

# Precious To Us

## Summary of 2020 Sustainability Report

The metals we process and the attention we give our stakeholders are precious. Our devotion to being a successful company, which allows us to assume long-term responsibilities, is precious. Above all, the environment and the social and economic context influenced by our actions are precious. Therefore, “Precious to us” expresses our approach to responsibility and sustainability, confirmed through five commitments.



Visit [preciousoustous.com](https://preciousoustous.com) to learn more about our commitment to remaining a responsible company.

1.

### Involve our stakeholders

Our stakeholders are fundamental for our development as a company. We listen to their needs and share our way of thinking and acting to promote a constructive dialogue.

2.

### Work for a transparent and responsible chain

Our position at the centre of the value chain requires us to ensure that all players on the precious metals chain act sustainably. An enormous responsibility, of which we are well aware.

3.

### Contribute to local development

The growth of the community in which we operate is essential for our mutual development. These two aspects are intimately linked, and we do our best to promote mutual progress. At all of our locations.

4.

### Protect the environment

We have enormous respect for the environment. We do our best to limit the impact of our operations and urge our partners to do the same.

5.

### Grow with our employees

We believe in our values and apply them to our daily decisions. We want everyone to feel part of a team that supports initiative and personal growth, respecting the diversity and cultural richness that everyone brings to the company.

## 2020 at a glance

### Water consumption (m³)



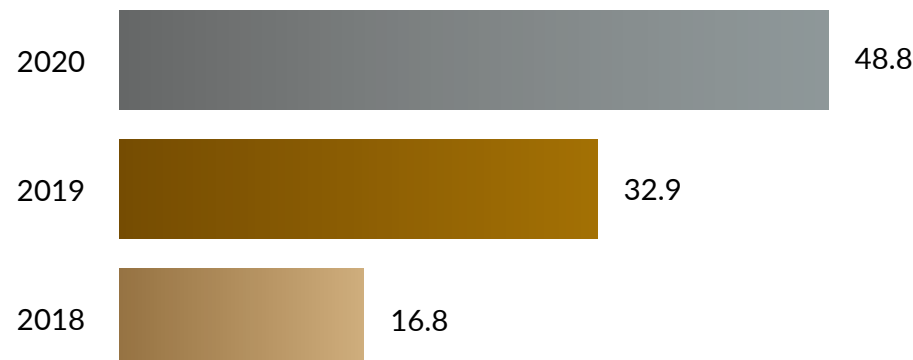
### Energy consumption (Gj)



### CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (T)



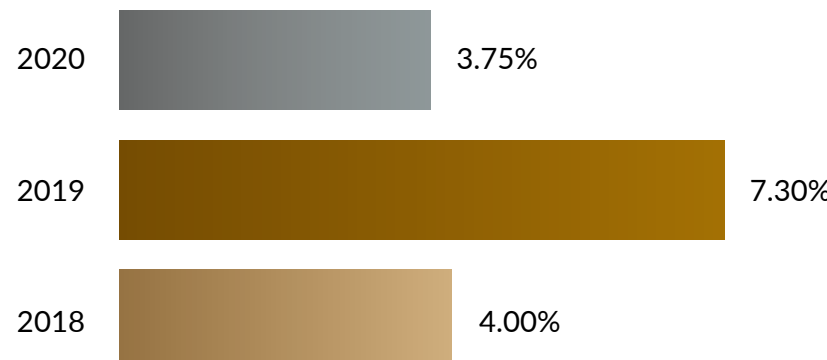
### NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (T)



### Consumption of chemical products (T)

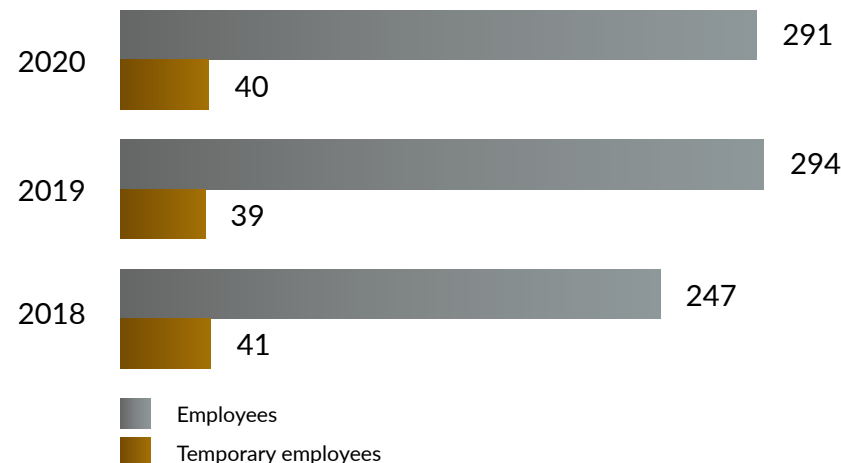


### Turnover rate (%o)

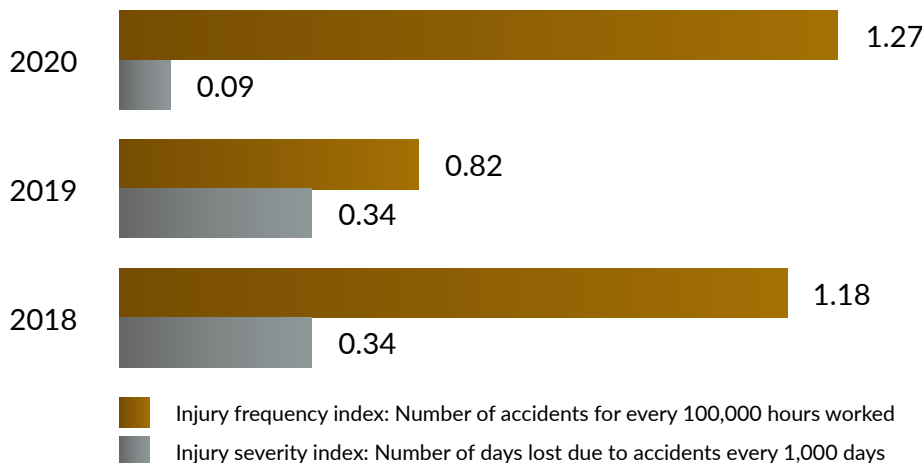


Turnover rate: Employees who left compared to the total in a given time period

### Number of collaborators



### Severity and frequency index



Data: Argor-Heraeus Switzerland

- **Collaboration with stakeholders in hard times:** during the year, we collaborated and coordinated with many stakeholders in order to manage and respond as well as possible to the situation created by the pandemic. We believe these collaborations were successful, and made everyone realize that our values are not just nice words written on the walls of our offices, but qualities that we apply every day. The pandemic has made our ties with our stakeholders even stronger, and the solidarity that everyone demonstrated was exemplary.
- **Working with experts:** we continued to work with our “sounding board,” a group of experts in sustainability, representatives of industry and academia that supports our programme of continuous improvement in the sphere of responsibility.
- **New peaks in traceability:** the concepts of traceability and segregation of precious metals reached new levels in 2020. The use of new technologies provided a further check of the origin of metals and positively certified their source.
- **Toward decarbonisation:** The impact of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions generated on the chain, together with the origin of raw materials, is becoming an important criterion for responsible supply. We have been working to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our facilities for many years, and are now formally extending this effort to the entire value chain.
- **Microloans for artisanal and small-scale mines:** in 2020, we laid the foundations for a microloan project for these mines so that they may become economically independent as soon as possible.
- **Award to best student in sustainable engineering:** as we do every year, we presented a CHF 3'000 award to the SUPSI student with the best Master in Engineering thesis based on criteria of innovation and sustainability. In addition, we had numerous discussions with students regarding their dissertations and masters theses.
- **From waste to reusable material:** we have set up an ambitious project that lets us produce solid sodium nitrate from waste waters containing nitrates, and now have real prospects of selling this product on the market.
- **Good neighbourly relations:** we have been working for years to reduce the noise generated by our production facilities. We are now in the final phase (2020 to 2022) of our project to reduce noise and comply with all emission limits.
- **A new tool for communication:** during the year, we installed some monitors at the company so that we could communicate more easily with all of our employees. An excellent way to strike up conversations during a coffee break, and much more!
- **Ergonomics, safety and comfort at work:** after identifying various areas of improvement, we began implementing some infrastructural and organizational measures to increase safety and ergonomics. For example? We're working on a project to semi-automate an entire department.

And much more! Learn more on [preciousoustous.com](https://preciousoustous.com)



# Argor-Heraeus

For 70 years, our mission has been to serve as the reference point for our clients on the precious metals chain.

### Metals processed

The metals we process – gold, silver, platinum and palladium – usually arrive from:

- Raw material from mines of various sizes
- Industrial scrap and old jewellery
- Good Delivery Material already of high quality

### Clients

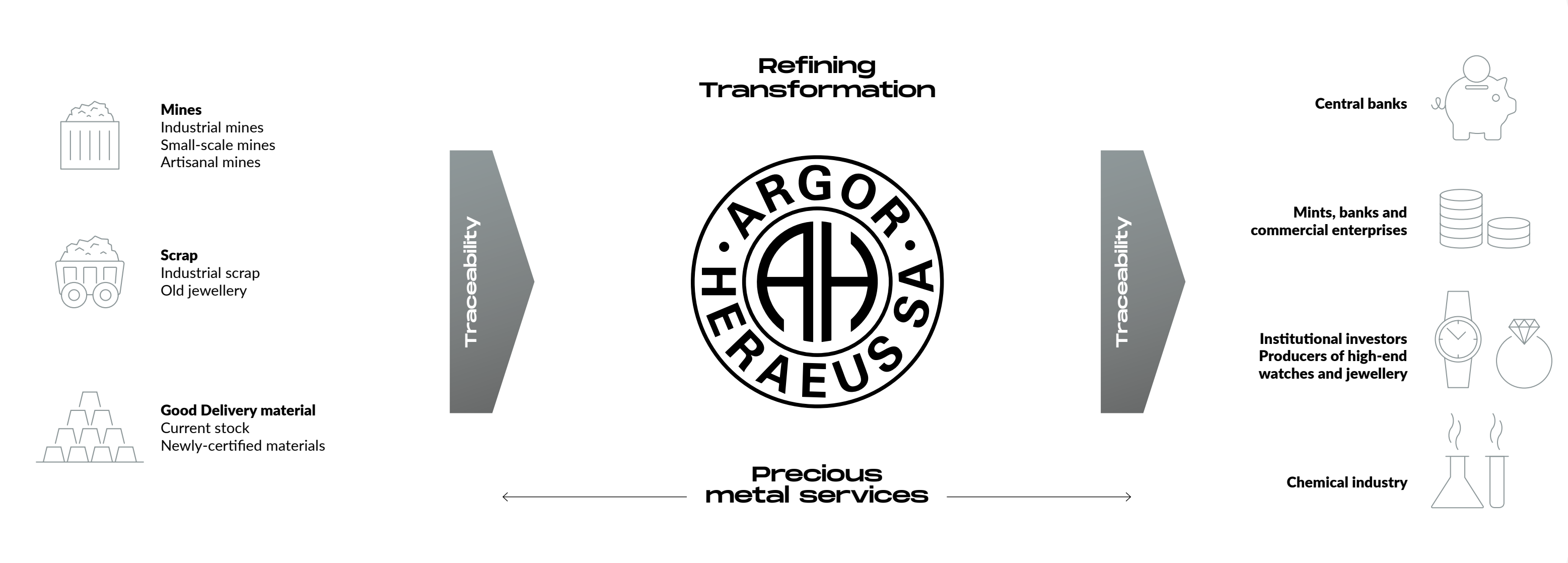
We work with clients in over 50 countries:

- Banks
- Mines
- Companies in the high-end watchmaking and jewellery industry

### Annual production capacity

- Gold refining: 1'400 tonnes
- Silver refining: 1'300 tonnes
- Smelted bars: up to 6 million pieces
- Minted bars: up to 3 million pieces
- Semi-finished products: 120 tonnes of alloys

# A key role at the centre of the value chain



# Heraeus Precious Metals

### The Heraeus Group

Founded in 1851, Heraeus is a family-owned multinational portfolio company whose origins date back to a pharmacy that the family opened in 1660. Heraeus now operates in many sectors, including environment, energy, electronics, health, mobility, and industrial applications. In 2019, Heraeus generated revenues of 22.4 billion euros, with about 15'000 employees (including temporary workers) in 40 countries.

### Heraeus Precious Metals

Argor-Heraeus is part of the Heraeus Precious Metals (HPM) Global Business Unit of the Heraeus Group. HPM, whose operations are based on many years of experience on the entire value chain, is the world's leading provider of precious metals products and services.

# Our raison d'être



Visit [precoustous.com](https://www.precioustous.com) to learn more about our commitment to remaining a responsible company.

