

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: - (1983)

Heft: 1803

Rubrik: Business world

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: 09.12.2025

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

THE Swiss are working hours which are still long by international standards. With an average working time of 2,042 hours per year, Switzerland is surpassed only by Japan with 2,133 hours.

The long hours should not conceal the fact, however, that a considerable shortening of the working week has also taken place in Switzerland. In 1982, the average week in industry amounted to slightly below 44 hours and the actual working time (after deduction of public holidays and absences due to illness and accidents) to only just under 38 hours.

Four weeks' vacation is standard nowadays; older employees are usually granted between five and six weeks'

Swiss put in world's second longest working week

vacation. In addition, public holidays account for between 10 and 12 days of the year, eight of which generally fall on a working day.

Consider the past: Over 100 years ago (1877) the factory law was passed which saw the introduction of the 65-hour workweek and the prohibition of child labour. By 1920, the

workweek had been shortened to 49 hours and it was only in the last 20 years that the working week was reduced through collective agreements to 43.7 hours (fourth quarter of 1982).

The reduction in working time can be illustrated more clearly by an example spanning three generations: The grandparents (born in 1895), having reached retirement, can look back on roughly 115,000 hours worked. Prior to 1920, only every tenth employee was able to take a week's vacation per year. In 1910, about 3,000 working hours per annum was the general rule.

During the Second World War, the children (born 1925)

started gainful activity. At that time, two weeks' vacation was usual in Switzerland. On the basis of the virtually unchanged average workweek of 47 hours till 1960, they accumulated an average annual working time of nearly 2,300 hours.

By the time they retire in 1990 (men), they will probably have worked about 100,000 hours. The grandchildren, which were born around 1950, will have accumulated 85,000 working hours before they reach retirement age in the year 2015 at the latest.

This is equal only to 70 per cent of the working time recorded by their grandparents. In other words, on the basis of an 8½-hour day and a 5-day workweek, the grandchildren will have been able during their working lives to enjoy 700 weeks, or 13½ years, more leisure time than their grandparents in their generation.

Source: UBS Business Facts and Figures May 1983.

SWISS NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION

Sunday, 31st July 1983

at the Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street,
London (nearest Tube Station
Tottenham Court Road)

Come and meet your friends at a

SOIREE FAMILIALE

Swiss Specialities incl. Raclette,
Bratwurst, Servelat and drinks
provided by the Swiss Church at
moderate prices.

Doors open at 6p.m.

Swissair adapts its fleet

SWISSAIR is taking further action to adapt its transport capacity to market needs. The adjustments are aimed at returning flight operations to profitability by 1985 and to continue a strategy initiated two years ago in connection with the purchase of 10 Airbus A310 aircraft.

Counting all new acquisitions and planned withdrawals, Swissair currently expects that in 1984-85 its fleet will consist of 47 aircraft and not 50 as originally planned.

Apart from meeting the most stringent environmental criteria, the aircraft entering service are larger and more efficient than

those they replace, so that scheduled capacity will still grow by about three per cent annually in ton-kilometre terms during this two-year period. This brings the airline's production more closely into line with expected demand.

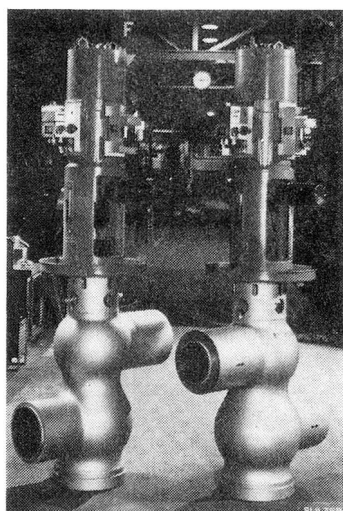
No cuts are planned in the airline's route network. All current destinations will continue to be served, although a few frequencies will be reduced.

Current plans envisage an increase in fleet size to 49 aircraft from 1986.

Sulzer gear for Hong Kong

THE Castle Peak "B" power station for the China Light and Power company, Hong Kong, will contain 660 MW steam turbine generator units incorporating Sulzer HP and LP steam by-pass valves and control equipment to enable the boilers to maintain output and rapidly restore the turbines to load following load rejection.

The main contractors, GEC Turbine Generators, have awarded the contract for the supply of the LP by-pass equip-



Sulzer HP bypass control valves

ment to Sulzer Bros (UK) for progressive delivery from September 1984 to September 1988.

Manchester to mount first Swiss mission

MANCHESTER Chamber of Commerce is organising its first ever trade mission to Switzerland, the UK's seventh largest export market.

The sales drive will take place in October and is aimed at introducing North West companies to valuable contacts in the country.

Last year the UK won a 5½ per cent share of Swiss imports with

exports worth £1,196 million but with a greater concentration of effort, the chamber believes this figure could be substantially improved.

The mission, which will be based in Zurich with access to other centres, has the full backing of the Trade Promotion Branch of the British Consulate General in Zurich.

SWISS CHURCHES

EGLISE SUISSE, 79 Endell Street, WC2

Services in German 1st and 3rd Sunday in the month at 10am.

Services in French every Sunday at 11.15am.

Minister: Rev. Urs Steiner, 1 Womersley Road, London N8 9AE. Tel. 01-340 9740

SWISS CATHOLIC MISSION, 48 Great Peter St., SW1

6pm On Saturdays (Meditation Service)

11.30am On Sundays (in English)

6.30pm On Sundays (in German)

1.05pm Monday - Friday

Chaplain: Fr. Paul Bossard, 48 Great Peter St., London SW1P 2HA. Tel: 01-222 2895

Swiss Life



The Swiss Life Insurance and Pension Company

offers through its
United Kingdom Branch:

For Individuals

ALL CLASSES OF
INDIVIDUAL LIFE ASSURANCE
AND ANNUITIES

For United Kingdom Companies

GROUP PENSION,
LIFE ASSURANCE
AND GROUP PERMANENT
HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEMES

For Multinational Companies

THE MASTER COVER CONTRACT

Savings in costs by means of
multinational pooling.

*Further details may be obtained from
Swiss Life's offices at:*

9-12 Cheapside London EC2V 6AL
Telephone: 01-236 3841

**Schweizerische
Lebensversicherungs-
und Rentenanstalt**

A Mutual Company Incorporated in
Switzerland in 1857.

**ASSETS EXCEED £5,000 MILLION
ANNUAL INCOME EXCEEDS
£1,000 MILLION**

Swiss Life



AFTER making allowances for seasonal variations, employment in Switzerland in 1982 ceased to drop from one quarter to the next, says the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade.

In the fourth quarter, the number of persons gainfully employed was 1.4 per cent fewer than the figure for the last three months in 1981, which corresponds to the reduction of about 33,000 jobs.

The number of workers in industry dropped by 4.4 per cent, while in the building and services sectors it increased slightly.

Owing, in particular, to seasonal variations, unemployment increased in the fourth quarter and at the beginning of 1983. The unemployment rate, which

amounted to 0.9 per cent in January, nevertheless remained very small compared with the figures in other countries.

In 1982 the part of the reduction in employment exceeding the increase in unemployment was offset largely by a drop in the Swiss working population.

The foreign working population, on the other hand, continued to increase; in December it amounted to 648,000 people, representing an increase of 1.7 per cent compared with the same month in 1981.

There are two reasons for this trend in the size of the foreign working population, which is the reverse of what occurred during the 1974-76 recession: the worsening of the economic situa-

tion has had a far less marked effect than in the mid-'70s on certain branches such as the hotel trade and part of the building sector.

In addition, holders of

residence permits, who enjoy the same rights as Swiss citizens on the labour market, rose from 31 per cent to 53 per cent of the foreign working population between 1973 and 1982.

Employment and labour market

	1980	1981	1982	1983
Unemployment rate	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.9
Number of unemployed	6,255	5,889	13,220	27,864
Number of partially unemployed	2,128	5,704	36,611	68,545
Situations vacant	12,312	11,876	6,352	5,209

Source: la Vie économique



ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

1815 Clarens-Montreux

British girls' boarding school, founded in 1927.

Beautifully situated by lake side. Purpose built:

Extensive grounds. All sports.

Preparation for G.C.E., S.A.T. and university entrance.

SUMMER COURSES for boys and girls –
July and August.

Enquiries:

The Rev. L.V. Wright M.A.

Tel: (021) 64.34.11 – Telex: 453131 geor

AIGLON SWITZERLAND

The British International University Preparatory School in the French Swiss Alps

- 250 boarding boys and girls (11-18 years)
- Oxford G.C.E. 'O' and 'A' Levels
- American College Board
- University preparation US, UK, Canada, Europe
- Good sports, ski-ing and mountain excursions
- Character building emphasised
- Summer Courses with English and French tuition

For further information and entrance requirements, apply to:

*Philip L. Parsons,
M.A. (Cantab),
Headmaster,
Aiglon College,
1885 Chesières-Villars,
Switzerland.
Tel: (025)35 27 21
Telex: 456 211 ACOL CH*



International girls' school

Sunny Dale

CH-3812 Interlaken-Wilderswil

Phone 036/22 17 18

Irene Gaugler, prop. and dir.

Excellent references

Thorough study of **French, German, English** with official diplomas. (Alliance Française, Goethe-Institute, Cambridge-Certificate)

Commercial branches, Arts, General education, savoir vivre Domestic science, Summer and winter sports in excellent climate. Our concern is the broadening of interest and development of self-confidence.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE
Individual personality development
Scholastic year and summer language courses in July.

DIAVOX



Modern Institute of Languages

19, avenue de Beaulieu,

1004 Lausanne

tel. 021/37 68 15

French, German, English

The most up-to-date methods. Intensive day courses from 4-11 weeks in small groups of adults from 16, or private lessons.

Preparation for public exams. Aims: Fluent oral and written communication.

Le Manoir

International school for young ladies

Ch 2520 La Neuveville (lake of Biene)

Tel: (038) 51.36.36

Le Manoir is an international boarding school for young ladies, influenced by the best Swiss and English educational principles. Certificate and Diploma in French, English and German, Italian and Spanish, GCE O and A levels, General Knowledge, Commercial branches, Secretarial Diploma.

Domestic Science. Modern installations, language laboratory, tennis courts, covered swimming pool. Sauna. Sport ground for volley and basketball. Chalet at Wengen in the Alps. Swiss and foreign references since 1939.

Summer holiday courses.

Principal:

Messrs. G. and J. Voumard,
Anglo-Swiss family

