#SwissFacts

**Connecting North and South**

**Total Costs**
- Lütschberg: CHF 3.3 billion
- Gotthard: CHF 12.2 billion
- Gotthard Base Tunnel: CHF 3.6 billion

**Key Facts**
- **Length**: 107.1 km
- **Tunnels**: The total length of the three NRLA base tunnels. At 57.1 km, the Gotthard Base Tunnel is the world's longest and deepest rail tunnel.
- **Reduction**: About 40 minutes journey time reduction for passenger traffic on the north-south route thanks to the NRLA.
- **Cargo**: 455 trains and passenger trains can pass through the NRLA base tunnels (Lütschberg and Gotthard) every day.

**Additional Information**
- The three base tunnels of the New Rail Link through the Alps (NRLA) are the core of Europe's main north-south rail freight route.

*Image source: Switzerland in Figures 2021, Federal Office of Transport (VDF)*
«A picture is worth a thousand words.» This aphorism expresses a simple truth. Yet while nothing grabs people’s attention like an image, it is through words that we convey the greatest depth of meaning. That’s the beauty of an infographic: it combines a striking image that attracts the eye with an explanatory caption that has the power to persuade.

As part of its mandate to promote Switzerland abroad, Presence Switzerland began developing infographics in 2015. At the time, our infographics were mainly designed for posters and postcards. Today, we mainly create digital infographics optimised for social media.

I am proud to present to you this catalogue, the first to feature all of our infographics in one place. It presents all the infographics by priority themes to allow you to find them quickly, download them, and publish them in the formats that best suit your platforms so you’ll get your online community buzzing.

I hope you enjoy our infographics: find the ones you like best, download them and share them with #SwissFacts!

Nicolas Bideau
Ambassador, Head of Presence Switzerland

If you have any further questions, please contact prs.socialmedia@eda.admin.ch
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The three base tunnels of the New Rail Link through the Alps (NRLA) are the core of Europe’s main north-south rail freight route.

**TOTAL COSTS**

- Lötschberg: CHF 5.3 billion
- Gotthard: CHF 12.2 billion
- Ceneri: CHF 3.6 billion

**72%** of goods transported through the Alps are done by rail thanks to the NRLA.

**107.1km** is the total length of the three NRLA base tunnels. At 57.1km, the Gotthard Base Tunnel is the world’s longest and deepest rail tunnel.

**455** freight and passenger trains can pass through the NRLA base tunnels (Lötschberg and Gotthard/Ceneri) every day.

**About 45 minutes journey time reduction for passenger traffic on the north-south route thanks to the NRLA.**

**72%** of goods transported through the Alps are done by rail thanks to the NRLA.
CHF 40 BILLION was the maximum amount of the federal government bridging credit guarantee for SMEs.

START-UPS could under a programme specific for start-ups apply for a credit for which the federal government guarantees 65% and the responsible canton 35%. 359 start-ups have received such a credit.

125 BANKS provided bridging credits to affected companies.

10 minutes was the time needed to complete a seven-step application process for Covid-19 credits up to CHF 500,000.

100% is the federal government guarantee for credits up to CHF 500,000; credits between CHF 500,000 and CHF 20 million are guaranteed at 85% by the federal government and at 15% by the bank.

2 WEEKS to launch the largest economic assistance programme in Swiss history.

138,000 Around 138,000 Covid-19 credits totaling approximately CHF 17 billion were concluded between 26 March 2020 and 31 July 2020.

8-YEAR is the normal period to repay bridging credits. In cases of hardship, this period can be prolonged up to 10 years.
A FERTILE GROUND FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

RESEARCH

- The Centre for Sustainable Finance and Private Wealth at the University of Zurich is the world's largest research unit for sustainable investing
- ETH Zurich ranks world's No 3 in Environmental Sciences
- The Geneva Finance Research Institute focuses on “Portfolio Management” and “Finance and Society”

PPP

A dialogue and partnership between public and private sectors is crucial for sustainability in business.

Stability, excellent infrastructure, efficient public services and a liberal framework based on the principle of subsidiarity foster innovation and sustainability also in finance.

CONNECTED

With the setting-up of the Secretariat of the International Network of Financial Centres for Sustainability in Geneva, another important player joined the Swiss ecosystem.

The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment together with the Swiss State Secretariat for International Finance initiated the first pilot tests for pension funds and insurance companies to analyse the climate compatibility of their financial portfolios in alignment with the Paris Agreement.
HOME OF SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

The International Network of Financial Centres for Sustainability (FC4S) establishes its Secretariat in Geneva.

The foundation Nest begins to work as an independent pension fund focusing solely on investments with high environmental and social standards.

The association Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) is the first national finance platform uniting private and public sectors, as well as academia.

The world's first environmental efficiency fund, OekoSar by Sarasin, invests in environmentally and socially responsible companies.

The association Sustainable Finance Geneva promotes sustainable finance and responsible investment.

Sustainable Asset Management (known today as RobecoSAM) in Zurich is the first asset management company focusing exclusively on sustainable investing.

The Pictet Water Fund is the first to invest across the water value chain.
SOCIAL WELFARE FOR ALL

A PENSION SYSTEM
WITH THREE PILLARS

1. Old Age and Survivors Insurance, and Invalidity Insurance (mandatory)
2. Occupational pension (mandatory)
3. Private pension (voluntary)

The normal retirement age is 65 for men and 64 for women.

All persons residing in Switzerland are required to take out basic insurance against illness and accident. The individual is free to choose any insurer.

The Swiss healthcare system accounts for 12.2% of GDP. This is above the OECD average of 8.8% and is one of the most expensive in the world.

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: Federal Social Insurance Office (FSIO), Federal Statistical Office (FSO), ch.ch / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
>90% of all households have an internet connection.

Most-used social media and data services:
- WhatsApp: 74%
- YouTube: 64%
- Facebook: 60%
- Facebook Messenger: 32%
- Instagram: 32%
- LinkedIn: 17%

11.2 M mobile phones in Switzerland: on average 1.3 per person.

A computer scientist from CERN, just outside Geneva, invented the World Wide Web in 1989. Today, more than 20 international organisations are involved in overseeing and managing the internet in Geneva.
**WE ARE BIG IN MICROFINANCE**

Switzerland manages the largest share of microfinance assets worldwide and one third of global transboundary microfinance assets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CH</th>
<th>NL</th>
<th>DE</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>SE</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tr>
<td>34%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**BLENDED**

The Swiss Capacity Building Facility is a public-private development partnership to assist financial institutions scaling up their outreach to poor people in developing countries.

**2001**

BlueOrchard is the first fund manager specialising in microfinance worldwide. Founded in 2001 thanks to the joint effort of UN agencies and private bankers in Geneva.

**2003**

Launch of the responsAbility Global Microfinance Fund, an asset manager focusing on development investments and one of the first microfinance funds open to retail investors. Originally it was a public-private partnership with SECO and the SDC.

**2016**

Symbiotics, UBS and SECO went a step further than microfinance with the launch of a fund providing loans to “the missing middle” offering the capital required for SME business growth in developing countries.

© FDFA, Presence Switzerland and Sectoral Foreign Policies Division 2019 / Sources: State Secretariat for International Finance (SIF), Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF).
In 2017, the Swiss electorate approved a new energy law. This energy law is part of an innovative strategy which is to be implemented by 2050 and includes the phasing out of nuclear energy.

Grande-Dixence (Valais) is one of the highest dam in the world.

By 2035, average energy consumption per capita is to be reduced by 43%.

Hydroelectric power, which provides just under 60% of total electricity production, is the most important domestic source of renewable energy.

Energy consumption 2018:
- Traffic: 37.8%
- Services: 16.1%
- Industry: 18.1%
- Households: 27%

Energy sources:
- Petroleum: 39.8%
- Nuclear energy: 24.3%
- Hydroelectric power: 12.3%
- Gas: 10.9%
- Other: 12.7%

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WE ARE GOING FURTHER

In no other country in the world is rail travel more popular than in Switzerland, with each inhabitant covering an average of 2,400 km per year.

The Swiss transport network includes 1,384 km of mountain railways.

Around 170 passenger ships carry around 13 million passengers per year on Swiss lakes and rivers.

In 2018 almost 6.1 million motor vehicles were registered in Switzerland, including 4.6 million cars.

The Mobility car sharing cooperative is going from strength to strength. In 2018 it had 197,800 members, with 3,090 vehicles at 1,480 locations across the country.

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Federal Office of Transport (FOT), LITRA, Mobility / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
**WE CREATE VALUE ADDED**

**EXPos**

The largest shares of exported goods (2020):

- Chemical and pharmaceutical products: 52% exports
- Machinery and electronics: 13%
- Watches: 9%

**20.7 MILLION WATCHES**

Switzerland is a leading watch exporter. In 2020 it exported watch and clock products with a value of CHF 21.7 billion worldwide.

- Over 99% of registered businesses in Switzerland are SMEs with fewer than 250 staff.

**COFFEE**

In 2020, Switzerland exported some CHF 2.5 billion worth of coffee. This corresponds to an export share 3.8 times that of chocolate and 4 times that of cheese.

© FDFA, PRS 2021 / Sources: Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Federal Customs Administration (FCA) / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
WE INVEST IN THE FUTURE

A regular survey by Swiss Sustainable Finance shows an increase in interest for sustainable investments.

#1 Switzerland is the world's largest cross-border wealth management centre with a total of CHF 2.3 trillion in international assets.

TOP 10

Zurich and Geneva both ranked among the top green financial centres according to the Global Green Finance Index 3.

INITIATOR

By 2018 Swiss Re, the world's 2nd largest provider of reinsurance services, is among the first to apply Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) benchmarks to close to 100% of its USD 130 billion investment portfolio.
**FORESTS**

About one third of Swiss territory is woodland.

65,500 KM

= the total length of Swiss watercourses.

**PARK TO PARK**

19 parks of national importance have the “Swiss parks” label. They represent not just beautiful landscapes, rich biodiversity and high-quality cultural assets, but are also model regions of sustainable development.

**65,500 KM**

= the total length of Swiss watercourses.

**FORESTS**

About one third of Swiss territory is woodland.

The largest Swiss glacier the Aletsch Glacier with over 20 km long, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage “Jungfrau-Aletsch”.

46,000

plant, fungus and animal species are present in Switzerland. 3,800 of them feature on the red list of threatened and extinct species.

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### CLEANTECH CHAMPION

**SOLAR**

- **1st round the world solar flight**
  - [Solar Impulse by Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg](#)
  - 4.5% of Swiss GDP is from cleantech.

- **NEARLY 100% of rail transport powered by renewables**
  - [SolarStratos by Raphaël Domjan](#)

**EXPORT**

- Main export markets for Swiss cleantech startups in 2019:
  - 50% Europe
  - 27% US
  - 17% China

- **10X INCREASE in 3 years in the funds raised by cleantech startups**
  - 2016 USD 30 million
  - 2019 USD 375 million

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IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

5 NEIGHBOURS
Switzerland shares its borders with Italy, France, Germany, Austria and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

> 2/3
of the total population lives in the Swiss Plateau region, which covers 30% of Switzerland’s surface area.

The Alps cover 60% of Switzerland’s total surface area, but only 11% of the population lives there.

> 1,500
lakes in Switzerland.

Approx. 23% of Switzerland’s surface area is over 2,000 m above sea level.

EUROPE’S ‘WATER TOWER’
The sources of the Rhine, Rhône, Ticino (Po) and Inn (Danube) are found in Switzerland.

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© FDFA, PRS 2021 / Source: Federal Office of Topography (swisstopo), Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
CATTLE

In Switzerland there are more than 650,000 cows. Popular breeds are the Fleckvieh, Braunvieh and Holsteiner. The cow fights in the canton of Valais feature cows of the Eringer breed.

PAWS

The lynx was reintroduced 50 years ago. Since 1995, from time to time wolves have crossed over the mountains into Switzerland and since 2005 bears have also been spotted.

CATS + DOGS

One in every 17 households has a dog and one in four has at least one cat.

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Association for pet food (VHN), swissmilk
For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
**OUR FUTURE BEGINS TODAY**

**RECYCLING**
The Swiss are world leaders.
- 94% of glass
- 94% of aluminium
- 86% of steel
- 82% PET bottles
- 63% of batteries

**COMPOST**
About 1.7 million tonnes of biogenic waste are produced annually. Almost half of this is collected separately and recycled by composting or fermentation.

**WASTE**
0% of municipal waste is stored in landfills.
- 125,900 t of electronic appliances
- 55,438 t of textiles and shoes

**COMPOST**
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© FDFA, PRS 2021 / Sources: Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Swiss Recycling / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
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<td><strong>Edelweiss</strong></td>
<td>This flower, whose name translates as “noble-white” is a symbol of Swiss identity.</td>
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<td><strong>Gentian</strong></td>
<td>The blue gentian is one of the most popular Swiss alpine flowers. Schnapps is distilled from the roots of the yellow gentian.</td>
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<td><strong>Alpine Rose</strong></td>
<td>The bright red flowers of the alpine rose can be seen from a great distance, especially above the tree line.</td>
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<td><strong>White Narcissi</strong></td>
<td>Their blooms are known as “May snow” because they appear in such quantities that they carpet whole meadows above Montreux.</td>
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The Swiss mountains are a favourite setting of foreign film-makers. A significant proportion of international cargo transport between northern and southern Europe uses the Swiss Alpine rail and road tunnels. The Swiss mountains are a requirement of the Swiss Federal Constitution (Art. 84).

Protecting the Alpine region is a requirement of the Swiss Federal Constitution (Art. 84).

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Protecting the Alpine region is a requirement of the Swiss Federal Constitution (Art. 84).
Around one third of all drinking water does not require any treatment before it reaches consumers.

Most fountains in Switzerland are supplied with drinking water and are regularly monitored by the authorities.

Over 97% of private households are connected to a central waste water treatment plant. The entire sewer system measures 130,000 km = 3 times the circumference of the Earth.

Over 80% of drinking and service water comes from groundwater and springs.

Over 80% of Europe's fresh water reserves are in Switzerland.

Over 6% of Europe's fresh water reserves are in Switzerland.

Most fountains in Switzerland are supplied with drinking water and are regularly monitored by the authorities.
The Swiss Parliament (Federal Assembly) is the highest legislative authority at federal level. It is made up of 246 representatives elected by the people. They are from 12 parties and sit in two chambers. Since 1971 (when they obtained the right to vote) the proportion of women in National Council has risen from 5% to 42%.

The Federal Assembly is a semi-professional parliament, with most council members also pursuing a profession. The two chambers meet 4 times a year for 3 weeks each and at least once a year together. The sessions are open to the public.

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The parties with the most seats in Parliament:
- The Swiss People's Party (SVP)
- The Swiss Social Democratic Party (SP)
- The Liberals (FDP)
- Centre*
- Swiss Green Party (the Greens)

*Merger as of 01.01.2021 of BDP and CVP
ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL

POWER-SHARING

Switzerland's government (Federal Council) is a collegial body with seven members elected for a four-year term by Parliament. The Federal Chancellor acts as Chief of Staff of the Federal Council.

The members of the Federal Council usually belong to the political parties with the biggest electoral base and come from different linguistic regions.

PRIMUS INTER PARES

The President of the Swiss Confederation is elected for one year only and performs special ceremonial duties.

1984 was the first year in which a woman held a seat in the Federal Council. In 2010 there were more women than men in the Federal Council for the first time. Currently it is composed of four men and three women.

Each member of the Federal Council heads one of the seven departments of the Federal Administration.

The Federal Council is a collegial body in which the members share equal power.

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: The Swiss Confederation – a brief guide 2019, ch.ch, parliament.ch, bundesrat.ch / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
A WELL-BALANCED MECHANISM

Every canton has its own constitution, parliament, government and courts. About a fifth of communes have their own parliament, in particular the cities.

1+26+2,000=1

Power is shared by the federal government, the 26 cantons and around 2,000 communes.

Federalism is what allows the different aspects of Switzerland, with its four national languages and large geographical differences, to coexist. Federalism was one of the founding principles of the Swiss Confederation in 1848.

SUBSIDIARITY

The cantons and communes have authority over a wide range of matters (e.g. schools, hospitals, tax and policing) and a great deal of autonomy. The federal government only takes on tasks that the cantons and communes cannot manage alone.

© FDFA, PRS 2021 / Sources: The Swiss Confederation – a brief guide 2021, ch.ch / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
TITLE
FEDERAL PRESIDENCY

DATE
2021

FORMATS
Horizontal
Square

LANGUAGES
English
French
German
Italian
Spanish

DOWNLOAD

ECONOMY
ENVIRONMENT
POLITICS
SOCIETY
SCIENCE
SWITZERLAND-EUROPE

FEDERAL PRESIDENCY

ONE FOR ALL, ALL FOR ONE
One of a kind: Switzerland doesn’t have just one head of state, but seven!

FIRST AMONG EQUALS
The President of the Confederation is elected by Parliament for a term of one year. During this time, he or she remains formally equal to the other federal councillors. The role of president is assumed by each federal councillor on a rotational basis, according to the principle of seniority.

2022
Ignazio Cassis, head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, will assume the office of president in 2022.

DUTIES
The President of the Confederation:
- Chairs Federal Council meetings
- Represents Switzerland abroad
- Represents Switzerland at events at home
- Continues running his or her own department

© FIEA, Presse Schweiz, 2022 / Sources: Swiss government portal, Federal Chancellery
**GENEVA CONVENTIONS: A COMMON HUMANITY**

**HENRY DUNANT**

The Swiss citizen Henry Dunant first came up with the idea of creating an international convention to protect victims of war.

**12 AUGUST 1949**

Adoption of the 4 Geneva Conventions which protect wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of the armed forces (I & II), prisoners of war (III) and civilians (IV).

**429**

Is the total number of articles in the 4 Geneva Conventions.

**MILLIONS**

Of lives have been saved in hundreds of armed conflicts in the last 7 decades thanks to the 4 Geneva Conventions.

**WORLD-WIDE**

With 196 state parties, the 4 Geneva Conventions have been universally ratified.

The red cross is one of the distinctive emblems recognised by the First Geneva Convention and is formed by reversing the colours of the Swiss flag.

© FDFA, Presence Switzerland 2019 / Sources: International Committee of the Red Cross, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
No country can address the global challenges alone. Operating in International Geneva:

- the United Nations
- More than 40 international organisations
- Hundreds of NGOs
- About 180 UN Member states and observers and about 20 delegations of organisations such as the European Union, the Arab League and the African Union

In 10 km²
States, civil society, the private sector and scientific and research communities work together on finding global solutions.

19 Nobel prizes, most of them for Peace, have been awarded to personalities working for organizations based in Geneva or institutions linked to the city.

Geneva is internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in the following fields:
- peace, security and disarmament
- humanitarian action and human rights
- health
- labour, economic affairs, science and telecommunications
- sustainable development
Switzerland remains strongly engaged in mine action.

In 2020, Switzerland, as President of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, promoted the visibility of the Convention and elaborated a measurable and ambitious 2021-2025 Action Plan.

In 2020, Switzerland supported mine action projects in 11 countries.

It deployed 12 experts in 6 different countries.

Switzerland remains strongly engaged in mine action.

In 2020, Switzerland assisted more than 15,700 victims with medical support or by promoting income-generating activities.

In 2020, thanks to Switzerland's activities, more than 97,000 people learnt how to adopt safe behaviour.

Mine risk education prevents new accidents, saving lives and protecting the civilian population.

For more information, visit www.tdfa.admin.ch

© Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, 2021


Clearance activities reduce human suffering, allow access to land and enable economic activities.

As part of Switzerland's activities:

4,700 devices were found and destroyed;

Around 20 km² of land were handed back to the local communities.

Switzerland is committed to the full participation of mine victims in their societies.

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Clearance activities reduce human suffering, allow access to land and enable economic activities.

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Around 20 km² of land were handed back to the local communities.
As a neutral country, Switzerland does not take part in armed conflicts or military alliances. This neutrality is an important pillar of Swiss foreign policy.

Switzerland acts as a protective power for third countries that have broken off relations with another country. Switzerland currently fulfils 7 diplomatic and/or consular mandates of this type.

Switzerland is a member of seven international organisations: EFTA, Council of Europe, OSCE, OECD, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, UN.

HUMANITARIAN TRADITION

as host country to the International Committee of the Red Cross and depositary state of the Geneva Conventions of 1949:

- Emergency and reconstruction assistance in the event of natural disasters and armed conflicts
- Development assistance in countries and regions in need
- Supporting countries in their transition to democracy and the market economy
- Asylum for victims of political persecution
**DIRECT DEMOCRACY**

Switzerland is a direct democracy. Sovereignty resides with the people, who exercise supreme political power.

We have the final say

**PARTICIPATION**

Swiss citizens have comprehensive rights to participate in political life.

- Initiatives to amend the constitution: 100,000 signatures
- Optional referendums against new laws passed by Parliament: 50,000 signatures

There are 2 ways to cast your vote:

- at the ballot box
- by postal vote

Switzerland tops the world rankings for active political participation by citizens.

45.4% is the average voter turnout for federal votes.

The Swiss electorate votes up to 4 times a year on approximately 15 different federal popular votes.

Sources: Federal Chancellery, Federal Statistical Office, Swissvotes, V-Dem Institute

© Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Presence Switzerland 2022 / Source: Federal Chancellery, Federal Statistical Office, Swissvotes, V-Dem Institute

Find out more at www.aboutswitzerland.org
In Switzerland...

- About 10.3 kg of chocolate is eaten per person every year.
- There are more than 450 varieties of cheese.
- Approx. 250 varieties of grapevine are cultivated, of which 80 are unique to Switzerland.
- More than 400 types of bread are baked.

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Source: Landwirtschaft.ch, swisswine.ch, Culinary heritage of Switzerland / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
FRIEDRICH DÜRRENMATT

100th anniversary

Friedrich Dürrenmatt was born on 5 January 1921 in Emmental in the canton of Bern. He died on 14 December 1990 in Neuchâtel.

Swiss novelist, playwright, thinker and painter

His collected literary works comprise 37 volumes.

His books have sold millions and have been translated into 53 languages.

Painter and illustrator

Dürrenmatt's 1,700 pictorial works are displayed at his former home, now the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel.

Find out more at www.aboutswitzerland.org

© FDFA, Presence Switzerland, 2021

Sources:
– Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

Download

Friedrich Dürrenmatt was hugely successful on theatre stages worldwide...and had countless works made into films.
GOOD DESIGN BY TRADITION

Garden furniture made from fibre cement, e.g. looping beach chair by Willy Guhl, 1954.

Swiss railway station clock by Hans Hilfiker

FRUTIGER and HELVETICA are classic typefaces.

Swiss Army knife by Victorinox

Nespresso capsules

Stackable “Landi” chair by Hans Coray, 1939

Swatches

In 1947 the peeler by Zena revolutionised the world of cooking.

Message bags made out of old truck tarpaulins by Freitag

In 1947 the peeler by Zena revolutionised the world of cooking.

Switzerland-Europe
Let's speak Romansh!

Grischun

In the only canton where Romansh is spoken, in addition to German and Italian, Switzerland has four official languages:

60'000 people speak Romansh in Switzerland.
1 MIO people speak Romansh in Switzerland and Italy.

© Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Presence Switzerland 2021 / Source: Lia Rumantscha

Article 70 of the Federal Constitution requires the Confederation and the cantons to preserve and promote linguistic minorities.

On this day, the Swiss electorate recognised Romansh as their fourth national language.

20.02.1938

Allegra

62.1%
German
22.8%
French
8%
Italian
0.5%
Romansh

© Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Presence Switzerland 2021 / Source: Lia Rumantscha

Grischun

Rumantsch Grischun is the pan-regional written language created based on the different spoken varieties.

60'000 people speak Romansh in Switzerland.
1 MIO people speak Romansh in Switzerland and Italy.

© Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Presence Switzerland 2021 / Source: Lia Rumantscha

Switzerland has four national languages:

SURSILVAN
SURMIRAN
PUTER
VALLADER

5 is the number of regional varieties that make up Switzerland’s fourth national language: Sursilvan, Sutsilvan, Surmiran, Puter and Vallader.

© Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Presence Switzerland 2021 / Source: Lia Rumantscha

On this day, the Swiss electorate recognised Romansh as their fourth national language.

20.02.1938

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62.1%
German
22.8%
French
8%
Italian
0.5%
Romansh

© Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Presence Switzerland 2021 / Source: Lia Rumantscha

Grubünden is the only canton where Romansh is spoken, in addition to German and Italian.

© Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Presence Switzerland 2021 / Source: Lia Rumantscha

Rumantsch Grischun is the pan-regional written language created based on the different spoken varieties.

© Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Presence Switzerland 2021 / Source: Lia Rumantscha

Source

Lia Rumantscha
© Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Presence Switzerland 2021
Our National Sports

**Winter**

Skiing is a popular sport and part of mass tourism. There are over 7,000 km of marked ski runs in Switzerland. This corresponds to the distance between Bern and New Delhi.

**Hill-walking**

Switzerland has about 65,000 km of hiking trails.

**Gymnastics**

With a membership of over 370,000, the Swiss Gymnastics Federation is the biggest sporting association in the country.

**Hosenlupf**

In traditional Swiss wrestling – a contest between two fighters on sawdust – the winner is the one who manages to force his opponent onto his back. Swiss wrestling events attract thousands of spectators.

**Football**

Football is the most popular sport. Every weekend approximately 10,000 football matches take place in Switzerland.

**Skiing**

Skiing is a popular sport and part of mass tourism. There are over 7,000 km of marked ski runs in Switzerland. This corresponds to the distance between Bern and New Delhi.

For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org

© FDFA, PB 2019 / Sources: Eidgenössischer Schwingerverband, swisstopo.ch, Swiss Olympic, Swiss Hiking Federation, Federal Office of Sport (FOSPO)

Download
**PARLIAMO ITALIANO!**

Italian is one of our 4 national languages and is officially spoken in the cantons of Ticino and Graubünden.

...but more than 50% of Italian-speakers live in other cantons.

The 3rd largest community of Italians abroad lives in Switzerland.

62.1% German
22.8% French
8% Italian
0.5% Romansh

**Ci vediamo!**

**Sa vedum!**

Article 70 of the Federal Constitution strengthens linguistic minorities.

Università della Svizzera italiana in Lugano is the only Italian-speaking university outside Italy.

We have a variety of dialects.

© FDFA, Presence Switzerland, 2021 / Sources: Federal Statistical Office, Società Dante Alighieri
SPORTING CHAMPIONS

FOOTBALL
The national football team features regularly in the final rounds of the World Cup.

ICE
The national ice hockey teams as well as the top national men's and women's curling teams are among the world's best.

SNOW
Swiss winter sports athletes feature regularly among the winners of international competitions, especially in the disciplines of alpine skiing and snowboarding.

FEDERER & CO.
Roger Federer and Stan Wawrinka occupy top positions in the tennis world rankings. Federer, the world's best known Swiss athlete, holds the world record in men's singles with 20 Grand Slam victories. Martina Hingis has an impressive collection of 25 Grand Slam titles, including 5 singles, 13 doubles and 7 mixed titles.

Approximately 50 international sports federations have their headquarters in Switzerland, e.g. the IOC in Lausanne and FIFA in Zurich.

Swiss winter sports athletes feature regularly among the winners of international competitions, especially in the disciplines of alpine skiing and snowboarding.

The national ice hockey teams as well as the top national men's and women's curling teams are among the world's best.

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: Swiss Olympic, WTA, FIS, IIHF, Swiss Curling, FIFA / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
The Swiss Guard has been in the service of the Pope in the Vatican for over 500 years. To meet the rising demand, it is currently increasing its ranks from 110 to 135.

ACRITER ET FIDELITER
(Fiercely and faithfully) is the motto of the Swiss Guard.

The new helmets of the Swiss Guard are made with 3-D printers and weigh just 570 grammes (without ostrich feathers).

Swiss Guard uniforms are tailor-made and consist of over 120 pieces.

Since 1825 the Swiss Guards have come from the canton of Valais.

The halberd is a multi-purpose weapon – a sort of ancestor of the Swiss army knife.

Since 1825 most Swiss Guards have come from the canton of Valais.

The Swiss Guard has been in the service of the Pope in the Vatican for over 500 years. To meet the rising demand, it is currently increasing its ranks from 110 to 135.

Swiss Guard uniforms are tailor-made and consist of over 120 pieces.

The halberd is a multi-purpose weapon – a sort of ancestor of the Swiss army knife.
63% of Swiss nationals residing abroad live in a European country. Most live in France, Germany or Italy.

> 650

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) has more than 650 Swiss associations worldwide.

Every year approximately 30,000 Swiss nationals go abroad to live, work, study or spend their retirement.

11% of Swiss citizens live abroad. In 2020 they numbered 776,300.

Asia: 7%
Europe: 63%
Africa: 2%
Oceania: 4%
South America: 8%
North America: 16%

> 65 years
22.2% (172,500)
18-65 years
56.7% (440,000)
< 18 years
21.1% (163,800)
30,000

© FDFA, PRS 2021 / Sources: Federal Statistical Office (FOS), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
### WE ARE SWITZERLAND

#### 8,544,527 inhabitants

- **1/4** Switzerland is one of Europe’s nations with the highest proportion of foreign residents – currently 2.1 million.

#### Foreign nationals by country of origin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosovo</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **The Swiss population has more than doubled since the start of the 20th century.**

- **83.6 YEARS** Switzerland has the second highest life expectancy, after Japan, of all countries in the world.

- **Life expectancy:**
  - **women**: 85.4 years
  - **men**: 81.7 years

- **Most people live in urban areas.**

---

#### TOP 5

- **Foreign nationals by country of origin:**
  - **Italy**: 14.9%
  - **Germany**: 14.3%
  - **Portugal**: 12.3%
  - **France**: 6.3%
  - **Kosovo**: 5.2%

---

#### 83.6 YEARS

Switzerland has the second highest life expectancy, after Japan, of all countries in the world.

Life expectancy:

- **women**: 85.4 years
- **men**: 81.7 years

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© FDFA, PRS 2021 / Sources: Federal Statistical Office (FSO), OECD / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
WE BELIEVE IN FREEDOM OF RELIGION

The Reformation in Switzerland in the 16th century began with Huldrych Zwingli in Zurich and Jean Calvin in Geneva.

The Swiss Guard has protected the Pope and his residence since 1506.

Religious freedom is a fundamental right in Switzerland and is enshrined in the Federal Constitution.

The Reformation in Switzerland in the 16th century began with Huldrych Zwingli in Zurich and Jean Calvin in Geneva.

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© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: Federal Statistical Office (FOS), Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
WE SPEAK SWISS

Romansh is a language from the Rhaeto-Romance family, derived from Latin.

4 LANGUAGES
Switzerland has 4 national languages.

24.3%
of the population do not have one of the four national languages as main language.

DIALECTS
“Swiss German” is a term that covers a large variety of Alemannic dialects.

English and Portuguese are the most commonly spoken foreign languages in Switzerland.

Swiss German consists of a variety of distinct dialects.

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Source: Federal Statistical Office (FSO) / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
**CYBATHLON: A UNIQUE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**GLOBAL EDITION 2020**
- More than 50 teams
- 20 participating countries
- 150 races held locally

2016
Switzerland held the world’s first Cybathlon, initiated by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich – ETH.

6 DISCIPLINES
- Brain Computer Interface
- Electrical Stimulation Bike
- Powered Wheelchair
- Powered Arm Prosthesis
- Powered Leg Prosthesis
- Powered Exoskeleton

© FDFA, Presence Switzerland, 2020 / Source: ETH Zurich

At the Cybathlon people with physical disabilities complete everyday tasks using state-of-the-art technical assistance.
2018 © FDFA, Presence Switzerland / Sources: Federal Office of Civil Aviation, NCCR Robotics, Drone Industry Association Switzerland, Swiss Post, Skyguide, Flyability

THE DRONE ECOSYSTEM IN SWITZERLAND

**2018**

Creation of the Drone Industry Association Switzerland.

**14.09.17**

Europe's first live demonstration of the digital airspace management platform U-space by Skyguide in Geneva.

**NCCR**

The National Centre of Competence in Research Robotics, brings together 20 professors, over 100 researchers and 4 universities – including the EPFL and ETH Zurich.

**> 80**

Companies in Switzerland with more than 2,500 jobs.

**1ST**

medical delivery service worldwide launched by Swiss Post for business customers in Lugano.
SWISS-MADE CONTACT TRACING COVID APP: OPERATIVE AND DATA SAFE

IN USE
Around 15,000 beta users are testing the app during the current pilot phase.

INNOVATIVE
The SwissCovid app was jointly developed by the Swiss federal institutes of technology in Lausanne and Zurich (EPFL and ETHZ) and Swiss tech company Ubique.

WERLDWIDE
Switzerland is the first country in the world to use APIs from Google and Apple for its contact tracing app.

SAFE
The SwissCovid app lets you know if you have been closer than 2m for more than 15 minutes to someone tested positive for the coronavirus.

TRUSTED
70% of the population welcome the app; around 59% plan to install it. After the test phase, parliament will decide if the SwissCovid app can be introduced.

RESPONSIBLE
If a person gets tested positive, they can enter an activation code in the app and warn other app-users.

ANONYMOUS
Data is only stored on your smartphone.

TRANSPARENT
The SwissCovid app is open source.
In 2017, Switzerland spent over CHF 22.5 billion on research and development. Private business (esp. the pharmaceuticals, chemicals and technology sectors) and the higher education sector are the major actors.

Higher education institutions: 28%  Private sector: 69%

At 3.4% of GDP, Switzerland's spending on research and development in 2017 was among the highest in the world:

South Korea 4.6%  Israel 4.5%  Switzerland 3.4%  Sweden 3.3%  Japan 3.2%  Total OECD: 2.4%

DOCTORATES

3.2% of Swiss age cohorts obtain a doctorate, which is the second highest rate within the OECD (after Slovenia).

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: Federal Statistical Office (FSO), State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), OECD educationtoday / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
**WE ARE A NATION OF SCIENTISTS**

23 scientists with Swiss citizenship have won the Nobel Prize in the natural sciences and in medicine.

In relative terms, Switzerland is the most prolific producer of publications in the world, with 4,286 publications per million inhabitants.

In international rankings, Swiss universities are always very well placed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>EPFL</th>
<th>ETHZ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QS Ranking 2020</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Times Ranking 2019</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWTS Leiden Ranking</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total no. of students (2018/19):
- Universities 118,558
- ETH/EPF 32,534
- FH 78,477

© FDFA, PRS 2019 / Sources: State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) / For more, visit aboutswitzerland.org
Every day nearly 350,000 EU cross-border commuters come to work in Switzerland.

Switzerland is located in the heart of Europe and is almost entirely surrounded by member states of the European Union.

> 100 AGREEMENTS

Switzerland has more than 100 agreements with the EU. The EU has more agreements with Switzerland than with any other third country.

56% of Switzerland's total foreign trade is conducted with the EU-27 (around CHF 230 billion).

DE + FR + IT
Switzerland is located in the heart of Europe and is almost entirely surrounded by member states of the European Union.

440,000 Swiss citizen live, study or work in EU countries.

1,400,000 EU/EFTA/UK citizens live in Switzerland.

Every day nearly 350,000 cross-border commuters come to work in Switzerland.

EU main commercial partners (trade in goods):
1. China
2. USA
3. UK
4. Switzerland (n°3 for services)

SWITZERLAND-EUROPE
**WIN-WIN SITUATION**

**CHF 1 BILLION**

Per day is the total amount of trade in goods between Switzerland and the EU.

**TOP 4**

Switzerland is one of the EU's four biggest trading partners alongside the US, China and the UK.

- 56% of Switzerland's total foreign trade is conducted with the EU-27 (around CHF 230 billion).

**Nearly 350,000 cross-border commuters come to work in Switzerland every day.**

440,000 Swiss nationals live in the EU and about 1.4 million EU citizens live in Switzerland.

56% of Switzerland's total foreign trade is conducted with the EU-27 (around CHF 230 billion).

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