

# Switzerland



Capital	Bern
Language(s)	German, French, Italian, Romansh
Currency	Franc
Surface	41290 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	7 996 026 inhabitants
Population density	196,6 inhabitants / km <sup>2</sup>
GDP(2011)	665 900 Millions \$
<b>Car fleet in 2015</b>	<b>5 900 000 vehicles</b>
Length of the road network	71 027 kms
Nber of vehicle for 1000 inhabitants	521
Time zone	GMT +1
<b>Number of persons killed on the road in 2015</b>	<b>253</b>

Switzerland, in official terminology the Swiss confederation, is a Western European country, without direct access to the sea. It's a combination of 26 cantons, is constitutionally a Federal state since 1848. It's surrounded by Germany, France, Italy, Austria and Liechtenstein.

Switzerland looks like an island located in the center of Europe. The country is nonetheless composed of amazingly varied landscapes and populations with very different characters.

On the West, From Geneva up to the bottom of Valais (or almost) and by climbing up to the canton of Jura, the French-speaking Swiss are undeniably of Latin origin. It is noticeable in the first words they pronounce.

On the other side of the *Sarine* (a river which somehow serves as "border") begins the area of German-speaking Switzerland, the biggest in size and most populated territory.

In the East, the Graubünden, where Romansh is still spoken, but not so much. And in the South of the Alps, once you have driven across the Saint-Gothard tunnel, you reach Italian-speaking Switzerland: the *Ticino*.

Thus there are three geographical zones (Jura, the Plateau and the Alps), four national languages (German, French, Italian and Romansh), 26 cantons, consequently so many small States, each of them with its particularisms, altogether composing the Swiss confederation, one of the most ancient countries in the world. In Switzerland, federalism is not an idle word.

## Automotive expertise in Switzerland

The Swiss laws surrounding public liability are stipulated in Federal law which completes the Swiss civil code (Code of obligations – CO). They regulate obligations' fulfilment in Swiss private law governing public liability.

A Federal law dedicated to road traffic has been secured for traffic on Public highways, Public liability and insurance cover for damage suffered by motor vehicles, cycles or similar vehicles.

In 1965, the Swiss association of Liberal automotive experts (ASEAI) set the basis of automotive expertise in the country.

This association federates stakeholders involved in expertise process as a whole; it publishes Tax fixing directives for road vehicles and towed vehicles (DDT), periodically updated and implemented by courts and insurance companies.

In Swiss there are two categories of automotive experts:

- **Staff (employed) experts**, who are hired and trained by various insurers according to their own internal requirements (about 80%)
- **Liberal experts**, who are organized as a network of private offices, able to deliver services to any category of principals in very short time limit on Swiss territory. (About 20%)

In Switzerland, the profession is not recognized that much.

Before becoming Liberal expert, the applicant must first of all justify his professional knowledge by a completed automotive Engineer diploma or a Federal certificate either as mechanic or coachbuilder. Then the expert's training will go further through two years of professional practice and additional theoretical courses dispensed by the ASEAI and validated in a final exam.

Members of ASEAI professional union commit themselves to following professional training. The training and specialization of Liberal experts are also assured by the ASEAI, in the form of internal or external lectures employed experts can also attend.

The insurance companies, in majority associate members of ASEAI, manage their own experts' training and periodically invite Liberal experts to get updated about their latest internal topicalities.

Thanks to this structure of expertise industry in Switzerland, a report from an employed expert or a Liberal one will be both delivered on neutral directives basis, democratic principle linked with the country's philosophic ideals.

## Professional Association



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