
Business cycle signals

Results of the SNB company talks

Fourth quarter of 2019

Report submitted to the Governing Board of the Swiss National Bank for its quarterly assessment.

The appraisals presented here are based on discussions between the SNB's delegates for regional economic relations and company managers throughout Switzerland. In its evaluation, the SNB aggregates and interprets the information received. A total of 241 company talks were conducted between mid-October and the end of November.

Regions

Central Switzerland
Eastern Switzerland
Fribourg/Vaud/Valais
Geneva/Jura/Neuchâtel
Italian-speaking Switzerland
Mittelland
Northwestern Switzerland
Zurich

Delegates

Gregor Bäurle
Urs Schönholzer
Aline Chabloz
Jean-Marc Falter
Fabio Bossi
Roland Scheurer
Daniel Hanimann
Rita Kobel

Key points

- The Swiss economy resumed its moderate expansionary course in the fourth quarter. There was no further slowdown in real turnover growth.
- Overall, utilisation of technical capacity and infrastructure were at normal levels. In manufacturing, capacity utilisation is slightly below average.
- The labour market situation has eased. Headcounts are approximately in line with needs, and recruitment problems have waned somewhat.
- The pressure on profit margins has increased slightly. For the most part, however, profit margins are reported as being 'sustainable' to 'comfortable'.
- Looking to the next two quarters, company representatives expect moderate growth in turnover, staff levels and investment.
- There is considerable uncertainty with regard to future developments. The impact of trade policy tensions and a further slowdown in the global economy are mentioned as being among the main risks.

CURRENT SITUATION

No further slowing

According to the SNB's company talks in Q4 2019, the slowing observed in the preceding quarters did not continue. There is considerable uncertainty, however, as to how the situation will develop.

Real turnover grew a little more strongly than in the preceding quarter (cf. chart 1; for guidance on interpreting the charts, refer to the relevant section at the end of this report). This tallies with the assessment of many company representatives, who mentioned the second or third quarter of 2019 as marking the low point for new orders and turnover growth.

Export-oriented companies are emphasising the fact that business with the US remains favourable. Exports to emerging economies are also developing well overall. At the same time, business with China has been mixed, with some companies feeling the impact of the US–China trade dispute and the protests in Hong Kong more than others. Exports to Germany continue to suffer as a result of German economic weakness. Companies in the pharmaceuticals, medtech and air transport industries have performed especially well.

Utilisation of production capacity normal

Utilisation of technical capacity remains at a normal level overall (cf. chart 2). Capacity utilisation is reported as being normal in the services sector and it remains above average in the construction sector. Capacity is slightly underutilised in manufacturing, however, where the supply bottlenecks cited at the start of the year no longer exist.

Appropriate staffing levels

According to the company representatives, staff numbers are now roughly in line with needs, whereas in the preceding quarters they had been rated as on the low side. Some companies have reduced the number of temporary positions.

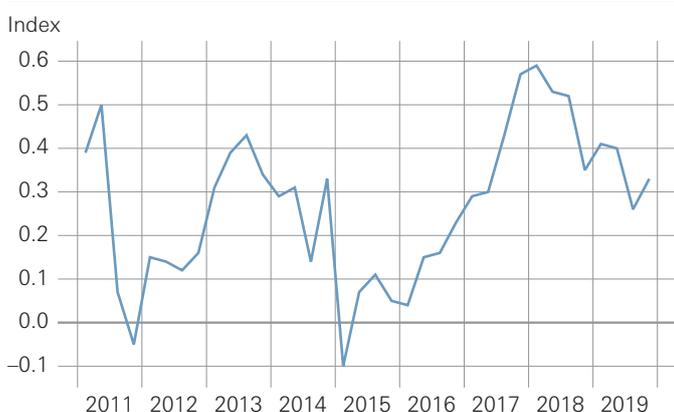
Although many sectors are still finding it difficult to recruit personnel, the situation in this regard has eased. There was less mention of the lack of specialists. However, demand remains strong for IT and other technical specialists. Many of the representatives say their companies are giving high priority to in-house training and to enhancing their appeal as employers.

Increased pressure on profit margins

The pressure on profit margins has increased slightly. For the most part, however, margins are reported as being at 'sustainable' to 'comfortable' levels.

Chart 1

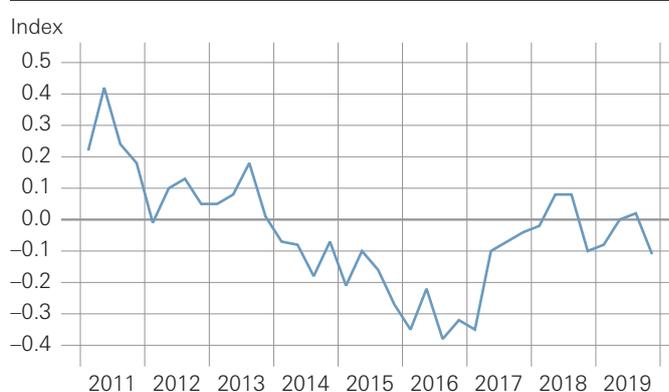
TURNOVER COMPARED TO PREVIOUS QUARTER



Developments in real turnover compared to the previous quarter. Positive (negative) index values signal an increase (decrease).
Source: SNB

Chart 2

CAPACITY UTILISATION



Current utilisation of technical capacity / business infrastructure compared to a normal level. A positive (negative) index value signals utilisation is higher (lower) than normal.
Source: SNB

DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES

According to the company talks, real turnover in the trade sector was up on the previous quarter. In retail, however, infrastructure remains underutilised and profit margins below usual levels. Online sales channels are reporting high growth rates overall.

In the financial sector – i.e. among banks, insurers and asset managers – business volumes have increased both quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year. Profit margins, however, are lower than the levels considered to be normal. Banking infrastructure is underutilised. Both the interest margin business and the competitive environment remain challenging.

Business performance in the hospitality industry remains robust, driven by rising demand from US visitors. Demand from Asia also continues to provide support, though the number of Chinese guests is slightly lower at present.

Turnover in the ICT industry is significantly higher than a year ago. This development is the result of digital transformation, a trend towards cloud-based services, cybersecurity requirements and rising demand from the fintech area. Specialist staff remain in short supply in this industry.

Companies in the healthcare sector report dynamic business performance.

In manufacturing, many industries are reporting higher turnover than in the previous quarter. Turnover has risen substantially in the pharmaceuticals industry in particular, with both capacity utilisation and margins also higher than usual. Although mechanical engineering is reporting slightly higher turnover compared with the previous quarter, profit margins are under considerable pressure. By contrast, turnover is flat in metal processing and among producers of electrical equipment. Suppliers in the automotive industry are continuing to feel the impact of the uncertainties stemming from technological change and heightened environmental awareness.

In construction, seasonally adjusted turnover stagnated at the level reported for the preceding quarter. Utilisation of production capacity remains high in all three segments (structural engineering, civil engineering and the finishing trade).

The talks held during the current quarter indicate that there are signs of a slowdown in new residential building activity. Construction firms, however, see the growing demand for renovation and refurbishment of buildings and infrastructure as offering possibilities for offsetting this. Fairly high vacancy rates are additionally driving the demand for renovation of older buildings. Moreover, some construction companies are seeking to shift the focus of their activities towards civil engineering and infrastructure projects.

Chart 3

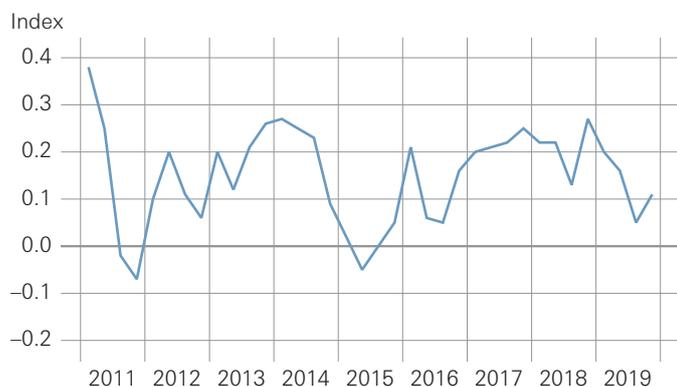
EXPECTED TURNOVER



Expected developments in real turnover over the coming two quarters. Positive (negative) index values indicate turnover is expected to be higher (lower). Source: SNB

Chart 4

EXPECTED CAPACITY UTILISATION



Expected developments in utilisation of technical capacity / business infrastructure over the coming two quarters. Positive (negative) index values indicate utilisation is expected to be higher (lower). Source: SNB

Chart 5

EXPECTED EMPLOYMENT



Expected developments in staff numbers over the coming two quarters. Positive (negative) index values indicate an expected increase (decrease). Source: SNB

OUTLOOK

Cautious optimism

Companies expect turnover to continue rising in the next two quarters (cf. chart 3). This reflects a certain degree of optimism with regard to the business outlook. In light of global uncertainties, however, since mid-2018 companies have increasingly tended towards caution in their predictions of turnover growth.

In keeping with the slightly improved turnover expectations, company representatives anticipate utilisation of their technical production capacity and infrastructure to increase slightly (cf. chart 4).

Persisting caution regarding investment

Companies' willingness to invest remains modest. In all three sectors (manufacturing, construction and services), they envisage small increases in expenditure on equipment and construction in the next twelve months. A quarter of the firms in the sample intend to use these investments to expand production capacity; until recently, this figure was in the region of 30%. The low interest rate environment is continuing to support investment, which is focused above all on the expansion and modernisation of IT. A significant proportion of this can be attributed to digitalisation projects.

Stable price expectations

For the next two quarters, representatives from all three sectors are expecting purchase and sales prices to remain stable. The upward pressure on raw material and preliminary product prices still visible in the spring has since dissipated. Capacity utilisation among suppliers was high until recently, but the situation has since normalised.

Planned expansion in staff numbers

Representatives say their companies are planning to further increase staff numbers over the coming two quarters, albeit not to the same extent as in recent quarters (cf. chart 5). Somewhat more than a third of the companies want to hire more staff. Headcount increases are planned in the IT industry as well as in auditing, accountancy and engineering offices in particular.

Based on the answers available, companies are planning to increase wages by an average of 1.1% in 2020.

ENVIRONMENT AND RISKS

The company representatives consider the international environment to be relatively uncertain. They see the main risks as being the US–China trade dispute, protectionist tendencies, the unrest in Hong Kong and other threats of a geopolitical nature. In addition, a large number of other political and structural problems are clouding the general risk perception. Companies regard the challenging position still faced by central banks – and the persisting low interest rate environment resulting from this – with concern. At the same time, companies are welcoming the low interest rates as they facilitate investments and help counter the Swiss franc’s tendency to appreciate.

On the whole, companies are devoting more attention to their positioning in terms of sustainability, with many recognising potential for new fields of business amid this structural trend.

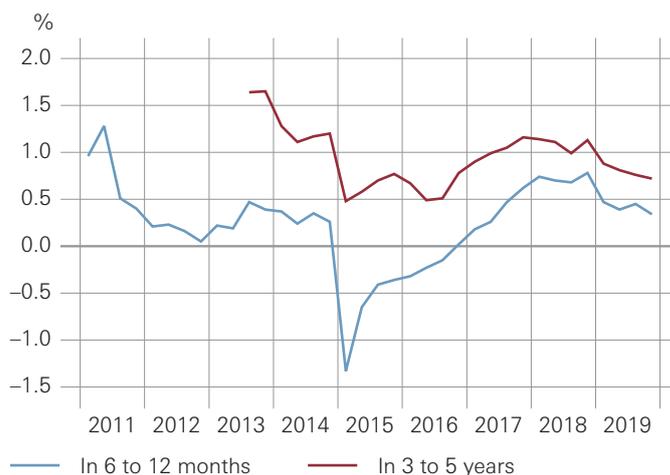
Digitalisation efforts are under way in many areas and are, for the most part, seen as an opportunity. At the same time, many companies point to growing cyber risks.

INFLATION EXPECTATIONS

The delegates also ask company representatives about their short and long-term inflation expectations as consumers.

Chart 6

EXPECTED INFLATION



Source: SNB

Short-term inflation expectations – measured in terms of the consumer price index – have decreased slightly. The average for the next six to twelve months is 0.3% (blue line in chart 6), compared to 0.5% in the previous quarter. Inflation expectations for the medium term – i.e. for a time horizon of three to five years (red line in chart) – also fell marginally, to an average 0.7% as against 0.8% in the previous quarter. In this regard, numerous company representatives expressed their conviction that price levels in Switzerland must continue to converge with those abroad.

About this report

Approach

Each quarter, the SNB’s delegates for regional economic relations hold talks with managers of companies throughout Switzerland. The main results of these discussions are summarised in the ‘Business cycle signals’ report.

Approximately 240 companies are visited every quarter. The selection of companies reflects the industrial structure of the Swiss economy based on GDP and employment. Industries subject to stronger cyclical fluctuations are somewhat over-represented, while the public sector and agriculture are not taken into consideration. Different companies are visited from one quarter to the next.

In the talks, the SNB’s delegates capture primarily qualitative information. The discussions are nevertheless structured in such a way as to allow the delegates to grade part of the qualitative information received according to a numeric scale. This enables the results to be aggregated and represented graphically.

The five-tier scale ranges from ‘substantially higher’ or ‘much too high’ (+2), ‘slightly higher’ or ‘somewhat high’ (+1), ‘the same’ or ‘normal’ (0), ‘slightly lower’ or ‘somewhat low’ (–1), to ‘substantially lower’ or ‘much too low’ (–2).

Interpreting the charts

The charts are to be regarded as a numeric summary of the qualitative information received. The index value shown represents the average of the findings from all companies visited. When interpreting the curves, particular relevance should be attached to their overall development, rather than to their numeric level or individual changes.

Additional information

Further information on the ‘Business cycle signals’ report is available at www.snb.ch, *The SNB*, *SNB regional network*.

Acknowledgements

The SNB would like to thank the representatives from around 900 companies that have consented to take part in interviews with the delegates for regional economic relations during the course of 2019. In doing so, they have made a significant contribution to the evaluation of economic developments. The companies listed below have agreed that their names may be published:

A

A. Marchon SA. A. Tschümperlin AG. A.H. Meyer & Cie AG. Aare Energie AG. AargauHotels.ch. Aargauische Kantonalbank. Aarvia Gruppe. abacon Sicherheit AG. ABB Schweiz AG. Abraxas Informatik AG. Accuro Trust (Switzerland) SA. adidas sport gmbh. AdNovum Informatik AG. Adobe Systems. Aduno Gruppe. AEK Bank 1862 Genossenschaft. Agility Logistics AG. Agustoni Cesare Trucks SA. Aimé Pouly SA. aire h SA. AISA Automation Industrielle SA. Albergo Losone. Alder + Eisenhut AG. Aldo Lepori SA Impresa Costruzioni. Alex Gemperle AG. Alfred Müller AG. Allreal Generalunternehmung AG. Alpine Rose Resort AG. Alpiq Holding. Alternative Bank Schweiz AG. Altes Tramdepot Brauerei Restaurant AG. Aluminium Laufen AG. Aluwag AG. AMC International AG. Amcor Flexibles Rorschach AG. Ampac Flexibles AG. Amstein + Walthert Lausanne SA. André SA. Angenstein Estech AG. Anliker AG. Antalis AG. API SA. APP Unternehmensberatung AG. Appenzeller Kantonalbank. Arab Bank (Switzerland) Ltd. Area City Quinto SA. Argor-Heraeus SA. Argus Data Insights Schweiz AG. Arlanxeo Switzerland SA. Arnold & Co AG Sand und Kieswerke. Arnold & Partner AG. Arnold Magnetic Technologies AG. Art Deco Hotel Montana. Ascensia Diabetes Care Holding. atelier ribo sa. Atmoshaus Gruppe. Atos AG. ATP Hydraulik AG. Atupri Gesundheitsversicherung. Audemars Piguet. Auto AG Group. Automobiles Senn SA. Autoverkehr Grindelwald AG. AXA Agence Générale David Mounir. AZ Direct.

B

B. Bigler AG Zug. B. Heer AG. Bächli AG. Baechler Teinturiers SA. BâleHotels. Baloise Bank SoBa AG. Balthasar + Co AG. Banca Popolare di Sondrio (Suisse) SA. Bandi SA. Bangerter Microtechnik AG. Bank CIC (Schweiz) AG. Bank Julius Bär & Co AG. Bank Thalwil Genossenschaft. Bank Zimmerberg AG. Banque Cantonale de Genève. Banque Cantonale du Jura. Banque Cantonale du Valais. Banque Cantonale Neuchâteloise. Banque Cantonale Vaudoise. Banque Cramer & Cie SA. Banque Eric Sturdza SA. Banque Pictet & Cie SA. Bänziger Partner AG. Bär & Karrer AG. Basler & Hofmann AG. Basler Kantonalbank. Bättig Treuhand AG. BBGI Group SA. BDO AG. BE Netz AG. Béati Frères SA. Beer AG. Belalp Bahnen AG. Belloli SA. Belotti Ottica & Udito. Bergbahnen Destination Gstaad AG. Bernensis Hotel AG. Bernexpo AG. Berney Associés SA. Bernina International AG. Bethesda Spital AG. BG Ingénieurs Conseils SA. Bianchi & Co SA.

Bien-Air Dental SA. bioanalytica AG. Biondi Gastronomie AG. Bless Art Raumsysteme AG. BLS AG. BMW (Schweiz) AG. BNC Business Network Communications AG. BNP Paribas (Suisse) SA. Boccard Parc et Jardins SA. Bolliger Nutzfahrzeuge AG. Bommer + Partner Treuhandgesellschaft. Bon Chic Bon Genre Holding SA. Boost Group AG. Boschung Group. Boss Info AG. Boulangerie Industrielle Bisa SA. Boulangerie Michellod SA. BP (Switzerland). Brauch Transport AG. Brauerei Schützengarten AG. brodbeck roulet architectes associés sa. Bühler + Scherler AG. Bühler AG. Bulgari Horlogerie SA. Bunge SA. Burckhardt+Partner AG. Bureau d'ingénieurs civils Daniel Willi SA. BÜWE Tiefbau AG.

C

CA Indosuez (Switzerland) SA. cabana AG. Cabrio Stanserhorn-Bahn. Camille Bauer AG. Camillo Vismara SA. Camion Transport AG. Campus Sursee. Candrian Catering AG. Canon (Schweiz) AG. Cantin SA. Capital International Sàrl. cargopack tägi ag. Carlo Bernasconi AG. Cartonages Delavy SA. Casale SA. Cavotec SA. CCHE Lausanne SA. Cebi Micromotors Switzerland SA. Celgene International. Cembra Money Bank. Cerutti «il Caffè». Charpentes Vial SA. Chaussures Aeschbach SA. Chocolat Stella SA. Chocolats Camille Bloch SA. Cippà Trasporti SA. Clinica Ars Medica. Clinica Hildebrand Centro di riabilitazione Brissago. Clinique La Lignère. Club Méditerranée (Suisse) SA. CNHI International SA. Cochi SA. Codec SA. Colasit AG. Colt Technology Services AG. Comfone AG. Commerzbank Schweiz. Compass Group (Schweiz) AG. Comptoir Immobilier. Concierge Services SA. Confecta AG. Confiseur Bachmann AG. Conica AG. Contelec AG. Convisa Holding AG. Coop. CORE Partner AG. Cornu & Cie SA. Covance Central Laboratory Services SA. Création Baumann AG. Creative Foto AG. Credit Suisse AG. Cronoparty & Services Sagl. CSD Ingenieurs. CSL Behring AG. Curaden AG.

D

Datamars SA. De Grisogono SA. de Rham SA. Debrunner Koenig Gruppe. Delcò Mobili SA. Demo Scope AG. D-Food Switzerland AG. Die Mobiliar. Dieci AG. Dipl. Ing. Fust AG. Dividella AG. Doetsch Grether AG. Dosenbach-Ochsner AG. Dräger Schweiz AG. Dreieck-Transfer Transport und Logistik AG. Dreyfus Söhne & Cie AG, Banquiers. DSM Nutritional Products AG. Duferco SA. Duplirex Group. Durrer Spezialmaschinen AG. Duvoisin-Groux.

E

E. J. Gmür AG. EAO Group. Eberli Holding AG. Ebnet AG. Ecom Agroindustrial Corp Ltd. Edilcentro Wullschlegler SA. Effingermedien AG. Egli Gartenbau AG Sursee. Einstein St. Gallen - Hotel Congress Spa. Elbet Holding AG. Elcotherm SA, Centro Regionale Sud. Elektroplan Buchs & Grossen AG. Eli Lilly SA. Elis Suisse. Emch Aufzüge AG. Emch+Berger AG Bern. Emil Frey AG, Ebikon-Luzern. Emil Gisler AG/GIPO. Endress+Hauser Management AG. Energie Wasser Bern. Enerprice Partners AG. Engadin St. Moritz Mountains AG. Ennio Ferrari Impresa Generale SA. e-novinfo Sàrl. ERI Bancaire SA. Ericsson AG. Ernst & Young SA. Ernst Sutter AG. ESA. Esmo - European Society for Medical Oncology. Estheco Sàrl. Estrella AG. Etel SA. Eternit (Schweiz) AG. Eventmore SA. Evolva Holding AG. Evttec AG. ewl energie wasser luzern. Express Personal AG. EY.

F

F. Hoffmann-La Roche AG. Fabbri SA. Face AG für Kommunikationsdesign. Fairmont Montreux Palace. Farner Consulting AG. Fastlog AG. Fattorini Autotrasporti Sagl. FCA Switzerland SA. Fehlmann AG, Maschinenfabrik. Felco SA. Feldmann Bau AG. Feldschlösschen Getränke AG. Felix Transport AG. Feller AG. Felss Rotaform AG. fenaco Genossenschaft. Ferrum AG. FG Groupe SA. Fidinam Group Holding SA. Fiduciaire Fidag SA. Fiduconsult SA. Fielmann AG. filofibra sa. Filtex AG. Filtrox AG. finnova AG Bankware. Fischer Reinach AG. Fleuriot Fleurs SA. Flughafen Zürich AG. Fnac Suisse. Fontana Print SA. Forster Früchte und Gemüse AG. Fortimo Group AG. Four Seasons Hôtel des Bergues. Fr. Sauter AG. Fracht AG. Fraisa SA. Franke Group. Fraporlux Swiss SA. Fratelli Roda SA. Frey + Cie Techinvest22 Holding AG. Frey AG Stans. Friderici Spécial SA. Frieden SA. Frutiger Unternehmungen AG. Frutta Banfi SA.

G

G. Bianchi AG. Gadola Bau AG. Galvaswiss AG. GAM Investment Management (Schweiz) AG. gammaRenax AG. Ganz + Co AG. Garage Reusser AG. Garaio AG. Garaventa Liftech AG. Gasser Felstechnik AG. Gastrag. Gautschi AG. GAWO Gasser AG. Gebr. Kuoni Transport AG. Gebrüder Hodel AG. Gefco (Suisse) SA. Gehrig AG Bauunternehmung Wil. General Electric (Switzerland) GmbH. Generali (Schweiz) Holding AG. Geosatis SA. Gerber-Vogt AG. Gericke AG. Gesitronic SA. Gewerbe-Treuhand AG. Gewinde Ziegler AG. GF Agie Charmilles SA. GGZ Gartenbau Genossenschaft Zürich. Ghelma AG Baubetriebe. Ghielmimport SA. Gimmel Rouages SA. Givaudan SA. Glaeser Mümliswil AG. Glatt Maschinen- und Apparatebau AG. GLB Gruppe. Globetrotter Travel Service AG. Globus Travel Services SA. Goldbach Group AG. GPA Guardian Protection SA. Grand Hotel Kronenhof. Grand Hotel Suisse Majestic. Graniti Maurino SA. Grano Giardini SA. Grau Electricité SA. Graubündner Kantonalbank. Green Gruppe. Greiner Packaging AG. Gribi Management AG. Griesser AG. GriwaGroup Holding AG. Groupe André

Chevalley. Groupe Buchard Voyages. Groupe H Architecture et Ingénierie SA. Groupe JPF. Groupe Minoteries SA. Groupe Phida. Groupe Posse. Groupe R Management SA. Groupe Recomatic. Groupe Rey, Hôtellerie & Immobilier. Groupe T2i. Groupe Zuttion SA. Grüenthal Firmen Schweiz. Gruyère Energie SA. Gunvor SA. GVB Privatversicherungen AG.

H

H + R Architekten AG. H + R Gastro AG. Haag-Streit Holding AG. HACO. Hagenbuch Hydraulic Systems AG. Hager Industrie AG. HakaGerodur AG. Hammer Auto-center AG. Hans Gassler AG. Hans Leutenegger SA. Hans Meyer AG Birr. Hartchromwerk Brunner AG. Häusermann + Partner AG. Havas Village Schweiz. HB-Therm AG. Heinz Freitag AG. Helvetia Versicherungen. Hevron SA. HID Global Switzerland SA. Highlight Communications AG. HLS Hotels & Spa AG. Hochdorf Swiss Nutrition AG. Hochgebirgsklinik Davos AG. Hocoma AG. Högg Produktionstechnik AG. Holmes Place AG. Hostpoint AG. Hotel Ambassador. Hotel Belvedere Locarno. Hotel Continental-Park AG. Hotel Cresta Palace Celerina. Hôtel de la Paix, Lausanne. Hotel Hof Weissbad. Hotel Krone, Aarburg. Hotel Schweizerhof Bern AG. Hotel Schweizerhof, Lenzerheide. Hotel Seedamm AG. Hôtel Warwick. Hotelbusiness Zug AG. Hotelplan Holding AG. HP Schweiz GmbH. HRS Real Estate AG. Huber Straub AG. Hügli Holding AG. Humbel Zahnräder AG. Huntsman Advanced Materials (Switzerland) GmbH. Husqvarna Schweiz AG. Hutter Dynamics AG. Hydro Exploitation SA. Hypothekbank Lenzburg.

I

IBSA Institut Biochimique SA. Ifolor AG. Ilem SA. Imbach + Cie AG. Imerys Graphite & Carbon Switzerland SA. Immer AG. Implenia Schweiz AG. Induni & Cie SA. Industrie Biomediche Insubri SA. Infra-Com Swiss AG. ING Belgique. Inova Solutions AG. Integra Biosciences AG. Intersport Schweiz AG. Inventx AG. Ipsos SA. Irtec SA. Iseli & Co AG Schötz. Ismecca Europe Semiconductor SA. ISS Schweiz AG. Itris. IVECO (Schweiz) AG. IVF Hartmann AG.

J

J. Schneeberger Maschinen AG. Jakob AG. Jauslin Stebler AG. Jean Singer et Cie SA. JeanShop Abbigliamento. Jegen AG. Jenny Fabrics AG. Johann Müller AG. Johnson & Johnson. Jörg Lienert AG. Jos. Berchtold AG. Josef Meyer Stahl & Metall AG. Jost Transport AG. JT International SA. Jungbunzlauer. Jungfraubahnen Management AG. Jungheinrich AG. Jutzler AG.

K

Kantonales Elektrizitätswerk Nidwalden. Käppeli Strassen- und Tiefbau AG. Katadyn Holding AG. Kaufmann Holding AG. Keller Laser AG. Keller Swiss Group AG. Kellerhals Carrard Lausanne/Sion SA. Kern Tunneltechnik SA. Kif Parechoc SA. Kistler Group. KKL Luzern Management AG. Knecht Brugg Holding AG.

Knecht Reisen AG. Komax Holding AG. Kongress und Kursaal Bern AG. Kraftwerke Hinterrhein AG. Kraftwerke Oberhasli AG. Krüger & Co AG. Kudelski Group. Küng Platten AG. Kuoni Viaggi. Kurierzentrale GmbH.

L

La Rapida SA. Lagerhäuser der Centralschweiz AG. Laiteries Réunies Société Coopérative. Lamina Technologies SA. Landis+Gyr AG. Lantal Textiles AG. Lanz-Anliker Holding AG. lastminute.com group. Lati SA. Laubscher Präzision AG. Laurastar. Lausanne Palace. Le petit-fils de L.U. Chopard & Cie SA. Léguriviera Groupe. Lehmann Gruppe. Lehmann Riverside. Lehner Versand AG. Leica Geosystems AG. Leicom AG. Lenovo (Schweiz) GmbH. Les Boutiques Angéloz SA. Les Toises - Centre de psychiatrie et psychothérapie. LeShop.ch. Let's Go Fitness. Liebherr Machines Bulle SA. Life-ware SA. Livit AG. Loeb Holding AG. L'Oréal (Suisse) SA. Losinger Marazzi SA. Louis Dreyfus Company Suisse SA. Lüchinger Metallbau AG. LURAG Luzerner Raststätten AG. Luzerner Kantonalbank AG.

M

m3 Real Estate SA. Maagtechnic AG. Mad Productions SA - Square Danses SA. Mägerle AG Maschinenfabrik. Makies AG. Maklerzentrum Schweiz AG. Maltech Müller AG. Manor. Manufactures d'Outils Dumont SA. Marti AG Basel. Matériaux Sabag SA. Mathys SA. mawiGroup SA. Max Studer Interim SA. Max Zeller Söhne AG. McDonald's Etoy. McDonald's Restaurant Rudolf Gödl. Medela AG. MediaCom AG. mediX Gruppenpraxis AG. Meggitt SA. Mercier SA. Merck. Mercury Mission Systems International SA. Merz. Messe Luzern AG. Metallizzazione SA. Metalor Technologies SA. Metaltext SA. Metoxit AG. Michael Page International (Switzerland) SA. Microdiamant AG. Microdul AG. Migros. Migros Bank AG. Mikron Tool. Mister Minit. Möbel Schubiger AG. mobilezone. Mobility Genossenschaft. Monnat.ch SA, Horlogerie de Précision. Monopol AG. Montagetechnik Berner AG. Montres Corum Sàrl. Morphean SA. Motomix SA. Motorex-Bucher Group AG. MPM facility services SA. Müller Group. Müller Martini AG. MultiNet Communication GmbH. MUnit SA. Muttoni SA. My Leukerbad AG. My Smile AG.

N

Nachbur AG. Narimpex AG. NDW – Neue Duschenwelt AG. Nellen & Partner AG. Neo Advertising SA. Neoperl Holding AG. Netcetera. Neue Holzbau AG. New Reinsurance Company. Nidwaldner Kantonalbank. Niederer Kraft Frey AG. Niklaus LNI SA. Nokia Schweiz. Norba SA. Nova Werke AG. Novartis. Novex AG. Novoplast AG. Novotel Basel. NSStCM SA.

O

O. Aeschlimann AG. Oberwaid AG – Das Hotel – Die Klinik. OBI Bau- und Heimwerkermärkte Systemzentrale (Schweiz) GmbH. Obwaldner Kantonalbank. Oerlikon Corporate Switzerland. Oertli Instrumente AG.

Oertli Werkzeuge AG. Oetiker Gruppe. Oettinger Davidoff AG. Offix Holding AG. Ofisa SA. Oleificio Sabo. Oly SA. Opernhaus Zürich AG. Optiprint AG. Osterwalder St. Gallen AG. Otis SA. OWIBA AG.

P

Pagani Pens SA. Panoramic Gourmet AG. Papyrus Schweiz AG. Pargger AG. Parkhotel Bellevue Adelsboden AG. Pax. PaxVax Berna GmbH. Payot SA. PB Swiss Tools GmbH. People's Holding AG. Perrin Frères SA. Personal Contact Group AG. Pfefferlé & Cie SA. Pfiffner International AG. Phoenix Mecano Komponenten AG. Piguët Galland & Cie SA. Pilatus Flugzeugwerke AG. Pini Group. Pius Schäfler AG. PKZ Burger-Kehl & Co AG. Planzer Transport AG. Plastex SA. Polli et Cie SA. Pollux Reinigungsservice AG. Polytrova AG. Polytype SA. Poretti-Gaggini SA. Pöyry Schweiz AG. PQR Béton SA. Precitrame Machines SA. Prestige Gourmand SA. Prodoxa AG. Progin SA Métal. Proman Group Switzerland. Protectas SA, Succursale di Lugano. Provins. Provisur Technologies GmbH. PwC Schweiz. PX Group SA.

Q

Quickline Holding AG.

R

R. Mazzoli SA. Rahn AG. Rahn+Bodmer Co. Raiffeisen. ramatech systems ag. Randstad (Schweiz) AG. Rapelli SA. RATP Dev Suisse SA. Raymond Weil SA. RealSport Group. Regazzi Holding SA. Régence Production SA. Régie du Rhône SA. Regio Energie Solothurn. Reichle & De-Massari AG. Reichmuth & Co Privatbankiers. Reishauer AG. Renault Suisse SA. Restaurant de l'Hôtel de Ville de Crissier. Retraites populaires. Revaz SA. Rezzonico Bioggio. Rhätische Bahn AG. Rhyschänzli Gruppe. Ricoh Schweiz AG. Rieter Holding AG. Riri SA. Ristoranti Fred Feldpausch SA. Ritz Carlton Hôtel de la Paix SA. Rivopharm SA. Robatech AG. Robert Fuchs AG. Roduit SA. Roland Berger AG. Rollstar AG. Ronchi SA. Ronda AG. Rossignol GmbH. Rosta AG. Rotho Kunststoff AG. Ruckstuhl AG. Ruckstuhlgaragen. Rutishauser Weinkellerei AG. RWB Groupe SA.

S

SABAG Luzern AG. Sage Schweiz AG. Saint-Gobain Isover. Sajet SA. Salanitro SA. Salt. Samvaz SA. Sandro Sormani SA. Sandro Vanini SA. Sapa Prodotti Plastici Sagl (Gruppo Baxter). Sarna Plastec AG. Scintilla AG Werk, St. Niklaus. Scrasa SA. Securitas Gruppe Schweiz. Sefa SA. Sekisui Alveo AG. Semadeni AG. Sercab SA. Serconet SA. Services industriels de Lausanne. Servier (Suisse) SA. Settelen AG. Seven Gastro Group Ascona. Shopping Arena. Sicpa SA. Siegfried Evionnaz SA. Siegfried Holding AG. Sigg Switzerland Bottles AG. Sigrist-Photometer AG. Similasan. Sinomedica. Sintetica SA. SIX. Skynight SA. Smart Gorla Services SA. SMB Medical SA. Société Electrique de la Vallée de Joux SA. Socorex Isba SA. Softcom Technologies SA.

Solo Swiss SA. Solvias AG. Somazzi Dario materiali da costruzione sa. SonarSource SA. Sonova Holding AG. Sontex SA. Soprod SA. Sotax AG. SPAG Schnyder, Plüss AG. Spaghetti Gastro Group. Spagyros AG. Sparcassa 1816 Genossenschaft. Speno International SA. Sphinx Werkzeuge AG. SPIE ICS AG. Spinelli SA. Spirig HealthCare AG. Spitalzentrum Biel AG. Spitex Region Interlaken AG. Spitex Region Thun AG. SQLI Suisse SA. SR Technics Switzerland. SSI Schäfer AG. Südpack Bioggio SA. Suisselearn Media AG. Suiten Hotel Parco Paradiso. Sutter Begg. Swatch Group SA. Swiss Automotive Group AG. Swiss Capital Alternative Investments AG. Swiss Caps AG. Swiss Holiday Park AG. Swiss Krono AG. Swiss Life Schweiz. Swiss Medical Network. swissconnect ag. SwissOptic AG. Swissôtel Zürich. swisspor Romandie SA. Swissterminal ag. Switel SA. SWS Medien AG Print. Symbiotics SA. Syngenta.

SCH

Schaub Maler AG. Schenk Bruhin AG. Schenker Storen AG. Scherrer Haustechnik AG. Schibli-Gruppe. Schiller AG. Schlagenhauf Gruppe. Schlumpf AG. Schmid Gruppe. Schmiedewerk Stooss AG. Schmoll AG. Schmolz + Bickenbach Stahlcenter AG. Schneider und Cie AG. Schulthess Maschinen AG. Schurter Holding AG. Schüwo AG. Schwarz Kitchen Selection SA. Schweizer Zucker AG. Schwob AG. Schwyzer Kantonalbank.

ST

St. Galler Kantonalbank. Stadler Rail AG. Steeltec AG. Steinel Solutions AG. Steiner Transport AG. STH Swiss Tech Holding AG. Stiftung Gurten-Park im Grünen. Stirnimann AG Baumaschinen. STMicroelectronics SA. Stobag AG. Stöckli the Swiss Ski. Stoppani Metalltechnik AG. Stoppani Systembau AG. Straumann Holding. Strellson AG. Streuli Bau AG. Studio d'ingegneria Visani Rusconi Talleri SA. Studio Ingegneria Sciarini SA. Stutz Holding AG.

T

TAG Aviation SA. Taiana SA. Tarchini Group. Tecopinza SA. Tecsedo SA. Telsonic AG. Teo Jakob AG. TESA Technology. Textilcolor AG. THE Machines Yvonand SA. Theiler Druck AG. Thierry Koulbanis Restaurants McDonald's. Thurgauer Kantonalbank. thyssenkrupp Materials Schweiz AG. tibits ag. Ticino Hotels Group. Tillotts Pharma AG. Tisca Tischhauser AG. Titanium Holding Sàrl. TNT Swiss Post GmbH. Toggenburger Unternehmungen. Toldo Strassen- und Tiefbau AG. Topnet SA. Tornos SA. Totsa Total Oil Trading SA. TPN SA. Trafag AG. Traveco Transporte AG. Treier AG. Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Stein am Rhein AG. Trendcommerce (Schweiz) AG. Tri-Star Electronics (Europe) SA. Triumph Holding AG. Trivadis. Trumpf Schweiz AG. Turck Duotec SA. Two Spice AG.

U

UBS AG. Uditis SA. UEFA. Ugo Bassi SA. Uhde Inventa-Fischer AG. Ultra Marine Food SA. Unifil AG. Unigestion SA. Uniman SA. Unione Farmaceutica Distribuzione SA. Unitechnologies AG. United Grinding Group AG. update Fitness AG. Urner Kantonalbank. USFA - Falegnamerie Associate società cooperativa.

V

Valcambi SA. Valiant Bank AG. Valora AG. Valtube SA. Vaudoise Assurances Holding SA. VC999 Verpackungssysteme AG. Vebego SA. Veco Group SA. Vedia SA. Vending Service AG. Veronelli SA. Vetropack SA. Victorinox AG. Viking Cruises. Viseca Card Services SA. Vitogaz Switzerland AG. Vogt AG. Vogt-Schild Druck AG. Volvo Car Switzerland AG. VP Bank (Schweiz) AG.

W

W+P Weber und Partner AG. Walder Wyss AG. Warteck Invest AG. Wäsche-Perle AG. Waser + Co AG. Wegmüller AG Holz- und Kartonverpackungen. Weidmann Medical Technology AG. Wenger Fenster AG. Wetter Gruppe. Wey Technology AG. Wiederkehr AG. Willisau Switzerland, Tisch & Stuhl Willisau AG. Wincasa AG. Winteler SA. Wirz AG Bauunternehmung. Woodpecker Holding AG. Work in Progress Holding AG. Wyniger Gruppe. Wyon AG. Wyss Holding AG.

Y

Ypsomed AG.

Z

zb Zentralbahn AG. Ziemer Ophthalmic Systems AG. Zimmer Biomet. Zindel Gruppe AG. Zingg Industrieabfälle AG. ZLE Betriebs AG. Zuger Kantonalbank. Zürcher Frères SA. Zürcher Kantonalbank. Zürich Marriott Hotel. Zürich Schweiz. Zweifel Pomy-Chips AG.

2

25hours Hotel Company Zürich AG.

II

II-VI Laser Enterprise GmbH.

Published by

Swiss National Bank
Economic Affairs
Börsenstrasse 15
P.O. Box
CH-8022 Zurich

Design

Interbrand Ltd, Zurich

Typeset by

Neidhart + Schön Group AG, Zurich

Language versions:

The *Quarterly Bulletin* is available in printed form in German (ISSN 1423-3789), French (ISSN 1423-3797) and Italian (ISSN 2504-3544), either as single copies or on subscription, from: Swiss National Bank, Library
P.O. Box, CH-8022 Zurich
Telephone +41 58 631 11 50
Fax +41 58 631 50 48
Email: library@snb.ch

The *Quarterly Bulletin* can also be downloaded from the SNB website in the following language versions:

English: www.snb.ch, *Publications, Economic publications, Quarterly Bulletin* (ISSN 1662-257X)

German: www.snb.ch, *Publikationen, Ökonomische Publikationen, Quartalsheft* (ISSN 1662-2588)

French: www.snb.ch, *Publications, Publications économiques, Bulletin trimestriel* (ISSN 1662-2596)

Italian: www.snb.ch, *Pubblicazioni, Pubblicazioni economiche, Bollettino trimestrale* (ISSN 2504-480X)

Website

www.snb.ch

Copyright ©

The Swiss National Bank (SNB) respects all third-party rights, in particular rights relating to works protected by copyright (information or data, wordings and depictions, to the extent that these are of an individual character).

SNB publications containing a reference to a copyright (© Swiss National Bank/SNB, Zurich/year, or similar) may, under copyright law, only be used (reproduced, used via the internet, etc.) for non-commercial purposes and provided that the source is mentioned. Their use for commercial purposes is only permitted with the prior express consent of the SNB.

General information and data published without reference to a copyright may be used without mentioning the source.

To the extent that the information and data clearly derive from outside sources, the users of such information and data are obliged to respect any existing copyrights and to obtain the right of use from the relevant outside source themselves.

Limitation of liability

The SNB accepts no responsibility for any information it provides. Under no circumstances will it accept any liability for losses or damage which may result from the use of such information. This limitation of liability applies, in particular, to the topicality, accuracy, validity and availability of the information.

© Swiss National Bank, Zurich/Berne 2019