

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1949)
Heft: 1118

Artikel: A survey of Switzerland's economic situation
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693029>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 21.02.2026

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

A SURVEY OF SWITZERLAND'S ECONOMIC SITUATION.

Spring 1949.

Switzerland's foreign trade during the first quarter of this year has been distinguished by an appreciable decrease in the adverse balance of this country's trade compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. This phenomenon is due above all to a falling off in imports and to an increase in the value of exports. Thus can be seen that the trend noticed in 1948 is being confirmed; the return to normal in the case of imports is a clear indication of a certain saturation of the market. The total for *imports* is just a little over 1,000 million Swiss francs, showing a decrease of about a quarter, in quantity as well as in value, compared with the corresponding period in 1948. The volume of imports is still slightly higher than it was the year immediately before the war. Swiss *exports* are distinguished by an increase in the consignments of high grade products. During this first quarter they have reached the figure of 810 million Swiss francs showing an improvement in value of 8.5%, while decreasing in volume by 12%. Generally speaking, the degree of occupation in industry has been satisfactory, although in certain branches activity has had to be restricted at times, mainly on account of the shortage of electric power. As a matter of fact, during the first three months of the year Switzerland suffered such a serious period of drought that difficulty was found in supplying the country with adequate electric power. Severe restrictions in the consumption of electricity, affecting industry as well as domestic users, had to be imposed. This situation, paradoxical as it is in this country of water power, and which seems destined to be repeated every year during the winter months, is due for the most part to the enormous growth in the demands for electric power which have arisen since the war. The annual consumption, which was about 5,000 million kWh in 1930, rose to 8,000 millions in 1939, to reach the figure of 10,000 millions at the present day. The numerous and important projects for the construction of barrages and power

stations, in process of realization or being worked out, will gradually meet this seasonal shortage.

With regard to Switzerland's *supplier and buyer* markets, it should be noted that during this first quarter, oversea countries have played a more active role in the supplying of Switzerland than in the previous quarter. As far as the neighbouring countries are concerned, Switzerland's trade exchanges with Germany have improved considerably compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. Switzerland's trade with Italy is now balanced, as a result of an increase in Swiss exports to that country and of less important purchases on the part of Switzerland. Attention must also be drawn to the market fall in Swiss exports to France, first consequence of the breaking off of the economic negotiations with that country. Trade with the Argentine and Czechoslovakia has slackened appreciably. Then again, Swiss imports from the United States of America, from the Belgium-Luxemburg Economic Union and especially from Great Britain have fallen off considerably whilst imports from Spain and Canada have greatly increased. Swiss sales to India, the Benelux countries and Sweden show marked signs of improvement.

Switzerland's position in the world economy.

During the course of the last quarter, the economic negotiations between Switzerland and Great Britain have ended in an agreement. An overall balance of payments has been agreed upon between Switzerland and the whole of the sterling area for a further period of a year, that is to say until March 1950. The economic agreements concluded at Berne in September 1948 with a delegation of the Yugoslav government have been ratified, and came into force on March 15th.

(Swiss Industry and Trade).

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, August 26th, 1949. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations, over and above their subscription: H. Trepp, Mrs. A. M. Themans.

TRANSPORTATION . . .

TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND

For details of groupage services and all other current facilities apply to:

WORLD TRANSPORT AGENCY LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1913

1, MARTIN LANE, CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.

Telephone: MANslon House 3434.

Telegrams: WORTRANCY.

and at

BASLE, SWITZERLAND

Viaduktstrasse, 8.

also at

MANCHESTER LIVERPOOL HULL BRADFORD BIRMINGHAM