

The fruit and vegetable market in Switzerland

Overview of the market and access information for international trading companies



*Author of the study:
Mrs Marjorie Chevalley, SWISSCOFEL*

This report is directed predominantly at international trading companies. It allows the reader an overview of the fruit and vegetable market in Switzerland. It further contains the most important addresses of Swiss and international organisations and the regulations and special features of the Swiss market.

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Switzerland

Switzerland is a neutral, sovereign state situated in the middle of Europe. Although it is not a member of the European Union, the EU is by far its largest trading partner.



Area	41,428km ²
Distances	North to south 200km East to west 348km
Capital	Bern
Population	7,593 million (2007)
Languages	German: 63.7% French: 20.4% Italian: 6.5% Romansch 0.5% Others 8.9% (As of 2000)
Religion	Roman Catholic 41.8% Protestant 35.3% Others 22.9% (As of 2000)

Economic aspects:

Gross domestic product	521 SFr billion (2007 estimate)
Growth rate	1.8% (2008)
Rate of inflation	2.4% (2008)
Unemployment	2.6% (2008)

Currency:

1 Swiss franc = 100 Swiss centime

Rate of exchange:

(Status: July 2009,
Rounded to the nearest)

USD	= 1.07 SFr
EURO	= 1.52 SFr
JPY	= 1.13 SFr
GBP	= 2.76 SFr

Current exchange rates:

<http://quotes.ubs.com/quotes>



Table of Contents

1. OVERVIEW / SUMMARY	5
2. THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET	6
2.1 GENERAL ASPECTS.....	6
2.2 MARKET STRUCTURE.....	7
2.3 IMPORT REGULATIONS.....	8
2.4 TREND.....	10
2.5 MARKET PROSPECTS/CHANCES AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES.....	13
2.6 TRADE STRUCTURES.....	14
3. IMPORTS	15
4. IMPORTERS	16
4.1 BASIC ASPECTS.....	16
4.2 MAJOR DISTRIBUTORS AS IMPORTERS.....	16
4.3 IMPORTERS AS SPECIALISTS.....	17
4.4 PROCESSORS AS IMPORTERS.....	17
5. IMPORTERS' REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS	18
5.1 LEGAL REGULATIONS.....	18
5.2 PRODUCE AND MARKET SKILLS.....	18
5.3 QUALITY STANDARD AND TRADE PRACTICES.....	19
5.4 TRANSPORT CONDITIONS.....	20
5.5 IMPORTERS' SPECIFIC EXPECTATIONS.....	22
6. THE EUROPEAN MARKET	24
7. USEFUL ADDRESSES	27
APPENDIX NO. 1 FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WITHOUT QUOTAS	31
APPENDIX NO. 2: POSSIBLE IMPORTS AND EFFECTIVE IMPORTS IN 2008	35

1. Overview / summary

This work arose in the course of Sippo's import promotion programme, whose range of services includes marketing and product advice, import-export promotion through sourcing and the provision of partners, participation at trade fairs, export marketing training with information events and trade information. The purpose of this report is to give foreign suppliers a general introduction and an initial assessment of the situation for the fruit and vegetable sector. Nevertheless, the information given must be verified in specific cases as regulations are subject to change without notice. No liability whatsoever can be accepted on the basis of information contained in this report.

In a European comparison, Switzerland has a small fruit and vegetable market. However, it is well developed and is characterised by supplies of exceptionally high quality. Half of all consumed fruit and vegetables is imported. Fruit and vegetables that can be traditionally and naturally cultivated in Switzerland are subject to a flexible import system. Should there be no domestic production of a certain fruit or vegetable, these products can be imported in unlimited quantities and at very low customs duties. Should demand exceed domestic production, tariff-rate quotas are released. Whenever local supplies are sufficient, it is only possible to import fruit and vegetables for a high customs duty. Where other products are concerned, in particular bananas, pineapples, exotic fruits, grapes, peaches, nectarines, citrus fruit and melons, the imports are not restricted with regard to quantity and customs duty.

Switzerland also has a system for preferred customs tariffs (generalised system of preferences [GSP]). Many products from developing countries are subject to reduced customs tariffs or they can be imported duty-free. However, an official certificate of origin is essential.

There is a surplus of supplies of practically all types of fruit and vegetable in Switzerland throughout the whole year. Given such fierce competition, a supplier will only have a chance if he can stand out from other suppliers on the basis of superior services. For fruit or vegetables which are also cultivated in Switzerland, the main chance for getting a foothold on the Swiss market is when the foreign supplies are offered outside the Swiss season.

Quality is the main criterion for internationally traded products. This refers not only to the product itself, but also to the packaging, compliance with agreed deadlines and quantities, uninterrupted readiness to deliver, etc.

As a rule, Swiss importers usually want long-term relations with suppliers. New partners are tested and selected with caution and consistency. It can take a long time before major orders are placed with a supplier.

2. The fruit and vegetable market

2.1 General aspects

Switzerland has a population of around 7.5 million. From a culinary aspect, Switzerland is influenced by French, Italian, Austrian and German cuisine. In addition, the international network boosts demand for an exceptional variety of types of fruit and vegetables. A living standard that is above average in a European comparison enables the population to consume top-quality produce throughout the year.

This study largely refers to fresh fruit and vegetables. The definition in the fruit, vegetables FDHA regulation on fruit and vegetables and products made from them (SR 817.022.107) for this produce is listed below.

Fruit

Art. 2 Definition¹

1 Fruit is unprocessed plant produce which is used for human consumption.

2 A difference is made between the following kinds of fruit:

- a. Pome fruits: apples, pears, quinces, etc.;
- b. Drupes: apricots, cherries, peaches, plums, damsons, mirabelles, greengages, etc.;
- c. Soft fruit (berries): blackberries, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackcurrants, gooseberries, grapes, etc.;
- d. Citrus fruit: grapefruits, mandarin oranges, clementines, oranges, lemons, etc.;
- e. Exotic fruits: pineapples, bananas, dates, figs, avocados, etc.;
- f. Hard-shelled fruit: sweet chestnuts, peanuts, hazelnuts, coconuts, almonds, Brazil nuts, pistachios, walnuts, etc.

Art. 3 Dessert fruit, Fruit intended for preserves or cooking, Fruit from ecological cultivation²

2 Dessert fruit is fruit which, when supplied to consumers, is clean and ripe and normally developed in shape, colour and internal properties and is free of blemishes that affect its value for consumption.

3 Fruit intended for preserves or cooking is fruit that cannot meet or no longer meets the demands made on dessert fruit but which is suitable for cooking, drying and for other methods of preserving or usage. It may have external blemishes, may not be fully ripe or may be slightly over-ripe, be slightly affected in terms of freshness and storage qualities, slightly shrunk and slightly devalued by unsuitable or excessive storage or by transport damage.

4 Fruit from ecological cultivation may have small external blemishes. The general sense of the demands of paragraphs 2 and 3 apply.

¹ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/817_022_107/a2.html

² http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/817_022_107/a3.html

Vegetables

Art. 5 Definition³

1 Vegetables are plants or parts of plants that are used for human consumption.

2 A difference is made between the following types of vegetable:

- a. Tuber and root vegetables: potatoes, carrots, celeriac, beetroot, black salsify, kohlrabi, radishes, white radish, etc.;
- b. Stem vegetables: Swiss chard, rhubarb, asparagus, fennel, celery, etc.;
- c. Leafy vegetables: all leafy cabbages, spinach, lettuce, cabbage lettuce and other leafy lettuces, Catalonia, etc.;
- d. Fruit vegetables: cucumbers, tomatoes, courgettes, aubergines, melons, etc.;
- e. Legumes and pulses (fresh): beans, peas, snow peas, Soya, lentils, etc.;
- f. Bulbous plants: all sorts of onion, garlic, etc.;
- g. Chicory: Belgian endives (Witloof), red and green cicorino, winter chicory, etc.;
- h. Herbs.

2.2 Market structure

The entire market of fresh fruit and vegetables, preserves, frozen products, concentrates, dried, powdered products and semi-finished products made from them can be structured as follows:

Product classification

- Domestically cultivated products
- Central European fruit and vegetables (cultivated)⁴
- Exotic fruit and vegetables (not cultivated)⁵

Method of cultivation

- Organic production
- Conventional and integrated production

Markets

- Retail and wholesale trade
- Discounters and cash-and-carry
- Catering trade, canteens, fast food
- Industry
- Weekly markets and sales directly from the farm

³ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/817_022_107/a5.html

⁴ Controlled: the import of most of the fruit and vegetables cultivated in Switzerland is limited. Please see the following link for a list of the controlled products:

http://www.swisscofel.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Normen_HUS_Leitfaden/Leitfaden_Importregelung.pdf

⁵ Not controlled: imports are not limited with regard to quantities and customs tariffs. The products do not have any notified phase: see appendix no. 1.

2.3 Import regulations

In order to maintain a certain production in Switzerland, there are special import regulations which can differ throughout the year. The most important legal bases are:

- Agricultural law [LwG] (SR 910.1; articles 17-22, 169, 175)⁶
- Agricultural imports regulation [AEV] (SR 916.01; articles 1-4, 10-15, 21-29)⁷
- Regulation governing the import and export of vegetables, fruit and garden produce [VEAGOG] (SR 916.121.10; articles 1-9, 19-23)⁸
- VEAGOG release regulation (SR 916.121.100).⁹

Non-limited imports

Non-cultivated fruit and vegetables¹⁰ include asparagus, garlic, pickled gherkins, mushrooms, almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, sweet chestnuts, bananas, dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, grapes, avocados, mangoes, oranges, mandarins, lemons, limes, grapefruit, melons, papayas, peaches, nectarines, kiwis.

Limited imports

The import of the majority of types of fruit and vegetables cultivated in Switzerland is limited and controlled. They may only be imported by importers with a general import permit¹¹ (GEB). The GEB is issued by the Federal Office for Agriculture. Depending on sales possibilities and domestic supplies, customs quota part quantities are released on a weekly basis during the cultivation period. The purpose of these measures is to prevent excess competition with domestic sales during the harvesting season.

Imports of organic products

Organic produce is subject to the import regulation from 22 September 1997 regarding organic farming and the identification of organically produced products and foods, [organic food regulation] (SR 910.18).¹²

Otherwise, organic produce is subject to the same import conditions as conventionally cultivated agricultural produce. There are no separate import quotas. In terms of customs laws, no difference is made between the methods of cultivation. However, if the products are labelled as organic produce, they must meet the principles laid down in the organic regulation in terms of production and processing. Additionally, production must comply with the test procedures stipulated in the organic regulation.

⁶ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c910_1.html

⁷ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c916_01.html

⁸ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c916_121_10.html

⁹ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c916_121_100.html

¹⁰ See appendix no. 1: fruit and vegetables without notified phase

¹¹ [Merkblatt Einfuhrbestimmungen für frisches Obst und frisches Gemüse](#)

¹² http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c910_18.html

Customs quotas

Switzerland has notified to the WTO a minimum entry into the market for the cultivated fruit and vegetables in the form of a customs quota. As a result of the WTO agreements, Switzerland must ensure that a certain quantity can be imported at the quota customs rate (KZA) each year. The minimum entry into the market amounts to:

- Fresh vegetables	166,076 t
- Frozen vegetables	4,500 t
- Apples, pears and quinces, fresh	15,800 t
- Apricots, cherries, plums, fresh	16,340 t
- Other fresh fruit	13,360 t

Imports of cultivated fruit and vegetables are subject to a two-phase system, as it is known. Each product is divided up into a controlled and a non-controlled period of time.¹³ During the non-controlled phase, companies registered in Switzerland can import the corresponding product without any limitations on quantity. In the controlled phase, there are three different import possibilities:

1. Supplementary quotas at the quota customs rate (KZA)

Domestic production cannot satisfy market demand. Upon an application by the branch organisation, the Federal Office for Agriculture approves supplementary quotas. These can be exploited proportionally by importers with a general import permit and a quota share.¹⁴

2. Imports at the non-quota customs rate AKZA code 1 (reduced customs duty):

No quotas are permitted if domestic products can satisfy the market. However, imports are nevertheless possible at the AKZA code 1.

3. Imports at the non-quota customs rate AKZA (customs duty deposited in GATT):

If imports are made in addition to permitted supplementary quotas, the high customs duty (AKZA) has to be paid in return. The competitiveness of imported products on the Swiss market is substantially restricted by this incidence of customs duty.

Tomatoes, others, as an example

Phase	Import possibility	Customs rate in SFr per 100kg gross
21 Oct. -30 April	Free	5.00
1 May-20 Oct. (controlled phase)	Supplementary quotas at the KZA	5.00
	Imports at the AKZA code 1	150.00
	Imports at the AKZA	264.00

For certain products, Switzerland has autonomously determined even shorter controlled periods.

¹³Guide to the import regulation:

http://www.swisscofel.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Normen_HUS_Leitfaden/Leitfaden_Importregelung.pdf

¹⁴ [Allocation of customs quota quantities for fruit and vegetables in 2009](#)

Preferred customs tariffs (Generalised System of Preferences [GSP])

Preferential customs treatment allows developing countries and territories to increase and to diversify their exports to Switzerland. Switzerland grants reduced customs duties (customs preferential scheme) for most agricultural produce. Often, no customs duty is charged on imports from the least-developed countries [LDC]. In principle, this applies to non-controlled products or to controlled products that can be imported within the quota.

The ordinance on preferential duty rates for the developing countries (Ordinance on Tariff Preferences)¹⁵ governs the tariff preferences in favour of the developing countries: the least developed countries (LDC) can export these products into Switzerland duty-free. The prerequisite is a certificate of origin. Certain products from countries that benefit from a debt-relief initiative can also export these products into Switzerland duty-free.

The states of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the European Community (EC) have preferential treatment for imports. The customs duty and the tariff quotas are listed in the **Ordinance on the rate of duty for goods traded with the EFTA and the EC (Free Trade Ordinance 1)** (SR 632.421.0)¹⁶. This ordinance also lists the duty-free quotas for imports from the EU.¹⁷

The ordinance on the rates of duty for goods traded with free trade partners (except for the European Community and the European Free Trade Association) (**Free Trade Ordinance 2**)¹⁸ specifies the duty concessions for imported goods from Turkey, the Faroe Islands, Israel, Morocco, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Macedonia, Mexico, Croatia, Jordan, Singapore, Chile, Tunisia, Lebanon, the Republic of Korea, the South African Customs Union and Egypt.

Value-added tax

Foodstuffs are subject to a reduced value-added tax rate (currently 2.4%) irrespective of their origin.

2.4 Trend

It is anticipated that the residential population will only increase slightly. The average age will increase. Although older people tend to consume fewer foodstuffs, they are considered to be more quality and health-conscious.

Switzerland has around 3 million households. The number is on the increase, whereby there was an average of 2.2 persons per household in 2007. Since many people do not have lunch at home and the households tend to be small, they prefer high-quality, pre-processed foods (convenience products) and smaller packages. Swiss consumers are less price conscious than German consumers, and eat more frequently in restaurants. Consumption of fast-food products is on the increase.

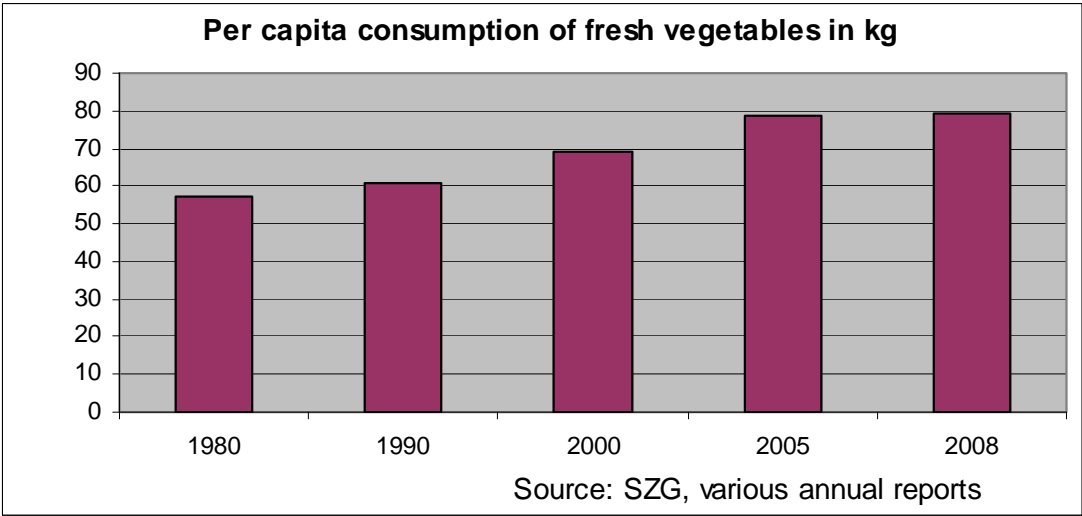
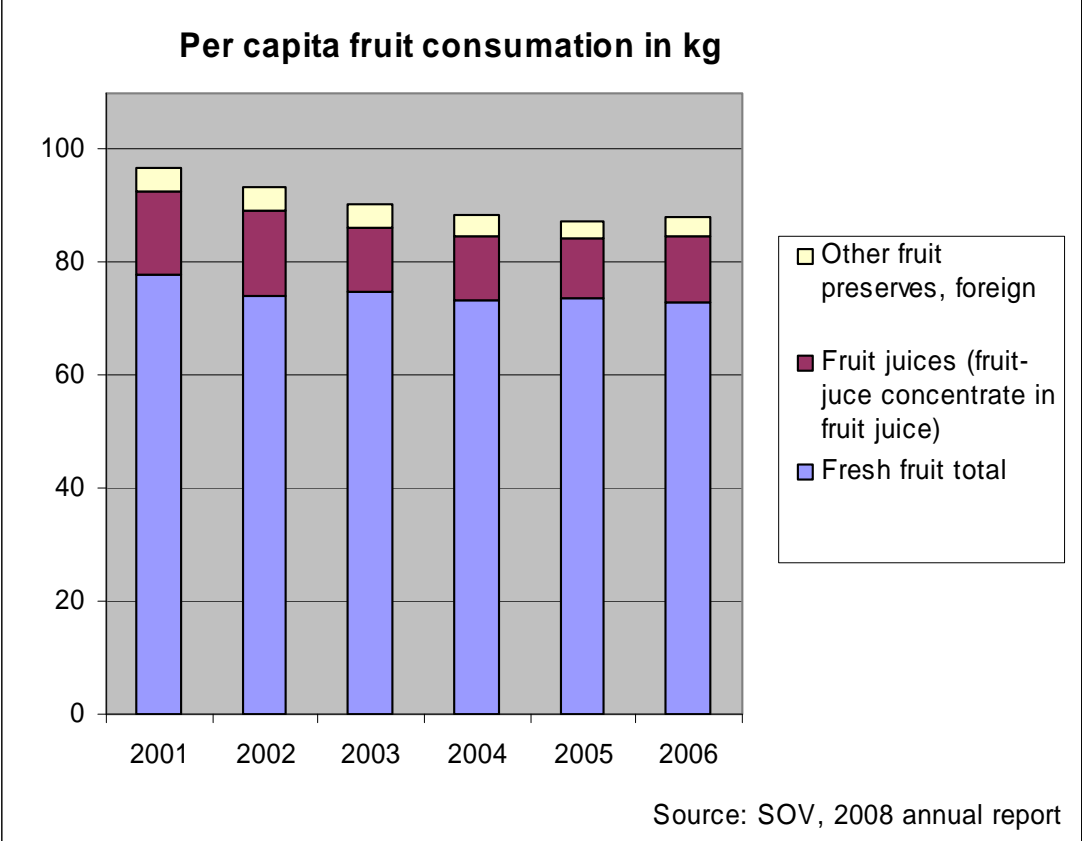
¹⁵ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c632_911.html

¹⁶ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c632_421_0.html

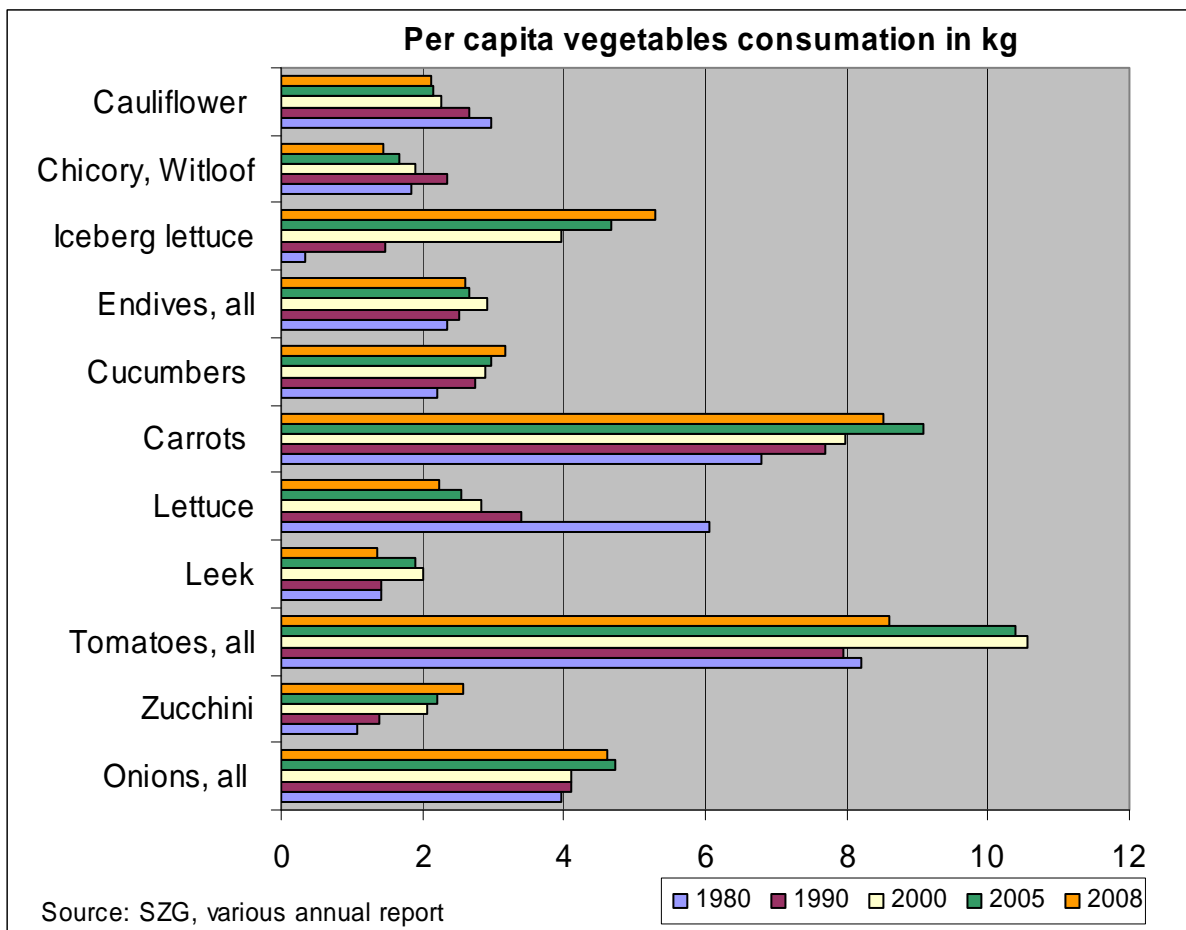
¹⁷ http://www.ezv.admin.ch/zollinfo_firmen/abfertigungshilfen/zollkontingente/index.html?lang=de

¹⁸ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c632_319.html

On average, a household only spends 9% of its expenditure on foodstuffs or beverages. For decades, the trend has been on the decline and this will continue in future. Although the income per household is increasing, expenditure on food is stagnating / decreasing.¹⁹



¹⁹ <http://www.bfs.admin.ch/>



Overall per capita consumption of fruit and vegetables is high, and is slightly increasing. The national “5 per day”²⁰ campaigns encourages the consumption of fruit and vegetables. The message of this campaign is: five portions of fruit and vegetables per day are very good for your health and well-being.

The Swiss population has modified its consumer buying habits over the past 25 years. The retail trade offers an increasingly wide range of fruit and vegetables. Consumers are being directly sensitised for healthy eating. The demand for products from fair programmes and from organic production has increased substantially.

Mini vegetables are a very successful niche product. The interest in mini vegetables is increasing in the catering trade as well as in high-class restaurants.

²⁰ www.5amtag.ch

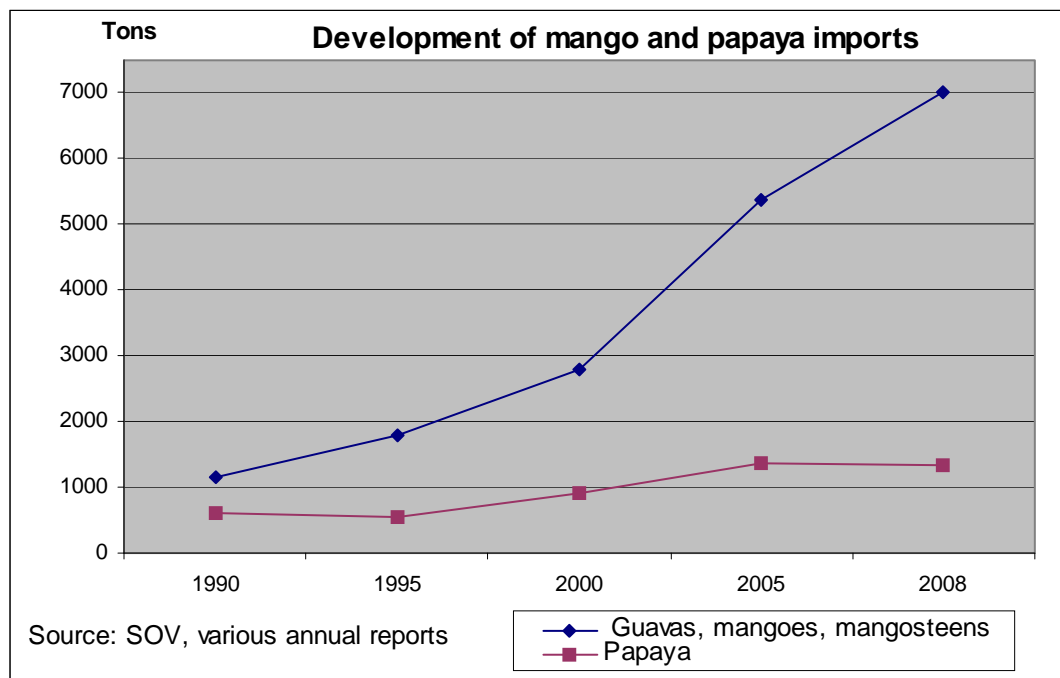
2.5 Market prospects/chances and economic circumstances

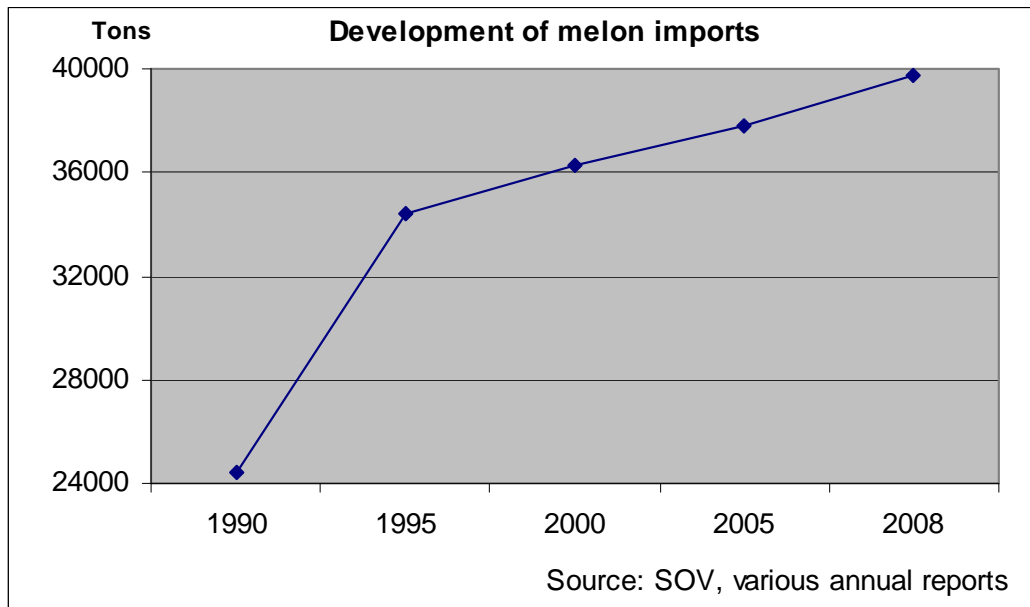
Overall consumption of fruit and vegetables will rise, particularly due to increased health awareness. Naturally produced products of high quality have particularly good chances of growth, as do convenience products. Demand for individual products can be increased if they are offered before or after the season in Switzerland.

Since 1970, the structure of the population in Switzerland has changed as a result of immigration. Around 20% of the current population in Switzerland come from abroad. These sections of the population have brought their cultural and culinary customs with them to Switzerland. Since the majority of immigrants come from Mediterranean and Asian countries, the retail trade has expanded its range of produce in line with these requirements. This diversification of the range of products has had an exceptionally positive influence on the demand for fruit and vegetables as a whole.

A further factor is the Swiss enthusiasm for travel. The positive culinary experiences made on holiday result in an extension to the range on offer – usually in the form of convenience products – to include meals and dishes from all over the world, especially Asia.

The catering trade is also experiencing a trend towards more Mediterranean and Asian cuisine.





The major distributors' main sales are in the following exotic products: bananas, kiwis, pineapples, avocados, mangos and papayas. Further popular products are limes, lychees, dates, ginger, passion fruit, physalis, star fruit, pomegranate, medlar, cassava, cactus figs, cherimoyas, kumquats.

2.6 Trade structures

As is the case throughout Europe as a whole, trade structures are undergoing a shift. The major distributors of Migros and Coop determine the market when it comes to the Swiss retail trade. However, the retail trade includes other chains of food shops such as Carrefour, Denner, Magro, Spar, Volg, Prodega. German discounters such as Aldi and Lidl have recently also been expanding on the market. However, Migros (M-Budget) and Coop (Prix Garantie) also offer affordable ranges of products. Furthermore, a concentration process is under way for strengthening the positions. The trend towards a centralisation of purchasing is increasingly limiting suppliers' sales opportunities.

Due to the strong presence of Migros and Coop, there is a certain interdependency between suppliers and the major distributors with regard to price, marketing, positioning, advertising, etc. The wholesale needs to increasingly orientate its services towards the requirements of these major retailers.

3. Imports

Fruit and vegetables with a value of around 1.7 billion Swiss francs are imported annually into Switzerland.

Import of edible fruit; citrus fruit or melon peel

Countries	2000			2005			2008		
	Tonnen	in %	CHF 1000	Tonnen	in %	CHF 1000	Tonnen	in %	CHF 1000
Total	444'880	100.00%	854'024	464'904	100.00%	1'010'709	475'696	100.00%	1'122'484
Europe	310'846	69.9%	577'843	320'511	68.9%	700'362	322'461	67.8%	805'704
North Africa	3'726	0.8%	6'582	2'989	0.6%	8'617	3'754	0.8%	10'252
Africa (other)	19'279	4.3%	42'513	25'706	5.5%	47'341	20'741	4.4%	45'075
Asia	10'719	2.4%	25'813	9'826	2.1%	26'898	10'172	2.1%	33'648
North America	13'189	3.0%	57'854	9'817	2.1%	73'525	10'502	2.2%	48'552
Central America	43'409	9.8%	60'701	46'514	10.0%	66'318	49'897	10.5%	67'458
South America	36'897	8.3%	64'572	44'170	9.5%	73'083	52'522	11.0%	94'421
Oceania	6'815	1.5%	18'144	5'371	1.2%	14'565	5'647	1.2%	17'374

Eidg. Zollverwaltung, Abt. Aussenhandelsstatistik, Bern

Import of vegetables, plants, roots and tubers for nutritional purposes

Countries	2000			2005			2008		
	Tonnen	in %	CHF 1000	Tonnen	in %	CHF 1000	Tonnen	in %	CHF 1000
Total	269'935	100.00%	552643	261'062	100.00%	587'456	314'000	100.00%	650'689
Europe	260'820	96.6%	446'501	225'935	86.5%	487'803	259'740	82.7%	527'925
North Africa	14'586	5.4%	18'891	15'200	5.8%	22'600	16'135	5.1%	26'503
Africa (other)	1'271	0.5%	6'779	884	0.3%	5'900	975	0.3%	6'617
Asia	11'148	4.1%	47'482	10'211	3.9%	40'841	25'642	8.2%	50'876
North America	7'711	2.9%	29'832	5'925	2.3%	19'527	6'705	2.1%	22'989
Central America	195	0.1%	537	1'608	0.6%	5'816	1'475	0.5%	5'933
South America	510	0.2%	2'171	1'060	0.4%	4'780	1'842	0.6%	8'446
Oceania	694	0.3%	448	239	0.1%	189	1'486	0.5%	1'400

Eidg. Zollverwaltung, Abt. Aussenhandelsstatistik, Bern

In terms of volume, around half of the fruit and vegetables consumed on the domestic market is imported. However, there are major differences according to production possibilities. For example, about one-eighth of carrots, around half of tomatoes and around 13% of pome fruits were imported in 2008. At the same time, exports are also made (1747 tons of dessert apples and pears). Exotic fruits and vegetables are only imported.

Fruit and vegetables are mainly imported from surrounding countries, with about 68% of the fruit and 83% of the vegetable imports are coming from Europe. The trend over recent years illustrates that many countries with low import volumes and significant distances have disappeared as suppliers.

In 1990, for example, the imported tomatoes came from 34 different countries. In 1995, this figure had fallen to 30 and by 2008 there were only around 16 countries. In the same period, volumes rose by about one quarter. In spite of a certain

concentration on European supply countries, the example of tomatoes illustrates that a non-European country and a developing country that does not export mineral oil can become a significant supplier of vegetables to Switzerland.

The interesting point about this is that Morocco has become the largest supplier of imported tomatoes for Switzerland in terms of volume. Whereas in 1990 the share of imports was just short of 6%, it was as high as 12% by 1995. In 2001, Morocco was the largest supplier of tomatoes to Switzerland with a share of over 30%. In 2008, Morocco supplied 25% of the imported tomatoes.

4. Importers

4.1 Basic aspects

Around 350 swiss importers share the entire import of fruit and vegetables. Depending on the market conditions, the quotas are only partially exploited. As a rule, the customs quota part quantities allocated to the importers are valid for one week. They expire if they are not used. If a shortage is anticipated on the domestic market, customs quota part quantities are again allocated for the following days. Hence, the annual sum of the individual customs quota part quantities is larger than the effective import amounts. Appendix no. 2 lists the possible imports and the effective imports per product. As a rule, the minimum entry into the market granted by Switzerland in accordance with the WTO obligation is significantly exceeded.

The release of customs quota part quantities (ZKTM) are published on the Internet²¹ by the Federal Office for Agriculture. The importer can calculate his gross import quantity for the relevant product by means of his customs quota quantities (ZKM represented as a %)

The allocation of the customs quota quantities²² are published once a year for/by all fruit and vegetable importers. One can see from this publication which are the most important importers per product.

4.2 Major distributors as importers

Together, Migros²³ and Coop²⁴, the two major distributors that operate a national network of retail outlets, sell over half of the total volume of fruit and vegetables. At the same time, they have the largest customs quota quantities. In addition, they also assume significant volumes from other importers.

²¹ [Tabelle Importregelung](#)

²² [Allocation of customs quota quantities for fruit and vegetables in 2009](#)

²³ <http://www.migros.ch>

²⁴ <http://www.coop.ch/>

4.3 Importers as specialists

There are specialists who, in particular, offer some fruit and vegetables of domestic origin. To extend the duration of supplies or to increase their range of products, they only import a limited number of products.

According to the publication of customs quota allocations²⁵ / the effective imports, in addition to Migros and Coop, the following companies were amongst the three main importers of the relevant product in 2008:

- **Apples:** Tobi Seeobst AG, Bischofszell; fenaco, Ins; Füglistner Charles AG, Dietikon.
- **Strawberries:** Iseppi Frutta SA, Dornach; Bardini + Keller AG, Gossau; Buonvicini AG, Stabio.
- **Aubergines:** Schwab-Guillod AG, Müntschemier; GBC Frutta Verdura Import SA, Manno; Primserres SA, Lonay.
- **Beans:** Müller + Dietrich, Münchenstein; Azte-Ku-Mex AG, Basel; Aldi Suisse, Embrach-Embraport.
- **Green asparagus:** Giovanelli Fruchtimport AG, Frauenfeld; Iseppi Frutta SA, Dornach; AG für Fruchthandel, Münchenstein.
- **Onions:** Gugger-Guillod SA, Sugiez; Feldhof Gemüsebau, Oberriet; Steffen-Ris, Utzenstorf.
- **Tomatoes:** Schwab-Guillod AG, Müntschemier; Jäger Hans AG, Zürich; GBC Frutta Verdura Import SA, Manno.
- **Zucchini:** Schwab-Guillod AG, Müntschemier; GBC Frutta Verdura Import SA, Manno; Agro-Import AG, Egerkingen.

Exotic types including bananas are mainly imported by Migros, Zurich; Coop, Basle; Helfer Georges SA, Gland; Dähler Gebr. AG, Zurich; AG für Fruchthandel, Basle; Giovanelli Fruchtimport AG, Frauenfeld; Satori SA, Lonay (in addition to Migros and Coop).

4.4 Processors as importers²⁶

Depending on the market conditions, processing companies also function as importers of fresh products for further processing. For Brussels sprouts and broccoli, for example: Ditzler Louis AG, Möhlin; Frigemo Produktionsbetrieb, Mellingen. The import application can only be granted if there is no comparable produce available on the domestic market.

Pre-packaged frozen products are also imported. Alongside the major distributors, the importers are mainly processing companies such as Ditzler Louis AG, Möhlin; Hilcona AG, Schaan; Frigemo AG, Cressier; Nestlé Suisse AG, Rorschach, Bischofszell Nahrungsmittel AG, Bischofszell.

However, there are also companies from the beverage industry which function as importers for raw materials and for the production of juice or spirits.

²⁵ Customs quota allocations <http://www.blw.admin.ch/themen/00007/00059/00542/index.html?lang=de>

²⁶ Guide to the import regulation for industrial processing and for frozen vegetables
<http://www.swissveg.com/data/file/produzenten/markt/import/Leitfaden%20IR-VG%20definitiv.pdf>

5. Importers' requirements and expectations

5.1 Legal regulations

Foodstuffs are subject to Swiss laws and regulations irrespective of whether they are produced by the domestic market or imported. The Swiss food regulation has been extensively harmonised with EU law. The precise working of the laws can be called up on the Internet by means of the SO numbers (systematic order).

German: <http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/sr.html>

French: <http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/rs/rs.html>

Italian: <http://www.admin.ch/ch/i/rs/rs.html>

- **Law governing foodstuffs** (SR 817.0) Basis of foodstuff legislation.
- **Food and commodities regulation** (SR 817.02).
- **Regulation governing foreign substances constituents** (SR 817.021.23) Regulation governing additives and ingredients in foodstuffs lays down the maximum permissible concentrations for pesticides and growth regulators, heavy metals, pharmacological active agents, microbial toxins, radionuclides, nitrates and nitrites.
- **Regulation governing additives** (SR 817.022.31) Regulation governing the additives permitted in foodstuffs: Positive list of approved substances and preparations, application list of various additives with the maximum permissible amounts: regulates the declaration of additives.
- **Hygiene regulation** (SR 817.024.1) Regulation governing the hygienic-microorganic demands on foodstuffs, objects, rooms and staff lays down tolerance figures for micro-organisms in foodstuffs and drinking water.
- **Declaration regulation** (SR 941.281) Regulation governing the measuring and the declaring of quantities of goods in trade and on the market regulates details of quantities (weight, volume, etc.) of foodstuffs and the corresponding declaration for loose and pre-prepared packages.

5.2 Produce and market skills

As a rule, importers only import top-grade products. Producers and suppliers on the domestic and international market are expected to cultivate the optimum sorts for the Swiss market. The production methods must be selected to ensure that constant volumes of the highest quality, clean and ripe produce, can be marketed over the longest period possible. Their properties in terms of colour, shape and, where applicable preparation, must meet consumers' high demands. Fruit and vegetable suppliers are expected to be familiar with general domestic requirements.

Importer-specific requirements must be negotiated. These agreements are generally binding. EU standards apply if these should be missing.

Cultivation issues

The Association of Swiss Vegetable Producers (VSGP)²⁷ has available all necessary information on the selected type, weed control, pesticides in IP and organic cultivation, a list of requirements for IP production, composting, costing and information on additive companies and suppliers. The Swiss Fruit Association (SOV) is responsible for the relevant information on fruit.²⁸

As it is the case in the EU, Switzerland does not currently permit the production and the marketing of genetically modified fruit and vegetables.

5.3 Quality standard and trade practices

The quality regulations promote the quality of the product on the Swiss fruit and vegetable market, and simplify the handling process for all players.

The Swiss regulations apply to vegetables with a domestic and international origin which finally go on sale on the Swiss market in an unprocessed state. They are listed on the Qualiservice²⁹ website. The quality regulations for fruit are also listed on the Qualiservice³⁰ website. Where no appropriate agreements have been made, the Swiss trade practices apply. If these do not supply any information, the EU or the UN/ECE standards apply³¹.

The SwissGAP association is active in the implementation of the GlobalGAP standards and other acknowledged international standards. The SwissGAP production reference standard takes into consideration the existing structures in Switzerland, and complies with the requirements of GlobalGAP.

In order to comply with consumer expectations and the requirements of the market, all representatives (i.e. producers, warehouse keepers, processors, suppliers) have developed the certificate together, and continually work on improving it. The requirements of the guideline for GAP cover the following areas:

- Food safety and health,
- Health and safety protection in the workplace,
- Protection of the environment and sustainable development,
- Protection of animals.

Each product must comply with the following criteria:

- Traceability: back as far as the production company,
- Seeds and planting stock: The sowing of genetically modified organisms must comply with all existing laws and regulations in the land of cultivation,
- Labelling of the application of pesticides: Type of plantation, place, date, company name of the pesticide, name of the user.

²⁷ <http://www.swissveg.com>

²⁸ <http://www.swissfruit.ch/>

²⁹ http://www.qualiservice.ch/de/dienstleistungen/normen_gemuese.html

³⁰ http://www.qualiservice.ch/de/dienstleistungen/normen_obst.html

³¹ <http://www.qualiservice.ch/de/dienstleistungen/normen.html>

The major distributors Migros and Coop require of imported products that they are produced according to the GlobalGAP standard. The equivalent SwissGAP standard for fruit and vegetables must be complied with for domestic produce.

The implementation documentation and technical requirements are available on the SwissGAP³² and GlobalGAP websites.³³

5.4 *Transport conditions*

Transport policy

The performance-related road-user charge for trucks (LSVA) has applied in Switzerland since 1 January 2001 (article 85 of the Federal Constitution)³⁴. In 2005, the weight limit for HGVs was increased to 40 tons. The objective of these measures is to limit the growth of heavy goods traffic, to encourage a shift of goods traffic to the railway, and to reduce environmental damage.

The LSVA applies to all goods vehicles with a laden weight in excess of 3.5 tons. The LSVA depends on the following factors:

- The amount of kilometres covered in Switzerland,
- The gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle,
- The emission category of the vehicle.

The rates of charges³⁵ vary in accordance with the emission category, and amount to between 2.26 and 3.07 centimes per thousand km.

Sample calculation:

Decisive weight:	18t
Tariff according to emissions	2.26 centimes per thousand km
Kilometres covered	100 km
Total (18 * 2.26 * 100 = 4068 centimes)	<u>SFr 40.70</u>

³² <http://www.swissgap.ch/de/dokumente/index.html>

³³ http://www.globalgap.org/cms/front_content.php?idart=147&idcat=48&lang=1&client=1

³⁴ <http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/101/a85.html>

³⁵ http://www.ezv.admin.ch/zollinfo_firmen/steuern_abgaben/00379/index.html?lang=en

Packaging / containers

The packaging and the containers are to protect the food products from damage and spoilage. The packaging must be clean and hygienic, and satisfy regulations pertaining to foodstuffs. The following systems are used in international trade:

Reusable container

- IFCO Systems GmbH: <http://www.ifco.ch>
- Euro Pool System: <http://www.europoolsystem.com>

Disposable container

- Wooden crates (40 x 60cm and 40 x 30cm)
- Cardboard box (40 x 60cm and 40 x 30cm)

Pallets

- Overseas transport: disposable pallets (wooden, treated against pests)
- Transport within Europe: reusable pallets EURO 80 x 120 cm (wooden)

Containers

- Overseas transport: air-conditioned CA containers (40' and 20')

Some importers wish to receive the fruit or vegetables at the stage that they can be put straight onto the shelves without the need for any further processing. The detailed requirements must be discussed with the customer in this case.

For imports to Switzerland, attention must also be paid to the fact that Switzerland enforces weight duty on the entire weight (gross weight). This means that the same customs duty must be paid for the packaging as for the main product.

Labelling

The labelling regulations must comply with the legal requirements of the food law (declaration regulation)³⁶, and have the following objectives:

- Product description,
- Logistical information by means of the EAN code (identification standard),
- Traceability.

³⁶ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c941_281.html

5.5 Importers' specific expectations

There is a surplus of supplies of practically all types of fruit and vegetable in Switzerland throughout the whole year. Given such fierce competition, a supplier will only have a chance if he can stand out from other suppliers on the basis of superior services. Importers set maximum store by the reliability of their suppliers.

Adherence to deadlines

The time of the release of customs quota part quantities is very important so that the importers can order their goods in good time. Furthermore, this concerns highly perishable goods on the one hand. On the other hand, the part quantities allocated are valid for one week as a rule. Major losses and problems with supplying the market result from products not reaching shops in time and in the desired quality.

Residues / contamination

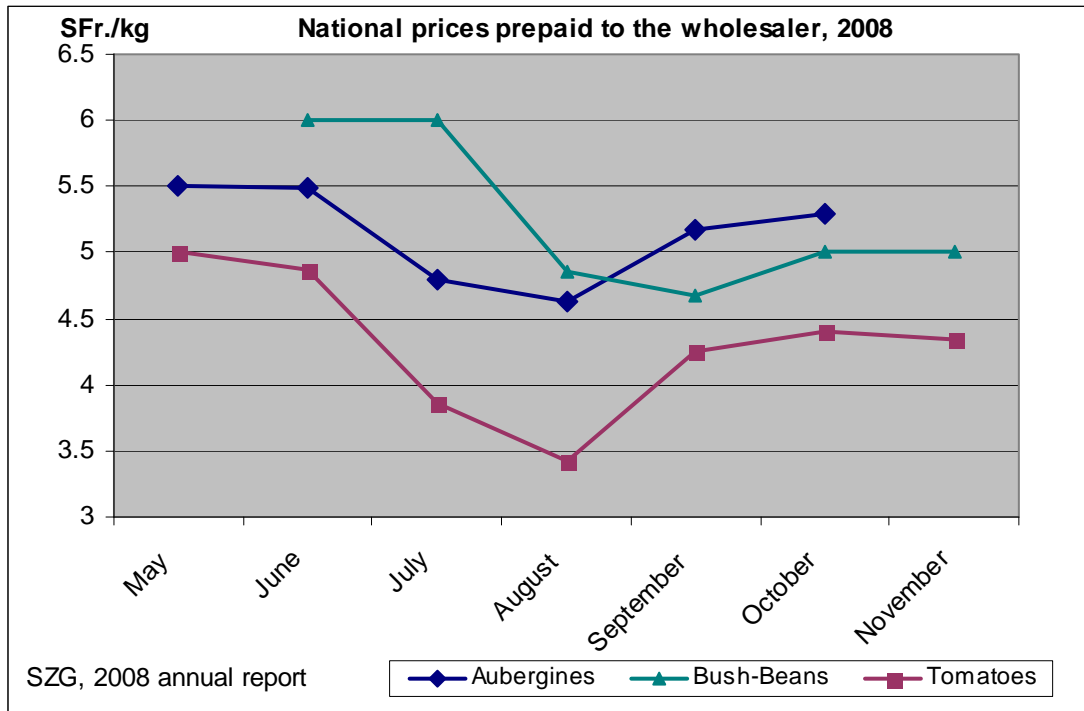
Under no circumstances may foodstuffs contain forbidden substances or exceed the maximum permissible values³⁷. The extent of the damage is enormous if such products are nevertheless marketed and the existence of these substances can be substantiated. Apart from fines and the destruction of the products, boycotts of the suppliers in question and retail chains concerned are also possible. Due to the increase in responsibility regarding product liability in recent years, the route from production (plantation) to shop should be transparent. As a consequence, importers tend to cooperate with a small number of efficient partners. The suppliers should be able to offer as many products as possible throughout the year and be certified according to GlobalGAP.

Prices

In an EU-wide comparison, the national prices for fruit and vegetables are on average 30 to 40% higher. World market prices apply for imports.

Thanks to the import system, surpluses can frequently be avoided. The price situation is appropriately stable. However, significant surpluses can affect the prices. Quality defects or late deliveries, on the other hand, cannot be compensated for by low prices. Prices can fluctuate sharply according to the season.

³⁷ http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c817_021_23.html



Refusal to accept / rejection

If agreements are not adhered to, importers can refuse to accept the product. Irrespective of whether the damage is the result of transport or whether it has occurred at the production stage, it may lead to rejection. This is particularly the case when quality or deadlines are not adhered to or if the products contain residues: a situation that is unpleasant for all involved. However, the supplier is entitled to demand an expert's report in order to have a quality defect neutrally assessed. In Switzerland, the Qualiservice GmbH³⁸ is the responsible authority: it selects and trains experts. The trade practices are to be observed in the event of rejections.

"Social Code"

Increasing importance is also being placed on "fair" treatment of employees at production and trading levels. For example, workers on plantations and in packaging plants are expected to receive fair wages and good social security cover, and there should be no child labour. A high level of safety in the workplace is important. This also explains the success of the Max Havelaar Label (the Max Havelaar Foundation issues a seal of quality for fairly traded products. By means of fair trade, the living and working conditions of small-scale farmers and plantation works in disadvantaged regions are improved)³⁹.

The "Global Compact's Ten Principles" demand that companies recognise, support and implement within their area of influence a catalogue of basic values in the area of human rights, working standards, protection of the environment and the combating of corruption. For further information, please visit:

<http://www.sippo.ch/internet/osec/en/home/import.html>

³⁸ <http://www.qualiservice.ch>

³⁹ <http://www.maxhavelaar.ch/en/>

6. The European market

Until 1 January 1995, the European Union (EU) comprised 15 member states. 10 new members joined in May 2004. These are: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Cyprus. In 2007: Bulgaria and Romania. The population of the EU amounted to 499.7 million in 2008.

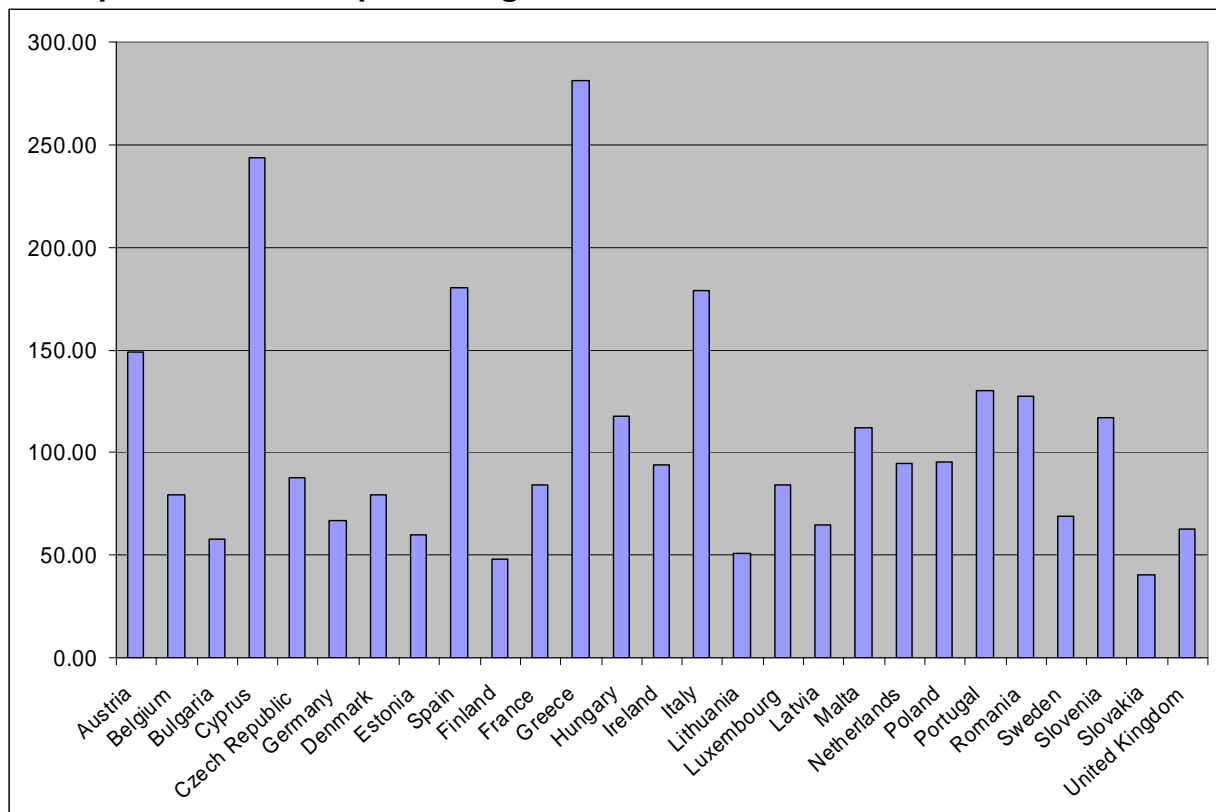
Legal bases in the EU:

- Fruit and vegetable legislation:
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>
- General principles and requirements of the food law:
EC regulation 178/2002
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>
- Marketing standard for quality, labels, packaging: EC 2200/96 regulation
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>
- Pest control: EC 2002/89 regulation
<https://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/default.jsp> (international), www.eppo.org (European)

Consumption

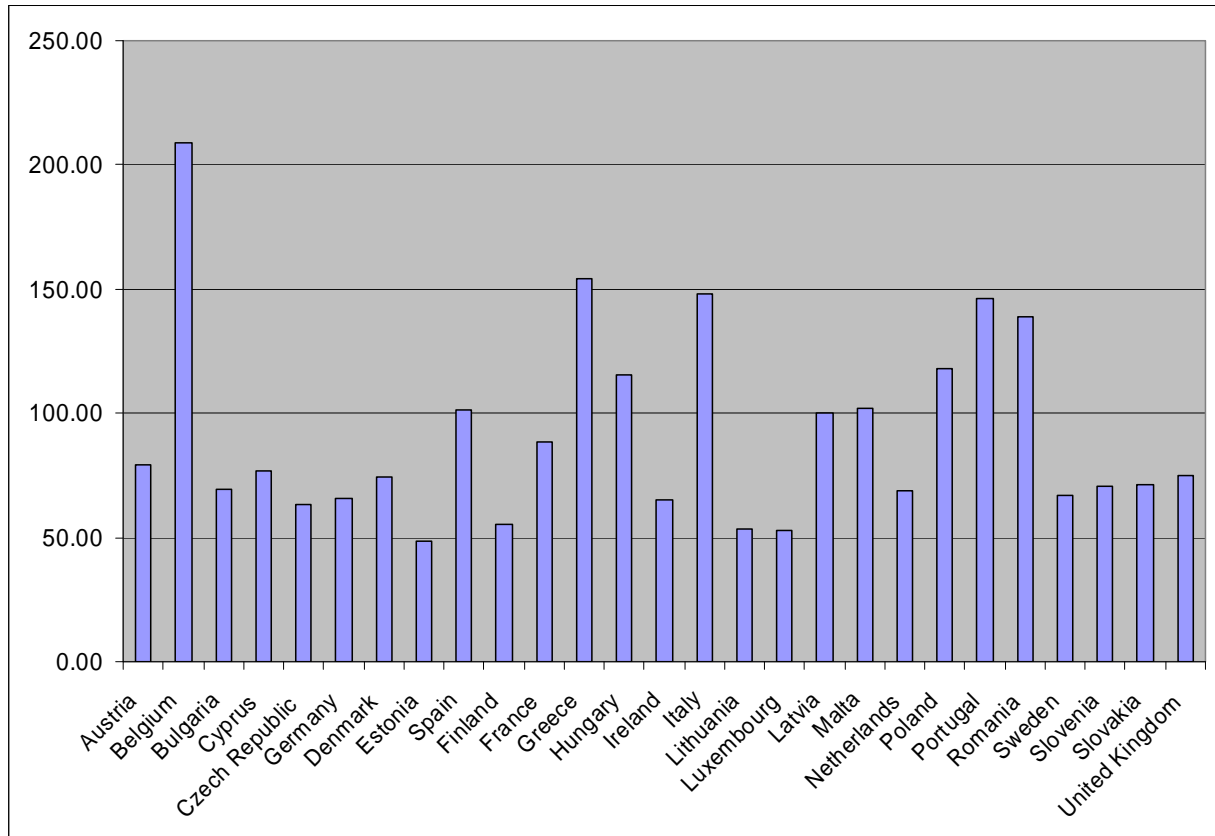
As a whole, the market for fresh fruit and vegetables is stable. However, consumption is decreasing in some countries. The new EU countries have a high per capita consumption level. The consumption of fruit and vegetables is considerably higher in the southern member states than in the northern member states. Moreover, more time is spent shopping for and preparing food in the south. In contrast, North Europeans (especially Britons) increasingly favour convenience products.

Per capita fruit consumption in kg 2007



Freshfel Europe Monitor 2008

Per capita vegetable consumption in kg 2007



Freshfel Europe Monitor 2008

Production

The European Union has a very high degree of self-sufficiency for fruit and vegetables. However, the seasons and the change in climate limit cultivation in the north of Europe. In particular, insufficient quantities during the winter months are balanced out by means of cultivation in greenhouses. The rest is covered by imports from the north of Africa, Turkey and the Middle East. Suppliers from outside the EU can mainly offer their produce on the European market during the winter months. Exotic fruits can be imported throughout the whole year without any major problems.

Italy, France and Spain cover 70% of the fruit requirements and 55% of the vegetable requirements in Europe.

With the exception of Poland, the 10 new member states produce small quantities of fruit and vegetables. These countries still have limited infrastructures. Upon their entry into the EU, they now have free access to the EU markets. This is resulting in increased cultivation and exports from these new EU countries to Western Europe. The structural change is well under way. Intensive production is well developed, and the producers are organised into producer cooperatives. This type of cooperative increases competitive chances. Poland is already competitive in the field of berries, mushrooms, frozen products and fruit juices, for example.

Imports

In 2008, fruit imports into the EU countries amounted to 9.5 billion euro / 12 million tons. Vegetables to the value of 1 billion euro / 1.3 million tons were imported. The products most commonly imported by the EU are bananas, citrus fruits, apples, grapes, tomatoes, onions and peppers. Hence, imports from non-EU countries (non-member countries) have a market share of around 40%.

There are also importers and exporters within the EU. The main exporter for fruit and vegetables in the EU Market are the Netherlands, with around 27%, followed by Lithuania, Italy and Poland, each with a share of around 10%. The United Kingdom (19%), the Netherlands and Belgium (with 17%) are the countries with the greatest exports. Of the 10 new EU countries, Poland and the Czech Republic export the largest quantities of fruit and vegetables.

10% of vegetable imports and 35% of fruit imports come from developing countries. They have an important part to play in supplying papayas, lychees, bananas, guavas, mangoes, pineapples, dates, avocados and passion fruit. They also supply vegetables, mainly peas, beans, sweetcorn, asparagus and zucchini.

Exports

In 2008, exports of fruit from the EU amounted to 2.5 million tons, i.e. to the value of 2.1 billion euro, and exports of vegetables amounted to 1.3 million tons, i.e. to the value of 0.7 billion euro. The main exporters are: Spain, Italy, Belgium, France and Holland.

The most important EU export products are apples, tangerines, oranges and bananas (including re-exports to Eastern Europe and Russia). They make up almost 50% of the fruit exports. The most important vegetables are tomatoes and peppers, which make up 40% of the vegetable exports. Lettuce, cucumbers, onions and cabbage are further export products. For further information on EU markets, please visit: <http://www.freshfel.org/>.

7. Useful addresses

Sippo Swiss Import Promotion Programme

Stampfenbachstrasse 85, P.O. Box 492, CH-8035 Zurich; Tel. +41 44 365 52 00;
Fax. +41 44 365 52 02; e-mail: info@sippo.ch; <http://www.sippo.ch>

Sippo promotes the competitiveness of threshold countries, and helps small and medium-sized companies (KMU) in the threshold countries to penetrate the Swiss and European market. Sippo also helps Swiss importers to find new products and suppliers.

SWISSCOFEL

Kapellenstrasse 5, PO Box 7954, CH-3001 Bern; Tel. +41 31 380 75 75; Fax. +41 380 75 76;
e-mail: mail@swisscofel.ch; <http://www.swisscofel.ch>

SWISSCOFEL is the association for the Swiss fruit, vegetable and potato trade. The objective of the national trade organisation is to ensure supply of the market with these products. SWISSCOFEL represents the interests of its members from the wholesale and retail trade (domestic and import trade, packaging companies, producers of ready-made fresh products, major distributors, etc.) in their dealings with authorities, further trade organisations and the public. Important services performed by SWISSCOFEL are: branch information, legal aid, further training and participation in the import regulation for fruit and vegetables.

International organisations

Deutscher Fruchthandelsverband e.V. (DFHV) Bundesverband Deutscher Fruchthandelsfirmen

Schedestr. 11, D-53113 Bonn; Tel. +49 228 911 45 0; Fax. +49 228 911 45 45;
e-mail: bonn@dfhv.de; <http://www.dfhv.de>

This association represents the interests of the german trade companies in the fruit and vegetable sector.

EuroCommerce

Avenue des Nerviens 9-31, B-1040 Brussels; Tel. +32 2 737 05 98; Fax. +32 2 230 00 78;
e-mail: vervondel@eurocommerce.be; <http://www.eurocommerce.be>

EuroCommerce represents the retail, wholesale and export trade in Europe (EU hygiene regulation / product liability).

Euro-Handelsinstitut

Spichernstraße 55, D-50672 Cologne; Tel. +49 2 215 79 93-0; Fax. +49 2 215 79 93-45;
e-mail: info@ehi.org; <http://www.ehi.org>

The Euro-Handelsinstitut promotes the rationalisation of the goods trade and innovation in trade / EAN coordination.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, I-00100 Rome; Tel. +39 06 57051; Fax. +39 06 570 53152;
e-mail: fao-hq@fao.org; <http://www.fao.org>

The FAO's objective is to achieve food safety for all concerned and to improve the dietary quality, agricultural productivity and quality of life.

Freshfel Europe

Av. De Broqueville 272 bte 4, B-1200 Brussels; Tel: +32 2 777 15 80; Fax: +32 2 777 15 81;
e-mail: info@freshfel.org; <http://www.freshfel.org>

Freshfel Europe is the central organisation representing and coordinating the interest of the national associations on the EU level. Internationally trading groups may also apply for direct membership.

OECD

2, rue André Pascal, F-75775 Paris Cedex 16; Tel. +33 145 24 82 00; Fax. +33 145 24 85 00;
e-mail: webmaster@oecd.org; <http://www.oecd.org>

OECD is an organisation for economic cooperation in Europe. "Scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables".

UN/ECE

Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10; Tel. +41 22 917 12 34; Fax. +41 22 917 05 05;
e-mail: info.ece@unece.org; <http://www.unece.org/trade/agr>

United Nations economic commission for Europe.

Trade and market information

Foodnews GmbH

Schützenmattstrasse 43, 4051 Basle; Tel. +41 61 713 20 35; Fax. +41 61 713 20 37;
e-mail: info@foodnews.ch; <http://www.foodnews.ch>

Foodnews is an independent Internet magazine dealing with the subject of food: includes information point, platform and contact point.

Market News Service ITC

Rue de Montbrillant 54 - 56, CH-1202 Geneva; Tel. +41 22 730 01 11; Fax. +41 22 730 05 72;
e-mail: mns@intracen.org; <http://www.intracen.org/mns>

Market News Service conveys to developing countries price and market information in order to help them expand their trade.

Max Havelaar-Stiftung Schweiz

Malzgasse 25, CH-4052 Basle; Tel. +41 61 271 75 00; Fax. +41 61 271 75 62;
e-mail: postmaster@maxhavelaar.ch; <http://www.maxhavelaar.ch/en/>

The Max-Havelaar Foundation issues a seal of quality for fair-trade products. By means of fair trade, the living standards and working conditions of small farmers and plantation works in disadvantaged regions are improved.

Qualiservice GmbH

Kapellenstrasse 5, PO Box 7960, CH-3001 Bern; Tel. 031 385 36 90 031;
e-mail: info@qualiservice.ch; <http://www.qualiservice.ch>

Qualiservice is the national, neutral service centre for all types of quality controls, residue analyses and expert's reports for fruit, vegetables, potatoes and pre-cooked products.

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Ernährung (SGE)

Effingerstrasse 2, CH-3011 Bern; Tel. +41 31 385 00 00, Fax. +41 31 385 00 05;
e-mail: info@sge-ssn.ch; <http://www.sge-ssn.ch>

Explaining to the population all matters pertaining to a healthy diet using the latest, scientifically proven and balanced measures of nutritional information, education and training.

Swiss Convenience Food Association (SCFA)

Elfenstrasse 19, CH-3000 Bern 6; Tel: +41 31 352 11 88, Fax. +41 31 352 11 85;
e-mail: info@hodler.ch; <http://www.swissfoodind.ch>

The Swiss Convenience Food Association offers its members advice and support (producers of traditional heat-sterilised preserves, frozen products and refrigerated products) in legal and economic matters.

Production organisations in Switzerland

Schweizerischer Obstverband (SOV)

Baarerstrasse 88, PO Box, CH-6302 Zug; Tel. +41 728 68 68; Fax. +41 728 68 00; e-mail: sov@swissfruit.ch; <http://www.swissfruit.ch>

The Swiss Fruit Association (SOV) is a private branch organisation of fruit producers and processors. It represents his members in its dealings with authorities, industry, consumers and the public.

Schweiz. Zentralstelle Gemüsebau und Spezialkulturen (SZG)

Oeschberg, PO Box 184, CH-3425 Koppigen; Tel. +41 34 413 70 70; Fax. +41 34 413 70 75; e-mail: szg@szg.ch; <http://www.szg.ch>

The purpose of the SZG is: to make transparent the domestic supply, the design of the Swiss vegetable cultivation and of the special cultures in line with the market, and compliance with healthy, varied production.

Verband schweizerischer Gemüseproduzenten (VSGP)

Kapellenstrasse 5, PO Box 8617, CH-3001 Bern; Tel. +41 31 385 36 20; Fax. +41 31 385 36 30; e-mail info@vsgp-ums.ch; <http://www.swissveg.com>

The VSGP is a professional organisation comprising fresh, stored and processed vegetable producers.

In the event of questions, please contact:

EU, UN/ECE standards

<http://www.qualiservice.ch/de/dienstleistungen/normen.html>

GlobalGAP

<http://www.globalgap.org>

SwissGAP

<http://www.swissgap.ch>

Release of the customs quota part quantities

Vegetables: <http://www.blw.admin.ch/themen/00013/00083/00096/index.html?lang=de>

Fruit: <http://www.blw.admin.ch/themen/00013/00083/00107/index.html?lang=de>

General import permit, documentation for importing fruit and vegetables

Federal Office for Agriculture, Mattenhofstrasse 5, CH 3003 Bern; Tel. +41 31 322 25 11; Fax. +41 31 371 54 20; e-mail: info@blw.admin.ch; <http://www.blw.admin.ch> > Subjects > Production + Sales > Plants and vegetable products > Fruit or vegetables

Importers and customs quota part quantities

[Allocation of customs quota part quantities for fruit and vegetables in 2009](#)

Guide on import regulation

http://www.swisscofel.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/Normen_HUS_Leitfaden/Leitfaden_Importregelung.pdf

Guide on import regulation for industrial processing and for frozen vegetables

<http://www.swissveg.com/data/file/produzenten/markt/import/Leitfaden%20IR-VG%20definitiv.pdf>

PDF documents – Adobe Acrobat Reader

Adobe Acrobat Reader is free software which enables you to read files in a portable document format (PDF) on all the important computer platforms.

<http://www.adobe.de/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Directory of pesticides

http://www.blw.admin.ch/pflanzenschutzverz/pb_home_d.html

<http://www.blw.admin.ch/themen/00011/00075/index.html?lang=de>

For further information: Federal Office for Agriculture, Pesticides Department, Mattenhofstrasse 5, CH 3003 Bern; Tel. +41 31 322 25 11; Fax. +41 31 371 54 20; e-mail: info@blw.admin.ch; <http://www.blw.admin.ch> > Subjects > Pesticides

Quality regulations

- Vegetables: http://www.qualiservice.ch/de/dienstleistungen/normen_gemuese.html
- Fruit: http://www.qualiservice.ch/de/dienstleistungen/normen_obst.html

Legal bases

- In German: <http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/sr.html>
- In French: <http://www.admin.ch/ch/f/rs/rs.html>
- In Italian: <http://www.admin.ch/ch/i/rs/rs.html>

Statistics

- Federal Office for Statistics, Espace de l'Europe 10, 2010 Neuchâtel
Tel. +41 32 713 60 11; Fax. +41 32 713 60 12; <http://www.bfs.admin.ch>
- Vademecum 2006, IHA-GfK AG

Telephone book

<http://www.tel.search.ch>

Transport policy

- Bundesamt für Raumentwicklung, Kochergasse 10, CH-3003 Bern;
Tel. +41 31 322 40 60; Fax. +41 31 322 78 69; <http://www.are.admin.ch>
- LSVA, rates:
- http://www.ezv.admin.ch/zollinfo_firmen/steuern_abgaben/00379/index.html?lang=fr

Packaging

- IFCO Systems GmbH: <http://www.ifco.ch>
- Euro Pool System: <http://www.europoolsystem.com>

Rates of exchange

<http://quotes.ubs.com/quotes>

Economic policy

Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft (seco), Effingerstrasse 1, CH-3003 Bern;
Tel. +41 31 322 56 56; Fax +41 31 322 56 00; <http://www.seco.admin.ch>

Customs information, customs post and tariff configuration

- Eidg. Oberzolldirektion, Monbijoustrasse 40, CH-3003 Bern;
Tel. +41 31 322 65 11; Fax. +41 31 322 78 72; <http://www.ezv.admin.ch>
- www.tares.ch (working tariff)

Appendix no. 1 Fruits and vegetables without quotas

Customs tariff number	Text
0703.1080	Shallots
0703.2000	Garlic, fresh or chilled
0703.9090	Allium-type vegetables, fresh or chilled (excl. leek)
0704.9090	Cabbage and similar edible vegetables of the brassica variety, fresh or chilled (excl. cauliflower, winter cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, red cabbage, white cabbage, pointed cabbage, savoy cabbage, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, pak choi cabbage, turnip cabbage and kale)
0705.2990	Chicory [<i>cichorium</i> spp.], fresh or chilled, a.n.g.
0706.9090	Edible root vegetables, fresh or chilled, a.n.g.
0707.0050	Gherkins, fresh or chilled
0708.2010	Shelled and unshelled beans, fresh or chilled
0708.9090	Leguminous fruits, shelled and unshelled, fresh or chilled (excl. peas [<i>Pisum sativum</i>], beans [<i>Vigna</i> spp., <i>Phaseolus</i> spp.], guar beans and produce for human consumption)
0709.2090	Asparagus, fresh or chilled (excl. green asparagus)
0709.5100	Mushrooms, edible, fresh or chilled (excl. truffles)
0709.5200	Truffles, fresh or chilled
0709.6090	Fruits of the genus <i>Capsicum</i> and genus <i>Pimenta</i> , fresh or chilled (excl. jalapeno peppers)
0709.7090	Orache (garden) spinach, fresh or chilled
0709.9080	Water cress and dandelions
0709.9099	Vegetables, fresh or chilled, a.n.g.
0710.2210	Shelled and unshelled beans, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen
0710.2900	Leguminous vegetables, shelled and unshelled beans, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen (excl. peas [<i>Pisum sativum</i>] and beans [<i>Vigna</i> and <i>Phaseolus</i> varieties])
0710.3090	Garden (orache) spinach, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen
0710.4000	Sweet corn, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen
0710.8090	Vegetables, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen, a.n.g.
0710.9090	Vegetable mixes, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen, a.n.g.
0802.1100	Almonds, fresh or dried, in their shells
0802.1200	Almonds, fresh or dried, without shells, skinned or unskinned
0802.2110	Hazelnuts [<i>Corylus</i> spp.], fresh or dried, in their shells, for use as animal feed
0802.2120	Hazelnuts [<i>Corylus</i> spp.], fresh or dried, in their shells, for oil extraction
0802.2190	Hazelnuts [<i>Corylus</i> spp.], fresh or dried, in their shells (excl. sorts for animal feed or oil extraction)
0802.2210	Hazelnuts [<i>Corylus</i> spp.], fresh or dried, without shells, skinned or unskinned, for use as animal feed
0802.2220	Hazelnuts [<i>Corylus</i> spp.], fresh or dried, without shells, skinned or unskinned, for oil extraction
0802.2290	Hazelnuts [<i>Corylus</i> spp.], fresh or dried, without shells, skinned or unskinned (excl. sorts for animal feed or oil extraction)
0802.3110	Walnuts, fresh or dried, in their shells, for use as animal feed
0802.3120	Walnuts, fresh or dried, in their shells, for oil extraction
0802.3190	Walnuts, fresh or dried, in their shells (excl. sorts for animal feed or oil extraction)
0802.3210	Walnuts, fresh or dried, without shells, skinned or unskinned, for use as animal feed
0802.3220	Walnuts, fresh or dried, without shells, skinned or unskinned, for oil extraction

- 0802.3290 Walnuts, fresh or dried, without shells, skinned or unskinned (excl. sorts for animal feed or oil extraction)
- 0802.4000 Chestnuts (genus Castanea), fresh or dried, with or without shells, skinned or unskinned
- 0802.5000 Pistachio nuts, fresh or dried, with or without shells, skinned or unskinned
- 0802.9010 Tropical nuts, fresh or dried, with or without shells, skinned or unskinned (excl. coconuts, Brazil nuts and cashew nuts)
- 0802.9090 Nuts, fresh or dried, with or without shells, skinned or unskinned (excl. almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, chestnuts, pistachios and tropical nuts)
- 0803.0000 Bananas, incl. plantain bananas, fresh or dried
- 0804.1000 Dates, fresh or dried
- 0804.2010 Figs, fresh
- 0804.2020 Figs, dried
- 0804.3000 Pineapples, fresh or dried
- 0804.4000 Avocados, fresh or dried
- 0804.5000 Guavas, mangoes and mangosteens, fresh or dried
- 0805.1000 Oranges, fresh or dried
- 0805.2000 Mandarins, incl. tangerines and satsumas, plus clementines, wilkings and similar citrus hybrids, fresh or dried
- 0805.3000 Citrus fruit, Grapefruit, fresh or dried
- 0805.4000 Shaddocks and grapefruit, fresh or dried
- 0805.5000 Lemons (Citrus limon, Citrus limonum) and limes (Citrus aurantifolia, Citrus Latifolia), fresh or dried
- 0805.9000 Lemons, shaddocks, grapefruits, mandarins, incl. tangerines and satsumas, plus clementines, wilkings and similar citrus hybrids, fresh or dried
- 0806.2000 Grapes, dried
Water melons, fresh
- 0807.1100 Melons, fresh (excl. water melons)
- 0807.1900 Papaya fruit, fresh
- 0807.2000
- 0809.3010 Peaches, fresh
- 0809.3020 Nectarines, fresh
- 0809.4015 Sloes, fresh, loose packed
- 0809.4095 Sloes, fresh, (excl. loose packed)
- 0810.2030 Mulberries and loganberries, fresh
- 0810.3020 Gooseberries, fresh
- 0810.4000 Cranberries, bilberries and other fruits of the genus Vaccinium, fresh
- 0810.5000 Kiwi fruit, fresh
- 0810.9092 Tropical fruit, fresh, a.n.g.
- 0810.9099 Fruit, fresh, a.n.g.
- 0811.1000 Strawberries, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen, with or without added sugar or other sweeteners
- 0811.2010 Raspberries, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen, with added sugar or other sweeteners
- 0811.2090 Raspberries, blackberries, mulberries, loganberries, blackcurrant, redcurrant and whitecurrant berries, and gooseberries, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen, with or without added sugar or other sweeteners (excl. raspberries, all with added sugar or other sweeteners)
- 0811.9010 Black, white or red currant berries, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen, with or without added sugar or other sweeteners
- 0811.9021 Carambolas, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen, with or without added sugar or other sweeteners
- 0811.9029 Edible tropical fruits and nuts, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen, with or without added sugar or other sweeteners (excl. carambolas)

- 0811.9090 Edible fruits and nuts, uncooked, boiled or steamed, frozen, with or without added sugar or other sweeteners (excl. strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, mulberries, loganberries, blackcurrant, redcurrant and whitecurrant berries, gooseberries, bilberries and tropical fruits)
- 0813.1000 Apricots, dried
- 0813.2010 Plums, whole, dried
- 0813.2090 Plums, dried (excl. whole plums)
- 0813.3000 Apples, dried
- 0813.4011 Pears, whole, dried
- 0813.4019 Pears, dried (excl. whole pears)
- 0813.4020 Rose hips and elderberries, dried
- 0813.4081 Stone fruit, whole, dried, for use as animal feed (excl. apricots and plums)
- 0813.4089 Stone fruit, whole, dried, (excl. sorts used as animal feed, plus apricots and plums)
- 0813.4092 Edible fruits and nuts, dried, for use as animal feed, a.n.g.
- 0813.4099 Edible fruits and nuts, dried, for uses other than as animal feed, a.n.g.
- 0813.5012 Mixtures of nuts and dried fruits under headings 0801 or 0802, containing > 50% almonds and/or walnuts, containing hazelnuts and/or walnuts, for use as animal feed
- 0813.5019 Mixtures of nuts and dried fruits under headings 0801 or 0802, containing > 50% almonds and/or walnuts (excl. mixes with hazelnuts and/or walnuts, for use as animal feed)
- 0813.5021 Mixtures of nuts and dried fruits under headings 0801 or 0802, containing =< 50% almonds and/or walnuts, containing hazelnuts and/or walnuts, for use as animal feed
- 0813.5029 Mixtures of nuts and dried fruits under headings 0801 or 0802, containing =< 50% almonds and/or walnuts (excl. mixes with hazelnuts and/or walnuts, for use as animal feed)
- 0813.5081 Mixtures of edible and dried fruits and nuts, containing > 40% plums and =< 20% in total of apricots and/or pome fruit, for use as animal feed (excl. mixtures of dried fruit and nuts under headings 0801 and 0802)
- 0813.5089 Mixtures of edible and dried fruits and nuts, containing > 40% plums and =< 20% in total of apricots and/or pome fruit (excl. mixes used for animal feed, as well as mixes of dried fruit and nuts from headings 0801 and 0802))
- 0813.5092 Mixtures of edible dried fruit, or dried fruit and nuts, containing fruit or nuts from headings 0813.4081 to 0813.4099, for use as animal feed
- 0904.1100 Pepper of the genus Piper, neither ground nor otherwise crushed
- 0904.1200 Pepper of the genus Piper, ground or crushed by other means
- 0904.2010 Fruits of the genus Capsicum and genus Pimenta, dried or ground or crushed by other means, unprocessed
- 0904.2090 Fruits of the genus Capsicum and genus Pimenta, dried or ground or crushed by other means, processed
- 0905.0000 Vanilla
- 0906.1000 Cinnamon and cinnamon-tree flowers, neither ground nor otherwise crushed
- 0906.2000 Cinnamon and cinnamon-tree flowers, ground or crushed by other means
- 0907.0000 Cloves, mother of clove and clove stalks
- 0908.1010 Nutmeg, unprocessed
- 0908.1090 Nutmeg, processed
- 0908.2010 Mace, unprocessed
- 0908.2090 Mace, processed
- 0908.3010 Cardamoms, unprocessed
- 0908.3090 Cardamoms, processed
- 0909.1000 Anise and star anise fruits
- 0909.2000 Coriander fruit
- 0909.3000 Cumin seeds
- 0909.4000 Caraway seeds

0909.5000 Seeds of fennel and juniper berries
0910.1000 Ginger
0910.2000 Saffron
0910.3000 Turmeric
0910.4000 Thyme and bay leaves
0910.5000 Curry
0910.9100 Mixtures of spices of various types
0910.9900 Spices, a.n.g. (excl. mixtures of various types)
1214.9090 Swedes, mangolds, fodder roots, hay, lucerne (alfalfa), clover, sainfoin, forage
kale, lupines, vetches and similar forage products, whether or not in the form
of pellets

Appendix no. 2: possible imports and effective imports in 2008

Customs tariff number	Stat. key	Product description	Possible imports (in accordance with the release of customs quota part quantities)	Effective imports
VEGETABLES				
0702.0011	-911/-999	Cherry tomatoes on a twig	830	644
0702.0021		Peretti tomatoes	410	231
0702.0031/91		Tomatoes	1300	1066
0703.1013		Onion for planting	141	87
0703.1021		Spring onions	230	89
0703.1051		Onions d >=70mm	130	98
0703.1061	-999	Red and white onions d < 70mm	210	129
0703.1071		Onions, others d < 70mm	450	386
0703.9011		Leek, long	330	223
0703.9021		Leek, others	438	274
0704.1091		Cauliflower	1290	565
0704.2011		Brussels sprout	190	72
0704.9018		Red cabbage	336	255
0704.9021		White cabbage	180	95
0704.9041		Savoy cabbage	345	240
0704.9051		Broccoli	900	452
0704.9061		Chinese cabbage	120	74
0704.9071		Kohlrabi	320	249
0705.1118		Iceberg lettuce, without surrounding leaves	2049	1502
0705.1121		Batavia lettuce and others	240	84
0705.1198		Lettuce	1044	631
0705.1911	-911	Mini lettuce	80	17
0705.1911	-999	Lettuce, others	250	92
0705.1921		Curled lettuce	590	242
0705.1931/41		Lolo	350	175
0705.2111		Chicory from the greenhouse	3168	2368
0705.2911		Endive, smooth	890	535
0705.2921		Endive, curly	980	638
0705.2941		Red chicory lettuce, others	240	165
0706.1031	-099	Turnips, others	70	29
0706.9041		Celeraic	40	20
0706.9051		Radishes	150	97
0706.9061	-099	Radishes, others	190	122
0707.0011		Cucumbers	1970	1413
0707.0021		Nostrani cucumbers	100	33
0709.2011		Green asparagus	490	365
0709.3011	-099	Aubergines	480	259
0709.4011/21		Celery	270	138
0709.7011		Spinach	160	78
0709.9021		Fennel	250	150
0709.9031		Rhubarb	100	60
0709.9041	-011	Parsley, curly	70	33
0709.9041	-012	Parsley, smooth	150	72
0709.9051	-012	Zucchini	1830	1350
0709.9061		Chard stalk	140	74
0709.9071		Lamb's lettuce	194	162

FRUIT

0809.1018/1098		Apricots	2800	1550
0809.2011	-011/-013	Cherries	300	113
0809.4013/4093	-914/-915	Prunes	1360	910
0810.1011	-014	Strawberries	2570	1227
0810.2011	-012	Raspberries	200	63
0810.2021	-012	Blackberries	70	21
0810.3011	-099	Other blackcurrants	30	20

Publication of the allocation of the customs quotas 2008

According to the Federal Council's report on foreign trade in 2008 of 14 January 2009.

<http://www.blw.admin.ch/themen/00007/00059/00542/index.html?lang=de>

Categories: fresh fruit and vegetables