

www.customs.admin.ch

# Facts and figures 2010

(2011 edition)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Departement of Finance FDF  
**Federal Customs Administration FCA**

# Contents

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Federal Customs Administration FCA	4	...Switzerland as a business location	
FCA organisation	6	Foreign trade	21
Staff	8	Free trade	22
FCA receipts	10	Commercial import, export and transit	22
<b>The FCA works on behalf of...</b>		Intellectual property	23
<b>...security</b>		Precious metal control	26
Schengen	12	<b>Other responsibilities</b>	
Migration	14	International assignments	28
Documents and identity cards	15	Protection of species	30
Narcotics	15	Protection of cultural property	30
Security checks of heavy vehicles	15	<hr/>	
<b>...health</b>		Customs Museum	32
Medicinal products	16	Customs addresses	33
Smuggling of foodstuffs	18	Border Guard addresses	34
		Imprint	35

# Editorial

Dear reader,

People are becoming increasingly mobile. They want to travel and cross borders without being subject to controls. And the economy depends on there being as few delays as possible in cross-border trade. Export companies need free trade. This is particularly true for Switzerland, which earns every second franc abroad, as is well-known.

People also want security, though. They want no products with harmful substances, no counterfeit medications, no rotten meat, no drugs, no prohibited weapons, no criminals, etc. The business world also wants security. Companies want to ensure that no counterfeits of their products reach the market, and they need a reliable and efficient partner in the cross-border movement of goods.



When people and goods cross the border, customs officers are committed to satisfying both of these demands – freedom and security.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rudolf Dietrich".

Rudolf Dietrich, Director General of Swiss Customs

# Federal Customs Administration FCA

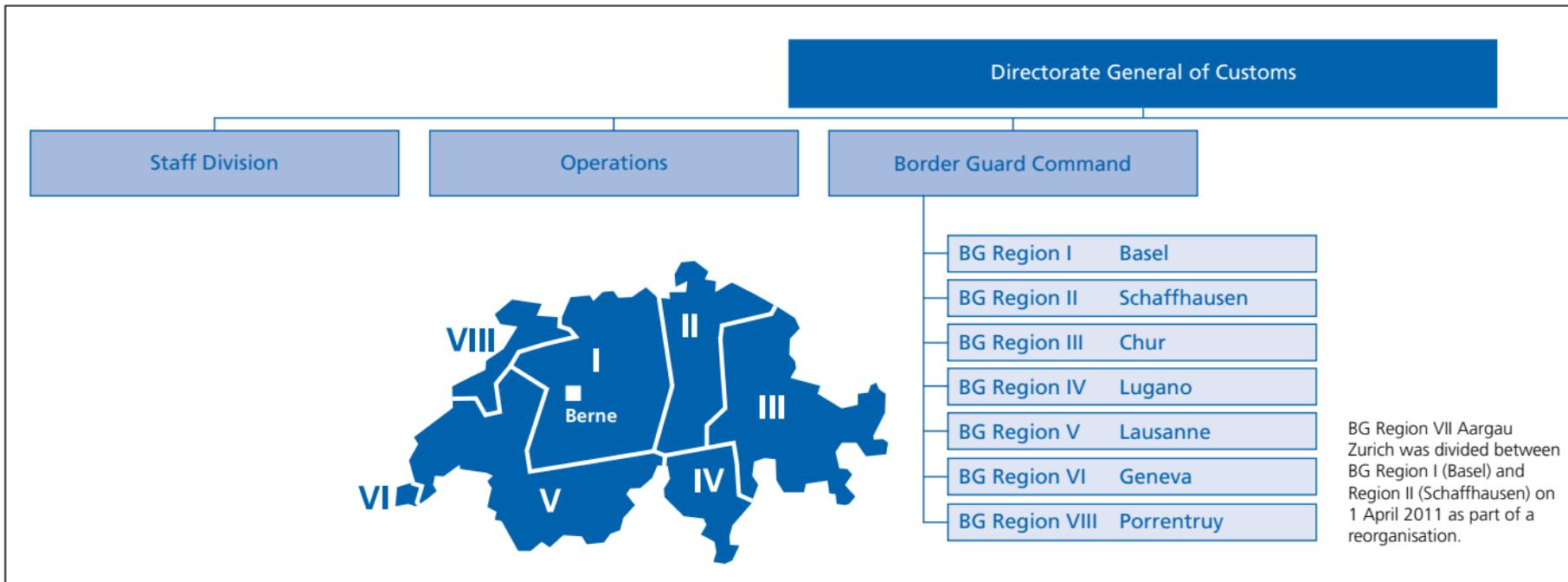
Civil Customs are responsible for managing what will soon be the only customs border in Western and Central Europe in such a way that it interferes as minimally as possible with the economy. The smooth cross-border movement of commercial goods is crucial for the attractiveness of Switzerland as a business location and the competitiveness of companies that operate internationally. The duties of Civil Customs are manifold. Aside from the clearance of merchandise, they also monitor the import and export of certain goods to protect the population and ensure legal order, e.g. food-stuffs, branded goods, cultural property, endangered animals and plants, medications, narcotics, dangerous goods, weapons and war material, etc. In addition, they levy a series of consumption taxes and incentive fees such as value added tax, mineral oil tax, tobacco duty and beer tax, VOC and CO<sub>2</sub> tax, etc. They are further responsible for controlling precious metals, issuing the motorway tax sticker and levying the mileage-related heavy vehicle charge. Customs

implement more than 150 pieces of legislation, and generate more than a third of the federal budget with their receipts.

The Border Guard (BG) is the uniformed and armed section of the FCA. As the largest national civil security agency in Switzerland, the BG carries out various duties in addition to customs services and customs police tasks (combating smuggling). These include tracing persons, vehicles and stolen property, combating drug smuggling and document fraud, and carrying out duties linked to the aliens police and traffic police.



# FCA organisation



Law and Duties

Customs Tariffs  
and Foreign Trade Statistics

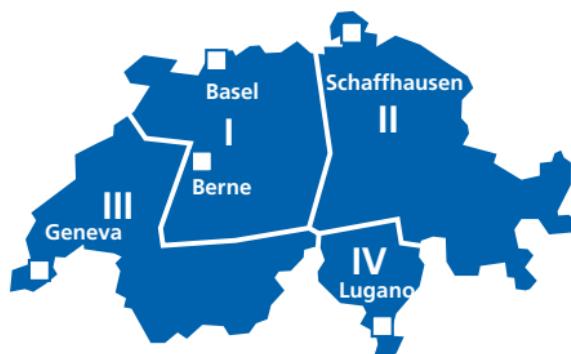
Personnel

District Customs Directorate I Basel

District Customs Directorate II Schaffhausen

District Customs Directorate III Geneva

District Customs Directorate IV Lugano



# Staff

## Number of employees

(as at 31 December 2010)

	2000	2005	2009	2010
Women	719	743	820	799
Men	4,074	3,845	3,700	3,639
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,793</b>	<b>4,588</b>	<b>4,520</b>	<b>4,438</b>

## Structure

(as at 31 December 2010)

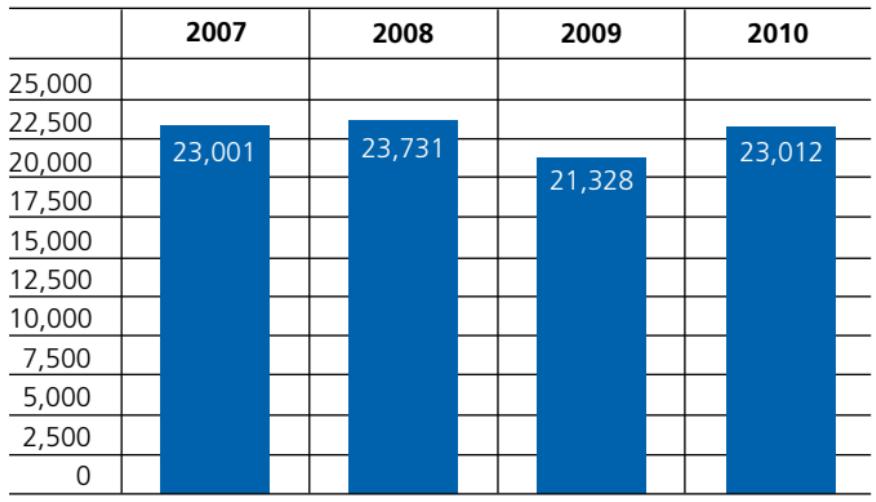
	2000	2005	2009	2010
Customs technical personnel *	1,390	1,368	1,440	1,414
Other civilian personnel	1,313	1,182	998	955
Border Guard personnel	2,038	1,990	2,026	2,017
Precious Metal Control personnel	52	48	56	52

\* Previously Customs technical personnel and scientific personnel



# FCA receipts

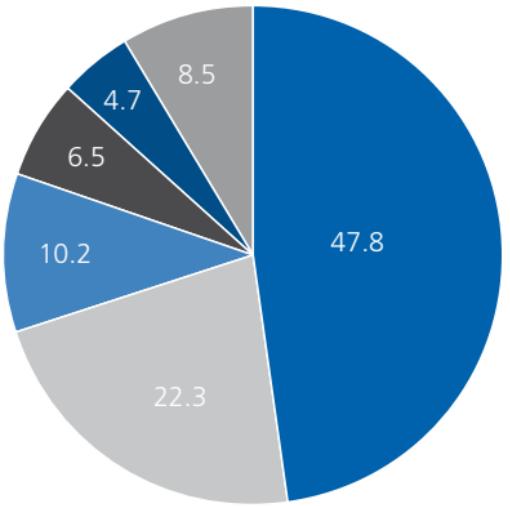
**Total receipts**  
(in CHF mn)



**Main sources of revenue**  
(in CHF mn)

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Import duties	1,040	1,017	1,033	1,079
Value added tax	12,062	12,293	10,177	10,994
Mineral oil tax	5,086	5,222	5,183	5,134
Tobacco duty	2,186	2,186	1,987	2,356
Heavy vehicle charge	1,336	1,441	1,452	1,490
Other receipts*	1,291	1,554	1,496	1,959

\* CO<sub>2</sub> tax, automobile duty, motorway tax stickers, VOC and beer tax, etc.



### Sources of revenue in 2010 (in %)

- Value added tax
- Mineral oil tax
- Tobacco duty
- Heavy vehicle charge
- Import duties
- Other receipts



# The FCA works on behalf of security

**Except for agricultural products, where a high level of border protection persists, the significance of customs for trade protectionism is continuing to diminish. The average worldwide customs burden has sunk dramatically over the past few years. The perception that customs exist only to protect the domestic economy by imposing high duties is less and less accurate. This can also be seen in the receipts. Import duties – approximately CHF 1 billion – now represent only a fraction of the total of approximately CHF 23 billion generated for the Federal Treasury by the FCA last year.**

**Customs still play a protective role, however, albeit with a different content. Today, the goal is increasingly to ensure the security of citizens in a wide range of areas.**

## **Schengen**

The Schengen agreement entered into force in Switzerland at the end of 2008. Even though Switzerland is part of the Schengen area, it is still not a member of the EU Customs Union. This means that customs controls continue to be carried out. The same provisions as before apply as regards customs.

Thanks to customs controls, targeted searches for stolen goods, smuggled goods, drugs and weapons are still ensured. Border guards can continue to conduct people checks within the scope of customs controls or in suspicious cases. In addition, cooperation with Swiss and foreign partner organisations has become even closer with Schengen. Since 14 August 2008, the BG can also access the Schengen Information System (SIS).

## **Schengen Information System SIS**

This database allows access to all registered cases throughout the entire Schengen area and the matching of details regarding a person or object with this data in the course of inspections. In 2010, the BG intervened in areas such as the following based on SIS queries:

- 80 searches for persons for extradition purposes
- 1,304 denials of entry to citizens of third countries
- 74 missing persons
- 577 determinations of whereabouts for judicial authorities
- 994 searches for objects such as lost documents, etc.

Approximately 60 % of all SIS matches in Switzerland were achieved by the BG.



## The FCA works on behalf of security

### Migration

The duties of the aliens police include efforts to combat illegal entry into and departure from Switzerland, illegal residence, undeclared employment, smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

In 2010, the BG detected 7,648 violations of the legislation concerning aliens and asylum (e.g. illegal entries and illegal residence), compared with 7,348 the previous year. The BG successfully intervened in 99 cases of people smugglers (141 in 2009).

The BG, the Federal Office for Migration (FOM), the Federal Office of Police (fedpol) and the Swiss Coordination Unit against the Trafficking of Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (KSMM) hold joint situation assessments on a weekly basis. These make it possible to leverage synergies and deploy resources in a timely manner.



## **Documents and identity cards**

In 2010, the FCA seized a total of 1,517 forged documents (1,752 the previous year). Overall, 1,160 persons carrying forged or misused documents were stopped (1,436 in 2009); 205 persons were using an identification document not in their name (170 in 2009). The quality of forgeries is high, and only specialists are able to distinguish "real" from "counterfeit". Such verifications require substantial experience and technical know-how. Many documents are discovered on trains (529 counterfeits) and in mail and courier consignments (84 cases).

## **Narcotics**

The Border Guard and Civil Customs successfully cracked down on the illegal possession of and dealing in narcotics in 2010. They seized the following amounts:

- 79.0 kg marihuana (46 kg)
- 77.8 kg hashish (48.7 kg)
- 31.5 kg heroin (29.6 kg)
- 180.5 kg cocaine (280.2 kg)
- 1,442.6 kg kat (1,483.8 kg)
- 93.4 kg psilocybin mushrooms (37.2 kg)
- 8,419 pills such as ecstasy, Thai pills, LSD or medications containing narcotics (2,513 units)

## **Security checks of heavy vehicles**

Swiss Customs found 17,997 heavy goods vehicles to have safety deficiencies (16,928 in 2009). The vehicles were too heavy, too long, or else too wide. Other cases involved defective brake discs or badly-worn tyres and other deficiencies. In 127 cases, lorry drivers were unfit to drive (influence of alcohol, drugs, medicines). The highest blood alcohol content measured was 2.3 %.

# The FCA works on behalf of health

**With their inspections, Swiss Customs help protect citizens from certain dangers. For instance, Customs officers crack down on product counterfeiters. In addition to the financial loss for the economy, counterfeits can endanger the health of citizens. This is particularly true of counterfeit medicinal products and so-called lifestyle preparations, as well as smuggled foodstuffs. Since it is not known how such foodstuffs are produced, and since they are often transported in an unhygienic environment, they carry a health risk. This is also especially true of tainted meat, where false production dates are indicated or refrigeration regulations are not respected.**

## **Medicinal products**

In 2010, Swiss Customs reported 1,861 cases (2009: 1,154) of attempted importation of illegal medicinal products into Switzerland to the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products, Swissmedic.

The most frequently seized drugs were the following:

1. Erectile dysfunction treatments
2. Slimming aids
3. Bodybuilding supplements
4. Sleeping pills and tranquillisers
5. Psychotropic drugs
6. Skin whiteners and skin tanning agents



## The FCA works on behalf of health

### **Smuggling of foodstuffs**

In 2010, Swiss Customs found approximately 826 tonnes of smuggled foodstuffs, compared with 251 tonnes the previous year. Of this amount, approximately 565 tonnes (2009: 28 tonnes) were fruit and vegetables, 78 tonnes (20 tonnes) were cooking oil and olive oil, 70 tonnes (49 tonnes) were cereals, and 57 tonnes (95 tonnes) were meat. The duties evaded were approximately CHF 3.5 million (2009: CHF 2.1 million). Other cases of smuggling detected in 2010 are still being evaluated.

The foodstuffs smuggled the most:

1. Fruit and vegetables (2009: 3<sup>rd</sup>)
2. Cooking oil and olive oil (5<sup>th</sup>)
3. Cereals (2<sup>nd</sup>)
4. Meat and meat products (1<sup>st</sup>)
5. Flour (4<sup>th</sup>)
6. Milk products and cheese (6<sup>th</sup>)
7. Wine (7<sup>th</sup>)

In 2010, the Customs Investigation Department investigated approximately 5,400 cases of smuggling (2009: 6,100 cases). Most of these involved VAT evasion and customs duty evasion. However, the criminal investigations are also conducted in order to protect the economy and consumers. Aside from foodstuffs and spirits, the items smuggled include tobacco products, mineral oil products, products containing VOCs, looted cultural assets and animals and plants subject to species protection.



# The FCA works on behalf of Switzerland as a business location

**Swiss Customs are responsible for maintaining the customs border in such a way that it interferes as little as possible with the import and export economy. Domestic companies should not suffer any competitive disadvantage because of the customs border. This is not a matter of creating as many controls as possible but of creating the right ones. Customs officers intervene in a manner that is commensurate with the risk involved in order to make cross-border trade both more secure and simpler.**

On 1 January, the agreement with the EU on the simplification of customs formalities and on customs security measures entered into force. This is also a contribution to Switzerland as a business location. As a result of this agreement, the security regulations in accordance with the EU Customs Code such as prior notification (security amendment / the 24-hour rule) are waived in direct traffic between Switzerland and the EU. The international development of the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) concept is directly related. The customs administrations certify companies in the area of security. Companies benefit from less complex security measures as a result.

**Foreign trade**  
(in CHF billion)

	2005	2008	2009	2010
Total imports	94.5	197.5	168.8	183.1
Total exports	96.2	216.3	187.2	203.3
Balance of trade	1.7	18.8	18.4	20.2

[www.aussenhandel.admin.ch](http://www.aussenhandel.admin.ch)

**2010 imports and exports by continent**  
(in CHF billion)

	Imports	Exports
Europe	144.4	125.9
EU	142.0	119.2
Germany	58.5	39.1
Italy	18.7	16.0
France	15.6	15.6
Asia	22.9	41.9
China	6.1	7.5
Japan	3.6	6.7
North America	10.7	23.4
USA	9.8	20.6
Latin America	2.1	5.7
Africa	2.2	3.4
Oceania	0.4	2.4

## The FCA works on behalf of Switzerland as a business location

### Free trade

Free trade agreements are intended to facilitate trade and improve the opportunities for Swiss exporters on foreign markets. Customs are not only responsible for the execution of free trade agreements; they are also involved in their negotiation. Switzerland currently has a network of 22 free trade agreements in force. Others have already been signed or initialled. Approximately 20 additional free trade agreements should be implemented by 2014, including with important partners such as China and India. For comparison: only two free trade agreements were in force in 1990.

### Commercial import, export and transit: customs declarations

(number of assessments in millions of units)

	2005	2008	2009	2010
Imports	8.0	11.5	11.1	12.9
Exports	4.8	6.5	6.2	6.6
Transit	5.2	6.7	6.6	7.3

The high share of computerised clearance procedures (imports 95.1 %, exports 78.5 %, international transit 100 %) allows widespread automation of customs clearance. Material inspections of goods represent less than 1 %.

Start Expert.Center (XSEDE)

Start Ansetz Hilfe

Start EDC Start NEZ

Sendung

NEZ Login

Back Office

Nachnahme

Retournen

SendungsFreigabe

Blockierte Sendungen

Nachfassung Sendungsstatus

Revision

Login Vorelektion

Offene Forderungen

NEZ-Sendungsfreigabe

Sendungsstatus: Erstellt

Basisnr.:

Verzugsnummer:

PP-Pakettypennummer:

Name:

DL:

Status: Dokumente zum Drucken freigegeben

Transaktion Typ: 1: Easy

Gedruckte Dokumente:

- Nachnahme
- VV MwSt
- VV Zoll

Einen Drucken

Drucken Verzugsnummer

Drucken Nachnahme Beleg

Drucken Fuege Beleg

**Verzollung freigegeben**



Selektionsergebnis: 1 Revision:  Zollfreigabe:

Release:   Man. Blockiert:

Dokumentennummer:

Bewerter:

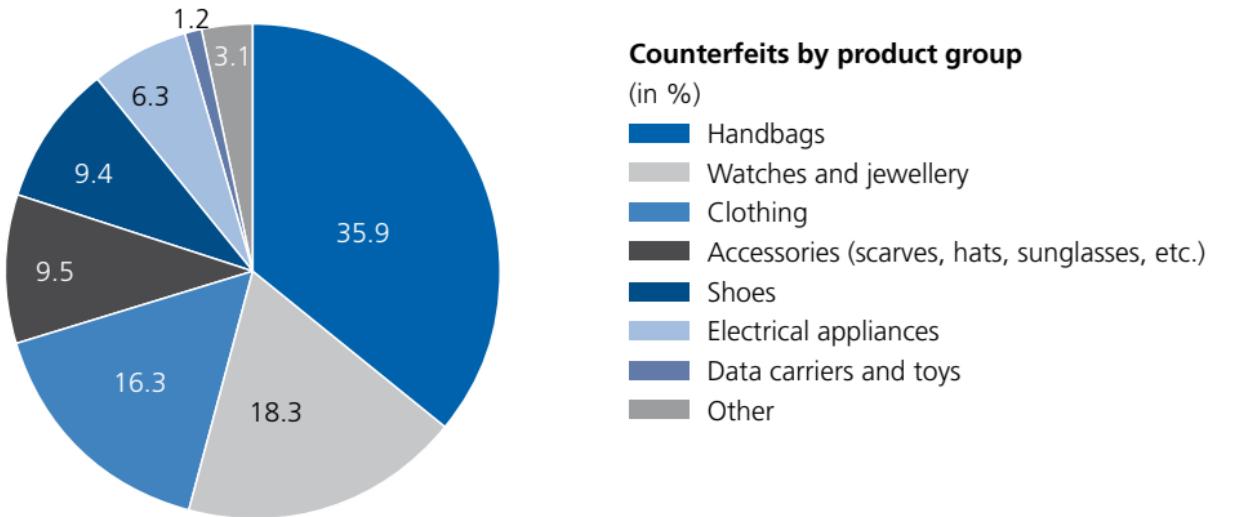
## Intellectual property

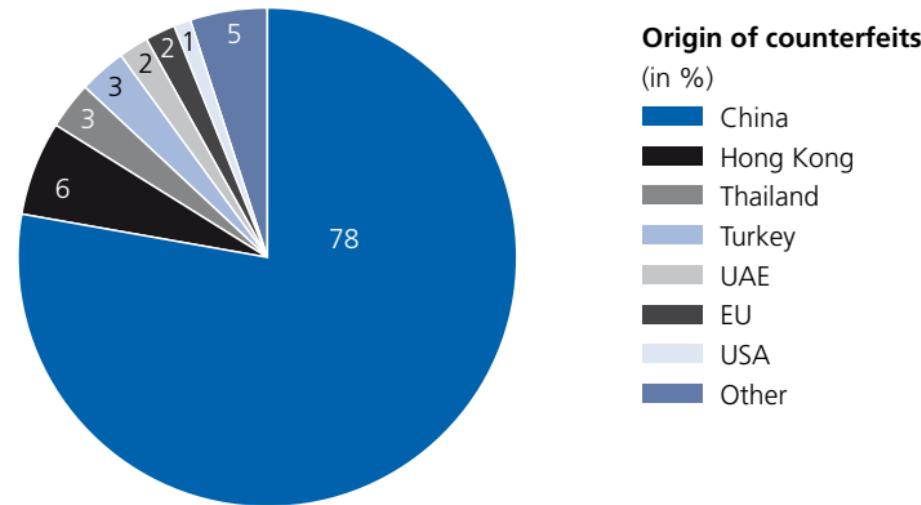
The purchase of counterfeit goods is not a trifling offence, as such purchases often support criminal organisations which comply with neither production regulations, social obligations nor environmental requirements. In the case of medications and spare parts, for example, counterfeit products can pose serious health risks and put people's lives in danger.

### Seized consignments

	2007	2008	2009	2010
Number of interventions	460	1,176	1,622	2,741
Market value (in CHF mn)	1.3	14.0	4.7	7.2

The FCA works on behalf of Switzerland as a business location





# Precious metal control

The Precious Metal Control (PMC) office supervises the domestic market for precious metals as well as the trade in waste, material for melting, and melted products. It also carries out risk-based import inspections. In accordance with the Precious Metals Control Act, the following are considered precious metals: gold, silver, platinum and palladium, as well as their alloys which meet the statutory standards of fineness. All precious metal products circulated for trade in Switzerland must comply with the legal requirements. It makes no difference whether the goods were produced in Switzerland or abroad.

PMC hallmarks are considered to be a seal of quality worldwide for precious metal products and are increasingly also used as a marketing tool for goods where hallmarking is voluntary, for both domestic and foreign companies.

Hallmarking (millions of units)	2007	2008	2009	2010
National hallmark St. Bernard dog's head	2.0	1.9	1.1	1.3
International standard hallmark	1.9	1.8	1.0	1.2



## Inspections

The Precious Metal Control (PMC) office checked more than 12,000 consignments in 2010. A third of these were contested (false fineness indications in the case of precious metal goods, misleading or false designations, counterfeit watches and jewellery, etc.)

The PMC confiscated and destroyed over 4,300 counterfeit watches and 8,400 pieces of jewellery (brand and/or model imitations). In this regard, the PMC works closely with the private industry, with the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry (FH) and with the Swiss Anti-Counterfeiting and Piracy Platform, STOP PIRACY.



# Other responsibilities: international assignments

**International assignments have a long tradition at the FCA. They are carried out within the framework of Swiss foreign, peace, security, and trade policy. Since 1991, the FCA has made expert personnel available to various international organisations, for instance. More than a hundred staff members have been successfully deployed so far for the United Nations (UN), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Commission of the European Union, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the World Customs Organization (WCO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).**

Seconding border guards as civilian police officers (UNPOL or EUPOL), especially in Balkan countries, is a proven measure of Swiss peace policy. Civil Customs employees were also deployed for such capacity-building missions in 2010.

As part of the free trade agreement, the FCA supports the training of Tunisian customs agents.

In 2010, approximately 25 FCA staff members were engaged in international missions.



# Other responsibilities: protection of species and protection of cultural property

## **Protection of species**

Switzerland became a member of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973. CITES covers the protection of and governs trade in more than 34,000 plant and animal species worldwide, as well as associated products.

The import and export of species protected under CITES is either banned or subject to a licence. The licence is granted by the exporting country. In Switzerland, the Federal Veterinary Office (FVO) approved the export of 100,815 consignments in 2010. In the same period, approximately 25,000 licensed consignments were imported.

Last year, Swiss Customs objected to 415 consignments of plants and approximately 300 consignments of animals and animal products.

*Additional information on CITES can be found on the FVO website, [www.bvet.admin.ch](http://www.bvet.admin.ch), or at [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org).*

## **Protection of cultural property**

With the Cultural Property Transfer Act (CPTA), Switzerland wants to contribute to the preservation of mankind's cultural heritage. Switzerland is fighting against theft and illegal trade, and is making a contribution to promoting legal exchange.

With their controls, customs contribute to preventing looting and the destruction of cultural property. Sensitive or protected cultural property, e.g. antique Etruscan vases, will already be detected at the border. Suspicious cultural property may be confiscated and examined in greater detail in cooperation with the Specialized Body for the International Transfer of Cultural Property at the Swiss Federal Office of Culture (FOC).

In 2010, 46 customs enquiries were examined in detail due to a suspicion of smuggling of cultural property or false declarations. In five cases, sentences were imposed by the competent cantons. Monitoring of the cross-border transfer of cultural property led to the definitive seizure of illegally imported Roman amphora pieces which were subsequently returned to Italy.

*Further information can be found at: [www.bak.admin.ch](http://www.bak.admin.ch).*



# Customs Museum

## Welcome to the Customs Museum!

Take a behind-the-scenes look at the work of the Swiss Customs. Situated directly opposite Gandria, the Swiss Customs Museum is in an idyllic spot on Lake Lugano. The museum, referred to in the vernacular as the "Smugglers' Museum", attracts some 20,000 visitors each year.

The museum is open daily from Good Friday (22 April 2011) to mid-October, from 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., and entry is free of charge. It can be reached by boat or on foot from Lugano. We are currently featuring a special exhibition entitled "For sale? – Customs and the smuggling of cultural assets" in collaboration with the Federal Office of Culture (FOC).

[www.customsmuseum.admin.ch](http://www.customsmuseum.admin.ch)





## Customs addresses

Federal Customs Administration  
Directorate General of Customs  
Monbijoustrasse 40  
3003 Bern  
Tel.: +41 31 322 65 11  
Fax: +41 31 322 78 72  
ozd.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

District Customs Directorate I  
Elisabethenstrasse 31  
P.O. Box  
4010 Basel  
Tel.: +41 61 287 11 11  
Fax: +41 61 287 13 13  
k dbs.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

District Customs Directorate II  
Bahnhofstrasse 62  
P.O. Box 1772  
8201 Schaffhausen  
Tel.: +41 52 633 11 11  
Fax: +41 52 633 11 99  
kdsh.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

District Customs Directorate III  
Avenue Louis-Casaï 84  
P.O. Box  
1211 Geneva 28  
Tel.: +41 22 747 72 72  
Fax: +41 22 747 72 73  
kdge.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

District Customs Directorate IV  
Via Pioda 10  
P.O. Box  
6901 Lugano  
Tel.: +41 91 910 48 11  
Fax: +41 91 923 14 15  
kdti.zentrale@ezv.admin.ch

# Border Guard addresses

## Border Guard Command

Monbijoustrasse 40

3003 Bern

Tel.: +41 31 322 67 92

Fax: +41 31 322 65 54

[zentrale.kdo-gwk@ezv.admin.ch](mailto:zentrale.kdo-gwk@ezv.admin.ch)

## Border Guard Region I

Wiesendamm 4

P.O. Box 544

4019 Basel

Tel.: +41 61 638 14 00

Fax: +41 61 638 14 05

[zentrale.region1-kdo@ezv.admin.ch](mailto:zentrale.region1-kdo@ezv.admin.ch)

## Border Guard Region II

Ebnatstrasse 77

P.O. Box 536

8201 Schaffhausen

Tel.: +41 52 630 60 00

Fax: +41 52 630 60 10

[zentrale.region2-kdo@ezv.admin.ch](mailto:zentrale.region2-kdo@ezv.admin.ch)

## Border Guard Region III

Kasernenstrasse 112

P.O. Box 255

7007 Chur

Tel.: +41 81 257 58 00

Fax: +41 81 257 58 50

[zentrale.region3-kdo@ezv.admin.ch](mailto:zentrale.region3-kdo@ezv.admin.ch)

## Border Guard Region IV

Via Calprino 8

P.O. Box 741

6902 Paradiso

Tel.: +41 91 986 75 50

Fax: +41 91 986 75 51

[zentrale.region4-cdo@ezv.admin.ch](mailto:zentrale.region4-cdo@ezv.admin.ch)

## Border Guard Region V

Avenue Tissot 8

1006 Lausanne

Tel.: +41 21 342 03 50

Fax: +41 21 342 03 61

[zentrale.region5-cdmt@ezv.admin.ch](mailto:zentrale.region5-cdmt@ezv.admin.ch)

Border Guard Region VI  
Avenue Louis-Casaï 84  
P.O. Box  
1211 Geneva 28  
Tel.: +41 22 979 19 19  
Fax: +41 22 979 19 18  
centrale.region6-cdmt@ezv.admin.ch

Border Guard Region VIII  
Rue des Tarrières 14  
P.O. Box 1192  
2900 Porrentruy  
Tel.: +41 32 465 50 70  
Fax: +41 32 465 50 72  
centrale.region8-cdmt@ezv.admin.ch

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