



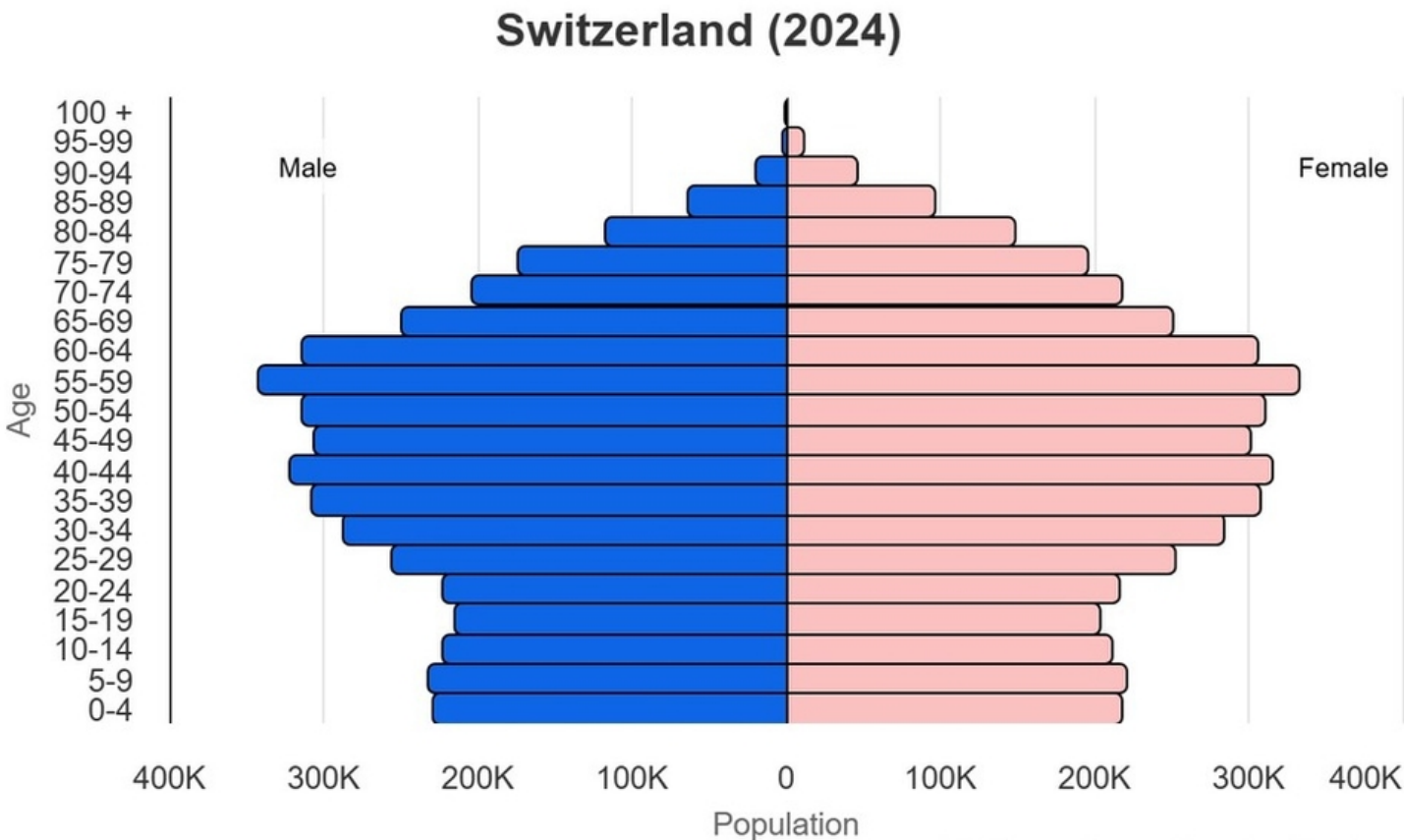
Switzerland



Background	The Swiss Confederation was founded in 1291 as a defensive alliance among three cantons. In succeeding years, other localities joined the original three. The Swiss Confederation secured its independence from the Holy Roman Empire in 1499. The major European powers have long honored Switzerland's sovereignty and neutrality, and the country was not involved in either World War.
Capital	name: Bern
Government type	federal republic (formally a confederation)
Area	total : 41,277 sq km land: 39,997 sq km water: 1,280 sq km
Climate	temperate, but varies with altitude; cold, cloudy, rainy/snowy winters; cool to warm, cloudy, humid summers with occasional showers
Natural resources	hydropower potential, timber, salt
Population	total: 8,860,574 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.75% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	Swiss 69.2%, German 4.2%, Italian 3.2%, Portuguese 2.5%, French 2.1%, Kosovan 1.1%, Turkish 1%, other 16.7% (2020 est.)
Religions	Roman Catholic 34.4%, Protestant 22.5%, other Christian 5.7%, Muslim 5.4%, other 1.5%, none 29.4%, unspecified 1.1% (2020 est.)
Languages	German (or Swiss German) (official) 62.1%, French (official) 22.8%, Italian (official) 8%, English 5.7%, Portuguese 3.5%, Albanian 3.3%, Serbo-Croatian 2.3%, Spanish 2.3%, Romansh (official) 0.5%, other 7.9% (2019 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: President of the Swiss Confederation Karin KELLER-SUTTER (since 1 January 2025) head of government: President of the Swiss Confederation Karin KELLER-SUTTER (since 1 January 2025)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Ralph HECKNER (since 18 September 2024)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires Bradford BELL (since January 2025) note - also accredited to Liechtenstein
Economic overview	high-income, non-EU European economy; top ten in GDP per capita; renowned banking and financial hub; low unemployment and inflation; slowed GDP growth post-pandemic; highly skilled but aging workforce; key pharmaceutical and precision manufacturing exporter; leader in innovation and competitiveness indices

Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$741.035 billion (2024 est.) \$731.508 billion (2023 est.) \$726.544 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$82,000 (2024 est.) \$82,300 (2023 est.) \$82,800 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$675.059 billion (2024 est.) \$654.175 billion (2023 est.) \$628.737 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Germany 14%, China 12%, USA 11%, Italy 5%, Turkey 5% (2023)
Exports - commodities	gold, packaged medicine, vaccines, nitrogen compounds, base metal watches (2023)
Imports	\$582.554 billion (2024 est.) \$556.351 billion (2023 est.) \$518.002 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	Germany 17%, USA 9%, Italy 8%, France 6%, China 5% (2023)
Imports - commodities	gold, packaged medicine, vaccines, cars, jewelry (2023)

Population Pyramid



U.S. Census Bureau, International Database