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Switzerland, Europe's Biggest Aerosol Consumer

Switzerland is at present the biggest consumer of aerosols in Europe. With 9.2 cans per inhabitant per year, she is certainly still far behind the consumption of the United States (13.5 cans) but way ahead of Great Britain (6.5) and West Germany (6.3), From hairspray to deodorants, from shaving cream to whipped cream, aerosol sprays have become such a part of life today that it is hard to realise they were not invented until 1928. The principle is quite simple: in a sealed container, fitted with a valve, the material (shaving cream or insecticide) is mixed with a propulsive gas (there are six types of propulsive agents, such as nitrogen, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide or hydrocarbons, selected according to the properties of the active material) allowing the mixture to be forced out as soon as the valve is opened. Once it reaches the outside, the propulsive gas disperses and all that remains is the active material, in suspension in the air (insecticide) or in a solid state (foam). The can of spray is never completely filled so as to avoid any danger of the container exploding under the effect of an abnormally high outside temperature. Of the 1,620 million aerosols manufactured and sold throughout the world, 59.6 million were made in Switzerland by 82 firms divided into 11 sub-groups with some 2,000 employees in all. From the point of view of the contents of cans of sprays, cosmetics come first by a long way, accounting for over a third of the total, followed by household articles, insecticides and industrial sprays.—(SODT).

Economic Growth in Switzerland And the World

In real value, that is to say with prices kept constant, Switzerland's gross national product, which represents the total value of goods and services produced by the national economy, increased by 4.7% in 1972 compared with the figure for the previous year. This result places Switzerland in a position somewhere about the middle on the international level; according to statistics drawn up by the International Settlements Bank, Switzerland in fact comes 8th among industrialised countries under consideration. Over a longer period, i.e. from 1961 to 1970, Switzerland is only 13th, with a real annual rate growth of the gross national product averaging 4.5%. Ahead of her comes Austria (4.7%), Denmark (4.8%), West Germany (4.9%), Belgium (4.9%), Norway (5.0%), the Netherlands (5.1%), Finland (5.1%), Canada 5.2%), Italy 5.7%), France 5.8%), Spain (7.5%) and Japan (11.1%). The lowest economic growth was recorded in Sweden (4.4%), the United States (4.0%) and Great Britain (2.7%).—(SODT).