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We are committed to Switzerland

Overview of FOCBS facts and figures 2023

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Facts and figures 2023 of the FOCBS

1 Security for the population

1.1 Tracing people and stolen property

	2021	2022	2023
Persons for whom an alert has been issued detained	25 779	21 316	22 733
of which persons for whom an arrest warrant has been issued	8 673	9 312	5 440
Seizure of tools used for crime, goods originating from a criminal offence and cash (number of cases)	2 012	2 210	2 195

1.2 Migration

Number of cases

	2021	2022	2023
Illegal residence	18 859	52 077	50 185
Clarified suspected smuggling	478	476	388

1.3 Narcotics

Drugs seized (in kg)

	2021	2022	2023
Marijuana	777	476	243
Heroin	56	11	7
Cocaine	90	568	110
Amphetamines	9	17	9
Designer drugs	30	15	84

1.4 Documents

Amount seized (in units)

	2021	2022	2023
Forged documents	1 761	1 785	1899
of which passports	201	211	244
of which ID cards	487	566	533
of which residence permits	100	109	84
of which driving licences	685	730	819
of which other (e.g. vehicle registration documents, visas)	288	169	219
Misused documents	240	281	247

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1.5 Weapons Act, War Material Act and Goods Control Act and embargo measures

	2021	2022	2023
Number of infringements	4 471	3 741	4 335
of which Weapons Act	4 416	3 641	4 018
of which War Material Act	9	9	2
of which Goods Control Act and embargo measures	46	91	315

1.6 Medications and doping substances

Consignments discovered (number)

	2021	2022	2023
Medications and doping substances	11 263	7 806	8 081
of which medications reported to Swissmedic	9 421	6 793	6 659

Ranking of seized medications

1. Erectile dysfunction treatments (71 %)
2. Sleeping pills and tranquilizers (7 %)
3. Hormones (incl. melatonin) (5 %)
4. Nasal sprays and laxatives (5 %)
5. Antibiotics, antiparasitics, antivirals (2 %)
6. Painkillers (1 %)
7. Other (9 %)

Origin of the seized medications

India	43 %
Eastern Europe	17 %
Asia (without India)	16 %
Western Europe	16 %
Other	8 %

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1.7 Road traffic security

Number of infringements*

	2021	2022	2023
Prosecuted or reported drivers	8 815	8 273	8 344
of which heavy vehicles	1 936	1 705	1 546
of which other	6 879	6 568	6 798
Prosecuted or reported cases of non-compliant vehicles and loads	16 836	14 838	14 070
of which heavy vehicles	12 546	10 462	9 448
of which other	4 290	4 376	4 622

* Safety deficiencies in heavy goods vehicles, drivers who were unfit to drive, violations of the regulations on rest periods, etc.

1.8 Plant, species and animal protection

Detections (consignments declared to the FSVO*)

	2021	2022	2023
Species protection (plants and animals)	699	646	801
Animal protection and epizootic diseases ¹	2 560	2 059	4 052

The FOCBS detected 4074 consignments of prohibited plants, fruits, vegetables, cut flowers, cut foliage or seeds from third countries (outside the EU and EFTA).

* Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office, www.blv.admin.ch

¹ This category was adjusted as at 2023; the increase in 2023 compared to previous years is due to the expansion of the category and the change in the survey method.

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2 Security for the economy

2.1 Swiss foreign trade²

Overview of foreign trade (in CHF billion)

	2021	2022	2023
Exports	347,7	382,7	378,0
Imports	296,5	341,0	327,6

Balance of trade – export surplus (in CHF billion)

2021	2022	2023
51,2	41,7	50,4

Imports and exports by continent (in CHF billion)

	Imports	Exports
Europe	180,2	169,2
EU	169,0	151,0
Germany	59,7	46,1
Italy	25,7	24,4
France	19,5	18,1
Asia	78,5	134,3
China	18,4	40,6
Japan	6,7	7,7
North America	35,5	60,6
USA	29,5	56,6
Central America, South America, Caribbean	11,5	7,6
Africa	16,9	3,4
Oceania	5,0	2,8

The EU member states are by far the most important customers for Swiss products.

2.2 Free trade

Switzerland has concluded 35 free trade agreements with 46 countries. Thanks to these, importers do not pay import duties on many goods.

The latest free trade agreement entered into force with Indonesia on 1 November 2021.

² The figures for Swiss foreign trade are provisional. The adjusted and definitive results are published towards the middle of the year.

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2.3 Commercial goods traffic

60,7 million customs declarations were processed by the FOCBS in 2023.

Customs declarations (number of assessments in millions)

	2021	2022	2023
Importation	36,1	39,9	47,3
Exportation	6,9	6,9	6,6
Transit	7,7	7,2	6,8

2.4 Criminal prosecution and criminal proceedings

Sanctioned products (in kg)

	2021	2022	2023
Tobacco smuggling	20 720	11 395	9 290
Meat smuggling	152 780	120 418	263 053

2.5 Agricultural products

False declarations or smuggling

	2021	2022	2023
Cases involving merchandise	2 100	1 650	1 813
Cases in tourist traffic	20 767	16 723	13 349

2.6 Precious metal control

Hallmarking of jewellery and watches (in millions of units)

	2021	2022	2023
National hallmark (St. Bernard dog's head)	2,57	2,94	3,02
International "common control mark"	2,55	2,91	3,02

In 1330 cases, the FOCBS objected to the quality of precious metal articles.

2.7 Product piracy

Seized consignments

	2021	2022	2023
Cases involving merchandise	5 959	7 964	7 811
Cases in tourist traffic	2 881	2 517	2 156

A total of 26 841 counterfeit branded items were withdrawn from circulation, i.e. 22 796 counterfeits in commercial goods traffic and 4 045 counterfeits in tourist traffic.

Facts and figures 2023 of the FOCBS

Merchandise

Counterfeits by product group (in %)

Bags, wallets	29,7 %
Clothes, scarves, hats, belts	21,2 %
Watches, jewellery, glasses	17,1 %
Shoes	26,6 %
Medicines and medicinal products	2,9 %
Other	2,5 %

Tourist traffic

Counterfeits by product group (in %)

Bags, wallets	40,9 %
Clothes, scarves, hats, belts	37,4 %
Watches, jewellery, glasses	16,4 %
Shoes	3,1 %
Perfume, cosmetics, razor blades, toothbrushes	1,3 %
Other	0,9 %

3 Security for the state

3.1 Receipts

Total receipts (in CHF billion)

2021	2022	2023
23,5	24,3	23,6

Of the Confederation's receipts of almost CHF 79 billion, the FOCBS generates around a third at CHF 23.6 billion and thus ensures that the state functions properly. Main sources of receipts (in CHF million)

	2021	2022	2023
Value added tax	11 326	12 240	12 072
Mineral oil tax	4 486	4 367	4 276
Tobacco duty	2 149	2 030	1 974
Heavy vehicle charge	1 614	1 606	1 562
CO ₂ tax on fuel	1 155	1 238	912
Import duties	1 277	1 221	1 184
Other receipts*	1 502	1 607	1 651

* Automobile duty, motorway tax stickers and beer tax, etc.

Facts and figures 2023 of the FOCBS

3.2 Beer and Spirits

In 2023, 1192 breweries existed and 106 009 spirit producers were registered.

Domestic production of beer (in millions of hectolitres)

2021	2022	2023
3,38	3,69	3,59

CHF 27 million of the spirits tax, known as the "alcohol tenth", flowed to the cantons to combat drug abuse.

3.3 Tobacco

Cigarette sales domestically (in millions of units)

2021	2022	2023
9 132	8 580	8 263

3.4 QuickZoll

With the QuickZoll application, travellers can digitally declare goods they buy abroad for their own use or as gifts and pay all necessary duties and taxes – 100% independently and regardless of location. www.quickzoll.admin.ch

	2021	2022	2023
Number of declarations made by travellers	31 835	53 453	68 675
Total turnover in CHF	2 901 507	5 091 329	6 528 393

3.5 Activ

The Activ application enables the drivers of freight forwarding and transport companies to automatically activate their goods declaration at the border www.activ.admin.ch

	2021	2022	2023
Number of automatic activations with Activ	55 584	128 819	361 644

Facts and figures 2023 of the FOCBS

4 Who works at the FOCBS?

4.1 Employees

Average number of full-time equivalents

	2021	2022	2023
Total	4 442	4 424	4 384

At the FOCBS, the overall proportion of women (headcount) was 25.9 % in 2023.

Language ratio (in %)

	2021	2022	2023
German	58,99	58,69	58,86
French	26,04	26,01	25,89
Italian	14,33	14,66	14,60
Romansh	0,64	0,64	0,65

4.2 International assignments

109 employees were involved overseas in security activities or training.

	2021	2022	2023
Frontex			
Deploys total	65	95	109
Deployment days total	2 341	3 437	5 206
Airline Liaison Officers (ALO)			
Deploys total	6	6	6
Internationale Missionen und Verbindungsoffiziere, Attachés			
Deploys total	4	4	4

4.3 Specialist in customs and border security

180 aspirants commenced their career with the FOCBS in 2023. The new qualification will enable them to carry out comprehensive checks on goods, people and means of transport. More information on training at www.bazg.admin.ch/ausbildung and www.zukunft-zoll.ch.

Facts and figures 2023 of the FOCBS

4.4 You will find the FOCBS here

Are you looking for further information? You will find more information at www.bazg.admin.ch. The website attracted around 6 million visitors in 2023.

How to find us and when exactly we are there can be found online at www.zollauskunft.admin.ch. Last year, the Information Office answered 31 014 emails and 126 821 telephone calls. This amounts to 506 enquiries a day, with each call lasting around 3 minutes on average. Information is provided in English, French, German and Italian.

Information office for customs regulations

Tel.: +41 58 467 15 15

Monday to Friday

8am to 11.30am and 1.30pm to 5pm

5 A day at the Swiss border

Approximately 2,200,000 people, 1,100,000 cars and 21,000 heavy goods vehicles cross the Swiss border every day. On a daily basis, FOCBS employees collected and found:

- CHF **65 million** in receipts
- **74** counterfeit products
- **62** people who were wanted or had an arrest warrant issued against them
- **5** forged identity documents
- **12** prohibited weapons
- **1** kg of drugs
- **137** cases of illegal residence
- **22** consignments of medications or doping preparations
- **26** defective lorries

www.bazg.admin.ch/figures