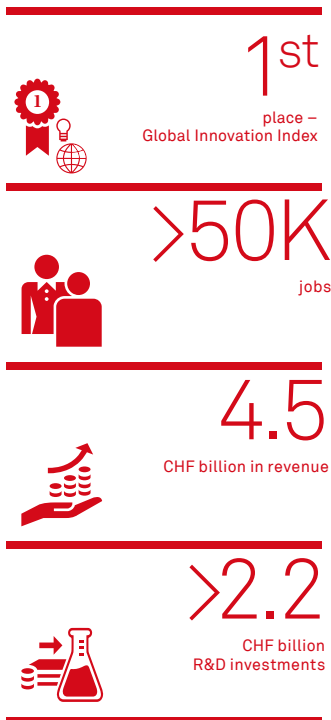




**KEY FIGURES**



Sources: Swiss Biotech Report, 2021;  
Wipo, 2021

**BIOTECH CLUSTER IN  
SWITZERLAND**

**AT A GLANCE**

Switzerland is one of the best and most innovative locations for biotechnology in Europe. Local companies hold leading positions throughout many sectors and thus attract capital and researchers from all over the world. The basis for this success is a close-knit network between research and development, driven by renowned universities, highly specialized SMEs and strong multinational corporations. In addition to being an attractive place to live for international specialists, Switzerland also offers a modern infrastructure, a beneficial funding environment and access to a highly-qualified workforce.

**A selection of biotech companies**

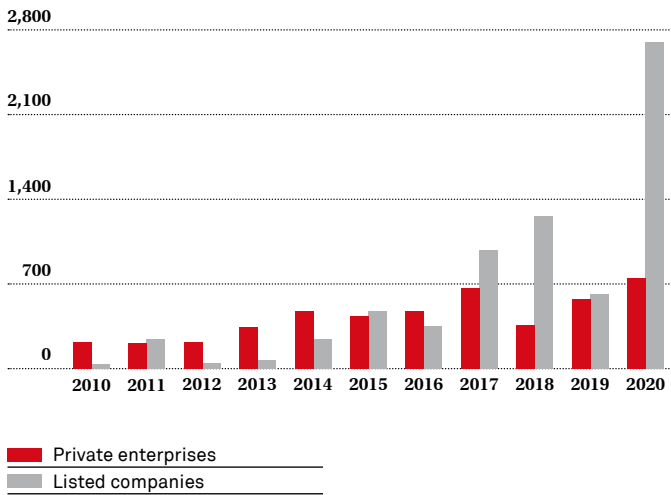
selection of biotech companies active in Switzerland

AC Immune	Humabs BioMed (Vir Biotechnology)
Actelion	Idorsia
ADC Therapeutics	Incyte Biosciences
Bachem	Lonza
Basilea Pharmaceutica	Molecular Partners
Biogen	Monarch BioImplants
Celgene (BMS)	Neurimmune
Cerbios Pharma	Novimmune
CSL Behring	ObsEva
Debiopharm	Polyphor
Evolve	Roivant
Geistlich Pharma	Santhera

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D)

- **Outstanding biotech-related theoretical and applied public research** takes place at globally leading universities with top international reputations such as ETH Zurich and EPFL as well as several research institutes and cantonal universities.

Capital investments in Swiss biotech companies  
in million CHF, 2010–2020



Sources: swissbiotech.org; EV, 2021

- Switzerland further offers a large range of **modern research laboratories and production facilities for pharmaceutical, biological and medical technology products**. Examples include Bio-Technopark Schlieren-Zurich, Switzerland Innovation Park Basel Area Main Campus, Technologiepark Basel, Getec Park Swiss, Campus Biotech, BioArk, and Biopôle.
- Due to the high quality of life and excellent working conditions, Switzerland is very **attractive to qualified foreign staff and managers and keeps talent in the country**. For several years in a row, it has ranked first in INSEAD's Global Talent Competitiveness Index and is considered the most attractive destination for talented foreign professionals.
- Major international companies work in **close partnership with renowned Swiss universities** and recruit large numbers of highly educated employees from this available talent pool.
- Switzerland boasts close cooperation between universities and the private sector. This leads to **high productivity in research** in the biotech sector. Switzerland is one of the world's leading countries in terms of the number of products in the research pipeline.

- **Major private investments are made in research and development** in Switzerland. Swiss companies spent 15.5 billion Swiss francs on this sector in 2019, investing about 5.7 billion Swiss francs in pharmaceuticals, chemicals and biotechnology.
- The **presence of numerous life science companies**, including financially sound and globally leading pharmaceutical companies such as Novartis and Roche, **offers biotech companies a wide range of opportunities** to enter strategic partnerships.
- Access to international systems for the **protection of intellectual property** (European Patent Office EPO, World Intellectual Property Organization WIPO) enables the use of a central registration procedure without the need for local representatives in each individual country.
- Thanks to its simple and efficient registration procedure for protecting intellectual property, Switzerland is one of the countries with the **highest number of biotechnology patents per capita**.

## European patent applications 2020

### Total applications all fields per mio. inhabitants

Switzerland	965.9
Sweden	434.2
Denmark	409.6
Netherlands	369.1
Finland	340.1

### Total applications biotechnology

Germany	814
Switzerland	521
France	503
United Kingdom	344
Netherlands	269

Source: EPO, 2021

- **Switzerland Innovation** is a network of six innovation parks across Switzerland based on a joint initiative of public institutions, academia, and the private sector with a statutory mandate from the Swiss government. Switzerland Innovation forms an ecosystem that allows universities and innovative companies to collaborate and use their knowledge and research results for the development of new marketable products and services. [www.switzerland-innovation.com](http://www.switzerland-innovation.com)

## COSTS AND FINANCING

- The Swiss biotech industry is predominantly made up of small to medium-sized enterprises, and is bolstered by capital investment, major interest from global companies in collaborations, and success in national and international project support programs.
- 2020 was the best year ever for Swiss biotech in relation to financing activities, with a total of approximately 3.4 billion Swiss francs raised. Public companies were able to collect almost 2.7 billion Swiss francs of fresh capital.
- The Swiss Innovation Agency **Innosuisse** specifically promotes cooperation between science and the market with innovation projects, networking, training and coaching. Innosuisse has an annual funding budget of around 200 million Swiss francs. The lion's share of this goes to the promotion of innovation projects.
- The **Swiss stock exchange is Europe's leading exchange for life sciences companies**, representing around one third of the European life sciences market capitalization across Europe's major stock exchanges. Switzerland's capital-rich investor base, strong banking system and its leading industry know-how make up the country's vibrant life sciences ecosystem. This enables companies to efficiently raise capital with the view to drive scientific discovery through to market launch.

### The most prominent stock markets in the life sciences sector in Europe

Free Float Market Capitalization in EUR bn. (Health Care)



Exchange Group	bn.	Percent
SIX	561	36
LSE Group	299	19
Euronext	262	17
Nasdaq OMX	274	18
Deutsche Börse	163	10

Sources: SIX und STOXX All Europe TMI, September 2021

- The healthcare accelerator **BaseLaunch** partners with scientists and entrepreneurs to help launch and grow exceptional biotech companies developing cutting-edge therapeutics. Partners of the accelerator include Roche, Pureos Bioventures, bridgebio, Roivent Sciences, CSL Behring, and Johnson & Johnson.
- The **startup scene** in Switzerland is vibrant with biotech in a leading position. According to the 2021 Swiss Venture Capital Report, the biotech startup sector grew by over 31% in 2020.

- First-class **technology and innovation park** infrastructure all over Switzerland – alongside research institutions – promote startups and spin-offs .
- Startups and newly established foreign companies are eligible for partial, or in some cases complete **exemption from corporate and capital taxes** at cantonal level for a period of up to ten years.

## FRAMEWORK CONDITIONS AND MARKET ENTRY

- Swiss free trade policy creates the optimum framework for **trading goods and services** with important partners. Agreements with all major industrial nations ensure that companies are only taxed in one country.
- Due to the international recognition of its high standards for quality, Switzerland is well-suited to being a **strategic test market** (“early adopter market”) for the launch of new biotech medicines.
- In contrast to the procedure in other countries, a single authority governs applications for approval in the fields of biotechnology and genetic engineering (Federal Coordination Center for Biotechnology), which means **minimal bureaucracy and straightforward procedures**.
- With its long tradition in life sciences and a strong infrastructure in advanced manufacturing, Switzerland offers a dense and experienced network of peers, universities and suppliers over a geographically manageable terrain. It is precisely because Switzerland is a small country that industry benefits from this **experienced cluster along the entire value chain** to develop, produce and market new products and services **all in one place**.

## TESTIMONIAL



“Our new presence in Basel marks another milestone for BeiGene on its way to becoming a leading global bio-pharma company. Access to a large and highly skilled talent pool, a business friendly environment and close proximity to the European market convinced us to establish operations in Basel. Basel Area Business & Innovation supported us along the way. From here, we will manage our European clinical trial operations and prepare for the potential launch of our drug candidates outside of Asia.”

VINCENT MAYER  
Former Director at BeiGene Switzerland GmbH  
beigene.com

## CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- The Swiss Federation’s master plan for **strengthening biomedical research and technology** was prolonged until 2025. It aims to provide the best possible basic conditions for biomedical research and technology and at the same time guarantee the public access to the achievements and products of biomedicine.
- Technologies developed by scientists in Switzerland have been crucial in the **fight against COVID-19**, including cloning the virus, cryo-electron microscopy to visualize the spike proteins, and the use of radioactive molecules that bind the receptor proteins to investigate how the virus enters the host.
- Biopharmaceutical giant **Lonza** has announced expansion plans for next-generation mammalian manufacturing facilities on its site in Visp, Canton of Valais. With an investment of approximately 650 million Swiss francs, the facility is expected to be completed in 2024 and create 300 new jobs.
- Although the Institutional Framework Agreement with the EU (IFA) did not materialize, the current market access conditions to the EU market for Swiss companies remain unchanged, with the exception of the medical technology sector.

## CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

### Authorities and regulators

[State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation](#)  
[www.sbf.admin.ch](http://www.sbf.admin.ch)

[Swiss Expert Committee for Biosafety SECB](#)  
[www.efbs.admin.ch](http://www.efbs.admin.ch)

[Innosuisse - Swiss Innovation Agency](#)  
[www.innosuisse.ch](http://www.innosuisse.ch)

[Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property](#)  
[www.ige.ch](http://www.ige.ch)

[Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products](#)  
[www.swissmedic.ch](http://www.swissmedic.ch)

[Federal Coordination Center for Biotechnology](#)  
[www.bafu.admin.ch](http://www.bafu.admin.ch)

[Associations and networks](#)  
[www.bioalps.org](http://www.bioalps.org)  
[www.farmaindustriaticino.ch](http://www.farmaindustriaticino.ch)  
[www.gensuisse.ch](http://www.gensuisse.ch)  
[www.interpharma.ch](http://www.interpharma.ch)  
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[www.switt.ch](http://www.switt.ch)  
[www.toolpoint.ch](http://www.toolpoint.ch)

### Innovation and startup support/

#### Financing

[www.agire.ch](http://www.agire.ch)  
[www.baselarea.swiss](http://www.baselarea.swiss)  
[www.baselablaunch.ch](http://www.baselablaunch.ch)  
[www.bbbiotech.ch](http://www.bbbiotech.ch)  
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[www.biovalley.ch](http://www.biovalley.ch)  
[www.campusbiotech.ch](http://www.campusbiotech.ch)

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[www.switzerland-innovation.com](http://www.switzerland-innovation.com)  
[www.technologiapark.ch](http://www.technologiapark.ch)  
[www.theark.ch](http://www.theark.ch)  
[www.tzw-witterswil.ch](http://www.tzw-witterswil.ch)  
[www.versantventures.com](http://www.versantventures.com)

### Publications

[Swiss Biotech Report](#)  
[www.swissbiotech.org](http://www.swissbiotech.org)

[Site Selection for Life Science Companies in Europe](#)  
[www.kpmg.com](http://www.kpmg.com)

### S-GE resources

[Handbook for Investors](#)  
[www.s-ge.com/handbookforinvestors](http://www.s-ge.com/handbookforinvestors)

[More fact sheets on Switzerland as a business location](#)  
[www.s-ge.com/factsheets](http://www.s-ge.com/factsheets)

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