

Country Fact Sheet Switzerland



General country information	
Form of government	Direct democracy
Administrative organisation	Parliament (Legislative), Federal Council (Executive), Federal Administration (directory of the federal departments and offices)
Area (in km ²)	41'285
Population	7.8 Mio
Official language	German, French, Italian, Raetoromantsch
Capital	Bern
Number of inhabitants in capital city	130'000

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Legal Forms

Legal Form in English	Legal Form in local language	Description	Trade registered	Participants	Remarks
Joint-stock Company	Aktiengesellschaft AG	Capital: minimum: CHF 100'000; minimum paid in: CHF 50'000.			Joint-stock Company
Limited Liability Company	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung GmbH	Capital: minimum: CHF 20'000.			Limited Liability Company
Sole Proprietorship	Einzelunternehmen	Liability: unlimited liability of the proprietor with personal assets	only from a yearly turnover of CHF 100'000	one natural person is the sole proprietor	Sole Proprietorship
General Partnership	Kollektivgesellschaft	Liability: primary liability to the level of company capital. Subsidiary joint and several unlimited liability of each partner with personal assets	Yes	two or more natural persons become partners	General Partnership
Limited Partnership	Kommanditgesellschaft	Liability: primary liability to the level of company capital. Subsidiary joint and several unlimited liability of each general partner with personal assets. Subsidiary joint and several limited liability of each limited partner (liability limited to level of partnership capital)	Yes	at least one natural person with unlimited liability (general partner) and at least one natural person, legal entity or corporation that is a limited liability partner (limited liability shareholder)	Limited Partnership

Number of companies

Main Legal Form	Total number of companies	Thereof active companies	Remarks
Sole proprietorships	155'600		
Joint Stock companies	187'000		
Limited Liability companies	118'100		
General partnerships	13'400		
Association	10'700		
All legal forms	525'800		

Trade Register

Company Register	Companies Register Bulletin	Unique Identifiers	Access
Swiss Trade Register	Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce (SHAB)	CH-No.	Internet-Download der XML-Files
Cantonal Trade Register	XML-Files		
	Name, legal form, domicile address, Board members, management member, registered activity, Capital, insolvencies, etc.		

Land Register

Land Register	Information Available	Unique Identifiers	Access
decentralized Land Register Offices	Information of land and house proprietorship		Individual requests by Mail, Fax or Tel.
	Request is based mainly on the address and not on the name of a person.		

Registration Office (B2C)

Registration Office for Individuals	Information Available	Unique Identifiers	Access
Decentralized Inhabitant Registries	Actual domicile of a person.		Individual requests by mail, fax or email
	Further information such as date of birth, name of marriage partner, profession, etc. A written proof of justified interest is recommended in order to receive full details. Costs up to CHF 20.00		

Other Registration Offices

Name of the Registration Office	Information Available	Unique Identifiers	Access
Decentralized Legal Action Authorities	Information on payment defaults Costs from CHF 17.00 up to 25.00 Written proof of justified interest is compulsory		Individual requests by Mail, fax, email
Decentralized Tax Authorities	Tax figures. In most of the cantons this kind of information is not available.		Individual requests by Mail, fax, email

Annual Accounts

Measure of non-disclosure	Company Size	Access
In Switzerland only approx. 450 stock exchange quoted companies are obliged by law to release balance sheet and p/l accounts. All other companies have no publication duty.		

Solvency Data

Public Available Solvency Data	Explanation and Relevance	Access	Remarks
Besides information from the legal action authorities, no solvency data is publically available.			
Based on cooperation's or own investigations credit reporting agencies may publish positive or negative payment information (i.e. collection information B2B and B2C)			