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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	229.guide . . . . .	1
1.2	229.guide/Switzerland . . . . .	1
1.3	229.guide/Geography (Switzerland) . . . . .	2
1.4	229.guide/People (Switzerland) . . . . .	3
1.5	229.guide/Government (Switzerland) . . . . .	4
1.6	229.guide/Government (Switzerland 2. usage) . . . . .	5
1.7	229.guide/Economy (Switzerland) . . . . .	6
1.8	229.guide/Economy (Switzerland 2. usage) . . . . .	8
1.9	229.guide/Communications (Switzerland) . . . . .	8
1.10	229.guide/Defense Forces (Switzerland) . . . . .	9

# Chapter 1

## 229

### 1.1 229.guide

Texified version of data for Switzerland.

Texified using wfact from

Gerhard Leibrock  
Neuhäuselerstr. 12  
D-66459 Kirkel  
Germany

Tel.: 06849 / 6134  
INTERNET: leibrock@fsinfo.cs.uni-sb.de  
fach5@cipsol.cs.uni-sb.de

Project Gutenberg

P. O. Box 2782

Champaign, IL 61825

When all other email fails try our Michael S. Hart, Executive  
Director:

hart@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu (internet)    hart@uiucvmd (bitnet)

We would prefer to send you this information by email (Internet,  
Bitnet, Compuserve, ATTMAIL or MCImail).

Switzerland

### 1.2 229.guide/Switzerland

Switzerland  
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Geography (Switzerland)  
 People (Switzerland)  
 Government (Switzerland)  
 Government (Switzerland 2. usage)  
 Economy (Switzerland)  
 Economy (Switzerland 2. usage)  
 Communications (Switzerland)  
 Defense Forces (Switzerland)

### 1.3 229.guide/Geography (Switzerland)

Geography (Switzerland)  
 =====

Location:  
     Western Europe, between France and Austria  
 Map references:  
     Europe, Standard Time Zones of the World  
 Area:  
     total area:  
         41,290 km<sup>2</sup>  
     land area:  
         39,770 km<sup>2</sup>  
     comparative area:  
         slightly more than twice the size of New Jersey  
 Land boundaries:  
     total 1,852 km, Austria 164 km, France 573 km, Italy 740 km, Liechtenstein  
     41 km, Germany 334 km  
 Coastline:  
     0 km (landlocked)  
 Maritime claims:  
     none; landlocked  
 International disputes:  
     none  
 Climate:  
     temperate, but varies with altitude; cold, cloudy, rainy/snowy winters; ←  
         cool  
     to warm, cloudy, humid summers with occasional showers  
 Terrain:  
     mostly mountains (Alps in south, Jura in northwest) with a central plateau  
     of rolling hills, plains, and large lakes  
 Natural resources:  
     hydropower potential, timber, salt  
 Land use:  
     arable land:  
         10%  
     permanent crops:  
         1%  
     meadows and pastures:  
         40%  
     forest and woodland:

26%  
 other:  
 23%  
 Irrigated land:  
 250 km2 (1989)  
 Environment:  
 dominated by Alps  
 Note:  
 landlocked; crossroads of northern and southern Europe; along with  
 southeastern France and northern Italy, contains the highest elevations in  
 Europe

## 1.4 229.guide/People (Switzerland)

People (Switzerland)

=====

Population:  
 6,986,621 (July 1993 est.)  
 Population growth rate:  
 0.83% (1993 est.)  
 Birth rate:  
 12.37 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Death rate:  
 9.24 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Net migration rate:  
 5.13 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)  
 Infant mortality rate:  
 6.6 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)  
 Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
 77.99 years  
 male:  
 74.6 years  
 female:  
 81.54 years (1993 est.)  
 Total fertility rate:  
 1.6 children born/woman (1993 est.)  
 Nationality:  
 noun:  
 Swiss (singular and plural)  
 adjective:  
 Swiss  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 total population:  
 German 65%  
 French 18%, Italian 10%, Romansch 1%, other 6%  
 Swiss nationals:  
 German 74%  
 French 20%, Italian 4%, Romansch 1%, other 1%  
 Religions:  
 Roman Catholic 47.6%, Protestant 44.3%, other 8.1% (1980)  
 Languages:

---

German 65%, French 18%, Italian 12%, Romansch 1%, other 4%

note:

these are figures for Swiss nationals only -

German 74%, French 20%, Italian 4%, Romansch 1%, other 1%

Literacy:

age 15 and over can read and write (1980)

total population:

99%

male:

NA%

female:

NA%

Labor force:

3.31 million (904,095 foreign workers, mostly Italian)

by occupation:

services 50%, industry and crafts 33%, government 10%, agriculture and forestry 6%, other 1% (1989)

## 1.5 229.guide/Government (Switzerland)

Government (Switzerland)

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Names:

conventional long form:

Swiss Confederation

conventional short form:

Switzerland

local long form:

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft (German) Confederation Suisse (French)

Confederazione Svizzera (Italian)

local short form:

Schweiz (German) Suisse (French) Svizzera (Italian)

Digraph:

SZ

Type:

federal republic

Capital:

Bern

Administrative divisions:

26 cantons (cantons, singular - canton in French; cantoni, singular - cantone in Italian; kantone, singular - kanton in German); Aargau, Ausser-Rhoden, Basel-Landschaft, Basel-Stadt, Bern, Fribourg, Geneve, Glarus, Graubunden, Inner-Rhoden, Jura, Luzern, Neuchatel, Nidwalden, Obwalden, Sankt Gallen, Schaffhausen, Schwyz, Solothurn, Thurgau, Ticino, Uri, Valais, Vaud, Zug, Zurich

Independence:

1 August 1291

Constitution:

29 May 1874

Legal system:

civil law system influenced by customary law; judicial review of ↔ legislative

acts, except with respect to federal decrees of general obligatory character; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction, with reservations  
National holiday:

Anniversary of the Founding of the Swiss Confederation, 1 August (1291)

Political parties and leaders:

Free Democratic Party (FDP), Bruno HUNZIKER, president; Social Democratic Party (SPS), Helmut HUBACHER, chairman; Christian Democratic People's Party (CVP), Eva SEGMULLER-WEBER, chairman; Swiss People's Party (SVP), Hans UHLMANN, president; Green Party (GPS), Peter SCHMID, president; Automobile Party (AP), DREYER; Alliance of Independents' Party (LdU), Dr. Franz JAEGER ←

,  
president; Swiss Democratic Party (SD), NA; Evangelical People's Party (EVP), Max DUNKI, president; Workers' Party (PdA; Communist), Jean SPIELMANN, general secretary; Ticino League, leader NA; Liberal Party (LPS) ←

,  
Gilbert COUTAU, president

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

Council of States:

last held throughout 1991 (next to be held NA 1995); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (46 total) FDP 18, CVP 16, SVP 4, SPS 3, LPS 3, LdU 1, Ticino League 1

National Council:

last held 20 October 1991 (next to be held NA October 1995); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (200 total) FDP 44, SPS 42, CVP 37, ← SVP

25, GPS 14, LPS 10, AP 8, LdU 6, SD 5, EVP 3, PdA 2, Ticino League 2, other 2

Executive branch:

president, vice president, Federal Council (German - Bundesrat, French - Conseil Federal, Italian - Consiglio Federale)

## 1.6 229.guide/Government (Switzerland 2. usage)

Government (Switzerland 2. usage)

=====

Legislative branch:

bicameral Federal Assembly (German - Bundesversammlung, French - Assemblée Federale, Italian - Assemblea Federale) consists of an upper council or Council of States (German - Ständerat, French - Conseil des Etats, Italian ←

-  
Consiglio degli Stati) and a lower council or National Council (German - Nationalrat, French - Conseil National, Italian - Consiglio Nazionale)

Judicial branch:

Federal Supreme Court

Leaders:

Chief of State and Head of Government:

President Adolf OGI (1993 calendar year; presidency rotates annually); Vice President Otto STICH (term runs concurrently with that of president)

Member of:

AfDB, AG (observer), AsDB, Australian Group, BIS, CCC, CE, CERN, COCOM



(cooperating country), CSCE, EBRD, ECE, EFTA, ESA, FAO, G-8, G-10, GATT, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IEA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LORCS, MINURSO, MTRC, NAM (guest), NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, PCA, UN (observer), UNCTAD, UNESCO ↔

UNHCR, UNIDO, UNPROFOR, UNTSO, UPU, WCL, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

Diplomatic representation in US:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Edouard BRUNNER

chancery:

2900 Cathedral Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008

telephone:

(202) 745-7900

FAX:

(202) 387-2564

consulates general:

Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco

US diplomatic representation:

chief of mission:

Ambassador Joseph B. GILDENHORN

embassy:

Jubilaeumstrasse 93, 3005 Bern

mailing address:

use embassy street address

telephone:

[41] (31) 437-011

FAX:

[41] (31) 437-344

branch office:

Geneva

consulate general:

Zurich

Flag: red square with a bold, equilateral white cross in the center that does not extend to the edges of the flag ↔

## 1.7 229.guide/Economy (Switzerland)

Economy (Switzerland)

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Overview:

Switzerland's economy - one of the most prosperous and stable in the world ↔  
-

is nonetheless undergoing a painful adjustment after both the inflationary boom of the late-1980s and the electorate's rejection late last year of membership in the European Economic Area. Stubborn inflation and a soft economy have afflicted Switzerland. Despite slow growth in 1991-92, the Swiss central bank had been unable to ease monetary policy in the past ↔  
three

years because of the threat to the Swiss franc posed by high German ↔  
interest

rates. As a result, unemployment is forecast to rise from 3% in 1992 to ←  
 more  
 than 4% in 1993, with inflation moving down from 4% to 3%. The voters' rejection in December 1992 of a referendum on membership in the EEA which was supported by most political, business, and financial leaders has raised doubts that the country can maintain its preeminent prosperity and leadership in commercial banking in the 21st century. Despite these problems, Swiss per capita output, general living standards, education and science, health care, and diet remain unsurpassed in Europe. The country ←  
 has  
 few natural resources except for the scenic natural beauty that has made it a world leader in tourism. Management-labor relations remain generally harmonious.

National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$152.3 billion (1992)

National product real growth rate:

-0.6% (1992)

National product per capita:

\$22,300 (1992)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

4.1% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

3% (1992 est.)

Budget:

revenues \$24.0 billion; expenditures \$23.8 billion, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1990)

Exports:

\$62.2 billion (f.o.b., 1991 est.)

commodities:

machinery and equipment, precision instruments, metal products, foodstuffs, textiles and clothing

partners:

Western Europe 64% (EC countries 56%, other 8%), US 9%, Japan 4%

Imports:

\$68.5 billion (c.i.f., 1991 est.)

commodities:

agricultural products, machinery and transportation equipment, chemicals, textiles, construction materials

partners:

Western Europe 78% (EC countries 71%, other 7%), US 6%

External debt:

\$NA

Industrial production: growth rate 0.4% (1991 est.)

Electricity:

17,710,000 kW capacity; 56,000 million kWh produced, 8,200 kWh per capita (1992)

Industries:

machinery, chemicals, watches, textiles, precision instruments

Agriculture:

dairy farming predominates; less than 50% self-sufficient in food; must import fish, refined sugar, fats and oils (other than butter), grains, eggs ←  
 ,  
 fruits, vegetables, meat

## 1.8 229.guide/Economy (Switzerland 2. usage)

Economy (Switzerland 2. usage)

=====

Economic aid:

donor - ODA and OOF commitments (1970-89), \$3.5 billion

Currency:

1 Swiss franc, franken, or franco (SwF) = 100 centimes, rappen, or ↵  
centesimi

Exchange rates:

Swiss francs, franken, or franchi (SwF) per US\$1 - 1.4781 (January 1993),  
1.4062 (1992), 1.4340 (1991), 1.3892 (1990), 1.6359 (1989), 1.4633 (1988)

Fiscal year:

calendar year

## 1.9 229.guide/Communications (Switzerland)

Communications (Switzerland)

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Railroads:

4,418 km total; 3,073 km are government owned and 1,345 km are ↵  
nongovernment

owned; the government network consists of 2,999 km 1.435-meter standard  
gauge and 74 km 1.000-meter narrow gauge track; 1,432 km double track, 99%  
electrified; the nongovernment network consists of 510 km 1.435-meter  
standard gauge, and 835 km 1.000-meter gauge, 100% electrified

Highways:

62,145 km total (all paved); 18,620 km are canton, 1,057 km are national  
highways (740 km autobahn), 42,468 km are communal roads

Inland waterways:

65 km; Rhine (Basel to Rheinfelden, Schaffhausen to Bodensee); 12 navigable  
lakes

Pipelines:

crude oil 314 km, natural gas 1,506 km

Ports:

Basel (river port)

Merchant marine:

23 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 308,725 GRT/548,244 DWT; includes 5  
cargo, 2 roll-on/roll-off cargo, 5 chemical tanker, 2 specialized tanker, 8  
bulk, 1 oil tanker

Airports:

total:

66

usable:

65

with permanent-surface runways:

42 with runways over 3,659 m:

2

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

5  
with runways 1,220-2,439 m:  
18  
Telecommunications:  
excellent domestic, international, and broadcast services; 5,890,000  
telephones; extensive cable and microwave networks; broadcast stations - 7  
AM, 265 FM, 18 (1,322 repeaters) TV; communications satellite earth station  
operating in the INTELSAT (Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean) system

## 1.10 229.guide/Defense Forces (Switzerland)

Defense Forces (Switzerland)

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Branches:

Army (Air Force is part of the Army), Frontier Guards, Fortification Guards

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 1,852,213; fit for military service 1,590,308; reach  
military age (20) annually 44,124 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$3.5 billion, 1.7% of GDP (1993 est.)