

## Switzerland

### General Information

- Location: Western and Central Europe, where it is bordered by Germany to the north, France to the west, Italy to the south, and Austria and Liechtenstein to the east.
- Population: 8 million people
- History: The Swiss Confederation has a long history of armed neutrality—it has not been in a state of war internationally since 1815—and did not join the United Nations until 2002. It pursues, however, an active foreign policy and is frequently involved in peace-building processes around the world. Switzerland is also the birthplace of the Red Cross.
- Official Languages: German, French, Italian, Romansh
- Switzerland is one of the richest countries in the world by per capita gross domestic product, and has the highest wealth per adult (financial and non-financial assets) of any country in the world.

### Religion

- As of the 2010 census Christianity is the predominant religion of Switzerland, divided between the Catholic Church (38.8% of the population) and various Protestant denominations (30.9%).
- Geneva converted to Protestantism in 1536, just before John Calvin arrived there.
- Immigration has brought Islam (4.5%) and Eastern Orthodoxy (around 2%) as sizeable minority religions.
- As of the 2000 census other Christian minority communities include Neo-Pietism (0.44%), Pentecostalism (0.28%, mostly incorporated in the Schweizer Pfingstmission), Methodism (0.13%), the New Apostolic Church (0.45%), Jehovah's Witnesses (0.28%), other Protestant denominations (0.20%), the Old Catholic Church (0.18%), other Christian denominations (0.20%). Non-Christian religions are Hinduism (0.38%), Buddhism (0.29%), Judaism (0.25%) and others (0.11%); 4.3% did not make a statement.
- The 2010 Eurobarometer poll found 44% to be theist, 39% expressing belief in "a spirit or life force" and 11% atheist.
- Greeley (2003) found that 27% of the population does not believe in a God.