



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

We are the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago,
promoting closer ties between Switzerland and the Midwest.



Switzerland, a well-balanced mechanism! Barely 2% of the Midwest in size, 2/3 mountains and lakes, bordered by France, Germany, Italy, Austria, and Liechtenstein, Switzerland is home to some 9 million permanent residents, 27% of whom are foreigners. Federalism helps ensure coexistence in a diverse country, with its four national languages and distinct geographic regions. Power is shared between the federal government, the 26 sovereign cantons, and some 2,000 municipalities. Switzerland is one of the most competitive economies in the world, thanks in large part to its flourishing service sector. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the mainstay of the export-oriented Swiss economy.

The relationship between Switzerland and the United States benefits from a close-knit network of cooperation and exchange, which is constantly reviewed to identify opportunities to expand and diversify the excellent bilateral ties. Today, these ties can be summed up in the following three numbers: **1, 6, and 3**. The U.S. is Switzerland's largest export market for goods and services worldwide, and a major hub for education and research. The pharmaceutical industry accounts for 50% of exports to the U.S. Precious metals, precision instruments and machinery are the next most important export sectors. Although the country is less than 0.5% of the U.S. territory in size, Switzerland is the 6th largest direct foreign investor in the U.S. Some 500 Swiss companies operate in the U.S., creating half a million jobs in all 50 states. Switzerland is also the third largest foreign investor in research and development in the U.S. For researchers in Switzerland, U.S. players are the most important partners for the joint publication of scientific papers. On the other side of the Atlantic, U.S. business investment in Switzerland translates into over 85,000 Swiss jobs. Some 2,000 American companies already operate in Switzerland, ranging from early-stage innovators to recognized multinationals.

This dynamism also characterizes the bilateral relationship with the Midwest. From the shores of Lake Michigan, our three-person team is in charge of strengthening ties with state and local authorities in our jurisdiction. We are supported by Honorary Consuls in Minneapolis, Indianapolis, and Detroit. We aim to promote trade, innovation, investment, education, and cultural exchange between Switzerland and the Midwest, which is currently home to 169 Swiss companies operating in 312 different locations and providing nearly 100,000 jobs across the region. The Midwest, when compared to the West Coast, imports more than twice the value of goods from Switzerland. Overall, the Midwest is the second most productive region for Swiss exports, just behind the East Coast, with a total of \$11.4 billion in 2023. Pharmaceuticals and manufacturing are leading categories in our 11-state jurisdiction. Exports from the Midwest to Switzerland have doubled to \$3 billion since 2021, with a sixfold increase in the state of Indiana. In addition, the U.S. interest in Switzerland's Vocational and Professional Education and Training system (dual education) remains strong. Our team also supports and promotes the activities initiated by the Swiss Embassy in Washington D.C., the Swiss Business Hub USA, Swissnex, Switzerland Tourism, and various Swiss associations in the Midwest.

Swiss immigrants in the Midwest have made significant contributions to the economic and cultural development of the region, which is home to 7,000 Swiss citizens and 245,000 residents of Swiss descent. While the team at the Consulate General maintains contacts with the various Swiss associations in the region for organizational reasons, the Swiss citizens living in the area are administratively served by our colleagues at the Swiss Embassy in Washington D.C. (for the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) or the Swiss Consulate General in New York (for the states of Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

Stay tuned! To learn more about our activities and/or the strong and dynamic relationship between the U.S. and Switzerland, please contact us at chicago@eda.admin.ch or visit the website www.swissimpactusa.com.

Thank you for your interest

The Consul General of Switzerland

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