



INCORPORATIONS SWITZERLAND 2024



NATIONAL ANALYSIS

IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG
St. Gallen | Schlieren | Lausanne | Lugano
31. December 2024



New record:

52'978

NEW COMPANIES

2024 again breaks the record for new companies

The daily incorporation figures for 2024 are in - and they set a new record. Never before have so many companies been founded in Switzerland as this year. According to the latest study by the IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen, "National Analysis of Swiss Company Formations 2024", 52'978 new companies have been registered. This surpasses the record year of 2023, which already saw a high of 51'673 startups. This further increase of 2.6% underlines the continued growth and attractiveness of Switzerland as a business location.

A new record was set in Switzerland with 52'978 new companies founded. This represents growth of 2.6% compared to the previous record year of 2023. Simon May, IFJ Co-Managing Director, explains: The continued growth in business startups reflects the desire of many people for professional fulfilment and independence. In particular, the growth of part-time self-employment offers many founders the opportunity to take a low-risk step into self-employment. Switzerland also offers various government and private support programmes to help founders on their way to becoming self-employed.

Positive impact on the Swiss economy

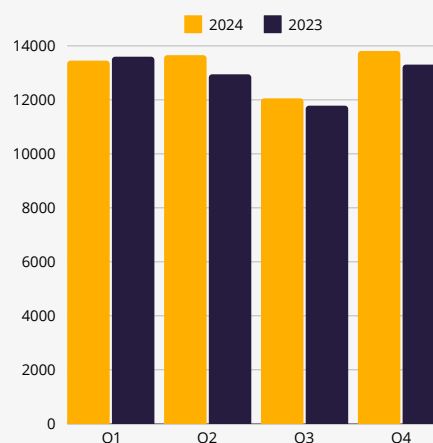
As well as being an indicator of the entrepreneurial spirit in Switzerland, the growing number of new companies has far-reaching consequences for the economy. They create new jobs, stimulate competition and drive innovation. According to the European Innovation Scoreboard 2024, Switzerland remains the undisputed innovation leader in Europe.

The increasing dynamism of the start-up scene strengthens the foundations of the Swiss economy and shows that Switzerland remains a highly competitive location. A strong start-up engine is a key factor for a resilient and innovative economy," stresses May.

The incorporation statistics in detail

It is also exciting to note that in both record years, significantly more companies were incorporated at the beginning and end of the year. And that the two record years were evenly matched in terms of the number of startups per quarter.

A closer look at the figures for 2024 will further illustrate the attractiveness and potential of Switzerland as a start-up location.



(Source: Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce SOGC; analysis and graph: IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG
Period: 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 compared to the same period of the previous year)

The IFJ's latest national analysis shows how business startups in Switzerland have changed in 2024 compared to the previous year.

Positive start-up sentiment prevails in the main regions

In 2024, Southwest Switzerland (+6.3%) is the main region with the strongest growth in the number of startups. Espace Mittelland (+3.4%) and Ticino (+3.0%) also recorded significant growth compared with the same period last year. Moderate growth was recorded in Central Switzerland (+2.0%), Zurich (+1.2%) and Eastern Switzerland (+1.1%). Northwestern Switzerland was the only region to record a decline (-1.0%).

Canton	2024	Difference in %	2023
BE	4'369	2.6%	4'260
FR	1'962	11.5%	1'759
JU	376	1.1%	372
NE	903	0.1%	902
SO	1'292	-1.9%	1'317
Espace Midlands	8'902	3.4%	8'610
AG	3'419	0.5%	3'402
BL	1'304	-4.9%	1'371
BS	1'304	-0.8%	1'315
Northwestern Switzerland	6'027	-1.0%	6'088
LU	2'232	-3.0%	2'302
NW	313	1.3%	309
OW	201	4.1%	193
SZ	1'413	0.6%	1'405
UR	155	13.1%	137
ZG	3'075	6.0%	2'901
Central Switzerland	7'389	2.0%	7'247
ZH	9'618	1.2%	9'508
Zurich	9'618	1.2%	9'508
AI	140	25.0%	112
AR	335	12.8%	297
GL	224	3.2%	217
GR	1'178	-0.8%	1'187
SG	2'931	5.1%	2'790
SH	394	-4.1%	411
TG	1'384	-7.6%	1'498
Eastern Switzerland	6'586	1.1%	6'512
GE	4'237	4.7%	4'047
VD	5'300	5.5%	5'023
VS	2'580	10.7%	2'331
Southwestern Switzerland	12'117	6.3%	11'401
TI	2'339	3.0%	2'271
Ticino	2'339	3.0%	2'271
Total	52'978	2.6%	51'637

(Source: Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce SOGC; analysis and graph: IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG
Period: 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 compared to the same period of the previous year)

Cantons with a high number of incorporations

In 19 cantons, the number of newly born enterprises increased in 2024 compared to the same period of the previous year. These are currently the cantons with the highest growth in Swiss enterprise incorporations:

Appenzell Innerrhoden (+25.0%), Uri (+13.1%), Appenzell Ausserrhoden (+12.8%), Fribourg (+11.5%), Valais (+10.7%), Zug (+6.0%), Vaud (+5.5%), St. Gallen (+5.1%), Geneva (+4.7%), Obwalden (+4.1%), Glarus (+3.2%), Ticino (+3.0%), Bern (+2.6%), Nidwalden (+1.3%), Zurich (+1.2%), Jura (+1.1%), Schwyz (+0.6%), Aargau (+0.5%) and Neuchâtel (+0.1%).

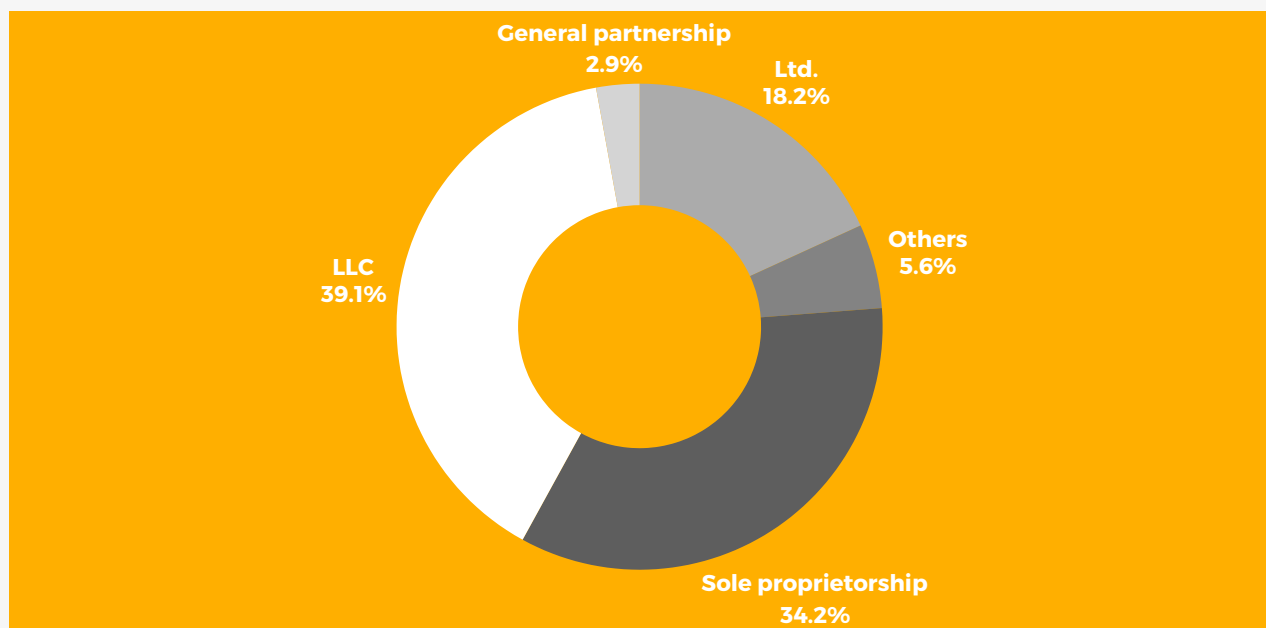
Fewer companies are currently being created in these cantons

The cantons with a slight percentage decrease were Basel-Stadt (-0.8%), Graubünden (-0.8%), Solothurn (-1.9%), Lucerne (-3.0%), Schaffhausen (-4.1%), Basel-Landschaft (-4.9%) and Thurgau (-7.6%).

Comparison of legal forms

In Switzerland, sole proprietorships are the fastest-growing legal form in 2024, with growth of +3.4% compared to the same period last year. The public limited company (Ltd.) follows with solid growth of +2.7%, while the limited liability company (LLC) grew by +1.5% and remains the most popular legal form for startups.

A decline of -1.2% was recorded for the equally relevant legal form of general partnership.



Legal form	2024	Difference in %	2023
LLC	20'733	1.5%	20'419
Sole proprietorship	18'126	3.4%	17'527
Ltd.	9'623	2.4%	9'400
General partnership	1'522	-1.2%	1'540
Others	2'974	8.1%	2'751
Total	52'978	2.6%	51'637

(Source: Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce SOGC; analysis and graph: IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG Period: 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 compared to the same period of the previous year)

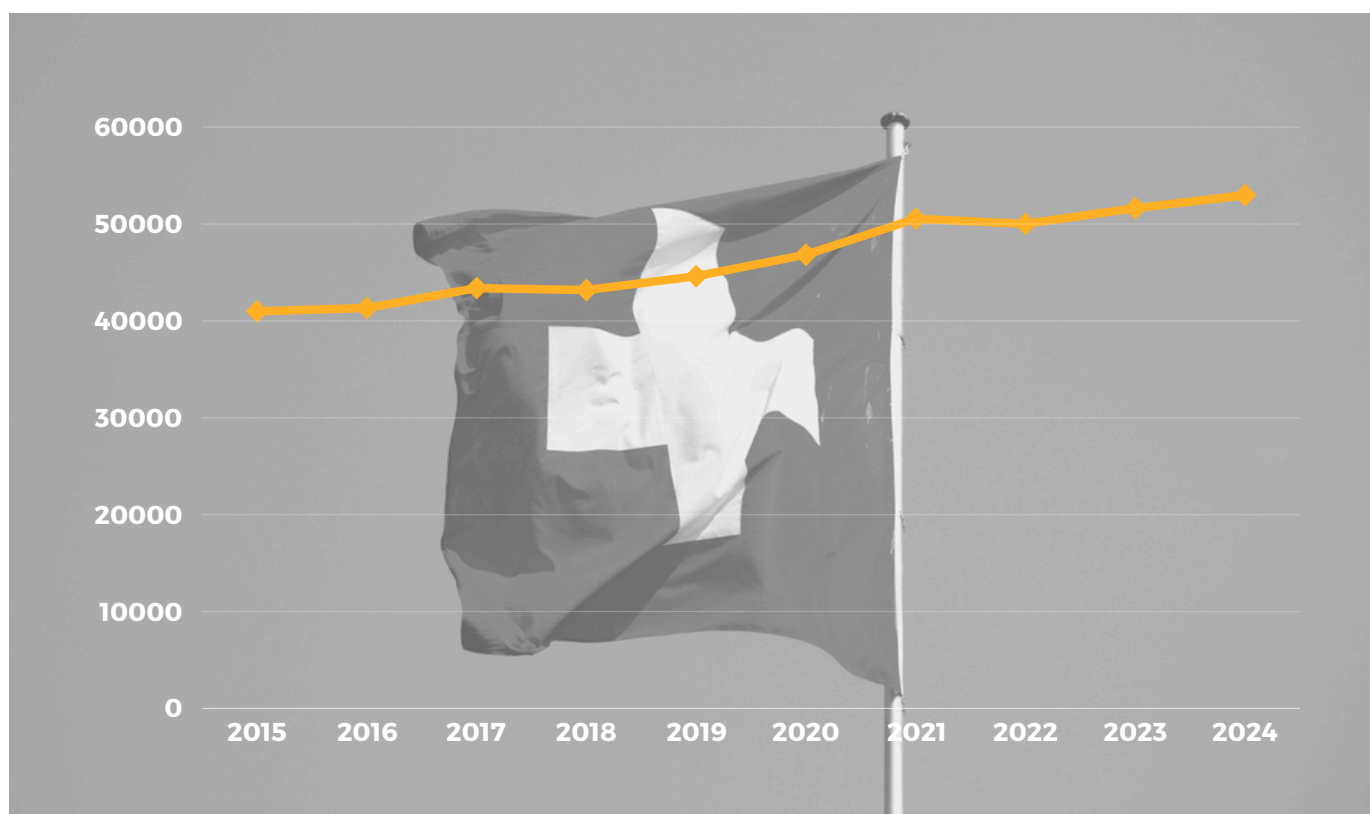


Development and comparison

IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

Comparing the last 10 years

The new record for company incorporations in 2024 shows a very positive trend. On average over the last 10 years, 46'552 new companies were registered in the Swiss Commercial Register each year. With 52'978 new companies, 2024 records the highest level and, at +13.8%, is well above the average of previous years.



+13.8%

The year 2024 set a new record with 52'978 new companies. At +13.8%, the number is well above the average of the last 10 years.

(Source: Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce SOGC; analysis and graph: IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG Period: 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 compared to the same period of the previous year)



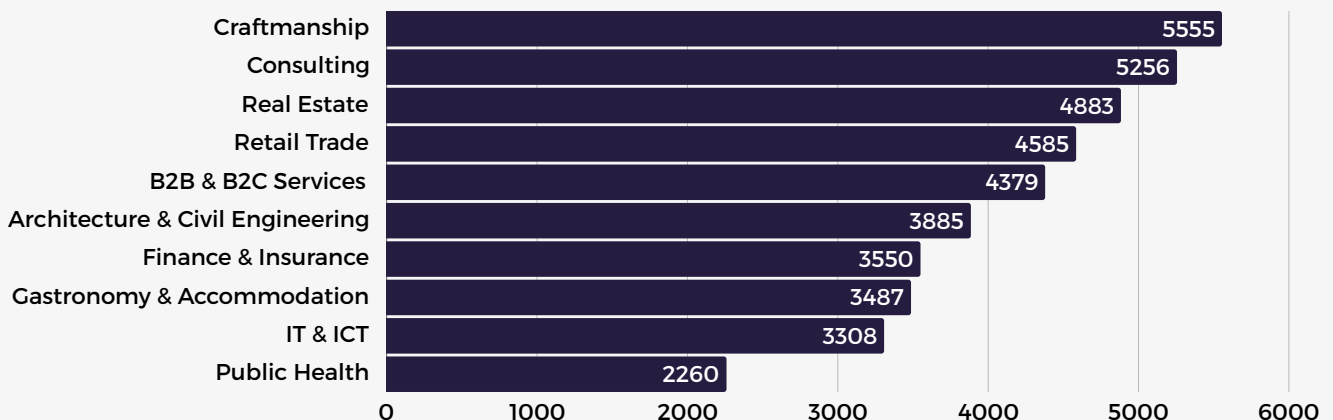
TOP SECTORS

Most startups in these sectors

The top three sectors this year are craft (5'555 startups), consultancy (5'256 startups) and real estate (4'883 startups). They are closely followed by retail trade (4'585 startups) and B2B & B2C services (4'379 startups).

However, it is interesting to note that the Swiss start-up landscape is very diverse across the 21 sectors categorised in our study. The most successful sector, Craft, with 5555 new registrations, accounts for only 10.4% of the total number of startups, illustrating the diversity of the start-up landscape.

TOP 10 sectors with the most new companies



(Source: Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce SOGC, Dun & Bradstreet Schweiz AG; analysis and graph: IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG
Period: 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024 compared to the same period of the previous year)





ASSESSMENT & OVERVIEW

Swiss founders break the record again

The latest figures for 2024 confirm this: Switzerland remains a top location for young companies and startups. The strength of the Swiss economy and its innovative power are demonstrated by a new national record for company startups. Despite the global uncertainties, the number of startups increased significantly and even surpassed the previous record year of 2023.

Simon May, IFJ Co-Managing Director, explains: This new record number of startups illustrates the entrepreneurial spirit in Switzerland and the high willingness to realise one's own dreams and take entrepreneurial risks in a relatively stable national environment. The importance of startups for a well-functioning economy is also illustrated by the latest figures from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. Every year, 8% of all Swiss companies are newly founded, and more than one in ten employees works for a company that is less than 10 years old. The growing number of startups makes a significant contribution to job creation and Switzerland's economic resilience. With a stable political system, first-class infrastructure and targeted support programmes, Switzerland can look back on another successful year.

Although the funding volume for technology-based startups is still below the record levels of 2021 and 2022, there are several positive signs. These include rising investment in the biotech and medtech sectors, an increasing number of funding initiatives and the fact that Horizon Europe will be open to Swiss investment again from January 2025. This underlines Switzerland's leading position in the global innovation environment.

The outlook for 2025 is promising: digital transformation with artificial intelligence and a strong entrepreneurial spirit continue to revitalise the Swiss economy.

PRESSCONTACT

We are happy to provide media representatives and interested parties with specific analyses of regions, cantons or sectors. Please contact us.

Sarina Sutter, Head of Marketing & Communication,
+41 (0)71 242 98 91, sarina.sutter@ifj.ch

IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG
St. Gallen | Schlieren | Lausanne | Lugano

www.ifj.ch
www.start.swiss
www.startupspace.ch





ABOUT THE IFJ INSTITUT FÜR JUNGUNTERNEHMEN

Since 1989, the IFJ has assisted more than 200,000 company founders on their path to self-employment. As a pioneer and industry leader, the IFJ offers the most widely used digital services in Switzerland for company formations, changes to the commercial register and brand protection.

Tools for drawing up a business plan and for accounting and administration, as well as the fiduciary service, make entrepreneurial work easier. The free webinars, courses and presentation events with active networking as well as checklists and comprehensive advice support young entrepreneurs with help and advice before, during and after setting up a company.

In the modern startup space, the IFJ offers coworking workstations, offices, meeting rooms, catering and an event space.

start.swiss is a hybrid service for cantons, economic regions, cities and municipalities to support regional economical promotion.

As an eduQua:2021 certified organisation, the IFJ designs and implements coaching programmes to promote self-employment as part of labour market measures in various cantons and with outplacement partners.

Renowned partners and the public sector rely on collaboration with the IFJ. This allows us to offer comprehensive startup support in Switzerland free of charge.

THE IFJ ECOSYSTEM

