

Life sciences and technology companies

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Zug has developed a significant life sciences and technology sector alongside its trading, holding and crypto clusters. Pharmaceutical and medical technology companies such as Johnson & Johnson, Biogen and Amgen established international headquarters or regional functions in the canton.¹ Technology companies, from the building technology business of Siemens to software and engineering firms, employ thousands of people. These companies bring functions with more substance than the holding and trading companies: research, development, regulatory affairs, supply chain management and marketing. They are less dependent on low taxes and more on the availability of talent, the quality of infrastructure and access to markets.

The growth of these sectors could reduce the canton's dependence on tax competition and on the volatile commodity trade. It could also increase the pressure on housing, infrastructure and the labour market, since companies with many employees need more space and more workers than holding companies with small staffs. The canton's development in the coming decade will depend on its ability to accommodate this growth without losing the quality of life that attracts the companies and their employees in the first place.

1 Notes

1. Canton of Zug, Economic Promotion, "Life Sciences", economy.zg.ch: about 360 life sciences companies with about 9,600 employees; Biogen, Amgen and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) among the pharma companies, Johnson & Johnson Medtech and Roche Diagnostics among the medtech headquarters; see Part C. ↩

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