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THE ECONOMICAL ACTIVITY OF SWITZERLAND IN 1952.

Although the final statistics showing Swiss foreign trade results for 1952 have not yet been received, here is an interesting summary of conditions in a few of the many branches of Switzerland's economic world.

Imports decreased this year from 5466.6 million francs in the first eleven months of 1951 to 4776.3 million in the corresponding period this year. Exports have increased, however, rising from 4262.9 million francs in 1951 to 4283.4 million francs in 1952. These unexpectedly high results lead one to believe that the trend of steadily increasing business activity in Switzerland will continue in 1953.

In general, business conditions have been good in all sections of Swiss industry, except for slight setbacks in the chemical and textile industries. Fewer individual watches and clocks were sold, but more money for the exports was received by manufacturers than in 1951. Machine makers, especially electrical machines and tool producers had a very good year, and the number of employees here remained high with many foreign labourers employed. The undelivered orders in this industry make it clear that labourers will have enough work to guarantee another full year of employment.

The textile industry had some difficulties this year. Exports and orders for within Switzerland declined, partly because several countries have imposed import restrictions, but mainly because of the generally high reserve stocks. A definite turn for the better has been noticed within the past few months, so that now, even textile manufacturers can look into the future with hope and little anxiety.

Dye producers also had difficulties this past year, especially in exports, but this was a direct result of the previously mentioned lag in the textile business.

Generally, the supply of raw materials has continued to grow larger, and prices were favourable. The law restricting the use of copper and copper alloys was repealed and the supply of copper will be good in the future.

Builders have had a satisfactory year and it is estimated that 1952 will show even more favourable results than those for 1951. In 1951, 2.7 thousand million francs were spent for construction purposes.

Hotels had a good summer season this year. 10.3 million people stayed overnight in Switzerland's hotels, 929,000, or 10% more than the number of overnight visitors from June until September in 1951. According to statistical reports which have been kept since 1934, foreign tourists travel surpassed all previous records.

(Swiss office for the Development of trade.)

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, February 13th, 1953. We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: E. Dubois, O. Jaeggi, G. A. Schwarz, F. Kibiger, F. Delaloye, A. P. Gubeli, J. Emmenegger, P. L. Portman, W. Schlatter, M. Ernst, W. Glur, A. J. Im Obersteg, E. M. Hess, J. Fischer, O. Frey, A. Baenziger, Mrs. M. Harvey, E. Winzeler, E. Montag, E. Oggier, F. R. Imhoff, E. Wegmuller.



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