

# SWITZERLAND

Region: Central Europe (Global North)

Population (2022): 8.8 million (100<sup>th</sup>)

Life Expectancy at Birth (Women): 85.1 years (7<sup>th</sup>)

Governance System: Federal republic

Capital: Bern (de facto)

Land Area (km<sup>2</sup>): 39,516 (129<sup>th</sup>)

Major Languages: German, French, Italian, Romansh, English

## *Select Global Rankings*

GDP (2022): 20<sup>th</sup> (807,706 US\$ Millions)

Human Development Index: 1<sup>st</sup> (Very High)

Fragile States Index - Inverted: 5<sup>th</sup> (Cat. 1)

Good Country Index: 15<sup>th</sup>

Human Freedom Index: 1<sup>st</sup>

World Happiness Ranking: 8<sup>th</sup>

## *Select Global Rankings (Gender-Focus)*

Gross National Income Per Capita (Women): 5<sup>th</sup>

Gender Social Norms Index: 13<sup>th</sup>

Women's Power Index: 21<sup>st</sup>

Social Institutions and Gender Index (World Cup rank): 7<sup>th</sup>

Gender Inequality Index: 3<sup>rd</sup>

Global Gender Gap Index: 21<sup>st</sup>

Women Peace & Security Index: 6<sup>th</sup>

## *Elite Sport System Rankings*

2020 Summer Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 10 (77%)

2022 Winter Olympic Women's Medals (% of Total): 10 (67%)

Global Cup Ranking (Women): 12<sup>th</sup>

## *Football/World Cup Profile*

FIFA Region: UEFA

FIFA Ranking: 20

World Cup Appearance: 2<sup>nd</sup>

Best World Cup Performance(s): Round of 16 (2015)

Qualification: Winner UEFA Qualifying Playoff

World Cup Group: A

Last World Cup Appearance: 2015

## SWITZERLAND in International Affairs (by Matt Olsen)

While Switzerland's position in central Europe has long implicated the mountainous nation in European and International affairs, its famous position of armed neutrality has characterized its relations with other states.

Switzerland gained independence from the Holy Roman Empire in 1648, when it first solidified its independence, and has not fought in an international war since 1815, the year its policy of neutrality was officially recognized at the Congress of Vienna.

Despite its neutrality, Switzerland is home to a number of international organizations, particularly in Geneva, its second-most populous city. While it did not fight in the First World War, Switzerland joined the League of Nations in 1920, and hosted its headquarters until it ceased operations in 1946.



[Today, Switzerland is home to 40 international organizations with more than 25,000 staff.](#) This includes, among others, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the World Health Organization, the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Office at Geneva, and the International Olympic Committee.

However, though it plays host to many of the world's most prominent International organizations, its participation in these IOs has only recently grown. Switzerland joined the United Nations in 2002, where it previously held an observer role. Switzerland was also recently elected to the UN Security Council for the 2023-2024 term, and plays an active role in many UN specialized institutions, including the Economic Commission for Europe, the UN Environment Programme, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, and more.

Outside of the United Nations, Switzerland is a member of the World Trade Organization, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Free Trade Association, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and, among many others, the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe, where the Swiss Foreign Minister served as the organization's Chairman-in-Office in 1996.

In spite of its many recent attempts to increase its involvement in the international community, Switzerland is not a member of the European Union, but maintains bilateral treaties with the EU to take part in the European Single Market and the Schengen Agreement, which offers Switzerland and its citizens free trade and reduced labour movement restrictions with other member states.

Additionally, though it does not fight in wars, Switzerland is an active peacekeeping force around the world. Switzerland is a part of NATO's Partnership for Peace, the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council, and deployed members of its armed forces to support the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in Bosnia. The Swiss army also continues to provide support for the Kosovo Force, supervising civilian reconstruction efforts, monitoring and protecting patrimonial sites, supporting military police and offering medical assistance.

### **Gender Equity (by Alanna Harman)**

2021 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage in Switzerland. "In 1971, after a failed referendum in 1959, over 50 years after the US and Germany, and over 25 years after France, Italy, and Austria, Switzerland's male electorate granted women the right to vote and stand for election at the federal [level](#)". In 2021 Switzerland also climbed back into the top 10 countries in the Global Gender Gap Report, this was the best score Switzerland had received to date, indicating a narrowing in the gender [gap](#). In 2019 42% of Switzerland's National Council was represented by women. In 2021 Swiss corporate law set "guidelines that companies allocate to women at least 30% of positions on the boards of directors and 20% in executive [board](#)". Companies have been given 5 and 10 years respectively to achieve these targets. "Non-compliance with those proportions, will require justification in the remuneration report, and measure to reach those quotas need to be put [forward](#)".

In summer 2022 the Swiss Women's National Football team reached a major milestone when the Swiss Football Association (SFA) "and the team's main sponsor Credit Suisse announced that women would be paid the same match bonus as their male counterparts - so four-and-a-half times what they had previously been [given](#)". The SFA also revised their payment structure for image rights such that women athletes will now make the same as their male counterparts when they appear in an advert.