

Economic news

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NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE

The following publications are available, free of charge, from the Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, London W1V 3HG. Tel: 01-734 1921:

Camping in Switzerland giving details on 330 sites with general camping information in English, French, Dutch and German.

Railway and Road Map of Switzerland including information and regulations on motoring.

Panoramic Map of Switzerland providing an accurate picture of Switzerland's landscape. It enables the viewer to distinguish the characteristic features of the country at a glance and also incorporates a rail/road map.

List of Winter Sports Season Tickets Season 1979/80.

Rates of Hire for Winter Sports Equipment in Switzerland.

Swiss Ski School Tariff.

Car Conveyance through the Alpine Tunnels valid from 30th September, 1979 until 31st May, 1980.

The Best Trains from and to Zurich Airport valid from 1st June, 1980 (opening of Zurich Airport railway station).

Switzerland at a Glance – Summer including details and facilities on holiday resorts in Switzerland.

Switzerland – International Railway Connections valid from 30th September, 1979 to 30th May, 1980 and including railway services between London and Switzerland as well as TEE services.

UK–Switzerland Air Timetable for winter period 1st November, 1979 to 31st March, 1980 including details of new APEX fares to Switzerland.

Official Swiss Timetable

The winter edition of the Official Swiss Timetable, which shows the railway, steamboat and postal motor coach services throughout Switzerland, as well as many aerial cableway, chairlift and funicular timings, is on sale at the Swiss National Tourist Office at a charge of £2.00. The winter edition is valid until 31st May, 1980.

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A FEW FIGURES CONCERNING RESEARCH IN SWITZERLAND

It is well known that Switzerland lacks raw materials. The basic products used by this country's industry are practically all imported. These imports are paid for by the proceeds of exports of finished goods. In order to sell easily, the latter must be competitive, i.e. among other things, very advanced technologically. Research and development (R & D) therefore play a by no means unimportant role. From a survey carried out by the Federal Statistics Office, it appears that the sums spent by the private economy on R & D (without investments and capital costs) totalled Sw.Fr. 2.4 billion in 1977. The amounts spent by the different industries are as follows: chemical — Sw.Fr. 1.15 billion, machinery and metals — 1 billion, foodstuffs and beverages — 85.8 million, watches — 85.7 million, textiles — 41.5 million, paper — 6.7 million, rubber and plastics — 6.5 million, others — 19.8 million. These figures do not include the expenditure on R & D by Swiss firms abroad. The cost of personnel represented 60 per cent, i.e. Sw.Fr. 1.42 billion. On an average, firms set aside 4 per cent of their turnover for R & D. The percentage varies between 0.5 per cent and 9.8 per cent depending on the branch of the economy. According to earlier statistics (1975), 78 per cent of the R & D is provided by private industry. As for places of higher education, the public

authorities and the non-profit-making institutions, their share is 14, 6 and 2 per cent respectively. Financing is divided somewhat similarly. The bulk is provided by private industry (78 per cent); the public sector contributes 21 per cent and non-profit-making institutions 1 per cent.

NEWS IN BRIEF

A brochure listing Swiss firms supplying equipment, material and technology for *agriculture and food processing* has just been published by the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade. After a first publication devoted to telecommunications, "Agriculture and Food processing" is the second volume in a collection of nine booklets presenting the most important equipment goods manufactured in Switzerland. This documentation is intended to make the services of the Swiss export industry better known abroad, especially in the developing countries.

The Zurich engineering office *Sydeco Co. Ltd.* has been asked by the *government of Irak* to draw up a *plan for the construction of four agricultural training colleges*. The supply and erection of the prefabricated parts as well as the special equipment required form part of the scheme, which is included in a training programme for workers of different branches in Irak. The contract is worth some 20 million Swiss francs.

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FAIRS AND EXHIBITIONS IN SWITZERLAND DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 1980

12.4.-12.10.	—Basle	GRÜN 80 — 2nd Swiss Horticultural Show
13.4.-15.4.	—Zurich	MODEXPO I/80 — International Ladies' Fashion Fair
18.4.-27.4.	—Geneva	LOISIRAMA 80 — International Leisure Exhibition
19.4.-27.4.	—Zurich	ANTIC 80 — International Exhibition of Arts and Antiques
19.4.-28.4.	—Basle	64th Swiss Industries Fair
19.4.-28.4.	—Basle	European Watch, Clock and Jewellery Fair (within the Swiss Industries Fair)
19.4.-28.4.	—Basle	INTERIDEX — 3rd International Exhibition of the Location of Industrial (within the Swiss Industries Fair)
20.4.-25.4.	Investements —Dietikon	INTERPEL — International Exhibition of Leather and Travel Articles
22.4.-25.4.	—Lausanne	COMPUTER 80 — Data Processing Equipments and Techniques
26.4.-27.4.	—Lausanne	International Exhibition of Minerals
27.4.-12.5.	—Zurich	SWISSPEL — Swiss Purchase Weeks for Leather and Travel Articles

MORE TRAFFIC FOR SWISSAIR IN 1979

In 1979 Swissair carried 6,977,611 passengers, 1.8 per cent more than in 1978. Cargo transport rose by 0.5 per cent to 175,695 tons and mail carriage was also marginally higher.

The traffic results would have been somewhat better but for the grounding of all nine DC-10 aircraft from June 6 to 18.

Total available transport capacity fell 0.9 per cent below the previous year to 2,320 million ton-kilometres.

However, revenue capacity sold increased by one per cent to 1,360 million ton-kilometres, and cargo capacity sold was up by 1.2 per cent.

The seat load factor rose from 62.5 per cent to 63.5 per cent, the highest figure since 1956. The overall load factor improved by 0.9 per cent to 59 per cent.

In passenger transport, the European and African traffic areas showed an above average increase

of 4 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. The greatest increase in cargo and mail transport was recorded on the Far East and South America routes with an advance of 6-10 per cent. The Far East again achieved with 71.5 per cent the highest seat load factor of all areas.

Swissair's route network in 1979 extended over 279,256 kilometres, serving 92 destinations in 63 countries on every continent except Australia.

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