

[22089001]

Sandoz AG , a major Swiss chemical and pharmaceutical group , said that its group sales rose 25 % to 9.482 billion francs ( \$ 5.80 billion ) in the first nine months of this year , with strong gains in all divisions .

[22089002]

A year earlier sales totaled 7.567 billion francs .

[22089004]

Sandoz said it expects a " substantial increase " in consolidated profit for the full year , barring major currency rate changes .