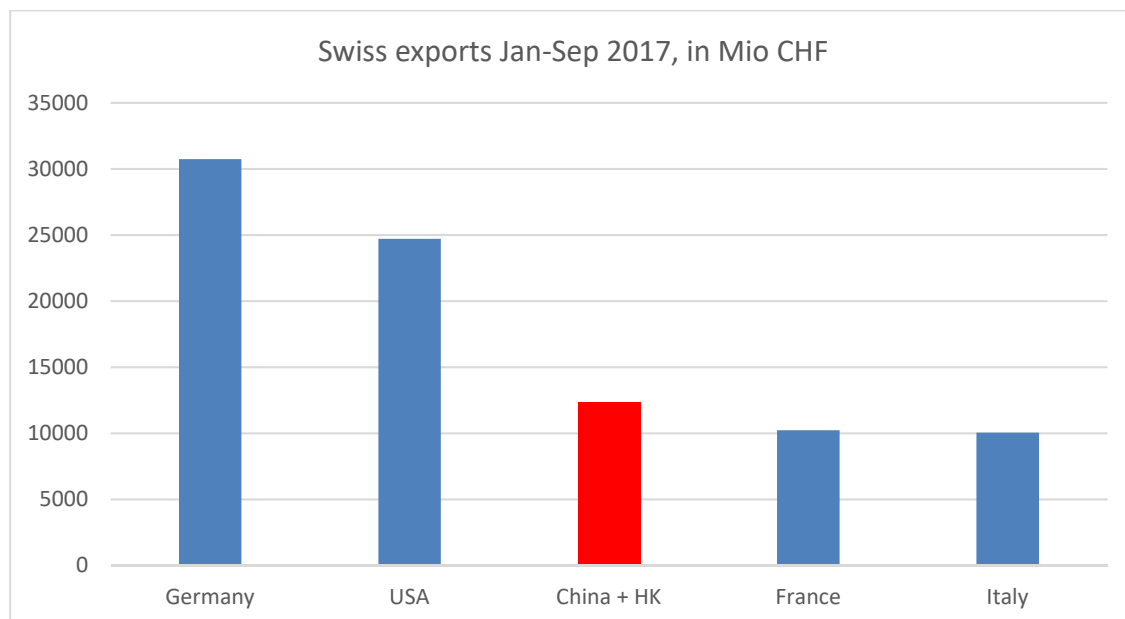


PRESS RELEASE

**Dynamic markets: China and Hong Kong fuel Swiss export growth**

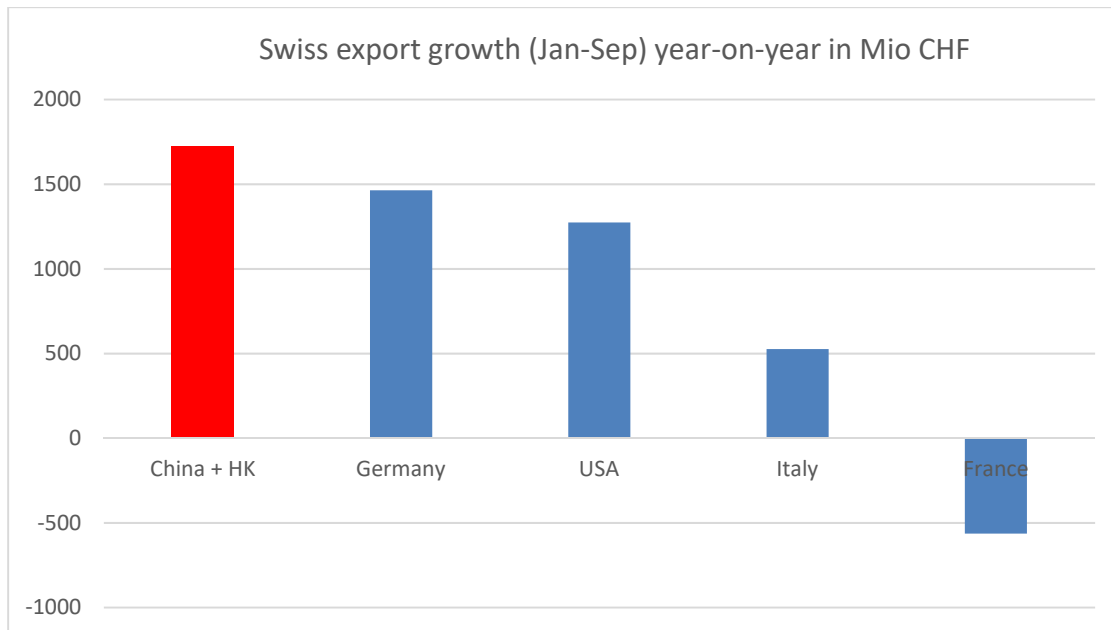
- In the first nine months of 2017, **Switzerland exported goods in the value of 12.3 billion Swiss francs to China and Hong Kong**, a plus of 16.2% year-on-year and an all-time-high.
- With an **absolute export growth of 1.7 billion Swiss francs year-on-year**, **China including Hong Kong is the most dynamic market for Swiss exporters**, followed by Germany (+1.46 bio CHF) and the USA (+1.27 bio CHF).
- **Swiss watches and precision instrument exports to China and Hong Kong grew by 13%**, **pharma exports grew by 23.7%** and **machinery exports went up by 10.8%**.

Shanghai (October 25, 2017) – In the first three quarters of 2017, Switzerland exported goods in the value of 12.3 billion Swiss francs to China and Hongkong, according to recent data of the Swiss Federal Customs Administration<sup>1</sup>. This is a plus of impressive 16.2% year-on-year. “In absolute terms, this constitutes an export growth by 1.7 billion Swiss francs compared to the year before – more additional exports than any other market generated”, explains Nicolas Musy, Founder and Delegate of the Board of Swiss Centers in China, a non-profit organization that lowers the market entry barriers of Swiss companies into Asia. Mr. Musy: “This growth indicates that China’s growth, though slower, happens now in areas where Swiss products and quality are more and more in demand. The very positive dynamic of Sino-Swiss relations and the Free Trade Agreement may also play their part.”



*China (including Hong Kong) remains the third biggest market for Swiss exporters.*

<sup>1</sup> Figures from Swiss Federal Customs Administration, Total "business cycle" (total 1): without gold bars and other precious metals, coin, precious stones and gems, works of art and antiques

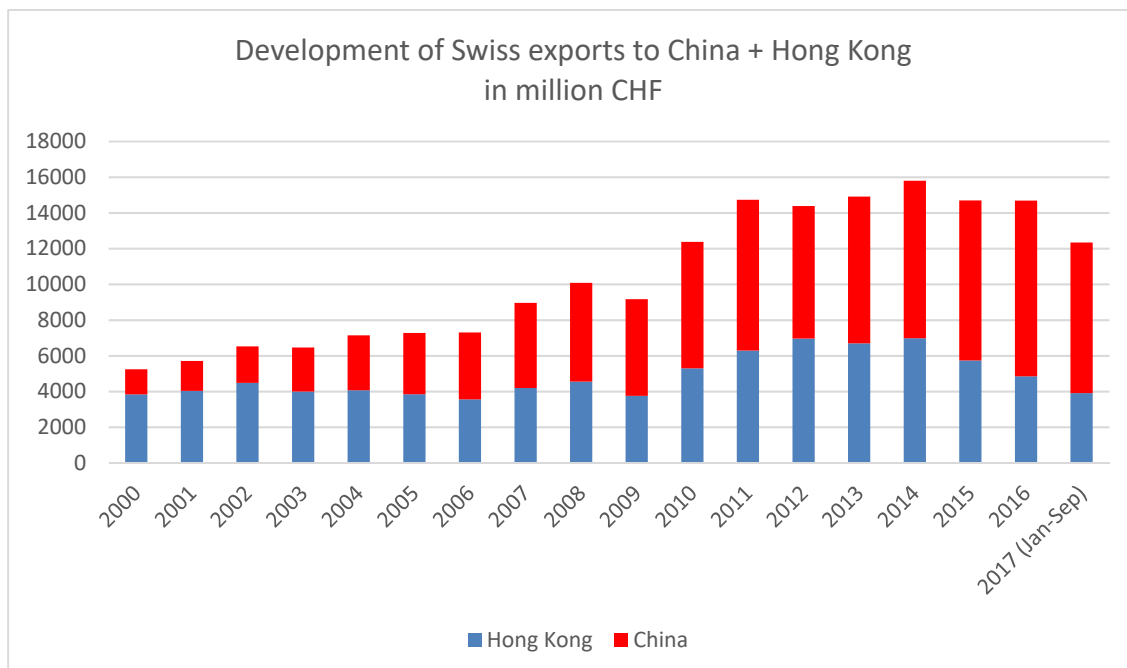


*Absolute export growth: China and Hong Kong were responsible for additional Swiss exports in the value of 1.7 billion Swiss francs, more than any other market.*

Behind Germany (30.7 bio CHF) and the USA (24.7) but ahead of France (10.2) and Italy (10), China including Hong Kong (12.3) remains the third biggest market for Swiss goods. Furthermore, Switzerland is one of very few countries that enjoy a positive trade balance with China and Hong Kong without exporting natural resources. “The surplus amounts to 2.2 billion Swiss francs in the first three quarters of 2017”, reports Musy.

**On the way to a new record year**

If the positive trend continues in the last quarter, Swiss 2017 exports to China can beat the record year of 2014, when goods in the value of 15.8 billion Swiss Francs were exported.



**Watch and precision instrument exports rebound**

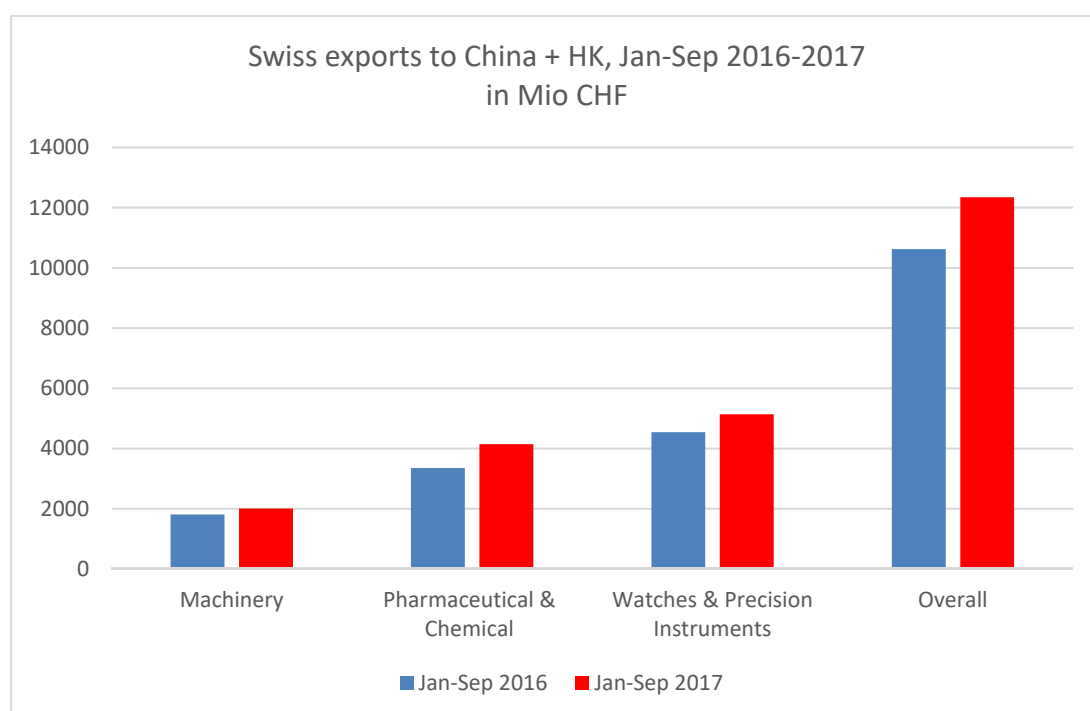
The export growth to China and Hong Kong was strong in all major sectors in the first nine months of 2017. Watches, precision instruments and bijouterie exports, still the biggest export sector, grew by 13% to a total of 5.1 billion Swiss francs. Musy: “The watch, precision instruments and jewelry exports to China and

Hong Kong, which is historically the most important export market for the Swiss watch industry, have been dropping since 2015 due to the new frugality of the Chinese government and anti-corruption initiatives. The current growth may now be healthier and generated by the very fast growth of the Chinese middle class."

### Dynamic pharma exports

The most dynamic growth, just as in 2016, was generated by the pharmaceutical and chemical industry. Goods in the value of 4.1 billion Swiss francs were exported to China and Hong Kong in the first three quarters of 2017 – a plus of striking 23.7%. Zhen Xiao, Managing Director of the Swiss Centers China: "Quickly growing sectors, such as pharma and medical devices, high and sustainable technologies as well as advanced manufacturing are in increasing need of high quality products. These are ideal conditions for Swiss companies with know-how and sophisticated products and services!"

The third major Swiss export sector, machinery, also recorded growth: Exports in the value of 2 billion Swiss francs in the first nine months of 2017 represent a growth of 10.8% compared to 2016.



*A positive trend in all major export sectors: Swiss exports to China and Hong Kong in the first three quarters of 2017.*

With the transformation of the Chinese manufacturing sector towards more efficiency and automation, the Swiss Centers experts expects a continuous flow of opportunities for Swiss equipment and technology providers. "Many Swiss companies have unique know-how in engineering, green tech, in the medical and pharma industries and high precision manufacturing. Such skills and expertise are in growing need in China. We expect the export growth to continue", analyses Mr. Xiao. "To support the technology start-ups who want to explore these opportunities, the Swiss Centers China provides customized solutions from office and business center to the vast network of creditable experts and partners."

**About Swiss Centers China (SCC):** Founded in 2000 as a non-profit, Sino-Swiss, public-private partnership, Swiss Centers China is by far the largest cluster of Swiss enterprises in Asia. With five locations strategically located on the dynamic East coast of China (Shanghai, Beijing and Tianjin), SCC does not only offer virtual and instant office space as well as ready-to-use workshops and showrooms, but also supports member companies with government relations, technology transfer and a broad network of experts. SCC served more than 300 companies in China – both SMEs and large enterprises. Among other, the Swiss Centers experts have established 30 production companies and more than 50 commercial offices for Swiss companies. SCC also conducts surveys and expert analyses of China's business opportunities and challenges, and at the same time promotes the *Swiss Made* brand and Switzerland as a country for innovation and an industrial leader. For more information, kindly visit: [www.swisscenters.org](http://www.swisscenters.org).

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