

Switzerland – A Prime Biotechnology and Business Location



'Europe's biotech landscape is changing dramatically for the better... Switzerland is one of the locomotives driving this change.'

Ernst & Young

Switzerland is located at the crossroads of Western Europe. It lies at the heart of one of the world's leading biotechnology regions, which also encompasses the neighboring parts of France, Germany and Italy. Anchored by world-class research of home-based multinationals, Novartis, Roche, Serono and Syngenta, the Swiss biotech industry is among the largest and most diversified in Europe. This enviable position is reinforced by cutting edge research carried out in a large and growing network of small and medium-sized biotech companies throughout the country.

In Switzerland, the very favorable socio-economic climate goes hand in hand with a high quality of life environment

Swiss Biotechnology on the Web

www.bioweb.ch

Window to Swiss Biotechnology
Categorized links

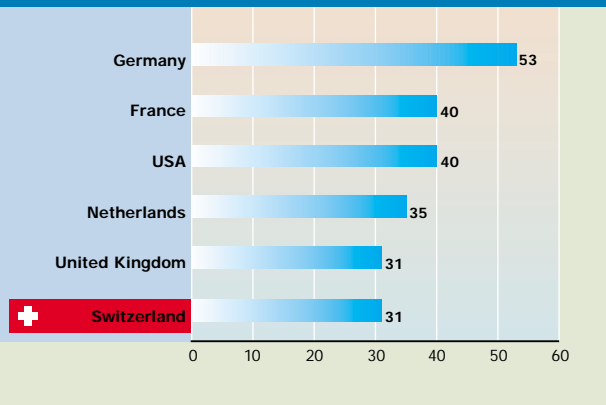




The remarkable dynamism of the Swiss biotechnology sector is propelled by the favorable investment and business conditions, which make Switzerland a first-rate location for biotechnology companies

- low corporate and individual taxes
- highly productive and skilled workforce
- liberal regulatory framework and effective administration
- excellent infrastructure
- attractive incentives and public support
- high quality of life

Maximum Corporate Tax Rates (as Percentage of Profit)



Source: The World Competitiveness Yearbook 2000

A Low Tax Regime

in Switzerland is the reward for productivity, entrepreneurship and hard work. Swiss corporate and personal income taxes are among the lowest in Europe and lower than in the United States or Canada. At 7.5%, the value-added tax rate (VAT) is the lowest in Europe.

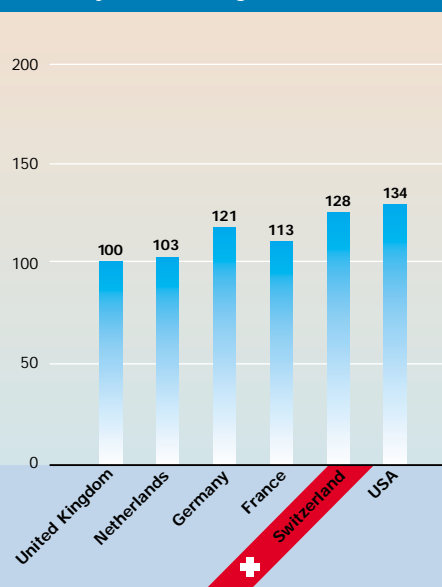
Highly Skilled Labor

is readily available for biotechnology firms, from laboratory technicians to industrial engineers and from secretaries to sales managers and internationally experienced executives. Whenever specific skills can't be found on the domestic labor market, work permits are easily obtainable to bring in foreign specialists, researchers and managers. Language skills nationwide are excellent. English is widely used in science and business. In international competitiveness surveys, Swiss managers consistently rank first for their international business experience and emphasis on quality management.

High Productivity

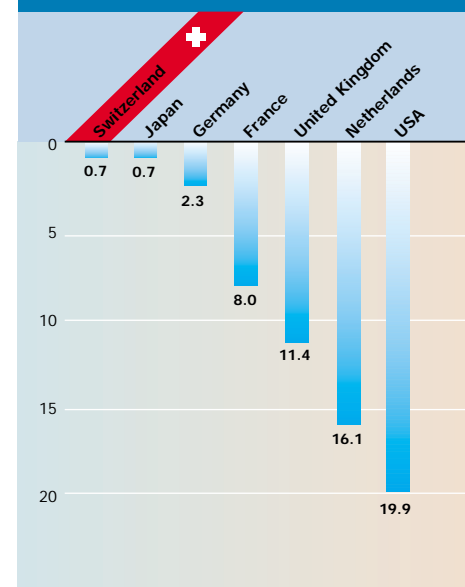
is one of the hallmarks of Switzerland's workforce. Swiss employees work longer hours per year than their colleagues in most industrialized countries. Strikes are virtually unknown. Together with low social security contributions, the strong work ethic and high quality-consciousness of Swiss employees, the overall cost of doing business in Switzerland is competitive.

Index of Productivity per Employee in Industry (United Kingdom = 100)



Source: The World Competitiveness Yearbook 2000

Working Days Lost (per 1000 Inhabitants per Year)



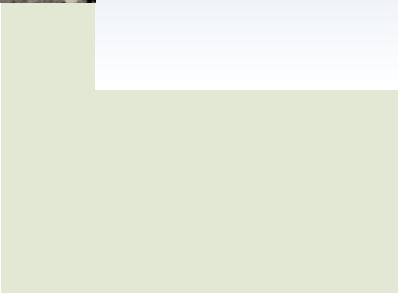


The High Quality-of-Life in Switzerland complements the favorable investment and business climate. Switzerland offers all members of international companies and their families excellent health and educational systems, as well as a secure political and social environment.



Infrastructure and business services are first-rate. Sophisticated telecommunication networks, reliable public transportation systems, and three international airports with easy connections to anywhere in the world are amenities that facilitate doing business. The world's leading financial institutions provide access to project financing, including venture capital.

Special Incentives and public support, such as tax breaks, guarantees and contributions towards interest payments, are available in many regions of Switzerland. They complement the overall favorable business conditions for long-term productive investment in Switzerland.

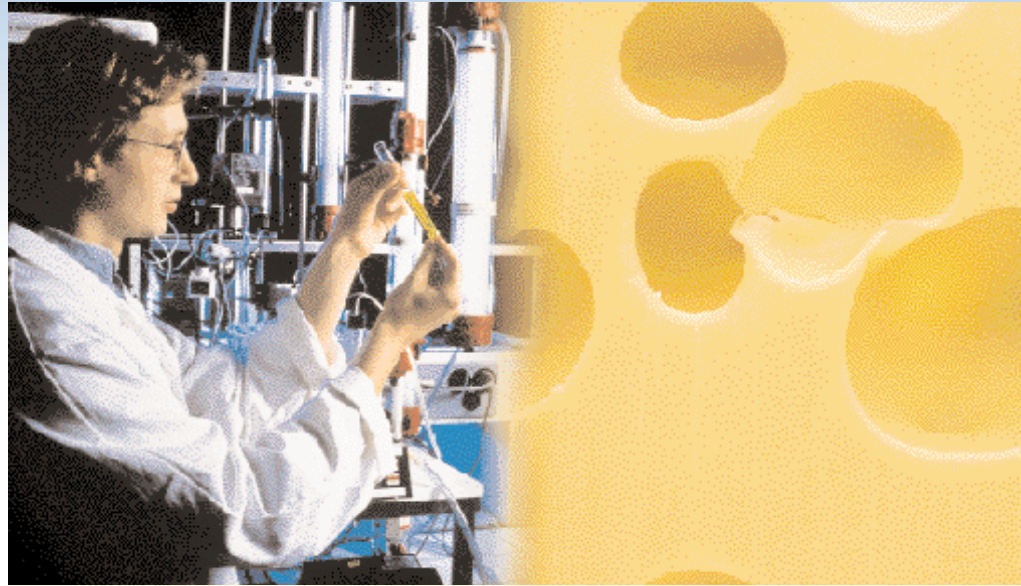


A Liberal Regulatory Environment and an effective administration stand for the Swiss Government's commitment to a pro-business, market-oriented approach for business and foreign direct investment. Laws are designed to encourage entrepreneurial dynamism and technological excellence within a politically stable and predictable framework.

The costs of administration are low in Switzerland. Over the past few years, the Swiss Government undertook strong efforts to streamline the regulatory framework for private sector activities, abolish or simplify administrative measures, and promote an effective, customer-oriented administrative environment.

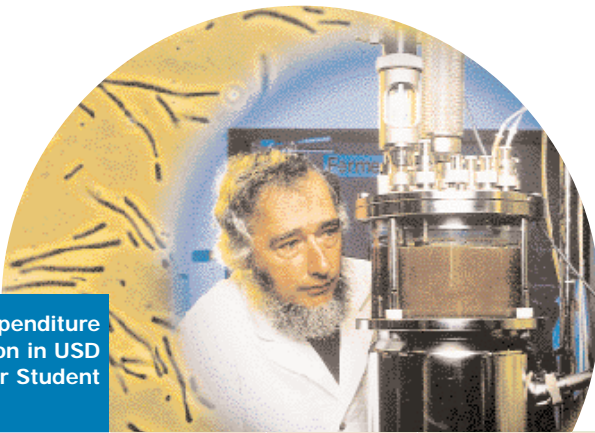


Biotechnology is based on renewable resources, acquired knowledge and innovation. Low on raw materials, Switzerland is committed to investment in this expanding industry backed by extensive government support

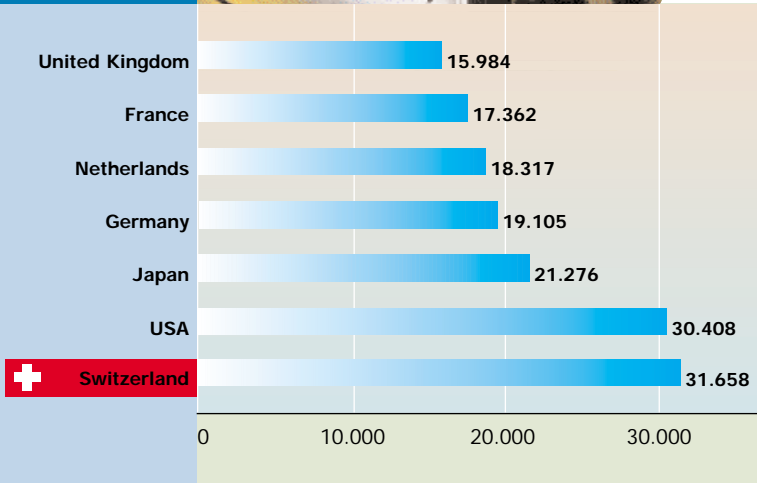


Metabolic and microbiological research on Swiss cheese: combining traditional flavors and quality; anticipating consumer expectations

Switzerland ranks among the top countries worldwide for public expenditures on education



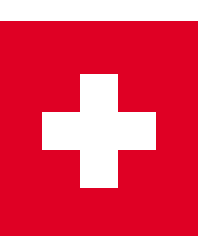
Public Expenditure on Education in USD per Student



Source: OECD 2000

A vast pool of talent and other resources are good reasons for investment in the Swiss biotech industry

Switzerland is rightly famous for its first-class university research and strong modern industrial biotechnology sector. In this country, practical training at all levels is considered important. More and more companies are keen to benefit and rely on Switzerland's well-trained, highly motivated and multilingual workforce.



'Serono, Europe's largest biotech company, has decided to locate its headquarters, main production and R&D facilities in Switzerland, as it offers one of the best business and research environments in the world. This is due to a number of factors including: outstanding scientific research, a high level of scientific education and training, and the presence of first-class pharmaceutical companies.'

Ernesto Bertarelli, Chief Executive Officer of Serono, Geneva

Further Information

'Location: Switzerland', the Swiss Government's official investment promotion program, is the central contact point for business- and investment-related information on Switzerland.

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Expertise and Networking within the Swiss biotech industry have led to significant results in the areas of health, nutrition, environmental protection, raw material use, specialty chemicals, bioinformatics, platform technologies and engineering. Switzerland is in an excellent position to keep pace internationally with future rapid developments in biotechnology; it continues to build firmly on its strengths. Priority is given to areas like the transfer of technology between universities and industry and support for potential scientific entrepreneurs. National and international networking is well-established and encouraged.

With its drive and dedication to quality, Switzerland is ready to be your partner in the biotech evolution

Bioinformatics

Specialty Chemicals

Engineering

Platform technologies

Environment

Agro/Food

Health



Illustrations
 The Swiss National Foundation,
 J. Syfrig, CEMCAV-CHUV,
 Cell Culture Technologies, Biolytix,
 Mediacolors, BBF Basel