



# 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

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

## Population Pyramid

