

Statistical Reference Points

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This annex gathers the orders of magnitude on which the main text relies, from the population of the two half-cantons to the capital ratios agreed in Basel. It is meant for readers who need a figure quickly and want to know in which part of the book that figure is discussed.

Every value in the tables below is taken from the chapters of this book and is stated with the same degree of precision as there. All figures are rounded as in the main text, whose qualifiers such as "about", "roughly" or "more than" are kept in the tables. Many of these numbers change from year to year, so the tables should be read as reference points for the period up to the autumn of 2026. Where two chapters describe the same matter at different stages of a procedure, the annex records both stages with their dates. The footnotes to the section headings name the chapters in which the figures appear and in which the underlying sources are cited.

Readers who need current official data will find them in a small number of public sources, most of which publish annual series. The Federal Statistical Office and the Statistisches Amt Basel-Stadt publish population, employment, cross-border commuter and cantonal accounts statistics. The data portal of the Swiss National Bank, the publications of FINMA and the statistics of the Bank for International Settlements cover banking, monetary and supervisory figures. The Banking Barometer of the Swiss Bankers Association, the publications of Interpharma and the market data of SIX Swiss Exchange describe the financial and pharmaceutical sectors. Trade data are available in the Swiss-Impex database of the Federal Office for Customs and Border Security (BAZG). Transport figures appear in the annual statistics of the Schweizerische Rheinhäfen and in the traffic reports of the EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg.

1. Population and economy of Basel-Stadt and Basel-Landschaft. The book gives few current population figures for the two half-cantons. Its

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interest lies in the economic weight of a small city canton and in the long growth of the city since the late Middle Ages.¹

Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Population of the city of Basel in the fifteenth century	about 8,000 to 12,000, often given as ten thousand	HLS; fifteenth century
Opening of the University of Basel	4 April 1460	Bull of Pius II, 1459
Accession of Basel to the Confederation	treaty of 9 June 1501, oath of 13 July 1501	HLS, 1501
Partition into two half-cantons	1833	Federal Diet, 1833
Population of the city around 1835	about 25,000	Statistisches Amt Basel-Stadt
Population of the city around 1900	more than 100,000	Statistisches Amt Basel-Stadt
Municipalities of Basel-Stadt	three: Basel, Riehen and Bettingen	Cantonal law
Share of foreign nationals in Basel-Stadt	more than one third	Statistisches Amt Basel-Stadt
GDP per inhabitant of Basel-Stadt	among the highest of all Swiss cantons and European regions	FSO, cantonal GDP statistics
Company tax revenue per capita in Basel-Stadt	one of the highest in Switzerland	Cantonal financial reports
Weight of Basel-Stadt in the majority of the cantons	half a cantonal vote	Federal Constitution
Cross-border commuters working in Basel-Stadt	of the order of 35,000 to 40,000	FSO, Grenzgängerstatistik, recent years
Cross-border commuters working in Basel-Landschaft	20,000 or more	FSO, Grenzgängerstatistik, recent years
Cross-border commuters in the Basel region	more than fifty thousand	FSO
Permanent resident population of Switzerland	more than nine million	FSO, STATPOP, 2023

2. The Swiss financial centre. These values describe the national framework within which the Basel banks, insurers and pension funds operate. They are taken from the chapters on banking, supervision and pensions and from the scenarios for 2035.²

Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Number of banks in Switzerland	more than two hundred, the great majority small	FINMA
Swiss share of global cross-border financial wealth	about one fifth to one quarter (about 20–25 per cent)	BCG, Global Wealth Report, recent editions
Rank as cross-border booking centre	largest in the world	BCG, Global Wealth Report
Balance sheet of UBS after the takeover of Credit Suisse	roughly twice Swiss GDP	Federal Council, report of 10 April 2024
Invested assets of UBS	several trillion US dollars	UBS, annual reports 2023–2025
Assets of Swiss pension institutions	more than CHF 1,100 billion (over CHF 1 trillion)	FSO; OAK BV, 2023/2024
Number of pension institutions	about 1,300	FSO; OAK BV
Charitable foundations in Switzerland	about 13,000 to 13,500, with assets of about CHF 100 billion or more	Swiss Foundation Report
Swiss Bankers Association	founded in Basel in 1912, seat still in Basel	SBA
Fully electronic stock exchange trading (SWX)	1995/1996	SIX Group
Formation of SIX Group	2008	SIX Group
FINMA operational	1 January 2009	FINMASA
Fintech licence	public deposits up to CHF 100 million, since 1 January 2019	Art. 1b Banking Act
Licence-exempt innovation area	public deposits up to CHF 1 million, since 1 August 2017	Art. 6 Banking Ordinance
SNB negative policy rate	–0.75 per cent from January 2015, positive rates again from September 2022	SNB

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Indicator	Value	Source/Year
SNB policy rate after 2022	peak of 1.75 per cent in 2023, 0 per cent from June 2025	SNB
IMF Financial System Stability Assessment	mandatory about every five years, latest published 16 September 2025	IMF
Swiss VAT standard rate	8.1 per cent since 1 January 2024	VAT Act

3. Banks in Basel. The founding years follow the chapters on merchant banking, on the joint-stock banks and on today's Basel banking landscape. The figures on the rescue of UBS in 2008 follow the account of the big banks in Part E.³

Institution or event	Year	Note
La Roche & Co Banquiers	1787	one of the oldest private banks in Switzerland
Dreyfus Söhne & Cie	1813	family-owned for more than two centuries
Consortium (<i>Bankverein</i>) of six Basel private banks	1854	railway finance
Basler Handelsbank	1862	taken over by the Swiss Bank Corporation in 1945
Basellandschaftliche Kantonalbank	1864	head office in Liestal, cantonal guarantee
Basler Bankverein (joint-stock bank)	1872	root of UBS
Merger with the Zürcher Bankverein	1895	Basler und Zürcher Bankverein
Name Swiss Bank Corporation	1897	London office opened in 1898
E. Gutzwiller & Cie	1886	traditional private bank
Basler Kantonalbank	1899	cantonal guarantee, certificates listed on SIX
Swiss Bankers Association	1912	founded in Basel
Baumann & Cie	1920	traditional private bank
Genossenschaftliche Zentralbank	1927	Bank Coop from 1970, Bank Cler from 2017

Institution or event	Year	Note
WIR Wirtschaftsring	1934	complementary currency, today Bank WIR
Majority of Bank Coop acquired by the Basler Kantonalbank	around 1999/2000	full ownership and renaming in 2017
Merger of SBC and Union Bank of Switzerland	announced 8 December 1997, completed 1998	UBS AG seats in Zurich and Basel
Rescue of UBS	October 2008	CHF 6 billion convertible notes, StabFund up to USD 60 billion
Bank J. Safra Sarasin	2011/2012 sale to J. Safra group, renamed 2013	origins in A. Sarasin & Cie
Zak smartphone banking of Bank Cler	2018	digital strategy of the BKB group

4. The Bank for International Settlements. The book stresses that the institution is small as an employer but large in its reach. The table therefore records its legal foundations and its scale in the terms used by the main text.⁴

Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Hague Agreements and Constituent Charter	20 January 1930	SR 0.192.122.971.1
Opening of the offices in Basel	17 May 1930	BIS
Headquarters Agreement with the Federal Council	10 February 1987	SR 0.192.122.971
Tower at Centralbahnplatz 2	completed 1977	BIS
Member central banks	63	BIS website
Staff	several hundred people from some sixty or more countries	BIS Annual Report
Currency deposits from central banks	several hundred billion SDR	BIS Annual Report
Unit of account	SDR since 1 April 2003, previously the gold franc	BIS Statutes, Arts. 4–5

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Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Federal Reserve takes its Board seats	1994	BIS
Nine new member central banks invited	1996	BIS
Private shareholders excluded	Extraordinary General Meeting of 8 January 2001	BIS
Final arbitral award on compensation	19 September 2003, about CHF 9,000 per share plus interest	Permanent Court of Arbitration
Representative Office for Asia and the Pacific	Hong Kong, July 1998	BIS
Representative Office for the Americas	Mexico City, November 2002	BIS
BIS Innovation Hub	established 2019, first centres in Hong Kong, Singapore and Switzerland	BIS
IAIS	founded 1994, secretariat at the BIS since 1998	IAIS
IADI	established May 2002	IADI
Financial Stability Forum and Board	FSF 1999, FSB 2009, association under Swiss law 2013	FSB

General Managers of the BIS. The list follows the chapter on the governance of the bank. That chapter gives exact dates for the early and the recent holders of the office, while the middle of the series appears without dates.⁵

General Manager	Term	Previous position or note
Pierre Quesnay	1930–1937	first General Manager, died in office
Roger Auboin	1937–1958	led the bank through the war
Guillaume Guindey, Antonio d'Aroma, René Larre, Günther Schleiminger	between 1958 and 1985	individual dates not given in the text
Alexandre Lamfalussy	1985–1993	then President of the European Monetary Institute
Andrew Crockett	1994–2003	Bank of England
Malcolm Knight	2003–2008	Bank of Canada

General Manager	Term	Previous position or note
Jaime Caruana	2009–2017	Banco de España, chair of the Basel Committee
Agustín Carstens	1 December 2017 – 2025	Banco de México
Pablo Hernández de Cos	from 1 July 2025	Banco de España, chair of the Basel Committee 2019–2023

5. Basel Committee milestones and key ratios. The standards of the Committee have no force of law. Even so, the ratios agreed in Basel have become the common language of bank capital, which the two tables below summarise.⁶

Milestone	Date	Note
Failure of Bankhaus Herstatt	26 June 1974	Franklin National insolvent 8 October 1974
Founding of the Committee by the G10 governors	end of 1974, first meeting February 1975	chair George Blunden
Concordat	September 1975, endorsed December 1975	supervision of foreign establishments
Chairmanship of Peter Cooke	1977–1988	"Cooke Committee"
Basel I (Capital Accord)	July 1988	minimum 8 per cent of risk-weighted assets
Market risk amendment	January 1996	internal models
Basel II	June 2004, comprehensive version June 2006	three pillars
Membership expansion	13 March and 10 June 2009	G20 economies
Basel III	December 2010, revised June 2011	endorsed at the G20 Seoul summit
Committee Charter	January 2013, updated June 2018	decisions without legal force
NSFR standard	October 2014	effective from 1 January 2018
Finalisation of Basel III	7 December 2017	output floor
Prudential treatment of crypto-asset exposures	December 2022, amended July 2024	implementation 1 January 2026

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Milestone	Date	Note
Swiss implementation of final Basel III	1 January 2025	revised CAO and FINMA ordinances
Chair Pablo Hernández de Cos	2019–2023	succeeded by Erik Thedéen in July 2023
Membership today	forty-five members from twenty-eight jurisdictions	BIS website

Ratio	Value	Standard
Minimum total capital (Basel I to Basel III)	8 per cent of RWA	1988, 2004, 2010
Share of Tier 1 under Basel I	at least half of the 8 per cent	1988
Basel I risk weights	0, 20, 50 and 100 per cent	1988
Internal market risk models	VaR at 99 per cent, ten days, multiplier at least three	1996
Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) minimum	4.5 per cent of RWA	Basel III
Tier 1 minimum	6 per cent of RWA	Basel III
Capital conservation buffer	2.5 per cent of RWA in CET1	Basel III
Effective CET1 requirement including buffer	7 per cent	Basel III
Countercyclical buffer	up to 2.5 per cent	Basel III
G-SIB surcharges	1, 1.5, 2, 2.5 and 3.5 per cent of RWA	November 2011
Leverage ratio	3 per cent, binding Pillar 1 from 1 January 2018	Basel III
Leverage ratio buffer for G-SIBs	half of the risk-based surcharge	December 2017
Liquidity Coverage Ratio	100 per cent, phased in from 60 per cent (2015) to 100 per cent (2019)	January 2013
Net Stable Funding Ratio	available stable funding at least equal to required stable funding (100 per cent)	October 2014
Output floor	72.5 per cent of standardised RWA	December 2017

Ratio	Value	Standard
Output floor phase-in	50 per cent in 2022 to 72.5 per cent in 2027, deferred one year to 2023–2028	GHOS, March 2020
Group 2 crypto-assets	risk weight 1,250 per cent, exposure limit in principle 1 per cent of Tier 1	December 2022
Admati and Hellwig proposal	equity of 20 to 30 per cent of total assets	2013

6. Swiss too-big-to-fail requirements and the Credit Suisse case. From the start the Swiss regime went beyond the Basel minimum. Its figures were tested in March 2023 and were debated again when Parliament discussed the capital of UBS in 2026.⁷

Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Expert Commission proposal: CET1 minimum	4.5 per cent	final report, 30 September 2010
Expert Commission proposal: buffer	8.5 per cent, of which up to 3 per cent in high-trigger CoCos	2010
Expert Commission proposal: progressive component	up to about 6 per cent, total about 19 per cent of RWA	2010
Entry into force of the TBTF provisions of the Banking Act	1 March 2012	amendment of September 2011
Going-concern requirement for G-SIBs	14.3 per cent of RWA	CAO revision, in force 1 July 2016
Going-concern leverage ratio for G-SIBs	5 per cent	CAO revision, 2016
Designated systemically important banks	UBS, PostFinance, Raiffeisen, Zürcher Kantonalbank (formerly Credit Suisse)	SNB
Small banks regime: conditions	leverage ratio 8 per cent, LCR at least 110 per cent, refinancing ratio at least 100 per cent	CAO, since 1 January 2020
CET1 ratio of Credit Suisse	about 14 per cent	end of 2022
AT1 instruments written down	about CHF 16 billion	FINMA, 19 March 2023

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Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Value received by Credit Suisse shareholders	UBS shares worth about CHF 3 billion	March 2023
Federal loss guarantee	CHF 9 billion, terminated August 2023	emergency ordinance, March 2023
Appeals against the AT1 write-down	more than 360, about 3,000 claimants	Federal Administrative Court
Partial decision of the Federal Administrative Court	1 October 2025, write-down lacked sufficient legal basis	appealed by FINMA
Federal Council proposals	full backing of foreign participations, about USD 26 billion additional CET1	6 June 2025
Federal Council dispatch	full CET1 backing, seven-year transition, about USD 20 billion	22 April 2026
CAO amendment	with effect from 1 January 2027	April 2026
Council of States compromise	90 per cent backing (about 60 per cent under existing rules), 29 votes to 16	23 September 2026

7. Anti-money laundering and sanctions thresholds. The thresholds are those cited in the chapters on money laundering, on the border and on the art market. Several of them were under review in the reform package that Parliament discussed in 2024 and 2025.⁸

Rule	Threshold or value	Source/Year
Money laundering offence (Art. 305bis StGB)	in force since 1 August 1990	Swiss Criminal Code
Predicate offence: felony	offence punishable by more than three years' imprisonment	Swiss Criminal Code
Aggravated tax misdemeanour as predicate offence	evaded taxes exceeding CHF 300,000 per tax period	since 1 January 2016
Anti-Money Laundering Act	in force since 1 April 1998	AMLA

Rule	Threshold or value	Source/ Year
Retention of records	at least ten years after the end of the relationship	Art. 7 AMLA
Controlling persons of operating entities	25 per cent threshold	Art. 2a AMLO- FINMA
Dealers in goods accepting cash	more than CHF 100,000	since 1 January 2016
Proposed threshold for precious metals and real estate	CHF 15,000	dispatch of May 2024
Identification in crypto exchange transactions	CHF 1,000	AMLO- FINMA
Cross-border cash declaration on request	CHF 10,000 or more	since 2009
Termination after a report to MROS	after 40 working days without notification	since 1 January 2023
Suspicious activity reports to MROS	more than 10,000 per year	2020s
Corporate liability (Art. 102 StGB)	fine up to CHF 5 million	Swiss Criminal Code
Foreign Illicit Assets Act	in force since 1 July 2016	FIAA
Adoption of EU sanctions against Russia	28 February 2022, ordinance of 4 March 2022	Federal Council
EU art market due diligence threshold	EUR 10,000	Directive 2018/843
EU Anti-Money Laundering Regulation	applicable from 10 July 2027	Regulation 2024/1624
Travellers' VAT allowance	CHF 300, lowered to CHF 150 from 1 January 2025	BAZG

8. Taxes. The book treats company taxation as a question of location policy for the pharmaceutical industry. The first table sets out the federal framework, while the second shows the choices of the two Basels and the international parameters.⁹

Parameter	Value	Source/Year
Direct federal tax on profit	8.5 per cent statutory, about 7.8 per cent effective	DBG, Art. 68

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Parameter	Value	Source/Year
Corporate Tax Reform III	rejected with about 59.1 per cent no votes	12 February 2017
STAF (TRAF) popular vote	accepted with about 66.4 per cent yes votes	19 May 2019
Entry into force of STAF	1 January 2020	AS 2019 2395
Patent box	maximum relief of 90 per cent	StHG, Arts. 24a–24b
Research and development deduction	up to 50 per cent above actual expenditure (150 per cent in total)	StHG, Art. 25a
Relief limitation	70 per cent of taxable profit	StHG, Art. 25b
Taxation of qualifying dividends	70 per cent federal, at least 50 per cent cantonal	STAF
Cantons' share of direct federal tax	from 17 to 21.2 per cent	STAF
Additional AHV financing	about CHF 2 billion per year	Federal Council, 2019
Former mixed company regimes	total effective rates of roughly 8 to 11 per cent	until 31 December 2019
Withholding tax on dividends	35 per cent	VStG, Arts. 4 and 13
Withholding tax on insurance capital benefits	8 per cent	VStG
Stamp duty on single premiums for life insurance	2.5 per cent	StG
Lump-sum taxation, direct federal tax	minimum CHF 400,000	since 1 January 2016
US federal corporate tax	from 35 to 21 per cent	Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, 22 December 2017

Parameter	Value	Source/Year
Basel-Stadt, top of the old progressive tariff	about 22 per cent combined effective rate	before 2019
Basel-Stadt, cantonal profit tax after reform	proportional rate of 6.5 per cent	Basel compromise
Basel-Stadt, combined effective rate	about 13 per cent (about 13.04 per cent)	from 2019

Parameter	Value	Source/Year
Basel-Stadt, cantonal vote on the Basel compromise	more than 78 per cent yes	10 February 2019
Basel-Stadt, relief limitation	40 per cent of taxable profit	Basel compromise
Basel-Stadt, taxation of qualifying dividends	raised from 50 to 80 per cent	Basel compromise
Basel-Landschaft, target combined effective rate	about 13.45 per cent	by 2025
OECD Pillar Two minimum rate	15 per cent for groups with revenue of at least EUR 750 million	OECD/G20
Popular vote on the minimum tax	accepted with about 78.5 per cent	18 June 2023
Swiss QDMTT in force	1 January 2024	Minimum Tax Ordinance
Income inclusion rule in force	1 January 2025	Federal Council, 4 September 2024
Distribution of supplementary tax revenue	75 per cent cantons, 25 per cent Confederation	Art. 197 no. 15 Cst.
Basel-Stadt profit tax for large groups	raised from 13 to 15 per cent	2025
Additional annual revenue in Basel-Stadt	CHF 270 to 310 million	cantonal government
Location fund proposed	CHF 150 to 300 million per year	2024
Cantonal vote on the location package	about 63.2 per cent yes, turnout about 43 per cent	18 May 2025
Swiss source tax on German frontier workers	4.5 per cent of gross salary	Art. 15a DTC Switzerland–Germany
Compensation paid by France for frontier workers	4.5 per cent of gross remuneration	agreement of 11 April 1983
Geneva compensation model	3.5 per cent of gross salaries	agreement of 29 January 1973

9. Life sciences. The book describes the industry as the largest exporting sector of Switzerland and as the principal base of corporate value creation

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in Basel. One table records the companies with their founding dates, the other the transactions cited.¹⁰

Indicator or company	Value or year	Note
Chemical and pharmaceutical products in Swiss goods exports	roughly half	BAZG foreign trade statistics
Pharmaceutical products alone in Swiss goods exports	well over a third	BAZG foreign trade statistics
Geigy	trading in dyestuffs and drugs since 1758	later Ciba-Geigy
Fuchsin production by Alexander Clavel	1859	origin of Ciba
Gesellschaft für Chemische Industrie in Basel (Ciba)	1884	joint-stock company
Kern & Sandoz	1886	Sandoz
F. Hoffmann-La Roche & Co	1 October 1896	joint-stock company 1919
Lonza	1897, Gampel (Valais)	spun off from Alusuisse 1999
Straumann	1954, Waldenburg	dental implants
Merger of Ciba and Geigy	1970	Ciba-Geigy
Bachem	1971, Bubendorf	peptides and oligonucleotides
Schweizerhalle fire	1 November 1986	about 1,350 tonnes of chemicals stored
Clariant spin-off	1995	Sandoz chemicals
Novartis merger	announced 7 March 1996, completed December 1996	of the order of USD 30 billion
Actelion	founded 1997, Allschwil	acquired 2017
Basilea Pharmaceutica	spun off from Roche 2000	anti-infectives
Syngenta	November 2000	agribusinesses of Novartis and AstraZeneca
Alcon spin-off	April 2019	from Novartis
Sandoz spin-off	listing 4 October 2023	from Novartis

Indicator or company	Value or year	Note
SMI capping	18 per cent per constituent	SIX, 2017

Transaction	Value	Year
Roche: majority of Genentech (about 60 per cent)	about USD 2.1 billion	1990
Roche: Corange (Boehringer Mannheim)	about CHF 15 billion	1997/1998
Roche: minority of Genentech at USD 95 per share	about USD 47 billion (USD 46.8 billion)	2009
Roche: US dollar bonds to finance Genentech	about USD 16.5 billion	2009
Novartis: Alcon in steps	about USD 10.4 billion and USD 28.1 billion, roughly USD 50 billion in total	2008–2011
Novartis: oncology business of GSK	up to USD 16 billion	2014/2015
Novartis: sale of animal health to Eli Lilly	about USD 5.4 billion	2014/2015
Novartis: sale of consumer health stake to GSK	USD 13 billion	2018
Novartis: AveXis	about USD 8.7 billion	2018
Novartis: The Medicines Company	about USD 9.7 billion	2019/2020
Roche: Spark Therapeutics	about USD 4.3 billion	2019
Roche: repurchase of Novartis's 53.3 million bearer shares	about CHF 19 billion (USD 20.7 billion)	2021
Roche: Telavant	about USD 7.1 billion	2023
Roche: Carmot Therapeutics	about USD 2.7 billion plus milestones	2023
ChemChina: Syngenta	about USD 43 billion	2016/2017
Johnson & Johnson: Actelion at USD 280 per share	about USD 30 billion	2017
Lonza: Capsugel	about USD 5.5 billion	2017
Lonza: sale of specialty ingredients to Bain Capital and Cinven	about CHF 4.2 billion	2021

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Transaction	Value	Year
Lonza: Vacaville site from Genentech	about USD 1.2 billion	2024
US investment pledges of Roche and Novartis	about USD 50 billion and USD 23 billion	2025
US tariff on Swiss goods	39 per cent from 7 August 2025, framework for 15 per cent of 14 November 2025	2025

10. Rhine ports and logistics. The ports of Basel appear in the book as the gateway of Switzerland to the sea. Their volumes have declined in recent years, while their operation depends on the water level of the Rhine.¹¹

Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Mannheim Act (Revised Convention for Rhine Navigation)	17 October 1868	CCNR
Swiss membership in the Central Commission	since 1920	Treaty of Versailles
Kleinhüningen port basins	basin I 1922, basin II 1939	Schweizerische Rheinhäfen
Swiss high seas fleet	emergency law 1941, Maritime Navigation Act of 23 September 1953	SR 747.30
Schweizerische Rheinhäfen (SRH)	operator since 1 January 2008	intercantonal treaty
Water-side throughput	roughly five to seven million tonnes per year, declining tendency	SRH, past two decades
Share of Swiss imports by weight	about 10 per cent	SRH; FONES
Share of mineral oil imports	about one quarter to one third	SRH; FONES
Container throughput	roughly 100,000 TEU per year	SRH, years before 2025
Low water at the Kaub gauge	about 25 cm (October 2018), about 30–35 cm (August 2022)	WSV; CCNR
Losses on ship guarantees	roughly CHF 215 million by 2017	Federal Council; SFAO

Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Danzas	founded 1815 in Saint-Louis, acquired by Deutsche Post 1998/1999	HLS
Panalpina	founded 1935 in Basel, acquired by DSV 2019	HLS
Rastatt interruption of the Rhine Valley line	12 August to 2 October 2017	Deutsche Bahn
Gotthard Base Tunnel	opened 1 June 2016, 57 km	FOT; SBB
Cantonal vote on the third port basin	approved, 29 November 2020	Canton of Basel-Stadt
ADN on dangerous goods by inland waterway	in force since 29 February 2008	UNECE; CCNR

11. Frontier workers and the EuroAirport. Since 2023 three different thresholds have governed the telework of a Basel commuter. The table places the social security rules next to the tax rules for commuters from Germany and from France.¹²

Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Foreign cross-border commuters in Switzerland	more than 400,000	FSO, early 2020s
Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons	signed 21 June 1999, in force 1 June 2002	SR 0.142.112.681
Substantial activity under Regulation 987/2009	25 per cent of working time or remuneration	Art. 14 para. 8
Multilateral telework framework agreement	in force 1 July 2023, telework below 50 per cent (49.9 per cent limit)	Regulation 883/2004
German frontier workers: Swiss source tax	4.5 per cent of gross salary	Art. 15a DTC
German frontier workers: non-return days	60-day rule	Art. 15a DTC
French frontier workers: taxation	only in France, compensation of 4.5 per cent to the cantons	agreement of 11 April 1983
French frontier workers: non- return days	tolerance of 45 days	agreement of 1983
French frontier workers: telework	up to 40 per cent of working time	amendment of 27 June 2023
Regio Basiliensis	founded 1963	HLS

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Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Trinationale Agglomeration Basel; Trinationaler Eurodistrict Basel	1995; 2007	TEB
Schengen association operational	land borders 12 December 2008, airports 29 March 2009	SR 0.362.31
Opening of the airport	1946	HLS
Franco-Swiss Convention on the airport	4 July 1949	SR 0.748.131.934. 91
Board of the EuroAirport	eight French and eight Swiss members, two German advisory members	statutes of 1949
Passengers	about 9.1 million in 2019, reached again after the recovery	EuroAirport
Rank among Swiss airports	third, after Zurich and Geneva	EuroAirport

12. Fairs and Art Basel. The fair tradition of Basel runs from the imperial privilege of 1471 to an art fair with editions on several continents. The figures trace the main steps that Part H describes.¹³

Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Fair privilege of Emperor Frederick III	1471, two annual fairs	550th anniversary celebrated 2021
First Schweizer Mustermesse	April 1917	HLS
Last Muba	2019	MCH Group
Watch fair opened to European exhibitors	1973	MCH Group
Watch fair opened to non-European exhibitors	1986	MCH Group
Name BaselWorld	from 2003	MCH Group
Baselworld at its peak	well over one thousand exhibitors, more than one hundred thousand visitors	around 2008–2013
End of Baselworld	after the cancelled edition of 2020	MCH Group

Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Messesturm	completed 2003, about 105 metres	architectural guides
New Hall 1 by Herzog & de Meuron	opened 2013	MCH Group
Capital increase with Lupa Systems	2020	MCH Group
First Art Basel	June 1970, about 90 galleries and publishers from ten countries, more than 16,000 visitors	Art Basel
Founders	Ernst Beyeler, Trudl Bruckner and Balz Hilt	1970
Liste	founded 1996	Liste
Unlimited	introduced 2000	Art Basel
Art Basel Miami Beach	December 2002	Art Basel
Art Basel Hong Kong	May 2013	Art Basel
Paris+ par Art Basel; Art Basel Paris	October 2022; 2024	Art Basel
Art Basel Qatar	announced May 2025, planned for February 2026	Art Basel
Basel edition today	about 280 to 290 galleries from about forty countries, about 90,000 visitors	Art Basel closing reports
Global art market	about USD 68 billion (2022), about USD 65 billion (2023), about USD 57–58 billion (2024)	Art Basel and UBS Art Market Reports
Art-secured lending	loan-to-value typically 40–50 per cent	Art & Finance Report
Cultural Property Transfer Act	in force since 1 June 2005	SR 444.1
Inventory duties in customs warehouses	in force since 1 January 2016	Customs Ordinance

13. Insurance. Basel became an insurance centre after the fire of Glarus in 1861. With the merger of Helvetia and Baloise in 2025 the city became the legal seat of the largest multi-line insurer in the Swiss market.¹⁴

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Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Fire of Glarus	night of 10 to 11 May 1861	HLS
Basler Feuerversicherungs-Gesellschaft	1863	Baloise
Basler Lebensversicherungs-Gesellschaft	1864	Baloise
Swiss Re founded in Zurich with the Basler Handelsbank	1863	Swiss Re
Federal supervision of private insurance	Act of 25 June 1885	Federal Insurance Office
Merger of Helvetia and Patria	1996	Helvetia
Sale of Winterthur to AXA	about CHF 12.3 billion	2006
Acquisition of Nationale Suisse by Helvetia	2014	Helvetia
Swiss Solvency Test risk measure	expected shortfall at 99 per cent over one year	FINMA
Solvency II and IAIS ICS risk measure	value at risk at 99.5 per cent over one year	EU; IAIS, December 2024
Revised Insurance Supervision Act	in force since 1 January 2024	ISA
Earthquake pool of the cantonal building insurers	established 1978, capacity of the order of CHF 2 billion per year	VKF
Cevian stake in Baloise	about 9.4 per cent, sold to Patria Genossenschaft	April 2025
Announcement of the Helvetia–Baloise merger	22 April 2025	joint media release
Combined business volume	about CHF 20 billion	2025
Customers and staff	about thirteen million customers, around 22,000 employees, eight European markets	2025
Exchange ratio	1.0119 Helvetia Baloise shares per Baloise share	merger agreement
Annual pre-tax cost synergies	about CHF 350 million	full run rate around 2029

Indicator	Value	Source/Year
Completion of the merger	5 December 2025, trading from 8 December 2025	Helvetia Baloise
Announced job reductions	up to 2,600 positions, 1,400 to 1,800 in Switzerland	2026–2029

14. Occupational pensions. The second pillar rests on the vote of 1972 and on the BVG of 1982. The main text records how voters have repeatedly refused to lower its minimum conversion rate.¹⁵

Parameter	Value	Source/Year
Three-pillar principle in the Constitution	popular vote of 3 December 1972	Art. 34quater Cst. 1874
BVG adopted and in force	25 June 1982, in force 1 January 1985	SR 831.40
Minimum conversion rate at entry into force	7.2 per cent	BVG, 1985
Minimum conversion rate today	6.8 per cent, reached in 2014	first BVG revision, 2003
BVG minimum interest rate	4 per cent (1985–2002), 3.25 per cent (2003), 1 per cent (2017–2023), 1.25 per cent from 2024	FSIO
Reform of 17 March 2023	conversion rate 6.0 per cent, coordination deduction of 20 per cent of salary	rejected 22 September 2024
BVV 2 limit: mortgage-backed claims	50 per cent	Art. 55 BVV 2
BVV 2 limit: equities	50 per cent	Art. 55 BVV 2
BVV 2 limit: real estate	30 per cent, at most one third abroad	Art. 55 BVV 2
BVV 2 limit: alternative investments	15 per cent	Art. 55 BVV 2
BVV 2 limit: unhedged foreign currency	30 per cent	Art. 55 BVV 2
BVV 2 limit: infrastructure	10 per cent, since 1 October 2020	Art. 55 BVV 2
BVV 2 limit: single debtor	10 per cent	Art. 54 BVV 2
Legal quote (minimum distribution ratio)	at least 90 per cent	Art. 37 ISA

Parameter	Value	Source/Year
Public-law pension institutions	coverage ratio of at least 80 per cent by 2052	Art. 72a–72g BVG
Reference age for women	raised from 64 to 65, in steps from 2025	AHV 21
Old-age and survivors' insurance (AHV)	in force since 1 January 1948	AHVG

15. Votes and referendums cited in the book. Direct democracy runs through many chapters, from the nationalisation of the railways to the vote on population growth of June 2026. The table lists the federal and cantonal votes for which the main text gives a date or a year.¹⁶

Date	Subject	Result as given in the text
20 February 1898	Nationalisation of the main railways	approved
17 December 1967	Basel-Stadt: credit for the purchase of two Picasso paintings	approved
1969	Reunification constitution of the two Basels	accepted in Basel-Stadt, rejected in Basel-Landschaft
3 December 1972	Free trade agreement with the EEC	accepted, about 72 per cent
3 December 1972	Three-pillar principle of old-age provision	counter-proposal accepted, people's pension rejected
6 December 1992	European Economic Area	rejected, about 50.3 per cent, turnout about 78.7 per cent, accepted in both Basels
20 February 1994	Alpine protection article	accepted
21 May 2000	Bilateral Agreements I	accepted, about 67 per cent
5 June 2005	Schengen and Dublin association	accepted, about 55 per cent
24 February 2008	Corporate Tax Reform II	accepted by a narrow margin

Date	Subject	Result as given in the text
7 March 2010	Reduction of the BVG conversion rate to 6.4 per cent	rejected, about 72.7 per cent
3 March 2013	Initiative against rip-off salaries	accepted
9 February 2014	Initiative against mass immigration	accepted nationally, rejected in Basel-Stadt
2014	Examination of a merger of the two Basels	supported in Basel-Stadt, rejected in Basel-Landschaft
28 September 2014	Single public health insurance fund	rejected
30 November 2014	Abolition of lump-sum taxation	rejected
12 February 2017	Corporate Tax Reform III	rejected, about 59.1 per cent no
24 September 2017	Pension reform <i>Altersvorsorge 2020</i>	rejected
10 February 2019	Basel-Stadt: Basel compromise on Tax Proposal 17	accepted, more than 78 per cent
19 May 2019	Federal Act on Tax Reform and AHV Financing	accepted, about 66.4 per cent
19 May 2019	Implementation of the EU Firearms Directive	accepted, about 64 per cent
27 September 2020	Limitation initiative	rejected, about 62 per cent
29 November 2020	Responsible Business Initiative	about 50.7 per cent yes, rejected by the cantons
29 November 2020	Basel-Stadt: credit for the third port basin	approved
28 November 2021	Basel-Stadt: housing protection initiative	accepted

Statistical Reference Points

Date	Subject	Result as given in the text
13 February 2022	Abolition of the issuance stamp duty	rejected
25 September 2022	Reform AHV 21	accepted by a narrow margin
25 September 2022	Amendment of the Withholding Tax Act	rejected by a narrow majority
18 June 2023	OECD minimum tax (Art. 129a Cst.)	accepted, about 78.5 per cent
3 March 2024	Thirteenth AHV pension	accepted, about 58 per cent
3 March 2024	Pension initiative of the Young Liberals	rejected
22 September 2024	BVG reform	rejected, about 67 per cent, in every canton
18 May 2025	Basel-Stadt: location package financed by the minimum tax	accepted, about 63.2 per cent
28 September 2025	Abolition of the imputed rental value	accepted
30 November 2025	JUSO initiative on inheritance and gift tax	rejected by a clear majority and all cantons
14 June 2026	"No to 10 million Switzerland"	rejected, about 54.8 per cent, turnout about 58.9 per cent, about 73.5 per cent no in Basel-Stadt

16. Key legal instruments. The table lists the federal acts, ordinances and treaties to which the book refers most often, with their numbers in the Classified Compilation. A dash means that the main text gives no date of entry into force.¹⁷

Instrument	SR	Date of act	In force
Federal Constitution	101	18 April 1999	1 January 2000

Instrument	SR	Date of act	In force
Swiss Civil Code	210	1907	—
Code of Obligations	220	1911	—
Insurance Contract Act (ICA)	221.229.1	2 April 1908	amendment of 19 June 2020; 1 January 2022
Merger Act	221.301	3 October 2003	1 July 2004
Patents Act	232.14	25 June 1954	—
Federal Act on Data Protection (FADP)	235.1	25 September 2020	1 September 2023
Private International Law Act (PILA)	291	18 December 1987	—
Swiss Criminal Code	311.0	21 December 1937	Art. 305bis: 1 August 1990
Cultural Property Transfer Act	444.1	20 June 2003	1 June 2005
Customs Act	631.0	18 March 2005	1 May 2007
VAT Act	641.20	12 June 2009	—
Direct Federal Tax Act (DBG)	642.11	14 December 1990	—
Tax Harmonisation Act (StHG)	642.14	14 December 1990	—
Withholding Tax Act	642.21	13 October 1965	—
Act on the Exchange of Country-by-Country Reports	654.1	16 June 2017	1 December 2017
Maritime Navigation Act	747.30	23 September 1953	—

Statistical Reference Points

Instrument	SR	Date of act	In force
BVG	831.40	25 June 1982	1 January 1985
BBV 2	831.441.1	18 April 1984	—
Federal Health Insurance Act (KVG)	832.10	18 March 1994	1 January 1996
Goods Control Act	946.202	13 December 1996	—
Embargo Act	946.231	22 March 2002	—
Ordinance on measures concerning Ukraine	946.231.17 6.72	4 March 2022	—
Financial Services Act (FinSA)	950.1	15 June 2018	1 January 2020
National Bank Act	951.11	3 October 2003	1 May 2004
Banking Act	952.0	8 November 1934	1 March 1935
Capital Adequacy Ordinance (CAO)	952.03	1 June 2012	final Basel III: 1 January 2025
Liquidity Ordinance	952.06	30 November 2012	NSFR since July 2021
Financial Institutions Act (FinIA)	954.1	15 June 2018	1 January 2020
Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA)	955.0	10 October 1997	1 April 1998
Financial Market Supervision Act (FINMASA)	956.1	22 June 2007	1 January 2009
Financial Market Infrastructure Act	958.1	19 June 2015	1 January 2016
Insurance Supervision Act (ISA)	961.01	17 December 2004	1 January 2006

Instrument	SR	Date of act	In force
Insurance Supervision Ordinance (AVO)	961.011	9 November 2005	revised 1 January 2024
Foreign Illicit Assets Act (FIAA)	196.1	18 December 2015	1 July 2016
Host State Act	192.12	22 June 2007	1 January 2008
BIS Convention and Constituent Charter	0.192.122.9 71.1	20 January 1930	—
BIS Headquarters Agreement	0.192.122.9 71	10 February 1987	—
Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons	0.142.112.6 81	21 June 1999	1 June 2002
Schengen Association Agreement	0.362.31	26 October 2004	operational 12 December 2008
DTC Switzerland–Germany	0.672.913. 62	11 August 1971	Art. 15a by Protocol of 21 December 1992
DTC Switzerland–France	0.672.934. 91	9 September 1966	—
Convention on the EuroAirport	0.748.131.9 34.91	4 July 1949	—

1 Notes

- Figures as stated in Part A, Chapters I, III and V; Part B, Chapter V; Part D, Chapter I; Part G, Chapters I and III; Part H, Chapter II; Part K, Chapter IV. To be verified. ↩
- Figures as stated in Part E, Chapters I, II and V; Part F, Chapters III and IV; Part H, Chapter III; Part I, Chapter IV; Part K, Chapter III. To be verified. ↩
- Figures as stated in Part C, Chapter III; Part D, Chapters I and III; Part E, Chapter I. Dates and current legal forms to be verified. ↩

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4. Figures as stated in Part D, Chapter V; Part F, Chapters I and IV; Part J, Chapter III. Current figures appear in the BIS Annual Report for the financial year ending 31 March. To be verified. ↩
5. See Part D, Chapter V, and Part F, Chapter I, section "The General Managers". Dates of office to be verified. ↩
6. Figures as stated in Part F, Chapters II and III, and Part E, Chapter II. To be verified. ↩
7. Figures as stated in Part E, Chapters I and II; Part F, Chapter III; Part K, Chapter III. The figures of USD 26 billion and USD 20 billion refer to the proposals of June 2025 and to the dispatch of April 2026 respectively. Status to be verified. ↩
8. Figures as stated in Part E, Chapter III; Part G, Chapter V; Part H, Chapters III and V. Thresholds to be verified. ↩
9. Figures as stated in Part E, Chapters I and V; Part G, Chapters I and III; Part H, Chapter II; Part I, Chapters I and III; Part K, Chapter II. The rate of about 13 per cent for Basel-Stadt is given as about 13.04 per cent in Part G, Chapter III. To be verified. ↩
10. Figures as stated in Part D, Chapter II; Part G, Chapters I, II, IV and V; Part K, Chapter II. Transaction values as reported in the press releases cited there. To be verified. ↩
11. Figures as stated in Part H, Chapter I, and Part G, Chapter I. To be verified. ↩
12. Figures as stated in Part E, Chapter I; Part H, Chapter II; Part J, Chapter II; Part K, Chapter IV. To be verified. ↩
13. Figures as stated in Part A, Chapter V; Part H, Chapters IV and V. To be verified. ↩
14. Figures as stated in Part D, Chapter IV; Part E, Chapter I; Part I, Chapters I and II. To be verified. ↩
15. Figures as stated in Part D, Chapter IV; Part I, Chapters III and IV. Rates from 2025 onwards to be verified. ↩
16. Results as stated in Part D, Chapter I; Part E, Chapter V; Part G, Chapters III and V; Part H, Chapters I and II; Part I, Chapter IV; Part J, Chapter V; Part K, Chapters II, III and IV. Official results are published by the Federal Chancellery and the Staatskanzlei Basel-Stadt. To be verified. ↩

17. Dates as stated in the chapters of Parts D to K, in particular Part D, Chapter III; Part E, Chapters II and III; Part F, Chapters I to III; Part G, Chapters III and V; Part H, Chapters I to III; Part I, Chapters II and IV. To be verified against the Classified Compilation (SR). ↩

For general information only. This article does not constitute legal or tax advice, does not replace advice on an individual case and creates no lawyer-client relationship. It reflects the legal position as of September 2026.

Online version: helveticaregister.com/basel-statistical-reference-points