



# SWITZERLAND

## Water & Waste Water Market Brief 2009

### Switzerland: Important Links & Contacts

Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) – <http://www.bafu.admin.ch>  
Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) – <http://www.blw.admin.ch>  
Swiss National Science Foundation – <http://www.snf.ch>  
Swiss Water Management Association – <http://www.swv.ch>  
Swiss Water Pollution Control Association – <http://www.vsa.ch>  
Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology – <http://www.eawag.ch>



## Market Overview

The water sector in Switzerland is organized as a local monopoly, with the most common organizational structure being the municipal water service for drinking water supply and the municipal management for sanitation services. The cantons (counties) are responsible for enforcement of the Water Protection Act, e.g. specifying conditions for discharges, monitoring wastewater, treatment works and implementing the polluter-pays principle. The federal authorities oversee the enforcement efforts by preparing recommendations and guidance, implement international resolutions and agreements, and promote the development of systems and procedures ensuring the application of the best available techniques.

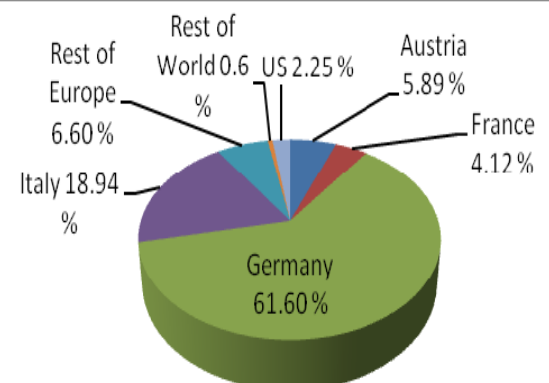
In Switzerland more than 80% of all drinking and process water comes from ground water springs. According to the latest findings the quality of groundwater is generally so high that in many places it can be used directly as drinking water without costly purification, thus meeting the legally required ideal conditions. However, particularly in conurbations and in areas of intensive agriculture with arable farming, vineyards, orchards and vegetable crops the major use of substances hazardous to water and the soil disturbance leave readily detectable residues in the groundwater, which give some cause for concern.

Products and services with good prospects include: consulting services for advanced wastewater treatment, filtration systems, analytical instruments, analyzers, special pumps, innovative computer software.

*Further information:* Ms. Elisabeth Mbitha-Schmid  
Commercial Specialist, U.S. Commercial Service  
Embassy of the United States, CH-3007 Bern, Switzerland  
Email: [Elisabeth.Mbitha-Schmid@mail.doc.gov](mailto:Elisabeth.Mbitha-Schmid@mail.doc.gov)  
Tel: +41-31-357 7313, Fax: +41-31-357 7336

### Highlight Box

- Even though the use of atrazine and simazine will be banned from 2011, groundwater contamination caused by these substances may still persist for years to come.
- As data on pesticide contamination at the monitoring stations has only been available since 2002, it is not yet possible to make any general assessment of longer-term trends.



Import Pumps (HS 841360)

Source: Swiss Customs Statistics