



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Confederaziun svizra

**Federal Electricity Commission ElCom**



# ElCom in 2024 a brief overview



## Facts & Figures

500

proceedings in 2024

1000

enquiries in 2024

50

permanent employees  
29 men and 21 women

45,2

average age of employees

4,2 %

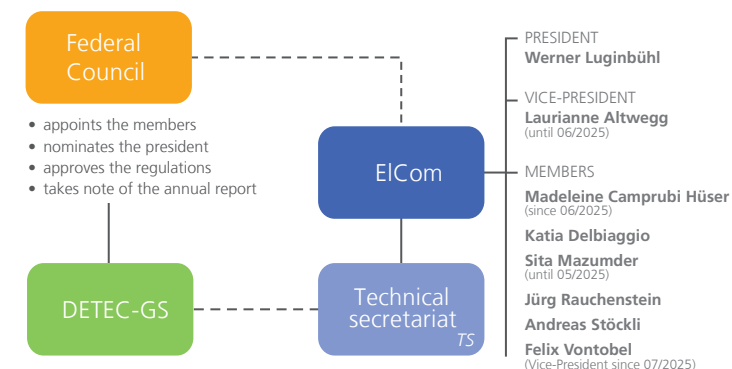
staff turnover in the technical  
secretariat

## What is ElCom?

ElCom is the Federal Electricity Commission. It comprises a seven-member commission and a technical secretariat. As the regulatory authority in the electricity sector, it has a wide range of tasks, including oversight of grid fees and of basic supply energy prices. ElCom also oversees the security of the electricity supply, proposing suitable measures to the Federal Council if there is a threat of electricity shortages in the medium to long term. Furthermore, it regulates issues relating to national and international electricity transmission and electricity trading.

The seven ElCom commission members are appointed by the Federal Council. They are independent of the electricity industry and carry out their activities on a part-time basis. The commission is not subject to any directives from the Federal Council or other authorities.

It is supported by a specialised technical secretariat, which is based in Bern and headed by Urs Meister. Its 50 employees prepare and implement ElCom's transactions and decisions.



\* Administratively linked to the general secretariat of Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications

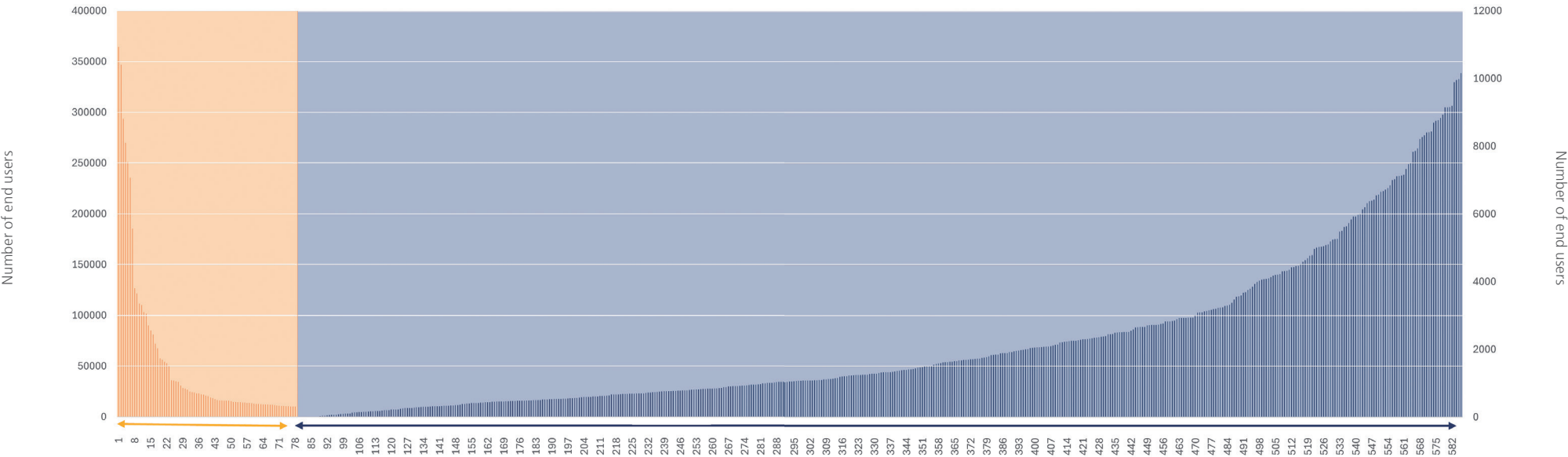
# Who supplies Switzerland with electricity?

There are around 600 network operators in Switzerland operating local distribution networks and supplying electricity to customers. The sector is very diverse: the 23 largest network operators each supply more than 50,000 end users, while an average-sized operator supplies just under 1,700 and the smallest supplies only four. The ten largest network operators in Switzerland supply over 52 per cent of the total energy fed into the grid.



## How many end users are supplied by the Swiss network operators?

- Distribution network operators > 10000 end users
- Distribution network operators < 10000 end users



# Where does the electricity come from?

In Switzerland, the electricity market operates on two levels: the free market, and basic supply. Only large electricity customers who consume at least 100,000 kWh a year are able to choose their electricity supplier freely, a regime that has been in place since 2009. Consumers who use less than 100,000 kWh per year – which includes almost all private households and many businesses – are tied to the system of basic supply: they cannot choose their electricity supplier and must purchase their electricity from the local distribution network operator.

Around 60% of final energy consumption is met by the basic supply regime. Most network operators produce only small amounts of electricity, or none at all, instead purchasing energy on the wholesale electricity market. Overall, they generate only about 25% of the energy they supply.



## Facts & Figures

1/3

share of network operators which produce electricity themselves

90 %

of the electricity distribution network is underground

10 %

of the network is overhead lines

214 000

kilometer distance covered by the Swiss electricity grid

6,7

CHF bn. grid costs in 2024

## Key topics in 2024

### Omnibus Bill introduces new regulation

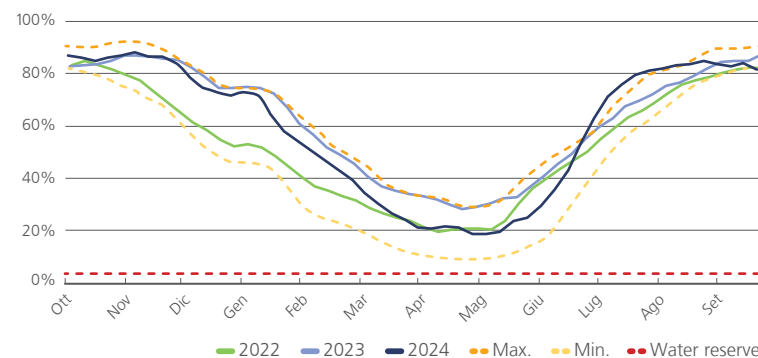
After voters approved the 'Omnibus Bill' (revision of the Electricity Supply Act and Energy Act) on 9 June 2024, a large number of implementing provisions had to be drawn up in a short space of time, particularly in connection with the basic supply regime. In public consultations, the office consultation procedure and discussions with the Swiss Federal Office of Energy, ElCom contributed the expertise gained in its oversight activities.

### Security of electricity supply and reserves

Even though there was no immediate threat to security of supply in 2024, uncertainties remained, particularly because of the geopolitical situation. This was reflected in the persistently high and volatile wholesale gas and electricity prices.

The situation became acute towards the end of winter 2022, so the Federal Council set up a winter reserve in order to prevent electricity shortages. ElCom was charged with procuring the hydropower reserve, including for the winters of 2023/2024 (400GWh) and 2024/2025 (250GWh). In order to determine the need for reserves going forward, previous analyses of medium and longer-term electricity supply security were reviewed and updated in 2024.

### Hydropower water storage reserves over the hydrological year

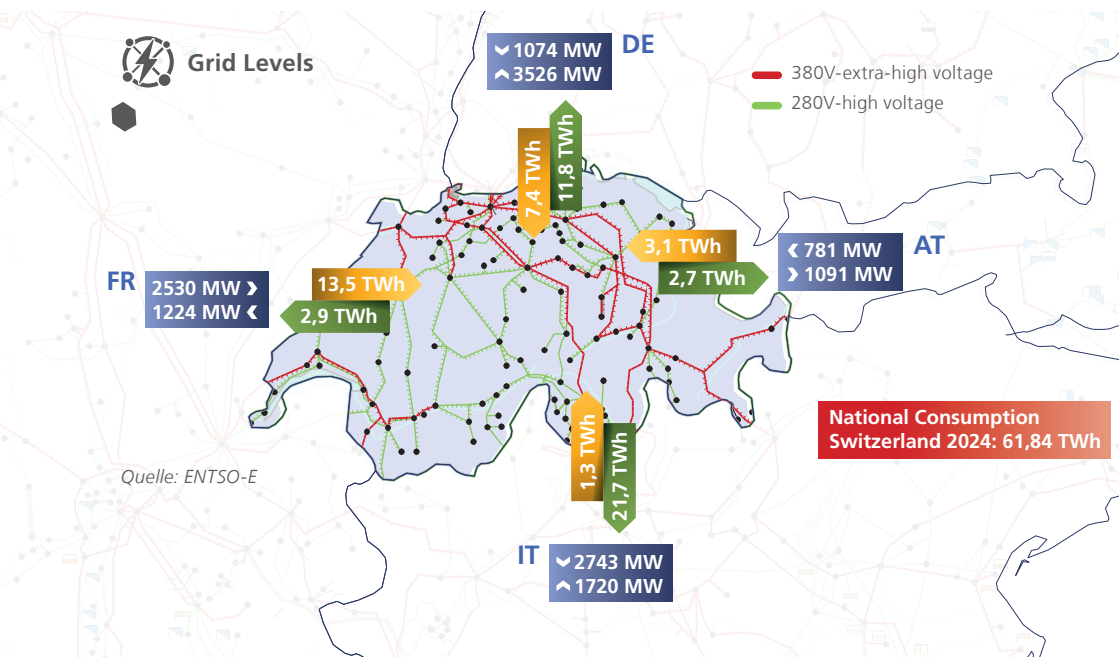


## International affairs

The Swiss electricity grid is closely interconnected with the European grid, with cross-border electricity trading playing a major role. Switzerland signed a technical agreement with several EU countries in 2024 to secure the necessary import and export capacities.

This agreement, which has been approved by ElCom, stabilises the supply situation in the short term by regulating cross-border grid capacities but is no substitute for an electricity agreement with the EU in the longer term, not least because it has to be renewed annually. In 2024, ElCom closely monitored Switzerland's negotiations with the EU on an electricity agreement.

*In the following figure, the value in the yellow arrow indicates the amount of energy imported into Switzerland from the given country, while that in the green arrow indicates the energy exported from Switzerland to the given country. The import and export capacity (net transfer capacities, annual average in MW) is shown on a blue background*



## Market developments and measures

After falling sharply after the height of the energy crisis in 2022, wholesale electricity prices stabilised at a higher level in 2024. In the course of the year, ElCom conducted in-depth analyses into the record prices in 2022, looking in particular at the reasons for the price fluctuations and the trading activities of market participants.



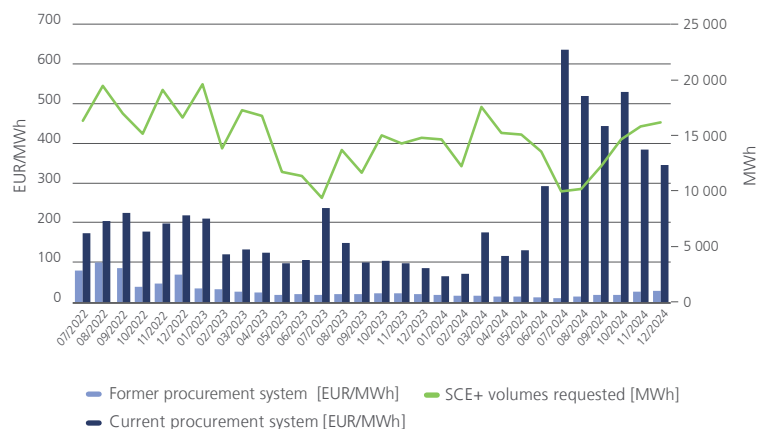
### Market development in 2024 for the delivery year 2025



The markets for system services were also investigated by ElCom in 2024. System services such as secondary control energy (SCE) compensate for short-term imbalances in the grid stability of the Swiss control zone. Since the introduction of a new procurement mechanism in mid-2022, SCE prices have risen significantly, particularly since summer 2024. ElCom's analysis revealed that there was no fundamental justification for this price increase, and that the market mechanism was clearly not functioning properly. A temporary price cap was introduced as a short-term corrective measure.

ElCom also evaluated medium- and long-term measures designed to reduce the necessary amount of balancing or control energy and to boost competition in the control energy market, working with the stakeholders concerned.

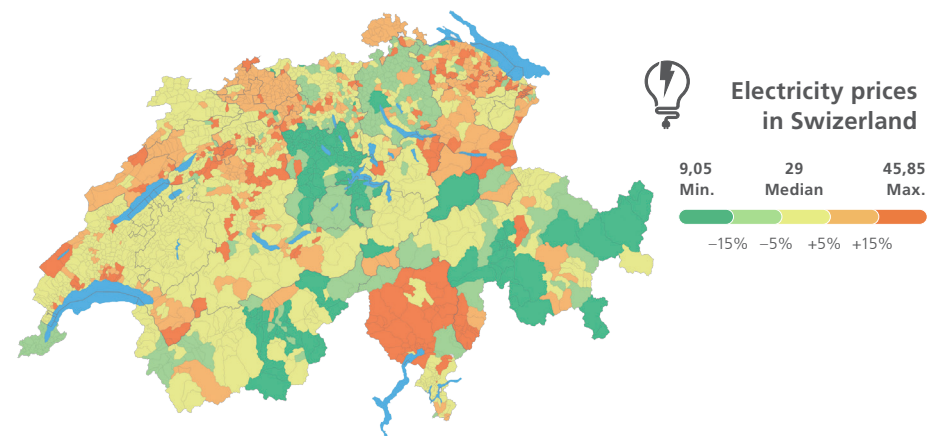
## Developments in secondary control energy



Average monthly surcharges for secondary control energy and volumes requested. Average monthly prices for SCE+ requests (shown as amount above the spot market price in EUR/MWh) based on the actual surcharges under the current procurement system are compared with simulated surcharges under the old procurement system (spot market price +20%).

## Tariffs

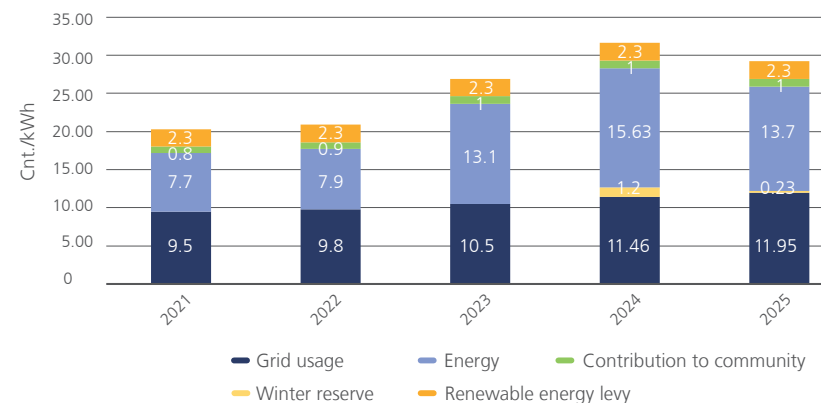
At the end of August 2024, the 600 Swiss network operators were required to announce their electricity tariffs for the coming year both to their customers and to ElCom. These tariffs comprise the grid usage tariff, the energy tariff, local authority charges and the grid surcharge. In 2025, tariffs in the basic supply for households fell on average by around 10 per cent over 2024, from approx. CHF 0.32/kWh to CHF 0.29/kWh.



There are several reasons for the slight fall in average tariffs in 2025. Firstly, prices on the wholesale electricity market have stabilised somewhat, albeit at a higher level. Secondly, the costs of the winter reserve have fallen compared to 2024 – and these costs are passed on to end users via a surcharge on the grid usage tariff. The weighted average cost of capital (WACC) for the grid was also slightly lower than in the previous year.

Since energy tariffs rose sharply in some cases, ElCom also conducted investigations in 2024. It analysed the tariff bases of over 100 suppliers and launched further investigations in the case of over 30 companies. A comprehensive report on the findings was published in December 2024.

## Cost components



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Strompreis-comparison-website of ElCom: [www.strompreis.elcom.admin.ch](http://www.strompreis.elcom.admin.ch)