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## Swiss Earth Station for Satellites

The new earth station for satellites built by the Swiss Post Office, above Loeche (Valais), has just been put into operation. After several days of tests trying out the new equipment, 12 telephone lines were connected between Zurich and Pittsburgh (USA) via Loeche and the satellite Intelstat IV, at the beginning of January 1974. Another set of lines was put into service a few days later, connecting Berne and New York; at the end of January, about 80 direct lines had been installed between Switzerland and the USA via satellite, which before then had had to pass through other earth stations. Direct links via satellite with Canada and Israel were also made in January, other lines connecting Switzerland to Brasil being scheduled for the spring.—(SODT).

## Switzerland: 81 Unemployed in 1973

Swiss statistics for the labour market showed that in 1973 there were on an average 81 fully unemployed persons entered in the books of labour offices. Their number is therefore lower than the average for the two previous years, which amounted to 100 and 104. In other words, for every million gainfully employed persons, there are 27 without regular employment. This figure represents less than 0.003 per thousand of the total number of employed persons, which constitutes the lowest level of unemployment not only on the national but also on the international level. Last year, many other countries experienced rates of unemployment of as much as one or several per cent.—(SODT).



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