

# Direct payment statistics

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## Description

Land area, livestock numbers and other information required to calculate direct payments are collected annually from farmers as part of the Farm Census (coordinated agricultural data collection for direct payments, statistics and veterinary services).

The direct payments distributed for each measure are published canton by canton on the Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) website as part of the annual agricultural report.

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## Methodology

Methodology used:

Farmers record the specified data during the first quarter of each year in accordance with cantonal requirements, usually via an internet application in the cantonal agricultural system.

The data from the cantonal agricultural systems is transferred to the FOAG's agricultural policy information system (AGIS). This ensures that AGIS has all relevant direct payment data for individual farms.

Variables used:

- Farmer details (first name, last name, address, age, legal form)
- Details of operating conditions (locations, production sites, animal housing facilities, forms of cooperation)
- Details of farmed areas and main crops
- Details of the categories and numbers of animals kept and the types of animal husbandry. Details of cattle, equidae, sheep and goats are obtained directly from the Animal Tracing Database.
- Participation (registration) in voluntary direct payment programmes

Survey date/period:

- Since 1999
- During the first quarter of each year in accordance with cantonal requirements
- Participation in voluntary direct payment programmes up to 1 September of the previous year for the following contribution year

Frequency of publication:

- Annual, in the autumn following the contribution year

Degree of regionalisation:

- Switzerland and cantons (but data is available for individual farms)

The data quality is compared with the previous year's data (land area and animals), calculated for each farm and compared with the contribution amounts paid out (data consistency). This ensures very high data quality.

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## Revision policy

Revisions are necessary in response to changes to the direct payment system, whether relating to the basic data (land area and/or animal categories), the eligibility criteria for contributions (e.g. age limits, limits/thresholds) or details of the various types of direct payment.

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## Relevant legislation

- Agriculture Act of 29 April 1998 (SR 910.1)
- Agriculture Terminology Ordinance of 7 December 1998 (SR 910.91)
- Direct Payments Ordinance of 23 October 2013 (SR 910.13)
- Ordinance of 23 October 2013 on Individual Crop Subsidies (SR 910.17)

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## Organisation

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