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We are committed to Switzerland

Overview of FOCBS facts and figures 2024

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Facts and figures 2024 of the FOCBS

1 Security for the population

1.1 Tracing people and stolen property

	2022	2023	2024
Persons for whom an alert has been issued detained	21 316	22 733	24 998
of which persons for whom an arrest warrant has been issued	9 312	9 661	10 731
Seizure of tools used for crime, goods originating from a criminal offence and cash (number of cases)	2 210	2 195	2 436

1.2 Migration

Number of cases

	2022	2023	2024
Illegal residence	52 077	50 185	29 458
Clarified suspected smuggling	476	388	280

1.3 Narcotics

Drugs seized (in kg)

	2022	2023	2024
Marijuana	476	243	1 104
Heroin	11	7	12
Cocaine	568	110	272
Amphetamines/Methamphetamines	17	9	44
Designer drugs	15	84	175

1.4 Documents

Amount seized (in units)

	2022	2023	2024
Forged documents	1 785	1 899	1 863
of which passports	211	244	237
of which ID cards	566	533	539
of which residence permits	109	84	109
of which driving licences	730	819	824
of which other (e.g. vehicle registration documents, visas)	169	219	154
Misused documents	281	247	232

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

	2022	2023	2024
Number of infringements	3 741	4 335	4 095
of which Weapons Act	3 641	4 018	3 756
of which War Material Act	9	2	7
of which Goods Control Act and embargo measures	91	315	332

1.6 Medications and doping substances

Consignments discovered (number)

	2022	2023	2024
Medications and doping substances	7 806	8 081	6 755
of which medications reported to Swissmedic	6 793	6 659	5 668

Ranking of seized medications

1. Erectile dysfunction treatments (57 %)
2. Sleeping pills and tranquilizers (10 %)
3. Nasal sprays and laxatives (6 %)
4. Hormones (incl. melatonin) (4 %)
5. Hair loss remedies (4 %)
6. Slimming products (4 %)
7. Antibiotics, antiparasitics, antivirals (3 %)
8. Other (12 %)

Origin of the seized medications

Western Europe	25 %
India	25 %
Eastern Europe	24 %
Asia (without India)	14 %
Other	12 %

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1.7 Road traffic security

Number of infringements*

	2022	2023	2024
Prosecuted or reported drivers	8 273	8 344	8 815
of which heavy vehicles	1 705	1 546	1 464
of which other	6 568	6 798	7 351
Prosecuted or reported cases of non-compliant vehicles and loads	14 838	14 070	13 773
of which heavy vehicles	10 462	9 448	9 633
of which other	4 376	4 622	4 140

* 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*)

	2022	2023	2024
Species protection (plants and animals)	646	801	824
Animal protection and epizootic diseases ¹	2 059	4 052	3 390

The FOCBS detected 2 459 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 of 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)

	2022	2023	2024
Exports	382,7	377,8	393,4
Imports	341,0	329,0	326,1

Balance of trade – export surplus (in CHF billion)

2022	2023	2024
41,7	48,8	67,3

Imports and exports by continent (in CHF billion)

	Imports	Exports
Europe	181,9	183,7
EU	172,2	159,3
Germany	59,9	45,3
Italy	26,7	24,7
France	18,7	18,6
Asia	76,4	126,4
China	17,9	37,3
Japan	6,9	8,2
North America	33,7	68,9
USA	26,2	64,8
Central America, South America, Caribbean	12,8	8,2
Africa	17,1	3,5
Oceania	4,3	2,7

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 43 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.

Facts and figures 2024 of the FOCBS

2.3 Commercial goods traffic

72 million customs declarations were processed by the FOCBS in 2024.

Customs declarations (number of assessments in millions)

	2022	2023	2024
Importation	39,9	47,3	58,2
Exportation	6,9	6,6	6,8
Transit	7,2	6,8	7,1

2.4 Criminal prosecution and criminal proceedings

Sanctioned products (in kg)

	2022	2023	2024
Tobacco smuggling	11 395	9 290	5 211
Meat smuggling	120 418	263 053	208 950

2.5 Agricultural products

False declarations or smuggling

	2022	2023	2024
Cases involving merchandise	1 650	1 813	2 390
Cases in tourist traffic	16 723	13 349	14 128

2.6 Precious metal control

Hallmarking of jewellery and watches (in millions of units)

	2022	2023	2024
National hallmark (St. Bernard dog's head)	2,94	3,02	2,68
International "common control mark"	2,91	3,02	2,69

In 800 cases, the FOCBS objected to the quality of precious metal articles.

2.7 Product piracy

Seized consignments

	2022	2023	2024
Cases involving merchandise	7 964	7 811	8 318
Cases in tourist traffic	2 517	2 156	1 880

A total of 32 010 counterfeit branded items were withdrawn from circulation, i.e. 28 567 counterfeits in commercial goods traffic and 3 443 counterfeits in tourist traffic.

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Merchandise

Counterfeits by product group (in %)

Bags, wallets	24,3 %
Clothes, scarves, hats, belts	25,7 %
Watches, jewellery, glasses	16,5 %
Shoes	27,3 %
Medicines and medicinal products	3,5 %
Other	2,7 %

Tourist traffic

Counterfeits by product group (in %)

Bags, wallets	34,1 %
Clothes, scarves, hats, belts	31,8 %
Watches, jewellery, glasses	26,7 %
Shoes	4,5 %
Perfume, cosmetics, razor blades, toothbrushes	1,4 %
Other	1,5 %

3 Security for the state

3.1 Receipts

Total receipts (in CHF billion)

2022	2023	2024
24,3	23,6	23,7

Of the Confederation's receipts of almost CHF 84 billion, the FOCBS generates around a third at CHF 23.7 billion and thus ensures that the state functions properly.

Main sources of receipts (in CHF million)

	2022	2023	2024
Value added tax	12 240	12 072	12 165
Mineral oil tax	4 367	4 276	4 317
Tobacco duty	2 030	1 974	1 947
Heavy vehicle charge	1 606	1 562	1 655
CO ₂ tax on fuel	1 238	912	1 144
Import duties	1 221	1 184	738
Other receipts*	1 607	1 651	1 394

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

Facts and figures 2024 of the FOCBS

3.2 Beer and Spirits

In 2024, 1 149 breweries existed, and 106 214 spirit producers were registered.

Domestic production of beer (in millions of hectolitres)

2022	2023	2024
3,69	3,59	3,52

CHF 25 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)

2022	2023	2024
8 580	8 263	8 097

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

	2022	2023	2024
Number of declarations made by travellers	53 453	68 675	83 970
Total turnover in CHF million	5,1	6,5	8,5

3.5 Motorway vignette

Since August 2023, an electronic version of the motorway vignette can also be obtained:

www.e-vignette.ch

	2022	2023	2024
Number of electronic vignettes sold (in millions)	-	0,3	3,8
Number of motorway tax stickers (in millions)	10,5	10,6	(³)

3.6 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

	2022	2023	2024
Number of automatic activations with Activ	128 819	361 644	421 616

³ The adjusted and definitive results are published towards the middle of the year.

Facts and figures 2024 of the FOCBS

4 Who works at the FOCBS?

4.1 Employees

Average number of full-time equivalents

	2022	2023	2024
Total	4 424	4 384	4 234

At the FOCBS, the overall proportion of women (headcount) was 26,3 % in 2024.

Language ratio (in %)

	2022	2023	2024
German	58,69	58,86	58,98
French	26,01	25,89	26,01
Italian	14,66	14,60	14,36
Romansh	0,64	0,65	0,65

4.2 International assignments

185 employees were involved overseas in security activities or training.

	2022	2023	2024
Frontex			
Deploys total	95	109	112
Deployment days total	3 437	5 206	5 881
TIGER/FOX			
Deploys Total	196	224	226
Deployment days Total	4 433	5 082	4 940
Airline Liaison Officers (ALO)			
Deploys total	6	6	5
Internationale Missionen und Verbindungsoffiziere, Attachés			
Deploys total	4	4	4

4.3 Specialist in customs and border security

109 aspirants commenced their career with the FOCBS in 2024. 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 2024 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 8 million visitors in 2024.

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 39 462 emails and 128 809 telephone calls. This amounts to 513 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
- **87** counterfeit products
- **68** people who were wanted or had an arrest warrant issued against them
- **5** forged identity documents
- **11** prohibited weapons
- **3** kg of drugs
- **80** cases of illegal residence
- **18** consignments of medications or doping preparations
- **26** defective lorries

www.bazg.admin.ch/figures