6	7.6	2.8	3.4	4
7.8	5.5	4.1	4.3	9.6	5.3	4.2	...
2.9	2.4	2.6	2.3	2.4	...	2.3	2.4
38	38	15	34	20	42	31	...
415	428	477	738	484	763	472	...
77.2	76.7	76.8	76.4	76.4	78.4	75.9	75.6
83.8	83.8	82.9	81.1	82.1	82.7	80.5	81.7
3.5	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.5	3.1	5.1	4.6
322	338	619	315	345	326	213	347
8.2	11.1	8.9	9.2	10.2	9.1	8.3	...
20	31.2	26.1	28.5	29.1	32.9	26.3	27.3
58.8	56.2	44.4	57.3	41.2	7.7	69.4	...
33.3	31.6	23.3	9.5	41.6	73.5	11.6	...
7.7	6.2	8	11.4	9.2	5.8	9	...
454	494	581	448	501	456	504	...
102	88	93	46	93	49	55	90
4.9	3.9	4.2	3.3	5.6	2.3	1.3	4.7
29.5	24.3	29.8	20.4	28.1	22	22	27.4
65.6	71.8	66	76.3	66.3	75.8	76.7	67.9
47.7	50.1	38.3	57.9	52.5	59.9	55.8	49.5
68.2	62.1	61.5	72.7	68.2	68.2	69.2	65.5
8.5	8.8	6.6	3.9	4.7	8	5.3	8.2
11.5	9.5	8.5	4.3	5.3	8.4	4.8	9
6.4	8.1	5.2	3.6	4.3	7.7	5.7	7.6
18.2	21.6	20.6	6	8.7	26.8	13.7	17.1
22.1	44.6	52.9	45.2	28	14.2	22.1	45.9
23.4	30.6	26.6	74.6	40.4	39.7	41.8	32.4
4.3	5.6	4.3	22.1	5.9	10.5	9.2	7
41	39.1	39.3	38.8	42.4	39.9	42.4	40.5
4,267	7,027	6,081	19,527	13,337	13,701	5,706	7,926
27,300	30,200	28,500	34,200	33,600	32,700	32,100	...
3.6	2.1	1.3	2.3	2.2	2.7	2.8	...
3.6	1.9	2.2	1.7	1.7	1.5	2.3	2.2
1.8	-2.5	-4.4	0.6	-1.1	2.2	-2.8	-1.7
39.9	63.9	106.8	48.7	62.2	46.9	43.5	62.2

Total assets and profits of banks, 2006

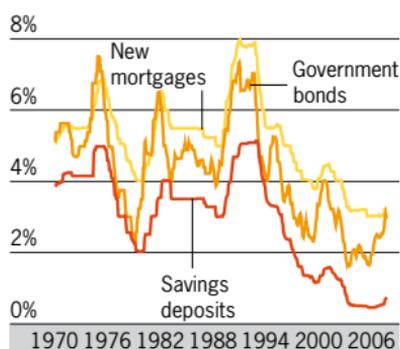
Bank categories	No. institutions		Total assets		Annual profits in CHF million	Annual losses in CHF million
	1990	2006	in CHF million	Change ¹		
Cantonal banks	29	24	343,080	4.9	2,416	-
Major banks	4	2	2,198,373	15.1	10,911	-
Regional and savings banks	204	78	85,942	2.5	505	-
"Raiffeisen" banks ²	2	1	113,998	5.4	655	-
Other banks	218	183	410,586	7.4	5,131	15
Branches of foreign banks	16	29	23,657	35.7	161	33
Private banking	22	14	18,561	7.9	360	-
Total	495	331	3,194,197	12.2	20,139	47

¹ % change over previous year² An association with 405 member banks (at year-end 2006)**Balance-sheet structure of the banks, 2006**

Assets	in %
Liquid assets	0.6
Due from money market	3.7
Due from banks	27.6
Total credits	19.8
Mortgage claims	20.9
Security holdings	15.3
Financial investments	2.9
Holdings	1.6
Tangible assets	0.6
Other assets	7.1
Total	100
incl. foreign	67.6
Liabilities	in %
Money-market commitments	4.2
Bank commitments	29.0
Customer funds	52.9
Liabilities in the form of savings and deposits	11.2
Other commitments on sight and on term	22.3
Bonds	1.1
Loans and debenture bonds	8.8
Other liabilities	9.5
Own assets	4.4
Total	100
incl. foreign	61.5

Private insurance, 2006

Insurance type	in CHF million	
	Revenue ¹	Expendit. ¹
Life insurance	34,513	36,627
Insurance against accident and loss	50,572	28,713
Re-insurance	29,802	12,247
Total	114,888	77,587

¹ At home and abroad**Cantonal bank interest rates****Exchange rates**

Bank purchase rate, mid-year	2002			2004		2006	
	2002	2004	2006	2002	2004	2006	2006
US\$ 1	1.5556	1.2419	1.2530				
Yen 100	1.2423	1.1483	1.0773				
EURO 1	1.4670	1.5437	1.5729				
£ 1	2.3329	2.2746	2.3068				

→ www.snb.ch/en (Swiss National Bank)
www.bpv.admin.ch → Documentation → Facts and figures
(Federal Office of Private Insurance)

The three levels of social security

In Switzerland the system of social security rests on three levels based on the principle of subsidiarity. This system can be illustrated by an inverted pyramid. Beyond basic social insurance, covering mainly old age insurance, health and accident insurance, as well as unemployment insurance, social security contributions are subject to means but above social assistance level. Social assistance is thus the last safety net for fighting against financial precarity. Those persons in need of, but who do not claim, social assistance, represent hidden poverty.

Global accounts of social security

Global accounts of social security are a total statistic which permits analysis of social security finances in Switzerland and to make comparisons with other countries. Hence, in 2005, global expenditure on social security amounted to CHF 135.5 billion, which represents an increase of 2.7% in relation to 2004.

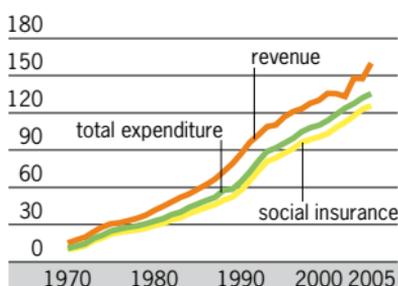
Social insurance: expenditure and revenue

in CHF billions (without double accounting)	1990	1995	2000	2004	2005
total expenditure	64.6	95.6	113.7	132.2	135.5
of which social insurance	57.8	87.6	103.5	123.1	125.6
revenue	87.1	117.0	135.7	147.7	160.0
level of expenditure on social insurance ¹	19.5	25.6	26.9	29.3	29.2

¹ total expenditure in relation to GDP

Social insurance: expenditure and revenue

in CHF million



Social insurance: expenditure and revenue by type, 2005

	in %
old age insurance	44.0
health insurance / health care	26.5
disability insurance	12.7
survivors' insurance	4.3
families / child benefits	4.8
unemployment	4.4
social exclusion	2.8
accommodation & housing	0.6

The most important function: old age insurance

More than two-fifths of social security contributions go towards old age insurance. This share would be even higher if it contained benefits from the health care system, as well as disability insurance and survivors' insurance, which pension funds pay to retired persons. Nonetheless, since 2000, contributions to old age insurance are in decline, in contrast with contributions to health and disability insurance.

Social insurance: beneficiaries			in 1,000
AVS: old age pensions	1701.1	occupational pension ² : disability insurance	133.4
AVS: supplementary benefits	67.5	occupational pension ² : other benefits	68.2
AVS: survivors' benefits	145.5	disability insurance	298.7
supplementary benefits, old age pension ¹	136.6	additional disability benefits	195.5
supplementary benefits, survivors' insurance ¹	5.0	supplementary disability insurance	96.3
occupational pension: old age	488.2	accident insurance ³ : survivors' pensions	27.1
occupational pension: survivors'	181.5	accident insurance ³ : disability benefits	85.0
		unemployment benefit ⁴	299.3

¹ supplementary old age and survivors' insurance

² occupational pensions (figures 2005)

³ accident insurance (figures 2005)

⁴ unemployment insurance

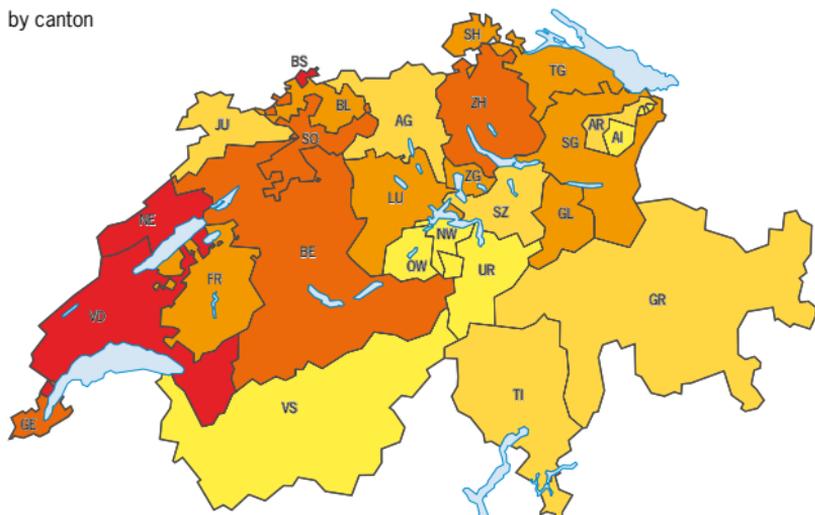
Swiss statistics on social assistance

Swiss statistics on social assistance cover files on recipients of social assistance, or members of their family (spouse, children, other dependents), who received benefit during the year in which the survey was conducted. The results of the statistics on social assistance can only be compared with difficulty with the poverty level and with the number of working poor, which is based on the figures from the labour force survey (SLFS) – i.e. on income of employed persons in relation to a minimum income threshold.

One of the main indicators of Swiss statistics on social assistance is the level of social assistance which indicates risk of falling into precarity.

Level of social assistance, in 2005

by canton



Proportion of social assistance beneficiaries as part of the resident population, %

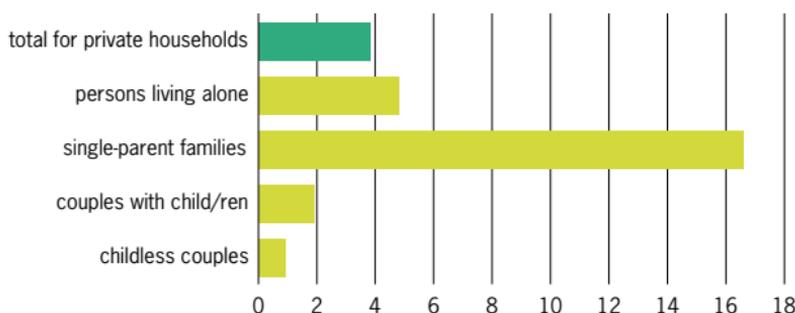
< 1.5
 1.5 – 1.9
 2.0 – 2.9
 3.0 – 4.4
 ≥ 4.5
 CH: 3.3

Level of social assistance by nationality and sex, 2005

Total	3.3
Age group	
0–17 years of age	4.9
18–25 years of age	4.5
26–35 years of age	3.6
36–45 years of age	3.9
46–55 years of age	2.9
56–64 years of age	1.9
65–79 years of age	0.2
80 years of age and over	0.6
Swiss nationals	
men	2.3
women	2.2
Foreign nationals	
men	6.5
women	7.0

The risk of having to avail upon social assistance is more significant for foreigners than for Swiss nationals. This is primarily due to the fact that foreigners more often have an inadequate or un-recognized qualification, are in those sectors of the economy with low wages, and usually have larger families than Swiss nationals.

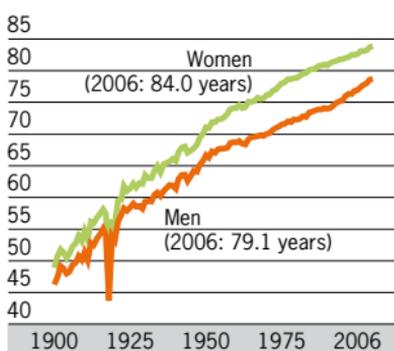
Level of social assistance¹ by household unit, 2005



¹ Ratio between the number of household units receiving assistance and the number of private households, in %

Dependence on social assistance, measured by the level of social assistance, is higher for couples with children and single-parent families than for childless couples. In single-parent families, employment is often limited by the needs of raising children. Therefore, those persons raising their children alone can be dependent on social assistance even though they still derive income from employment. In such cases, social assistance complements other income sources or financial assistance. The duration of drawing benefit is however longer than that for married couples or single persons. In fact, for these last two groups, dependence on social assistance is often linked to a period of unemployment. Once such persons again find employment, they are usually in a position to meet their own needs.

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 2000 it has risen for women by 1.4 years and for men by 2.2 years (2006). Life expectancy has risen more among women than among men who tend to die earlier (before the age of 70), mainly due to accidents and violence, lung cancer and alcohol-related cirrhosis of the liver.

Assessment of health

In 2002, 88% of men and 84% of women described their health as good or very good and only 3% of men and 4% of women qualified it as bad or very bad. However, temporary physical and mental problems often seem to have a negative effect on work and everyday life. On average, Swiss people are not fit for work on 11 days a year, those with a higher level of education less frequently (8.7) and those with a lower level more frequently (15.6).

Infectious diseases¹, 2005

Acute gastro-intestinal infections	7,136
Meningitis	74
Hepatitis B	90
Tuberculosis	566
AIDS	148

¹ New cases

Accidents, 2005

	Men	Women
Occupational accidents	203,012	54,234
Non-occupational accidents	284,947	169,620

Disabled¹, 2007

Degree of disability	Men	Women
40–49%	4,939	6,291
50–59%	20,761	20,847
60–69%	8,720	7,780
70–100%	102,725	81,258

¹ Receiving govt. disability pensions

Underlying causes of death, 2005

	Number of deaths		Death rate ¹	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
All causes	29,708	31,416	654.0	408.0
Infectious diseases	281	293	6.3	4.1
Cancer-related illness, all types	8,612	6,807	192.0	114.0
Circulatory system	10,320	12,541	219.0	137.0
Ischemic heart disease	4,821	4,541	103.0	50.0
Cerebrovascular diseases	1,635	2,478	34.3	27.7
Diseases of the respiratory system, all types	2,239	2,032	46.9	23.9
Accidents and acts of violence	2,113	1,348	51.3	22.6
Accidents, all types	1,122	878	26.9	12.3
Suicide	899	400	22.1	8.7

¹ Age-standardised death rate per 100,000 inhabitants

Infant mortality

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2004	2005
per 1000 live births	15.0	9.1	6.8	4.9	4.2	4.2

Consumption of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs, 2002

Illegal drugs are mainly used by teenagers and young adults, usually just a few times or occasionally. Approximately 4% of 15–39 year-olds consume cannabis at least once a week; in 1992, only 2% did. Much more serious from the public health angle is the consumption of tobacco and alcohol. In all, approximately 31% of the population smoke, 26% of women and 36% of men. These percentages are up on 1992, more obviously so among the younger generation, particularly women (15 to 24 year-old women: from 26% to 35%; men: from 36% to 40%). In contrast, the percentage of people who consume alcohol daily has fallen to 16% from 21% in 1992. Approximately 5% of 20–74 year olds in Switzerland must be classed as heavy drinkers (men: 8%; women: 2%).

Medical services, 2002

% use last year	Men	Women
Physicians' consultations	71.3	82.1
Hospitalization	10.6	13.0

Physicians and dentists

per 100 000 inhabitants	1980	2006
Physicians with private practice	117	206
Dentists	35	51

Hospitalisation rate in acute hospitals, 2005

Cases per 1000 inhabitants	Total	Men	Women
15–59 years old	127.0	105.3	149.0
60–79 years old	292.3	320.7	268.1
80+ years old	453.4	527.2	416.1

Longterm care

	in % ¹	
total nb. of patients	109,352	1.5
patients > 80 yrs old, Total	64,470	19.2
patients > 80 yrs old, male	14,200	12.5
patients > 80 yrs old, female	50,270	22.5

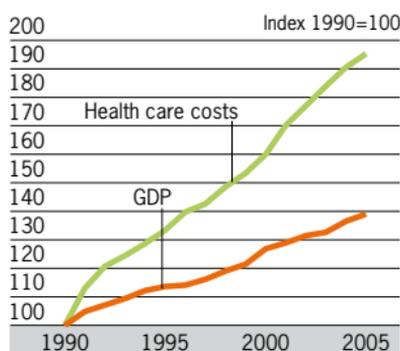
¹ of the corresponding population category

Health care costs

in CHF million	1995	2005
Total	36,161	52,697
Inpatient treatment	17,334	24,343
Outpatient treatment	10,478	16,203
of which:		
Doctors	5,118	7,320
Dentists	2,630	3,250
Outpatients	702	1,099
Other services ¹	1,295	1,810
Healthcare resources ²	4,304	6,681
of which:		
Pharmacies	2,707	3,796
Doctors	904	1,732
Prevention	938	1,134
Administration	1,812	2,528

¹ Such as laboratory analyses, radiology, transport

² Medicines and therapeutic apparatus



In 2005, 11.6% of the GDP went on health (1990: 8.3%). Development of supply is a fundamental factor in this increase: e.g. expanded facilities, growing specialization and greater use of technology, and greater comfort. The impact of the ageing population and the escalation of social insurance benefits are not so significant.

→ www.statistik.admin.ch →
Themen → Gesundheit
(in German)

Moving towards a Swiss educational system

The educational system in Switzerland is characterized distinctly by federalism.

The wide variety of educational systems in place is particularly apparent in schools falling under compulsory education. Depending on the canton in question, there are for example, at Secondary level 1, two, three or even four different types of schools, differing in their levels of requirements. During the nine compulsory school years the total number of hours of tuition ranges from 7100 to 8900 hours per pupil.

The Swiss educational system is in a process of transformation – in recent years, the cantons have reformed their educational systems, national structures have been reorganised (including the introduction of a professional baccalaureate and universities of applied sciences, as well as the implementation of the Bologna Reform); the demand for education has risen and the schools offering an all-round education have gained in importance.

Students

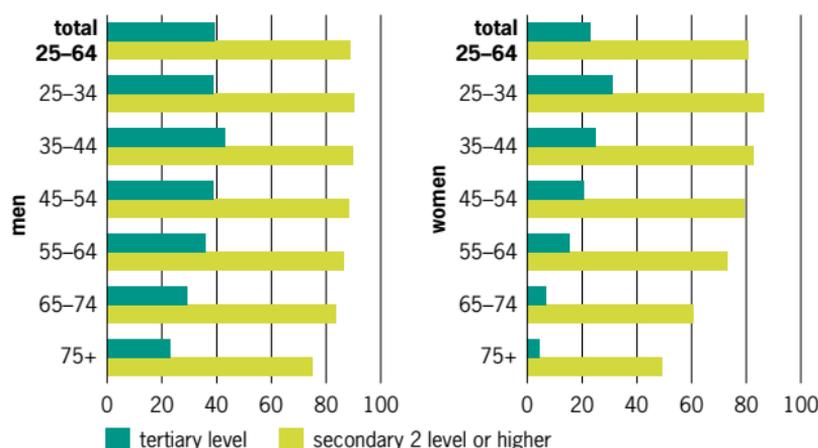
Educational level	Number in 1,000			% of women		
	1980/81	1990/91	2006/07	1980/81	1990/91	2006/07
Total	1234.1	1291.8	1502.9	46	46	48
Pre-education	120.3	139.8	153.2	49	49	48
Compulsory education	849.6	711.9	797.9	49	49	49
Primary	451.0	404.2	449.7	49	49	49
Lower secondary	362.3	271.6	301.8	49	49	50
Special syllabus schools	36.4	36.2	46.4	39	38	38
Upper secondary	299.0	295.8	325.8	43	45	47
Schools of general education ¹	74.8	74.5	100.4	53	55	59
Vocational training ²	224.2	221.3	225.4	39	42	42
Higher education	85.3	137.5	214.5	30	35	48
Universities	61.4	85.9	115.0	32	39	49
Higher vocat. schools	...	...	57.1	...	...	46
Advanced vocat. training	...	36.2	42.4	...	33	45
Unclassified levels	–	6.7	11.5	–	51	49

¹ Including schools for teaching professions and preparation for higher vocational studies after apprenticeships

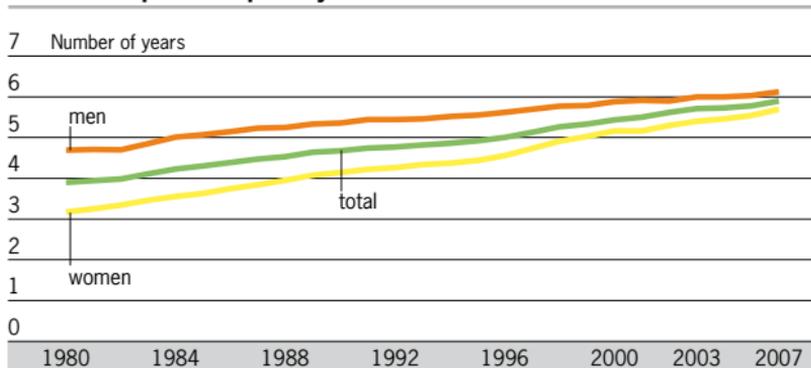
² Incl. induction/preliminary training

Education level 2007

share in % of the permanent resident population
(25 years and over)



Duration of post-compulsory education



Gender differences – still visible in the choice of studies

It is especially women who have benefited from the growth in education of the past few decades. Differences in education based specifically on gender have continuously diminished. Today virtually as many women as men start a post-compulsory level of education and also complete their studies. As before, men still remain longer in education than women and their entry share at a tertiary level remains higher than that of women.

At the compulsory school level, girls are more successful – they rarely have to repeat a class, they are rarely moved to a special class, and at Secondary level 1 they more frequently attend a school with extended requirements. PISA studies confirm that at the end of the compulsory school years, girls have better marks than boys in reading, although worse in mathematics. There is much evidence to suggest that this is fundamentally linked with established role models. There are distinct differences in choices of faculty and area of study. In the area “industry and crafts”, men predominate; whereas in sales, as well as in health care and physical therapy, women predominate. The balance between the sexes in these vocational areas has hardly shifted since 1980. Even at a university level the differences are marked – men continue to show a preference for technical fields, natural sciences and economics, whereas women are oriented more towards the humanities, social work and the arts.

PISA 2006: results above the OECD average

In the 2006 PISA tests, Switzerland scored well in all those areas examined (natural sciences, mathematics and reading). In the natural sciences – the focus of the 2006 tests – the average score of Swiss pupils reached 512 points, thus bringing it above the OECD average of 500 points. If one breaks down the results by level of skill, 10% of 15 year-olds in Switzerland are in the top levels 5 and 6. In the OECD average only 9% of pupils fall into this range. At the other end of the scale, 16% of pupils in Switzerland did not achieve higher than level 1 (the lowest level) in comparison with 19% of the OECD average.

Selected educational qualifications 2006

Educational level	Women	
	Total	in %
Upper secondary level		
Academic baccalaureate	16,948	57.4
Vocational baccalaureate	10,602	44.1
Vocational training certificate ¹	51,959	43.5
Commercial diploma	2,706	53.0
Higher education		
Higher vocational training		
UAS diploma	4,140	31.7
Swiss Federal diploma	2,919	19.6
Swiss Federal professional diploma	13,194	30.4
Universities of Applied Science		
Diploma	8,638	39.6
Bachelor's degree	1,604	88.1
Master's degree	185	83.2
Universities		
Licentiate/Diploma	7,900	55.7
Bachelor's degree	4,987	44.3
Master's degree	2,269	39.4
Doctorate	3,198	39.3

¹ Includes Swiss Federal vocational diploma

**Teachers 2005/06
University staff 2006**

	Women	
	FTEs	in %
Pre-school	8,200	95.2
Compulsory school ¹	52,400	65.4
Primary school	29,100	78.8
Secondary school level 1	23,300	50.5
Secondary school level 2 ²	7,400	40.9
Universities	30,609	40.6
Professors	2,793	13.4
Other lecturers	2,614	23.7
Assistants ³	14,607	38.9
Universities of Applied Sciences	10,336	40.2
Professors	3 593	30.9
Other lecturers	1 891	38.3
Assistants ³	1 750	36.4

¹ Excluding schools with a special curriculum

² Only schools providing a general education (secondary, technical and vocational schools etc.)

³ Including scientific staff

Public expenditure on education 2005

	in CHF billion
Pre-school	1.0
Compulsory school	11.5
Special schools	1.2
Basic vocational training	3.3
General schools	2.1
Higher vocational training	0.2
Universities	6.7
Undistributed funds	0.5
Total	26.5
of which costs of teaching staff accounted for	14.4

Further education

Here, we differentiate between two types of further education – non-formal education (such as attending courses, seminars, private tuition and conferences and informal study (includes specialized literature, study with aid of CD-Rom or from family members). The majority of the population in Switzerland (77% of the permanent population or 83% of employed) attended further education in one form or another in 2006. Informal study is markedly more common than non-formal education (71% of the permanent population and 77% of employed, compared with 43% and 53% respectively for non-formal study).

Focus on research

Research and development (R&D) is an important factor for a national economy. With 2.4% of its GDP being spent in this area (2004), Switzerland is one of the most R&D-oriented countries in the world.

In 2004 around CHF 13.1 billion was spent on domestic R&D. Of this, around 74% was in the private sector, 23% in universities and the remaining 3% was divided between the Confederation and various private, non-profit organizations.

Swiss companies abroad have traditionally invested heavily in R&D activities. Expenditure on R&D in the private sector abroad was around CHF 9.6 billion in 2004, which is roughly equivalent to domestic private sector spending.

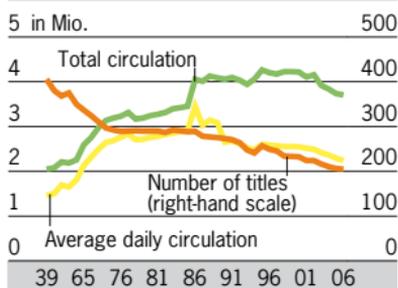
→ www.statistik.admin.ch →
Themen → Bildung und
Wissenschaft (in German)

The Swiss press in upheaval

The market for dailies in Switzerland has changed fundamentally since the turn of the new century. In German-speaking Switzerland the free-of-charge commuters' newspaper "20 Minuten" has become the largest publisher with over 1.2 million readers each edition. With the establishment of the newspaper entitled "Le Matin bleu" (with 353,000 readers) in 2005 in French-speaking Switzerland, together with the French language edition of "20 Minuten" (with 276,000 readers), the two free newspapers are in the top three ranking of the most-read dailies. In 2006 and 2007 further free dailies were launched in German-speaking Switzerland.

* Source: WEMF MACH Basic (Basis: population over 14 years old, number of readers per edition)

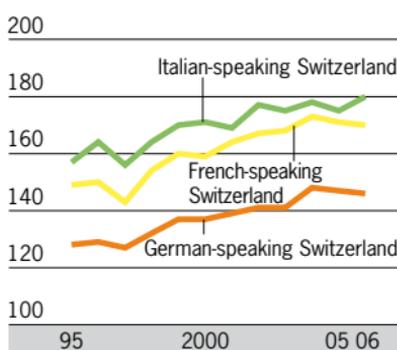
Paid newspapers: evolution of titles and circulation



Source: Verband S.P./WEMF circulation statistics (considered are publications of general interests published at least once a week).

Television usage

In minutes per day and per inhabitant



Source: Mediapulse AG Telecontrol (based on population over 3 yrs of age, mean per day Monday-Sunday)

Radio usage

In minutes per day and per inhabitant

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
German-speaking Switzerland	115	111	111	106	106	102
French-speaking Switzerland	107	103	105	101	99	97
Italian-speaking Switzerland	109	108	106	103	100	96

Source: Mediapulse AG Telecontrol (based on population over 15 yrs of age, mean p.d. Monday-Sunday)

Books – still going strong

Book production in Switzerland does not appear to have been greatly affected by the threat of competition from the electronic media. With more than 11,000 new titles per year, the number of new publications has more than doubled since the 60s.

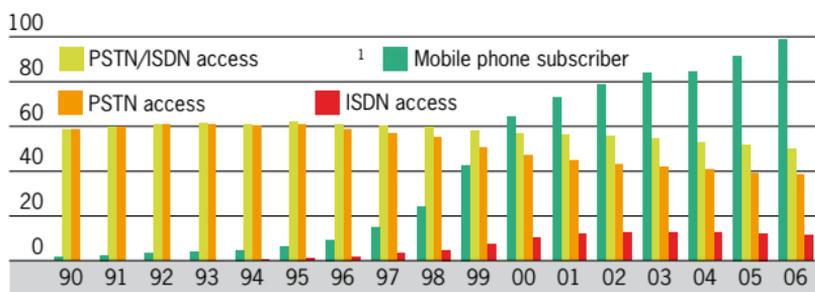
Book production, 2006¹

Total	11,875
German	6,797
French	2,374
Italian	367
English	1,367
Other languages	970
Of which Romansh	40

¹ Books published in Switzerland which appeared in bookshops

Telephone infrastructure in Switzerland

per 100 inhabitants



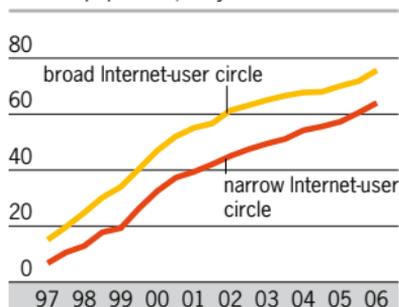
¹ Both analog (PSTN) and digital (ISDN) line-based telephone systems

Widespread use of the Internet

Internet usage has greatly increased in recent years and continues to grow, albeit more slowly. The number of regular Internet users (defined as more than once a week) has risen from 0.7 million users (1998) to 3.7 million in the third quarter of 2006. Over three quarters of households have a PC and, as at the end of 2006, there were 2 million broadband connections (ADSL or cable modem).

Internet usage in Switzerland

% of the population, 14 years and over



Source: REMP

Cinema – downward trend halted

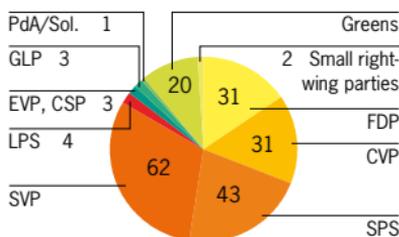
Demand and supply for cinema has declined since the 60s. This was due to the growing popularity of television, video and DVD (“home cinema”). In 1992 there were 397 cinemas in Switzerland; in its peak year of 1964 there were still 646. Parallel to this, the number of seats also shrank in this timeframe from 234,044 to 97,872 and the number of tickets purchased has halved since the beginning of the 70s (30 million) up to 1990. Since then, the situation has stabilised and even tended to improve. Whilst the number of tickets purchased remained initially constant, it later started to grow again (16.4 million in 2006), and there are now also more cinemas and seats (2006: 547 cinemas and 111,137 seats). This positive development is due to the rise, since 1992, of multi-cinema complexes. Also, the range of films distributed has strongly changed. At the beginning of the 80s around 3000 various films were screened annually. Today the number fluctuates between 1300 and 1400. In contrast, the number of first releases is constantly rising and these appear on the screen with increasing rapidity. Retrospectives and classics have gone in the opposite direction – the public is offered fewer of these than previously.

→ www.statistik.admin.ch → Themen → Kultur, Kommunikation (in German)

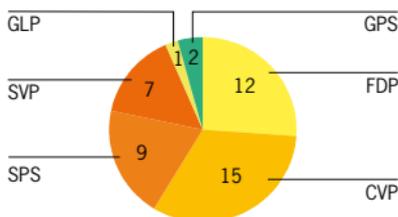
The political system

The Swiss Confederation, made up of 26 cantons, has been around since 1848. The Government (Federal Council) is a collegial body consisting of 7 members (since 2004, 2 seats each for the FDP, SPS and SVP, as well as 1 seat for the 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 characterized by far-reaching democratic rights (initiatives and referenda) and national votes.

National elections, 2007: distribution of seats



Council of States, 2007: distribution of seats



National elections, 2007

Party	Seats	Share of the votes
FDP	31	15.8
CVP	31	14.5
SPS	43	19.5
SVP	62	28.9
LPS	4	1.9
Middle parties ¹	6	4.3
PdA/Sol	1	1.1
Greens ²	20	9.8
Small right-wing parties ³	2	2.5
Other parties	0	1.8

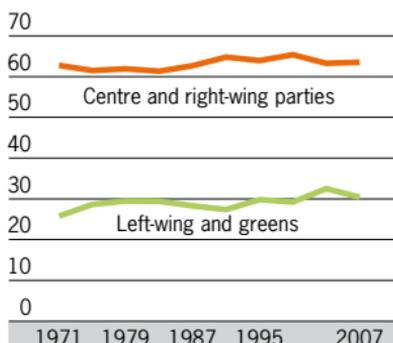
¹ EVP, CSP, GLP

² GPS, FGA

³ SD, EDU, FPS, Lega

See below for abbreviation

The political situation¹



¹ Share of the vote at national elections

The party system

After decades of high stability, the Swiss political landscape has changed. The conservative/liberal side already began to shift towards the right-wing in the 1990s. Since 1991, the SVP has nearly tripled its share of votes and is now the strongest single party. Initially, its gains were at the expense of the small right-wing parties, but finally the other conservative/liberal parties, FDP and CVP, were also affected. At the latest elections, the gains made by the Greens could not make up for the losses of the SPS, with the result that the left-wing/Green camp was rather weakened. This camp is however, stronger than it was 20 years ago.

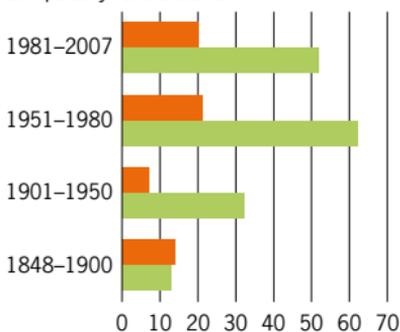
Parties

FDP Radical Democratic Party
 CVP Christian Democratic Party
 SPS Social Democratic Party
 SVP Swiss People's Party
 LPS Liberal Party of Switzerland
 EVP Evangelical People's Party
 CSP Christian Social Party
 GLP Green Liberal Party

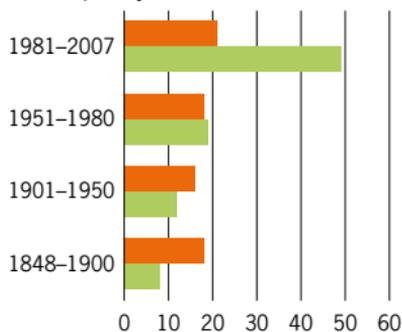
PdA Labour Party
 Sol. Solidarity
 FGA Feminist and green-alternative groups
 GPS Green Party of Switzerland
 SD Swiss Democrats
 EDU Federal democratic union
 FPS Freedom Party of Switzerland
 Lega Lega dei Ticinesi

National Popular Votes, 1848–2007

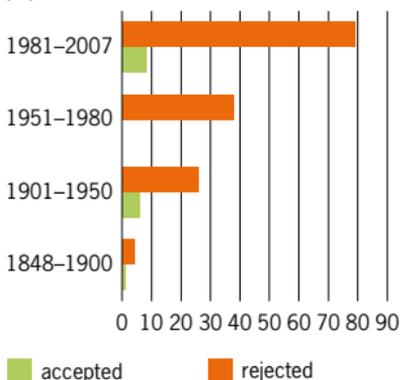
compulsory referendums¹



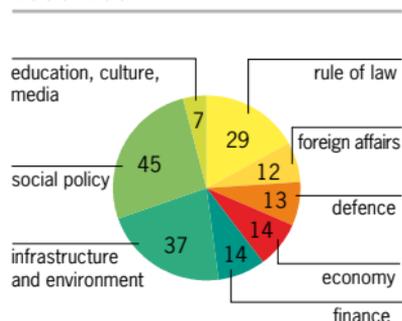
non-compulsory referendums



popular initiatives²



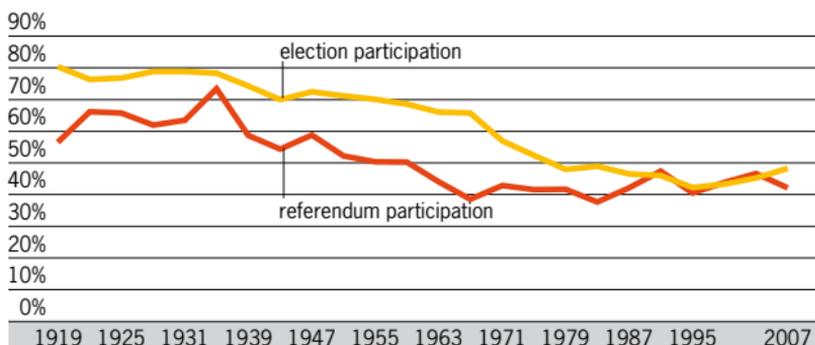
Subject of Popular Vote, 1990–2007



¹ includes counter proposals to popular initiatives

² includes popular initiatives with counter proposals

Participation rate in national elections and referendums



Voter participation in national elections and in referendums has been in decline for a number of decades.

The strongest decline in voter turnout has been observed since 1967, a trend which is not least of all attributable to the introduction of the women's right to vote. The decline in voter turnout is subject to strong fluctuation, depending on the subject of the referendum. In the 90s, voter turnout fluctuated between the extremes of 31% and 79%. From the turn of the century on, voter turnout has somewhat stabilised, both for national elections, as for referendums; and is currently slightly rising.

Final accounts of the public administration

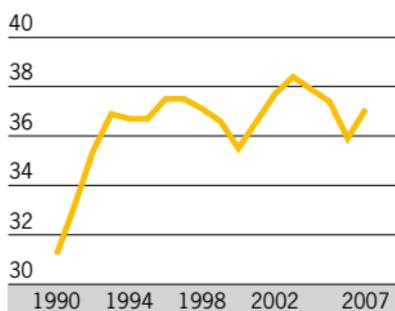
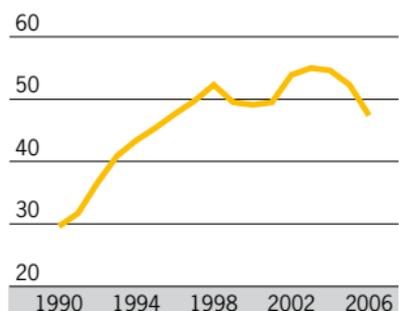
in CHF billion

	revenue			expenditure			surplus		
	2003	2006 ¹	2007 ¹	2003	2006 ¹	2007 ¹	2003	2006 ¹	2007 ¹
Total	157.4	178.4	174.7	163.4	169.3	174.7	-6.0	9.1	0.1
Confederation	47.5	58.5	56.3	51.3	53.1	56.5	-3.8	5.4	-0.2
Cantons	65.7	73.0	71.4	67.9	70.8	71.7	-2.2	2.2	-0.4
Communes	44.1	46.9	47.1	44.1	45.4	46.5	-0.0	1.5	0.6

¹ Part-estimates**Federal, cantonal and communal debt**

in CHF billion

	1980	1990	2000	2004	2005	2006
Total	77.1	98.0	207.4	246.5	242.4	230.3
Confederation	31.7	38.5	105.3	126.7	130.4	123.6
Cantons	22.4	30.5	64.1	80.3	73.3	69.6
Communes ¹	23.0	29.0	38.0	39.4	38.7	37.1
Per capita at 2005 prices	21,309	18,015	30,010	33,433	32,316	30,136

¹ Part-estimates**Public spending ratio** in % of GDP**Public debt** in % of GDP

The public spending ratio measures the expenditure of the public sector expressed as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is comprised of public expenditure (by the Confederation, the cantons and the communes), as well as the compulsory social security contributions (old age and survivors' insurance; disability insurance and unemployment insurance). Despite substantial growth since 1970, Switzerland still rates well in international comparison with a public spending ratio in 2006 of 35.0%. The majority of European countries show a significantly higher ratio than Switzerland. Switzerland belongs, as do the USA, to the group of countries with a low public spending ratio.

Switzerland's public debt ratio remains low in comparison with other OECD countries; however, between the years 1990 to 2000, it rose continuously. Thanks to a strong economic recovery, together with the shedding of surplus gold reserves of the Swiss National Bank, it has been possible to reduce gross public debt since 2005.

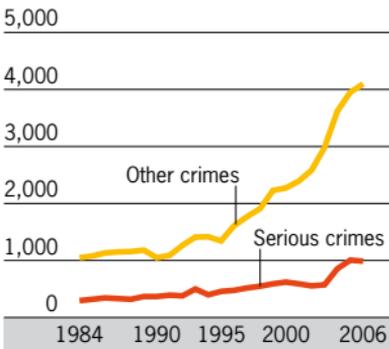
→ www.statistik.admin.ch → Themen → Öffentliche Finanzen (in German)

Unrecorded offences

Statistics on crime can only be collected for offences reported to the police or at a victims' support centre. All other reprehensible acts constitute so-called unrecorded offences of varying proportions, depending on the area. In the case of burglary, for example, the number of unrecorded offences is low, due to the fact that insurance companies only reimburse the victim if the burglary has been reported to the police. We know today that the readiness of a victim to report to the police is low in areas such as "violence in the family". Victims' support centres are only called upon in some cases.

As soon as the police have been informed of a reprehensible act, investigations begin. Today, if a conviction is made, a prison sentence, a fine, or a community service order can be imposed as punishment. It can be a suspended sentence. In some cases the court orders specific measures (e.g. in the case of alcohol or drug addiction).

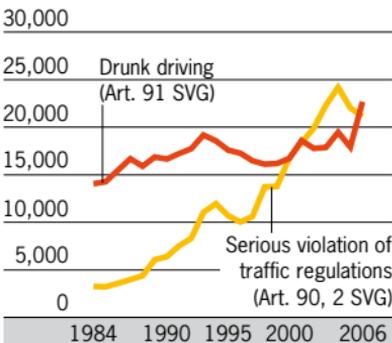
Convictions for violent crimes¹



¹ Intentional criminal acts involving bodily harm. Convictions of adults only.

The frequency of convictions for offences involving bodily harm has risen, especially in the area of less serious harm. Among other things this can be a consequence of an increased readiness to report these acts. The rise in serious crime involving bodily harm in the past year is related to the fact that bodily harm caused within a partnership is now prosecuted ex officio. Police are now permitted to investigate without one of the aggrieved parties having to report the incident.

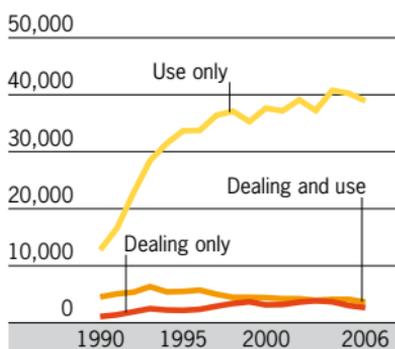
Convictions for violations of the Road Traffic Act (SVG)¹



¹ Convictions of adults only.

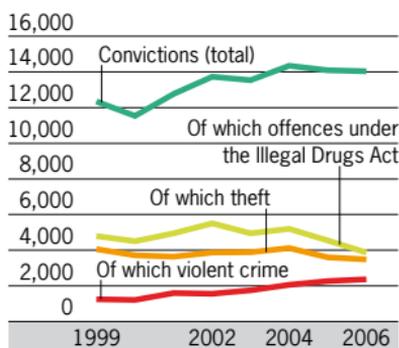
In the case of traffic violations, convictions are increasingly frequently made for serious infringements of the Road Traffic Act. In most cases it has to do with exceeding the speed limit. This trend can be partly attributed to the growing volume of traffic and the intensified checks exercised. As of 2005 there is also the possibility of convicting drivers under the influence of drugs, this factor together with more intensive controls has probably contributed to the leap in convictions in 2006 for driving in an incapacitated condition.

Arrests for drug crimes



At the beginning of the 90s an increase in drug consumption was recorded. This was less a result of a rise in drug cases than a reflection of more intensive prosecution.

Juvenile convictions



In statistics of juvenile judgements all convictions of children (from 7 to less than 15 years of age) and youths (15 to less than 18 years of age) are recorded. In the case of a reprehensible act carried out by a minor, conflict can also be resolved by means of mediation or arbitration between the author of the offence and the victim. If such endeavours end successfully, conviction does not follow and these cases do not appear in the statistics of juvenile judgements.

People convicted¹, 2006

	Number	Part in %
Men	83,747	85.5
Women	14,164	14.5
18–19 year olds	5,568	5.7
20–29 year olds	35,805	36.6
30–39 year olds	25,110	25.6
40–49 year olds	18,127	18.5
50–59 year olds	8,970	9.2
60 or over	4,331	4.4
Swiss nationality	49,711	50.8
Foreign nationality	48,200	49.2

¹ Adults only

Men under the age of 40 are appearing more frequently in matters of criminal law. Foreign nationals convicted refers, apart from those members of the foreign resident population, also to tourists, asylum seekers and other temporary visitors to Switzerland. A direct comparison with convictions of Swiss nationals is therefore not possible.

Penalties imposed, 2006

	Number	Part in %
Fine	37,299	38.1
Treatment	574	0.6
Conditional custodial sentence	44,973	45.9
Unconditional custodial sentence	15,065	15.4

Infringements punished only with a fine (minor offences) are only very rarely entered into criminal records; for this reason the number of indictments is unreliable.

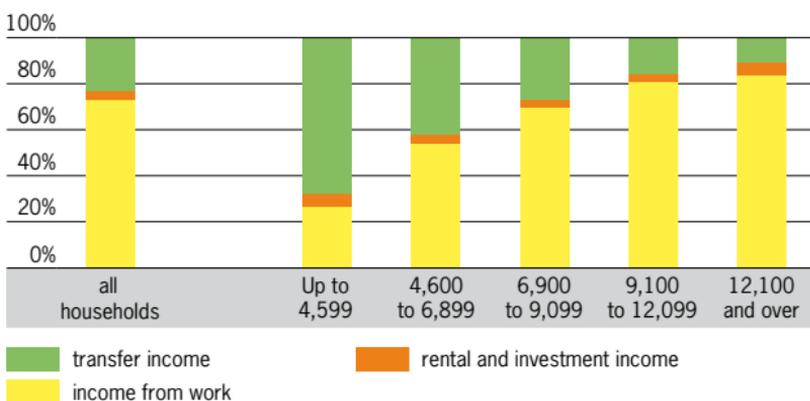
→ www.statistik.admin.ch → Themen → Kriminalität, Strafrecht (in German)

Disposable household income 2005 by gross income group¹

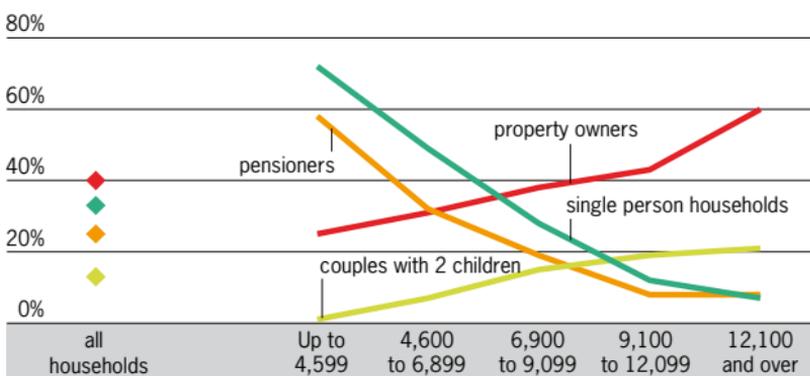
Amounts in CHF per month	All households	Up to 4,599	4,600 to 6,899	6,900 to 9,099	9,100 to 12,099	12,100 and over
Gross household income	8,967	3,261	5,696	7,932	10,470	17,269
Mandatory deductions	-2,460	-820	-1,426	-2,140	-2,780	-5,070
Disposable income	6,507	2,441	4,270	5,792	7,690	12,199

¹ The five income groups in the table and in the two graphs on this page are structured in such a way that they all include roughly the same number of cases (around 20% of households). The income (gross and disposable) and deductions are average figures. The disposable income of the group with the lowest income, for example, is an average of CHF 2,441 per household per month. The average for the group with the highest income is CHF 12,199 and for all households CHF 6,507.

Gross income composition, 2005



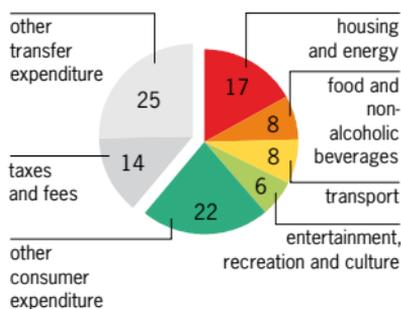
Proportion of different household categories by gross income category, 2005



The composition of gross household income varies widely according to income group. In the lower income groups, transfer payments feature strongly (such as old age and survivors' insurance payments), whereas in the upper income groups, income from wages and salaries dominates. These differences are correlated with differences between household-type distributions based on income groups.

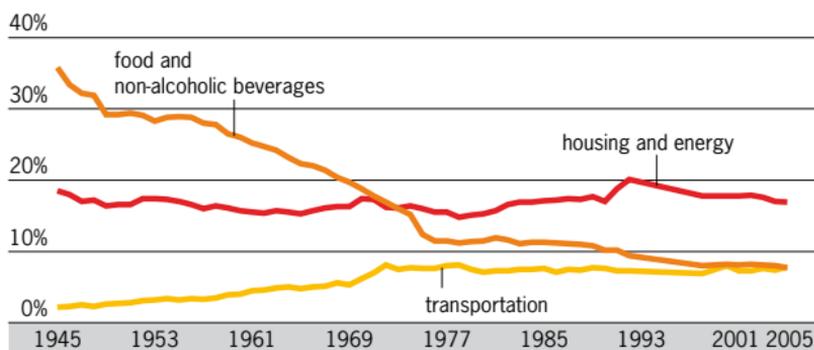
Composition of household expenditure, 2005

in %



In 2005 consumer expenditure represented over 60% of all expenditure. Housing and energy costs accounted for the largest share, with 17% of total household expenditure.

Trends in selected household expenditure items, since 1945



Since the second world war, the proportion of expenditure outlaid for food has decreased from being over 35% to now around 8%. In contrast, expenditure on other items has increased, such as for transport, going from 2% to around 8%.

Household equipment: selected consumer goods 2005



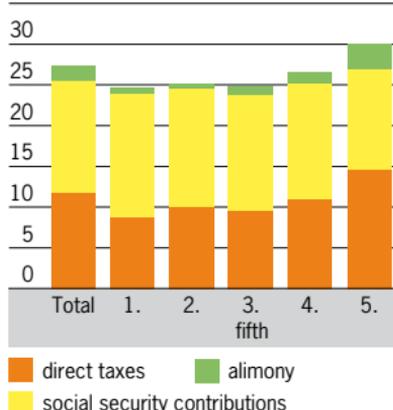
Almost 95% of households own a television set, and over 75% a Computer. In contrast, only 27% have their own clothes drier.

Compulsory expenditure – representing nearly a quarter of income

Households do not have their entire gross income at their disposal, as certain expenditure is compulsory; namely, taxes and social security contributions (old age and survivors' insurance; disability insurance; pension fund premiums and basic health care cover). So-called compulsory expenditure accounts for a good quarter of the entire population's income. This proportion varies only marginally among income groups. Nonetheless, individual expenditure components carry different weights. In the lower income groups, direct federal, cantonal and communal taxes proportionally form a lesser share and social insurance costs (in particular, health insurance) a greater share. Accordingly, in the three lowest income groups overall, the expenditure burden is comparable at 25% (i.e. compulsory expenditure as a proportion of total gross

Burden on households of compulsory expenditure items, 2005

Share of compulsory expenditure in gross household income by various income groups¹ in %



¹ Here, households are divided into five income groups of equal size: the lowest of which comprises one-fifth of all households with the lowest gross household income (the first fifth and so on).

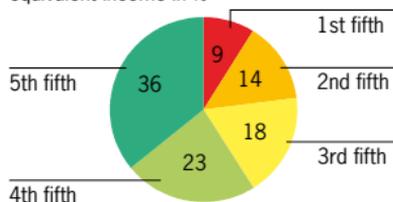
household income). In the upper income groups the burden increases, rising to 30% for the highest fifth of households.

Income distribution

Disposal income, i.e. what remains after deducting compulsory expenditure, is important in determining the standard of living. The number of persons in a household among whom this income has to be shared is also a decisive factor. In order to compare the standard of living (or level of well-being) between households of different sizes, one must take into account both the number and the age of all its members, i.e. their actual needs. The needs of a child differ from that of an older person. These needs can be taken into consideration by using the equivalent household size. The resulting equivalent disposable income serves as a measure for determining the standard of living of all persons living together in a household.

Disposable income equality, 2005

Various income groups' share¹ of total disposable equivalent income in %



¹ Here, households are divided into five income groups of equal size: the lowest of which comprises one-fifth of all households with the lowest gross household income (the first fifth and so on).

The equivalent disposable income differs strongly between households. In 2005 the fifth of the population with the lowest income accounted for over 9%, whilst the fifth with the highest income received over 36% of total income.

Where is the poverty line positioned?

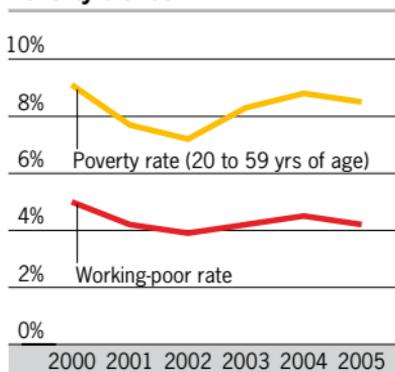
In order to avoid arbitrarily defined values, the poverty line in Switzerland is based on the recommendations of the Swiss Conference for Social Assistance (SCSA). This body issues broadly accepted values which define what amount of money and services are necessary in order to lead a dignified and socially integrated life in this country. These guidelines are intended as recommendations for establishing the level of social assistance; however some assumptions must be made in order to be able to apply the term "poverty" in statistical terms.

The poverty line can be drawn from the sum of basic needs (defined by the SCSA) + living costs + health insurance premiums + CHF 100 per household member from the age of 16 and over. In 2005 the poverty line was, on national average, CHF 2,200 for a single person, and CHF 4,600 for a couple with two children (under the age of 16). These are only theoretical figures, as 26 canton-specific poverty lines are calculated. All persons between the ages of 20–59, living in a household whose income after deduction of social insurance contributions (odl-age insurance, disability insurance, etc.) and of taxes, falls under the poverty line, are considered as poor.

How many people are living in poverty?

In Switzerland around 360,000 people aged between 20 and 59, in other words 8.5% of the population, are affected by poverty (2005). Those people who live in households whose members work a total of at least 36 hours per week and yet have an income which is still below the poverty line are referred to as the working poor. In 2005 this applied to 4.2% of the working population, or around 125,000 people.

Poverty trends



Are we headed in the right direction?	Assessment
1 Meeting needs - how well do we live?	
Life expectancy in good health is improving	+
Income is not rising	R
Violence is rising	-
Unemployment is rising	-
2 Fairness – how well are resources distributed?	
Poverty is declining	+
Official development assistance is stagnating	R
Men's and women's wage gap is slowly being narrowed in	+
3 Preservation of resources – what are we leaving behind for our children?	
Teenage reading skills are barely changing	R
Public debt is rising	-
The investment to GDP ratio is stagnating	R
The number of employees in science and technology is rising	+
Breeding bird populations remain more or less stable	R
Developed land is encroaching upon the landscape	-
4 Decoupling how efficiently are we using our resources?	
Freight transport is growing faster than the economy	-
The private to public transport ratio is hardly changing	R
Per capita fossil fuel consumption is stagnating	R
Material consumption to GDP ratio is fluctuating	R

Assessment of trends since 1990

- + Positive (towards greater sustainability)
- Negative (moving away from sustainability)
- R Neutral

In most areas of life, beginnings for sustainable development have been assessed, but opposite trends can be identified as well.

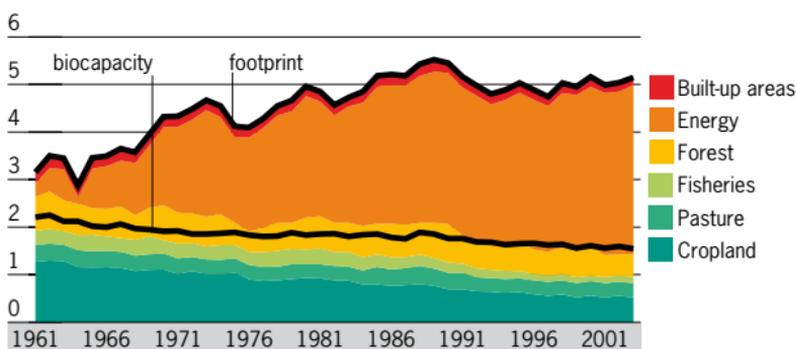
Thus, improvements made in eco-efficiency have often been compensated by an increase in consumption. A further contradiction exists insofar as improvements within Switzerland are sometimes in contrast to deterioration at a global level.

Fairness between generations is a current topic – the relatively positive assessment of the current situation could be at the expense of future generations. For example, 16 per cent of teenagers today do not have even basic reading skills. Furthermore, growth of developed land is largely at the expense of valuable agricultural land.

In absolute terms, Switzerland is far from having attained sustainability. The ecological footprint shows that Switzerland consumes around three times more environmental services and resources than the biosphere can provide on a renewable basis. The main cause for the large footprint is energy consumption – it constitutes two thirds of our ecological footprint.

→ www.statistics.admin.ch
 → Topics → Sustainable development

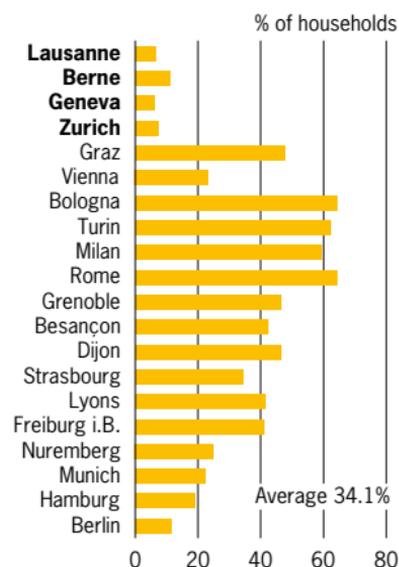
Switzerland's footprint and biocapacity in global hectares per capita



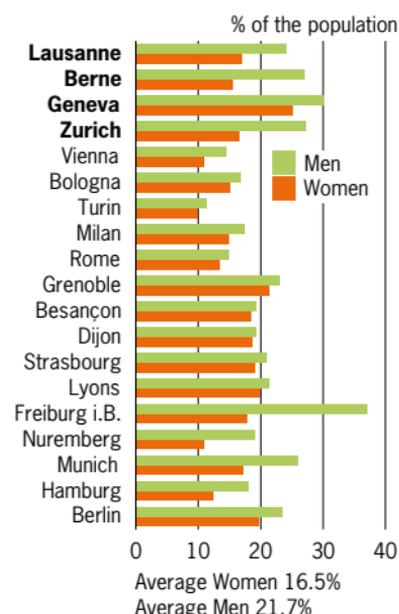
Urban Audit – a European project

The European project *Urban Audit* enables us to compare the quality of life in over 300 cities and urban agglomerations in Europe, based on more than 300 different statistical indicators. Here are two examples of indicators for selected cities (data from the years 1999 to 2004):

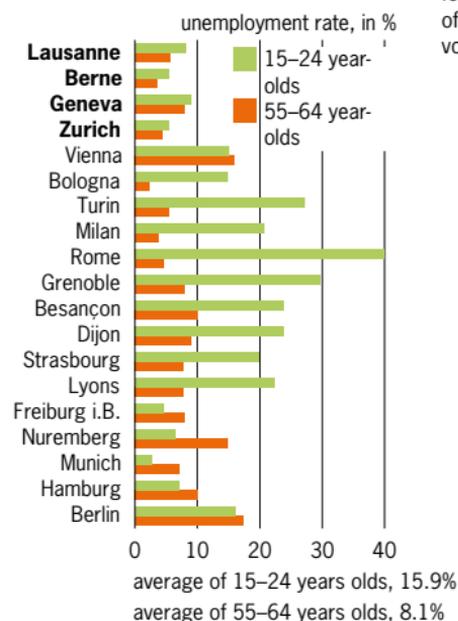
Owner-occupied households



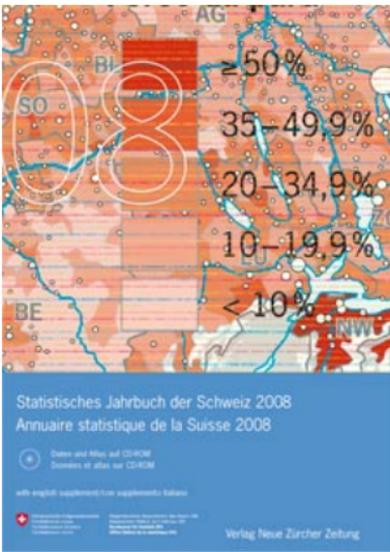
Population holding tertiary level qualifications¹



Unemployment rate by age group



¹ Proportion of the permanent resident population with educational level ISCED 5-6 (International Standard Classification for Education) (in Switzerland – the level of university or tertiary level and further vocational training)



Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland 2008 incl. CD-ROM

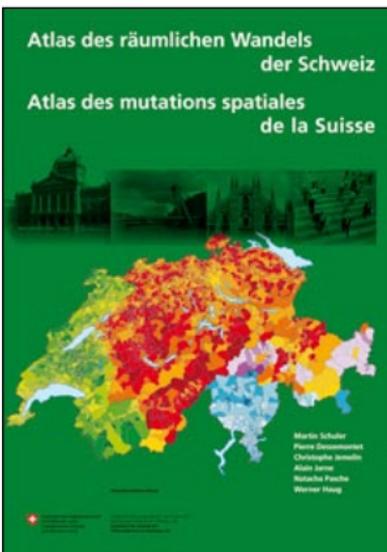
The Statistical Yearbook of Switzerland is the standard reference work on Swiss statistics. It provides a comprehensive and easily understandable picture of Switzerland. Alongside **tables**, the book contains illustrated **overviews** and brief explanatory texts on all the main areas of public statistics. The 2008 edition also includes the familiar chapters on international and regional disparities and on sustainable development, together with a cross-section of the most important statistical information in English and Italian.

The accompanying CD-ROM contains the entire 2008 yearbook, plus numerous tables of regional statistics, the **Stat@las Wahlen**, an interactive atlas with the results of the 2007 Swiss federal elections, and the **Stat@las Europa**, an interactive atlas of the European regions

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