

The Federal Office of Transport

Public transport in Switzerland and the role of the FOT

Switzerland has an outstanding public transport network: you can travel on different modes of transport with just one ticket. Trains, trams and buses travel at regular quarter-hourly, half-hourly or hourly intervals allowing time to change from one to the other. They connect all regions and all corners of the country. A high proportion of goods are also transported by rail, rather than by road. The Federal Office of Transport (FOT) plays a key role acting as the supervisory, financing, steering and regulatory authority for rail, bus, cableway and inland navigation operators.



Facts and figures

300 No. of staff

500 No. of construction permits issued per year

7,000 No. of goods wagons inspected per year

1,400 No. of orders for regional transport services (rail, bus, inland navigation and cableways)

CHF 25 billion Amount spent on expanding the rail network by 2035

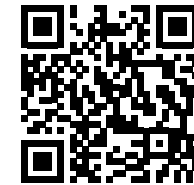
74% Share of rail in terms of freight traffic through the Alps



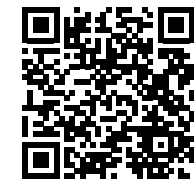
3.2% Share of public transport (rail and bus) in terms of land transport CO₂ emissions

29% Expected growth in public transport 2017–2050

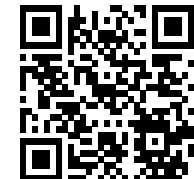
Visit the FOT website



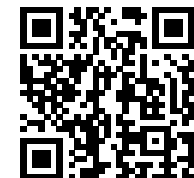
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Bundesamt für Verkehr - BAV



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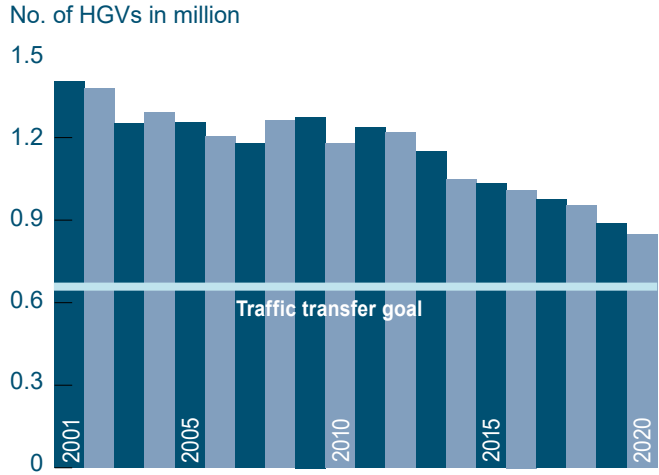
Federal Office of Transport
Mühlestrasse 6
CH-3063 Ittigen
info@bav.admin.ch

Photos and graphics:
FOT(10), SBB Cargo(1)

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Policy and regulation

The FOT prepares and implements the wishes of the Federal Council, Parliament and the People to have a transport system that is efficient, socially responsible, environmentally friendly and well integrated internationally. A central pillar of Swiss transport policy is shifting transalpine freight traffic from road to rail. The number of HGV journeys by road is gradually being reduced and the share of freight transported by rail is very high when compared internationally. Further important aspects of Swiss transport policy include making public transport accessible to people with disabilities, protecting those living near railway lines from excessive noise, and looking after the environment.



Safety

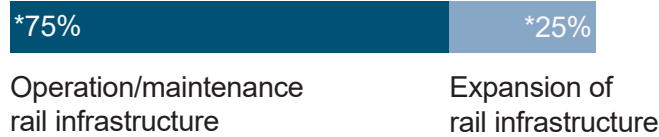
Public transport and rail freight services are extremely safe. In its role as supervisory authority, the FOT works to ensure that this remains the case. The FOT acts on three levels:

- It ensures that safety regulations are up to date, user friendly and implementable.
- It conducts preventive inspections, to make sure that trains and construction projects comply with safety regulations.
- It conducts audits and operational checks to ensure that transport companies fulfil their safety-related responsibilities.

Financing

The federal government invests over CHF 5 billion in public transport and rail freight each year. Most of that money is spent on maintenance and expanding the rail network. The rest is used to support public transport services in urban and rural areas and to promote the transport of goods by rail. The task of the FOT is to invest those resources efficiently to ensure the best possible transport services.

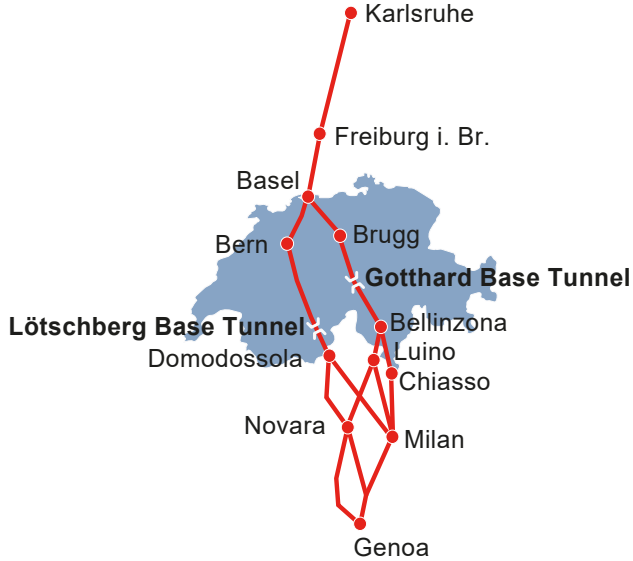
Approx. CHF 4.6bn per year from Rail Infrastructure Fund (RIF)



Approx. CHF 1.1bn per year from regular budget



* = Approx.



Infrastructure

The FOT oversees maintenance work and rail modernisation and expansion programmes. It issues construction permits for individual projects. The largest project to be completed in recent decades was the New Rail Link through the Alps (NRLA), the centrepiece of which is the Gotthard base tunnel. At 57 kilometres it is the longest railway tunnel in the world. Thanks to the NRLA, trains can travel through the Alps at higher speeds and at more regular intervals.