



New Analysis

## Postal Services: Relevance over Nostalgia



Postal services may no longer play the central role in daily life they once did. But they remain an important thread in Switzerland's social fabric. A new analysis by Christoph Eisenring explores what a sustainable, modern public service model for postal delivery could look like in the years ahead. [Read Now.](#)

The Figure



Switzerland and South Korea have had a free trade agreement since 2006. Since then, exports to the Asian country have almost tripled to 3.6 billion Swiss francs. A similar dynamic is now hoped for from the recently concluded agreement with the Mercosur countries of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. (CEI)

The Holiday Season

## The Art of a Good Vacation

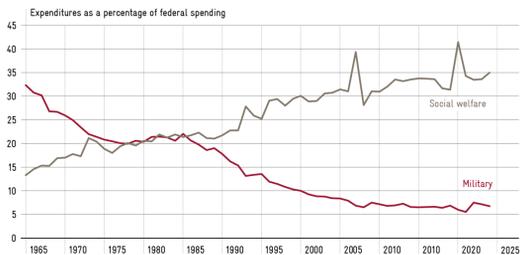
When should you skip a city tour you've already paid for? And how can you discover hidden travel gems? In his column for the NZZ am Sonntag, Jürg Müller takes a closer look at the summer holidays. Drawing on principles from economics, he explains [how to make the most of your time off.](#)

Federal Expenditures

## Resetting the Balance Between Social and Military Security

### From Defense to Social Welfare: How Switzerland's Priorities Shifted

Since the 1980s, the share of spending on social welfare has steadily increased, while the share of military expenditures in the federal budget has been declining.



Source: HSO (2012), FFA data portal (2025), own calculations. Figure: Avenir Suisse

Social security and national defense: both are core responsibilities of the state. With tightening federal finances, it's becoming harder to meet both demands. Michele Salvi, Philippe Güttinger, and Simon Stocker show [where funds have gone so far – and what that means for future priorities.](#)

Energy Policy

## Free Solar Power for Everyone?

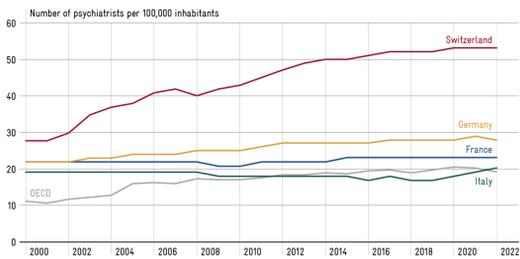
Every resident of Switzerland should receive an annual quota of solar power—this is the provocative proposal put forward by researchers at the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa). Price tag: 58 billion Swiss francs. Christoph Eisenring takes a closer look at the arguments—and [arrives at a surprising conclusion.](#)

Health Policy

## Limited Access to Psychiatrists, Despite Ample Supply

### Three Times as many Psychiatrists as the OECD Average

Despite frequent complaints about access to psychiatric care, the supply has not decreased: with 53 psychiatrists per 100,000 inhabitants, Switzerland has significantly more psychiatrists per capita than its neighboring countries.



Those seeking psychiatric help often wait weeks for an appointment—even though the number of psychiatrists has steadily increased over the past 20 years. For Anna Laura Ludwig, the diagnosis is clear: [demand is growing significantly faster than supply.](#)

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