

Chronology

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The chronology arranges about 350 events from the Celtic settlement at the Rhine knee to the parliamentary debates of September 2026. Each entry gives the year, or the exact date where the main text records one, followed by the Part and Chapter that discuss the event.¹ Events in Basel stand beside the Swiss and international developments that shaped its financial centre, such as federal laws, popular votes, mergers and crises.

Antiquity and Middle Ages

Year	Event
c. 80 BC	The open Celtic settlement of Basel-Gasfabrik is abandoned and a fortified <i>oppidum</i> arises on the Münsterhügel (A I)
58 BC	The Rauraci join the Helvetii in their attempted emigration to south-western Gaul, stopped by Caesar at Bibracte (A I)
44 BC	Conventional date of the foundation of the Roman colony of Augusta Raurica (A I)
c. 15 BC	Archaeological evidence shows an urban settlement at Augusta Raurica in the context of the Augustan Alpine campaigns (A I)
c. 300 AD	The late Roman fort <i>Castrum Rauracense</i> is built on the Rhine at today's Kaiseraugst under the Tetrarchy (A I)
c. 350 AD	A hoard of silver objects is buried at Kaiseraugst during the usurpation of Magnentius, found in 1961–1962 (A I)
1006	King Rudolf III of Burgundy cedes Basel to the German king Henry II, who endows the bishopric with lands and rights (A I, A II)
1041	The bishop of Basel receives the county of the Augstgau or Sisgau, beginning the territorial Prince-Bishopric (A II)
c. 1225	Bishop Heinrich von Thun has a bridge built across the Rhine, connecting Basel with the right bank (A II)

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Year	Event
1226	Oldest surviving guild charter of Basel, granted by Heinrich von Thun to the furriers (A II)
1348–1349	The Black Death reaches the region, and in January 1349 the Jewish community of Basel is murdered (A II)
18 Oct 1356	The strongest recorded earthquake in Central Europe north of the Alps destroys much of Basel (A II)
1360	Beginning of the almost uninterrupted series of municipal accounts, later edited by Bernhard Harms (A III)
1373	The bishop pledges the mint to the city, which thereafter exercises the right of coinage (A II)
1392	Grossbasel buys Kleinbasel from the bishop, reportedly for 29,800 guilders, uniting both banks under one government (A II)
1403	Monetary treaty of the Rappen union between Basel, Freiburg im Breisgau, Colmar and Breisach (A II)
1425	Papal bull of Martin V confirms the lawfulness of the redeemable rent, confirmed again by Callixtus III in 1455 (A III)
1431	The general Council of the Latin Church opens in Basel in July (A IV)
1433	Emperor Sigismund stays in Basel, Eugene IV recognises the Council and a Hussite delegation debates there (A IV)
1435	The Council abolishes the annates and other curial fees (A IV)
1436	The Compacts of Prague reconcile the moderate Hussites, and the Council proclaims an indulgence (A IV)
1439	The Council deposes Eugene IV and elects Duke Amadeus VIII of Savoy as Felix V (A IV)
26 Aug 1444	Battle of St. Jakob an der Birs against the invading Armagnacs (A III)
1448	Frederick III withdraws his protection, and the Council moves to Lausanne (A IV)
1449	Felix V abdicates, the Council dissolves itself and peace with the Austrian nobility is concluded at Breisach (A IV)
12 Nov 1459	Bull of Pius II, formerly Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini, authorising a <i>studium generale</i> in Basel (A V)

1460–1600

Year	Event
4 Apr 1460	Solemn opening of the University of Basel in the Minster, the first university in present-day Switzerland (A V)
1471	Emperor Frederick III grants Basel the privilege of holding two annual fairs (A V)
1474–1477	Burgundian Wars, ending with the death of Charles the Bold at Nancy (A V)
1478	The printer Johann Amerbach settles in Basel and builds one of the leading printing houses of the city (A V, B I)
1494	Sebastian Brant's <i>Narrenschiff</i> is published in Basel by Johann Bergmann von Olpe (A V)
22 Jul 1499	The Confederates defeat an imperial army at Dornach during the Swabian War (A V)
22 Sep 1499	The Peace of Basel ending the Swabian War is signed in the city (A V)
9 Jun 1501	Treaty of alliance admitting Basel as the eleventh member of the Confederation, with an obligation of neutrality (A V)
1504	The council creates the <i>Stadtwechsel</i> , one of the first public banks in the German-speaking area (A III)
1514	Erasmus comes to Basel for the first time, drawn by Froben's printing house (B II)
1515	Froben prints Erasmus's <i>Praise of Folly</i> , and Hans Holbein the Younger arrives in Basel (A V, B I)
1516	Froben publishes Erasmus's New Testament, the Jerome edition and the <i>Institutio principis christiani</i> (B I, B II)
1521	Erasmus settles in Basel, where he lives until 1529 (B II)
1522	Oecolampadius returns to Basel, while Adam Petri reprints Luther's New Testament within months (B I, B III)
1527	Death of Johann Froben, Paracelsus teaches briefly in Basel and the bishop moves to Porrentruy (A V, B I, B III)
1529	The university closes, Erasmus moves to Freiburg and the cathedral chapter leaves the city (B II, B III)
9 Feb 1529	Armed guilds force the council to accept their demands, followed by iconoclasm in the churches (B III)
1 Apr 1529	The Reformation Ordinance establishes a state church, a marriage court, poor relief and moral discipline (B III)
1531	Death of Oecolampadius in November, weeks after Zwingli falls at Kappel (B III)

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Year	Event
1532	The university reopens under a Protestant constitution, and Holbein settles in London (A V, B I)
Jan 1535	Jean Calvin arrives in Basel as a refugee from the persecution in France (B IV)
1536	The First Helvetic Confession is drafted in Basel, and Erasmus dies on 12 July, leaving a foundation (B II, B III)
Mar 1536	Thomas Platter and Balthasar Lاسius print the first edition of Calvin's <i>Institutio</i> in Basel (B IV)
1543	Johannes Oporinus prints Vesalius's <i>De humani corporis fabrica</i> in Basel (A V, B I)
1544	Sebastian Münster's <i>Cosmographia</i> first appears, and David Joris settles in Basel under the name Johann von Brugge (B I, B V)
c. 1545	Calvin's letter on usury legitimates moderate interest under conditions (B IV)
1555	The Catholic majority of the cantons expels the Protestant community of Locarno, whose refugees found silk enterprises in Zurich (B V)
1572	The Massacre of St Bartholomew drives a mass flight of Huguenots towards Switzerland (B V)
1584	The Rappen monetary union dissolves under the pressure of the new silver coinages (A II)
1585	The fall of Antwerp drives Protestant merchants and craftsmen from the Low Countries into exile (B V)

1600–1833

Year	Event
1622	The spice merchant Jakob Bernoulli moves from Frankfurt to Basel and acquires citizenship (B V)
1646	Mayor Johann Rudolf Wettstein is sent to the peace congress in Westphalia (B V)
1648	The Peace of Westphalia recognises the separation of the Confederation from the Empire (A V, B V)
1653	The Peasants' War affects the Basel countryside and large parts of the Confederation (A III)
1661	The city and university acquire the Amerbach cabinet, the first public museum collection owned by a city (B I, J V)

Year	Event
c. 1667	Emanuel Hoffmann is said to bring the engine loom for ribbons from the Netherlands to Basel (B V, C I)
1682	The council establishes the <i>Kaufmännisches Direktorium</i> , the merchants' Directorate of Commerce (C I)
1685	The Revocation of the Edict of Nantes drives a new wave of Huguenots through Switzerland (B IV, J II)
1713	Jakob Bernoulli's <i>Ars conjectandi</i> formulates the law of large numbers (A V, B V)
1718	The council introduces the drawing of lots to fill public offices against corruption (C II)
1720	The collapse of Law's System and the South Sea Bubble cause losses to Basel investors (C III)
1738	Daniel Bernoulli's essay on the measurement of risk introduces expected utility (A V, B V)
1758	Johann Rudolf Geigy establishes his trade in materials, chemicals, dyes and drugs (C I, D II)
1760	Johann Peter Hebel is born in Basel, publishing his <i>Alemannische Gedichte</i> in 1803 (J I)
1777	Iselin founds the GGG, the Society for the Promotion of the Good and the Public Benefit (A III, C II)
1787	Origins of the private bank La Roche & Co, among the oldest private banks of Switzerland (C III)
1795	The Peace of Basel ends the war of the First Coalition for Prussia and Spain (A V)
1797	The French state bankruptcy of the two thirds hits Basel creditors, and Peter Ochs negotiates in Paris (C II, C III)
1798	The Helvetic Republic abolishes the guild constitution and introduces a single Swiss franc (A III, C III)
Jan 1798	Basel carries out a peaceful revolution before the French invasion and the Helvetic Republic (C II)
Jan 1798	Mulhouse votes to join the French Republic after a customs blockade (A V, J II)
1803	Napoleon's Act of Mediation restores the cantons and their right of coinage (C I, C III)
1806	The Continental System closes markets and encourages smuggling across the Basel border (C I)

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Year	Event
1809	The GGG founds an interest-bearing savings bank to encourage thrift (C III)
1815	The Basel Mission is founded, and the Congress of Vienna creates the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine (A I, C V)
1815	Louis Danzas joins a forwarding business in Saint-Louis that becomes Danzas & Cie (C III)
1828	The Basel Mission sends its first missionaries to the Gold Coast (C V)
1831–1832	Armed clashes between the city of Basel and its rural population over equal representation (D I)
1780s–1790s	Christoph Burckhardt & Cie and its associates help finance and outfit slave-trading expeditions from Nantes (C IV)

1833–1890

Year	Event
Aug 1833	Defeat of the city troops forces the partition into Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft (D I)
1834	The Basel Mission begins work on the Malabar coast of India (C V)
1835	Britain finances slave-owner compensation through a loan arranged by Rothschild and Montefiore (C IV)
1836	Salt deposits are discovered at Schweizerhalle on the Rhine (A III)
1844	The <i>Bank in Basel</i> is founded and receives the right to issue banknotes (C III)
1844–1845	The French line from Strasbourg reaches a station in Basel, the first railway station on Swiss soil (D I)
1845	The cantonal post issues the <i>Basler Taube</i> , one of the first postage stamps in the world (C I)
1848	The Federal Constitution creates the federal state and transfers customs to the Confederation (C II, D I)
1850	The Federal Coinage Act introduces the Swiss franc and ends the cantonal currencies, including Basel's (A II, C III)
1852	Foundation of the Swiss Central Railway in Basel, and Basel joins the federal telegraph network (D I)

Year	Event
1852	A treaty with the Grand Duchy of Baden provides for the Badischer Bahnhof on Swiss soil (H II, H III)
1854	Six Basel private banks form the <i>Bankverein</i> consortium to finance railways (C III)
1856	Alfred Escher founds the Schweizerische Kreditanstalt in Zurich to finance his railway (D I)
1858	Death of Christoph Merian, whose fortune later forms the Christoph Merian Foundation (C II)
1858	The Hauenstein tunnel opens after the disaster of May 1857, linking Basel with Olten (A I, D I)
1859	Foundation of the Basel Mission Trading Company, and Alexander Clavel begins producing fuchsine (C I, C V)
10–11 May 1861	The great fire of Glarus reveals the limits of local fire insurance (D IV)
1862	Foundation of the Basler Handelsbank, the second major joint-stock bank of Basel, which lends heavily to Germany (D III)
1863	Foundation of Swiss Re in Zurich, with the Basler Handelsbank, and of the Basel fire insurance company (D IV)
1864	Federal parliament declines to prohibit slave ownership by Swiss abroad (C IV)
1864	Foundation of the Basel life and transport insurers and of the cantonal bank of Basel-Landschaft (D III, D IV)
1865	Switzerland joins the Latin Monetary Union, and workers found the Allgemeiner Consumverein in Basel (C III, D I)
1866	Swiss Jews obtain freedom of establishment, completed by the Federal Constitution of 1874 (A II, C III)
1868	The Mannheim Act establishes free navigation on the Rhine from Basel to the sea (A I, H I)
1871	The Bourbaki army is interned in Switzerland, and Alsace passes to the German Empire (D I)
1872	The Basler Bankverein is founded as a joint-stock company (C III, D III)
1874	The revised Federal Constitution guarantees freedom of trade and freedom of belief (A III, B III)
1875	The constitutional revision of Basel-Stadt introduces direct democracy (C III)

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Year	Event
1876	Foundation of the Basel stock exchange and of the Basel Chamber of Commerce (C I, C III)
1879	Tetteh Quarshie is said to bring cocoa beans to the Gold Coast, and the first federal trademark act is adopted (C V, D II)
1881	The Code of Obligations and the Federal Banknote Act are adopted (C III)
1882	The Gotthard line opens, and the Swiss Society of Chemical Industries is founded (D I, D II)
1884	Clavel's successor firm becomes the joint-stock company CIBA (D II)
1885	The Federal Act on the Supervision of Private Insurance Companies is adopted (D IV, I II)
1886	Kern & Sandoz is founded, and the Christoph Merian Foundation receives the Merian fortune (A III, D II)
1888	The first Federal Patent Act enters into force, without protection for chemical processes (C I, D II)

1891–1945

Year	Event
1891	A constitutional revision gives the Confederation the monopoly of banknote issue (C III)
1896	Fritz Hoffmann-La Roche founds F. Hoffmann-La Roche & Co. and builds a plant at Grenzach (D II)
1897	The Basler und Zürcher Bankverein adopts the name Swiss Bank Corporation, with its head office in Basel (D III)
Aug 1897	Theodor Herzl convenes the first Zionist Congress in Basel (A II, D I)
1898	The Swiss Bank Corporation opens in London, and the people approve the purchase of the railways (D I, D III)
1899	Foundation of the Basler Kantonalbank by cantonal law (A V, D III)
1904	A steam tug with a barge reaches Basel from Strasbourg, inaugurating Rhine shipping (A I, D I)
1907	The Swiss National Bank begins operations, the Civil Code is adopted and chemical processes become patentable (C III, D II)

Year	Event
1908	The Insurance Contract Act regulates the relationship between insurer and policyholder (D IV)
1910	Foundation of the Swiss Economic Archives in Basel and separation of church and state in Basel-Stadt (B III, C I)
1911	The Code of Obligations is revised, the St Johann port opens and the accident insurance act is adopted (C III, D I, D IV)
1912	The Swiss Bankers Association is founded, and the Socialist International meets in Basel (D I, D III)
1915	The Allies require the Société Suisse de Surveillance Économique to control re-exports (D I)
1917	The Schweizer Mustermesse is founded, Sandoz opens a pharmaceutical department and the Basel Mission's property is seized (A V, C V, D II, H IV)
1918	French troops enter Strasbourg, and Alsace-Moselle returns to France (J II)
1918	A national general strike breaks out in November, and Ciba, Geigy and Sandoz form the Basel IG cartel (D I, D II)
1919	Roche becomes a joint-stock company, and proportional representation is introduced (D I, D II)
1922–1923	German hyperinflation destroys the German reserves of the Basel life insurers (D IV)
1924	Two French laws introduce French civil law in Alsace-Moselle while preserving the <i>droit local</i> (J II)
1926	Paul Sacher founds the Basler Kammerorchester at the age of twenty (J V)
1927	Cooperatives and trade unions found the Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank in Basel (D I)
20 Jan 1930	The Hague Agreements provide for the establishment of the Bank for International Settlements in Switzerland (D V, F I)
17 May 1930	The BIS opens its offices in a former hotel opposite Basel's main railway station (D V, F I)
1931	The Creditanstalt collapses, and the standstill agreements freeze German loans of the Basel banks (D III, D V)
1932	The Lausanne Conference effectively ends German reparations, after which the BIS becomes a bank for central banks (D V)
26 Oct 1932	French police search the Paris offices of the Basler Handelsbank (D III)

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Year	Event
1933	Roche licenses Reichstein's vitamin C synthesis, and the Emanuel Hoffmann Foundation is established (C II, D II)
8 Nov 1934	The Banking Act introduces federal supervision and criminal protection of banking secrecy in Article 47 (D III)
1935	Basel-Stadt elects the first social democratic cantonal government in Switzerland, <i>Rotes Basel</i> (D I, D V)
1935	Foundation of the forwarding and air freight company Panalpina in Basel, taken over by DSV in 2019 (H I)
Sep 1936	Switzerland devalues the franc by about thirty per cent after France (D III)
1938	Albert Hofmann synthesises LSD-25 at Sandoz, and Switzerland asks Germany to mark Jewish passports (D II, D V)
1939	The BIS transfers Czech gold to the Reichsbank, and Paul Hermann Müller discovers DDT at Geigy (D II, D V)
1939	The Kunstmuseum Basel acquires modern works removed by the National Socialist regime from German museums (H V)
Aug 1942	The Swiss authorities close the border to refugees persecuted solely on racial grounds (D V)
Jul 1944	The Bretton Woods conference recommends the liquidation of the BIS (A IV, D V)
1945	The Swiss Bank Corporation takes over the Basler Handelsbank, and American bombers hit Basel by mistake (D III, D V)
1946–1990	
Year	Event
1946	The Washington Agreement settles Allied claims on looted gold for 250 million francs (D V)
1946	The Basel-Mulhouse airport opens under a provisional agreement, followed by the Convention of 4 July 1949 (H II)
1948	The BIS returns looted gold to the Allies, and the old-age and survivors' insurance is introduced (D IV, D V)
1950	The BIS becomes agent of the European Payments Union, and the Rhine protection commission is founded (D II, D V, F I)
1953	The Maritime Navigation Act allows ships under the Swiss flag to be registered in Basel (H I)

Year	Event
1954	Federal Patent Act adopted, and Straumann is founded in Waldenburg (G I, G IV)
1958	European currencies become convertible, and the European Payments Union is dissolved (D V, F I)
Mar 1961	Central banks conclude the Basel Agreement in support of sterling, followed by the London gold pool (F I)
1963	Basel businessmen, academics and politicians found the association <i>Regio Basiliensis</i> to promote the Upper Rhine region (H II)
1966	Basel-Stadt introduces cantonal women's suffrage, and the Jewish Museum of Switzerland is founded in Basel (A II, C II)
Dec 1967	Basel voters approve a public credit to keep two Picasso paintings in the city (J V)
1969	Basel-Landschaft rejects a reunification constitution accepted by Basel-Stadt (D I)
1970	Merger of Ciba and Geigy, and Basel gallerists found Art Basel (A V, G I, H IV)
1971	Federal women's suffrage, foundation of the Biozentrum and creation of the Euro-currency Standing Committee (C II, F I, G I)
1972	Voters write the three-pillar principle of old-age provision into the Federal Constitution (I IV)
3 Dec 1972	The people and all cantons approve the Free Trade Agreement with the EEC, in force from 1 January 1973 (G III, H III, K IV)
1973	Paul Sacher establishes the Paul Sacher Foundation, which acquires Stravinsky's estate in 1983 (J V)
26 Jun 1974	The failure of Bankhaus Herstatt in Cologne exposes the gaps in international supervision (F II)
Feb 1975	First meeting of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, created by the G10 governors (F II)
Dec 1975	The G10 governors approve the Basel Concordat on the supervision of foreign establishments (F II)
1977	The Chiasso affair leads to the first agreement on the due diligence of the banks, the CDB (D III, E III)
1977	The BIS moves into its tower near the station designed by Martin Burckhardt (D III, D V, F I)
1978	Swiss law protects chemical and pharmaceutical products, and Werner Arber receives the Nobel Prize (D II, G I)

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Year	Event
1979	Creation of the canton of Jura from the former Prince-Bishopric lands (A II)
1982	The Mexican debt crisis, and the collapse of Banco Ambrosiano (F I, F II)
11 Apr 1983	Agreement between Switzerland and France on the taxation of frontier workers (E I, H II)
1984	Switzerland formally joins the Group of Ten, with whose work it had been associated since the 1960s (F III)
1985	Occupational pensions become compulsory when the BVG of 1982 enters into force, with a minimum interest rate of four per cent (D IV, I IV)
1986	The Federal Council freezes the assets of Ferdinand Marcos in Swiss banks (E III)
1 Nov 1986	A fire at the Sandoz warehouse in Schweizerhalle pollutes the Rhine (D II, G I)
10 Feb 1987	The Federal Council and the BIS conclude the Headquarters Agreement (A IV, F I)
Oct 1987	The Rhine states adopt the Rhine Action Programme, "Salmon 2000" (G I)
1988	The Lebanon Connection reveals the laundering of drug proceeds through Swiss banks (E III)
Jul 1988	The Basel Committee publishes the Capital Accord, Basel I (A V, F II)
Dec 1988	The Basel Statement of Principles on preventing criminal use of the banking system (F V)
22 Mar 1989	A diplomatic conference in Basel adopts the Basel Convention on hazardous wastes (F V)
10 Oct 1989	Switzerland and the EEC sign the agreement on direct non-life insurance (I II)
1990	Roche acquires a majority stake of about sixty per cent in Genentech while leaving it largely independent (G I, G II)
1 Aug 1990	Money laundering becomes a criminal offence under Article 305bis of the Criminal Code (E III)

1991–2008

Year	Event
1991	The failure of the Spar- und Leihkasse Thun leads to the introduction of deposit protection (D III)
1 Apr 1991	The Major Accidents Ordinance, adopted after the Schweizerhalle fire, enters into force (G I)
Jul 1991	Closure of BCCI, prompting the Minimum Standards of July 1992 (F II)
1992	Switzerland joins the IMF and the World Bank, and the Basel Convention enters into force on 5 May (F IV, F V)
6 Dec 1992	Swiss voters narrowly reject the EEA, while both Basel half-cantons accept it (K IV)
1993	The Swiss Bankers Association founds the Swiss Banking Ombudsman (E II)
1996	The Bergier Commission and the Volcker Committee begin their work on the war years, and SWX starts electronic trading (D V, E I)
1996	The BIS invites nine central banks from Asia, Latin America and the Middle East to join (F I)
1996	Helvetia merges with the Basel mutual life insurer Patria, and compulsory health insurance enters into force (D IV, I I)
1996	The Museum Tinguely opens with the support of the Roche group and its founding family (J V)
Jan 1996	The Basel Committee amends the Accord to incorporate market risks (F II)
7 Mar 1996	Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz announce their merger into Novartis, completed in December (G I)
1997	Foundation of Actelion, and Novartis spins off Ciba Specialty Chemicals (G I, G IV)
1997	Ernst and Hildy Beyeler open the Fondation Beyeler in Riehen (E V, H IV)
Sep 1997	The Basel Committee publishes the Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision (F II)
Dec 1997	The Swiss Bank Corporation and the Union Bank of Switzerland announce their merger (E I)
1998	The merger creates UBS, and UBS and Credit Suisse settle the American dormant-account class actions in August (D V, E I)
1998	The IAIS moves its secretariat to the BIS, and the BIS opens its Hong Kong office (F I, F IV)

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1998	The Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-confiscated art are endorsed, including by Switzerland (H V)
1 Apr 1998	The Anti-Money Laundering Act of 1997 enters into force (E III)
1999	Creation of the Financial Stability Forum and of the Financial Stability Institute at the BIS (F I, F IV)
2000	Creation of Syngenta, spin-off of Basilea and revision of the Swiss bribery offences (G I, G IV, G V)
21 May 2000	Voters approve the Bilaterals I, in force from 1 June 2002 with the free movement of persons (B V, K IV)
2001	The Basel Mission merges into Mission 21, and UBS concludes a Qualified Intermediary Agreement with the IRS (C V, E IV)
2001	Messe Basel merges with Messe Zürich to form MCH Messe Schweiz (H IV)
8 Jan 2001	An Extraordinary General Meeting decides to withdraw the private shares of the BIS (F I)
2002	Foundation of the IADI and of CLS Bank, and opening of the BIS office in Mexico City (F I, F IV)
2002–2003	The Hague arbitral tribunal confirms the lawfulness of the share recall and fixes compensation (F I)
2002	Crisis of the Swiss life insurers after the fall of share prices (I I, I II)
Dec 2002	Art Basel opens its Miami Beach edition under Sam Keller, the first step of its global expansion (F V, H IV)
2003	Corporate criminal liability and the Merger Act are introduced, and the Basel Institute on Governance is founded (A V, D I, E III, G V)
2003	The Schaulager opens, and the Messeturm is completed (H IV, H V)
2003	Switzerland ratifies the UNESCO Convention of 1970, implemented by the Cultural Property Transfer Act in force from 1 June 2005 (A I, H V)
2004	Switzerland and the European Union conclude the Savings Tax Agreement, in force from 2005 (E IV)
2004	Switzerland and the EU sign the Bilaterals II, and the Swiss Rules of International Arbitration are adopted (J III, K IV)
Jun 2004	The Basel Committee publishes the revised framework, Basel II, implemented in Switzerland from 2007 (F II)

Year	Event
2005	Basel-Stadt adopts its new cantonal constitution of 23 March, and voters approve the Schengen association on 5 June (J I, K IV)
2006	The Swiss Solvency Test is introduced, binding from 2011 (D IV, F IV, I II)
1 Jan 2006	The Insurance Supervision Act of 2004 enters into force with the Swiss Solvency Test (I II)
2007	Bradley Birkenfeld reveals UBS's cross-border business with American clients (E IV)
2007	The European Commission finds the cantonal tax regimes incompatible with the Free Trade Agreement (G III)
1 May 2007	The Customs Act of 2005 enters into force (H III, H V)
1 Jul 2007	The Hague Trust Convention enters into force for Switzerland (E V)
2008	UBS is rescued by the state after subprime losses, and SIX Group is formed (E I)
2008	The Host State Act of 2007 enters into force (A IV, F I)
2008	The Swiss Rhine Ports begin operations, and Schengen becomes operational at the land borders on 12 December (H I, H III)

2009–2017

Year	Event
2009	FINMA begins operations as the integrated supervisor of banks, insurers and markets (E II)
18 Feb 2009	FINMA orders UBS to transfer the data of about 250 clients to the American authorities (E IV)
Mar 2009	Roche completes the acquisition of Genentech after bond issues of about USD 16.5 billion (G II)
13 Mar 2009	The Federal Council adopts the OECD standard on exchange of information on request (E IV)
Apr 2009	The Financial Stability Forum becomes the Financial Stability Board, and the Basel Committee is enlarged (F II, F IV)
Jul 2009	The Basel Committee publishes the revisions known as Basel 2.5 (F II)
1 Jan 2010	Penalty-free voluntary disclosure and simplified subsequent taxation of estates are introduced (E IV)

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Year	Event
7 Mar 2010	Voters reject a reduction of the BVG conversion rate from 6.8 to 6.4 per cent (I IV)
Dec 2010	The Basel Committee publishes Basel III on capital quality, buffers, the leverage ratio and liquidity (F II)
2011	The Lex Duvalier on the restitution of illicit assets enters into force (E III)
Sep 2011	The SNB introduces a minimum exchange rate of CHF 1.20 per euro (D III, G II)
2012	The German Bundesrat rejects the Rubik withholding tax agreement with Switzerland in November (E IV)
2012–2014	Both Basel cantons abolish lump-sum taxation by popular vote ² (B V, E V)
1 Jan 2012	The Federal Patent Court in St. Gallen begins its work with exclusive jurisdiction over patent validity and infringement (G IV, J III)
1 Mar 2012	The Swiss too-big-to-fail amendments to the Banking Act enter into force (E II, F III)
2013	Switzerland and the United States agree in August on a programme to resolve the tax past of Swiss banks (E IV)
Jan 2013	Wegelin & Co., the oldest Swiss private bank, pleads guilty in New York and ceases operations (E IV)
28 Jan 2013	The FSB holds its inaugural meeting as an association under Swiss law (F IV, F V)
3 Mar 2013	Voters accept the Minder initiative against rip-off salaries, after the disclosure of a Novartis non-compete agreement (B IV, G II)
2014	Credit Suisse pleads guilty in the United States, and the OECD adopts the Common Reporting Standard (E IV)
2014	Helvetia acquires Nationale Suisse, a Basel insurer with a strong position in transport and art insurance (I I)
2014	The free trade agreement with China enters into force in July (K II)
9 Feb 2014	Acceptance of the popular initiative against mass immigration (B V, H II)
2015	Novartis completes its asset swap with GlaxoSmithKline, and Roche completes Bau 1 (G I, G II)
15 Jan 2015	The SNB abandons the minimum exchange rate, and a negative policy rate applies until 2022 (B IV, G II)

Year	Event
5 Jun 2015	The European Commission declares the Swiss solvency regime fully equivalent to Solvency II (I II)
2016	The Foreign Illicit Assets Act enters into force, and the Panama Papers are published (C V, E III, E IV)
2016	Reform of the law on free warehouses, and dealers in goods become subject to cash due diligence (E III, H V)
2016	Switzerland formally withdraws its application for membership of the European Union (K IV)
1 Jan 2016	Aggravated tax misdemeanours become predicate offences of money laundering (E III)
2017	The Basler Kantonalbank takes full ownership of Bank Coop and renames it Bank Cler (D I, E I)
2017	ChemChina completes the acquisition of Syngenta, and Johnson & Johnson acquires Actelion (D II, G I, G IV)
2017	France and Switzerland confirm Swiss tax law for companies in the Swiss sector of the EuroAirport (H II)
2017	UNESCO inscribes the Basler Fasnacht on its list of intangible cultural heritage (A II, J V)
1 Jan 2017	Switzerland begins the automatic exchange of financial account information, first data in 2018 (E IV)
12 Feb 2017	Voters reject Corporate Tax Reform III by about 59 per cent (G III)
24 Sep 2017	Voters reject the pension reform <i>Altersvorsorge 2020</i> and its constitutional amendment on value added tax (I IV)
7 Dec 2017	The oversight body of the Basel Committee endorses the final Basel III package (F II)

2018–2022

Year	Event
2018	The Basler Kantonalbank concludes a deferred prosecution agreement in the American tax programme (E IV)
2018	Record low water on the Rhine at Basel, and the Swatch Group announces its withdrawal from Baselworld (H I, H IV)
2018	AXA announces its withdrawal from full insurance in occupational pensions (I I, I IV)
2019	Switzerland abolishes bearer shares for most companies, and FINMA introduces the fintech licence (E II, E III)

Chronology

Year	Event
2019	The BIS establishes the Innovation Hub, and the Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention enters into force (F I, F IV, F V)
2019	The last <i>Muba</i> and the last Baselworld are held, and DSV takes over Panalpina (H I, H IV)
10 Feb 2019	Basel-Stadt approves its cantonal tax compromise with more than 78 per cent (G I, G III)
Apr 2019	Novartis spins off its eye-care business Alcon, listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and in New York (G I, G II)
19 May 2019	Voters approve the STAF reform, in force from 1 January 2020 (G III)
1 Jul 2019	Swiss protective measure after the EU lets stock exchange equivalence expire (I II, K III, K IV)
2020	Project Helvetia begins with the SNB and SIX Digital Exchange (F IV, K I)
2020	Novartis reaches resolutions with American authorities, and Lonza produces Moderna's vaccine ingredient (G I, G V)
2020	Art Basel and Baselworld are cancelled during the pandemic, and MCH discontinues Baselworld (H IV)
1 Jan 2020	The Financial Services Act and the Financial Institutions Act enter into force (E II, E V)
Sep 2020	Voters reject the initiative to terminate the free movement of persons (B V, H II)
29 Nov 2020	The Responsible Business Initiative fails, leading to new due diligence rules from 2022 (C IV, G V)
2021	The DLT Act provides a legal basis for ledger-based securities (E II, K I)
2021	The revised Private International Law Act allows English submissions in arbitration appeals, and the Swiss Arbitration Centre is formed (J III, J IV)
1 Jan 2021	The Collectivité européenne d'Alsace comes into being and begins to promote the regional language (J II)
26 May 2021	The Federal Council ends the negotiations on an institutional framework agreement (K IV)
Nov 2021	Roche agrees to buy back the Roche bearer shares held by Novartis for about CHF 19 billion (G I, G II)
2022	The Federal Criminal Court convicts a major Swiss bank for failing to prevent money laundering (E III)

Year	Event
2022	The Federal Office for Customs and Border Security replaces the Federal Customs Administration (D I, H III)
1 Jan 2022	The revised Insurance Contract Act enters into force (D IV, I II)
Feb 2022	The BIS suspends the Central Bank of Russia's access to its services (F I, F V)
28 Feb 2022	The Federal Council adopts the European Union's sanctions against Russia (E III)
25 Sep 2022	Voters narrowly accept the AHV 21 reform, which raises the reference age for women to sixty-five (I IV)
Oct 2022	First edition of Paris+ par Art Basel, renamed Art Basel Paris from 2024 (H IV)
Dec 2022	The Basel Committee adopts its standard on banks' crypto-asset exposures (F II, F IV)

2023–2026

Year	Event
2023	Switzerland and France sign the arrangements on home working of frontier workers (H II)
1 Jan 2023	The revised succession law reduces compulsory shares, and the deposit protection reform enters into force (B III, E II, E V)
19 Mar 2023	The Federal Council, the SNB and FINMA announce the takeover of Credit Suisse by UBS (E I, F III)
Jun 2023	UBS completes the takeover of Credit Suisse, leaving Switzerland with one global bank (K III)
18 Jun 2023	Voters approve the constitutional basis for the OECD minimum tax, applied from 2024 (G III)
Oct 2023	Novartis spins off Sandoz as an independent company in Basel (G I, G II)
Dec 2023	Switzerland and the United Kingdom sign the Berne Financial Services Agreement (E II)
Dec 2023	The SNB launches a wholesale central bank digital currency pilot on the SDX platform (F IV)
1 Jan 2024	Switzerland abolishes all customs duties on industrial products (H III)

Chronology

Year	Event
1 Jan 2024	The revised Insurance Supervision Act enters into force (I II, I V)
3 Mar 2024	Voters accept a thirteenth monthly AHV pension, first paid in December 2026 (I IV)
Apr 2024	The Federal Council publishes its report on banking stability (E I, E II)
Aug 2024	The EU AI Act enters into force, applying in stages (K V)
22 Sep 2024	Voters reject the BVG reform by roughly two thirds (I IV)
Oct 2024	The BIS withdraws from Project mBridge and hands it to the participating central banks (K I)
Dec 2024	The Parliamentary Investigation Committee publishes its report on the Credit Suisse collapse (E I)
20 Dec 2024	The EU and Switzerland announce the political conclusion of the package of agreements (H II, K II, K IV)
30 Dec 2024	The EU's Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation applies in full (F IV, K I)
2025	Parliament adopts the Federal Act on the Transparency of Legal Entities with a register of beneficial owners (E III)
1 Jan 2025	Switzerland implements the final Basel III package, including the output floor, through the Capital Adequacy Ordinance (E II, F III)
1 Jan 2025	The revised Civil Procedure Code extends the use of English in civil proceedings (J I, J III)
Mar 2025	Switzerland signs the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence (K V)
22 Apr 2025	Helvetia and Baloise announce their intention to merge (D IV, E I, I I)
18 May 2025	Basel-Stadt voters approve a location package financed by minimum tax revenue (G III)
Jun 2025	The Federal Council proposes full capital backing of UBS's foreign subsidiaries (E I, F III)
Jun 2025	The SNB policy rate returns to zero, reopening the question of domestic bank earnings (I IV, K III)
20 Jun 2025	Parliament adopts the new customs legislation in the final vote (H III)
1 Jul 2025	Pablo Hernández de Cos succeeds Agustín Carstens as General Manager of the BIS (F I)

Year	Event
Aug 2025	The United States imposes an exceptionally high tariff on Swiss exports (G IV, K II)
Oct 2025	The Federal Administrative Court holds that the AT1 write-down lacked a sufficient legal basis (E I, F III)
Nov 2025	Switzerland and the United States announce a framework reducing the tariff to fifteen per cent (K II)
30 Nov 2025	The JUSO initiative for a federal inheritance tax is rejected (E V)
5 Dec 2025	The merger of Helvetia and Baloise is completed, with the seat of the group in Basel (I I)
Feb 2026	Art Basel holds its first edition in Doha, Qatar (H IV)
2 Mar 2026	Switzerland and the EU sign the package of agreements, followed by the dispatch of 13 March (K IV)
Apr 2026	The Federal Council adopts its dispatch on the amendment of the Banking Act (F III)
Apr 2026	An American Section 232 proclamation imposes tariffs on patented pharmaceuticals (K II)
14 Jun 2026	Voters reject the initiative "No to 10 million Switzerland" (K IV)
23 Sep 2026	The Council of States adopts a compromise on the capital backing of foreign participations (F III)
28 Sep 2026	The Council of States enters into the debate on the package of agreements (K IV)

1 Notes

1. Where chapters give differing dates for the same event, the entry follows the more detailed account and notes the difference. To be verified. ↩
2. Chapter B V dates the vote of Basel-Stadt to 2012, while Chapter E V gives 2012 for Basel-Landschaft and 2013 or 2014 for Basel-Stadt. To be verified. ↩

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