

## **Plenty of numbers for Swiss guild**

The traditional New Year's meeting of the Swiss guild is notorious for packing a lot of information into one afternoon and this year's gathering at the federal office of statistics in Neuchatel didn't disappoint, according to participant Claude Liengme.

FOS coordinates statistical information for different government ministries, including providing information to help implement and benchmark measures that fall under Switzerland's agricultural policy.

Last year the office adopted Eurostat Standards because of bilateral treaties with the EU. It must also provide an objective point of view, and give equal and confidential treatment to every region in Switzerland.

An unpleasant statistic revealed at the session was the rapid rate at which development is swallowing up farm land. If it continues, 100 years from now there will be hardly any farming land left in some major cantons.