



Fact sheet

Revision of the 2019 Swiss Meteorology and Climatology Ordinance (MetV)





Principles

Data and information are still subject to charges under the new ordinance (MetV). However, data charges (e.g. charges for data from ground measurements, model or radar data) will be significantly lowered. And, the surcharge for commercial use has also been eliminated. Both measures are intended to encourage more frequent data use.

There are few changes for other services (e.g. weather and climate information).

Data charges

For most customers, data charges will be lowered by the new MetV. The changes apply to all data retrieved from 1.1.2019 onwards.

The new MetV only includes two simple, linear calculation models: one for point data and one for area data. The charge increases in a linear fashion as the amount of data retrieved increases. The maximum charges per data type (pursuant to (MetV Art. 16, para. 4) and per year of use are now CHF 20,000. The volume discounts have been eliminated as the significantly lower charges per data unit and the maximum limit have already created new incentives to retrieve data. The elimination of the volume discount also simplifies the charge model.

The minimum charge is CHF 10 for each data retrieval.

The charges are calculated as follows:

- The following applies for point data 10,000 values (= 10,000 units) = 1 CHF
Number of units = locations x parameters x level x frequency x retrieval period.
- The following applies for gridded data: 10 areas in Switzerland (= 10 units) = CHF 1
Number of units = area x parameters x level x frequency x retrieval period
- In the case of model data, these models also apply with modifications depending on the type (point/area).
There is also an adaptation factor to level out the differences in charges between point and gridded data, as well as the forecast period in hours and the number of runs.

Number of units = area or location x parameters x level (up to max. 3) x adaptation factor (5 point data or 0.5 gridded data) x retrieval period x run (up to max. 4) x forecast period.

Sample calculations for retrieved data

- Point data ground data
10 stations, 5 parameters (10min resolution), retrieval period 2 years

 $10 \times 5 \times 144 \times 365 \times 2 = 5,256,000$ units = CHF 525.60
- Gridded data model data
Alps region, 4 parameters, 1 level, 1 run, forecast period +33h. Retrieval period 1 year

 $2 \times 4 \times 1 \times 1 \times 33 \times 365 \times 0.5 = 48,180$ units = CHF 4,818

Information, work required and transmission costs

While there are some changes for the data, how the information (such as climate information, analyses and reports) is managed remains virtually unchanged. The hourly rates for the work required and the charges for software use will not change. The transmission costs are approx. 25% lower. They now cost a maximum of CHF 788 per year (for transmission every five or ten minutes).





New terms of use

Commercial use is no longer subject to a charge. The distinction between commercial use or use as a reseller and personal use has been eliminated. This means that all data recipients are treated equally - they pay the same charge. The terms of use were adjusted accordingly and the rules changed for sharing the services used.

It is now possible, with the prior consent of MeteoSwiss, to publish the services used in the context of the recipient's products (e.g. recipient's website) or in the context of scientific publications or to make them available to a third party as part of a commission or research project. Prior consent is granted upon conclusion of a contract when the services are used. The obligation to specify the source remains unchanged.

The services used may not be shared in an unaltered form directly with third parties. Buyer collectives may also not be formed. Entire data sets of MeteoSwiss may also not be published directly on a website without any reference to the recipient's own services or made accessible to all visitors by means of a download link. However, services may be shared once processed.

The terms of use apply to all services, regardless of whether a recipient is exempt from charges or not.

Exemption from charges

Universities, colleges and other research and educational institutions as well as civil protection institutions can continue to receive MeteoSwiss services free of charge. This now also applies to most schools and apprenticeship training.

As of 1 January 2019, cantons and municipalities will be exempted from data charges as already stipulated as an option by Parliament in the law on Meteorology and Climatology.

Receiving warnings from MeteoSwiss is still also free of charge for all recipients.

