



Switzerland – The place for education, research and innovation

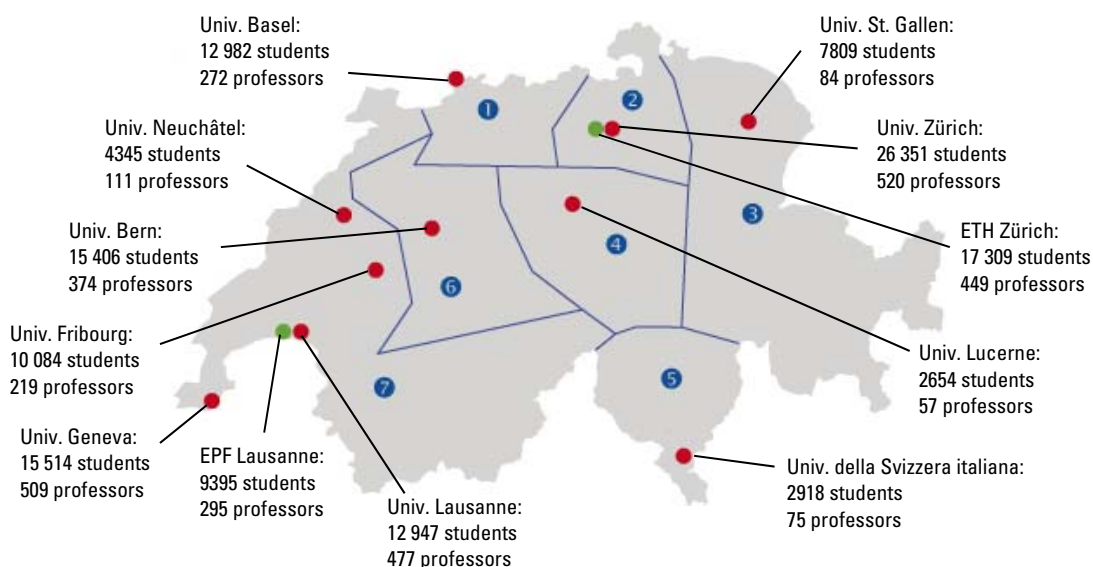
Switzerland is one of the most competitive countries in the world. Its success is the result of generous investments aimed at creating an efficient system of education and research. Equally important are values and principles such as ensuring the autonomy of higher education institutions and researchers, fostering competition and quality when allocating public funds, and encouraging an open outlook. These values are shared by the agencies and institutions involved in education, research and innovation. Switzerland is a fully associated member of the EU's Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development as well as its Education Programmes.

General Information

- Surface area: 41 300 km²
- Population: 8 036 900 (2012)
- Official languages: German, French, Italian and Romansh
- GDP: USD PPP 405 billion (2011)
- GDP per capita: USD PPP 51 300 (2011)
- GDP annual growth rate: 1.9% (2011)

Education

- Switzerland total spending on education corresponds to 5.6% of its GDP (2010).
- After finishing their compulsory education, around one third of young people opt for a general education school and two thirds follow the path of vocational education and training.
- Switzerland has 12 tier-one (T1) universities and 9 universities of applied sciences (UAS).
- Around 50% of T1 university professors and 20% of UAS professors are from abroad.
- Around 25% of students (T1 universities and UAS together) are from abroad.



- ① University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland: 10 722 students, 403 professors
- ② Zürich University of Applied Sciences: 18 931 students, 575 professors
- ③ University of Applied Sciences of Eastern Switzerland: 5 377 students, 229 professors
- ④ Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts: 6 314 students, 251 professors
- ⑤ University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland: 4 290 students, 192 professors
- ⑥ Bern University of Applied Sciences: 6 776 students, 512 professors
- ⑦ University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland: 18 124 students, 1 412 professors
- ⑧ Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences (located in several towns; private): 1 728 students, 24 professors
- ⑨ Les Roches Gruyère University of Applied Sciences (located in several towns; private): 306 students

Research and Development (R&D)

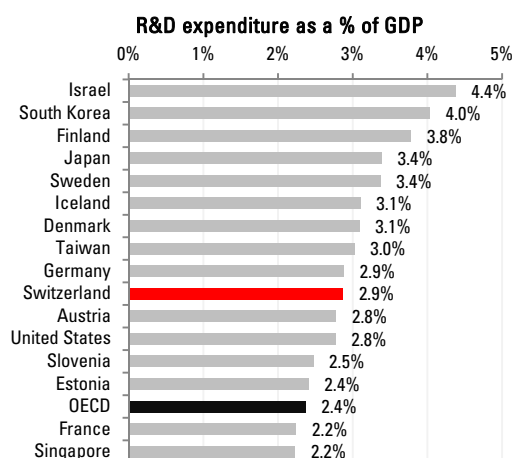
- R&D personnel makes up 62 000 full-time equivalents, including 25 000 researchers (2008).
- Switzerland spent CHF 16.3 billion on R&D in 2008, an increase of 24% since 2004.

R&D financed by:	CHF m	%
Government	3 725	22.8%
Confederation	2 355	14.5%
Cantons	1 370	8.3%
Industry	11 115	68.2%
Other national sources	490	3.0%
Abroad	970	6.0%
Total	16 300	100%

R&D performed by:	CHF m	%
Industry	11 980	73.5%
Government	120	0.7%
Higher education	3 940	24.2%
Private non-profit sector	260	1.6%
Total	16 300	100%

Source: Federal Statistical Office, reference year 2008

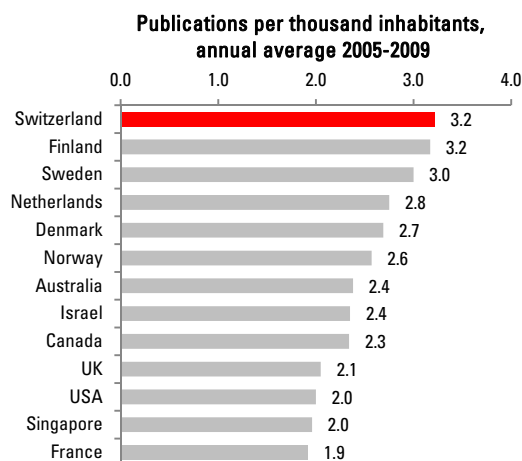
- Switzerland's total R&D expenditure corresponds to around 3% of its GDP (2008). This value is significantly above the OECD average.



Source: OECD, Main Science and Technology Indicators 2013

Publications

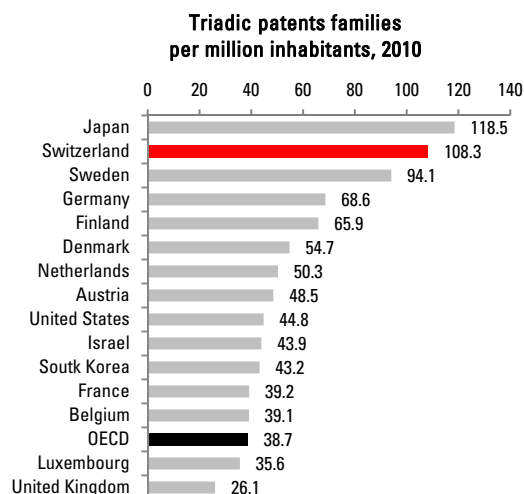
- With an impact (citation index) of 116 Switzerland occupies a prominent position (2nd slot, after the USA).
- Swiss researchers produce roughly 1.2% of all scientific papers published worldwide (18th slot). If we relate the number of scientific papers to the country's total population, Switzerland is at the top of the list.



Source: State Secretariat for Education and Research, 2011

Innovation performance

- Switzerland ranks 1st in the *Innovation Union Scoreboard 2013*, in *The Global Competitiveness Report 2013-2014* and in *The Global Innovation Index 2013*.
- Switzerland ranks 2nd with regard to the number of patents expressed relative to the total population.



Source: OECD, Factbook 2013

Position of Swiss Universities in International Rankings

	EPFL	ETHZ	Basel	Bern	Fribourg	Geneva	Lausanne	St. Gallen	Zurich
Shanghai Ranking 2013 (Top 500)	101-150	20	83	151-200		69	201-300		60
QS Ranking 2013 (Top 800)	19	12	110	154		71	111	411-420	78
Times Ranking 2013 (Top 400)	37	14	74	157	276-300	124	132		121

Source: www.universityrankings.ch