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Basel-Stadt

Basel-Stadt is one of the 26 cantons of Switzerland. The city of Basel and the municipalities of Bettingen and Riehen form its territory.

The canton of Basel-Stadt was created when the historic canton

of Basel was divided in 1833. The result of this division was two half cantons: Basel-Stadt and Basel-Land. The canton of Basel-Stadt is located in the north of Switzerland. It borders Germany and France to the north, and Basel-Landschaft to the south. It is located at the so called 'knee' of the river Rhine, where the Rhine switches from flowing in a westerly direction to flowing to the north. The area of the canton is 37 km², making Basel-Stadt the smallest canton in Switzerland. The population of the canton (as of 31 December 2009) is

187,898. As of 2007, the population included 56,106 foreigners, or about 30% of the total population. The population is nearly evenly split between Roman Catholic (25%) and Protestant (27%). About 10% of the popula-



View of the Basler Münster

tion is classed as "Other Religion" while 36% do not belong to any organized religion.

The chemical industry and the pharmaceutical industry are of greatest significance in the canton. There are a number of multinationals in the city of Basel, attracting workers from both cantons of Basel and the areas across the border in France and Germany. Banking and finance are important as is the service sector in general. Small and middle-sized businesses employ a significant number of people.

The fact that three nation-states come together in one spot near Basel (Dreiländereck) at-

tracts some tourists and is a popular destination for primary school *Schulreisen*. The carnival attracts large numbers of people from across Switzerland and the neighbouring countries.

There is an international airport at Basel-Mulhouse, actually located 4 km inside French territory but with customs-free access from the city. The canton is well connected by both trains and motorways to the rest of Switzerland and the neighbouring areas in France and Germany.

There is a port at Basel for ships on the river Rhine. This port is of great significance to landlocked Switzerland, as it offers the country's only direct connection to the sea.



The Basel Messe convention center is host to several international events. The largest are the *Mustermesse*; *Art Basel*, an art show for modern and contemporary works; and *BaselWorld*, a major watch and jewellery show.

from the internet

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