



THE FOOTPRINT OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IN SWITZERLAND

# What lies ahead for Switzerland as a **pharmaceutical location?**

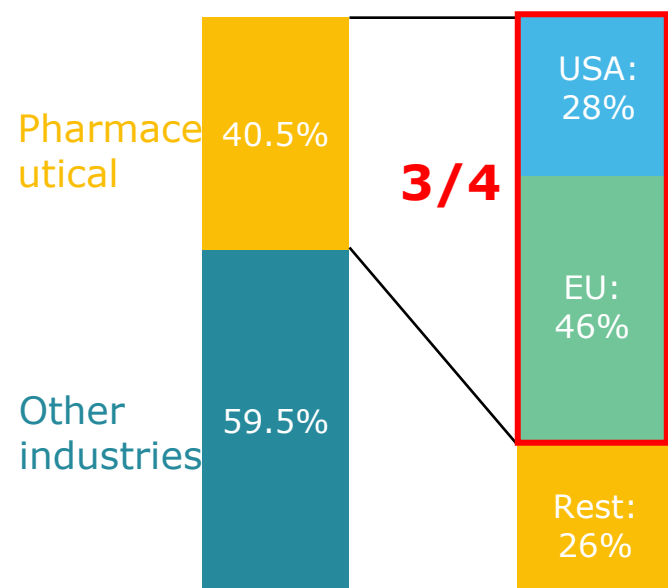
August 2025

# What lies ahead for Switzerland as a pharmaceutical location?

## The footprint of the pharmaceutical industry in Switzerland

### Uncertainty weighs on investment climate

Swiss pharmaceutical exports 2024

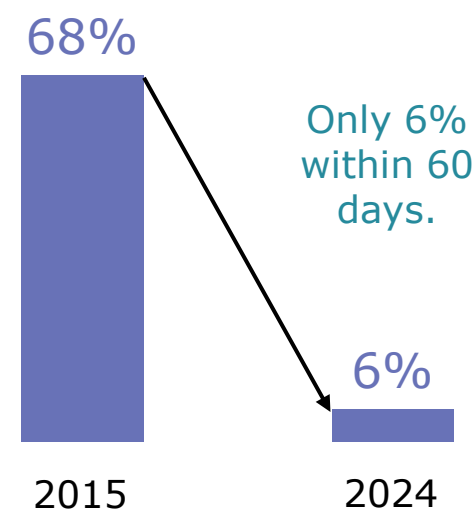


Source: Foreign trade statistics, FOCBS (2025)

- With exports worth around **CHF 114.5 billion**, accounting for **40.5%** of total exports, the pharmaceutical industry is Switzerland’s most important export sector.
- ! **Three-quarters of pharmaceutical exports** are faced with considerable uncertainty.
- The **pharmaceutical industry** employs around **50,600 people** in Switzerland and creates an additional **250,200 jobs in other sectors**.
- ! Hardly any new jobs have been created in the pharmaceutical sector in recent years. **Major investment projects are taking place abroad.**
- The pharmaceutical industry accounts for **5.8% of Switzerland’s GDP**. When **indirect effects** are taken into account, this rises to **9.8%**, representing **added value of CHF 74.5 billion**.
- ! With growth of 14.5% p.a. in the last 10 years, the **pharmaceutical industry has been responsible for almost half of overall GDP growth** in Switzerland.

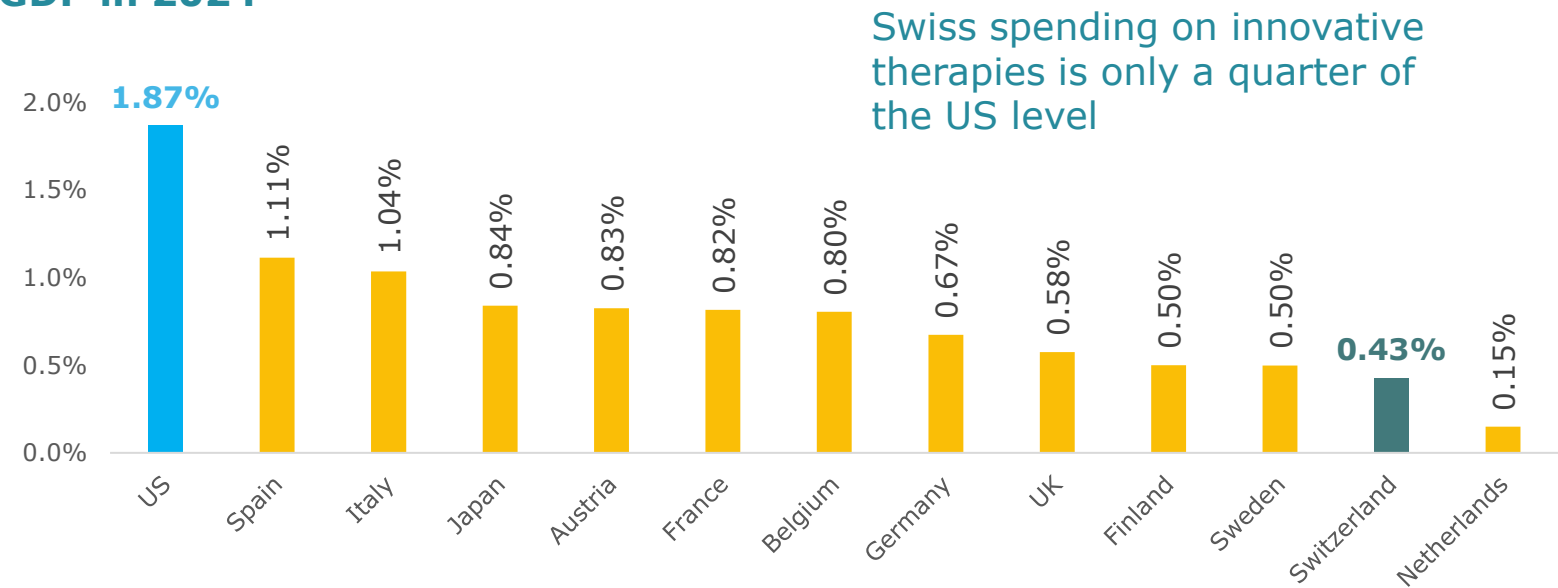
## Security of supply is at risk

### Access to new drugs



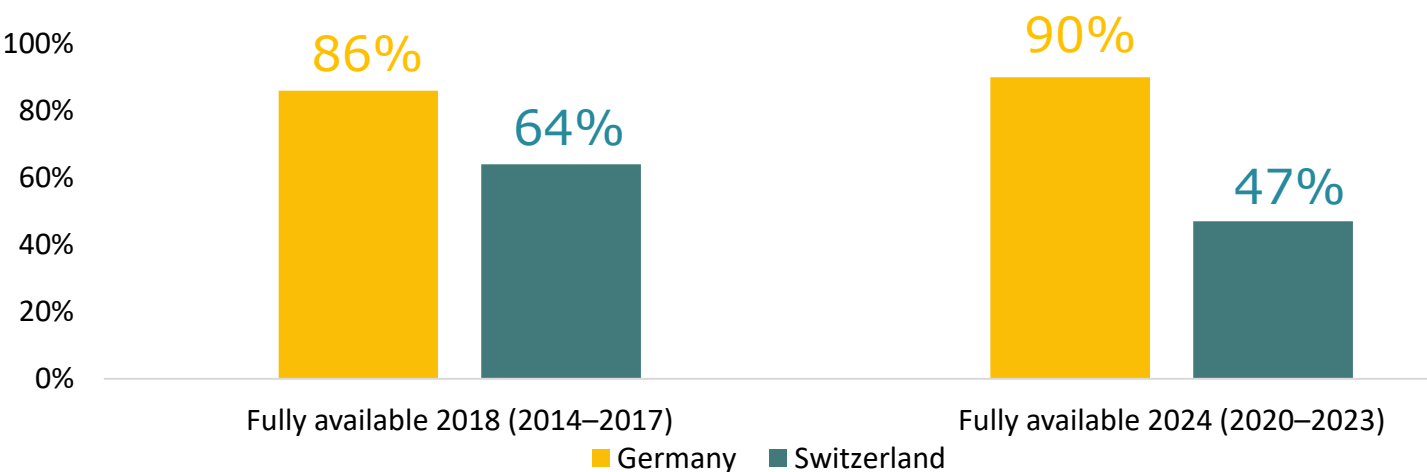
Source: Specialties List, FOPH (2025), Swissmedic Journals, Swissmedic (2025)

### Spending on innovative drugs as a share of GDP in 2024



Source: Interpharma calculations based on IQVIA and Worldbank data (2025).

## International comparison – rates of full availability of new innovative drugs



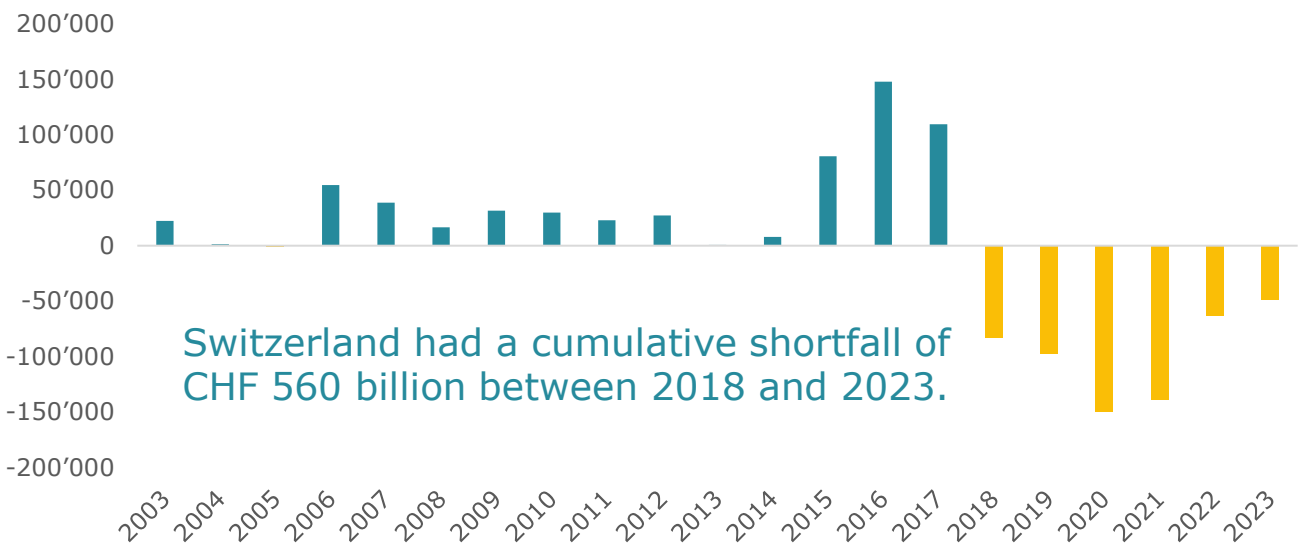
Over the past six years, Switzerland has steadily slipped in terms of access to innovative therapies and has lost more than a quarter in terms of innovative access.

Only about half of the new innovative drugs reimbursed in Germany are available to Swiss patients.

Sources: Presentation by Interpharma with EFPIA Patients W.A.I.T. Data from the Indicator 2024 survey. Comparison of EFPIA WAIT 2018 (EMA N=165 approved pharmaceuticals 100%) vs. 2024 (N=173, 100%).

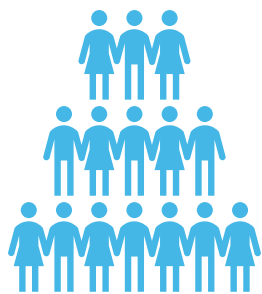
# The pressure is on: Switzerland at a crossroads

## Foreign investors withdrawing capital



Note: Net investments in CHF million  
Source: Direct investments 2023, SNB (2024)

## Economic engine stalling



No jobs are being created.

Avg. +2.5% per year

2011–2020

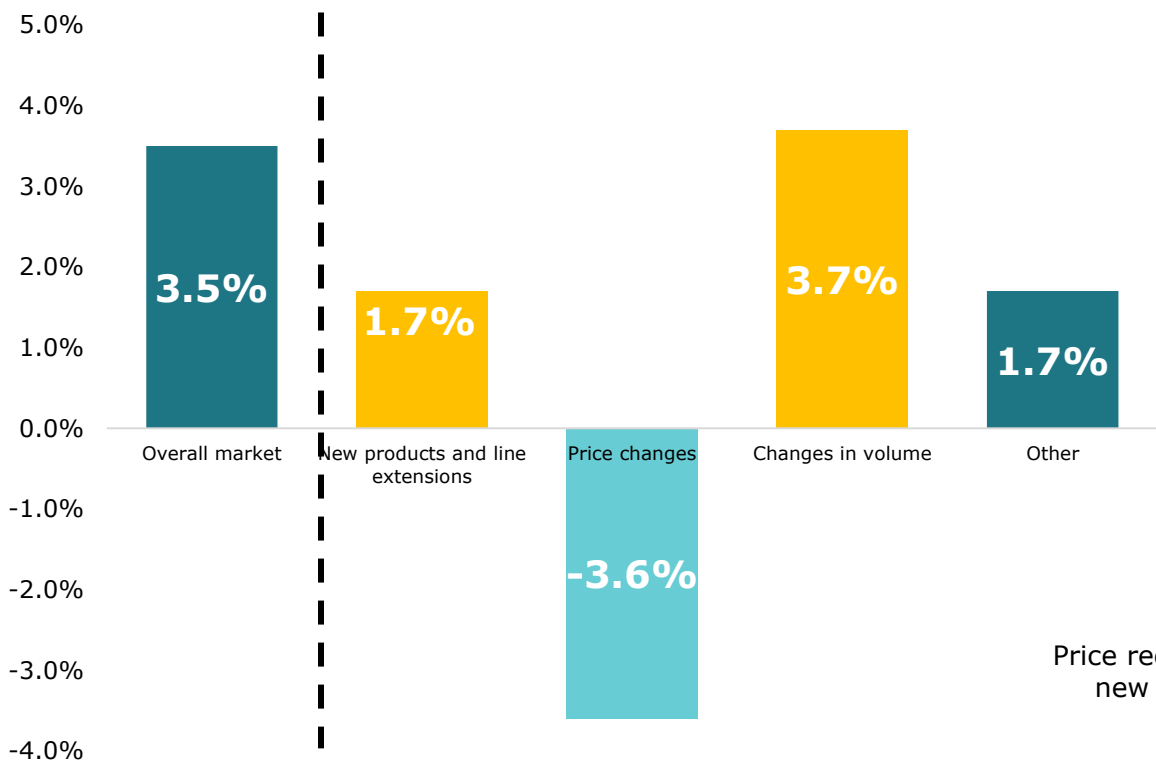
Avg. 0%

2020–2022

Note: Employment growth in the pharmaceutical industry  
Source: STATENT, FSO (2025)

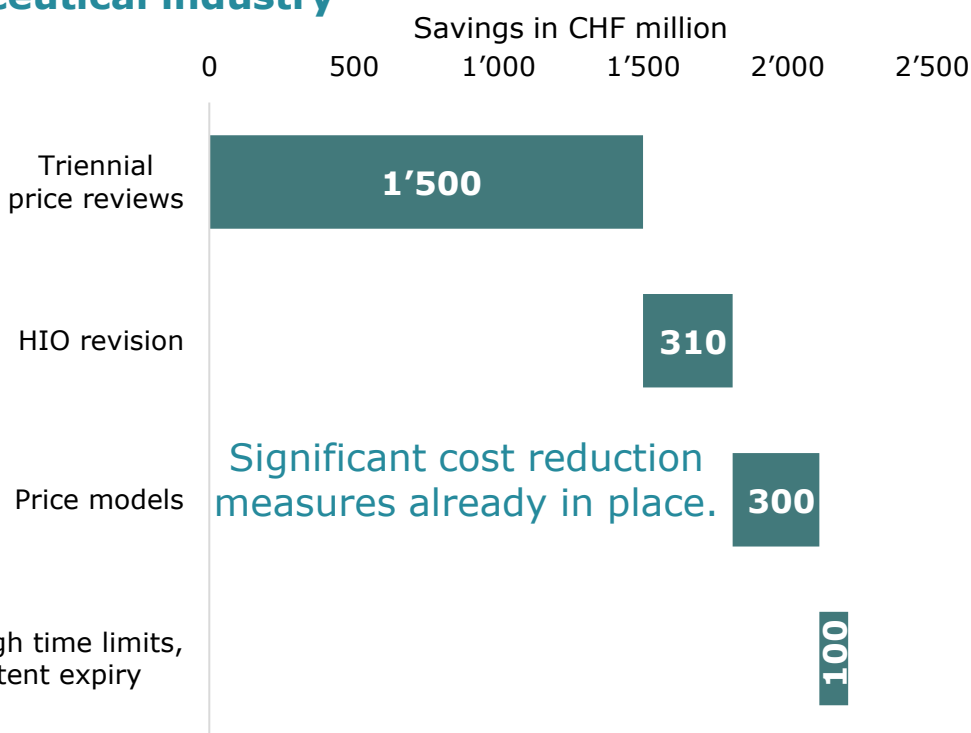
# The pharmaceutical industry is already making major contributions to cost containment

## Price reductions slow growth, demographics drive it



Note: Development of growth components in the Swiss pharmaceutical sector in 2024  
Source: IQVIA (2025).

## Most of the major cost-reduction packages of recent years have been at the expense of the pharmaceutical industry



Source: Interpharma with data basis: CPC-S report of November 14, 2023, Federal Council press releases of September 22, 2023 and December 8, 2023.

## Laying the groundwork for the future

Having an attractive pharmaceutical and life sciences location brings investment, innovation, jobs, tax revenue and thus prosperity to Switzerland. The US announcement of tariffs on goods and price-reduction measures on pharmaceuticals will have a fundamental impact on the Swiss pharmaceutical industry.

Targeted action is needed to prevent a further deterioration in the business environment for the sector:

- **Pause for reflection when implementing regulatory projects:** The implementation of regulatory projects that affect the operating framework of the location must be re-evaluated in light of the current geopolitical environment.
- **Business relief program/area study:** We welcome the Federal Council’s decision to carry out an area study in the area of pharmaceutical regulation in the context of the Swiss Business Relief Act.
- **Pharmaceutical and life sciences strategy:** To strengthen Switzerland’s standing as a pharmaceutical and life sciences location long-term, an overarching location strategy is needed for pharmaceuticals and life sciences.