Swiss glaciers suffer “disastrous” ice loss

Swiss glaciers have endured a near-record loss of ice in 2026 following a summer of intense heatwaves, raising concerns about future water supplies for agriculture, hydropower and transport





CHANGE IN ICE VOLUME *(%)*
Relative to previous year, 1950-2026

Some glaciers, including ***Rhône Glacier***, have experienced greatest melt on record in 2026. *Pictures above show glacier’s retreat between Jul 2015 and Aug 2026*

2
1
0
-1
-2
-3
-4
-5
-6

1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010 2020

2026: 5.5% of Switzerland’s remaining glacier ice lost in first eight months – just shy of 2022 record.
Total ice loss since 2021: 19.4%

■ Scientists estimate Swiss glaciers released **2.2 trillion litres** of meltwater between July and September – more than four times annual drinking water used by all Swiss households

2022
-5.9%

Source: Swiss Glacier Monitoring Network (GLAMOS) Pictures: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS