



**Switzerland**  
**Special Case Study**  
**Covid-19 Safety Assessment**

# Switzerland: #1 Region by COVID-19 Safety Ranking

# Tier 1 Countries & Regions June 3, 2020

## COVID-19 Quarantine Efficiency

Weight 2.2 Category Score 65.26

<input type="checkbox"/> Scale of Quarantine	15.36
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarantine Timeline	10.63
<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Penalties for Violating Quarantine	6.42
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Support for Quarantined Citizens	10.44
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic and Supply Chain Freezing	12.40
<input type="checkbox"/> Travel Restrictions	10.01

144  
POINTS

## COVID-19 Government Efficiency of Risk Management

Weight 2.2 Category Score 85.56

<input type="checkbox"/> Level of Security and Defense Advancement	17.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Rapid Emergency Mobilization	14.29
<input type="checkbox"/> Efficiency of Government Structure	14.65
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic Sustainability	12.47
<input type="checkbox"/> Legislative Efficiency	12.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Political Stability	15.15

188  
POINTS

## COVID-19 Monitoring and Detection

Weight 1.5 Category Score 87.67

<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring Systems and Disaster Management	18.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Scope of Diagnostic Methods	15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Testing Efficiency	13.45
<input type="checkbox"/> AI for Diagnostics and Prognostics	15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Government Surveillance Technology for Monitoring	9.18
<input type="checkbox"/> Reliability and Transparency of Data	17.00

131  
POINTS

752  
CUMULATIVE  
SCORE

## COVID-19 Healthcare Readiness

Weight 1.3 Category Score 77.75

<input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 Equipment Availability	17.10
<input type="checkbox"/> Mobilization of New Healthcare Resources	14.58
<input type="checkbox"/> Quantity and Quality of Medical Staff	12.03
<input type="checkbox"/> Level of Healthcare Progressiveness	12.42
<input type="checkbox"/> Level of Technological Advancement	11.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Epidemiology System Level of Development	9.87

101  
POINTS

## COVID-19 Regional Resiliency

Weight 1.3 Category Score 71.66

<input type="checkbox"/> Infection Spread Risk	11.09
<input type="checkbox"/> Culture Specifics and Societal Discipline	15.15
<input type="checkbox"/> Level of Modern Sanitization Methods	14.94
<input type="checkbox"/> Demography	4.02
<input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Diseases	9.91
<input type="checkbox"/> Societal Risks	17.00

93  
POINTS

## COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness

Weight 1.5 Category Score 63.04

<input type="checkbox"/> Societal Emergency Resilience	23.63
<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Military Mobilization Experience	7.67
<input type="checkbox"/> Surveillance Capabilities (Scale, Scope and Technological Sophistication)	20.25
<input type="checkbox"/> Previous National Emergency Experience	11.50

95  
POINTS

# COVID-19: SWOT Analysis of Switzerland

## STRENGTHS

- The region has established guaranteed accessibility to high standard healthcare services for the entire community.
- Large capacities to mobilize new health resources.
- The Swiss government shows optimal relative performance of risk management. It has enacted financial assistance to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the Swiss economy.
- The Swiss economy shows a high level of resiliency to the economic threats posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## WEAKNESSES

- The decentralized nature of the Swiss health system makes data collection difficult.
- High rates of chronic disease increases regional COVID-19 risks
- Government spending on preventive health is comparatively low. Switzerland should consider increasing its emphasis on preventive medicine in their public hospitals and clinics.
- Geographic proximity to Italy and France increases infection risk.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Digital health offers many opportunities to improve healthcare.
- Switzerland is home to many advanced private clinics. It already has the raw technological resources to implement precision/preventive medicine in the public sector, but needs to build public-private sector technology transfer bridges.
- The region has the capacity to gradually deepen basic income policies and thus revive the economy, stimulating the digital consumption of goods and services.

## THREATS

- Early quarantine easing. The economic reopening process requires establishing a robust epidemiological surveillance plan. While Switzerland has proceeded cautiously and carefully, but it must remain maximally adaptive to changing circumstances. Otherwise, infection rates will rise as in Germany.
- Marked population aging, which increases mortality risk.
- It's economic dependence on exports constitutes one of its foremost economic risks.

# Switzerland: COVID-19 Quarantine Efficiency

Our analysis shows that Switzerland presents one of the most favorable scores for the Quarantine Efficiency category. Although it has been established that Switzerland suffered a very high number of cases (per million individuals) at the beginning of the first wave of infection, it has been very successful in applying quick and efficient quarantine efforts and, as a result, surpassing the first COVID-19 stress-test.

The success of Switzerland's national preventive scheme has enabled the government to announce the easing of restrictions in a gradual three-step plan, which is already underway and allowing economic recovery. The first stage of that plan began on April 27, with the reopening of activities for those who work in contact with other individuals, but not in large numbers. The second stage began on May 11; Switzerland's borders with France, Italy and Austria, which have been shut since entry restrictions were implemented on March 25th, gradually reopened. Regarding the third stage, the free movement of individuals is being re-established throughout the Schengen area from July 6, and Swiss companies are beginning to be able to recruit from the European Union, EFTA and third countries from June 8, but only under certain conditions.

Switzerland's decisive achievements in containing the spread of the virus have been accomplished with fewer police officers per capita than in most of the European countries and contrasting social support for the measures, making it unnecessary to define legal penalties for the violation of social isolation.

Indicators	Points
Scale of Quarantine	15.36
Quarantine Timeline	10.63
Criminal Penalties for Violating Quarantine	6.42
Economic Support for Quarantined Citizens	10.44
Economic and Supply Chain Freezing	12.40
Travel Restrictions	10.01
<b>Final Score</b>	<b>65.26</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Final Points</b>	<b>144</b>

# Switzerland: COVID-19 Government Risk Management Efficiency

The Swiss federal government shows optimal relative performance according to our assessment. Since mid-March, it has enacted a series of measures to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on the Swiss economy, one of the most important being financial assistance in the form of cash flow to Small to Mid-Size enterprises to help them survive the short-term impact of the pandemic, a measure that includes loans with limited bureaucracy and without or very low interest rates. As in the rest of the world, the impact of the health crisis on employment has been harsh in Switzerland - although its magnitude has been much minor in this region and in our pool of European countries in general compared to Eastern and American ones due to governmental action plans to conserve jobs and financially assist citizens.

The Swiss economic program consisted of a rescue package of 42 billion CHF, which includes money to replace lost wages for employed and self-employed people, short-term loans to businesses, delay for payments to the government and support for organizations. Clearly, the performance of the Swiss government could improve, and we find two weak points that can be addressed with diverse approaches. The first is related to economic sustainability; although Switzerland can be considered as a major economic and financial epicenter of Europe, showing great strength in this regard, it has high reliance on export-based revenues. The second is related to legislative efficiency. Emphasizing these two highlighted areas, the absolute performance returns of the government could improve in fighting crises equivalent to that of COVID-19.

Indicators	Points
Level of Security and Defense Advancement	17.00
Rapid Emergency Mobilization	14.29
Efficiency of Government Structure	14.65
Economic Sustainability	12.47
Legislative Efficiency	12.00
Political Stability	15.15
<b>Final Score</b>	<b>85.56</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Final Points</b>	<b>188</b>

# Switzerland: COVID-19 Monitoring and Detection

Our assessment of Swiss monitoring and detection efficiency, and its government's advanced disaster management systems and epidemiological surveillance schemes, yield comparatively high values for region in the Monitoring and Detection category of the analysis. The Swiss scheme is at the forefront of the European countries analyzed in this study, and its monitoring and detection strategies have reduced the number of cases to just over 20 per day, according to the Swiss government.

Switzerland's main weakness in the past has been the determination to test only citizens with mild symptoms, when the most dangerous vectors are those who are asymptomatic. This element could have disrupted the entire efforts of the Swiss institutions at the time of making partial confinement more flexible, but contrary to that, the measures have been accompanied by a rigorous program that caused a drastic decrease in the prevalence of cases associated with COVID-19, overcoming the risks of the first infectious wave. Despite this, it is necessary for Switzerland to efficiently preserve epidemiological control for the monitoring, detection and neutralization of new cases as potential outbreaks arise in the months ahead.

Switzerland has proven to be a fundamental actor in the epidemiological control against COVID-19 and its management scheme a model to keep in view, but it is important that the reopening process of the Swiss economy continue to be cautious, as it has been so far, assessing the pandemic dynamics.

Indicators	Points
Monitoring Systems & Disaster Management	18.00
Scope of Diagnostic Methods	15.00
Testing Efficiency	13.45
AI for Diagnostics and Prognostics	15.00
Government Surveillance Technology for Monitoring	9.18
Reliability and Transparency of Data	17.00
<b>Final Score</b>	<b>87.67</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Final Points</b>	<b>131</b>

# Switzerland: COVID-19 Healthcare Readiness

As stated in our previous report, some of the best-defined strengths of the Swiss health system, with regard exclusively to its readiness for combating epidemiological outbreaks of COVID-19, are its capacities to mobilize new health resources such as new infection hospitals, mobile military stations for microbiological treatment and cleaning, and good infrastructure for the mass production of masks and other protective sanitary equipment. Undoubtedly, the marked readiness of the Swiss health industry and health care system has been a fundamental element that pre-determined the high performance of Swiss recovery after the outbreak.

The high level of Switzerland's healthcare progressiveness is a trait that we have highlighted in our previous ranking and that we bring up again, given that Switzerland is at the forefront of the pool of regions addressed. Although the region has not led recent optimizations of its health system and its decentralized nature makes it difficult health data collection, Swiss indicators related to health rank first for numerous sub-categories. Switzerland has one of the most favorable Healthcare Development Index scores, a good balance between budgetary spending for healthcare (as % GDP) and quality of medical care, and its HAQ index (Healthcare Access and Quality Index) shows remarkable values. In addition, it also presents high values regarding the quality and quantity of the medical staff, as evidenced by our parameters. Switzerland could further improve their scores by transferring state-of-the-art healthcare technology from private preventive and precision medicine clinics to public hospitals.

Indicators	Points
COVID 19 Equipment Availability	17.10
Mobilization of New Healthcare Resources	14.58
Quantity and Quality of Medical Staff	12.03
Level of Healthcare Progressiveness	12.42
Level of Technological Advancement	11.75
Epidemiology System Level of Development	9.87
<b>Final Score</b>	<b>77.75</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Final Points</b>	<b>101</b>

# Switzerland: COVID-19 Region Resiliency

Regarding the intrinsic resiliency of Switzerland, as evidenced by the constantly updated indicators and parameters used in our ongoing Regional Safety Assessment analyses, we must stick to the facts. Switzerland has outstandingly faced the main stress tests associated with the pandemic and surpassed them. Prevalence is in clear decline, and the process of reinitiating economic activity is yielding considerably favorable results while rigorous epidemiological control of the situation is being maintained. Switzerland also, importantly, has a solid economic base to withstand the fiscal repercussions of the crisis.

As previously stated, Switzerland's main weakness has been the same as that of most European countries: population aging is the greatest vulnerability of developed regions in the global progression of COVID-19. This factor, along with shortages of intensive care units, had the potential ability to widely stretch morbidity and mortality rates from 3 - 4 percentage points to considerably higher values.

In relation to the above, our study continues to note that population aging and associated health conditions are main risk factors amid epidemiological emergency scenarios, not only for Switzerland but for the entire community of the European region. With this in mind, all such regions, Switzerland included, should place prioritized emphasis on implementing robust digital epidemiology and surveillance of aging diseases in addition to a digital epidemiology and surveillance of COVID-19.

Indicators	Points
Infection Spread Risk	11.09
Culture Specifics and Societal Discipline	15.15
Level of Modern Sanitization Methods	14.94
Demography	4.02
Chronic Diseases	9.91
Political risks	17.00
<b>Final Score</b>	<b>71.66</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Final Points</b>	<b>93</b>



# Switzerland: COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness

In our previous safety and risk assessment, it was observed that the Emergency Preparedness degree of Switzerland and Germany fell somewhat below the case of Israel, which stood out mainly due to its ability to efficiently handle national crises of varied features and for making a wide range of resources available to reduce risks associated with the early stages of the pandemic.

Despite the fact that Switzerland lacks substantial experience related to the mobilization of resources as well as armed troops due to national emergencies within borders, the indicators of societal resilience in national crisis situations are above those expressed by the majority of the regions considered in this study, and the efficiency of Switzerland's response to the COVID-19 crisis has been evident throughout the last few months.

In this regard, it is still a priority to highlight the central recommendation of our previous study: it is essential to carry out an exhaustive monitoring of possible outbreaks of the viral agent, dedicate all efforts to its early detection and eradication, mainly during the stages of easing restrictions like the one Switzerland is currently going through, as well as to neutralize contagion and leakage channels linked to asymptomatic individuals, and amortize the effects on senior citizens over the next few years - that is, establishing a very solid digital sanitary program for the diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and epidemiological monitoring and vigilance of pathologies associated with the elderly.

Indicators	Points
Societal Emergency Resilience	23.63
Surveillance Capabilities (Scale, Scope and Technological Sophistication)	7.67
Emergency Military Mobilization Experience	20.25
Previous National Emergency Experience	11.50
<b>Final Score</b>	<b>63.04</b>
<b>Weight</b>	<b>1.5</b>
<b>Final Points</b>	<b>95</b>

# Switzerland: COVID-19 Recommendations

- As Switzerland continues easing lockdown efforts, the region should continue its widespread monitoring and testing. Switzerland's epidemiological monitoring program has proven to be successful, allowing early stages of economic reopening and reactivation in the region to begin, and the achievements of quarantine-related measures are not at risk as long as Switzerland retains its current level of vigilance.
- The region should continue to dedicate significant efforts to early detection and eradication of COVID-19 outbreaks, mainly during the current periods of quarantine-related restrictions easing, as well as to neutralize contagion and leakage channels linked to asymptomatic individuals.
- Switzerland should consider amortizing the effects on senior citizens over the next few years - that is, establishing a solid digital health program and public precision preventive medicine services for the diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of age-related diseases.
- The Swiss government could improve its performance in epidemiological surveillance by implementing, to a greater extent, the appropriate technologies for monitoring; face recognition technologies are undoubtedly controversial, but their implementation in risk areas can be useful and appropriate, always safeguarding security and privacy.
- Switzerland's government spending on preventive health is still comparatively low. Switzerland should consider developing a specific incentive mechanism to leverage and adopt preventive technologies in use throughout private clinics in public hospitals and clinics.

Index Categories: All Scores	Points
Quarantine Efficiency	144
Government Efficiency of Risk Management	188
Monitoring and Detection	131
Healthcare Readiness	101
Regional Resiliency	93
Emergency Preparedness	95
<b>Cumulative Score</b>	<b>752</b>

# Switzerland: COVID-19 Conclusions

- Switzerland occupies the #1 position as the safest region according to the present analysis, in large part due to a continuing decline in its rate of infection spread and mortality, and key factors that put it in a better position to maintain a healthy post-pandemic economy.
- The government's efficiency in managing economic risks has been pronouncedly high. The region has financially assisted companies and citizens with greater vulnerabilities to cushion the effects of the economic crisis, and as a consequence, the unemployment crisis and other social and economic collateral problems have been controlled more efficiently in this region than in most of those considered in this report.
- Switzerland was very close to major epicenters of initial COVID-19 spread in Europe, and experienced quite significant volumes of infection spread and mortality early within the overall pandemic timeline. However, as the rates of mortality and new cases continue to decline in the region, and as they begin to relax lockdown measures and reinitiate economic activity, it is clear that Switzerland surpassed a very critical stress-test, succeeding to apply quick and efficient quarantine efforts, monitoring and detection, economic freezing and effective treatment, recovery and release of COVID-19 patients to prevent an overburdening of its healthcare system.
- It is noted that Switzerland has certain pending improvements in terms of cooperation between the public and private health sectors, and that the Swiss government is in a position to establish robust mechanisms that provide the necessary incentives to carry out the transfer of high-level personalized preventive medicine resources from private clinics to the public health system. These incentives would allow the private sector of the health industry to take economic advantage of its technological offer, while increasing citizens' access to advanced technologies from state-of-the-art biosciences, thereby reducing the risks associated with any category of pathology. At the same time, this nascent industry can reduce Swiss dependence on export earnings, consolidating the regional market and amortizing risks related to economic recession in regions that purchase high volumes of Swiss exports, like the US and EU.

# Switzerland: COVID-19 Conclusions

- Switzerland has a high-standard epidemiological surveillance system and its recent activities in relaxing lockdowns and reinitiating economic and social activity without sacrificing infection control is tangible evidence of this. Switzerland can still implement a massive and robust detection program to map out transmission routes and contain outbreaks in real time but that requires a national strategy for digital health data collection and management. The decentralized nature of the Swiss health system remains as a challenge for collecting this data in an easily accessible and interpretable way.
- Over the past few months, the Swiss government orchestrated a historic mobilization of the armed forces that revealed a high level of preparedness and responsiveness to national emergencies. The army deployed a battalion to hospitals for the first time to support the public health system, and provided the cantons with additional ambulances. Regardless of the high score that this response confers to Switzerland, the region's abilities to efficiently manage national crises and their positioning in terms of emergency preparedness was a more relevant matter during the early stages of the pandemic, and a key factor impacting their previous safety and risk ranking. Now Switzerland also excels for its remarkable ability to prevent deepening economic damage and recovering from financial fallout, the next big challenge at the end of the first infection wave.
- Switzerland's comparatively low level of state debt (roughly 33% of its GDP), and its reputation as a major economic and financial epicenter of Europe, lends the region a high degree of economic resiliency in the face of the COVID-19 economic crisis. However, one major focus that the Swiss government should seek in order to optimize its likelihood for a healthy post-pandemic economy is decreasing the country's dependency on export-related revenues.
- Similarly to other European countries, a major threat to safety in Switzerland is its pronounced population aging. Disruptive technologies associated with digital health, AI and cutting-edge biotechnology advances are within the reach for the region, and Switzerland has potentials to prioritize elderly care and optimize preventive interventions in public clinics and hospitals in order to lessen the impact of COVID-19 upon their most at-risk demographics..

# DISCLAIMER



Deep Knowledge Group is using its best efforts to continuously update its COVID-19 analytics based on dynamic, publicly available metrics deemed reliable, such as World Health Organization, Worldometers, CDC, Johns Hopkins University, and other publicly available sources.

Certain metrics used for advanced and qualitative assessment were formulated by Deep Knowledge Group analysts in coordination with specific experts and consultants using proprietary sources and techniques. Therefore, such rankings may be adjusted over time depending on the corresponding underlying information and in coordination with ongoing enhancements to our underlying analytical methodologies.

Information provided herein is intended for indicative and informational purposes only. Opinions, estimates and analysis represented constitute the current judgment and opinion of the author.

*Knowledge is Power*  
*Deep Knowledge is Transcendent Power*

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