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Medtech Industry Study 2026

Key facts and figures

How is the Swiss medtech sector evolving and what are the main challenges? Swiss Medtech has been monitoring these issues regularly for twenty years; with findings published every two years. The latest analysis shows that companies are still performing well. It is concerning, however, that Switzerland's traditionally strong appeal as a medtech hub is noticeably declining.

Jobs

- The industry created 15,000 jobs within Switzerland over a ten-year period.
- Of the just under 72,000 employees, 43% are women (21% in senior management).
- More than 1 in every 100 workers in Switzerland is employed in the medical technology sector.
- Around 95% of the approximately 1,400 companies are SMEs (with fewer than 250 employees).
- Conversely, the top 5% of companies employ 50% of all medtech workforce in Switzerland

Value creation

- The sector's annual revenues amount to 26 billion Swiss francs (CHF).
- With turnover growth of 5.5% over the past two years, the sector has doubled the increase seen in the Swiss economy as a whole.
- The medtech sector accounts for around 10% of the country's industrial productivity.
- It reports exports of around CHF 12 billion and generates a trade surplus of CHF 5.5 billion – the third-largest industry total in Switzerland.
- The sector invests around 12% of its turnover in research and development (R&D) - ranking among the most research-intensive domestically based industries

Healthcare costs linked to medical technology

- In 2024, healthcare expenditure in Switzerland totaled approximately CHF 97 billion. Of this, 7.9% was attributed to medical technology.
- Long-term analysis shows that medtech costs are growing much more slowly than overall healthcare spending. Over the past ten years, annual growth in medical technology costs averaged 1.9%, with total healthcare expenditures rising by 3.3% per year.

Main trading partners

- More than 50% of Switzerland's medtech imports and exports are with the European Union (EU).
- The US and the rest of the world each account for around 25% of the trade volume each.
- Regarding individual countries, the US and Germany are Swiss medtech's most important trading partners.

Freiburgstrasse 3 | CH-3010 Bern
+41 31 330 97 79 | office@swiss-medtech.ch
swiss-medtech.ch

Switzerland's appeal as a medtech business location

- Over 50% of medtech companies rate Switzerland's attractiveness as a business location less favourably than five years ago. This trend is also reflected in the industry figures.
- With a net increase of around 200 new jobs over the past two years, employment growth has been significantly below the ten-year average of 1,500 jobs.
- 43% of companies report no plans to invest – the highest figure since the survey began.
- Particularly significant is the sharp decline in planned future funding of production and R&D.
- The reasons to invest within Switzerland are also changing: the traditionally strong medtech expertise for which Switzerland is famous is steadily losing relevance and, for the first time since 2018, is no longer the top-ranked factor.

The medtech sector in transition

- Production has increasingly been relocated abroad over the past decade. The picture is mixed: manufacturers have significantly diversified their production internationally since 2012. Today, just over 1/3 still manufacture exclusively in Switzerland. In contrast, suppliers are more firmly rooted in Switzerland; 2/3 still manufacture exclusively in Switzerland.
- The trend is moving away from traditional medical devices towards integrated, patient-centred solutions.
- Digitalisation, which is seen by companies as a major opportunity, is the only area in which an increase in recruitment is apparent.

Swiss Medtech represents more than 800 members in its role as industry association for medical technology companies in Switzerland. With approx. 72,000 employees and a contribution of over 10% to the country's positive trade balance, medical technology constitutes a significant economic sector for Switzerland. Swiss Medtech advocates for conditions that enable the medtech industry to perform at peak capacity and provide first-class medical care.