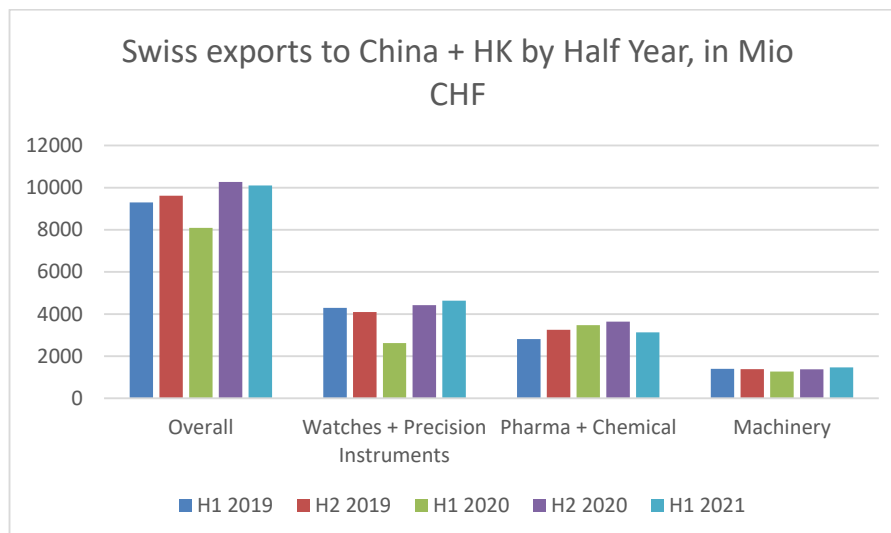


PRESS RELEASE

Swiss exports to China continue to surpass pre-pandemic levels

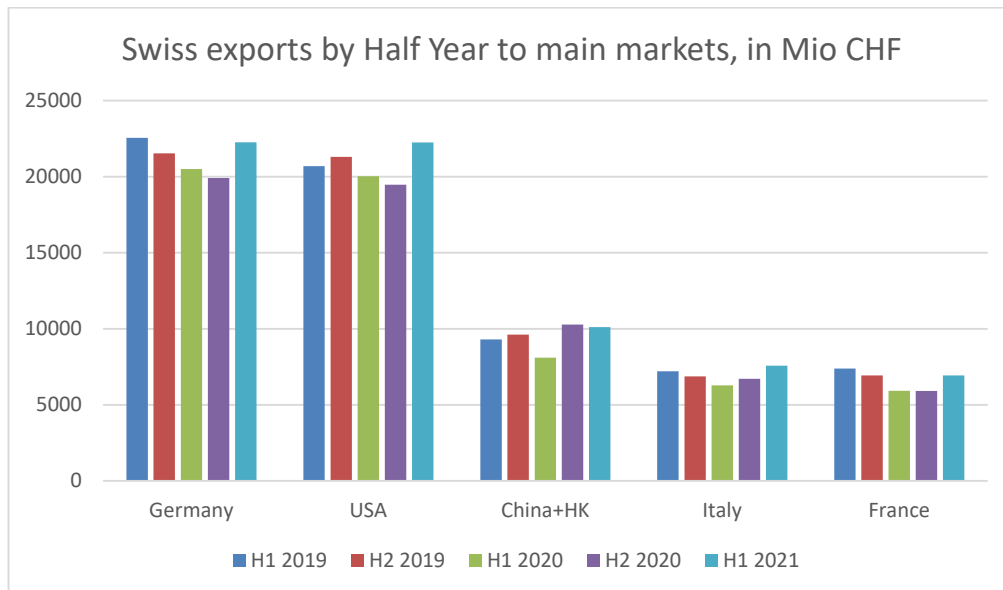
- Overall Swiss exports to China (incl. Hong Kong) reached 10,1 billion Swiss francs in the first half of 2021 – a plus of 24,9% year-on-year and a growth of 8,6% compared to the first half of 2019, pre-pandemic.
- This underscores the trend of the second half of 2020, when the Swiss exports to China and Hong Kong grew by 6,8% year-on-year. Exports to other key markets such as Germany or France have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels.
- The Swiss machinery exports to China and Hongkong continue to climb and reached a value of 1,47 billion Swiss francs – a plus of 5,5% compared to the first half of 2019. The Swiss companies Fraisa and Tornos underline this positive trend.

Shanghai (August 23, 2021) – Swiss exports to China and Hong Kong have fully recovered from the pandemic crisis and continue to be on the rise. **In the first half of 2021, Switzerland exported goods in the value of 10,1 billion Swiss francs to China including Hongkong** – a growth of 24,9% compared to the Covid-stricken first half of 2020, according to recent figures of the Swiss Federal Customs Administration.¹ “More important is the comparison with the same period in 2019. Even though the USA will soon be Switzerland’s first export market, China including Hong Kong is its fastest growing market with 8.6% over 2 years, an average of 4.3% per year since 2019,” reports Nicolas Musy, Delegate of the Board of Swiss Centers in China (SCC), a platform that lowers the market entry barriers into Asia for Swiss companies.



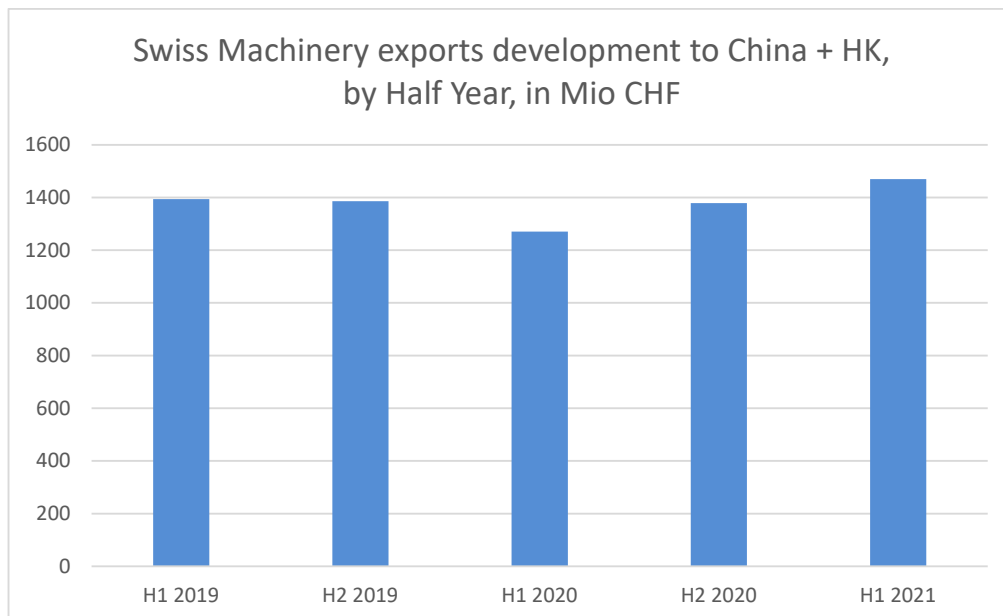
¹ Figures from Swiss Federal Customs Administration, Total "business cycle" (total 1): without gold bars and other precious metals, coin, precious stones and gems, works of art and antiques

Mr. Musy: “This is a continuation of the trend that we have seen in the second half of 2020. It is a striking difference to the Swiss exports to other main markets such as Germany or France, where they are still behind 2019 levels.”



Swiss exports to the United States (22,2 bio CHF, +7,5% compared to 2019) and Italy (7,6 bio CHF, +5,1%) in the first half of 2021 were similarly dynamic than those to China and Hongkong.

Mr. Musy: “And though China’s economic growth is slowing down in the second part of this year, the need in high quality products and equipment will keep growing to fulfill the localization objectives of China’s “dual strategy” of maintaining a strong trade position and developing its domestic market.”



Machinery exports: sustained growth

Particularly interesting are the Swiss machinery exports. In the first half of 2021, Switzerland exported machinery products in the value of 1,47 billion Swiss francs to China and Hongkong. That represents a growth of 15,7% year-on-year, and more importantly also a plus of 5,5% compared to the first half of 2019. “This fast recovery is remarkable when we consider the sharp decline in machinery exports during the lockdowns of 2020,” emphasizes Zhen Xiao, CEO of the Swiss Centers Group. Year-on-year, the Swiss machinery exports to other main markets such as Germany (+14%), USA (+15%), Italy (+27%), France (+21%) grew as well – but they have not reached pre-pandemic levels in any of these markets.

Fraisa and Tornos: positive outlook

Thomas Naegelin, CMO and Vice-CEO of the Swiss Centers member company Fraisa Group, and a member of the Board of Swissmem, underscores the importance of the Chinese economy for Swiss enterprises: “During the Corona crisis, the Chinese economy proved to be extremely stable. Swiss companies were also able to benefit from this. When the lockdown in the first Corona wave almost brought the economy in Europe and also in Switzerland to a standstill, exports to China were not so strongly affected, which helped many companies to weather the crisis a little better. Currently, exports to China are on the rise again and this is very important for the economic recovery in Switzerland. China is a very important trading partner for Switzerland and for Swiss companies in Switzerland. Thanks to the free trade agreement between Switzerland and China, the conditions are in place for relations to continue to develop successfully for both sides in the future.”

“The Tornos Group was able to grow worldwide in the first half of 2021 and the development in China stands out here. Tornos has significantly strengthened its market position in China, due to its strong domestic presence and particularly with its locally manufactured Swiss-type automatic lathes,” adds Michael Meyer, Operations Manager at Tornos Technologies (Shanghai) Ltd.



Nicolas Musy, Delegate of the Board of Swiss Centers in China (SCC), at the SME Sino-Swiss Business Award Ceremony. (Picture source: SCC)



Zhen Xiao, CEO of the Swiss Centers Group, at the CIIE 2019. (Picture source: SCC)

About Swiss Centers Group:

Founded in 2000 as a non-profit Sino-Swiss public-private partnership, the Swiss Centers are by far the **largest cluster of Swiss companies in Asia**.

Swiss Centers **practical solutions supported the businesses of over 400 companies** in China – both SMEs and large enterprises. Among others, the Swiss Centers experts have established 50 production companies and more than 50 commercial offices for Swiss companies in both **industrial** and **consumer goods**. In cooperation with the Swiss diplomatic representations in China, Swiss Centers also conducts surveys that provide the most detailed expertise available on the situation of Swiss companies in China, and at the same time **promotes the Swiss Made brand** and Switzerland as a country for **quality, innovation** and **industrial leadership**.

With locations strategically situated on China's dynamic East Coast (Shanghai and Tianjin), **Swiss Centers provide:**

- Instant physical **office space** as well as **ready-to-use workshops, showrooms and warehouses**;
- **Trade and supply chain management**, including product registration, import/export, transport, warehouse and distribution.
- **Relations with local Chinese authorities** and connections to **Swiss government and institutions** in China;
- Support for secure technology transfer and **intellectual property protection**;
- Access to **professional services** tailored to SMEs in all aspects of setting up and developing business in China (legal, tax, accounting, recruitment, HR management, IT, marketing).

For more information and some **reference cases**, kindly visit www.swisscenters.org



Swiss Centers China: 20 years of supporting Swiss companies in China

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