

Facts about the Basel Area

The Basel Area is an economic powerhouse and Switzerland's most dynamic business environment. Access to knowledge, highly qualified talent and a strong industrial backbone have turned the region into the country's leading innovation center and the Swiss business hub of the future. The Basel Area exemplifies the advantages of Switzerland as a business location for global and national operations: employees and companies benefit from an excellent educational and healthcare system, competitive tax rates and a superb quality of life with a variety of cultural offerings. According to the latest Mercer Ranking, Basel is a global top 10 city to live in.

With direct borders to France and Germany, an airport with daily flights within Europe, a close intercontinental airport, a transnational port and a dense network of public transport, the Basel Area offers unparalleled accessibility and closeness to strategic European markets. This and an exceptional talent pool make the region an ideal location for global, European and Swiss headquarters. Two global pharma leaders, Novartis and Roche, run their global operations as well as key R & D centers from here. Numerous world-class research institutions form part of a longstanding academic tradition. The University of Basel is the oldest in Switzerland and is regularly ranked among the top 100 universities worldwide.

Leading research institutes and blue-chip multinationals rub shoulders with dynamic startups and prolific incubators. The Basel Area is home to over 700 life sciences companies and 200 research institutions, over 33,500 specialists covering the entire pharmaceutical value-chain. Also the region is the most dynamic center of medtech companies in Switzerland. A skilled labor force of more than 7,000 employees helps Basel medtech manufacturers keep their competitive edge and is also instrumental in attracting foreign investment. Venture capital from top-tier investors such as the Novartis Venture Fund, Versant Ventures, Roche Venture Fund and BioMedPartners make the region an ideal breeding ground for company creation. Young companies have countless options for support on their road to success. In its role as a research and innovation hub, the Basel Area offers a fertile and productive environment to help companies thrive and prosper. This is clearly underpinned by the fact that Basel has the highest hourly productivity worldwide.

Basel international airport is just 15 minutes from the city center and connects the region with every principal European city. The Rhine ports in the region provide Switzerland's only access to the sea. From Basel, goods can be delivered to Rotterdam or Antwerp and from there to all over the world. Based at the nexus of northern and southern Europe, the Basel Area plays an important role in the transcontinental transport of goods by rail and road. The Basel Area consists of the three cantons Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft and Jura, the total area is 1,394 km². In the region live 562,000 people.