



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago

We are the Consulate General of Switzerland in Chicago

Fostering a strong partnership between
Switzerland and the Midwest



Switzerland, a well-balanced mechanism! Barely 2% of the Midwest in size, 2/3 mountains and lakes, bordered by France, Germany, Italy, Austria, and Liechtenstein, Switzerland is home to some 9 million permanent residents, 27% of whom are foreigners. Federalism helps ensure coexistence in a diverse country, with its four national languages and distinct geographical regions. Power is shared between the federal government, the 26 sovereign cantons, and some 2,000 municipalities. Small and medium-sized enterprises are the mainstay of the export-oriented Swiss economy.

The relationship between Switzerland and the United States benefits from a close-knit network of cooperation and exchange, which is constantly reviewed to identify opportunities to expand and diversify the excellent bilateral ties. Today, these ties can be summed up in the following three numbers: 1, 6, and 3. The U.S. is Switzerland's largest export market for goods and services worldwide amounting to \$63.3 billion in 2024, over 20% more than the previous year. The pharmaceutical industry alone accounts for 40% of exports to the U.S. Precious metals, precision instruments and machinery are the next most important export sectors. Switzerland is the sixth largest foreign direct investor and ranks among the top three investors in R&D in the U.S., which is Switzerland's most important investment destination. Swiss firms make a significant economic contribution to the United States, supporting hundreds of thousands of well-remunerated U.S.-based jobs across the country; they are active investors in the manufacturing, wholesale, retail, and services sectors of the U.S. economy and are especially strong contributors in pharmaceuticals and medicines.

On the other side of the Atlantic, U.S. business investment in Switzerland translates into over 96,000 Swiss jobs earning over \$430 million in yearly sales. Over 2,000 American companies already operate in Switzerland, ranging from early-stage innovators to recognized multinationals.

This dynamism also characterizes the bilateral relationship with the Midwest. From the shores of Lake Michigan, our four-person team is in charge of strengthening ties with state and local authorities in our jurisdiction. We are supported by Honorary Consuls in Indianapolis and Detroit. We aim to promote trade, innovation, investment, education, and cultural exchange between Switzerland and the Midwest, which is currently home to 169 Swiss companies operating in 312 different locations. The Midwest, renowned for its excellent output in both agriculture and manufacturing, imported over \$12 billion in Swiss goods & services in 2024, with Indiana importing over \$7 billion alone. Pharmaceuticals and manufacturing are leading categories in our 11-state jurisdiction. In addition, the U.S. interest in Switzerland's Vocational and Professional Education and Training system (dual education) remains strong. Our team also supports and promotes the activities initiated by the Swiss Embassy in Washington D.C., the Swiss Business Hub USA, Swissnex, Switzerland Tourism, and various Swiss associations in the Midwest.

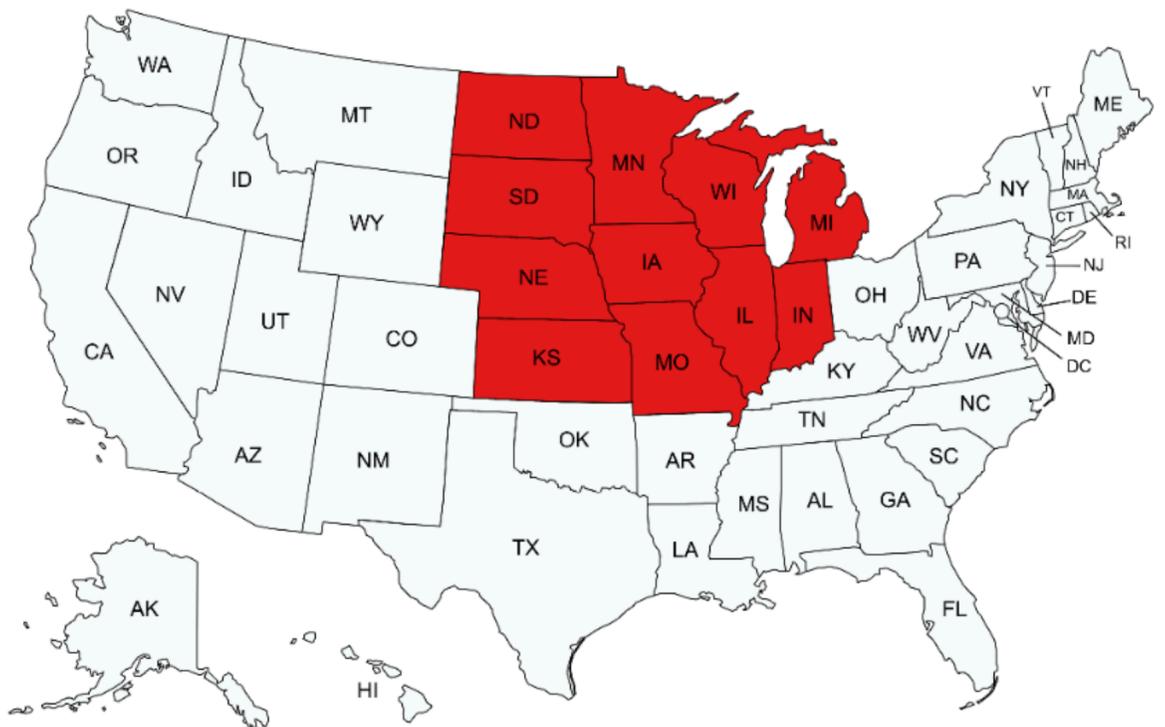
Swiss immigrants in the Midwest have made significant contributions to the economic and cultural development of the region, which is home to 7,000 Swiss citizens and 245,000 residents of Swiss descent. While the team at the Consulate General maintains contacts with the various Swiss associations in the region for organizational reasons, the Swiss citizens living in the area are administratively served by our colleagues at the Swiss Embassy in Washington D.C. (for the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) or the Swiss Consulate General in New York (for the states of Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

Stay tuned! To learn more about our activities and/or the strong and dynamic relationship between the U.S. and Switzerland, please contact us at chicago@eda.admin.ch or visit the website www.swissimpactusa.com.

Thank you for your interest

The Consul General of Switzerland

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