

# Swiss Customs working for the economy, security and health of the nation



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

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

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## Editorial



Dear reader,

The increase in “shopping tourism” due to the low euro exchange rate is clearly evident at Swiss Customs. The number of customs declarations in tourist traffic has gone up by approximately 40 % in the past two years. Ensuring that travellers can cross the border with as little red tape as possible while stopping smugglers, arms smugglers and drug couriers is the day-to-day job of Swiss Customs employees.

2012 was the year of the financial crisis. Hardly a day went by without a report about the ups and downs being experienced by our neighbours. The EU is the main export market for Swiss products. When there is a fall in orders, this has a direct impact on Switzerland as a location for business. In spite of this, Switzerland continued to be successful. “Swissness” is synonymous with high quality; Swiss goods and know-how are popular internationally.

Last year, where were Swiss Customs in action? You will find out in this edition of “FCA facts and figures” 2012.

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

Rudolf Dietrich,  
Director General of Swiss Customs

What DO

Swiss CUSTOMS

agents

? do

# Federal Customs Administration FCA

## **Swiss Customs – for the business world, security and health.**

Did you know that Swiss Customs agents do more than monitor the border and who or what enters and leaves Switzerland?

## **Customs staff are there to serve you.**

The Border Guard (BG) is the uniformed and armed section. As the largest national civil security agency in Switzerland, the employees carry out a wide range of duties in addition to customs duties. This includes, for example, tracing persons and vehicles. They are involved in combating commercially organised smuggling, cross-border crime and illegal immigration to Switzerland.

Customs experts are responsible for commercial goods traffic. They not only collect taxes and duties, but also ensure the health of the population by inspecting foodstuffs and other goods according to risk. They thereby prevent Swiss consumers from becoming ill on account of counterfeit medicines. Furthermore, they are assigned with ensuring the protection of cultural property and species protection as well as compliance with the laws on weapons, road traffic, trademark protection, environmental protection, etc. Together, we do everything we can to facilitate border-crossing for travellers and companies and thus boost Switzerland as a business location.





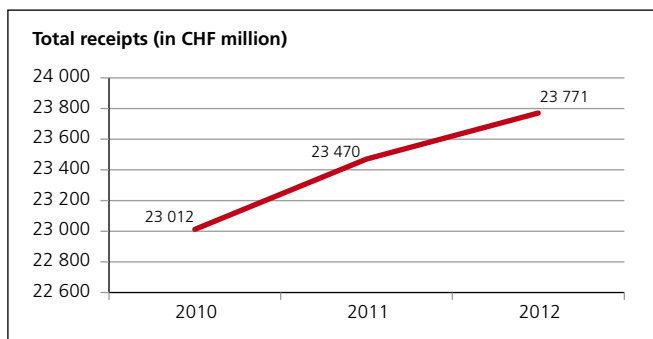




**WORKING  
for  
the  
Confederation**

What do Swiss Customs agents do?

## Receipts for Switzerland



**In 2012**  
**CHF 23.8**  
**billion**  
**flowed into the**  
**public coffers**  
**via Customs.**

**For healthy finances: Customs generate over one-third of the Confederation's total receipts.**

**5 billion  
in mineral oil tax.**

**This is used by the Confederation  
to finance  
road construction  
and other  
infrastructure projects.**



| <b>Main sources of revenue (in CHF million)</b> |             |             |             |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                 | <b>2010</b> | <b>2011</b> | <b>2012</b> |
| Import duties                                   | 1 079       | 1 046       | 1 043       |
| VAT                                             | 10 994      | 11 772      | 11 836      |
| Mineral oil tax                                 | 5 134       | 5 020       | 5 032       |
| Tobacco duty                                    | 2 356       | 2 208       | 2 396       |
| Heavy vehicle charge                            | 1 490       | 1 555       | 1 529       |
| Other receipts*                                 | 1 959       | 1 869       | 1 935       |

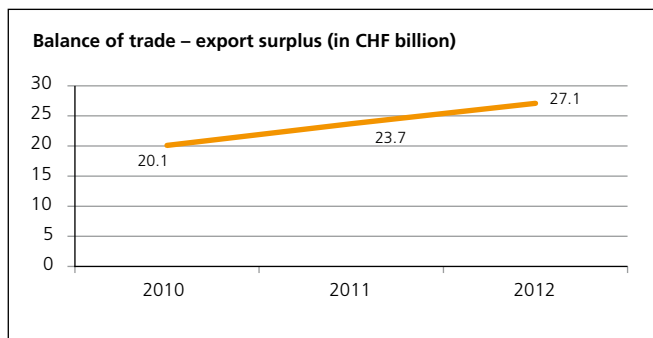
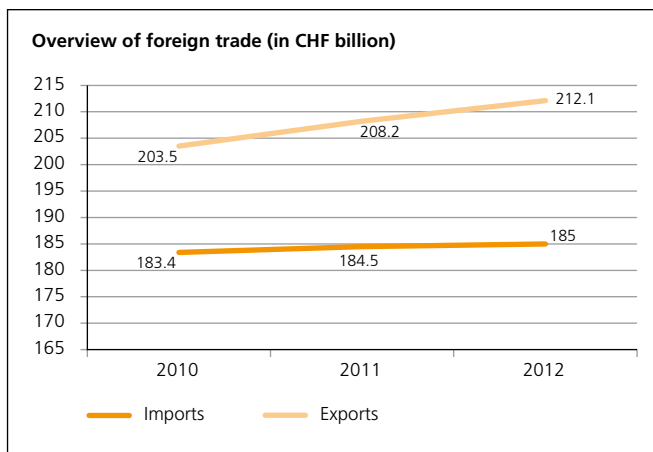
\* CO<sub>2</sub> tax, automobile duty, motorway tax stickers, VOC and beer tax, etc.

**With the receipts from Customs,  
the Confederation finances  
important tasks in the fields of  
education, health, social services  
and in other areas.**



**Working**  
on behalf  
of the  
**ECONOMY**

## Swiss foreign trade



What do Swiss Customs agents do?

| Imports and exports by continent (in CHF billion) |         |         |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|
|                                                   | Imports | Exports |
| Europe                                            | 140.7   | 125.3   |
| EU                                                | 138.3   | 118.2   |
| Germany                                           | 55.0    | 41.9    |
| Italy                                             | 18.9    | 15.2    |
| France                                            | 15.6    | 15.0    |
| Asia                                              | 26.0    | 47.1    |
| China                                             | 10.3    | 7.8     |
| Japan                                             | 4.1     | 7.0     |
| North America                                     | 11.0    | 26.7    |
| USA                                               | 10.3    | 23.5    |
| Latin America                                     | 2.8     | 6.4     |
| Africa                                            | 3.8     | 3.3     |
| Oceania                                           | 0.4     | 2.7     |

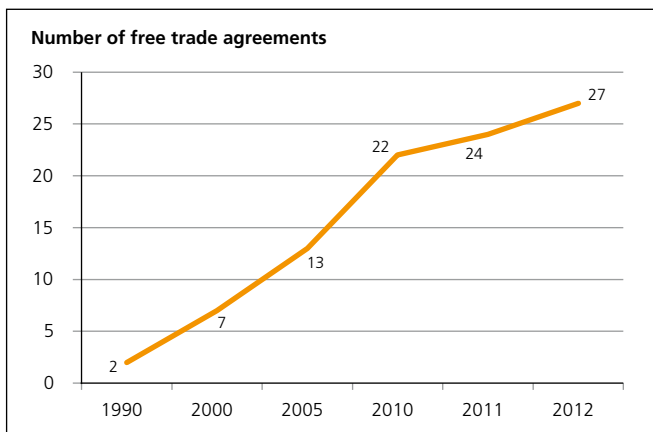
Switzerland  
**exported**  
goods worth **CHF 118.2**  
**billion**  
to the EU.



CMA CGM MARCO POLO  
LONDON

What do Swiss Customs agents do?

## Free trade



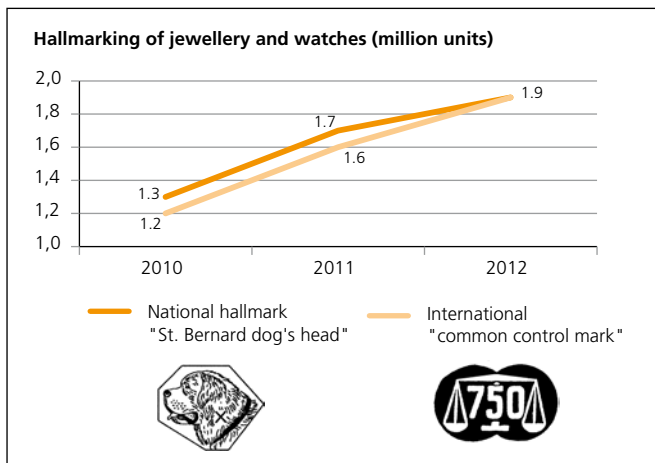
**27** free trade agreements  
were in force at the end of 2012.

What do Swiss Customs agents do?

### Commercial import, export and transit

| Customs declarations (number of assessments in millions of units) |      |      |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|
|                                                                   | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Imports                                                           | 14.6 | 15.8 | 16.1 |
| Exports                                                           | 6.6  | 6.7  | 6.6  |
| Transit                                                           | 7.2  | 7.5  | 7.4  |

**30.1 million  
customs declarations  
were processed  
by Swiss Customs in 2012.**

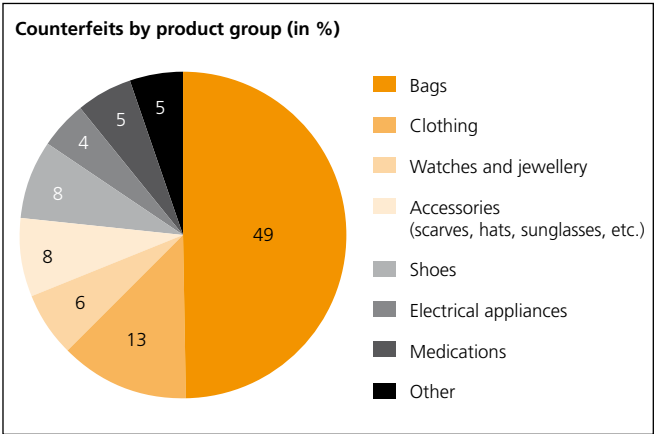


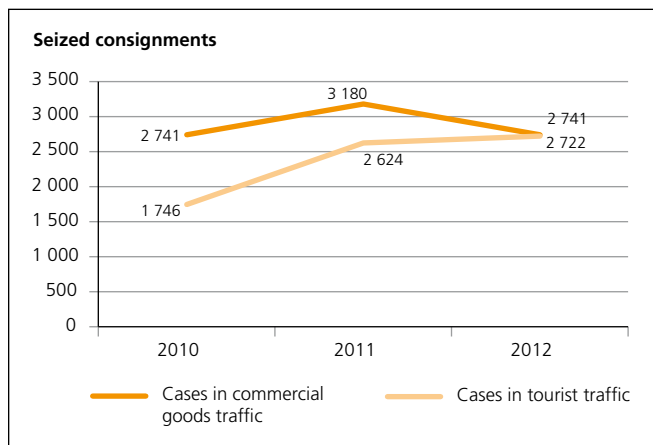
In 2012, **1,651**  
**counterfeit watches**  
and **9,064 items**  
**of jewellery were seized.**



What do Swiss Customs agents do?

Product piracy

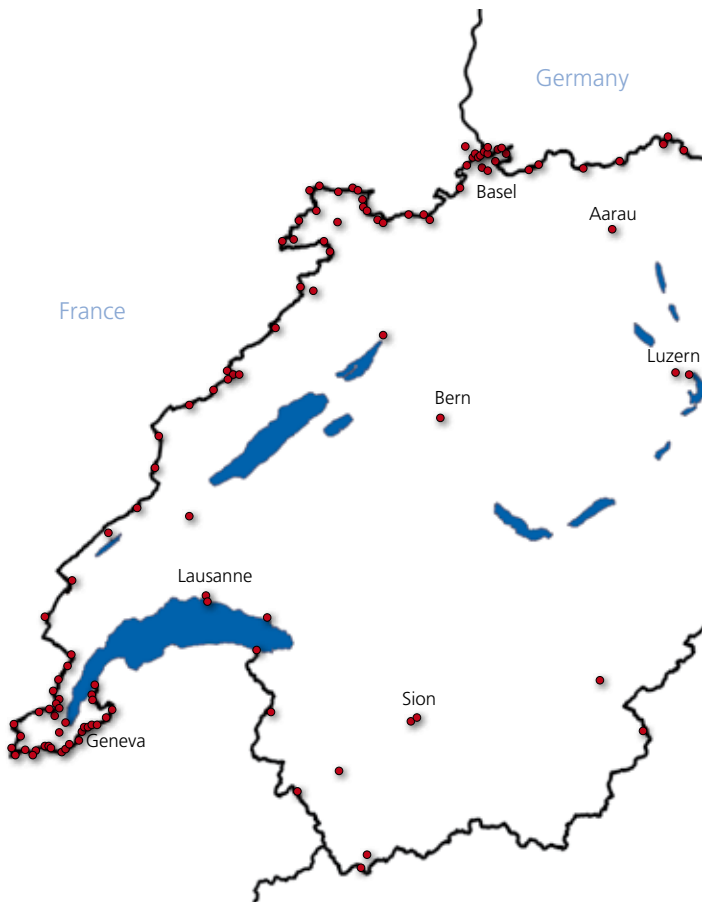




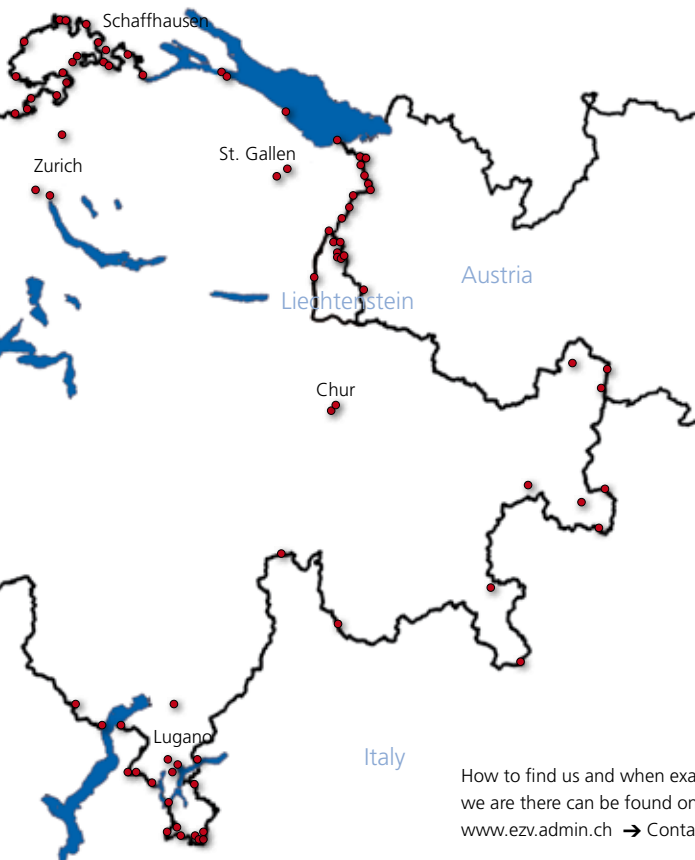
**67,755**  
counterfeit products  
were withdrawn  
**from circulation**  
by Customs in 2012.

What do Swiss Customs agents do?

You will find us here



## What do Swiss Customs agents do?



How to find us and when exactly we are there can be found online at: [www.ezv.admin.ch](http://www.ezv.admin.ch) → Contact.

**WORKING**  
on behalf of  
**security**

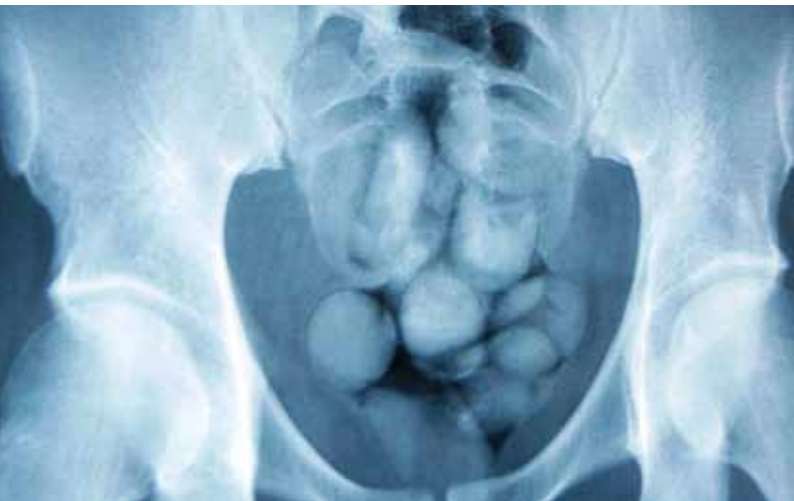
What do Swiss Customs agents do?

## Narcotics

### Amount seized (in kg)

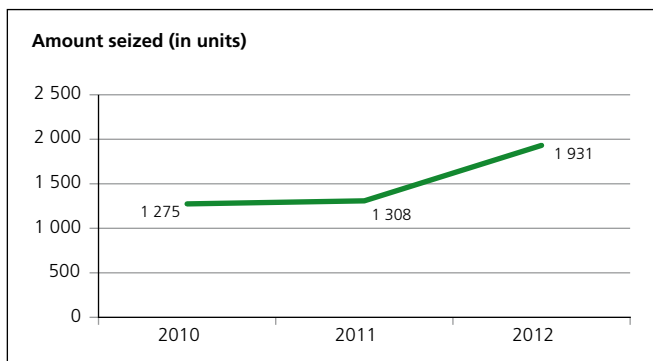
|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Marijuana            | 115.5  |
| Hashish              | 24.5   |
| Heroin               | 34.4   |
| Cocaine              | 124.0  |
| Kat                  | 1382.0 |
| Psilocybin mushrooms | 105.6  |

**105**  
**body packers**  
**were stopped in 2012.**



What do Swiss Customs agents do?

## Weapons



With **1,931** cases,  
the customs seized about  
**47 %**  
more illegal  
weapons in 2012.



**ZOLL**  
**DOUANE**



What do Swiss Customs agents do?

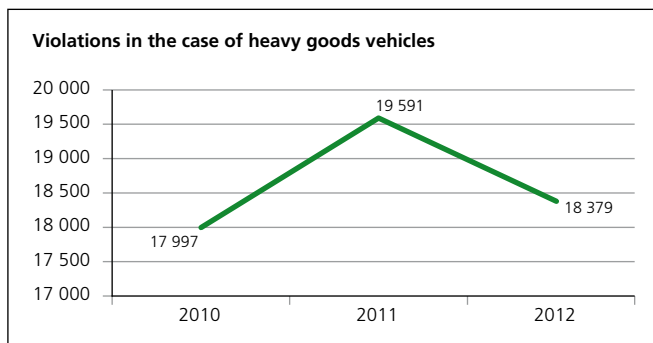
Illegal migration

|                         | 2010  | 2011   | 2012   |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Delivered to the police | 1 160 | 2 960  | 3 849  |
| Forged documents        | 1 517 | 1 477  | 1 767  |
| Illegal residence       | 4 349 | 5 614  | 10 965 |
| Smuggling activities    | 99    | 114    | 96     |
| Arrested persons        | n.a.  | 10 282 | 13 747 |



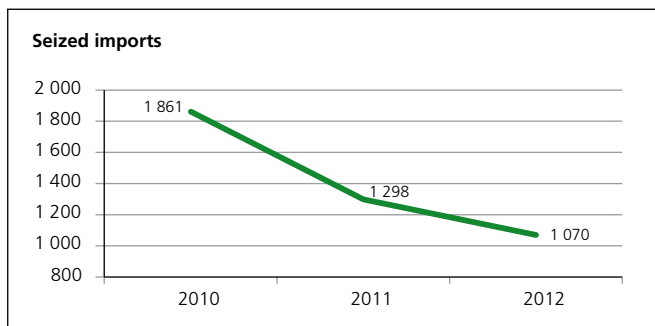
What do Swiss Customs agents do?

### Security of heavy vehicles



What do Swiss Customs agents do?

## Illegal medications



Customs reported  
**1,070**  
illegal medication  
imports to  
**Swissmedic.**

The most frequently seized "drugs" were the following:

1. Erectile dysfunction treatments
2. Slimming aids
3. Bodybuilding supplements
4. Sleeping pills and tranquilizers

What do Swiss Customs agents do?

### Food smuggling

|                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Fruits and vegetables         | (271 tons) |
| 2. Cereals for human consumption | (170 tons) |
| 3. Pasta                         | (112 tons) |
| 4. Meat and meat products        | (58 tons)  |
| 5. Dairy products / cheese       | (51 tons)  |
| 6. Cooking oil / olive oil       | (18 tons)  |
| 7. Flour                         | (15 tons)  |



As

Well

as

What do Swiss Customs agents do?

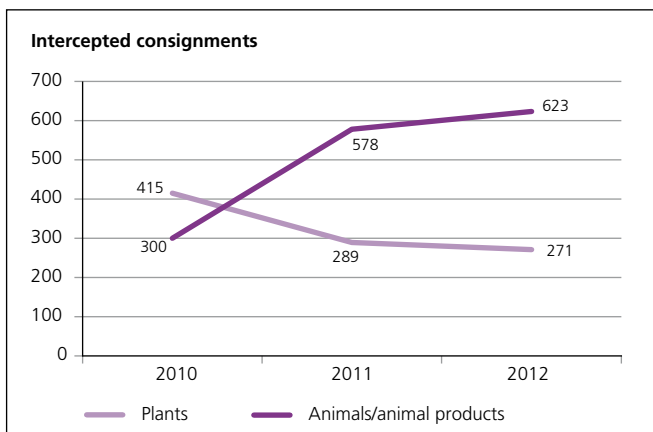
Customs on international assignments

**100** employees  
were involved overseas  
in security activities,  
peace building  
or training.



What do Swiss Customs agents do?

Customs work on behalf of species protection



Last year,  
Swiss customs seized  
**381 kg**  
of  
bushmeat.

What do Swiss Customs agents do?

Customs work on behalf of cultural property

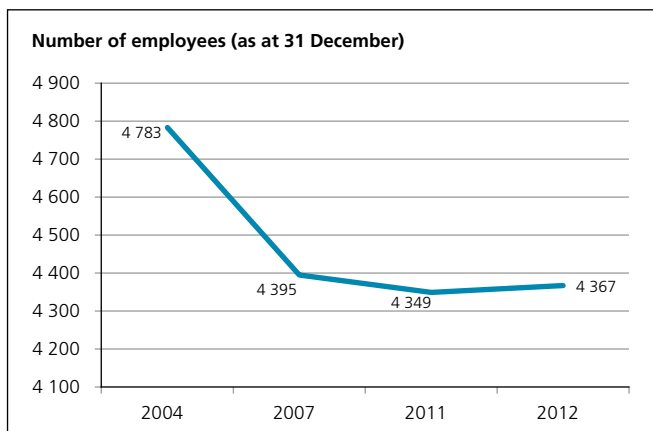
Upon the  
intervention  
of Customs,  
**114** cases were examined  
where there was a suspicion  
of cultural property smuggling  
or false declarations.



Swiss Customs  
**STAFF**

What do Swiss Customs agents do?

## Swiss Customs staff



| Structure (as at 31 December)    |       |       |       |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                  | 2004  | 2007  | 2011  | 2012  |
| Customs technical personnel      | 1 427 | 1 347 | 1 365 | 1 393 |
| Other civilian personnel         | 1 305 | 1 040 | 936   | 917   |
| Border Guard personnel           | 1 999 | 1 950 | 1 994 | 2 004 |
| Precious Metal Control personnel | 52    | 58    | 54    | 53    |

**At Swiss Customs, we train apprentices for the following occupations:**

- New basic commercial training programme
- Chemical laboratory assistants
- Specialists in information and documentation
- Mediamatician

**In 2012, Swiss Customs  
employed  
15 apprentices.**





## Welcome to the Customs Museum

Take a behind-the-scenes look at the work of Swiss Customs. Situated 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 29 March to 20 October 2013, from 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., and entry is free of charge.

Visit our new, special exhibition “Refuge – Protection – Humanity: about the work of the UNHCR”.

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

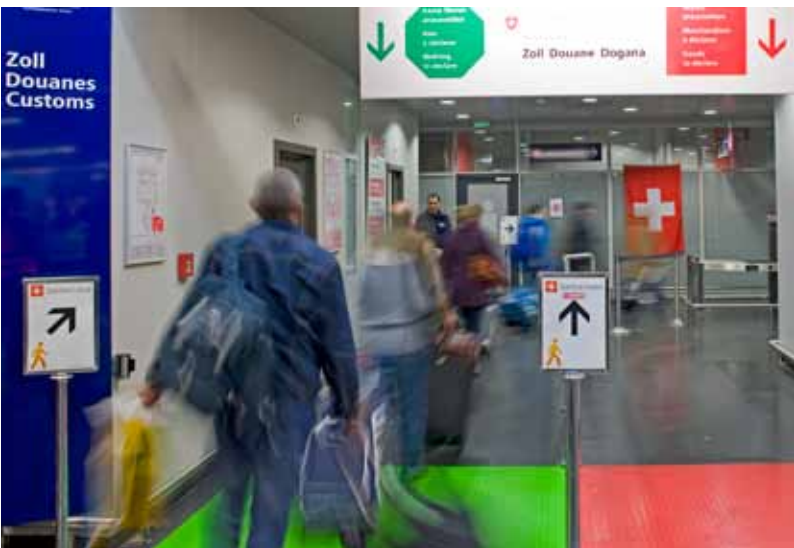
What do Swiss Customs agents do?

## Are you looking for further information?

You will find this on [www.ezv.admin.ch](http://www.ezv.admin.ch).

“Should I or shouldn’t I?” You will find answers to this question and much more in our Customs app: “Travel and goods”.

We provide regular information and news about Swiss Customs in our specialist magazine Forum Z: [www.ezv.admin.ch](http://www.ezv.admin.ch) → Documentation.







# Addresses

## **Federal Customs Administration Directorate General of Customs**

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## **Border Guard**

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# Organisation of Swiss Customs

## What do Swiss Customs agents do?

