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Register: Switzerland's top 20 companies

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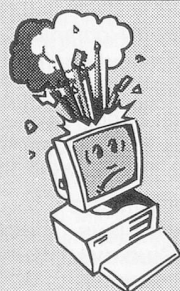
SWITZERLAND'S TOP 20 COMPANIES

Company	Headquarters	Turnover in Billions of SFR	Employees in Thousands (worldwide)
Nestlé	Vevey	54	218
Metro International	Zug	53	90
ABB Asea Brown Boveri	Zurich	41	213
Marc Rich	Zug	34	1
Ciba-Geigy	Basle	22	90
Migros	Zurich	15	51
Sandoz	Basle	14	53
Hoffmann-La Roche	Basle	13	56
PTT	Berne	12	63
Maus Frères	Geneva	11	17
Coop Switzerland	Basle	10	35
Danzas	Basle	10	16
Dow Chemical Europe	Horgen	8	12
Holderbank	Jona	8	32
André & Cie	Lausanne	8	-
Gebr. Sulzer	Winterthur	7	31
Alusuisse-Lonza	Zurich	7	25
Jacobs-Suchard	Zurich	6	13
Swissair	Kloten	6	26
SBB-CFF	Berne	6	38

Interesting facts: - 109 Swiss companies have a yearly turnover of over one billion SFR. - Apart from having the largest turnover, Nestlé is also the company with the highest cash flow and with the largest profits (2.7 billion SFR). - Of the 3 largest pharmaceutical firms in Basle, Hoffmann-La Roche has the largest profit (1.9 billion SFR), beating its larger rivals Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz. - The largest Banks in Switzerland are the Union Bank of Switzerland, Zurich, assets 267 billion SFR, the Swiss Bank Corporation, Basle, assets 200 billion SFR, the Crédit Suisse, Zurich, assets 173 billion SFR and the Zürcher Kantonalbank, Zurich, assets 52 billion SFR.

NIGHT TAXIS FOR WOMEN

The move to provide women with safe transport at night is spreading more and more in Switzerland. Following several other cities, Thun and Langenthal are now working on their own schemes. Not only do they advocate the idea of cheaper taxi fares at night for women, but they also plan to put in place a scheme where only women drivers are used for women passengers. The move called FFF (Frauen fahren Frauen) is not planned to make any profit, its main aim being to protect women and to provide them with a safe mode of transport at night. Until now, the idea has only spread amongst cities in the German part of Switzerland, with no reaction as yet in the French or Italian parts.



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DEATH OF ROLAND BEGUELIN

Not many of you may have heard of him, but he was the man behind the move to separate the Jura from the canton of Berne. Roland Béguelin died recently at the age of 72. From his small office in Delsberg, he produced his weekly newspaper "Jura Libre" which he used for years to fight the cause for a separate canton. Despite many setbacks, he never deviated from his one goal to see the Jura become independent from Berne. During his long fight he even tried to rally all the French cantons behind his cause and to mobilise them against the German cantons, a move which fortunately did not succeed. However, Béguelin was very proud of the fact that a new Swiss canton had successfully been created and that despite all the fighting and bitterness involved, not one person was killed in the process.

MULTICOLOURED "FÜNFLIBER"

In order to make counterfeiting more difficult, new five franc coins may be produced in 2 or even 3 colours. This was announced recently by the Federal Councillor Otto Stich (now Bundespräsident) when he opened the new Federal Mint in Berne. To obtain multicoloured coins, different metal amalgams are being used, one for the central part of the coin and one or two others as outer ring or rings.



Roland Béguelin (centre) marching in one of the many demonstrations that took place for years in the Jura.

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