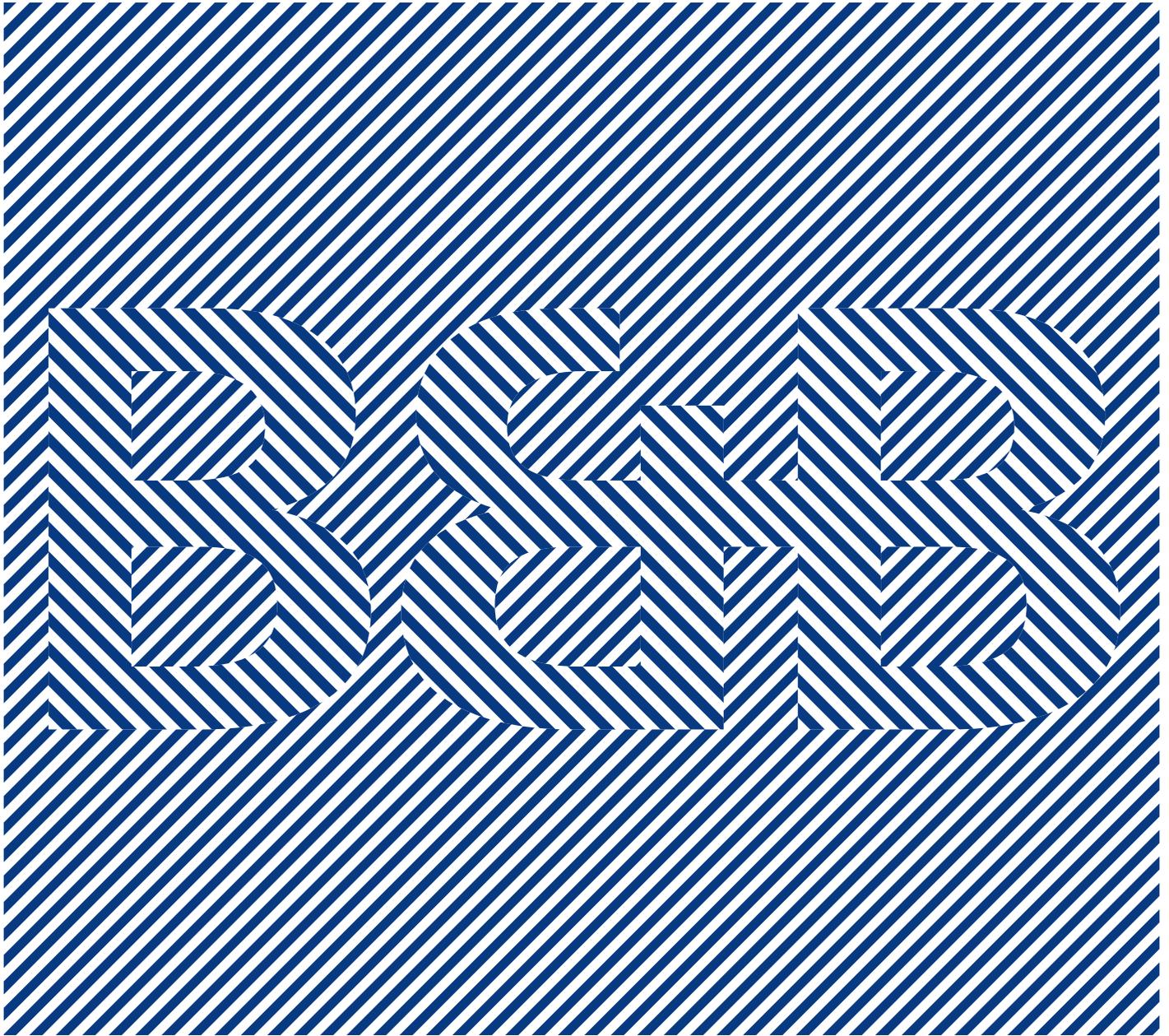


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## Be a winner by locating in Switzerland.

In Switzerland you are never far from other countries, and Swiss business is closely linked to markets around the world, be that through exports, branch offices or direct investments.

Switzerland cultivates these relationships and is always seeking to expand on them. In 2009, for example, it had a network of 20 free trade agreements, not counting those with the European Union. The list is far from complete, and the expansion program continues.

Despite its internationalism, Switzerland has also preserved its specific location advantages. Social, political and economic stability are assured. The favourable general environment also makes it possible to maintain high quality standards in other areas.

Swiss universities attract the best thinkers from Switzerland and abroad, and our vocational education system ensures the availability of skilled workers with practical experience. They contribute their expertise to the companies located in Switzerland and so keep productivity high. Businesses, for their part, can rely on the flexible labour market and the free movement of workers within the EU and EFTA to respond quickly to changing economic conditions.

When companies expand, build new production facilities or relocate, employees can often continue living in the same place due to the outstanding Swiss infrastructure and the nationwide reach of the public transport network.

Dealing with authorities is also easier in Switzerland than in other countries. Companies and investors are treated as customers and can expect and receive good service – you included!

If you are planning to locate or invest in Switzerland, expert advisors are at hand to guide you through the processes and open doors for you in dealing with the appropriate authorities. You can read more about these services in this brochure.

Your business success depends on selecting the right location, and we can help you make this decision. Locating in Switzerland is quite simply a sure-fire route to success.

Jean-Daniel Gerber  
State Secretary and Director of the State Secretariat  
for Economic Affairs SECO



## An overview of Switzerland's advantages as a business location.

### **Well-located strategically; stable and dependable relationship with Europe.**

- Three of the four largest European markets and economies have borders with Switzerland
- Switzerland is a communication and transportation hub between northern and southern Europe
- The European Union is Switzerland's most important trading partner; relations with the EU are protected by broad-based, bilateral agreements
- See page 6 for more information

### **Political and economic stability, international integration.**

- Political stability and legal certainty
- Cultural diversity, four national languages and English as a language of communication
- Strong orientation in business towards exports; high level of direct investment abroad
- See page 8 for more information

### **Exceptional quality of life.**

- Safe cities and intact environment
- Wide range of cultural and sporting events and activities
- First-class healthcare
- See page 11 for more information

### **Leading technology centre and skilled workforce.**

- Integration of research into practical business applications, participation in international research exchange
- Practice-oriented basic education and training, universities and technical colleges involved in world-renowned research, internationally prestigious private schools and boarding schools
- Motivated, loyal and well-educated workforce with extensive foreign language skills and greater-than-average international experience
- Comprehensive intellectual property protection
- See page 12 for more information

### **First-class infrastructure.**

- Extensive, well-integrated road, rail and air network
- Reliable energy and water supply and communication services
- See page 15 for more information



#### **Strong financial centre and modest tax burden.**

- Wide range of banking and insurance products
- Attractive rates of interest
- High degree of price stability over the long term, low inflation
- Competitive tax rates compared with the rest of Europe
- Low duties, levies and other charges
- See page 16 for more information

#### **Business clusters that are global leaders.**

- Unique concentration of pharmaceutical and life science companies
- Important financial centre
- Market leader in the luxury watch industry
- Globally significant commodity trade centre despite paucity of natural resources
- Leading neutral location for companies' European headquarters
- See page 18 for more information

#### **Quick and easy company formation.**

- Quick and easy system for establishing companies; proven corporate law
- Efficient official procedures and limited number of regulations
- Professional advisory services
- See page 20 for more information

#### **Professional support during the location process.**

- Capable advisory services
- Support in establishing contacts and finding business properties
- Tax relief and potential sources of financial assistance
- See page 22 for more information

## Information.

The Global Competitiveness Index Report 2009–2010 ranked Switzerland first out of a total of 133 countries analyzed.

Switzerland not only had the top overall ranking but also came in first in a total of eight categories in five sections: institutions, infrastructure, health, primary education, higher education and training, and innovation.

The entire report, together with additional information, is available at [www.wefforum.org](http://www.wefforum.org)



## In the heart of Europe.

### Information.

#### Switzerland in figures (2008)

GDP (nominal), in CHF billion	532.1
Income per capita, in CHF	69,109
Inflation rate	2.4 %
Unemployment rate	2.6 %
Permanent resident population in thousands	7,593.5

Sources: Credit Suisse, Economic Research;  
Swiss Federal Statistical Office

**Switzerland as a business location – politically independent but fully integrated and surrounded by major trading partners. Attractive, dynamic and uncomplicated.**

Switzerland is located in the centre of Europe. It is the point of intersection for many different cultures and also a communication and transportation hub between northern and southern Europe. It has borders with three of the four largest European markets. Switzerland is politically independent and is not a member of the European Union. However, a dynamic European policy and a body of democratically approved bilateral agreements ensure close, long-term political cooperation with the EU and economic integration into the European market, home to nearly 500 million customers.





Switzerland and Europe share close economic ties. There is total free trade in all areas except agricultural and food products. The European Union is by far Switzerland's most important trading partner. Trade with the EU accounts for four-fifths of all imports and three-fifths of all exports. Conversely, Switzerland is the third-largest export market for EU products (after the US and Russia). In addition, 39.4 % of Swiss direct investments are made in the EU, and 71.6 % of the investors who make investments in Switzerland come from the EU.

## Information.

All you need to know about the bilateral agreements: [www.europa.admin.ch](http://www.europa.admin.ch)

Because of unlimited freedom of movement, EU-17 and EFTA nationals have free access to the Swiss labour market. Around 599,000 people from the 27 EU countries are currently working in Switzerland, which represents a full 14 % of all employed persons.

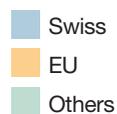
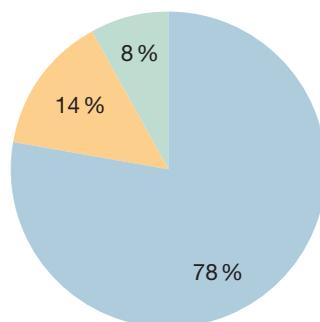
### Employed persons by nationality

Permanent resident population in thousands  
(2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2008)

Source: Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

	2008
Total	4,229
Swiss nationals	3,302
Foreign nationals	927
EU nationals <sup>1)</sup>	599

<sup>1)</sup> EU-25 member states





## Safe and stable.

**The robust federal system, the business-friendly mentality and an extensive network of trade relations ensure security, growth and success.**

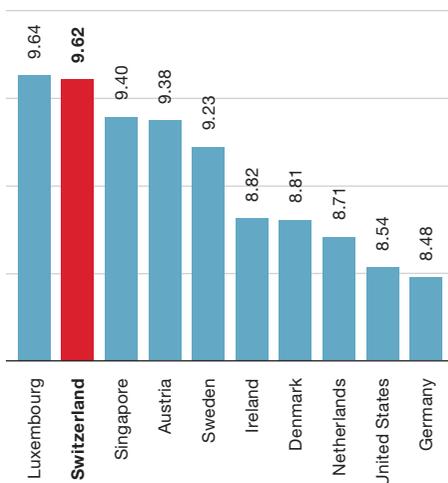
Switzerland has a federal system with three levels: the federal government, 26 sovereign cantons and 2,650 independent municipalities. The 26 cantons have a high degree of decision-making authority compared with federal states in other countries. They enjoy ample freedom of action in relation to healthcare, education and culture. There is a great deal of grassroots engagement with politics. The largest political groupings are represented in the governments that are directly elected every four years. Decision-making is based on consensus and harmony. The stable legal system also guarantees a high level of security for economic activity.

Political stability is very strong, in spite of the diversity of language groups and cultures. Switzerland has four official languages: German, French, Italian and Rhaeto-Rumantsch. English is also widely used, especially in business. The coexistence of different cultures and the large proportion of foreign residents result in a high degree of openness and tolerance.

### Political stability, 2008

Political orientation stable = 10, unstable = 0

Source: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2009



### The largest cities in Switzerland

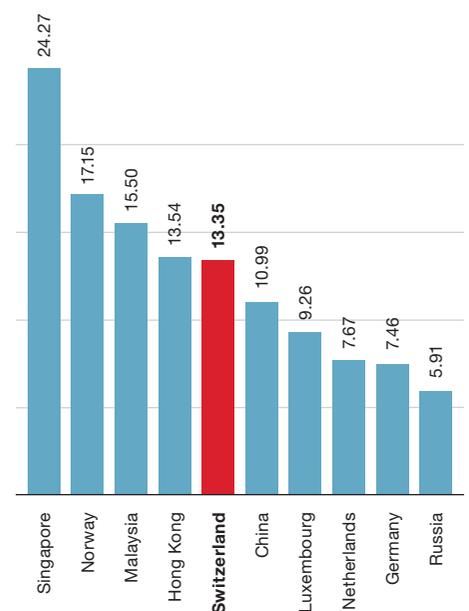




The Swiss economy is one of the most liberal and competitive in the world. Sustained purchasing power stability, low inflation, low capital costs and a good investment climate ensure economic prosperity. Per-capita gross domestic product (GDP) is the fifth-highest in the world and significantly above the EU average, at CHF 69,109 in 2008. The service sector accounts for approximately 70% of GDP, and the industrial sector for 28%. The most important sectors are chemicals, capital goods and banks. Small and medium-sized businesses dominate the Swiss economy: more than 99% of Swiss companies have fewer than 250 employees.

The Swiss economy also owes its strength to its close ties to foreign economies. Switzerland is a member of the World Trade Organization. In addition to the EFTA Convention and the Free Trade Agreement with the EU, it currently has a network of 20 free trade agreements with non-EU states. Approximately half of Switzerland's GDP is generated by the export of goods and services. Measured relative to GDP, the country is the world's fourth-largest direct investor in foreign economies. At the same time, Switzerland is also an attractive location for inward foreign investment. EU countries and the US, in particular, invest directly in Switzerland.

**Trade balance as a percentage of GDP, 2007**  
Source: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2009





## Committed to internationalism.

**Switzerland is committed to values such as neutrality, humanity, diplomacy and tolerance – an attractive location for foreign companies.**

Switzerland abides by the principle of neutrality and has done so for centuries, unlike any other country in Europe. Because of Switzerland's political neutrality, its humanitarian tradition and its commitment to international understanding, numerous international organizations such as the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross are headquartered here.

But Switzerland is also a player in world politics. It has been a member of the United Nations since 2002 and is involved in special UN programs, agencies and organizations. In addition, Switzerland plays an active part in important economic organizations such as the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Switzerland joined NATO's Partnership for Peace in 1996 and acts as a neutral intermediary within that organization. In some cases, Swiss diplomats represent the interests of countries that do not have official relations with one other. In addition, Switzerland is often a neutral host country for politically sensitive meetings and conferences.

Finally, Switzerland's high level of openness and tolerance makes it appealing to foreign companies, helping them to conduct business from Switzerland.

### **International organizations headquartered in Switzerland**

Source: Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

BIS	Bank for International Settlements	Basel	<a href="http://www.biz.org">www.biz.org</a>
CERN	European Organization for Nuclear Research	Geneva	<a href="http://public.web.cern.ch">public.web.cern.ch</a>
EFTA	European Free Trade Association	Geneva	<a href="http://www.efta.int">www.efta.int</a>
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association (International Federation of Association Football)	Zurich	<a href="http://www.fifa.com">www.fifa.com</a>
IBE/ UNESCO	International Bureau of Education/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	Geneva	<a href="http://www.ibe.unesco.org">www.ibe.unesco.org</a>
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	Geneva	<a href="http://www.icrc.org">www.icrc.org</a>
IOC	International Olympic Committee	Lausanne	<a href="http://www.olympic.org">www.olympic.org</a>
ISO	International Organization for Standardization	Geneva	<a href="http://www.iso.org">www.iso.org</a>
UEFA	Union of European Football Associations	Nyon	<a href="http://www.uefa.com">www.uefa.com</a>
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	Geneva	<a href="http://www.unhcr.org">www.unhcr.org</a>
WHO	World Health Organization	Geneva	<a href="http://www.who.int">www.who.int</a>
WTO	World Trade Organization	Geneva	<a href="http://www.wto.org">www.wto.org</a>
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature	Gland	<a href="http://www.wwf.org">www.wwf.org</a>



## Exceptional quality of life.

**Life can be wonderful here – thanks to a unique natural environment, a high standard of living and first-class facilities for sports, recreation, education and culture.**

Switzerland is known for its very high quality of life. Switzerland receives excellent ratings, both in the cities and the rural areas, on criteria such as income, healthcare, climate and geography, political stability and safety, as well as personal freedom, family life and social life. Despite relatively high prices, Switzerland has the highest purchasing power in the world due to high average incomes and low taxes and other levies.

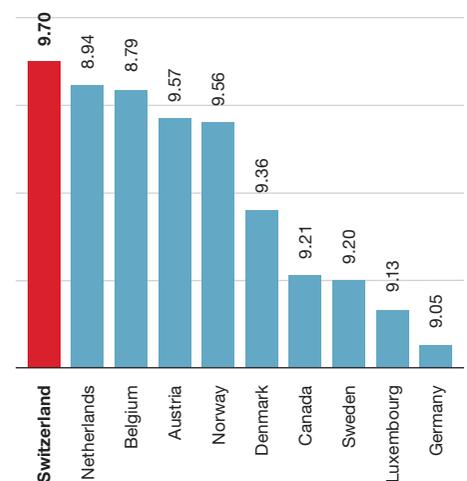
Switzerland's landscape and range of cultural and recreational activities offer great diversity within a very small area. Nature lovers, sports enthusiasts, people seeking peace and quiet and those interested in culture can all find something to suit them, as winter and summer sporting destinations, opera houses and theatres, well-funded international events like the Locarno Film Festival and major museums are all close at hand. Cultural and recreational opportunities are plentiful, even outside the major cities, thanks to the decentralised population structure.

The Swiss healthcare system is among the world's best. A dense network of public and private hospitals guarantees access to outstanding medical care throughout the country. Pension provision in Switzerland is based on the «three-pillar principle», which combines state, occupational and personal retirement benefit systems.

### Quality of life, 2009

1 = low, 10 = high

Source: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2009





## Leading technology centre.

**Well-respected universities, international networks and research at the highest level – the fruits of a prudent, well-focused national educational policy.**

A well-educated, highly trained workforce and continuous innovation represent the most important capital for a country like Switzerland with scant natural resources. Swiss education and research policy is designed accordingly. The state schools, universities and other institutions of higher education, and international private schools and boarding schools have an excellent international reputation. One of Switzerland's special features is its dual education system, whereby young people can receive practical training in skilled trades or service occupations while also following the standard school curriculum. They then have the option of continuing their studies at universities of applied sciences.

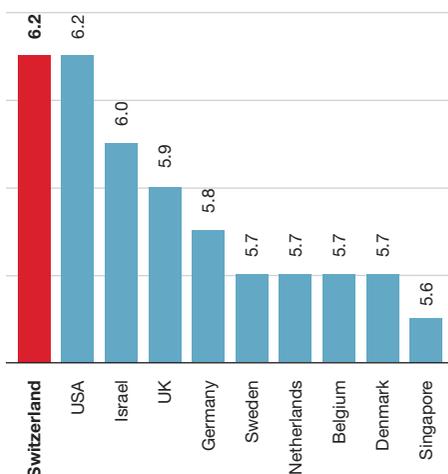
Switzerland invests almost 3% of its GDP in research and development. The universities and institutes of technology conduct research at the highest level and work closely with the international research community. Bilateral agreements with the EU also make it possible for Switzerland to participate fully in EU research programs.

The integration of research and business is highly developed. By financing applied research projects, Switzerland's innovation promotion agency CTI supports the transfer of technology from academia to the marketplace.

### Quality of scientific research institutions

1 = low, 7 = high

Source: World Economic Forum, The Global Competitiveness Report 2009–2010





## Highly skilled employees.

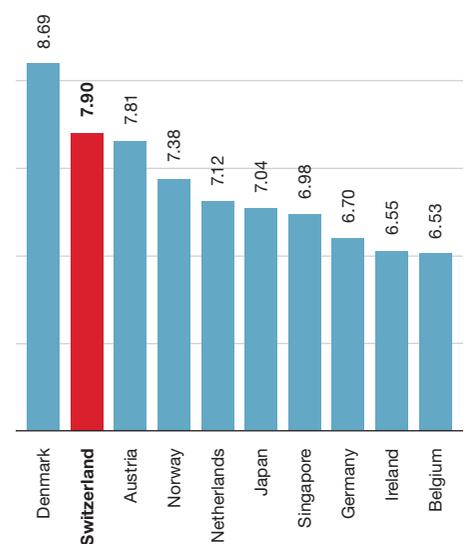
### **Well-educated, multilingual, reliable and committed – Swiss employees are a great choice for any employer.**

Switzerland has one of the most productive economies in the world. The Swiss labour market is characterised by liberal labour laws, a low regulatory burden and extraordinary social stability. Switzerland's labour force participation rate is 68.2 %, the second-highest in Europe. Unemployment is traditionally low and has dropped below 4 % in recent years. The high number of total working hours permitted under Swiss law contributes to the high level of productivity in Switzerland.

International studies confirm that Swiss employees are extremely motivated and loyal. They display great willingness to work, reliability and commitment. Identification with one's company is especially pronounced at small and medium-sized businesses. Due to the high level of education in Switzerland, the workforce is also well qualified, has extensive foreign language skills and offers greater-than-average international experience. The relationship between employers and trade unions is based on partnership.

Conflicts are resolved at the negotiation table, and strikes are therefore virtually unknown. The retirement benefit system places a high value on individual responsibility, and so Swiss social security costs are moderate by international standards.

**Global comparison of worker motivation, 2009**  
1 = low, 10 = high  
Source: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2009





# Intellectual property protection.

## Information.

Additional information on intellectual property protection is available from the Swiss Federal Institute for Intellectual Property: [www.ige.ch](http://www.ige.ch)

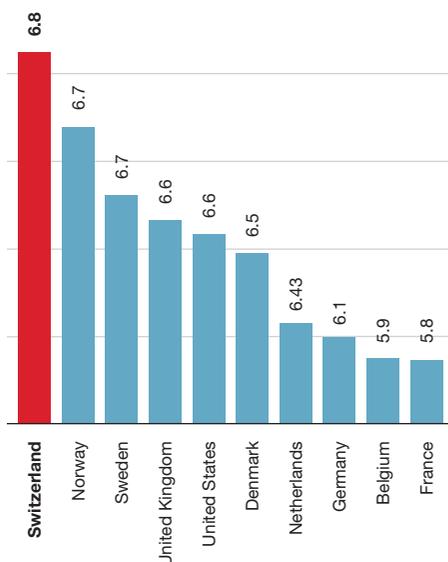
**Fertile ground for creativity and innovation – nowhere are newly developed technologies and inventions better protected than in Switzerland.**

Switzerland has the most Nobel prize winners relative to the size of its population and has the most patents per 100,000 inhabitants of any country in the world. Protection of intellectual property is highly developed. The Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property oversees a comprehensive system of protective rights governing patents, trademarks, designs and copyright. This system guarantees that the results of innovation and creativity are protected at both national and international level.

National and regional schools and universities work with the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich and Lausanne and the world-renowned Institute of Management Development (IMD) to create an excellent environment for the development of new technology. Leading companies in the areas of pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical technology and IT have located their research laboratories in Switzerland in order to benefit from this enormous potential for technological advances.

### Nobel prizes per million inhabitants, 2007

Source: IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2009





## First-class infrastructure.

**A dense rail and highway network, a nationwide energy supply system and properties to meet every requirement ensure mobility, security and convenience.**

Switzerland is firmly embedded within the European transport structure. Frequent and reliable connections ensure the smooth and efficient movement of passengers and goods. The road and highway network is one of the densest on the continent, the railways are highly reliable and punctual, and the three international airports (Zurich, Geneva and Basel) offer direct flights to destinations in Europe and around the world.

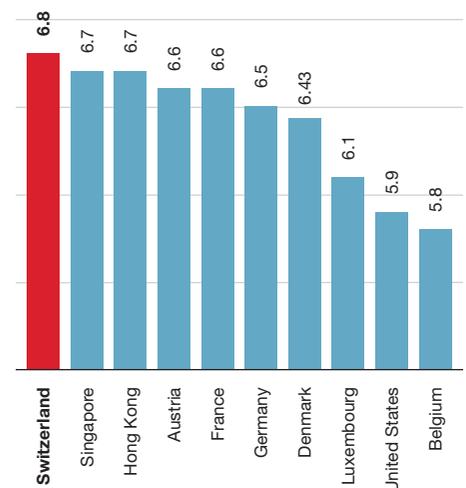
The water and energy supply systems cover the entire country. Postal and communications services are also assured at all times. In 2006, 6.64 % of GDP was spent on information and communication technology, which puts Switzerland in third place internationally behind Japan and Sweden. The «Fibre to the Home» (FTTH) communication network, to which every business, multi-family residence and single-family residence will ultimately be connected (by fibre optic cable), is currently being rolled out nationwide.

The Swiss real estate market offers plenty of developable land and commercial properties. The restrictions on ownership of real property by foreign nationals have been greatly relaxed in recent years. Startup centres, technology parks and office centres are an attractive alternative for companies keen to keep their own infrastructure lean.

### Quality of infrastructure, 2008

**1 = underdeveloped, 7 = comprehensive and efficient**

Source: World Economic Forum, The Global Competitiveness Report 2009–2010





## Strong financial centre.

**In private banking, asset management and insurance alike, Switzerland stands for experience, security and expertise.**

Switzerland is one of the world's key financial centres. Its main areas of expertise are private banking, asset management and insurance. Around 340 banks, 260 insurance companies and 2,700 pension funds are based in Switzerland. A wide range of financial and insurance products and services are available to private and business customers. The financial sector is very important economically, as its value creation totals 12 % of GDP.

The strong Swiss financial sector makes the Swiss Exchange very attractive to Swiss and foreign companies. The SIX Swiss Exchange has the highest percentage of listed foreign companies in Europe, at 25 %. It gives companies access to an international group of investors. It also has self-regulating powers and so can combine investor protection with a regulatory environment that is compatible with corporate needs.

Switzerland's long-term economic and monetary stability also manifests itself in low inflation, low interest rates and the important role of the Swiss franc internationally. Its stability has made the franc an attractive reserve and diversification currency.

### Global financial centres, 2009

Source: The Global Financial Centres Index 5, City of London, [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/GFCI](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/GFCI)

Ranking	Financial centre
1	London
2	New York
3	Singapore
4	Hong Kong
5	<b>Zurich</b>
6	<b>Geneva</b>
7	Chicago
8	Frankfurt
9	Boston
10	Dublin



## Attractive tax system.

### A flexible, federally based tax system – the foundation for individual calculation and a modest tax burden

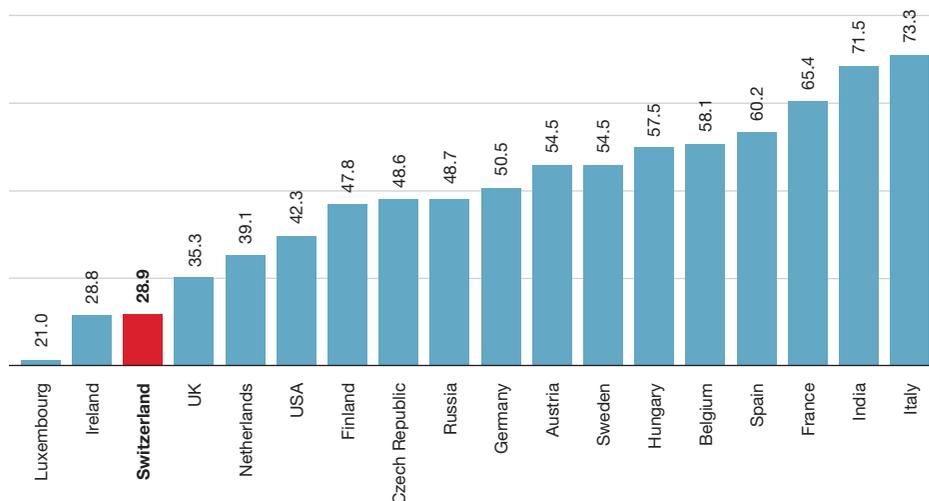
Switzerland has an attractive tax system. Total taxation is modest compared with other highly developed industrialised countries. The federal structure of government is reflected in the Swiss tax system, with taxes levied by the federal government, cantons and municipalities. The standard income tax rate at federal level is 8.5%. There are also income taxes at cantonal and municipal levels. The tax burden varies between different cantons and municipalities.

Total or partial tax relief can be granted to a company as an extra incentive depending on the number of jobs created by an investment project in Switzerland. In order to prevent double taxation in Switzerland and abroad, Switzerland has entered into agreements with all key industrialised nations and many other countries.

Switzerland is also known for the traditionally cooperative and constructive relations between taxpayers and tax authorities.

#### Total tax burden

Total tax burden as a percentage of income  
Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, 2009





## International business clusters.

### **Making contacts, finding project partners, acquiring and combining expertise – leading international networks open up the way to new markets.**

Various industry clusters of international significance have formed in Switzerland. These are networks of producers, suppliers, research facilities and services providers along a single value chain that are located close to one another. This is supported by the excellent research and development environment, the efficient registration and certification system, and a workforce that is extremely well qualified, has technical experience and can often handle multiple languages.

**Clean technology:** Switzerland has become a world leader in the development of environmentally friendly technology and systems for efficient energy use. In particular, it is a leader in carbon dioxide emissions reduction and recycling.

**Automotive supply industry:** There is a network of highly specialised suppliers of components ranging from precision and micro-mechanics to material technology and plastics and even the textile industry.

**Infrastructure:** Many specialised Swiss companies, acting as niche players, produce small but essential products and services for infrastructure projects in areas such as building systems, control systems, construction supply, energy conservation, water supply and railways.

**Healthcare sector:** The Swiss healthcare system, which has excellent specialists and world-famous top hospitals and medical institutions, is among the best in the world. There is ample growth potential for healthcare services.

**Life sciences, chemicals and pharmaceuticals:** The density of biotech companies in Switzerland is unique in the world. The companies in this field range from large multinational corporations such as Novartis and Roche to innovative startups.



**Medical technology:** Research investment, growth rates and profitability are higher than average in the Swiss medical technology sector, which includes companies such as Synthes and Sonova.

**Financial services:** Switzerland, home to the major international banks UBS and Credit Suisse, is one of the world's key financial centres.

**Machinery, electronics and metals industries:** With companies like ABB and Schindler, Switzerland is one of the world's leading industrial centres in almost all sectors in terms of export volumes.

**Luxury watch industry:** The watch manufacturers based in Switzerland (including companies such as Swatch and Rolex) have increased their market share to over 50 % in recent years.

**IT:** Switzerland is very advanced in the area of information and communication technologies. Siemens, EDS Corporation, Dell, HP, Reuters and Orange are a handful of the major employers.

**Commodity trading:** As a historical hub between many different trading routes and a major financial centre today, Switzerland is one of the most important trading centres for commodities.

**Headquarters:** Switzerland is the location of a growing number of global or regional headquarters for foreign corporations such as IBM, Kraft Foods, Philip Morris and Google.

**Innovation index, 2009, top ten**

Source: Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), 2009

Rang	
1	Japan
2	<b>Switzerland</b>
3	Finland
4	USA
5	Sweden
6	Germany
7	Taiwan
8	Netherlands
9	Israel
10	Denmark



## Establishing a company is easy.

### Information.

Federal SME portal:  
[www.kmu.admin.ch](http://www.kmu.admin.ch)

**In Switzerland essentially anyone can operate a business – companies can be formed quickly and easily.**

Forming a company in Switzerland is a quick and uncomplicated matter. It generally takes two to four weeks from submission of the application until the company can legally deal with third parties. Freedom of trade and industry essentially allows anyone to perform a trade, operate a business and form or hold an interest in a company. The only requirement is that at least one individual authorised to sign for the company must reside in Switzerland.

Business law is characterised by a relative modest level of regulation. There are many options for the choice of legal form or detailed structure of the company. The accounting system may be based on any of the prevailing international accounting standards.

Once the decision to locate in Switzerland has been made, the economic development agency of the chosen canton can help to coordinate the project locally until the start of operations. Banks, consulting firms, trustees and attorneys specializing in company law are also available to answer specific questions. In addition, the Swiss government's websites offer extensive information on matters from business plans to official registration.

Foreign companies locating in Switzerland generally adopt the legal form of a corporation – either a stock corporation (AG) or a limited liability company (GmbH). If a Swiss branch is established as a sole proprietorship, a general partnership or a limited partnership, the formation process can be handled entirely online via the government SME portal, KMUadmin.



## Residence and work permits.

**Switzerland has a dual system for admitting foreign workers – permits are issued by the cantons.**

Switzerland owes its prosperity in part to the large number of foreign employees who enrich the country both economically and culturally. A valid travel document recognised by Switzerland is generally sufficient for stays of three months or less. Citizens of certain countries require a visa for entry into Switzerland. They can apply for a visa at the Swiss consulate or embassy that has jurisdiction over their place of residence.

Stays of more than three months generally require a residence permit. Annual and permanent residence permits are issued by the cantonal migration offices. EU-17 and EFTA nationals have the same status as employed Swiss nationals and do not need a work permit. The employer in Switzerland generally applies for a permit on behalf of other nationals. Special approval from the federal government or the cantons is also required for certain fields such as medical practice, the wine business and banking activities. The cantonal economic development agencies can advise companies on application procedures and processing times.

### Information.

Further information on entry into and residence in Switzerland:  
[www.bfm.admin.ch](http://www.bfm.admin.ch)

Swiss embassies, consulates and missions abroad: [www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch)



## Strategic location promotion.

Location promotion (a part of economic development) is a key element of Swiss economic policy. By working closely with the business community and the cantons, the federal government creates the best-possible conditions for a strong business environment. Osec is tasked by the federal government with coordinating activities to promote foreign investment in Switzerland. Together with its partners, it offers investors non-bureaucratic, efficient assistance in selecting a location and setting up operations there.

Location promotion is performed by both the federal government and the cantons under Switzerland's federal system. At national level, Osec has established the program «Switzerland. Trade & Investment Promotion.» to ensure consistency in the worldwide marketing of Switzerland as a business location. Osec is the first point of contact for foreign investors and puts them in touch with the appropriate cantonal authorities. The cantonal economic development agencies inform potential investors about the advantages of locating a business in their canton, maintain contacts with interested investors, make specific location proposals and organise local support for investors through regional agencies or municipalities.

In line with Switzerland's liberal economic system, Swiss economic policy focuses on the best-possible way to shape the general business environment. Financial assistance programs are strategic and timely. In general, federal assistance is deployed alongside private initiatives. The particular instruments used depend on the specific investment project. It is also possible to develop individual solutions.



## Cantonal support.

Most cantons have their own economic development agencies, and many also belong to regional organizations. All cantons can grant tax concessions to businesses. Other incentives or forms of assistance vary by canton, level of interest and regional economic conditions. Once a location project has undergone preliminary evaluation, it is advisable to pursue it further with the cantonal economic development agencies.

### Cantonal and regional economic development agencies

<b>Aargau (AG)</b>	<a href="http://www.aargauservices.ch">www.aargauservices.ch</a>
<b>Appenzell Ausserrhoden (AR)</b>	<a href="http://www.ar.ch/wirtschaft">www.ar.ch/wirtschaft</a>
<b>Appenzell Innerrhoden (AI)</b>	<a href="http://www.ai.ch">www.ai.ch</a>
<b>Basel-Country (BL) and Basel-City (BS)</b>	<a href="http://www.baselarea.ch">www.baselarea.ch</a>
<b>Berne (BE)</b>	<a href="http://www.berneinvest.com">www.berneinvest.com</a>
<b>Fribourg (FR)</b>	<a href="http://www.promfr.ch">www.promfr.ch</a>
<b>Geneva (GE)</b>	<a href="http://www.geneva.ch">www.geneva.ch</a>
<b>Glarus (GL)</b>	<a href="http://www.glarusnet.ch">www.glarusnet.ch</a>
<b>Grisons (GR)</b>	<a href="http://www.awt.gr.ch">www.awt.gr.ch</a>
<b>Jura (JU)</b>	<a href="http://www.baselarea.ch">www.baselarea.ch</a>
<b>Lucerne (LU)</b>	<a href="http://www.lucerne-business.ch">www.lucerne-business.ch</a>
<b>Neuchâtel (NE)</b>	<a href="http://www.e-den.ch">www.e-den.ch</a>
<b>Nidwalden (NW)</b>	<a href="http://www.nw.ch">www.nw.ch</a>
<b>Obwalden (OW)</b>	<a href="http://www.iow.ch">www.iow.ch</a>
<b>Schaffhausen (SH)</b>	<a href="http://www.sh.ch/wf">www.sh.ch/wf</a>
<b>Schwyz (SZ)</b>	<a href="http://www.schwyz-economy.ch">www.schwyz-economy.ch</a>
<b>Solothurn (SO)</b>	<a href="http://www.standortsolothurn.ch">www.standortsolothurn.ch</a>
<b>St.Gallen (SG)</b>	<a href="http://www.location.sg.ch">www.location.sg.ch</a>
<b>Thurgau (TG)</b>	<a href="http://www.wiftg.ch">www.wiftg.ch</a>
<b>Ticino (TI)</b>	<a href="http://www.copernico.ch">www.copernico.ch</a>
<b>Uri (UR)</b>	<a href="http://www.ur.ch/wfu">www.ur.ch/wfu</a>
<b>Vaud (VD)</b>	<a href="http://www.dev.ch">www.dev.ch</a>
<b>Valais (VS)</b>	<a href="http://www.business-valais.ch">www.business-valais.ch</a>
<b>Zug (ZG)</b>	<a href="http://www.zug.ch/economy">www.zug.ch/economy</a>
<b>Zurich (ZH)</b>	<a href="http://www.standort.zh.ch">www.standort.zh.ch</a>

<b>Basel Area</b>	<a href="http://www.baselarea.ch">www.baselarea.ch</a>
<b>Business Location Ostschweiz</b>	<a href="http://www.ost-schweiz.ch">www.ost-schweiz.ch</a>
<b>Greater Geneva Berne Area</b>	<a href="http://www.ggba-switzerland.org">www.ggba-switzerland.org</a>
<b>Greater Zurich Area</b>	<a href="http://www.greaterzuricharea.ch">www.greaterzuricharea.ch</a>



## An effective global network.

Osec has a global reach through its «Switzerland. Trade and Investment Promotion» program. Swiss business hubs play a key role as Osec field offices. These are housed in the trade and business sections of Swiss consulates and embassies or at Swiss chambers of commerce abroad and represent a core part of Osec's range of services. They are found in major markets, where they serve as local advisory and information centres. There are now 16 Swiss business hubs in Germany, France, Italy, Austria, Japan, China, India, Brazil, Spain, Poland, Russia, the UK, South Africa, the USA and the GCC and ASEAN regions.

### Our locations





## Customised solutions.

If you would like to find out whether your company can benefit from the business environment in Switzerland, contact our representatives at «Switzerland. Trade & Investment Promotion.»

«Switzerland. Trade & Investment Promotion.» can open doors to Switzerland and its authorities. By working closely with a number of different partners from the private business community and the network of cantonal economic development agencies, we assist companies in planning the following activities:

- Making contact with regional and cantonal economic development offices
- Looking for the ideal location in Switzerland
- Meeting legal and administrative requirements
- Working together with research centres and universities
- Entering into partnerships with Swiss companies in the same sector
- Procuring work and residence permits
- Defining the ideal corporate structure and learning about the Swiss tax system

Please feel free to contact us, no matter where you are in the process of researching and planning your investment project.

### Information.

Detailed information on locating a company in Switzerland:

**Handbook for Investors.**

Available online at  
[www.invest-in-switzerland.com](http://www.invest-in-switzerland.com)

**Investor hotline:**

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Litigation  
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Notary Services  
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