

# Media release

scienceindustries

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Foreign trade in 2019:

## Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences earn nearly one out of every two francs in Switzerland's foreign trade

**Exports for Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences improved to a new record high of CHF 114.56 billion in 2019. The share of total Swiss exports rose to 47.3%, whereby this industry now earns nearly one out of every two francs in foreign trade. The US continued to expand its position as the biggest purchaser of Swiss chemical and pharmaceutical products, but the countries in the world's other regions also made an important contribution to the growth in Swiss exports in 2019.**

The Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences companies increased their exports by 9.8% year-on-year in 2019 in spite of global economic uncertainties. The sector reached a new all-time high with an export volume of CHF 114.56 billion. Imports grew at the same time by 5.0% to CHF 52.66 billion, thus increasing the export surplus of the member companies of scienceindustries by CHF 7.7 billion to CHF 61.9 billion in total. Of this surplus, 96.7% was generated by pharmaceutical products.

### Pharmaceutical products account for a high percentage of total Swiss exports

Exports of pharmaceutical products grew by 10.4% year-on-year to CHF 97.54 billion in 2019, which equals 85.1% of total Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences exports and 40.3% of total Swiss exports.

Considerably more (+22.6%) organic raw and base materials were exported in 2019 than in the previous year (+15%). Exports of plant protection products grew by 17.2%, while exports of essential oils and aromatic substances also increased by 2.3%.

Exports by segment	2018 in CHF billion	2019 in CHF billion	+/- in %	Share in %
Total Swiss exports	233.22	242.28	3.9	
<b>Products of the chemical and pharmaceutical industry</b>	<b>104.37</b>	<b>114.56</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>100</b>
- Organic raw and base materials	4.27	5.23	22.6	4.6
- Unshaped plastics (primary forms)	2.21	2.07	-6.3	1.8
- Pharmaceutical products, vitamins, diagnostics	88.34	97.54	10.4	85.1
- Plant protection products and insecticides	1.73	2.03	17.2	1.8
- Dyes and pigments	0.40	0.39	-3.4	0.3
- Paints and varnishes	1.14	1.07	-5.7	1.0
- Essential oils, aromatic substances	1.80	1.84	2.3	1.6
- Other segments	4.48	4.39	-1.9	3.8

## EU most important purchaser of chemical-pharmaceutical industry

Exports to the EU increased substantially (+10.8%). At CHF 55.21 billion, almost half of all exports were destined for countries in the EU (48.2%), the most important trading partner of Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences. Exports to North America also rose sharply by 11.9% to CHF 28.34 billion, while exports to the BRIC countries grew strongly by 12.6% to CHF 9.98 billion.

## Slovenia now among the top ten

The US is still the most important purchaser of products manufactured by the member companies of scienceindustries with a further increase of 12.1% to a total share of exports of 22.2%. With an export volume of CHF 25.48 billion, the US is well ahead of Germany, the second most important country of export, which improved substantially to CHF 17.76 billion (+7%). At CHF 6.68 billion, Italy followed at some distance in third place. China as a BRIC country ranked fifth with exports of CHF 5.58 billion, following short on the heels of Spain, which saw excellent growth to CHF 5.77 billion (+25.4%). Exports to the UK amounted to only CHF 3.05 billion (-8.4%). Slovenia now ranks among the top ten with exports of CHF 3.07 billion and a very high percentage increase (+329.6%), following hard on the heels of France with an export volume of CHF 4.86 billion. Exports to the BRIC countries accounted for a share of 8.7%, while exports to India stagnated.

Exports by regions	2018 in CHF billion	2019 in CHF billion	+/- in %	Share in %
<b>Total exports</b>	<b>104.37</b>	<b>114.56</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>
- Europe	52.85	58.79	11.2	51.3
- of which EU countries	49.84	55.21	10.8	48.2
- North America	25.34	28.34	11.9	24.7
- Asia	18.38	19.60	6.6	17.1
- BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China)	8.86	9.98	12.6	8.7
- South America	3.55	3.41	-3.8	3.0
- Africa	1.92	2.07	7.9	1.8
- Oceania	1.35	1.34	-0.9	1.2
- Other regions	0.98	1.01	2.9	0.9

## Four-fifths of imports come from the EU

79.2% of the imports of Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences come from the EU countries, which is on a par with the previous year. The EU is therefore still the most important supplier of raw materials, semi-finished and finished products. Germany leads the pack with around one-quarter (24.2%) of imports, followed by Ireland (13.1%), the UK (9.9%), the US (9.1%) and Italy (8.8%).

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## About scienceindustries:

scienceindustries, the Swiss Business Association Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences, works to ensure excellent international framework conditions for its around 250 member companies. The Chemistry Pharma Life Sciences industry employs some 67,000 people in Switzerland. As Switzerland's biggest export industry, it makes an important contribution to Swiss prosperity.