

AGRICULTURAL REPORT 2025 COMPACT



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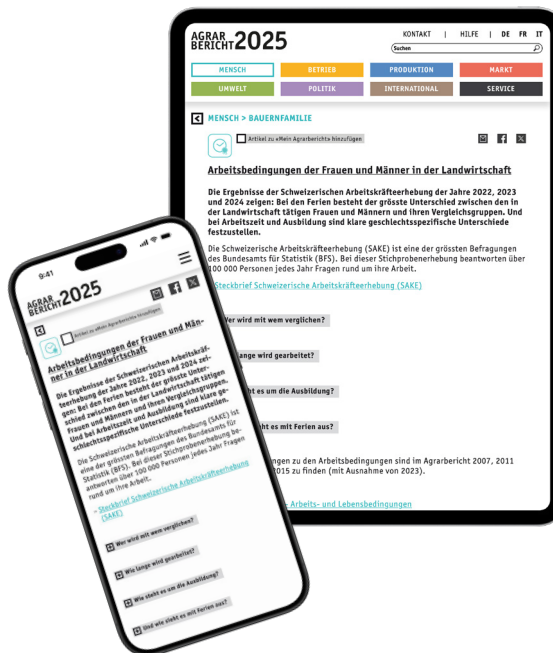
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Agricultural Report 2025

The online version of the complete Agricultural Report (available in French, German and Italian) provides easy, rapid access according to your individual requirements. The clear, simple design enables you to find the information you need quickly, even on the go.

Using the “My Agricultural Report” tool, you can also create a personalised copy, selecting the topics you are interested in. Find out more about the important issues at www.agrarbericht.ch. We hope you enjoy reading it!



www.agrarbericht.ch

The 2024 agricultural year

The abridged version of our annual agricultural report on the state of Swiss agriculture focuses on a selection of relevant aspects. The year 2024 was characterised by low crop yields, particularly in vegetable and wine growing. The wet summer led to an increased risk of disease, which served as a stark reminder of the importance of protecting crops. Milk production, on the other hand, has remained stable over the decades. In this important branch of the agricultural sector – which accounts for a quarter of the total agricultural production value – the trend towards consolidation is continuing. There are now slightly more dairy farms in mountain areas than in lowland regions, and milk production in the mountain areas remains steady.

In general, structural change in agriculture is continuing and the number of farms is declining overall. What stands out, however, is the increase in the number of farms larger than 50 hectares, while the number of smaller farms has remained surprisingly stable. More and more women are taking on responsibility in both large and small farms. Accordingly, full-time employment is also increasing among women, while it is declining among men.

The most recent survey on quality of life, conducted in spring 2025, shows that farming families now rate their overall quality of life more positively than they did four years ago. The main reason for this is a marked improvement in public perception and working hours. Changing regulations and low earnings continue to be viewed negatively. What farming families continue to value most about their profession is the independence it offers, along with their close connection to nature and animals.

Since the first agricultural report was published in 2000 as a 300-page A4 book, the needs of its readers in terms of how and when they consume information have changed significantly. However, the FOAG's statutory obligation to monitor the economic, ecological and social situation of agriculture and to inform the public about developments remains unchanged. In future, however, this will no longer be done by publishing an annual agricultural report with its own website, but on an ongoing basis, integrated into the FOAG's redesigned website. This allows us to publish information and analyses in a more timely and attractive manner.

For now, I hope you find the 2025 Agricultural Report an informative read. All information and previous reports can be found on the website at www.agrarbericht.ch.

Christian Hofer
Director, Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG)

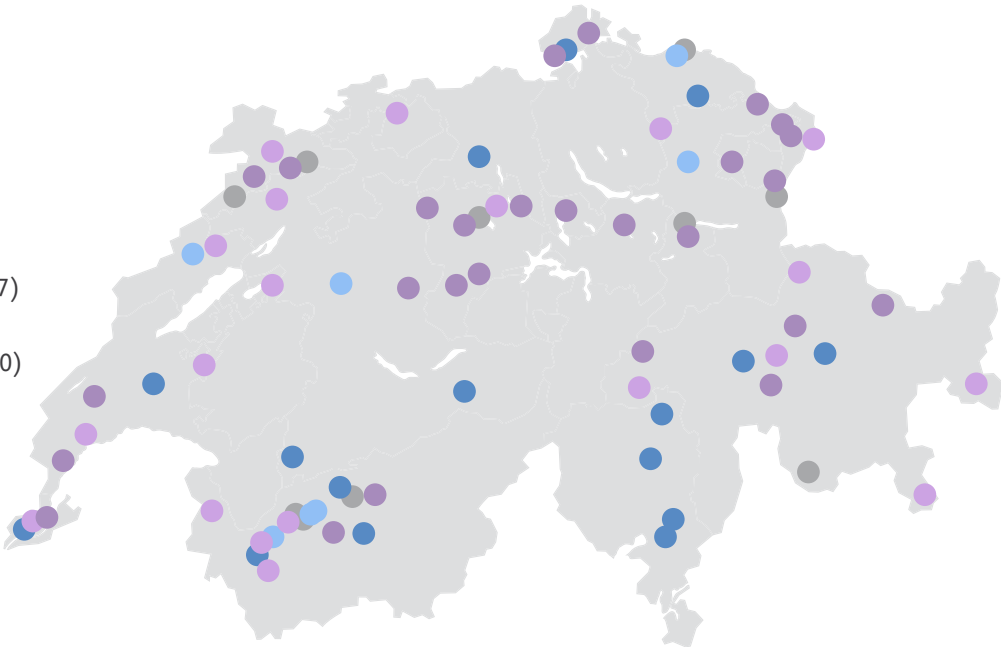
Structural improvements
Regional development projects

Structural improvements include measures such as infrastructure, new livestock buildings, land improvements and regional development projects (RDPs). RDPs promote cooperation between agriculture, tourism and food service activities, offering an opportunity to increase farmers’ incomes. Specifically, projects can be supported in the areas of ‘production and processing of agricultural raw materials’, ‘marketing of agricultural products’ and ‘establishment and further development of branches of activity on farms’.

In 2024, the federal government entered into new commitments totalling CHF 7.5 million for future RDPs, drawn from the structural improvement credit of CHF 87 million. Sixteen RDPs will be able to benefit from these contributions in the future. In the same year, a total of CHF 7.9 million in federal contributions were paid out.

Regional
development projects

- Preliminary check (10)
- Preliminary check completed (7)
- Basic stage (18)
- Implementation in progress (20)
- Implemented (27)
- Total (82)**



Source: FOAG

Example

RDP ‘Agricultural hubs in the urban areas of the canton of Geneva’

The Geneva project has been supported since 2020 and enables the establishment of distribution points for agricultural products in the canton of Geneva. These share the following three objectives: the sale of regional products, raising public awareness of local and seasonal food, and food production in urban areas.



Milk production
Consolidation in the dairy industry continues

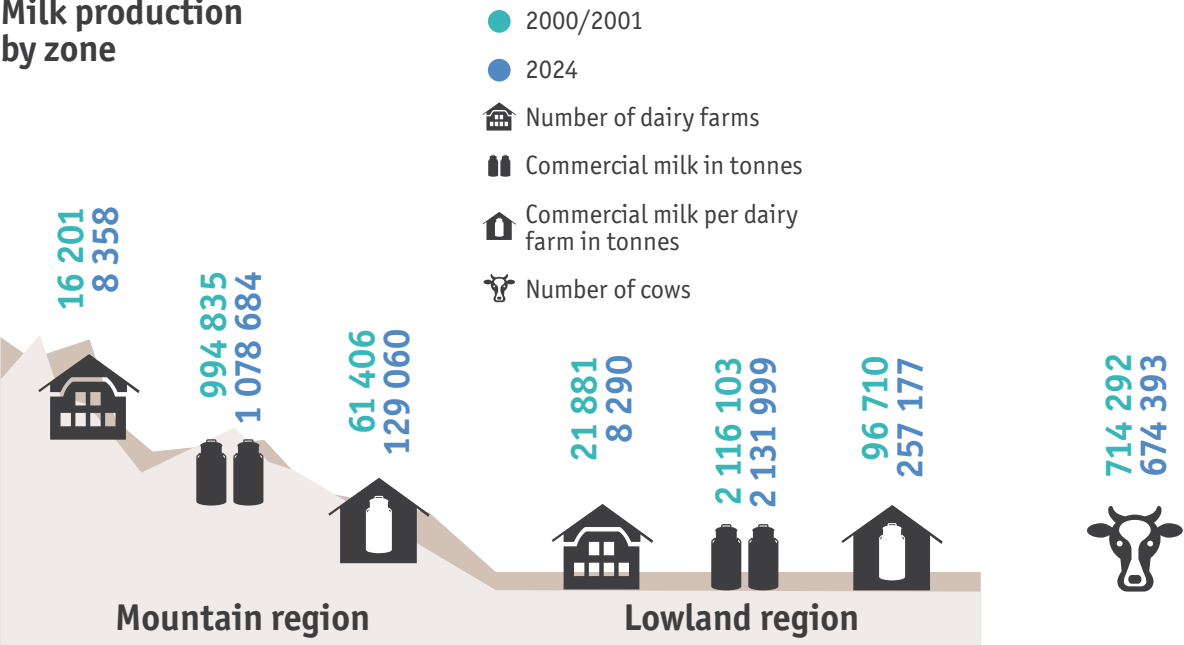
In 2024, around 3.7 million tonnes of milk were produced in Switzerland. With a value of CHF 2.8 billion, the dairy sector contributed around a quarter of the total agricultural production value.

A total of 16,648 dairy farms were in operation – less than half as many as at the beginning of the 2000s. The decline was more pronounced in the lowland regions than in the mountain regions. In fact, there are now slightly more farms in the mountain regions.

Despite declining cow populations and a decreasing number of dairy farms, milk production in Switzerland has remained constant. At the same time, milk production per farm has increased significantly. This development can be attributed to several factors: improved husbandry conditions, optimised feeding, and targeted breeding selection have all increased milk yield per animal. In addition, the structural development towards fewer but larger farms has contributed to the stability of overall production.



Milk production
by zone



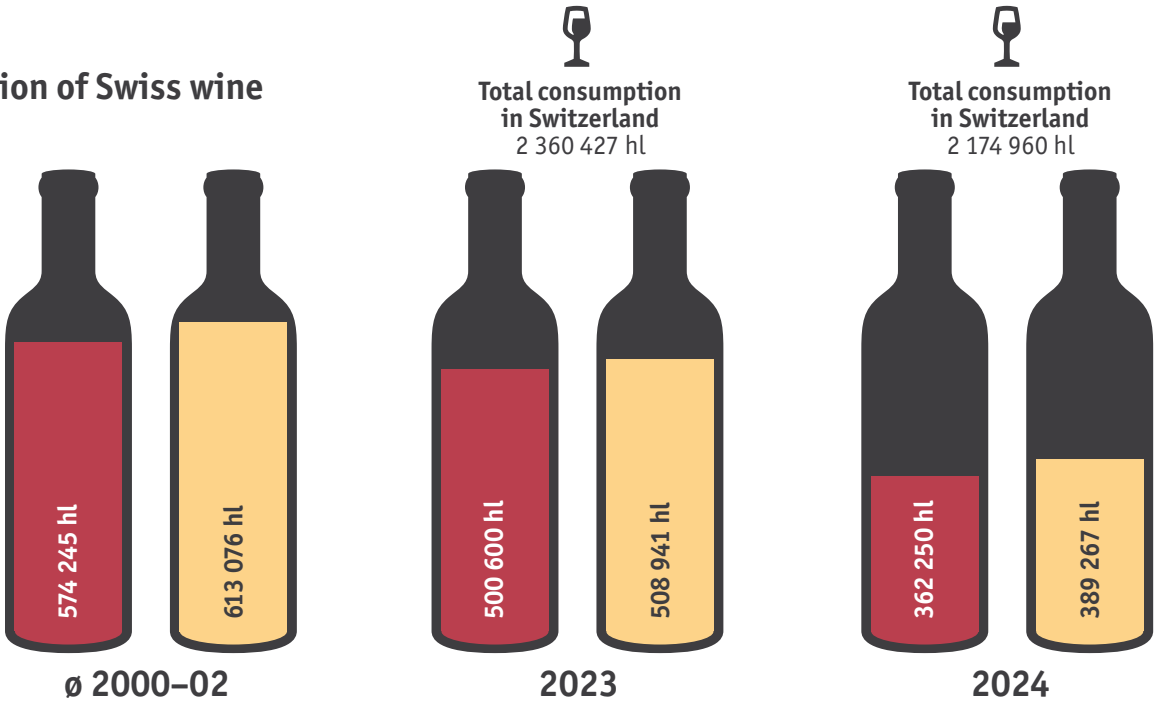
Wine
A historically low grape harvest in 2024

Switzerland saw a historically low grape harvest in 2024, with 75 million litres of wine produced – the second lowest volume in 50 years. Frost, hail and severe problems from mildew had a considerable impact on yields. The cool, wet spring disrupted flowering, and the wet summer encouraged disease. The harvest was long and difficult, marked by rain and an increased risk of rot. Despite unfavourable weather conditions, winegrowers’ patience enabled the grapes to reach the sought after level of ripeness, although the sugar content was some-times lower than in previous years.

Wine consumption in Switzerland fell by almost 8 per cent in 2024 compared to the previous year. This decline affected virtually all types of wine, particularly Swiss wines (–16 per cent), whose market share fell to 35.5 per cent. The decline is part of a wider trend in Europe, linked to changing consumer habits.



Production of Swiss wine



Source: FOAG

Vegetables

Wet and cool weather conditions cause lower than average harvest

The 2024 harvest was hampered at times by wet soil and, in extreme cases, was not possible at all. The damp conditions also led to an increased risk of disease. In 2024, a similarly low volume of fresh vegetables (including storage vegetables but excluding vegetables for processing) was produced and brought to market – 352,171 tonnes grown on 14,522 hectares – as in the heatwave year 2023 and the wet year 2021. The harvest of 49,523 tonnes of vegetables for processing was produced on an area of 2,259 hectares and was 17 per cent below the average of the previous four years.

The market volume of fresh vegetables grown in Switzerland amounted to 630,656 tonnes in the reporting year (2023: 624,399 tonnes). Of this, just under 59 per cent was produced in Switzerland (including foreign border and free zones). At 41 per cent, the share of imported fresh vegetables was again almost as high as in 2021, an exceptional year due to the pandemic and the wet weather.



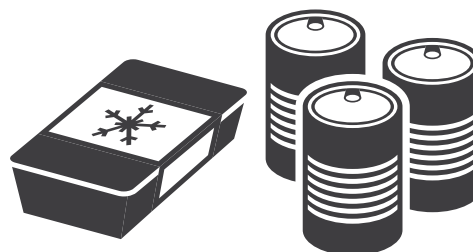
Fresh vegetable production (brought to market)



353 631 t
2023

352 171 t
2024

Processed vegetable production



58 149 t
2023

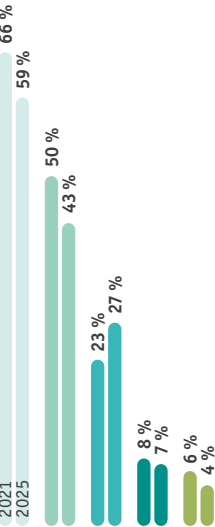
49 523 t
2024

Quality of life
Positive and negative aspects of the farming profession

The positive and negative aspects of the farming profession have been surveyed every four years since 2001 – from both the perspective of farmers and that of the general population. The most recent survey was carried out in spring 2025.

When assessing the positive aspects of the farming profession in 2025, both farmers and the general population cited independence and working in nature as particularly positive aspects of working as a farmer.

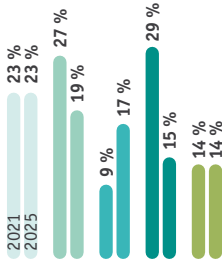
The negative aspects of the farming profession mentioned most frequently by farmers in 2025 were the many regulations and changing framework conditions (23%), followed by long working hours (19%). The general population, on the other hand, most frequently cited long working hours (25%) and low earnings (15%) as negative aspects of the profession.



Farming population

Positive aspects

- Independence, flexible working hours, being your own boss, freedom
- Working in nature, closeness to nature, connection with the land
- Working with / contact with animals
- Variety, diversity
- Production of important products (staple foods)



Farming population

Negative aspects

- Many regulations and changing framework conditions
- Long working hours / physical presence
- Increasing bureaucracy
- Public perception / low level of appreciation
- Low earnings / income

Farms

Growth continues among large farms

In 2024, there were 47,075 farms in Switzerland – 644 fewer than in the previous year, representing a decline of 1.3 per cent. However, growth was recorded among large farms. As in previous years, the number of farms with 50 hectares or more rose again in 2024 – this time by 3.1 per cent, bringing the total number to 3,459 farms. The stabilisation observed in recent years continues among very small farms with less than 3 hectares.

Despite a decline in the overall number of farms compared to the previous year (–1.3%), the number of farms run by women increased (+3.9%), reaching 7.7 per cent in 2024. This increase occurred across all farm size categories, but was particularly pronounced among very large farms with over 50 hectares (+12.2%) and small farms with 1 to 3 hectares (+12%).

The increase in the number of female farm managers was more pronounced among those working full-time than among those working part-time. In 2024, a total of 147,876 people were employed in agriculture, 0.67 per cent fewer (–1004 people) than in 2023. A good quarter of the workforce comes from outside the family – roughly half from Switzerland and half from abroad.



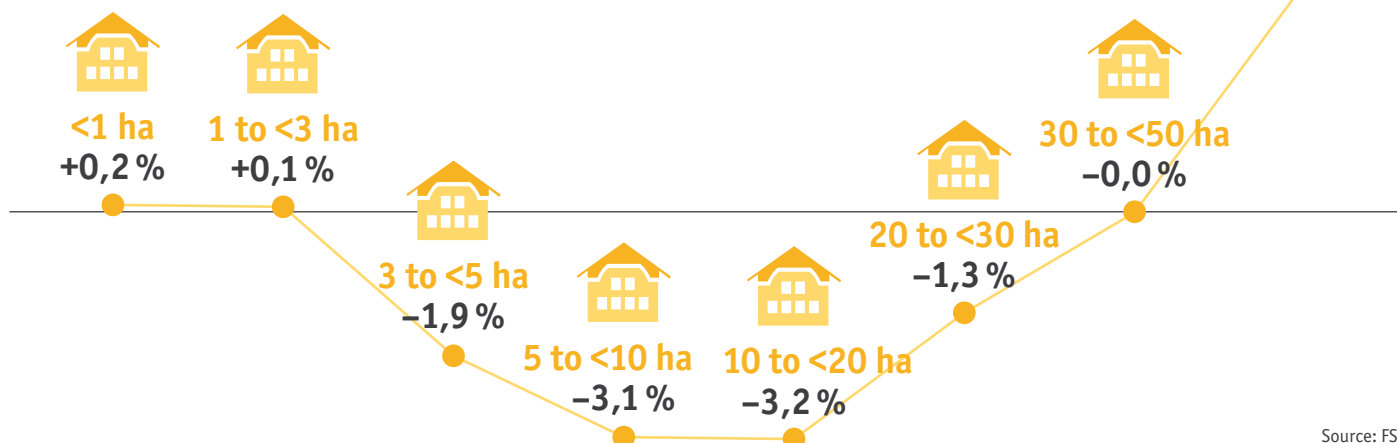
+3,9 %

2023–2024 Women



**>50 ha
+3,1 %**

Farms by size category



Biodiversity

Biodiversity development in the agricultural landscape

The state of biodiversity in the agricultural landscape has remained stable overall. Specific indicators and zones showed both negative and positive trends. Improvements are particularly evident in dedicated biodiversity areas of the higher quality Q2 level in the lowland zone.

Species diversity is greater in the higher zones than in the lower ones. This is mainly related to the intensity of land use, which decreases from the lowland zones up to the mountain zones.

Dedicated biodiversity areas are managed by reducing their intensity of use. They are richer in species than other areas. In order to further strengthen biodiversity, it is necessary to have a high diversity of well-connected, species-rich habitats.

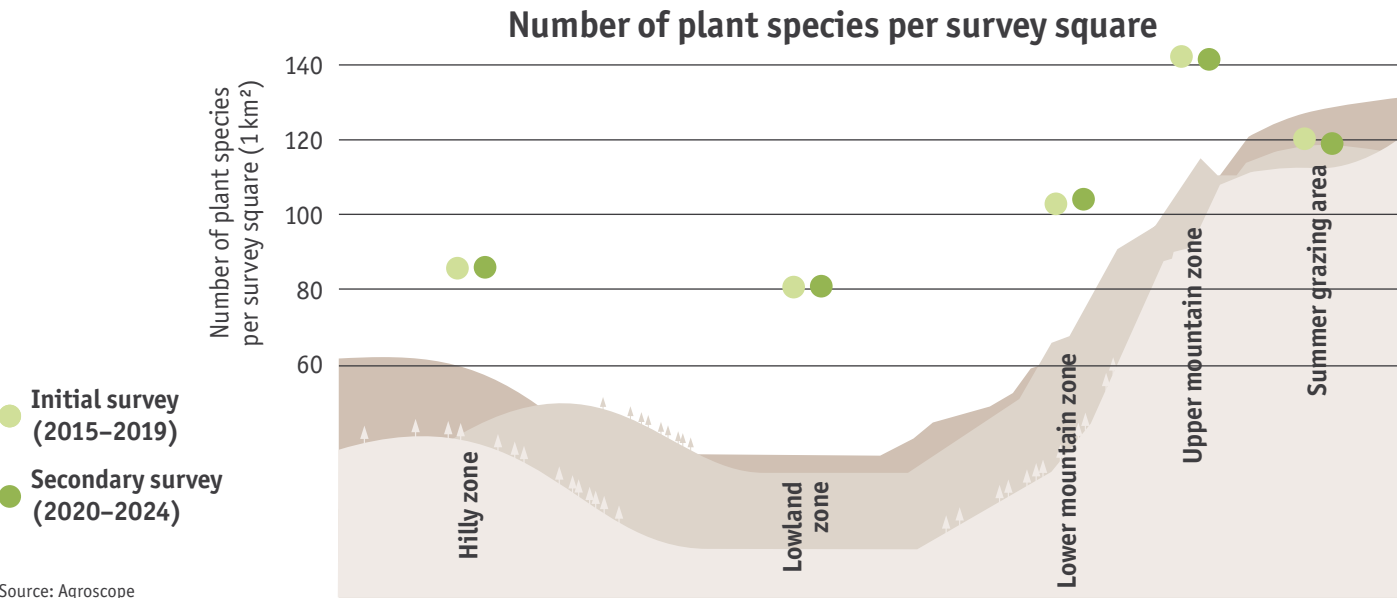
The Agricultural Species and Habitats Monitoring Programme (ALL-EMA) has been surveying biodiversity in the Swiss agricultural landscape since 2015. The status and development of the diversity of plants, butterflies, breeding birds and their habitats are recorded regularly and systematically. ALL-EMA also makes it possible to evaluate the impact of dedicated measures that support biodiversity. The completion of the second survey (2020–2024) enabled, for the first time, a comparison over time with the results of the first survey (2015–2019).



Development of the situation



Impact of DBA



Source: Agroscope

Trade relations

Switzerland–EU package: Agriculture and food safety

Trade in food and agricultural products between Switzerland and the EU is worth more than CHF 16 billion every year. In order to ensure product safety, protect consumers from being misled and reduce non-tariff trade barriers, a common CH–EU food safety area is to be created. The creation of such a system was part of the negotiations between Switzerland and the EU on what has been called the package approach; the negotiations were formally concluded in May 2025. The result is a protocol on food safety that regulates the areas already covered by the existing [Agricultural Agreement](#), namely plant health, animal feed, seeds and trade in animals and animal products, including food of or animal origin, and extends this to include plant-based food-stuffs. It gives Switzerland access to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and relevant EU networks. In addition, Switzerland will be involved in the authorisation procedure for plant protection products. The protocol on food safety provides for the dynamic adoption of EU law and participation in its development through ‘decision shaping’.

The part of the agreement relating specifically to agriculture remains in place and continues to include reciprocal tariff concessions and free trade in cheese, wine products and organic products. These annexes are not affected by the dynamic adoption of legislation, which means that the existing border protection for agricultural products (reciprocal tariff concessions and quotas) is not affected. Both parties will also remain sovereign in shaping their agricultural policies. The Federal Council approved the texts of the agreement and opened the consultation procedure on 13 June 2025. This lasted until 31 October 2025.



Trade volumes

16 billion Swiss francs

