



INCORPORATIONS SWITZERLAND 2025



NATIONAL ANALYSIS

IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG
St. Gallen | Schlieren | Lausanne | Lugano
31. December 2025



New record:

55'654

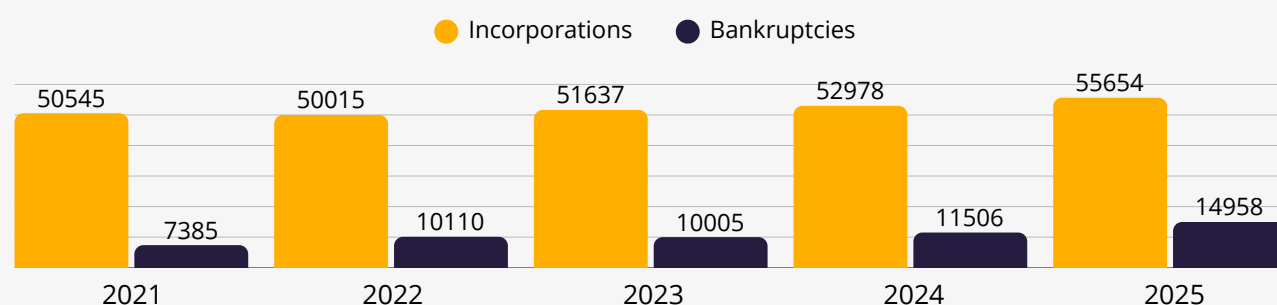
NEW COMPANIES

More Companies and More Dynamism

2025 marks a new peak in company formations. Switzerland is recording more new businesses than ever before. Compared to ten years ago, 34.7% more companies have been founded in the current year. An immense development. According to the up-to-date annual study by the IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen, "National Analysis of Swiss Company Formations 2025", 55'654 new companies were registered. This again surpasses the record level of 2024 by +5.1%. More new companies also increase the overall dynamism in terms of business closures.

Simon May, Co-CEO of IFJ, explains: "The high number of new businesses shows the unbroken motivation of many people to live their dreams and turn their ideas into reality. At the same time, it is part of the natural cycle of a healthy economy that some companies disappear again. What matters is that new ideas and opportunities continue to emerge." The reasons for dissolutions are diverse – ranging from changing market conditions and rising costs to succession issues.

To obtain a comprehensive picture of business dynamics, we have prepared the key annual figures for 2025 together with Creditreform based on the most up-to-date data. In recent years, the number of bankruptcies has also increased. The following chart shows the development of company bankruptcies in a multi-year comparison.



In the past year, company bankruptcies in Switzerland reached a level not previously recorded. In total, 14'958 bankruptcies were registered, of which 11'915 resulted from insolvency proceedings and 3'043 from organisational deficiencies. The decisive factor behind this marked increase is a legislative change that came into force on 1 January 2025. Since then, public authorities as well as entities governed by public law are also required to initiate bankruptcy proceedings against companies and are therefore placed on an equal footing with private creditors. This new regulation has led to formal bankruptcy proceedings being opened for a significantly higher number of companies, explains Claude Federer, Head of the Swiss Creditors' Association Creditreform.

(Source: Creditreform | Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce SOGC; analysis and graph: IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG
Period: 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2025)

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 2025, Central Switzerland (+13.3%) is the major region with the strongest growth in new incorporations. Zurich (+5.7%) and Northwestern Switzerland (+5.6%) also recorded strong growth compared to the previous year. Moderate growth was observed in Southwest Switzerland (+4.3%), Espace Mittelland (+3.0%) and Eastern Switzerland (+1.0%). Ticino (-2.5%) was the only region to record a decline.

Canton	2025	Difference in %	2024
BE	4'456	2.0%	4'369
FR	2'043	4.1%	1'962
JU	392	4.3%	376
NE	922	2.1%	903
SO	1'358	5.1%	1'292
Espace Midlands	9'171	3.0%	8'902
AG	3'502	2.4%	3'419
BL	1'444	10.7%	1'304
BS	1'419	8.8%	1'304
Northwestern Switzerland	6'365	5.6%	6'027
LU	2'414	8.2%	2'232
NW	345	10.2%	313
OW	235	16.9%	201
SZ	1'585	12.2%	1'413
UR	134	-13.5%	155
ZG	3'660	19.0%	3'075
Central Switzerland	8'373	13.3%	7'389
ZH	10'171	5.7%	9'618
Zurich	10'171	5.7%	9'618
AI	164	17.1%	140
AR	310	-7.5%	335
GL	205	-8.5%	224
GR	1'168	-0.8%	1'178
SG	2'816	-3.9%	2'931
SH	456	15.7%	394
TG	1'531	10.6%	1'384
Eastern Switzerland	6'650	1.0%	6'586
GE	4'600	8.6%	4'237
VD	5'339	0.7%	5'300
VS	2'705	4.8%	2'580
Southwestern Switzerland	12'644	4.3%	12'117
TI	2'280	-2.5%	2'339
Ticino	2'280	-2.5%	2'339
Total	55'654	5.1%	52'978

(Source: Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce SOGC; analysis and graph: IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG
Period: 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 compared to the same period of the previous year)

Cantons with a high number of incorporations

In 20 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: Zug (+19.0%), Appenzell Innerrhoden (+17.1%), Obwalden (+16.9%), Schaffhausen (+15.7%), Schwyz (+12.2%), Basel-Landschaft (+10.7%), Thurgau (+10.6%), Nidwalden (+10.2%), Basel-Stadt (+8.8%), Geneva (+8.6%), Lucerne (+8.2%), Zurich (+5.7%), Solothurn (+5.1%), Valais (+4.8%), Jura (+4.3%), Fribourg (+4.1%), Aargau (+2.4%), Neuchâtel (+2.1%), Bern (+2.0%) and Vaud (+0.7%).

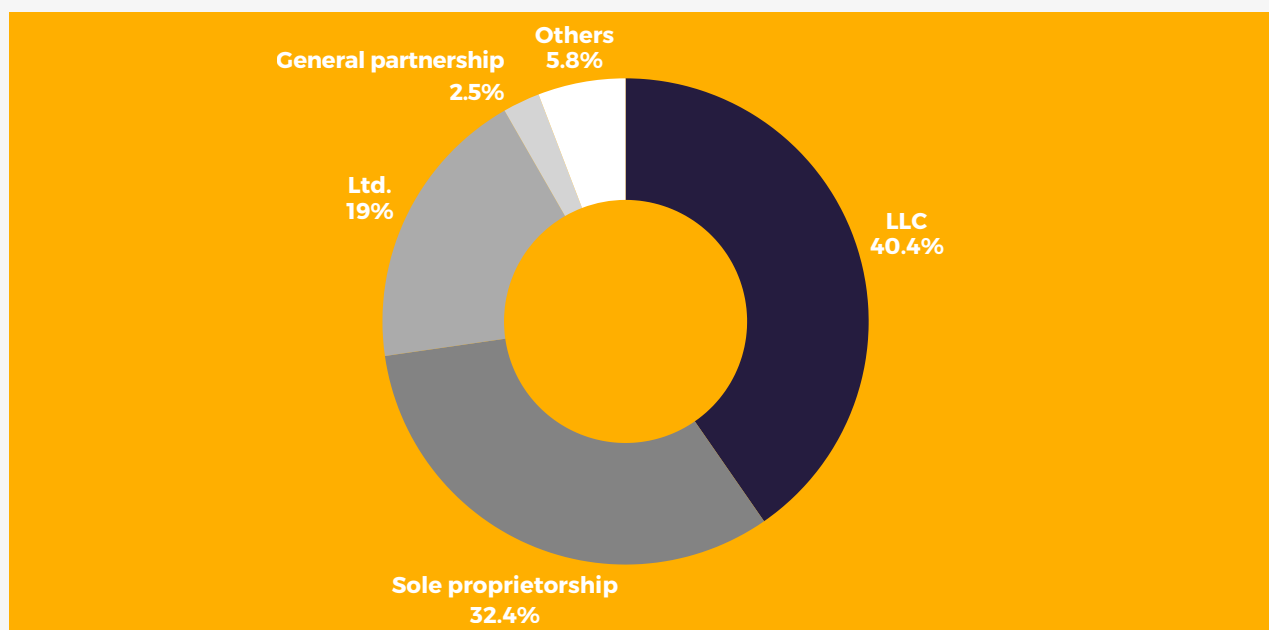
Fewer companies are currently being created in these cantons

The cantons with a slight percentage decrease were Graubünden (-0.8%), Ticino (-2.5%), St. Gallen (-3.9%), Appenzell Ausserrhoden (-7.5%), Glarus (-8.5%) and Uri (-13.5%).

Comparison of legal forms

In Switzerland, public limited companies (Ltd.) are the fastest-growing legal form in 2025, with growth of +9.7% compared to the same period last year. The limited liability company (LLC) grew by +8.3% and remains the most popular legal form for startups.

A decline was recorded for the equally relevant legal form of sole proprietorships (-0.6%) and general partnerships (-9.7%).



Legal form	2025	Difference in %	2024
LLC	22'457	8.3%	20'733
Sole proprietorship	18'019	-0.6%	18'126
Ltd.	10'561	9.7%	9'623
General partnership	1'374	-9.7%	1'522
Others	3'243	9.0%	2'974
Total	55'654	5.1%	52'978

(Source: Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce SOGC; analysis and graph: IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG Period: 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 compared to the same period of the previous year)

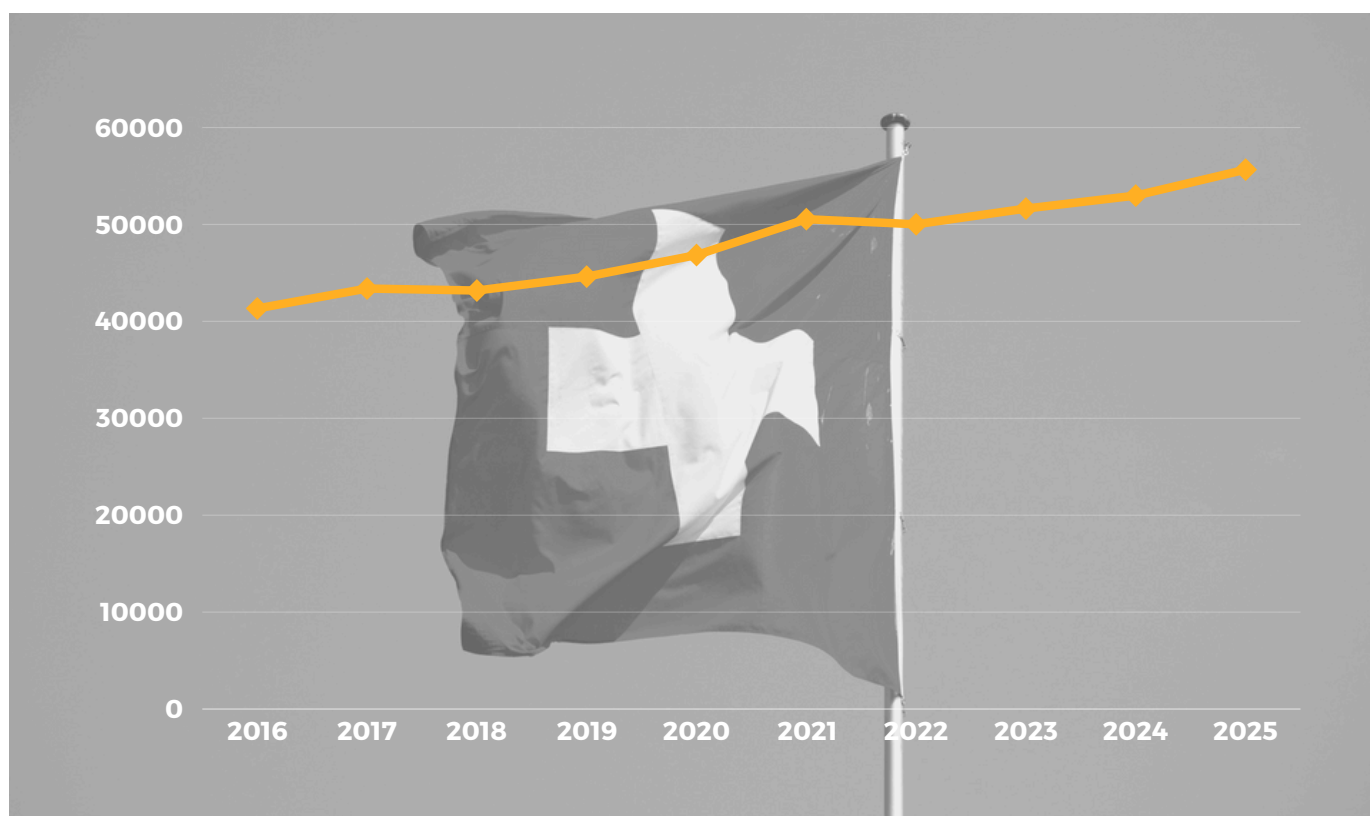


Development and comparison

IN THE LAST 10 YEARS

Comparing the last 10 years

The new record for company incorporations in 2025 shows a very positive trend. On average over the last 10 years, 48'019 new companies were registered in the Swiss Commercial Register each year. With 55'654 new companies, 2025 records the highest level and, at +15.9%, is well above the average of previous years.



+34.7%

The year 2025 set a new record with 55,654 new company incorporations. This figure is 34.7% higher than the level recorded 10 years ago.

(Source: Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce SOGC; analysis and graph: IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen AG Period: 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 compared to the same period of the previous year)



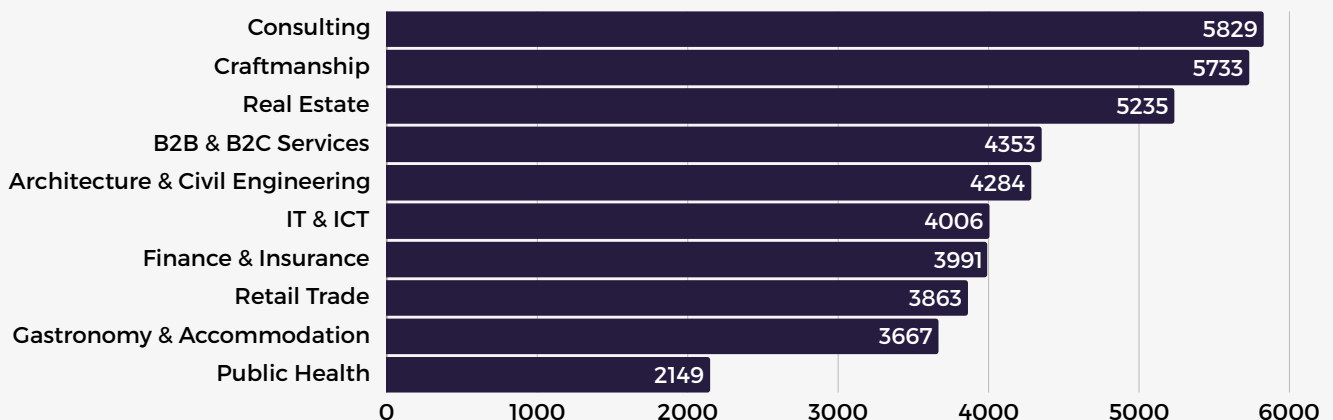
TOP SECTORS

Most startups in these sectors

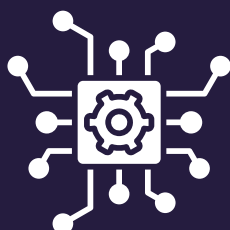
The top three sectors this year are consultancy (5'829 startups), craft (5'733 startups) and real estate (5'235 startups). They are followed by B2B & B2C services (4'353 startups) and architecture & engineering (4'284 startups).

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, consulting, with 5'829 new registrations, accounts for 10.5% 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: 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025 compared to the same period of the previous year)





ASSESSMENT & OVERVIEW

Movement Shapes the Swiss Business Landscape

Switzerland will remain a country with high start-up activity in 2025. After several record years, the dynamic development continues: where many new companies are founded, more existing ones disappear from the market. This movement reflects a vibrant economy that adapts to change and seizes new opportunities. High numbers of incorporations and bankruptcies are therefore not contradictory, but illustrate the continuous – and essential – renewal capacity of Swiss entrepreneurship.

Reliable framework conditions are crucial for sustainable business development. Switzerland continues to offer founders a stable political environment, strong infrastructure and easily accessible support services. Nevertheless, many companies face challenges after a few years – due to rising costs, succession issues or market changes. The trend toward part-time entrepreneurship also contributes to companies being abandoned sooner or integrated into new structures.

The current development shows that dynamism is not a sign of instability, but of adaptability. An economy that renews itself remains resilient in the long term. The IFJ Institut für Jungunternehmen supports this transformation with practical courses, digital tools and services, and coaching programs, ensuring that founders receive guidance in all phases of their entrepreneurial journey – from incorporation to succession. The 2025 figures underline that the high level of mobility in the Swiss economy remains a key factor in securing competitiveness, innovation and employment in a sustainable way.

PRESSCONTACT

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

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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

