



## Switzerland

### Bilateral relations in agriculture



#### Main Country Indicators 2013

	Switzerland	EU28
Total area (km <sup>2</sup> )	41 280	4 385 992
Population (million)	8.1	506.7
Population density (per km <sup>2</sup> )	202	120
GDP (current USD)	650.8	17.3 trillion
GDP per capita (current USD)	80 527	34 240
GDP growth (% change with previous year)	1.9	0.1

Sources: Eurostat, World Bank

#### Economic importance of agriculture (2011)

	Switzerland	EU28
Agricultural land (km <sup>2</sup> )	15 229	1 878 817
Agricultural land as proportion of land area (%)	38.1	44.3
Arable land as % of land area	10.11	25.6
Permanent cropland (% of land area)	0.6	2.8
Employment in agriculture (% of total employment)	3.5 *	5 *
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP)	0.7 *	1.6 *

Sources: World Bank \* year 2012

#### Trade Statistics

EU28 **exports** of agricultural products to Switzerland (2013): EUR 7.1 billion

EU28 **imports** of agricultural products from Switzerland (2013): EUR 4.3 billion

More statistical information

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/switzerland-factsheet\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/trade-analysis/statistics/outside-eu/switzerland-factsheet_en.pdf)

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## Agriculture in Switzerland

About one-third of Switzerland's land is devoted to agricultural production (grains, fodder, vegetables, fruits, and vineyards) and pasture. The variation in soil quality within small areas in Switzerland, produced by geologic conditions and by the relief, makes large-scale single-crop farming difficult; instead, a particularly varied assortment of crops are grown in a limited space. About two-thirds of all farms combine grass and grain cultivation, and the latter satisfies nearly four-fifths of domestic demand.

As a consequence of Switzerland's economic isolation in World War II, the government provided significant subsidies for agriculture, including direct market interventions and price guarantees, to maintain a high level of domestic production. Owing to trade-liberalization policies enacted in the 1990s, however, Switzerland has modified its agricultural support system, replacing these policies with direct payments to the farmers as compensation for services in the public interest.

## EU - Switzerland Relations

Through a range of [agreements in different sectors](#), the EU has a closer relationship with Switzerland than with any other country outside the [European Economic Area](#) (EEA).

More info on bilateral trade relations

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/switzerland/>

In 1999 the EU and Switzerland signed an agreement on trade in agricultural products and in 2004 a protocol on processed agricultural products.

This agreement on trade in agricultural products provides for the immediate or gradual elimination of tariffs as well as for the creation of tariff-free quotas for a number of products (e.g. certain meat products, some fruits and vegetables); however trade is yet not completely liberalised. The agreement also contains detailed provisions for the facilitation of trade between the two partners, in a wide range of areas (phyto-sanitary, animal feed, seeds, wine and spirits, fruits and vegetables, organic production, dairy, geographical indications).

General information about EU-trade with Switzerland can be found here:

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/switzerland/>