



# Swiss Business Impact in Egypt **2025**

**SWISSCHAM** 

Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Egypt



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## Foreword from

### **H.E. Dr. Rania A. Al-Mashat, Minister of Planning, Economic Development, and International Cooperation, Arab Republic of Egypt**

Egypt is advancing steadily on its path towards inclusive, economic and sustainable development. In this journey, international partnerships remain a cornerstone for achieving our national aspirations, enabling knowledge transfer, innovation, and the mobilization of responsible investment.

Switzerland has long stood as one of Egypt's most steadfast partners, with decades of cooperation rooted in mutual respect and shared values. Today, Swiss companies play a key role in supporting Egypt's socio-economic transformation; contributing to healthcare, food security, digitalization, education, and advanced manufacturing. In turn, these efforts strengthen economic resilience, generate high-quality jobs, and empower youth and women with the skills of the future.

This partnership is built on more than 45 years of robust bilateral cooperation, and milestones that speak to its depth: in 2019 we celebrated 110 years of commercial relations and 40 years of development cooperation, while in 2024 we marked the 90th anniversary of the Friendship Treaty between our two nations. Today, the bilateral ODA portfolio amounts to over USD 70 million in grants across diverse projects, advancing shared priorities for sustainable development. Our cooperation is also anchored in a solid institutional framework, including the Joint Economic Committee, a Free Trade Agreement with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), as well as an Investment Protection Agreement and a Double Taxation Treaty. Since 2013, three successive Country Programs have been implemented in alignment with Egypt Vision 2030 and our Economic and Social Reform Program, and we now look forward to launching the fourth program for 2025–2028.

This commitment also resonates with the newly launched: Egypt's Narrative for Economic Development: Reforms for Growth, Jobs & Resilience, which charts a clear path toward macroeconomic stability, enhanced competitiveness, and inclusive participation in development.

Swiss companies' role in localizing industries, supporting SMEs, and investing in human capital reflects the very essence of this narrative, ensuring that economic reforms translate into tangible opportunities for our citizens while building resilience against global and regional challenges.

This Impact Assessment Report provides valuable insights into the tangible contributions of Swiss businesses to Egypt's development agenda. It reflects how private sector collaboration complements our strategic reforms, enhances industrial localization, and reinforces Egypt's position as a regional hub for trade and investment.

On behalf of the Government of Egypt, I wish to recognize the Swiss private sector's commitment to responsible investment, skills transfer, and innovation. The Ministry reaffirms its determination to deepen this partnership by fostering policy coherence, facilitating development finance, and unlocking further opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

As Egypt and Switzerland continue to work hand in hand, we look forward to shaping a future of shared prosperity, sustainability, and innovation, a future where our partnership continues to serve as a model of strategic international cooperation.



## Foreword from

### **H.E. Minister Hassan El Khatib Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade, Arab Republic of Egypt**

For more than a century, Egypt and Switzerland have built a confident and enduring partnership, grounded in strong economic cooperation and supported by a long-standing Swiss presence in Egypt. Swiss companies and institutions have played an important role in the development of several key sectors, bringing advanced technologies, high-quality standards, and effective management practices, while also contributing to skills development and strengthening the overall investment ecosystem. At the same time, Egypt has served as a natural hub connecting Africa, the Middle East, and Europe—offering Swiss enterprises direct access to fast-growing regional markets and long-term opportunities.

In recent years, the Egyptian government has embarked on an ambitious path to rebuild the foundations of the national economy and restore macroeconomic stability. This effort has required bold decisions, structural reforms, and a sustained commitment to building a more resilient, competitive, and sustainable economic model. We fully recognize that for any developing economy to succeed, it must adopt policies that inspire genuine investor confidence. To unlock Egypt's full potential, we are pursuing a comprehensive and coherent reform agenda.

On the monetary side, Egypt has transitioned to a market-based framework centred on inflation targeting rather than a fixed exchange rate—an approach that enhances macroeconomic stability and supports a sustainable reduction in public debt. On the fiscal side, we are streamlining taxes and fees, clarifying obligations, and implementing a phased plan to simplify and reduce non-tax charges to ease the financial burden on investors.

In trade facilitation, Egypt is enhancing competitiveness by simplifying customs procedures and reducing clearance times, with a clear target of reaching an average of two days and eventually just a few hours. As Egypt prepares to join the World Bank's Business Ready report, we are intensifying efforts to improve the investment environment through legislative and procedural reforms that enhance transparency, efficiency, and the overall quality of government services. Digital transformation is a cornerstone of this agenda, including the expansion of integrated electronic platforms for investors and traders—such as the Temporary Licensing Platform, which now offers 460 licensing services across 41 government entities. Parallel reforms are accelerating company establishment processes, ensuring they are faster, simpler, and more transparent.

Building on this progress, Egypt is now advancing a comprehensive digitalization strategy to consolidate all investment-related services into a single unified platform, providing a seamless and fully integrated experience for investors. In parallel, we are undertaking a full re-engineering of licensing procedures across government entities to eliminate duplications, streamline approval cycles, and ensure that every step reflects global best practices in efficiency and predictability. This report offers valuable insights that will help guide our joint efforts in the coming years. It reflects our shared ambition to deepen cooperation, expand private-sector engagement, and create new opportunities for mutual growth.

Egypt greatly appreciates the constructive role played by Swiss companies and institutions in supporting our economic priorities and fostering long-term cooperation. We remain committed to advancing this partnership through clearer policies, a more enabling investment climate, and expanded opportunities for joint action.



## Foreword from

### **H.E. Mohamed Negm, Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Swiss Federation**

The relationship between Egypt and Switzerland stands as a distinguished example of long-standing, stable, and multifaceted cooperation. For over a century, our two nations have maintained close and constructive relations, grounded in mutual respect, shared values, and a joint commitment to peace, prosperity, and sustainable development.

Since the establishment of official diplomatic relations in 1906, marked by the opening of the first Swiss trade mission in Egypt, our partnership has evolved into a robust framework of collaboration encompassing diplomacy, trade, investment, development, culture, and science. Today, Egypt proudly serves as Switzerland's foremost trading partner in Africa and the largest market for Swiss exports on the continent—a testament to the strength and depth of our economic ties.

Despite global economic headwinds and the impact of regional challenges, Egypt has continued to demonstrate resilience and adaptability. Through comprehensive reforms and forward-looking policies, the Egyptian economy has enhanced its competitiveness, expanded opportunities for investment, and pursued an ambitious path toward inclusive and sustainable growth.

Recent years have witnessed renewed dynamism in Egyptian–Swiss relations. The establishment of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) in January 2025 represents a significant milestone in our shared efforts to strengthen economic cooperation, promote mutual investment, and identify new areas of collaboration. Likewise, the launch of the Egyptian–Swiss Business Circle (ESBC) in February 2025 has provided an invaluable platform for fostering connections between business communities, facilitating dialogue, and deepening partnerships across both public and private sectors.

As Egypt and Switzerland celebrate the 90th anniversary of their historic Friendship Treaty and diplomatic relations, we look with pride upon our shared achievements and with confidence toward the future. The Egyptian Embassy reaffirms its commitment to advancing the partnership between our two countries, building on a legacy of political dialogue, economic cooperation, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding.





## Foreword from

**H.E. Andreas Baum  
Ambassador of Switzerland to Egypt**

From cooperation in trade and investment to a broader dialogue encompassing innovation, sustainability and human development, Switzerland and Egypt have long shared deep and enduring economic ties. The stories and figures in this report vividly illustrate the strength, depth and vitality of that partnership.

Today, more than 100 Swiss companies are active in Egypt. Beyond trade and investment, they are also firmly integrated into the local economy: 90% of their employees are Egyptian and 40% of their supply chains are local. These companies provide more than 25,000 direct jobs and invest continuously in training and technology. Many have chosen Egypt as their regional hub for exports to the Middle East and Africa - a clear sign of long-term confidence in this market.

What distinguishes Swiss economic engagement in Egypt is not only its scale but also its spirit. Even in times of global uncertainty, currency fluctuations and inflationary pressures, Swiss companies have not withdrawn, they have expanded. They continue to invest in people, launch new projects and forge strategic partnerships that reflect their enduring commitment to the local economy. This is the essence of Swiss business: reliability, innovation and a long-term vision.

Behind every figure in this report lies a story of human impact: young Egyptians acquiring new skills, families benefiting from stable employment and communities empowered by responsible corporate initiatives. Whenever I visit a Swiss company in Egypt, whether a global leader in nutrition, a pharmaceutical innovator or a precision engineering firm, I witness this impact firsthand. It is a powerful reminder that the heart of our economic ties lies in people.

Looking ahead, this report is not only a reflection of what has been achieved but also an invitation to build upon these successes. There is significant room to grow, in sustainability, in diversifying trade and in fostering innovative partnerships. I am confident that through continued dialogue between our two governments and the active engagement of the private sector, we will transform these opportunities into shared achievements.

In this spirit, the Embassy of Switzerland will continue to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between the public and private sectors. In close collaboration with SwissCham Egypt, it supports initiatives that bring together policymakers and business leaders to exchange ideas and identify practical ways to deepen economic ties. Building on the positive momentum of the Swiss–Egyptian Joint Economic Commission, which convened earlier this year, preparations are now already underway for the Swiss–Egyptian Economic Forum, a new platform designed to foster dialogue and strengthen partnerships between our two countries.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to SwissCham Egypt and to all Swiss companies operating in the country. Together, we are driving not only business growth but also mutual understanding and cooperation between Switzerland and Egypt.



## Foreword from

**MR. Kamal Abdel Malek**  
**President of the Board of Directors**  
**Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Egypt**  
**(SwissCham Egypt)**



The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Egypt

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Switzerland's presence in Egypt has always been defined by substance rather than show. Swiss companies invest quietly, work consistently, and build impact that is often deeper than it is visible. For decades—indeed, for over a century in many cases—Swiss businesses have established themselves as trusted partners in Egypt's economy. Their long-term commitment, steady expansion, and resilience during challenging economic cycles reflect a partnership built on confidence, adaptability, and shared value.

This Swiss Impact Report aims to highlight the true depth and weight of this presence. Swiss investments in Egypt are unique not only in their scale, but in their nature. They are rooted in sectors that touch the daily life of people and support the backbone of economic development: pharmaceuticals, food and beverages, agribusiness, logistics, engineering industries, construction materials, and more. These industries influence health, nutrition, infrastructure, and human development—areas where Swiss companies bring global standards, know-how transfer, and practical innovation.

Beyond their industrial footprint, Swiss companies contribute significantly to employment, export revenues, tax flows, and social responsibility initiatives. They continue to build local capacities and develop skilled talent, reinforcing Egypt's competitive advantage in an increasingly interconnected global economy. Importantly, the Swiss business community has demonstrated remarkable resilience in recent years. Companies have responded to economic pressures with intelligent, forward-looking strategies—whether by transforming repatriated dividends into new investments, or by converting debts into equity to reinvest in the country. These steps reaffirm their commitment to long-term partnership, even in the most demanding times.

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A noteworthy trend is the growing interest of Swiss SMEs. Alongside the established multinationals that have operated here for generations, smaller enterprises are entering the Egyptian market with steady confidence, recognizing the opportunities offered by Egypt's industrial sectors and its strategic position.

This report has been made possible thanks to the dedicated efforts of the SwissCham Egypt team and the valuable contributions of our partner companies, who generously shared their data, experiences, and success stories. Their collaboration has enriched this report and ensured that it reflects the true substance and impact of the Swiss business community in Egypt.

We believe this report will shed light on the true magnitude of Swiss investment in Egypt—its history, its impact, and its future potential. By providing clarity and evidence of this strong foundation, we hope to encourage both partners to accelerate their collaboration and elevate this longstanding relationship to its next level.

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## Foreword from

**Mrs. Sara Al Haddad**  
**Executive Director**  
**Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Egypt**  
**(SwissCham Egypt)**   
The Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Egypt

It is with immense pride and optimism that we introduce the first "Swiss Business's Impact in Egypt" report. This publication is more than just a collection of data; it is a testament to the enduring partnership and shared vision between Switzerland and the Arab Republic of Egypt, and a powerful demonstration of the tangible, positive influence Swiss enterprises have on the Egyptian economy and society.

For decades, Swiss companies have been integral to Egypt's journey toward sustainable and inclusive development. They have consistently acted as pioneers, bringing not only significant foreign direct investment but also world-class expertise, cutting-edge technology, and a deep commitment to corporate social responsibility. This report meticulously details how Swiss businesses are actively contributing to key national priorities, from fostering innovation and knowledge transfer in sectors like advanced manufacturing and digitalization, to strengthening healthcare systems and ensuring food security for a growing population.

At SwissCham Egypt, our mission is to serve as the primary bridge for this dynamic bilateral relationship; a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and growth. We are dedicated to facilitating market entry, advocating for a stable and predictable business environment, and connecting our members with the opportunities that Egypt's ambitious reform agenda presents. The findings within this report underscore the success of this collective effort, showcasing the depth of Swiss commitment to long-term investment and job creation across the country.

The year 2025 represents a defining moment for Egypt's economic trajectory. As the country advances its structural reforms and drives forward its Vision 2030 ambitions, the role of responsible foreign investment becomes ever more crucial. Swiss companies, guided by principles of quality, sustainability, and ethical business conduct, are uniquely positioned to be the partners of choice in this next phase of development.

I encourage all our stakeholders, policymakers, business leaders, and the wider community to engage with the insights presented in this report. Let it serve as a foundation for informed decision-making and a catalyst for even deeper collaboration. The impact we measure today is a promise for the prosperity we will build together tomorrow.

As we present this publication, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Influence Public Affairs for their collaboration, and to the partners whose support made this work possible: our Platinum Partners: ABB, Lafarge, Nestlé, and Novartis; our Silver Partners: Hero, SGS, and Syngenta; and our Bronze Partners: Coca-Cola Hellenic, East for Engineering and Technology, Endress+Hauser, and Roche. Their commitment reflects a shared vision for advancing sustainable and impactful Swiss-Egyptian economic relations.

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# 1

# Executive Summary

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Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt

2025



# Executive Summary

This report presents a formal, evidence-based assessment of the economic impact and strategic positioning of Swiss businesses operating in Egypt. It aims to quantify their contributions across employment, trade, industrial output, and investment, while identifying the opportunities, and constraints that shape Swiss Egyptian economic cooperation . The findings are intended to support policymakers, investors, and stakeholders in making informed decisions aligned with Egypt's national development agenda.

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The research utilizes quantitative data, and qualitative observations to better assess the extent to which Swiss companies contribute to Egypt's industrial development, employment generation, trade balance, and localization goals. As of 2023 and 2024, Switzerland remains one of the top European investors in Egypt, with a notable presence in high-tech manufacturing, precision engineering, food and beverage processing, and pharmaceuticals. In terms of localized manufacturing, Swiss companies have made notable progress in strengthening Egypt's industrial base, primarily through technology transfer, supplier integration, and import substitution. This has supported improved participation of Egyptian suppliers in global value chains. According to estimates from the Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Helene Budliger Arteda, with the CEO of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), Hossam Heiba, Swiss-affiliated entities have created over 25,000 direct jobs, with additional indirect employment across logistics, distribution, and support services (GAFI & FEDCOC, 2025).



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The report further evaluates the macroeconomic climate that affects Swiss economic activity. Monetary and fiscal policy reforms like exchange rate adjustments, inflation management, and re-structuring of subsidies have been challenging but challenging opportunities for foreign investors. Swiss businesses have remained resilient with sustained investment, capacity expansion, and adaptation to regulation despite external turbulence. The last ten years have seen Swiss companies in Egypt navigate a challenging environment marked by currency devaluations, monetary tightening, fiscal stress, and trade disruptions. While uncertainties persist, the period of 2025–2026 may represent a turning point, as structural reforms begin to take effect and foreign exchange liquidity shows signs of recovery.

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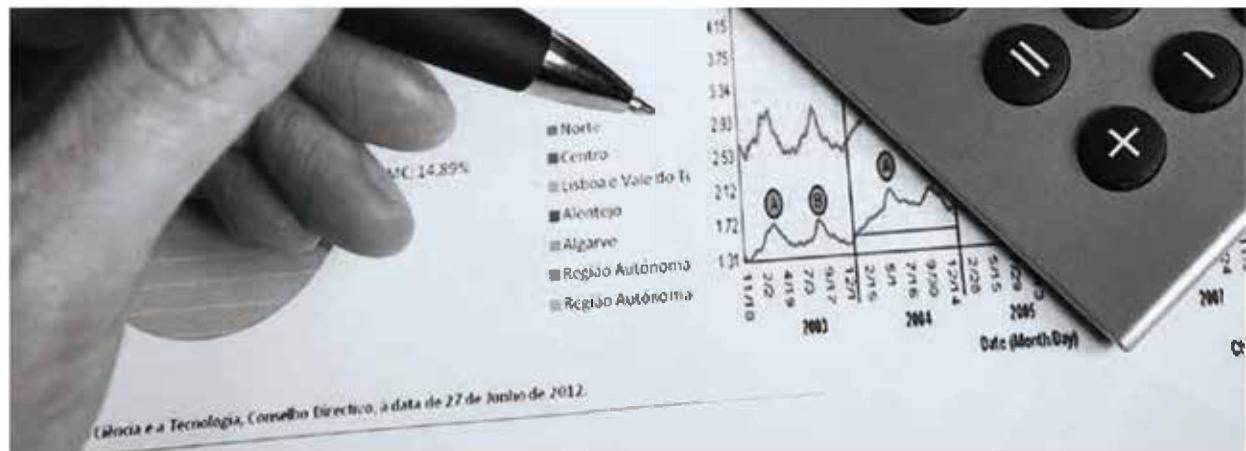
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In this context, Swiss companies are advised to strategically navigate the evolving landscape, leveraging Egypt's regional trade agreements while managing macroeconomic risks.

On the trade front, bilateral and preferential agreements remain buttressing export growth from Swiss-operated facilities. Such frameworks affect supply chain realities, particularly procuring inputs and incorporating local content. Inefficient administrations, customs clearance delays, and limited sector-specific data availability remain ongoing barriers, however. Eliminating these bottlenecks could unlock additional private-sector potential and allow Egypt's Vision 2030 to take place.



The report concludes by situating Swiss economic activity within the framework of Egypt's longer-term development strategy. Underlying structural issues like fiscal consolidation, trade facilitation, measurement of localization performance, and sustainability are essential to the forging of a mutually beneficial economic partnership between Switzerland and Egypt



#### Investments

USD 676.4 million in 2022/2023



#### Total Investments

USD 1.2-1.3 billion



#### Number of Projects

433



#### Nestlé

16 Raw Materials



#### Roche

Partnership to Manufacture Biopharmaceuticals



#### Direct Job Opportunities

25,000



#### Nestlé

3,000 Employees + 8,000 Indirect



#### ABB

1,800 Employees + 3,500 in the Network



#### Sectoral Economic Impact

Food Industries, Pharmaceuticals, Engineering

Estimated Value Added: EGP +10 billion annually

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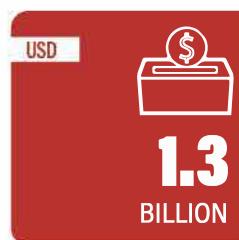
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# Swiss Economic Impact in Egypt

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- 7th largest foreign investor (inflows) in Egypt in 2023/2024 and the 9th in Q1 2024/2025 (Jul-Sep 2024).
- A significant contributor in pharmaceuticals, food & beverage, industrial equipment, and chemicals. (Sources: GAFI, Swiss Embassy Egypt)

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- Investor in local R&D and training (2021–2024)
- Supports dual vocational education, pharma localization, and digital solutions. (Sources: SECO, Roche, Novartis, ABB, CHH)



- Among top 10 European employers in Egypt (Est.)
- Jobs provided by over 100 Swiss companies operating locally.

(Sources: SwissCham Egypt, Swiss Embassy Briefs 2023–2024, ILO employment multipliers, EIB project evaluations, Nestlé Egypt disclosures)



- Swiss companies pay well above Egypt's minimum wage (EGP 7,000 starting July 2025)
- Often include training, social insurance, and global standards.

(Sources: Salary surveys)



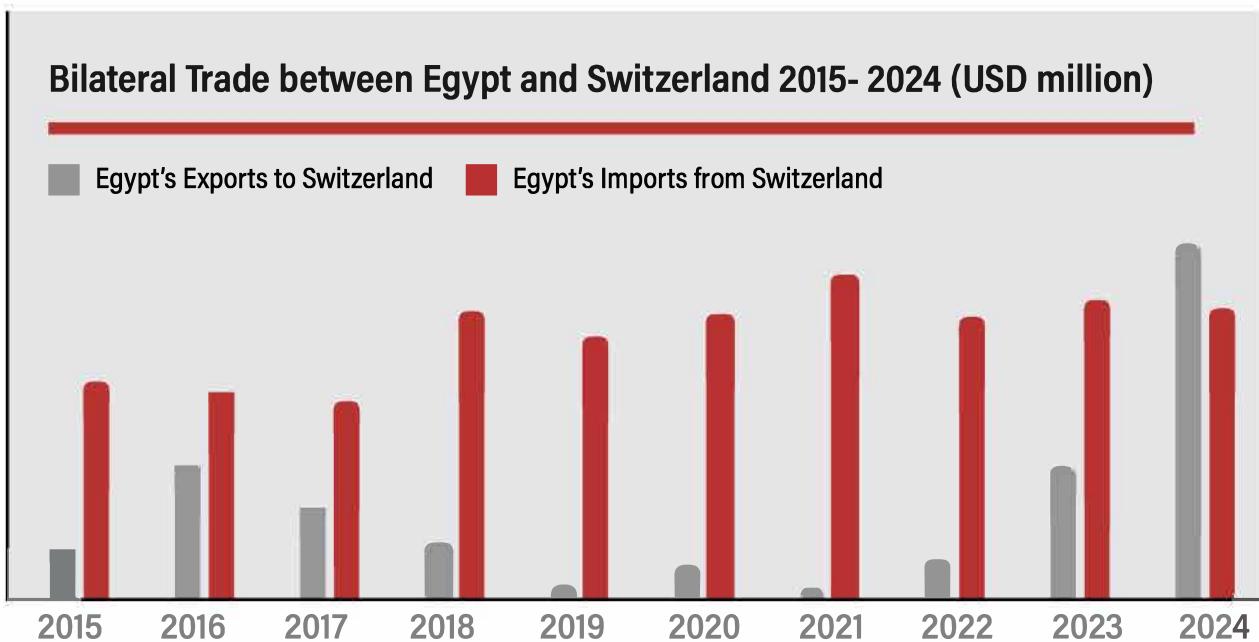
- Corporate and payroll tax contributions by Swiss businesses (FY2022–2024)
- Includes CIT, VAT, social insurance, and customs duties

(Sources: CBE, Tax Authority, Ministry of Finance)

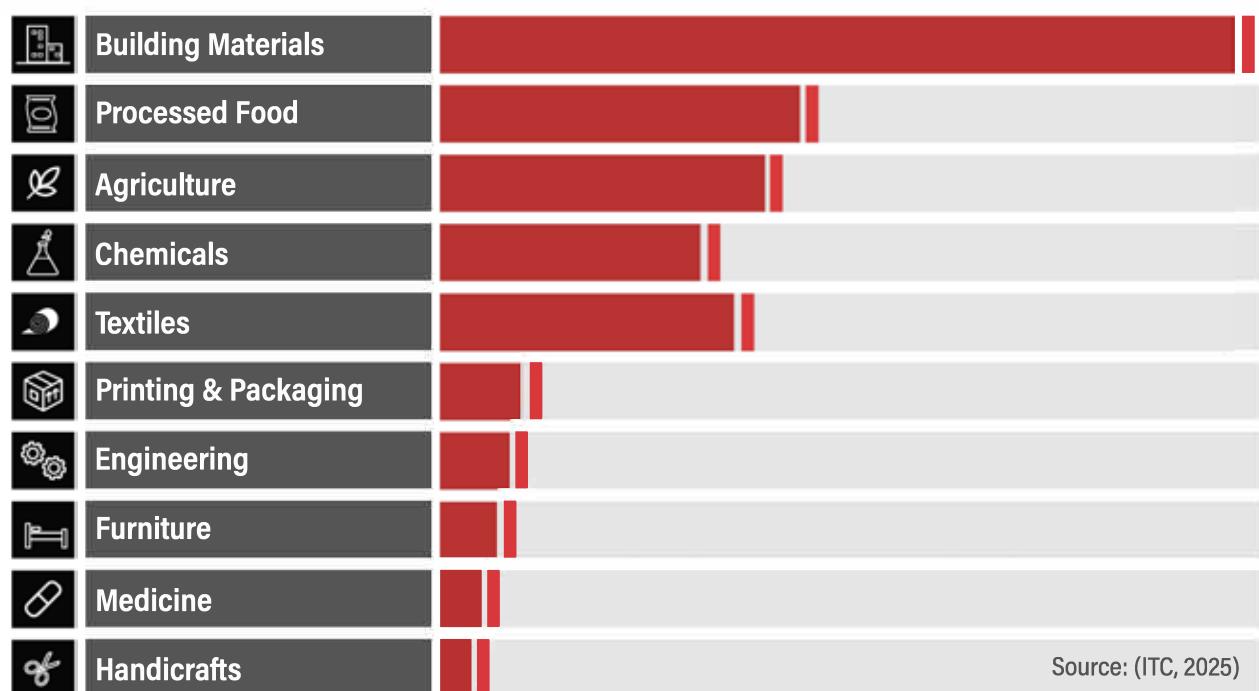


# Swiss Economic & Trade Impact in Egypt

Egypt's exports to Switzerland rose dramatically in 2023 and 2024. The spike is largely driven by gold and mineral exports rather than a broad-based export increase. Imports from Switzerland have remained relatively stable around USD1.0–1.2billion.



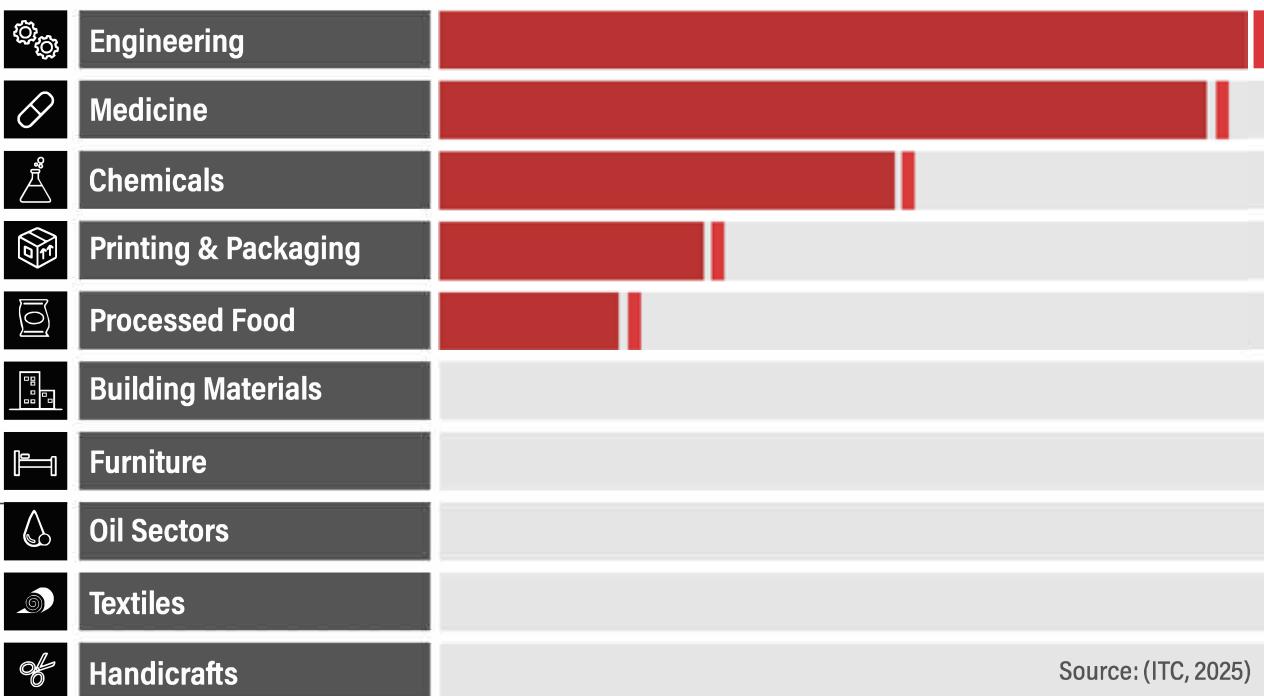
### Top Exports of Goods by Sector from Egypt to Switzerland 2024 (USD million)



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## Top Imports of Goods by Sector from Switzerland to Egypt 2024 (USD million)

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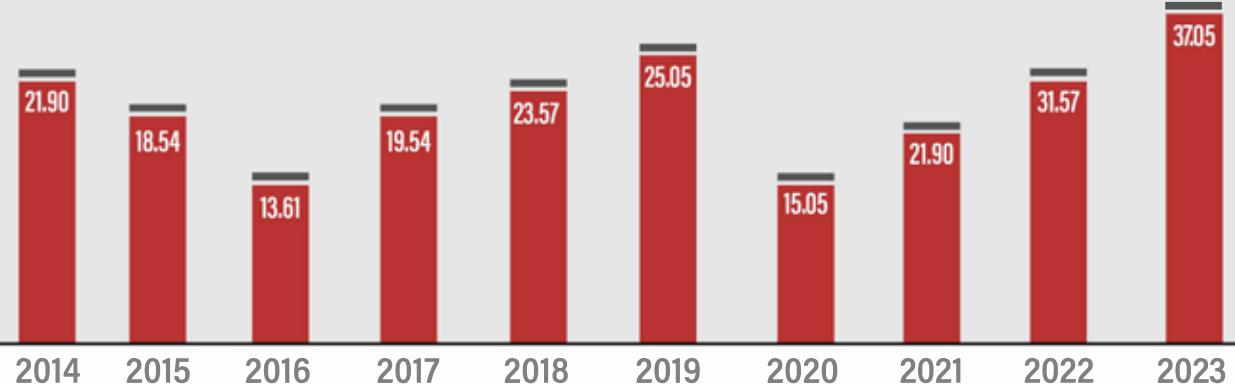
Source: (ITC, 2025)

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## Top Exports of Services by Industry from Egypt to Switzerland 2014- 2023 (USD billion)

Source: (ITC, 2025)

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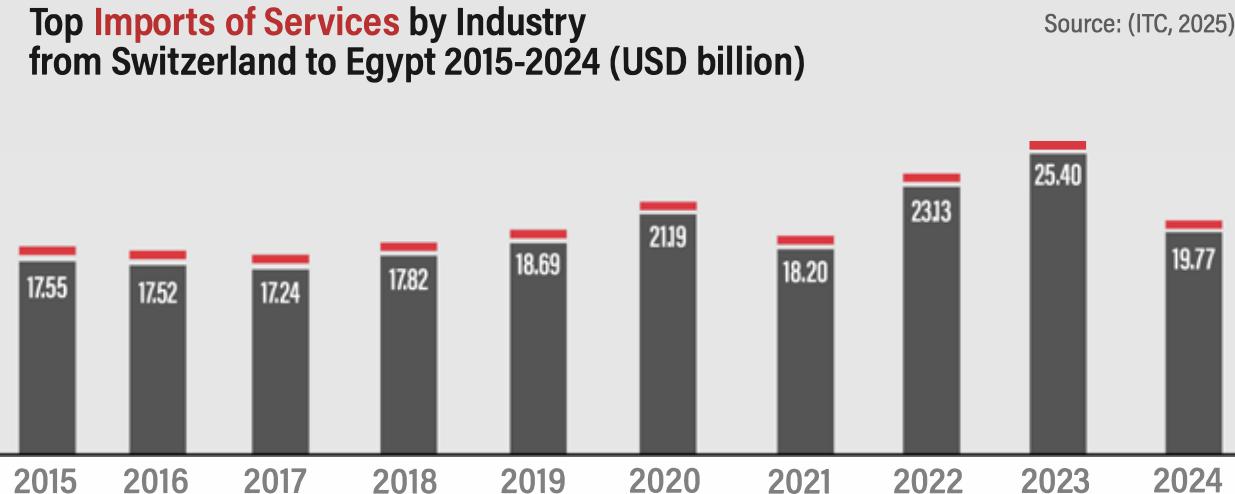


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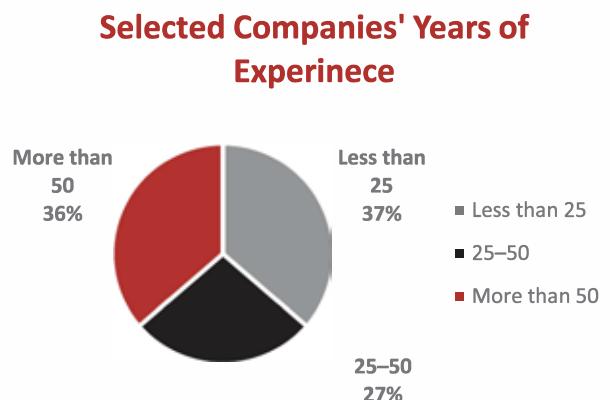
## Top Imports of Services by Industry from Switzerland to Egypt 2015-2024 (USD billion)

Source: (ITC, 2025)

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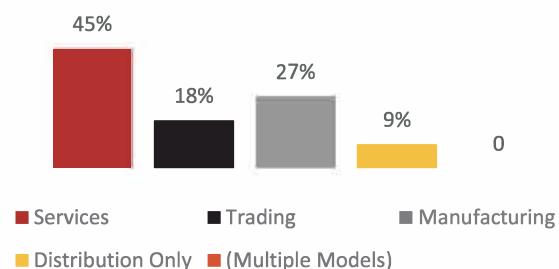
# COLLECTIVE INSIGHTS FROM 20% OF THE COMPANIES'



some companies are 100% Swiss-owned, indicating a strong preference for direct control and long-term investment.

Only a few have local partnerships or representative offices.

## The Selected Companies' Business Models in Egypt

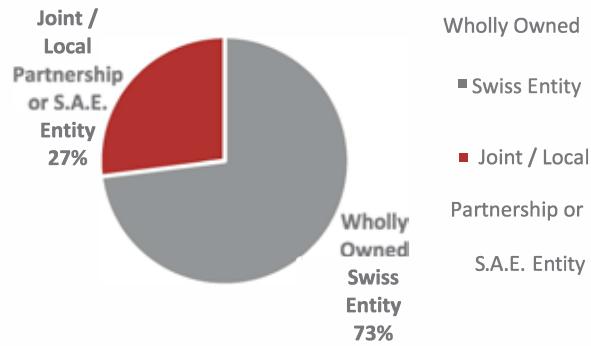


Sources: Conducted Surveys

Swiss companies have long-term presence; more than 63% have operated for 25+ years, showing commitment and market confidence.

**Average Years of operation:** Approximately 48 years

## Selected Companies' Structure



Services dominate (nearly half the companies), followed by manufacturing, reflecting a diverse engagement strategy depending on sector-specific needs.

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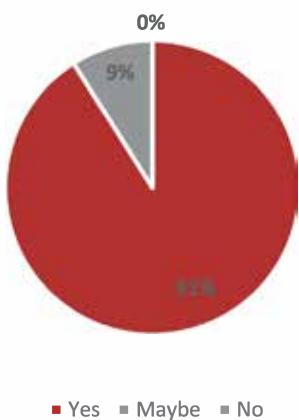
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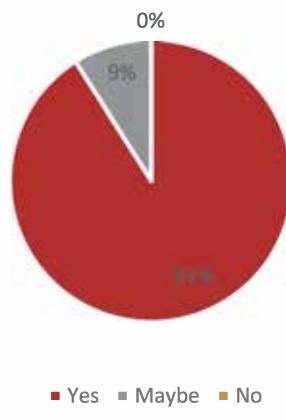
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## Companies Expanded during Last 5 Years



A massive 91% of Swiss companies expanded in the last 5 years, this reflects a clear upward investment trend and positive sentiment toward the Egyptian market.

## Companies Having Plans for Expansion in the Next 3 Years



The same 91% are planning further expansion, reflecting continued confidence, possibly linked to Egypt's market size, geostrategic location, and trade access (e.g., COMESA, Suez Canal).

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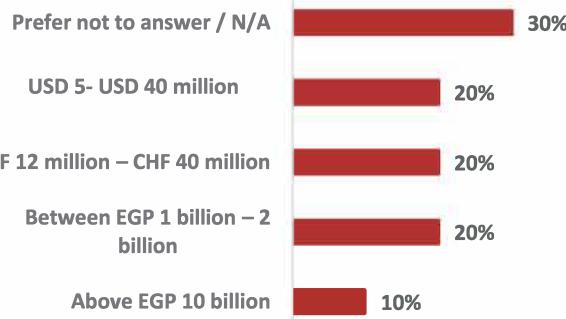
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## Estimated Annual Revenue in Egypt (From 8 companies)

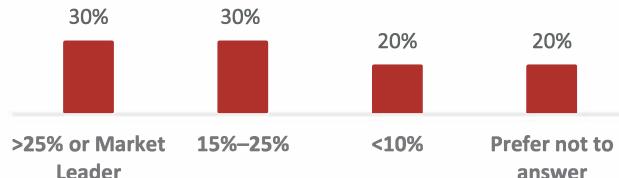


About 55% of respondents command a notable market share of  $\geq 15\%$ .

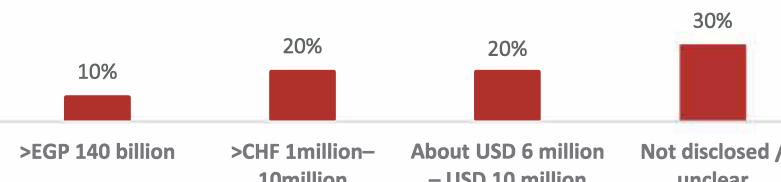
Swiss companies have large variance in revenue scale, ranging from USD 5 million to over EGP 14 billion.

About 30% of firms surveyed exceed EGP 1 billion annually, suggesting strong market presence.

## Current Market Share for the Responding Companies in Egypt (within their industry)



## Companies' Investments in Egypt During the Last 5 Years

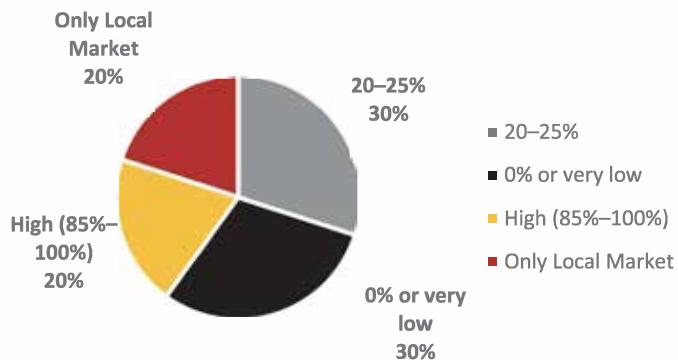


Some firms (e.g., Nestlé) are mega-investors, but most fall under EGP 50 million–1 billion range.

About 55% of companies reinvest significantly, often exceeding 20% of annual income.



## Companies' Exports from Egypt



Egypt is a production/export hub for some companies.

About 45% use Egypt for regional exports, especially to Africa, Gulf, Levant.

Metric	Insight
Share of supply chain sourced locally	Ranges from 0% to 80% (average about 40%)
Annual local procurement	From EGP 2 million to EGP 500 million, depending on company size
Reinvestment Rate	About 30% reinvest locally on average

Theme	Summary
Margins from Local Production	Up to 40% higher than imported goods (in some cases)
Cost Savings (Logistics/Customs)	Mixed: some see savings of 10–20%, others face long delays
Impact on Local Competitors	6/11 firms improved industry benchmarks & quality norms in Egypt

About 60% of Swiss companies directly influenced or attracted other Swiss/foreign firms to invest, often through partnerships, demonstration effects, or sector ecosystem leadership.

**Most common setup:** On average, 85–90% of total staff in direct/production roles.

**One company reported:** 1,300 direct versus 300 indirect, which represents about 81% core roles.

Some firms are purely service-based and do not classify this split meaningfully.

**Majority of Swiss firms in Egypt are production-intensive, with high ratios of core operational roles.**

Employment Type	Average % or Count
Direct (core)	Ranges from 6 to about 3,700 employees
Indirect (support)	About 10%–30% of total workforce

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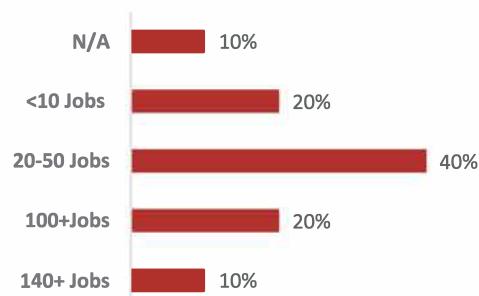


Swiss firms in Egypt overwhelmingly employ local talent (98–100% Egyptians).

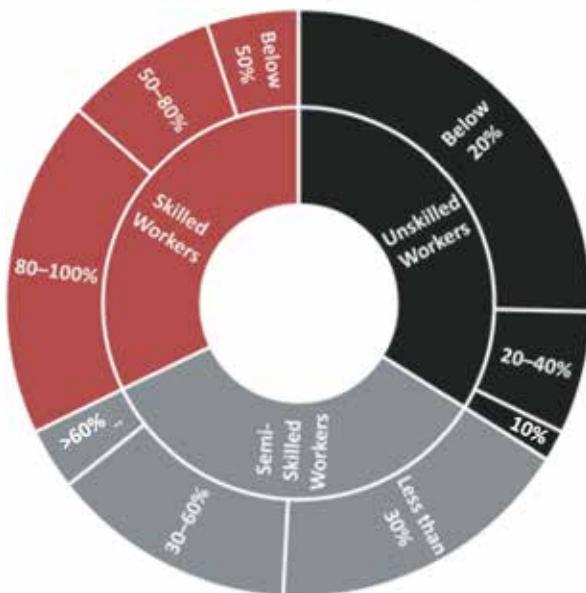
**Approximate average:** About 55 new jobs per company over 5 years.

**Firms are moderately expanding, with some major job creators (+1,300 employees total for one company, +140 jobs added).**

#### New Jobs Created During the Last 5 Years in the Selected Companies

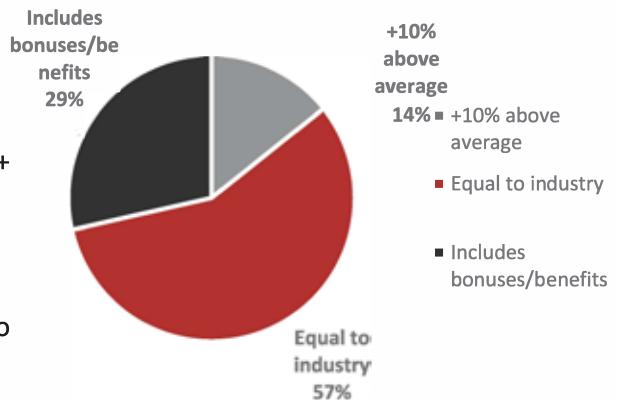


#### Skill Proportion Range in Companies



Swiss companies emphasize skilled labor (80–100% of workforce in several cases), reflecting the companies' focus on high productivity and quality output.

#### Salary Benchmarking



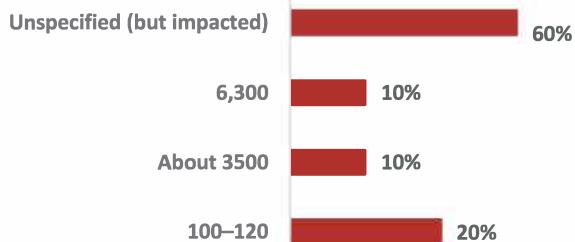
One firm offers 15–20% better total package (salary + perks).

The remaining firms did not answer the question.

Wages are at or above industry standard, likely used to attract higher-skilled labor.



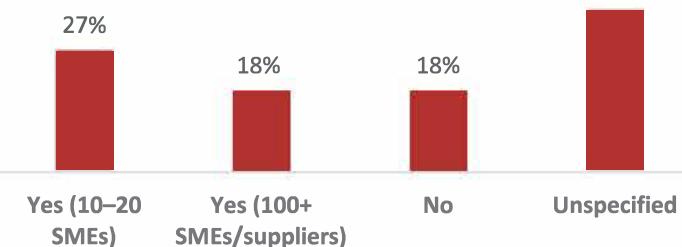
## Companies' Support for Indirect Jobs



A few Swiss firms support thousands of indirect jobs, likely via large supplier networks in logistics, maintenance, automation.

At least 45% of firms actively support SMEs, either as suppliers or partners. Some serve SME clients directly too.

## SMEs Engagement



Common Initiatives	Examples from Firms
<b>Training Programs</b>	Internal L&D platforms, soft & technical skills, masterclasses
<b>Talent Development &amp; Bootcamps</b>	Annual student programs, graduate schemes, internships
<b>Labor Standards &amp; Ethics</b>	International compliance, workplace safety
<b>Flexible Work &amp; Well-being Benefits</b>	Remote work, wellness allowances, private health insurance
<b>Certification &amp; Branding</b>	ISO/SGS standards

**For job quality & development**, most firms operate with a strong emphasis on labor welfare, continuous skill building, and modern HR standards.

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# 1 Untapped Opportunities 2 For Swiss Businesses 3 Trade In Egypt

Switzerland to Egypt for all products

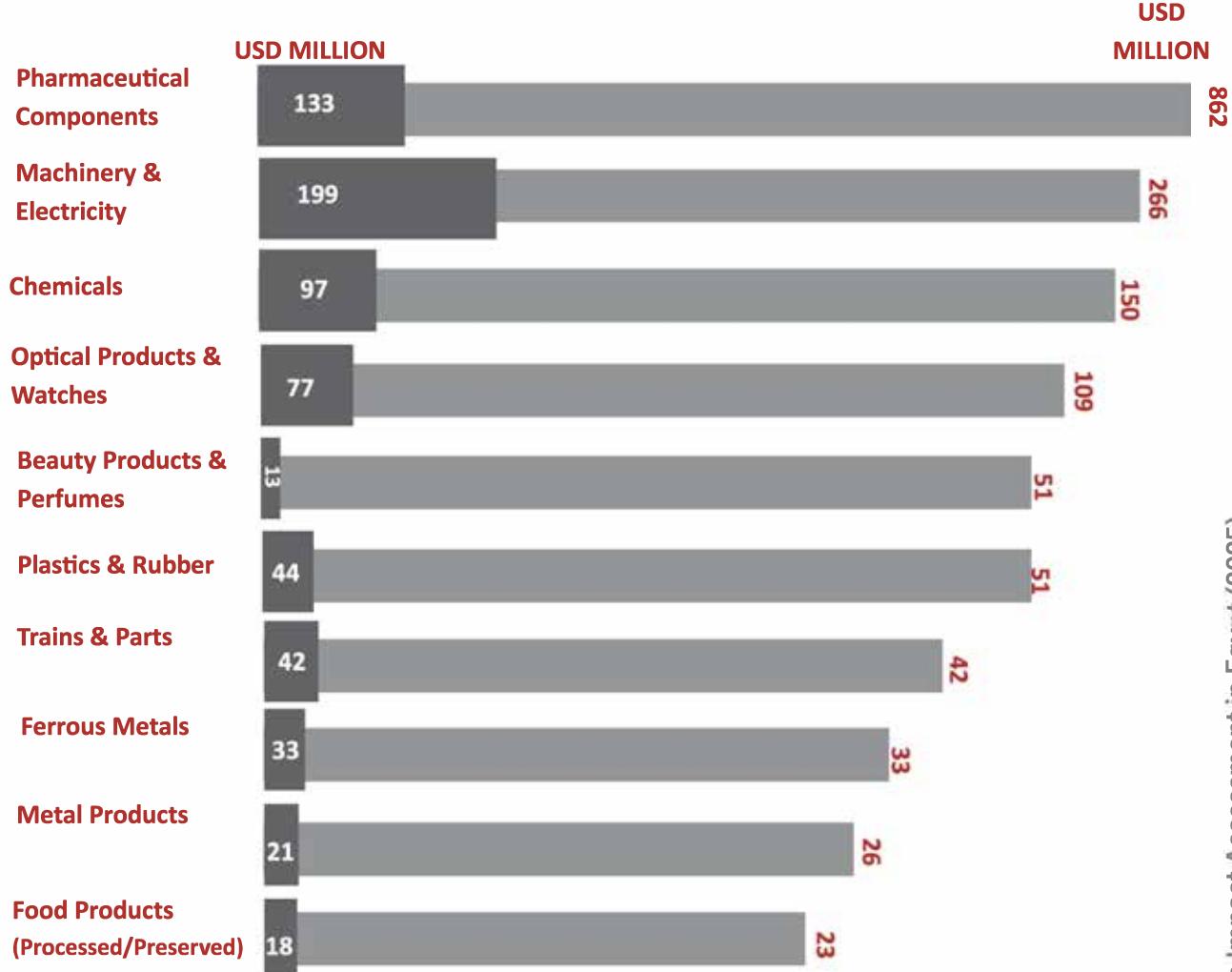
USD 0.79 billion

USD 0.91 billion

Export potential: **USD 1.7 billion**

Unrealized potential: **USD 0.791 billion**

Actual Exports: **USD 0.909 billion**



# 2

## Introduction

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Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt

2025



1

# Introduction

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Egypt is undergoing an economic transformation characterized by structural adjustment, change in industrial policy, and a national vision for sustainable development by 2030. During such a changing context, Swiss businesses have maintained a consistent presence, contributing to Egypt's economic performance through investment, employment, and sectoral value addition.

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Swiss companies in Egypt operate across a broad cross-section of industries, including pharmaceuticals, food and beverage, precision engineering, logistics, financial services, and information and communication technology. The companies have boosted their capacity for local production, with evidence of technology transfer and human skills development in some cases. Such results are measurable representations of their economic impact and are examined in this report factually.

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During the last ten years, collaboration between Swiss-affiliated firms and Egyptian institutions has evolved through sectoral partnerships, knowledge-sharing arrangements, and joint ventures. These developments have been made possible within a broader facilitatory framework of economic reforms, bilateral arrangements, and shifting investment regimes.

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This Impact Assessment of Swiss Businesses in Egypt (2025) provides an evidence-based evaluation of the economic footprint and strategic relevance of over 100 Swiss-origin companies operating in the country. Drawing on both quantitative indicators and qualitative insights, the report assesses key impact areas such as employment generation, value-added contribution to GDP, supply chain participation, trade dynamics, and corporate contributions to sustainable development goals. Where relevant, localization-related outcomes are addressed from a performance measurement perspective rather than as policy advocacy.



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# **Policy & Market Access Foundations**

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**Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt**

**2025**



## I. Policy & Market Access Foundations

2 Egypt offers a rules-based access path for Swiss firms built on preferential agreements, gateway logistics, and evolving localisation policy. Here we map the core enablers—EFTA/EU frameworks, AfCFTA/COMESA links, incentives and standards—alongside practical frictions and routes to market, to clarify cost, risk, and speed-to-market considerations.

### 6 i. Trade Policy & Agreements

7 Egypt's trade regime offers Swiss firms wide-ranging access to both domestic and regional markets, underpinned by a network of strategic trade agreements. Since 2007, the Free Trade Agreement between the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and Egypt has allowed Swiss goods to enter the Egyptian market largely tariff-free across many product categories. This preferential treatment is further reinforced through Egypt's Association Agreement with the European Union, which facilitates deeper integration into European value chains and promotes Egypt as a production and export hub for firms seeking access to the EU (ITA, 2022).

13 In addition to European market linkages, Egypt has strategically positioned itself as a gateway to African markets through its memberships in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). 14 These frameworks provide Swiss-Egyptian joint ventures with preferential entry to a growing consumer base across the continent. 15 Egypt continues to enhance its trade connectivity through ongoing negotiations with countries such as Türkiye and members of the Mercosur bloc, aiming to expand its industrial trade footprint and 16 attract more global investment (ITA, 2022).



Building on this foundation, the Egypt–Switzerland Joint Economic Committee signed at Davos 2025 becomes the execution channel that turns treaty-level access into practical routes to market for Swiss firms—linking the EFTA–Egypt FTA and EU Association Agreement with Egypt’s COMESA/AfCFTA gateways. Through coordinated work on rules of origin, removal of non-tariff barriers, alignment of technical standards and conformity assessment (including mutual recognition where feasible), and customs/logistics facilitation (e.g., single-window processes and AEO pathways), the Committee clarifies incentive and localisation options, de-risks certification and distribution choices, and improves visibility on cost, regulatory timelines, and speed-to-market across EU- and Africa-facing value chains.

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- Policy Drivers Behind Localization

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Since the 2010s, Egyptian industrial policy and market forces have pushed firms toward local sourcing. After the 2016 currency flotation and subsequent foreign currency shortages, many multinationals operating in Egypt, including Swiss companies, adapted by increasing local content in their production. These shifts were driven by foreign exchange volatility, higher import costs, and evolving regulatory frameworks.

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- Trade Data and FDI Overview

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Bilateral trade has been steady: total trade was about CHF 1.65 billion in 2023, up from CHF 1.4 b in 2022, including Swiss exports to Egypt of CHF 1.16 billion, mainly pharmaceuticals/chemicals, machinery, and Egyptian exports to Switzerland of CHF 0.486 billion driven by gold. Switzerland remains among Egypt's top 15 investor countries. As of 2023, Swiss FDI stock in Egypt was about USD1.3 billion, with annual inflows rising, for example USD 676 million in FY2022/2023. Major Swiss firms active in Egypt include Nestlé, Novartis, Roche, ABB, Sika, Holcim/Lafarge, and Barry Callebaut (ITC, 2025; Ahram Online, 2023).

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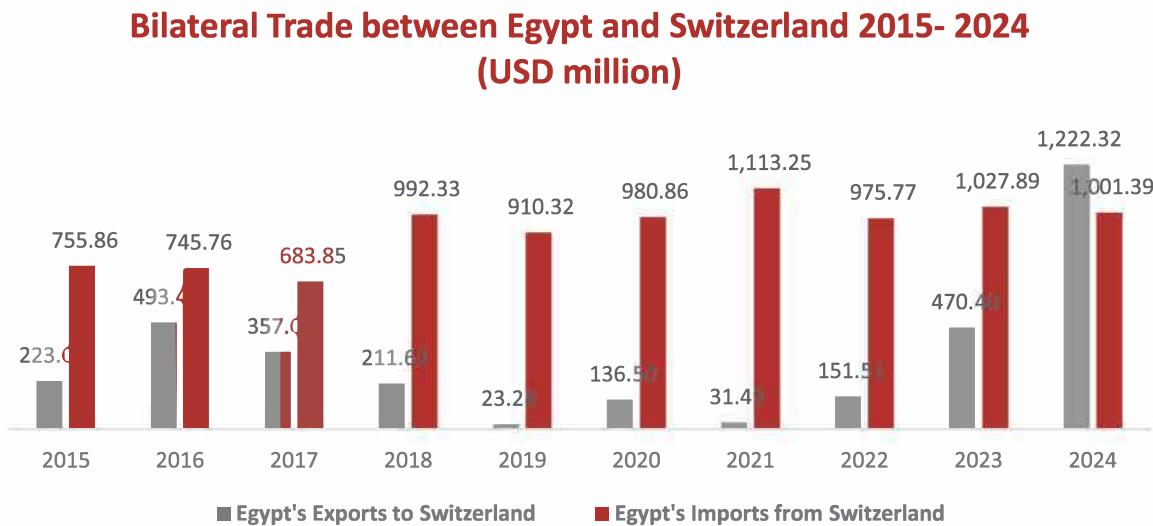
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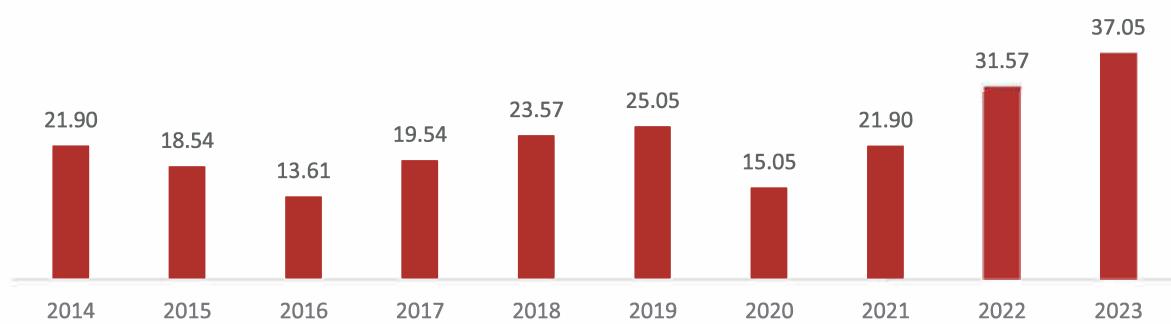
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Source: Conducted by the researchers from the (ITC, 2025; Ahram Online, 2023)

## Top Exports of Services by Industry from Egypt to Switzerland 2014- 2023 (USD billion)



Source: Conducted by the researchers from the (ITC, 2025)

Concerning the services by the Swiss investors in Egypt, from 2014 to 2015, there is moderate decline from 21.3 billion to 18.54 billion, followed by a sharper drop in 2016 to 13.61 billion. This downturn is attributed to macroeconomic changes in Egypt during those years, coupled with global trade uncertainties. However, from 2017 onwards, there is a clear recovery trend, with exports rising to 23.57 billion by 2018 and peaking at 25.05 billion in 2019. This growth period aligns with Egypt's broader economic reforms post-2016 IMF program, which aimed at stabilizing the currency and improving competitiveness. The year 2020 stands out as an anomaly, with exports plunging to USD 15.05 billion, a decline of nearly 40% from the previous year. This sharp contraction coincides with the global pandemic, which severely impacted international trade, particularly services such as tourism and transportation, sectors where Egypt holds strong comparative advantages (ITC, 2025).



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Post-pandemic recovery is evident from 2021 onwards, with exports rebounding to USD 21.3 billion, then surging to USD 31.57 billion in 2022, and reaching a record high of USD 37.05 billion in 2023. This exceptional growth suggests a strong resurgence in demand for Egyptian services, possibly driven by the revival of global travel, increased outsourcing, and Egypt's efforts to diversify its service exports beyond tourism into sectors like IT and professional services. The near 140% growth from 2020 to 2023 underlines both the resilience and the untapped potential of Egypt's service sector in the Swiss market (ITC, 2025).

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### **Top Imports of Services by Industry from Switzerland to Egypt 2015-2024 (USD billion)**

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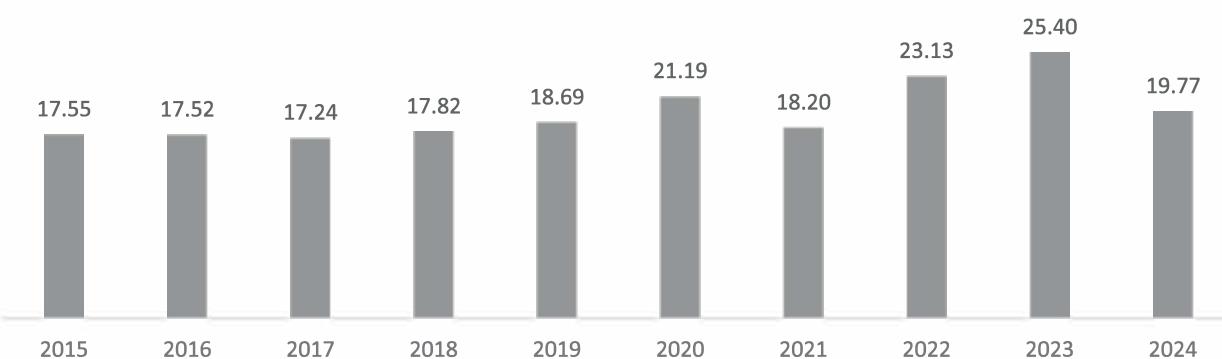
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Source: Conducted by the researchers from the (ITC, 2025)

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From 2015 to 2018, imports remained relatively flat, ranging between USD 17.24 and 17.82

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billion, indicating a stable bilateral service trade relationship during this period. However, in

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2019, there is a slight increase to USD 18.69 billion, reflecting rising demand for Swiss services,

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potentially in high-value sectors such as finance, insurance, and technical consulting, areas

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where Switzerland is globally competitive. The 2020 spike to USD 21.19 billion is significant

and likely linked to pandemic-related factors. Global disruptions often lead to an increased

reliance on specialized foreign services such as IT, pharmaceuticals, and financial

intermediation, sectors in which Switzerland excels. This suggests Egypt leaned on Swiss

expertise to mitigate pandemic-driven uncertainties (ITC, 2025).

In 2021, imports dropped sharply to USD 18.20 billion, however, the following years show a

strong rebound to USD 23.15 billion in 2022 and a peak of USD 25.40 billion in 2023,

representing the highest point in the series. This surge coincides with Egypt's post-pandemic

recovery and likely reflects expanded investments in international projects. The focus on



expanding the New Administrative Capital (NAC) and demand for specialized services to support mega-projects and economic diversification initiatives. Finally, 2024 marks a notable decline to USD 18.77 billion, which is due to multiple factors, which are mainly currency pressures, policy shifts toward localization of services, or reduced external demand (ITC, 2025).

### iii. Gateway to Regional and African Markets

Swiss companies operating in Egypt benefit hugely from the country's trade agreements, particularly its membership in COMESA, AfCFTA, and the EFTA-Egypt FTA (which includes Switzerland). These agreements grant duty-free access to over 1.3 billion consumers across Africa and the Middle East, making Egypt a powerful springboard for regional exports (ITA, 2022).

Swiss-Egypt joint ventures stand to gain from Egypt's strategic geography, its deep seaports, and export logistics infrastructure. At the same time, unit labor costs in Egypt are currently around one-sixth of Swiss levels, making it significantly cheaper to produce in Egypt and export from there rather than importing from Switzerland or deploying elsewhere. *Based on publicly available estimates and OECD-adjusted metrics, manufacturing labor costs in Egypt average approximately USD 8/hour, compared to an estimated USD 54/hour in Switzerland, with productivity-adjusted costs of roughly USD 12/hour vs. USD 42/hour, respectively* (OECD, 2024).

*Thus, this cost advantage, combined with regional trade access, means that Swiss firms can reduce production costs by 60–70%, enhance their global competitiveness, and simultaneously create high-quality jobs in Egypt.*

Cost Comparison (per hour, 2024 est.)	Switzerland (USD)	Egypt (USD)
Manufacturing labor (USD/hr)	54	8
Productivity-adjusted cost (OECD)	42	12

By establishing factories and sourcing locally in Egypt, Swiss investors are not only reducing costs, but they are also embedding into Egypt's regional trade ecosystem. This strategic positioning helps Egypt strengthen its export base, deepen industrial resilience, and attract



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more regional investment. In return, Swiss firms enjoy lower labor costs, easier access to broad African markets, and integration into a cost-effective production network.

#### 3 iv. Untapped Trade Opportunities for Swiss Business in Egypt

4 Egypt's evolving economic landscape presents a range of untapped and underutilized opportunities for Swiss companies seeking strategic regional expansion. One of the most compelling areas is *industrial automation and process control, where growing domestic demand intersects with Switzerland's global expertise*. As Egyptian industries modernize 5 under Vision 2030, the need for precision technologies, such as those offered by Endress+Hauser in process instrumentation and Temenos in banking software, is accelerating. 6 Local firms are looking to upgrade efficiency, traceability, and energy optimization, all of which 7 are strongholds of Swiss industrial know-how (ITIDA, 2021).

8 Simultaneously, Egypt's *food security strategy and manufacturing localization goals* create 9 new markets for companies like Bühler and Rieter, which offer advanced machinery for agro- 10 processing and textiles. With Egypt's accession to the African Continental Free Trade Area 11 (AfCFTA) and proximity to COMESA, Swiss technology deployed in Egypt can serve not just the 12 domestic market but also unlock access to over 1.3 billion consumers across Africa and the 13 Middle East (ITA, 2022).

14 *Environmental solutions* represent another high-growth avenue. Egypt's green transition, 15 driven by COP27 commitments and mounting climate stress, is opening doors in packaging, 16 recycling, and clean manufacturing. Swiss firms such as Clariant and SIG Combibloc are well 17 positioned to lead in eco-friendly packaging and chemical inputs. Moreover, Egypt's upcoming green hydrogen projects, waste-to-energy systems, and solar grid expansion align perfectly with Switzerland's advanced cleantech ecosystem and growing ESG investment footprint (Clariant, 2025).

In *healthcare*, Egypt's expanded universal health insurance program and rising non-communicable disease burden make medical diagnostics and devices a national priority. Swiss med-tech and pharma companies, already trusted globally, can scale up local presence by addressing Egypt's need for affordable, reliable diagnostic tools and hospital-grade devices (Egyptian Healthcare Authority, November, 2024).

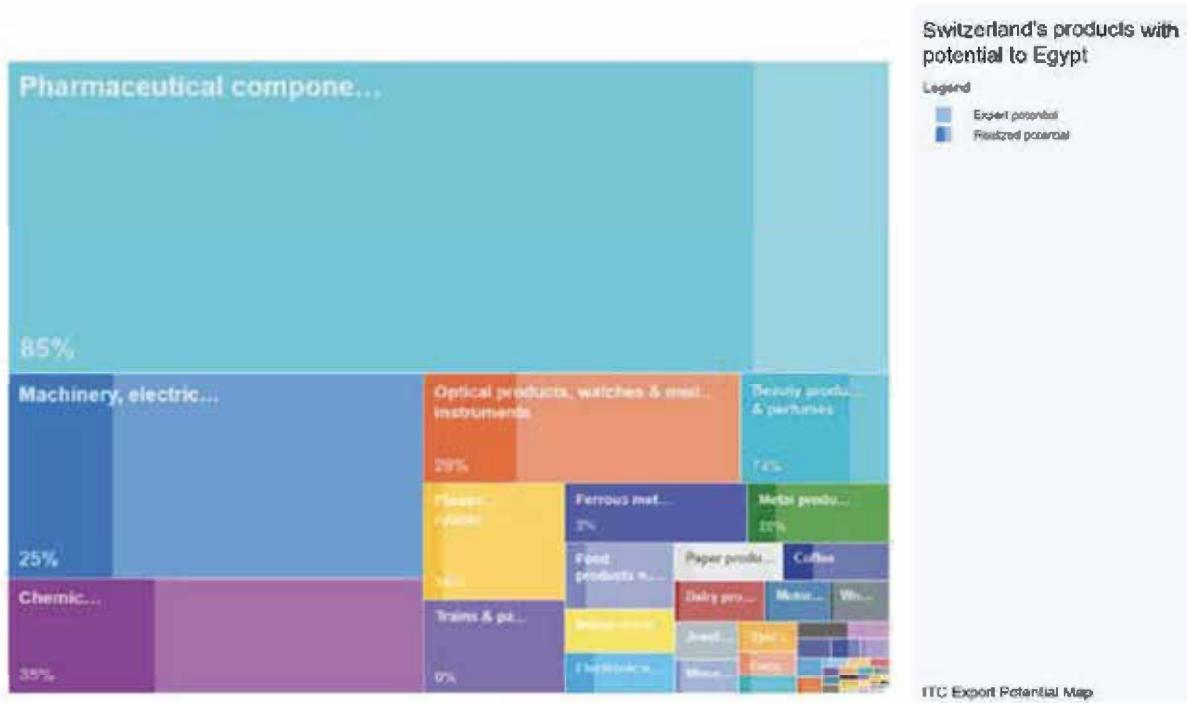


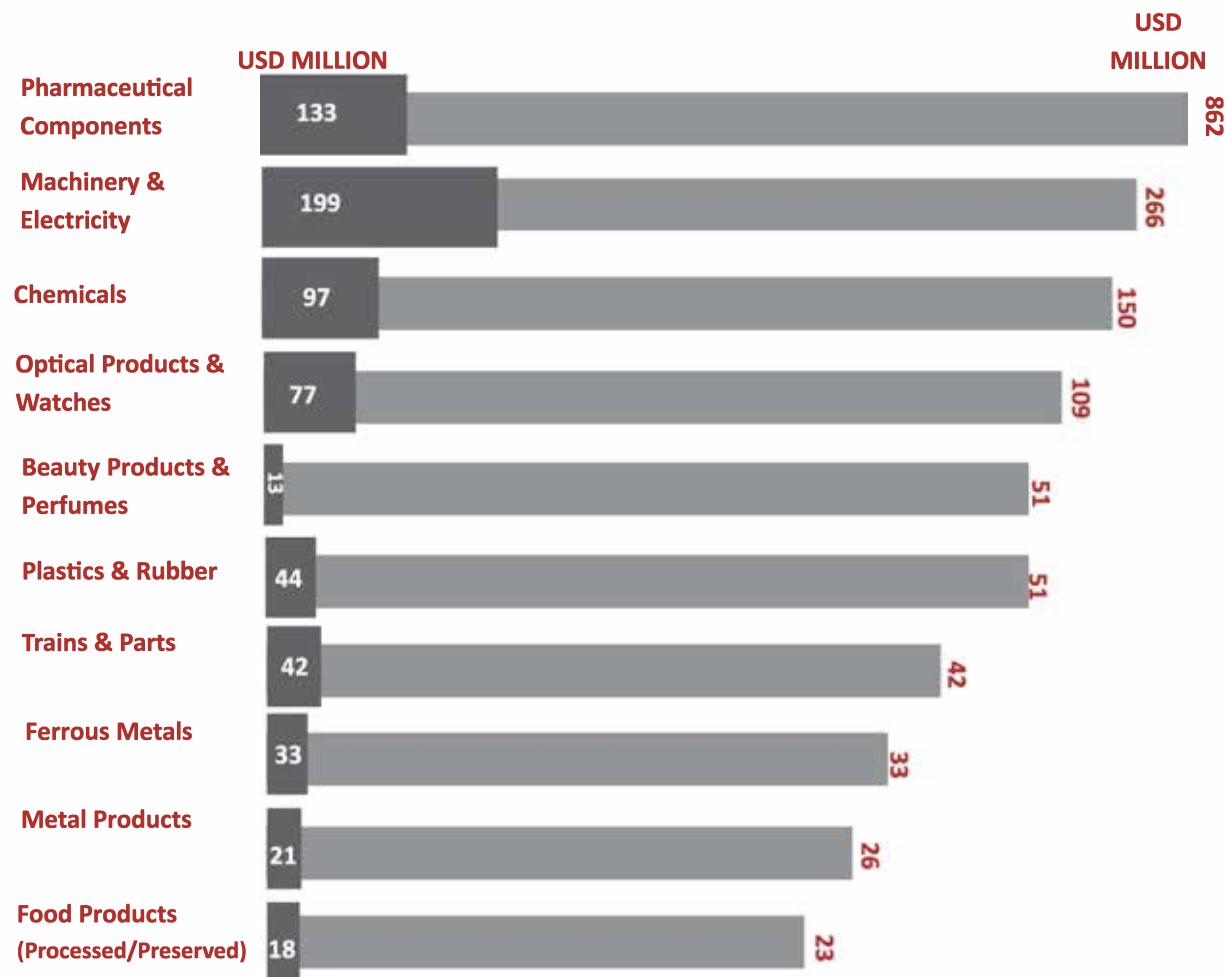
Finally, Egypt's arid **climate and water scarcity** make climate-smart agriculture essential. Swiss agro solutions, known for their resource efficiency and precision farming techniques, can support Egypt's food resilience agenda. Technologies in soil monitoring, irrigation management, and sustainable fertilizers could be deployed in partnership with local agribusinesses and farmers (Embassy of Switzerland Egypt, 2021-2024).

Collectively, these sectors highlight Egypt as not just a market, but a production and innovation hub where Swiss expertise in quality, sustainability, and automation can deliver both commercial returns and developmental impact.

Sector	Opportunity	Justification
Green Tech	Waste-to-energy, water systems	Egypt committed USD 246 billion climate investment plan (IMF NDC strategy)
Agri-processing	Climate-resilient tools	Addressing desertification & food security
Pharma + Diagnostics	Localization & licensing	Favourable in import substitution policies
Precision Manufacturing	Export base to Africa	EGP devaluation makes Egypt cost-competitive
Infrastructure (smart metering, logistics)	Asset sales & PPP	Government commitment to privatization, with Swiss technology edge

Source: (ITC, 2025)





Source: Conducted by the researchers from the (ITC, 2025)



# **Economic Impact Analysis**

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**Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt**

**2025**



## II. Economic Impact Analysis

- Contribution to GDP

Swiss businesses operating in Egypt contribute to GDP through localized manufacturing, service provision, and participation in supply chains. Although official disaggregated GDP contribution by country of origin is not published by the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) or the Ministry of Planning, multiple proxies suggest a tangible economic footprint (CBE, 2025).

Swiss firms contribute to Egypt's economy through production output, employment, and supply chains. Directly, their output (value added) adds to GDP in key sectors: Egypt's industrial sector, including manufacturing activities, is about 28%- 32.1% of GDP<sup>1</sup>. Within that, manufacturing alone contributes an average of 15.1% of GDP, based on UNIDO data from

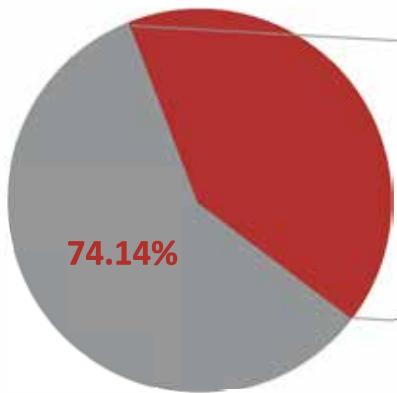
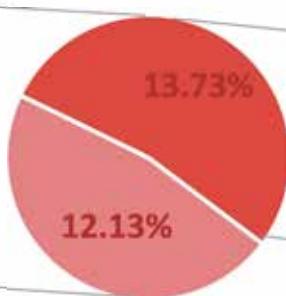
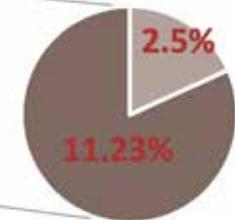
2015–2024. *Where Swiss companies contribute by about 1.5% to 2.5% of Egypt's total manufacturing output in 2024, according to interpolated calculations from UNIDO's database. This means that Swiss firms are estimated to contribute between 0.21% and 0.34% of Egypt's GDP in 2024. This was calculated since cumulative Swiss total FDI stock in Egypt is USD 1.3 billion across 433 projects. In 2024, Swiss companies are estimated to contribute between USD 958 million and USD 1.6 billion. For example, Swiss pharma plants produce medicines locally, where Nestlé Egypt only produces food and exports about EGP 50 million/year and total investments in Egypt more than EGP 3.5 billion<sup>2</sup> (UNIDO, 2015-2024).*

Swiss firms such as Nestlé, Hero, Novartis, Lafarge (Holcim), and Sika contribute to this segment through direct local production, estimated to exceed EGP 10 billion annually in gross output, including food, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and construction materials (Company Annual Reports 2023; Swiss Embassy Briefs).



<sup>1</sup> According to [UNIDO database](#), for the industry value added at constant prices, the contribution is calculated to range between 32% in 2015 to 25.86% in 2024, and an average of 28.53%. While for the manufacturing value added at constant prices, the contribution in GDP ranges between 16.7% to 13.7%, and on average 15.14%. The industry is the broad category that includes manufacturing, mining, construction, electricity, gas, and water supply. Manufacturing is a subset of industry focused specifically on the physical or chemical transformation of materials or components into new products. The [World Bank and the Central Intelligence Agency \(CIA\)](#) estimates industry to contribute by 32.1% of GDP in 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Nestle

**Egypt's GDP Composition (2024)****Industry Sector Breakdown (2024)****Manufacturing Sector Breakdown (2024)**

Source: Calculated and Conducted by the Researchers from (UNIDO, 2015-2024)

**Quantitatively, the stock of Swiss foreign direct investment (FDI) in Egypt, estimated at USD 1.2–1.3 billion, represents less than 1% of Egypt's GDP, which stands at approximately USD 407 billion at current prices in 2024** (World Bank, 2025). However, Swiss firms contribute notable value-added in specialized sectors such as pharmaceuticals and agrochemicals. In addition, Swiss financial and professional service providers, for example banks, insurers, and engineering firms, contribute indirectly to GDP through knowledge-intensive activities. According to the Swiss Embassy, Swiss companies have been actively expanding local production in pharmaceuticals, food, and textiles, indicating continued growth in domestic value-added within these sectors (SwissCham Egypt, 2022).

Accordingly, Swiss businesses have a moderate direct impact through their own production/GDP and a larger indirect impact via jobs and supply chains. For instance, **SwissCham reports about 10,400 people employed by Swiss firms (mid-2020), and the Embassy reports about 25,000 jobs by 2023. These workers' incomes and related business activities multiply into the economy. Exact GDP contribution numbers by Swiss FDI are not published, but the above figures illustrate their tangible footprint in high-tech and industrial segments of Egypt's economy** (GAFI, 2023).

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- **Swiss Investment in Egypt**

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Switzerland and Egypt have cultivated a multifaceted partnership that encompasses technology, entrepreneurship, research, and sustainable development. This collaboration is evident through various initiatives and projects that aim to foster innovation and economic growth in both countries.

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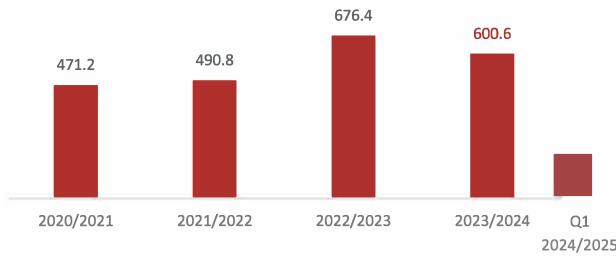


The investment landscape in Egypt for Swiss business, as of 2023, Switzerland has invested approximately USD 2.2 billion in Egypt, spanning 433 projects across sectors such as pharmaceuticals, food, building materials, chemicals, and energy. These investments have generated over 25,000 jobs in Egypt. Bilateral trade between Egypt and Switzerland reached USD 1.52 billion in 2022, marking a 7.8% increase from the previous year (GAFI & FEDCOC, 2025).

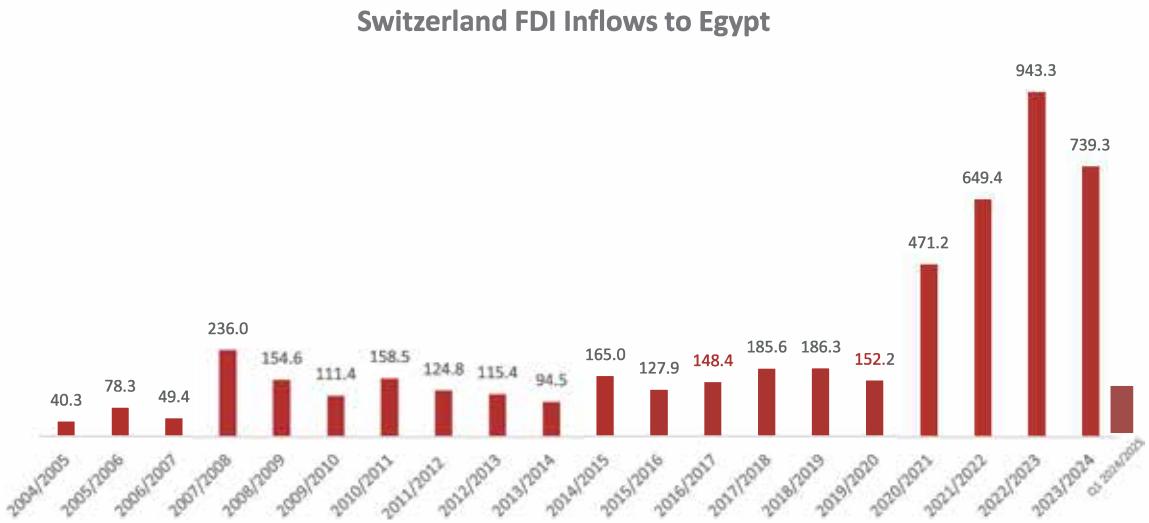
- **Trends in FDI Inflows (2020–2024)**

Swiss foreign direct investment (FDI) into Egypt has been modest but growing. According to Egyptian Central Bank and Swiss sources, Swiss FDI inflows were about USD 471.2 million in FY2020/2021, rising to USD 490.8 million in FY2021/2022 and USD 676.4 million in FY2022/2023 (a 45% jump) and then declined to USD 600.6 million in FY 2023/2024. These placed Switzerland roughly 6th–9th among all investing countries. For perspective, in FY2020/2021 Italy led with USD 2.25 billion (16.2% share) and the UK, USA, and UAE each contributed USD 1.4–1.8 billion. By contrast, Switzerland's USD 471 million was 3.4% of total inflows. In FY2023/2024 the UAE dominated overall FDI inflows (nearly 69% share), while smaller economies like Switzerland accounted for only a few percent of flows, while smaller economies like Switzerland accounted for only a few percent of flows. Total Swiss FDI stock in Egypt has reached roughly USD 1.2–1.3 billion by 2023; SwissCham estimates as of mid-2020

Net FDI Flows for Switzerland in Egypt  
(USD million)

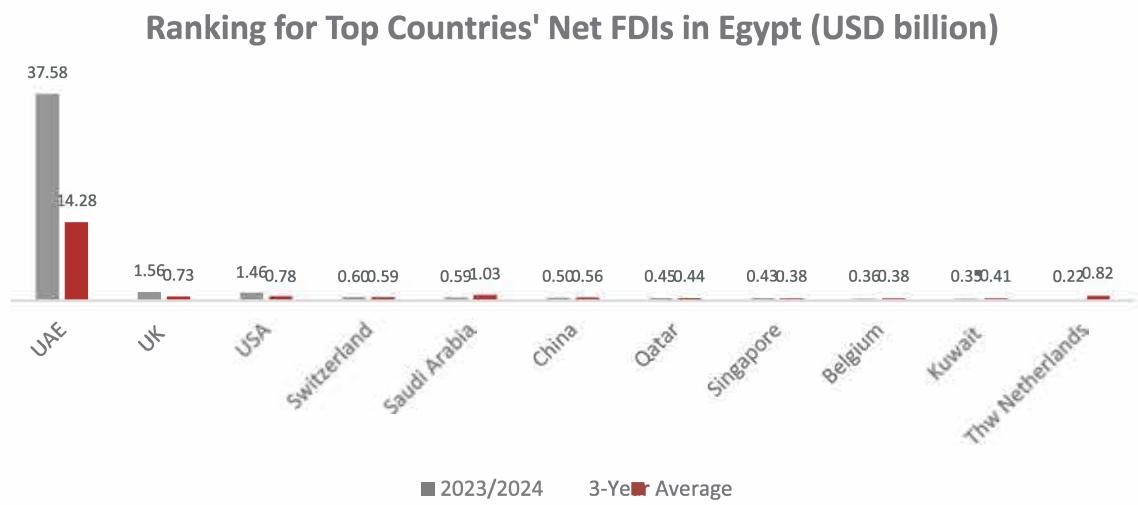


gave about USD 1.8–1.95 billion, likely reflecting different measurement (CBE, 2025; Embassy of Switzerland in Cairo, 2020/2021).



Source: CBE, 2025

For perspective, larger investors in the same period include the UAE, up to 69% of FDI in FY2023/2024, Italy, USA, UK, and Saudi Arabia. Nonetheless, Switzerland's share, 3–4% of annual inflows, remains significant, especially in high-value sectors (CBE, 2025).



Source: Conducted by the researchers from (CBE, 2025)

***These figures place Switzerland 6th–9th among Egypt's foreign investors, depending on the year.***

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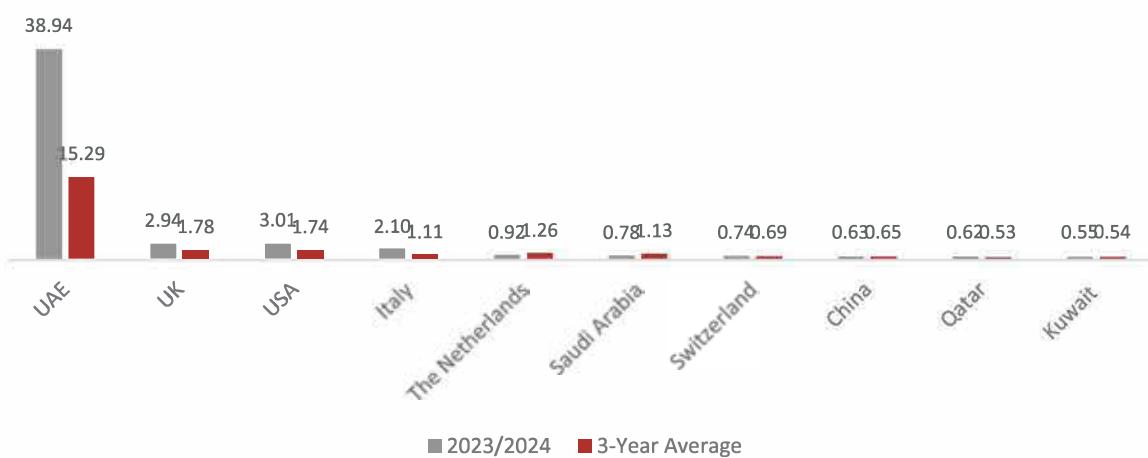
In 2023/2024, its net FDI stood at USD 0.60 billion, ranking 4th overall, just behind the UAE (USD 37.6 billion), the UK (USD 1.56 billion), and the USA (USD 1.46 billion). Over a three-year average, Switzerland also maintains a net FDI of USD 0.59 billion, again placing it ahead of countries like China, Qatar, Singapore, Belgium, and Kuwait, despite often having lower or similar inflow figures (CBE, 2025).

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This difference suggests that while Switzerland might not have the largest inflows, its investments are more "sticky", meaning that capital tends to stay in Egypt rather than being withdrawn quickly. In contrast, countries like the Netherlands show a much higher average inflow (USD 1.26 billion) but a low net figure (USD 0.22 billion in 2023/2024), implying significant repatriation or disinvestment. Similarly, Saudi Arabia's net FDI dropped from its historical average of USD 1.03 billion to USD 0.59 billion in the latest year, hinting at some volatility or capital pullback (CBE, 2025).

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### Ranking for Top Countries' FDIs Inflows in Egypt (USD billion)



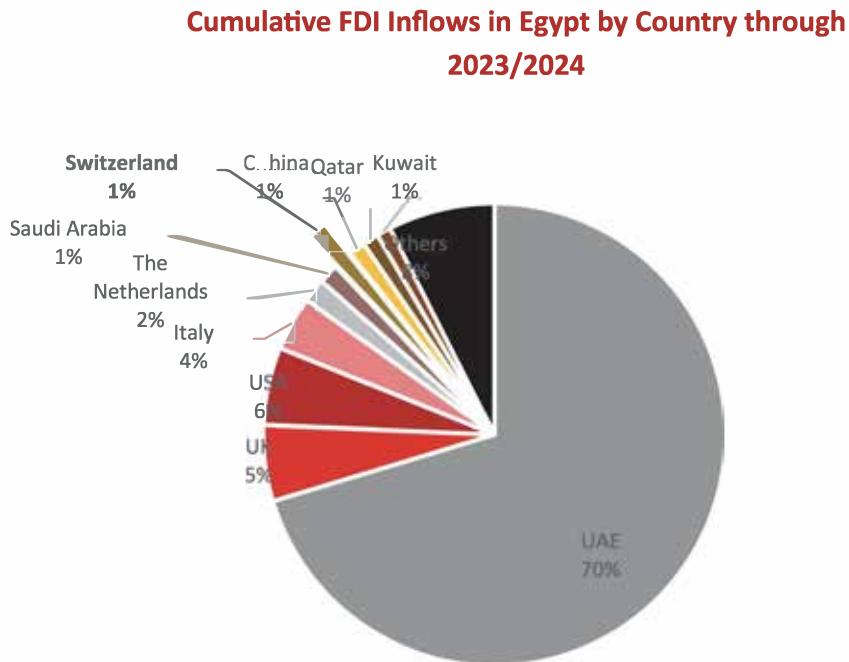
Source: Conducted by the researchers from (CBE, 2025)

In the fiscal year 2023/2024, Switzerland's FDI inflows to Egypt reached USD 0.74 billion, placing it 7th among the top foreign investors in terms of gross FDI inflows. Over the past three-year average, Swiss inflows stood at USD 0.69 billion, reflecting consistent engagement in the Egyptian market, albeit not among the very top contributors (CBE, 2025).

When comparing Switzerland's inflows to regional players, the UAE dominates the scene by a wide margin, with inflows of nearly USD 39 billion in 2023/2024, and a three-year average of

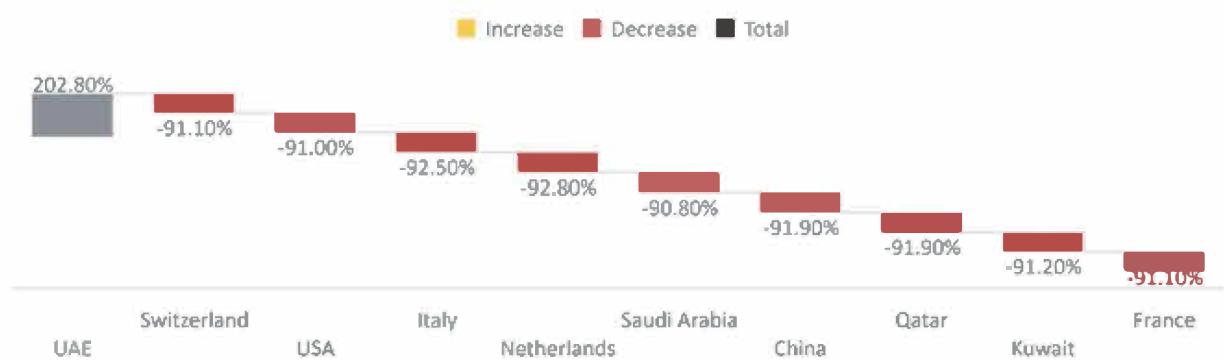


USD 15.3 billion. Other key contributors include the UK, USA, and Italy, each with annual inflows in the range of USD 2–3 billion. Thus, Switzerland's inflows are smaller in scale but still notable, particularly when viewed alongside countries like China, Qatar, and Kuwait, where figures are quite close, ranging from USD 0.55–0.63 billion (CBE, 2025).



Source: Conducted by the researchers from (CBE, 2025)

#### Growth of Cumulative (CAGR) FDI Inflows in Egypt by Country 2020/2021- 2023/2024



Source: Conducted by the researchers from (CBE, 2025)

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# **Sectoral Overview of Localization Efforts**

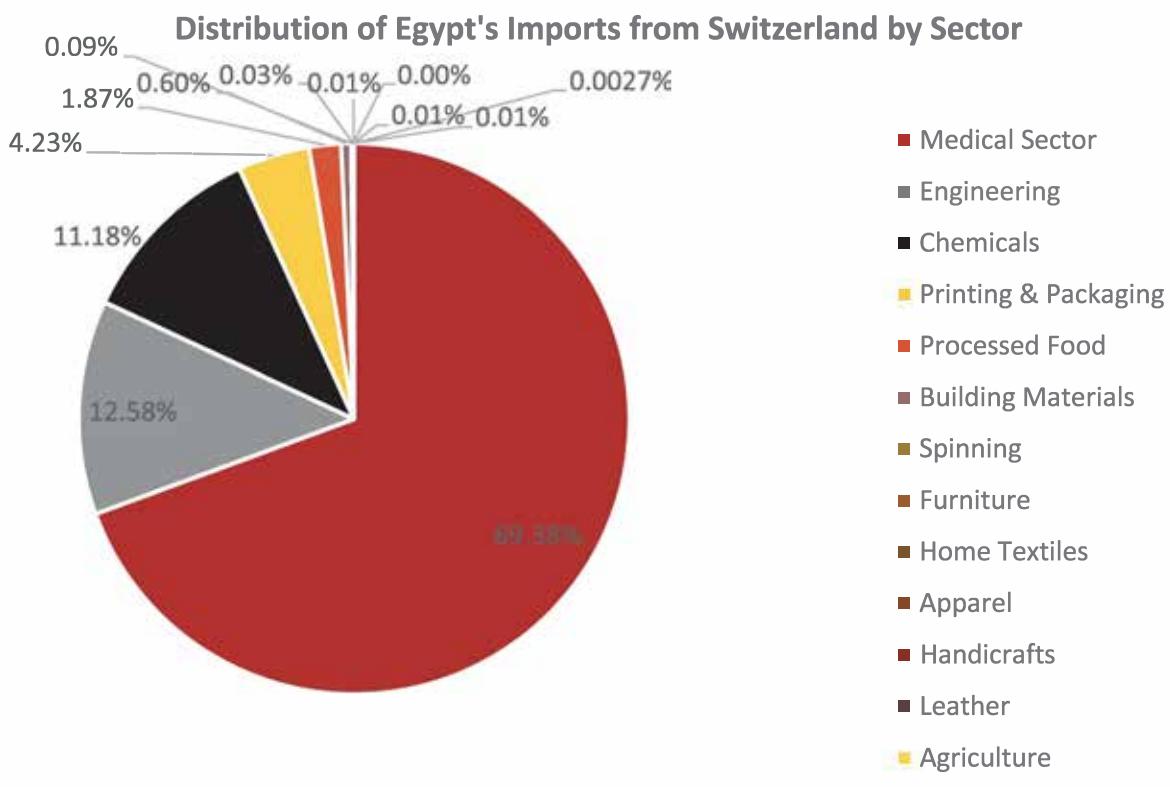
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**Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt**

**2025**



# Sectoral Overview of Localization Efforts



Rank among  
Egypt's Exporters  
**22<sup>nd</sup>**

CAGR (2020-2024)  
**0.068%**

Share from Egypt's  
Imports  
**1.13%**

Source: Conducted by the researchers from (ITC, 2025)

Egypt's total imports from Switzerland have been growing over the past 5 years by a CAGR of 0.068%. Spinning imports significantly increased from USD 438 thousand in 2023 to USD 1.38 million in 2024. In contrast, furniture sector was averaging USD 160 thousand during 2020 to 2022, rising to USD 974 thousand in 2023, then returning again to its average reaching USD 170 thousand in 2024. It is important to note that gold imports are not included in the sectoral distribution nor the oil and gas sector and extractions, to understand the non-oil sectors' performance. The medical sector here, in the graph above, represents the medical supplies and the cosmetics (ITC, 2025).

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Medical sector, engineering, chemicals, printing and packaging, and processed food and building materials are Egypt's top imported sectors from Switzerland with a combined share of 99.85% from Egypt's total exports to Switzerland.

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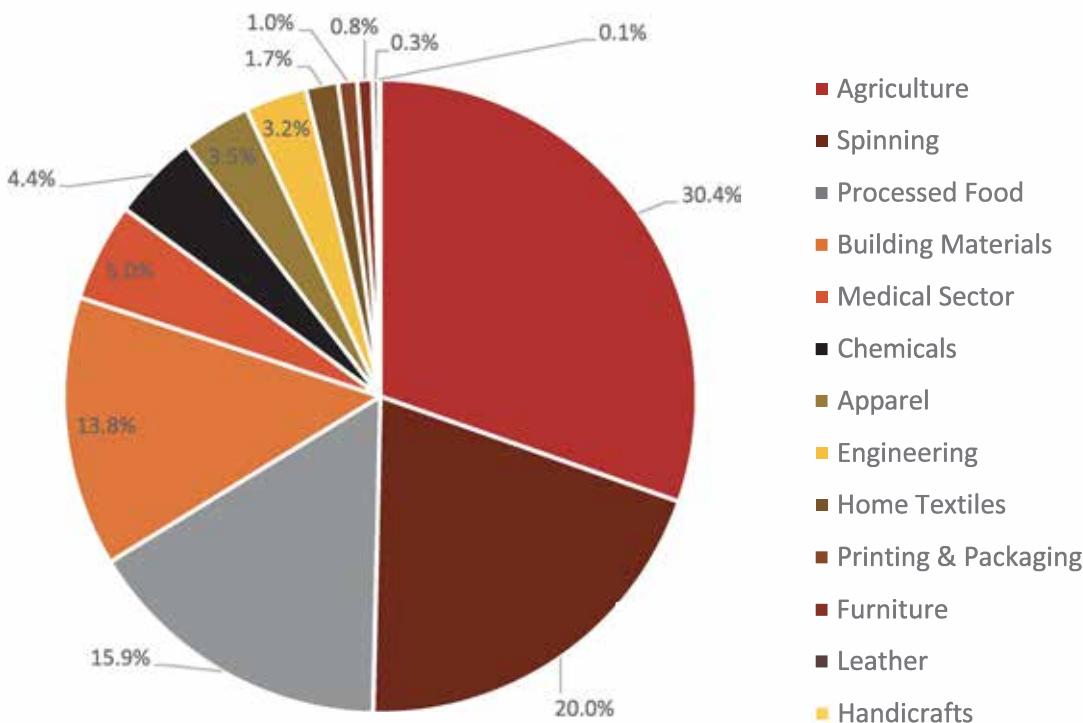
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**Distribution of Egypt's Exports to Switzerland by Sector**



Rank among  
Egypt's Importers  
**29<sup>th</sup>**

CAGR (2020-2024)  
**13%**

Share from Egypt's  
Exports  
**0.07%**

Source: Conducted by the researchers from (ITC, 2025)

Egypt's total exports to Switzerland have been growing over the past 5 years by a CAGR of 13%. A remarkable jump happened between 2022 and 2023 driven by increase in Switzerland's gold imports from Egypt. **It is important to note that gold imports are not included in the sectoral distribution nor the oil and gas sector and extractions, to understand the non-oil sectors' performance. The medical sector here, in the graph above, represents the medical supplies and the cosmetics (ITC, 2025).**



Agriculture, spinning, processed food, building materials and medical sector are Egypt's top exported sectors to Switzerland with a combined share of 85.1% from Egypt's total exports to Switzerland (ITC, 2025).

### Egypt's Imports from Switzerland by Product

HS Code	Product	Average Imports from Switzerland (2020-2024) (USD thousand)	Share of Total Average Imports from Switzerland
'300490	Medicaments consisting of mixed or unmixed products for therapeutic or prophylactic purposes	491,457.4	48.19%
'300420	Medicaments containing antibiotics, put up in measured doses "incl. those for transdermal administration"	78,011.2	7.65%
'300410	Medicaments containing penicillins or derivatives thereof with a penicillanic acid structure	73,996.8	7.26%
'330290	Mixtures of odorous substances and mixtures, incl. alcoholic solutions, based on one	41,324.4	4.05%
'271113	Butanes, liquefied (excl. of a purity of >= 95% of N-butane or isobutane)	33,094.0	3.25%
'321519	Printing ink, whether or not concentrated or solid (excl. black ink)	29,278.4	2.87%
'710812	Gold, incl. gold plated with platinum, unwrought, for non-monetary purposes	13,720.6	1.35%
'292219	Amino-alcohols, their ethers and esters; salts thereof (other than those containing > one kind	12,845.0	1.26%
'910229	Wrist-watches, whether or not incorporating a stop-watch facility, with hand winding only	11,807.0	1.16%
'293359	Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atom[s] only, containing a pyrimidine ring, whether	9,670.2	0.95%

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## Egypt's Exports to Switzerland by Product

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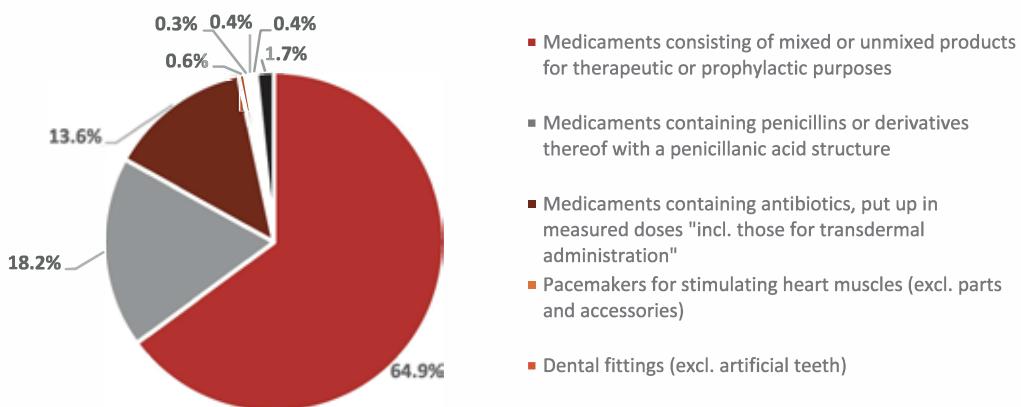
HS Code	Product	Average Exports to Switzerland (2020-2024) (USD thousand)	Share of Total Average Exports to Switzerland
'710812	Gold, incl. gold plated with platinum, unwrought, for non-monetary purposes	333108.6	82.8%
'270900	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude	35662.2	8.9%
'520959	Woven fabrics of cotton, containing >= 85% cotton by weight and weighing > 200 g/m <sup>2</sup>	3983.4	1.0%
'150710	Crude soya-bean oil, whether or not degummed	3050.6	0.8%
'721420	Bars and rods, of iron or non-alloy steel, with indentations, ribs, grooves or other deformations	2597.8	0.6%
'120241	Groundnuts, in shell (excl. seed for sowing, roasted or otherwise cooked)	2419.4	0.6%
'490700	Unused postage, revenue or similar stamps of current or new issue in the country in which they	2400	0.6%
'330129	Essential oils, whether or not terpeneless, incl. concretes and absolutes	2090.2	0.5%
'080610	Fresh grapes	1732.8	0.4%
'120242	Groundnuts, shelled, whether or not broken (excl. seed for sowing, roasted or otherwise cooked)	1333.2	0.3%

Source: Conducted by the researchers from (ITC, 2025)



### a. Medical Sector

Swiss companies in Egypt vary greatly in how much of their production is localized, means that using Egyptian inputs or local manufacturing, versus imported from abroad. Notable trends by sector include pharmaceuticals, food & beverages, machinery and industrial goods, and chemicals and materials. In pharmaceuticals, Egypt has prioritized local drug production. By 2024 it hosted about 179–180 pharma factories, with 91.3% of national drug demand supplied domestically. The government aims to raise local output to about 95% of demand by 2030 up from about 75% in 2022. Swiss multinationals, e.g. Novartis, Roche, are deeply involved: Novartis has a strong local manufacturing presence, and Roche has partnered with Egyptian firms, e.g. Gypto Pharma, to localize advanced biologic drug production. One recent project transferred Swiss biotech processes to Egypt, equipping local staff to manufacture a complex liver-cancer biologic. These efforts reduce imports, where the Drug Authority reports localization of 129 active pharmaceutical ingredients and 180 antibiotic products, cutting imports by about USD 633.7 million annually. Egypt now produces nearly all COVID-19 therapeutics and insulin analogues locally, saving about USD 182 million per year. Such substitution helps reduce the trade deficit for those product lines. Meanwhile, Egyptian exports have grown, where Egypt's drug exports jumped 66% from USD 270 million in 2019 to USD 447 million in 2024 (MENA Agency , 2025). In this context, Novartis plays a crucial role in strengthening Egypt's local supply chain, with 88.4% of its supply chain spend allocated to Egyptian suppliers. However, the company faces challenges, including inconsistent quality standards, delivery delays, and a high cost of local sourcing. Despite these challenges, Novartis actively supports local suppliers by providing upskilling programs to help them meet Novartis Standards through a structured Enterprise Risk Management (EPRM) approach. This collaboration with local suppliers is vital for improving local production capabilities and mitigating risks related to supply chain reliability, thereby further enhancing Egypt's role as a regional pharmaceutical hub.



Source: Conducted by the researchers from (ITC, 2025)

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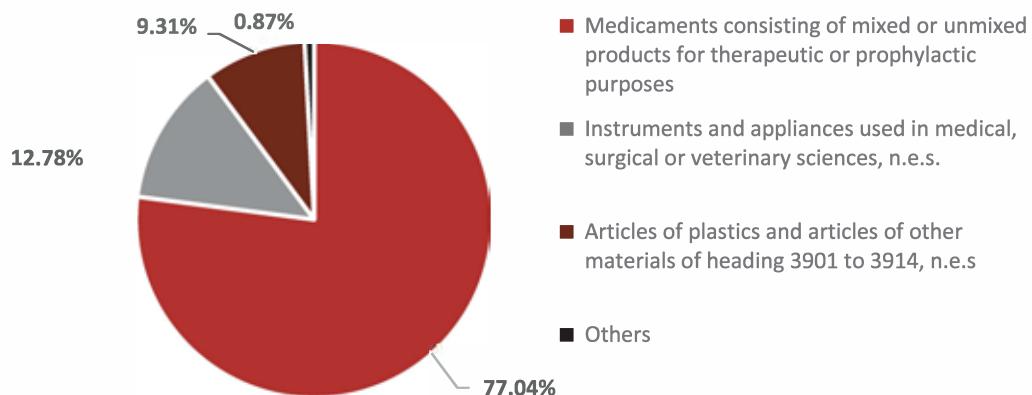
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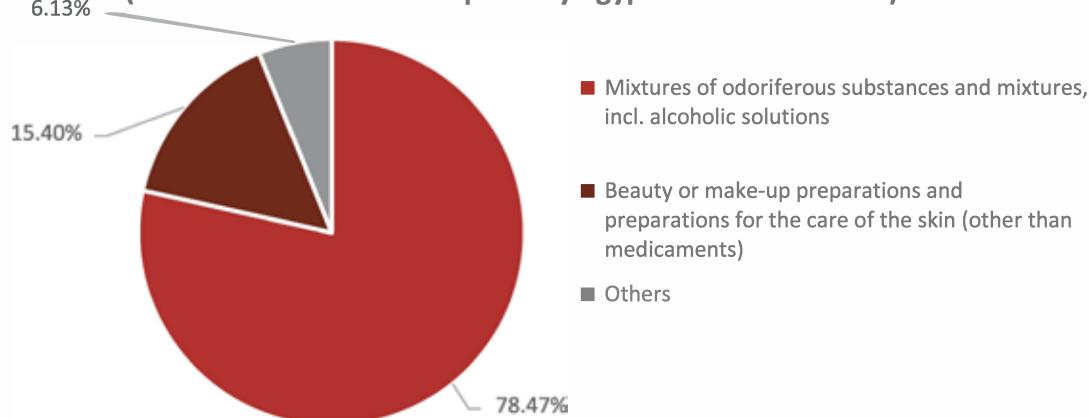
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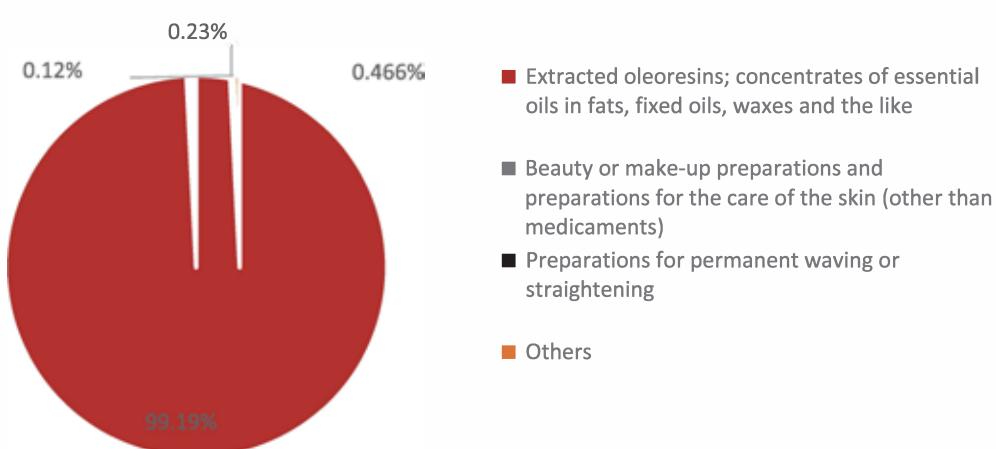
### Egypt's Medical Sector & Supplies Exported Products to Switzerland (Share of total sector's exports by Egypt to Switzerland)



### Egypt's Cosmetics Imported Products from Switzerland (Share of total sector's imports by Egypt from Switzerland)



### Egypt's Cosmetics Exported Products to Switzerland (Share of total sector's exports by Egypt to Switzerland)

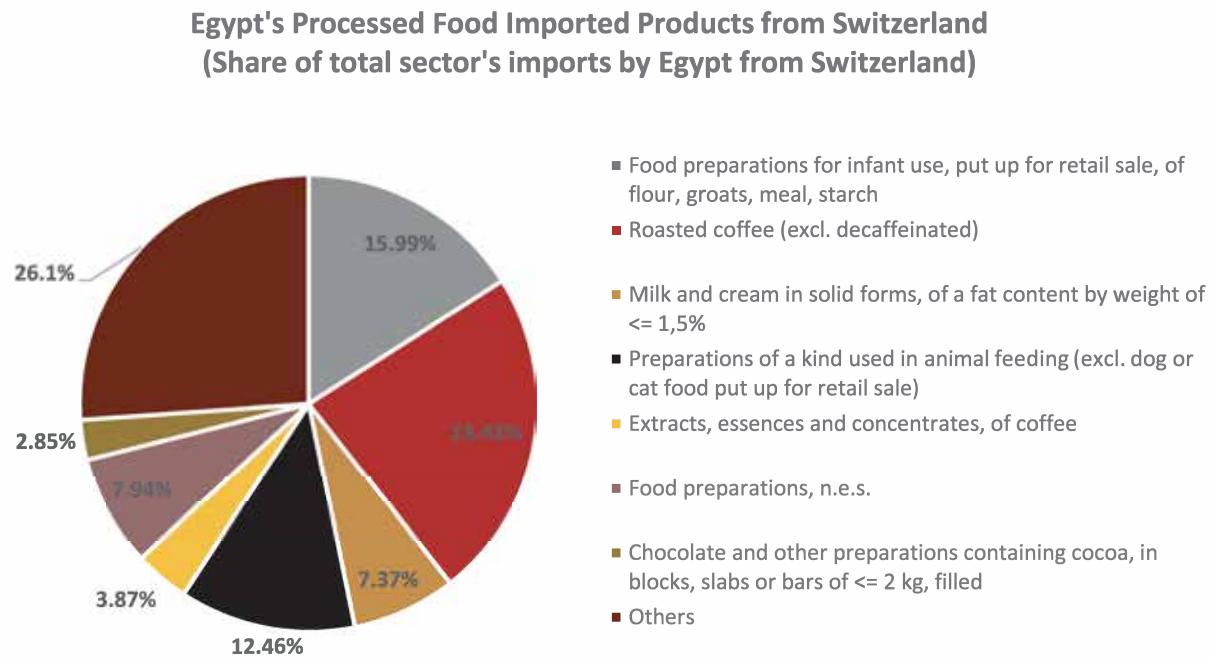


Source: Conducted by the researchers from (ITC, 2025)

## Food and Beverages

For food and beverages, Swiss F&B companies are expanding local production. For example, Nestlé Egypt is adding four new factory lines (three for food and one for dairy) by the end of 2023. Nestlé has fully localized 16 key raw-material inputs, helping reduce import dependence, while exporting Egyptian-made products to 22 countries and aiming to double exports by 2024. Likewise, Barry Callebaut (chocolate) is building a new USD 30 million factory to serve domestic demand and export to MENA. These expansions replace former imports of finished goods.

Coca-Cola Hellenic (Egypt) operates with 98% local production (only 2% imported inputs) and leverages EUR01 to avoid customs on eligible inputs. Around 95% of its suppliers are Egyptian and 70% of total procurement is local – equivalent to approximately EUR 430 million annually including both Capex and Opex – reflecting a predominantly domestic supply chain.



Source: Conducted by the researchers from (ITC. 2025)

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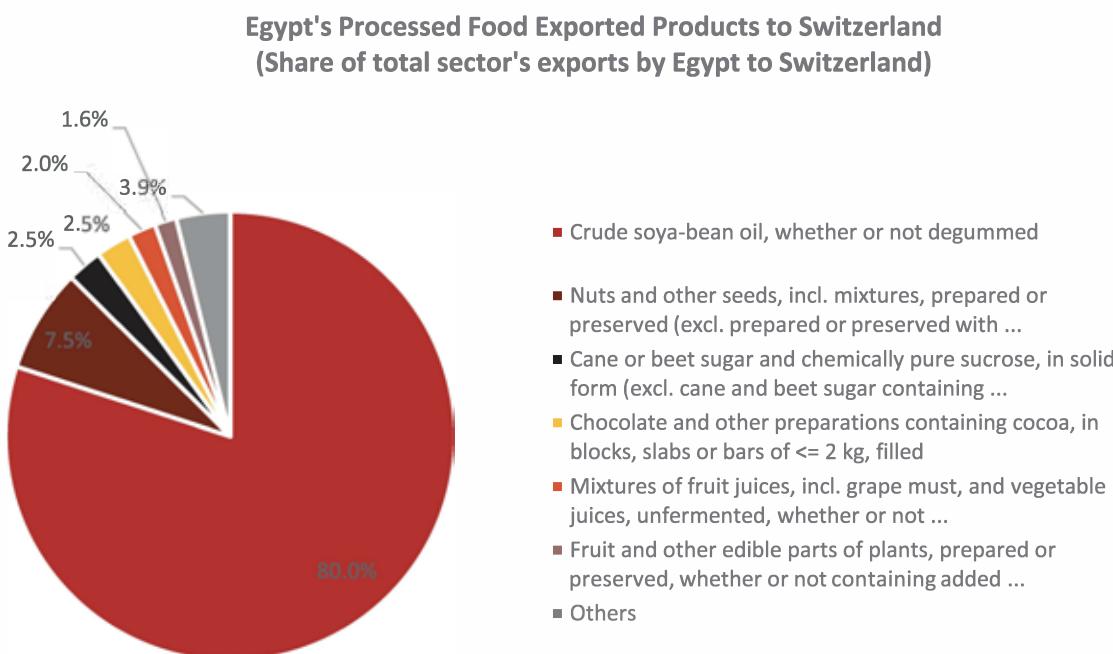
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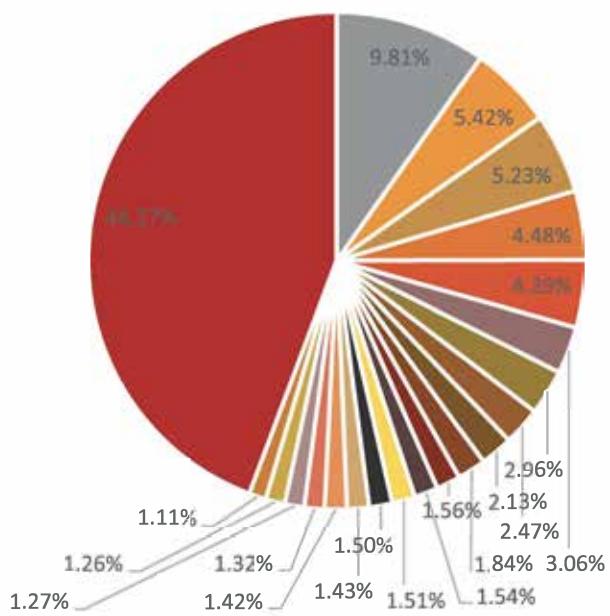
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Source: Conducted by the researchers from (ITC, 2025)

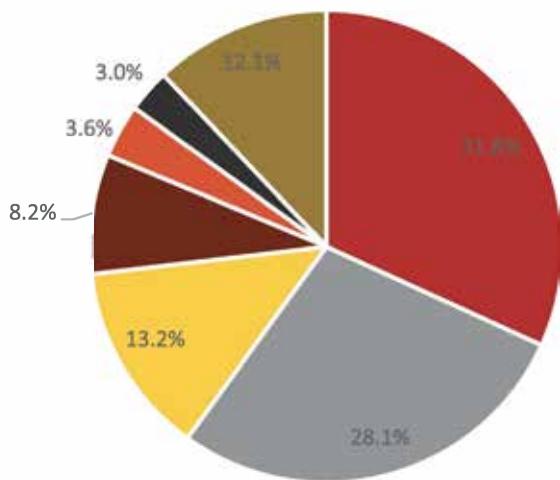


## Egypt's Engineering Sector Imported Products from Switzerland (Share of total sector's imports by Egypt from Switzerland)



- Wrist-watches, whether or not incorporating a stop-watch facility, with hand winding only
- Static converters
- Packing or wrapping machinery, incl. heat-shrink wrapping machinery
- Isolating switches and make-and-break switches, for a voltage > 1.000 V
- Parts of machinery of chapter 84, not intended for a specific purpose, n.e.s.
- Pacemakers for stimulating heart muscles (excl. parts and accessories)
- Machines for the reception, conversion and transmission or regeneration of voice, images
- Parts of: air or vacuum pumps, air or other gas compressors, fans and ventilating or recycling
- Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical or veterinary sciences, n.e.s.
- Parts of gas turbines, n.e.s.
- Artificial joints for orthopaedic purposes
- Appliances for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, vats or the like (excl. pressure-reducing valves)
- Wrist-watches, whether or not incorporating a stop-watch facility, electrically operated
- Dryers (excl. lyophilisation apparatus, freeze drying units, spray dryers, dryers for agricultural
- Dental fittings (excl. artificial teeth)
- Machines and mechanical appliances, n.e.s.
- Electric conductors for a voltage <= 1.000 V, insulated, fitted with connectors, n.e.s.
- Machinery for working rubber or plastics or for the manufacture of products from these materials
- Boards, cabinets and similar combinations of apparatus for electric control or the distribution
- Machine tools for working any material by removal of material, operated by laser
- Others

## Egypt's Engineering Sector Exported Products to Switzerland (Share of total sector's exports by Egypt to Switzerland)



- Instruments and appliances used in medical, surgical or veterinary sciences, n.e.s.
- Wrist-watches, whether or not incorporating a stop-watch facility, with hand winding only (excl. ...)
- Bars, rods and solid profiles, of aluminium alloys, n.e.s.
- Weighing machinery of a maximum weighing capacity > 5.000 kg
- Household or laundry-type washing machines, of a dry linen capacity <= 6 kg (excl. fully-automatic ...)
- Wrist-watches, whether or not incorporating a stop-watch facility, electrically operated, with ...
- Others

Source: Conducted by the researchers from (ITC, 2025)

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#### d. Chemicals and Construction Materials

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In chemicals and materials, Swiss chemical and construction-material firms e.g. Sika, Clariant operate locally. For instance, Holcim Egypt (formerly Swiss-owned) produces cement from local raw materials. Precise data on import vs. local content are scarce, but government incentives, such as tax breaks, fast-track licenses, are nudging such firms to source materials or produce more locally whenever feasible.

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Overall, Swiss firms in Egypt have trended increasing localization over time. In food processing, Nestlé's recent expansions explicitly aim to minimize expensive imports. In pharma, Egypt's rapidly expanding biotech capacity e.g. Gypto, EIPICO plants reflects a move from licensing imported drugs toward producing in-country. Many Swiss companies cite cost savings (inflation/tariff pressures) and export opportunities as reasons, e.g., Nestlé notes that local production cuts logistics costs and lets it use Egyptian agriculture outputs. In sum, the decade has seen a clear shift from imported inputs toward stronger local manufacturing with 2020s momentum (Fitch Solutions, 2022).

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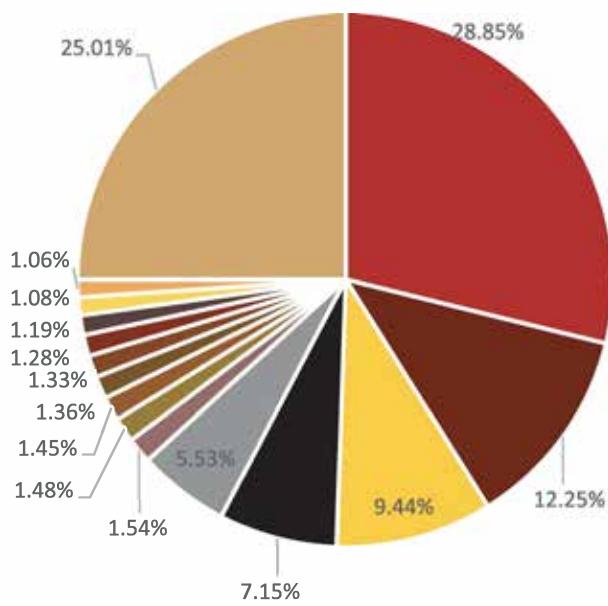
#### E. Industrial Machinery & Equipment

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Industrial Equipment — Engineering And Services Technology (EAST). Localization is deep on both breadth and spend: 80% of suppliers are Egyptian and ~88.4% of supply-chain spend is local (another field lists 80% local procurement). Reported 12–20% logistics/customs savings support price competitiveness; management notes margins stable with higher volumes due to lower cost/price points. A reported “35% local share” under revenue/production requires clarification given the high local sourcing.

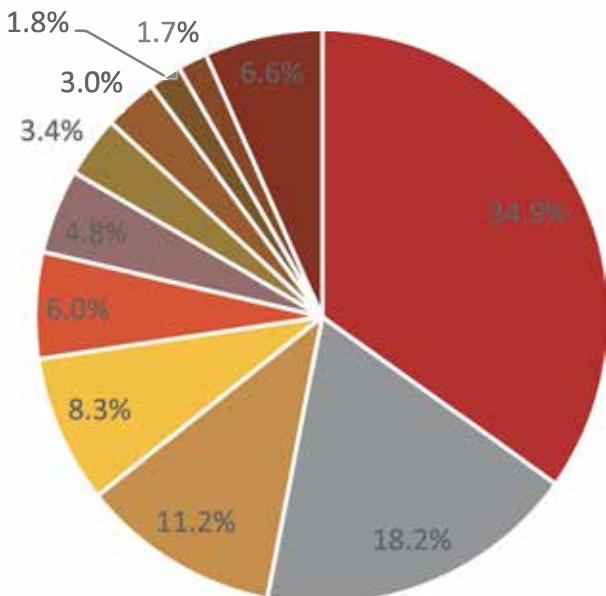


## Egypt's Chemicals Sector Imported Products from Switzerland (Share of total sector's imports by Egypt from Switzerland)



- Printing ink, whether or not concentrated or solid (excl. black ink)
- Amino-alcohols, their ethers and esters; salts thereof (other than those containing > one kind
- Uncoated paper and paperboard, of a kind used for writing, printing or other graphic purposes
- Amino-acids and their esters; salts thereof (excl. those with > one kind of oxygen function)
- Heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atom[s] only, containing a pyrimidine ring, whether or not prepared
- Prepared binders for foundry moulds or cores
- Glaziers' putty, grafting putty, resin cements, caulking compounds and other mastics; painters'
- Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced
- Chemical products and preparations of the chemical or allied industries, incl. those consisting
- Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride
- Anti-oxidising preparations and other compound stabilisers for rubber or plastics
- Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s
- Vitamin E and its derivatives, used primarily as vitamins
- Diagnostic or laboratory reagents on a backing, prepared diagnostic or laboratory reagents
- Others

## Egypt's Chemicals Sector Exported Products to Switzerland (Share of total sector's exports by Egypt to Switzerland)



- Polymers of ethylene, in primary forms (excl. polyethylene and ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers)
- Mineral or chemical phosphatic fertilisers (excl. superphosphates, those in tablets or similar ...)
- Poly"vinyl chloride", in primary forms, not mixed with any other substances
- Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (excl. ...)
- Poly"ethylene terephthalate", in primary forms, having a viscosity number of  $\geq 78 \text{ ml/g}$
- Silicates of sodium, incl. commercial silicates (excl. sodium metasilicates)
- Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether ...
- Carbon "carbon blacks and other forms of carbon", n.e.s.
- Biodiesel and mixtures thereof, not containing or containing  $< 70\%$  by weight of petroleum ...
- Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, ...
- Others

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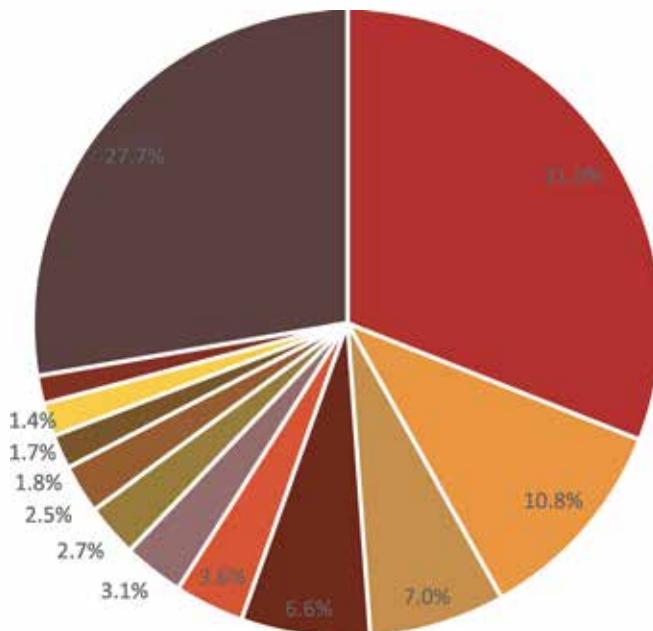
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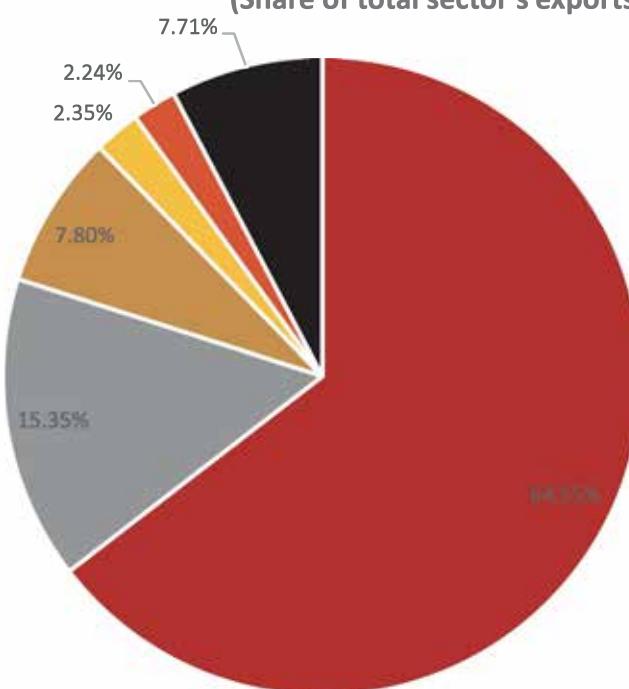
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## Egypt's Building Materials Sector Imported Products from Switzerland (Share of total sector's imports by Egypt from Switzerland)



- Articles of iron or steel, n.e.s. (excl. cast articles or articles of iron or steel wire)
- Natural or artificial abrasive powder or grain, on a base of paper or paperboard only
- Structures and parts of structures, of iron or steel, n.e.s. (excl. bridges and bridge-sections)
- Flat-rolled products of iron or non-alloy steel, of a width of >= 600 mm, in coils
- Threaded screws and bolts, of iron or steel, whether or not with their nuts and washers
- Threaded articles, of iron or steel, n.e.s.
- Natural or artificial abrasive powder or grain, on a base of materials other than woven textile
- Articles of carbon fibres, for non-electrical purposes (excl. fabrics)
- Articles of iron or steel, forged or stamped, but not further worked, n.e.s.
- Sanitary ware, incl. parts thereof (excl. cans, boxes and similar containers of heading 7310)
- Flat-rolled products of stainless steel, of a width of >= 600 mm, not further worked than cold-rolled
- Others

## Egypt's Building Materials Sector Exported Products to Switzerland (Share of total sector's exports by Egypt to Switzerland)



- Bars and rods, of iron or non-alloy steel, with indentations, ribs, grooves or other deformations ...
- White portland cement, whether or not artificially coloured
- Ferro-silicon, containing by weight > 55% of silicon
- Bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of iron or non-alloy steel, of circular ...
- Structures and parts of structures, of iron or steel, n.e.s. (excl. bridges and bridge-sections, ...)
- Others



# 6

## Employment Impact

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Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt

2025



## ● Employment Impact

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Swiss firms in Egypt, spanning sectors such as food and beverage (e.g., Coca-Cola Hellenic, Nestlé), pharmaceuticals (e.g., Novartis, Roche), engineering (e.g., ABB, Holcim), testing (e.g., SGS), and agritech (e.g., Syngenta), collectively provide approximately 10,000 to 12,000 direct job opportunities.

**Coca-Cola Hellenic (CCH)** employs 4,900 people, with 886 in production and 717 in indirect roles, while Nestlé employs over 3,000 employees directly across three factories.

In addition to direct roles, Swiss companies create significant indirect job opportunities through their supply chains and customer networks. For instance:

**Nestlé Egypt estimates ~8,000 indirect jobs at local distributors and suppliers.**

**Novartis employs 650 full-time employees and supports an additional 1,656 indirect jobs.**

These companies invest in workforce development, offering technical, leadership, and cross-functional training programs, and collaborate with NGOs like Helm to support Persons with Disabilities (PWD).

Studies such as the EIB/ILO employment-impact report suggest that indirect and induced effects can exceed 50–70% of total job impact.

For example, for every direct Nestlé job, there are typically two more in the wider economy, with similar effects seen in ABB's energy projects.

Coca-Cola HBC Egypt also generates significant indirect employment, supporting approximately 80,000 additional jobs across its value chain.

The company also provides structured learning opportunities through Sales & Supply Chain academies and leadership programs like “Ready2Lead”, “Passion2Lead”, and “Empowered Chain”, demonstrating long-term investment in skills development and career growth.

Swiss firms are recognized for offering compensation that meets or exceeds local market standards, reflecting international pay practices. Egypt's new 2025 private-sector minimum wage is set at EGP 7,000 (≈ USD 138), while Swiss companies, including Coca-Cola Hellenic, typically offer salaries well above this baseline.



These firms contribute to the local economy not only through direct employment but by fostering skill development and enhancing industry standards. Structured training programs and partnerships with leading institutions such as AUC, GUC, GIU, and Ain Shams demonstrate a commitment to empowering Egypt's workforce, particularly in underrepresented groups and youth.

Through such initiatives, Swiss companies play a key role in creating a sustainable, skilled labor market, while supporting Egypt's broader economic goals (ILO, 2025; EIB, 2020).

While "induced" means jobs created by additional household spending from income earned by directly/indirectly employed workers; these often add another 10–30%. In large cases, Nestlé's case illustrates that for every direct Nestlé job there may be roughly two more in the wider economy.

Some induced effects come from projects by other foreign or local sectors where Swiss companies are active. For example, Swiss ABB works in power automation, a field where energy projects can have high multipliers (EIB, 2015).

Swiss firms also actively support skills development in Egypt through structured training and graduate programs aligned with global industry standards. For example, ABB Egypt runs annual "MyLearning–MyFuture" and "ABBright Minds" programs for engineering students, while multinational companies such as Nestlé and Roche offer internships and trainee schemes. In addition, Coca-Cola HBC Egypt delivers dedicated "Supply Chain Management Programs" for supply chain students and an "International Leadership Program" for marketing and commercial students, helping prepare graduates for future leadership roles and supporting both local employment and the export of Egyptian talent.

In addition, the Swiss government and agencies, especially SECO, promote vocational training (ABB, 2024). A flagship example is the Elsewedy Technical Academy (STA), a vocational school in Cairo.

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1 supported by Swiss–Egyptian cooperation. Since 2018, Switzerland, with the EBRD and  
 2 Germany's GFA, has helped modernize STA's industrial-electronics technician  
 3 curriculum, extending Swiss-style dual education to Egypt. The Swiss Ambassador  
 4 praises this as boosting high-quality skills-development opportunities for young  
 5 women and men. In parallel, Coca-Cola HBC Egypt has also partnered with STA to  
 6 provide electrical and logistics students with a three-year practical training program at  
 7 CCH Egypt's production plant and mega warehouse. SwissCham and policy reports  
 8 note that Swiss companies in Egypt and Swiss firms often collaborate on TVET  
 9 initiatives to build a skilled labor force. In short, both corporate and Swiss-government  
 10 initiatives contribute to upgrading the capabilities of Egyptian workers, with particular  
 11 emphasis on youth and under-represented groups.

12 Swiss companies are a mid-sized foreign investment group in Egypt. Larger-scale investors like  
 13 China and the U.S. dwarf Swiss numbers. For context, recent reports note 2,800 Chinese firms  
 14 in Egypt with USD 8 billion investment, creating an estimated 24,000 jobs. For example, OPPO  
 15 alone built two factories with about 1,000 employees. By contrast, the 12,000 jobs from the  
 16 100 Swiss firms are comparable to that of other medium-size investor countries. While Swiss  
 17 companies may be smaller in number compared to larger investor countries, such as the  
 United States, United Kingdom, or France, their presence in Egypt is significant, particularly in  
 high value-added sectors like pharmaceuticals, machinery, and food processing. These sectors  
 are known to generate not only stable employment but also quality jobs that often include  
 structured training, skill development, and long-term career pathways. The emphasis on  
 technical and professional roles, especially in engineering, quality assurance, and advanced  
 manufacturing, underscores the qualitative economic contribution of Swiss firms to Egypt's  
 labor market. Rather than volume alone, the Swiss employment footprint is marked by its  
 focus on skill-intensive, internationally integrated sectors (Ahram Online, 2025).

18 Swiss and Egyptian authorities emphasize inclusive employment, for example, the STA  
 19 vocational program explicitly targets both young men and women. Any Swiss firms in Egypt  
 20 have significant female staffing in administration, sales, and quality departments, mirroring  
 21 global practice, e.g. Nestlé and Roche often hire women in their Egyptian offices. Regionally,  
 22 most Swiss-company facilities (factories, labs, offices) are concentrated in Greater Cairo and  
 23 industrial zones, Alexandria, Tenth of Ramadan, Beni Suef, etc, since these offer infrastructure  
 24 and access to labor. Few Swiss multinationals have factories in Upper Egypt; most hire from  
 25 across Egypt and some expatriate technical staff (Multiplier, 2025).



The Egyptian government has rolled out various incentives that benefit Swiss employers and their workforce. Notably, a 2019–2021 labor reform extended social-insurance exemptions for new hires. It is important to note that employers pay no social-security contributions on a new employee's wages for up to 2 years, lowering the cost of hiring youth and women. A recent Labor Ministry initiative also provides on-the-job training grants and subsidies for companies that train their employees via its Employment Fund. In addition, Egypt's new minimum-wage law and ongoing vocational-training funds encourage private firms to invest in skills. Swiss firms have taken advantage of these, for example, ABB and others coordinate with government vocational institutes under the Technical Education Initiative (TCTI) to ensure training meets industry needs. Switzerland's own foreign-aid programs dovetail with this: SECO-funded projects (like STA above) are explicitly designed to improve workforce quality in alignment with national strategy. These combined public and Swiss efforts, from wage laws to training grants, help Swiss companies hire and train Egyptian workers in recent years (ILO, 2022).

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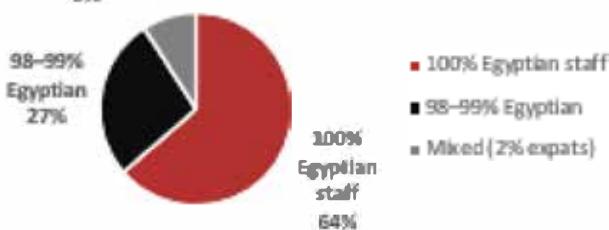
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## Companies' Workforce Nationality Composition



Swiss firms in Egypt overwhelmingly employ local talent (98–100% Egyptians).

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**Approximate average:** About 55 new jobs per company over 5 years.

**Firms are moderately expanding, with some major job creators (+1,300 employees total for one company, +140 jobs added).**

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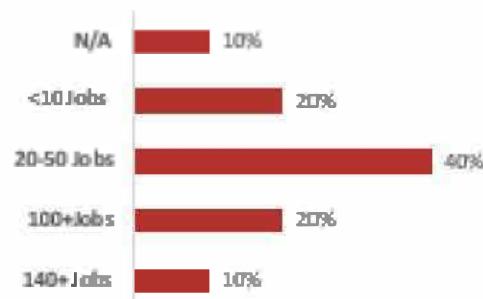
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## New Jobs Created During the Last 5 Years in the Selected Companies

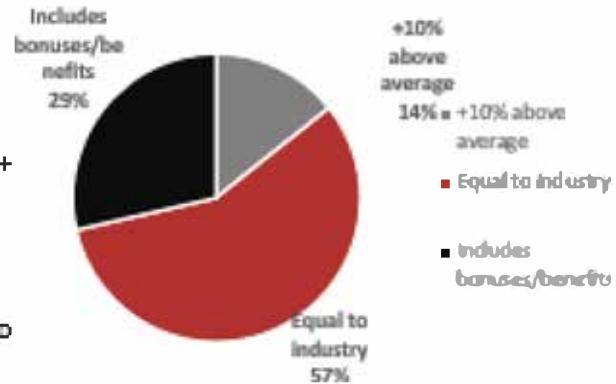


## Skill Proportion Range in Companies



Swiss companies emphasize skilled labour (80–100% of workforce in several cases), reflecting the companies' focus on high productivity and quality output.

## Salary Benchmarking



One firm offers 15–20% better total package (salary + perks).

The remaining firms did not answer the question.

Wages are at or above industry standard, likely used to attract higher-skilled labor.



# Taxation Contributions

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Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt

2025



# Taxation Contributions

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## Taxation Contributions

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Egypt's tax system underwent major reforms starting in 2016 with the introduction of VAT (13%, later 14%) and consolidated income tax laws. These changes coincided with major currency devaluations (2016, 2022–24), inflating import costs for Swiss firms and boosting nominal tax revenues. Swiss companies pay corporate income tax (CIT) at 22.5% on local profits, part of the EGP 202 billion in corporate taxes collected from other companies in FY2021/2022. Under the 1988 Egypt–Switzerland Double Tax Treaty, Swiss shareholders are exempt from Egypt's 10% dividend withholding tax, easing capital repatriation (PwC, 2025).

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Swiss businesses must register and charge 14% VAT on domestic sales and imports, while benefiting from input VAT recovery and reduced rates (5%) on machinery. VAT contributed EGP 311 billion to state revenues in FY2022/2023. In payroll taxes, employers pay 18.75%, and employees contribute 11% of salaries to social insurance. Swiss firms also withhold progressive income taxes (up to 22.5%) from employees. These payments contributed to the EGP 134.9 billion in salary tax revenues in FY2021/2022. Swiss employers are treated like all firms, no special levies apply (EY, 2023b).

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For example, Syngenta Agro Egypt reports paying the standard 22.5% CIT on local profits, along with social security contributions, payroll taxes, and around \$750,000 annually in customs duties for imported agricultural inputs. This reflects how Swiss companies contribute not only through income and payroll taxes but also via trade-related levies, despite limited local production. Similarly, Novartis contributes significantly to Egypt's fiscal revenues, having paid approximately EGP 99.8 million in corporate taxes and EGP 8.3 million in VAT (excluding VAT collected at Customs). Its additional contributions include EGP 1.8 million in stamp duty and real estate taxes, EGP 149.8 million in payroll taxes, and EGP 35 million in social security contributions. Supplier-related tax transactions amounted to EGP 12.3 million, while customs duties and exemptions were not specified.

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Swiss importers generally benefit from reduced or zero tariffs under the Egypt–EFTA agreement; otherwise, they pay standard tariffs and import VAT. Trade taxes form about 6% of Egypt's revenues. Tax incentives under Egypt's Investment Laws (2017, 2019, 2023) apply equally to Swiss firms: customs duty exemptions, reduced CIT (to 20%), and new 35–55% cash refunds for export-oriented investments. Law 160/2023 and upcoming Law 5/2025 also offer stamp-duty waivers, streamlined VAT refunds, and infrastructure subsidies, enhancing investor ease. Swiss businesses benefit from these reforms, aligning with IMF-driven competitiveness goals (EY, 2023b).



Corporate Income Tax (CIT)	Double Taxation Treaty	Value Added Tax (VAT)	Payroll & Social Insurance Contributions	Customs Duties	Compliance
Standard CIT: 22.5% applies to all firms.  Swiss firms contribute a share of "other companies" EGP 202 billion in CIT (FY2021/2022)	Egypt–Switzerland treaty (1988):  -Dividends, interest, and royalties paid to Swiss residents are exempt or reduced from Egyptian withholding tax.  -Encourages reinvestment, reduces tax	14% VAT on goods/services and imports.  Swiss firms:  -Must register and collect VAT on domestic sales. -Benefit from input VAT refunds. -May qualify for reduced 5% VAT on certain machinery imports.	Employer: 18.75%, Employee: 11% of salary to social insurance.  Personal income tax: up to 22.5%, withheld by employer.  Swiss firms help contribute to Egypt's EGP	Low/zero tariffs for most Swiss goods under the EFTA agreement.  Standard tariffs apply	Swiss companies are compliant, transparent, and aided by SwissCham and the embassy.  No public tax evasion issues noted.  Egypt is working to meet global transparency standards encouraged by

**Payroll**, the reported range from EGP 265,000 to 25 million.

Only 1 company reported CHF 250,000 payroll taxes in Egypt.

3 companies benefit from Free Zone or investment law incentives.

4 companies mentioned that tax rates are barriers. Others also mentioned delays in tax processing, not only high rates.

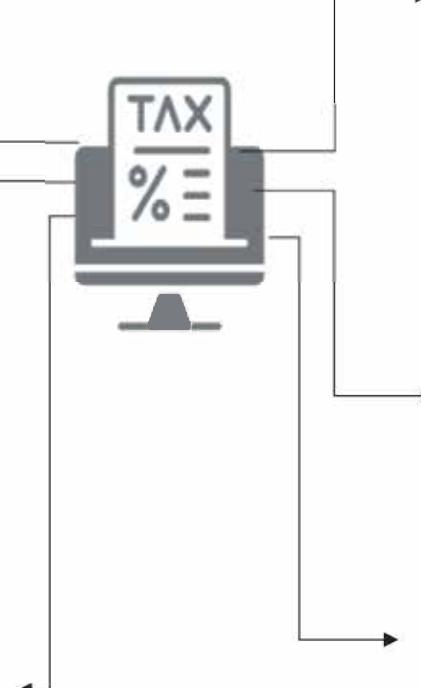
**Customs Duties**: One company reports EGP 25 million, another CHF 13,000

**Corporate Taxes**: Most common rate: 22.5% corporate tax (reported by 5 companies).

The reported range was from 1.5% to 24%, depending on exemptions and sector.

**VAT**: 8 out of 10 companies pay VAT. It ranges between 10%–14%. One reports EGP 200 million, another EGP 12 million in annual VAT.

All companies reported paying **social security contributions**, where annual contributions reach EGP 3 to 120 million.



# 8

## **Sectoral Engagement of Swiss Business in Egypt**

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**Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt**

**2025**



### III. Sectoral Engagement of Swiss Business in Egypt

Swiss companies in Egypt are active across a wide range of industries, with a particularly strong presence in pharmaceuticals, food processing, precision engineering, and chemicals. Their operations span manufacturing, distribution, and research, often involving joint ventures or partnerships with local entities.

Swiss firms show variations averaging 10% annual growth, especially post-2016 reforms, as estimated and measured by the researchers based on FDI inflows available data from the Central Bank of Egypt. A 4% increase is estimated to be stable annual growth (CAGR) in the last three years and 22% in the last 8 years. In FY 2022/2023, 4.2% of total FDI to Egypt came from Switzerland. While it increased in FY 2023/2024, FY 2021/2022, FY 2017/18; and decreased only in FY 2019/2020 due to the pandemic (CBE, 2025).

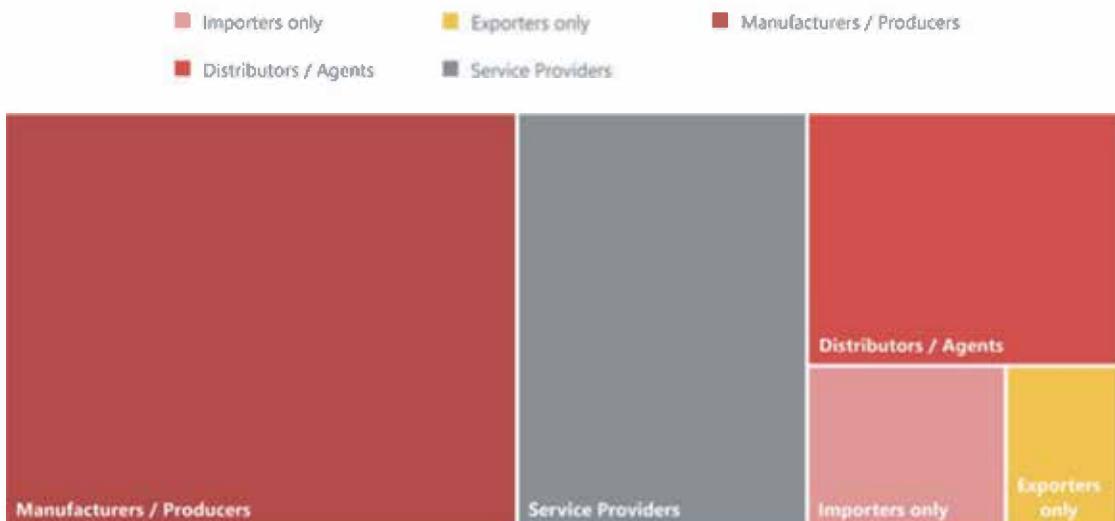
Many are expanding local manufacturing to mitigate import costs. As of 2024, approximately 100 Swiss companies are actively operating in Egypt, spanning various sectors such as pharmaceuticals, food processing, textiles, financial services, and engineering. These companies are at the forefront of expanding local production, particularly in the pharmaceutical, food, and textile sectors (GAIFI & FEDCOC, 2025).

Pharmaceutical firms such as Novartis and Roche have not only contributed to local production but also to technology transfer and workforce upskills. In food and beverage, Nestlé's investments have enabled substantial localization, reducing reliance on imports and integrating local suppliers into global supply chains.

The presence of Swiss firms also exerts a positive spillover effect on Egypt's industrial ecosystem, introducing advanced production techniques, quality assurance standards, and efficient management practices. As Egypt seeks to grow its manufacturing base under the Vision 2030 framework, the role of experienced multinational investors becomes even more critical. In this evolving landscape, Swiss firms are both adapting to and shaping key structural trends, from macroeconomic reforms to shifting trade dynamics and regulatory modernization. This section presents a structured breakdown of these companies by sector and supply chain role, followed by dedicated profiles of key contributing firms. The data is sourced from SwissCham Egypt, the Swiss Embassy in Egypt, GAIFI, and company-level disclosures (Annual Reports 2023–2024).

- **Breakdown by Supply-Chain Role**

Role	Estimate (Count)	% of Total (70)	Insights
Manufacturers / Producers	32	46%	Includes companies with local factories, plants, or joint ventures producing chemicals, pharmaceuticals, machinery, construction materials, etc.
Service Providers	18	26%	Swiss-affiliated firms offering services (finance, logistics, inspections, engineering, hotel/hospitality) such as UBS, Julius Baer, Zurich, Swiss Re, SGS, Swissport, etc.
Distributors / Agents	12	17%	Those acting as local distributors or agents for Swiss products (e.g., Novartis, Roche, Sandoz, Alcon, Syngenta, Givaudan, Clariant, Firmenich, Hexal, Ropharm, Omya, Panalpina/DSV).
Importers only	5	7%	Companies that solely import Swiss-made goods (e.g., Rolex/Omega/Swatch, Victorinox, Logitech, Dormer Tools, V-Zug).
Exporters only	3	4%	Firms focused solely on exporting Egyptian-produced goods (e.g., Arab Swiss Chemicals, Al Faltas, Suez Bag Company).



*Sources: Compiled and Estimated by the Researchers, GOEIC Importers and Exporters List from 2019-2024, General Research, Percentages can sum to >100% due to overlapping roles; e.g., a manufacturer may export and distribute; ITC, 2024, GOEIC, 2023.*

Nearly half (46%) of the firms are mainly manufacturers or producers, reflecting strong Swiss investment in Egyptian industrial production. Service providers (26%) form the second largest segment, highlighting Switzerland's presence in financial, logistics, and professional services. Import-only and export-only groups are smaller (7% and 4% respectively), showing most companies have broader operational footprints. Distributors/agents (17%) bridge imported Swiss goods with Egyptian markets (ITC, 2024, GOEIC, 2023).

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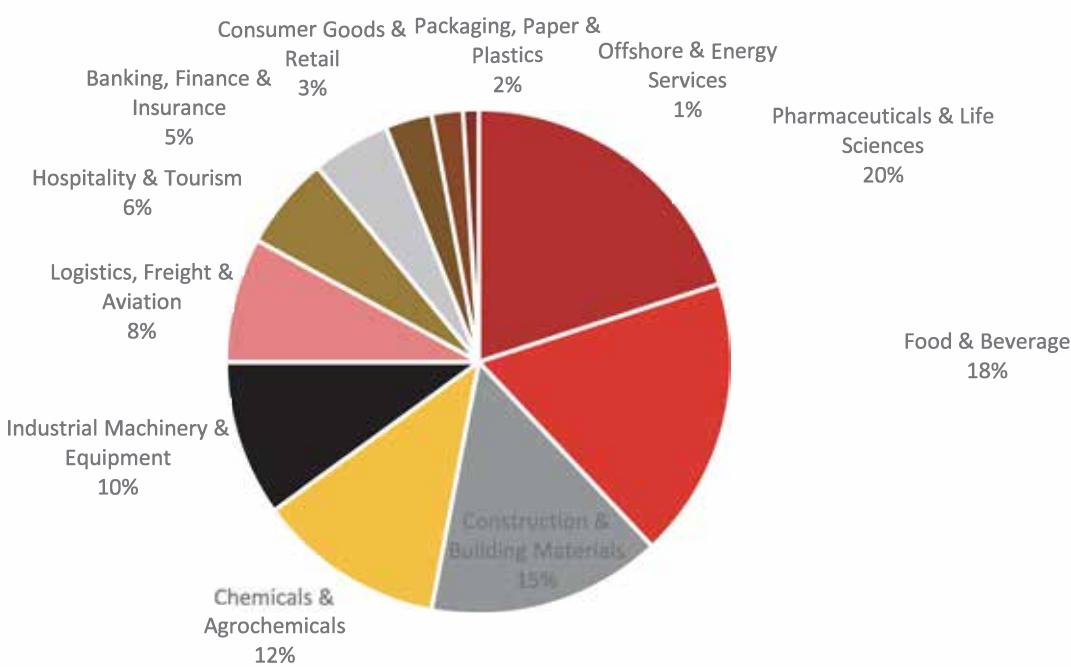
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## • Sector Classification

### Swiss Companies Operating by Sectors



Sources: Compiled and Estimated by the Researchers, GOEIC Importers and Exporters List from 2019-2024, General Research, Percentages can sum to >100% due to overlapping roles; e.g., a manufacturer may export and distribute; ITC, 2024, GOEIC, 2023.



## Sector-by-Sector Breakdown of Swiss Business Activity

	Pharmaceuticals and Life Sciences	Food and Beverage	Construction and Building Materials	Industrial Equipment and Precision Engineering	Logistics and Testing Services	Banking and Financial Technology	
Key Companies	Novartis, Roche, Sandoz, Alcon, Vifor Pharma, Lonza	Nestlé, Hero, Emmi, Lindt & Sprüngli, Mövenpick	LafargeHolcim, Sika, Clariant, Swiss Inn (related hospitality infrastructure)	ABB, Bühler, Schindler, Georg Fischer, Endress+Hauser, Sulzer	SGS, Swissport, Panalpina (now DHL)	Temenos, Julius Baer, UBS, Zurich Insurance, Swiss Re	2
Key Activities	Local drug production, technology transfer, diagnostics labs, R&D collaboration	Large-scale production, cold chain development, rural sourcing of raw inputs	Cement manufacturing, smart additives, green construction tech	Local machinery projects, automation support, smart logistics solutions	Export certification, cargo handling, quality testing	Core banking systems, reinsurance, private banking	3
Impact	Over 3,000 direct jobs, rising share of locally produced formulations	Nestle has 3 factories, strong employment, contribution to food security goals	Supply chain support to infrastructure projects aligned with Vision 2030	Modernization of factories and food silos (Bühler), digital industrial upgrades	Reduced transaction costs, improved industrial export quality	Digital transformation of financial services, cross-border investment platforms	4

Sources: Compiled by the Researchers from Novartis Egypt Annual Report 2023; SwissCham Egypt, Nestlé Egypt Sustainability Report 2023; Hero MEA Press Release 2024, Lafarge Egypt Integrated Report 2023; Sika Egypt website, ABB Egypt website, Bühler Group Global Projects 2023, SGS Annual Report Egypt 2023; Swissport Egypt Overview, Temenos Client Portfolio 2023; Swiss Embassy FinTech Overview



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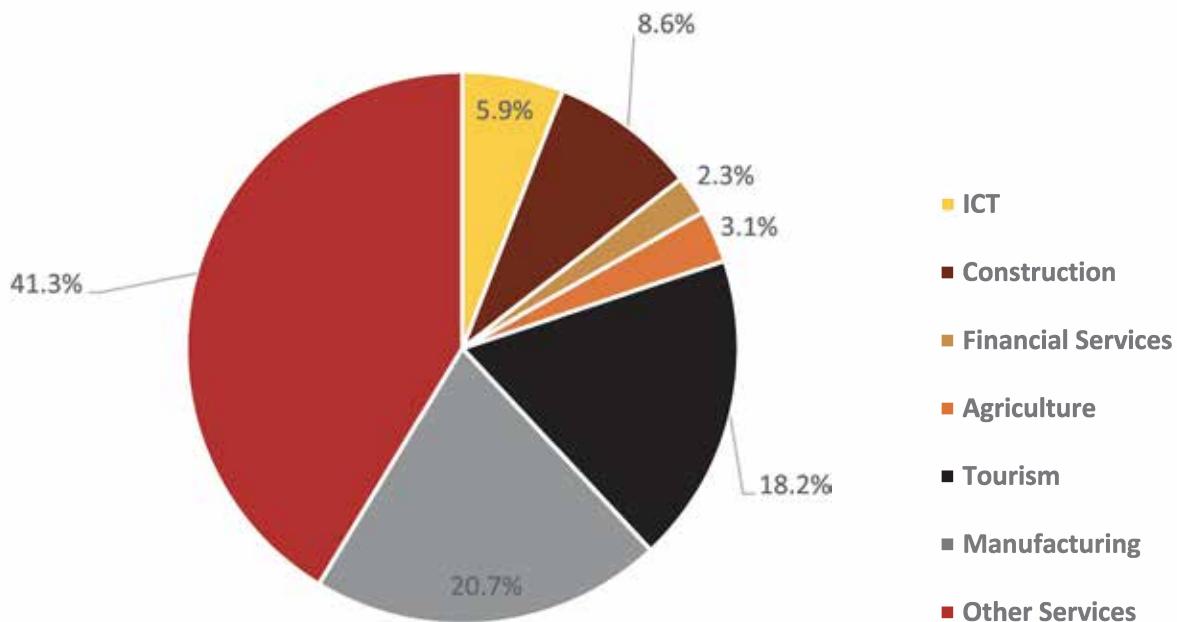
# Decadal Trends of Swiss Investors in Egypt



Total Estimated Number of Swiss Investors

+500

ESTIMATED CLASSIFICATION BY SPECIALIZATION

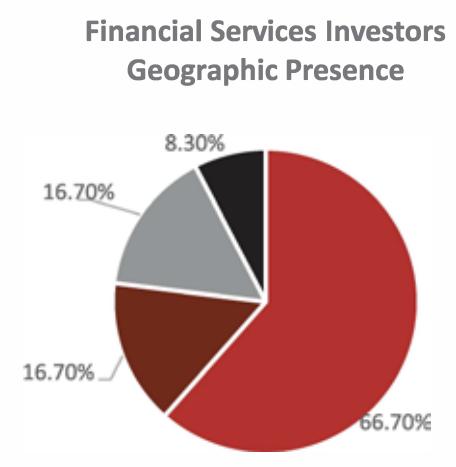


Source: SwissCham in Egypt, 2025

## • Financial Services

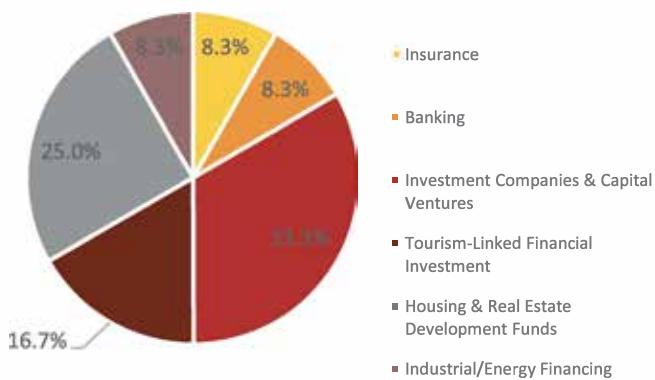
These represent banking, insurance, investment, real estate finance, tourism-related finance, and special-purpose funds.

Almost all headquarters/addresses are Cairo/Giza (Nasr City, Zamalek, Heliopolis, New Cairo, Dokki); very limited or few companies operate in South Sinai while Cairo is the head quarter for administration.



Source: SwissCham in Egypt, 2025

**Estimated Subsector Distribution in Financial Services Sector**



The largest cluster is in investment companies & capital ventures (33%), showing Swiss interest in multi-sector financing in Egypt.

A small portion (25%) of companies are either under liquidation or dormant ("تحت التصفية"), which may reflect shifting market conditions or sectoral restructuring.

*The potential growth areas in this sub-sector are mainly Banking, insurance penetration, and real estate development, given Egypt's economic reforms and infrastructure expansion.*

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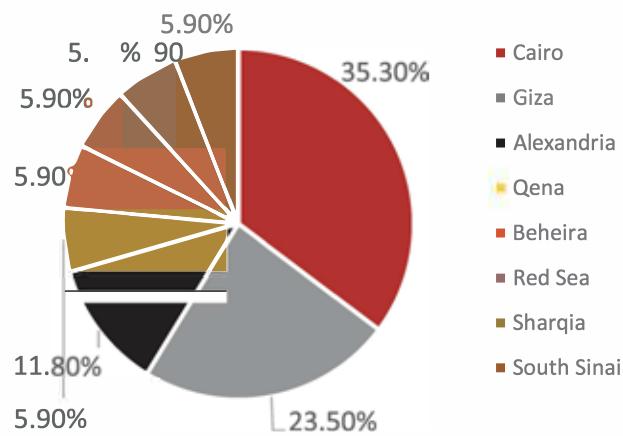
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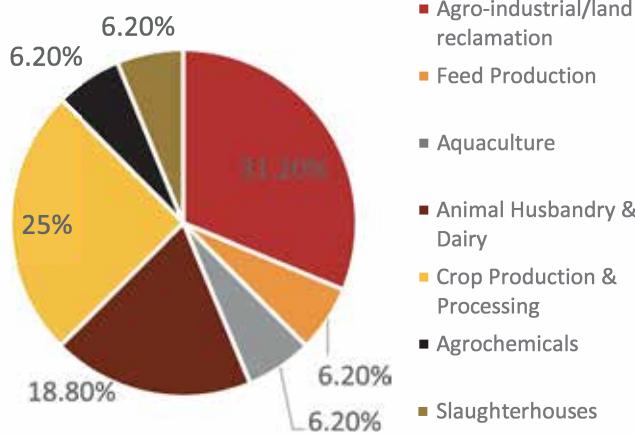
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**Agriculture Investors Estimated Geographic Presence**



**Estimated Subsector Distribution in Agriculture Sector**

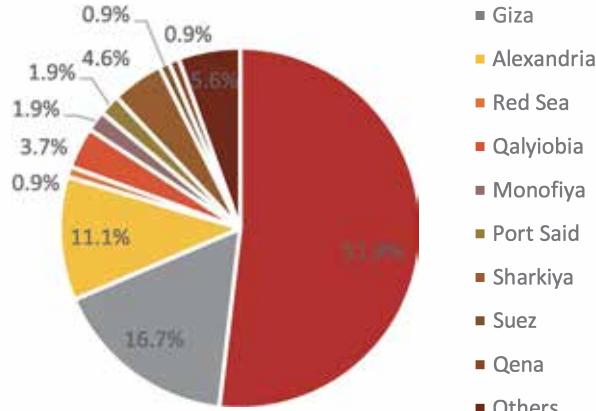


## Swiss-linked Presence

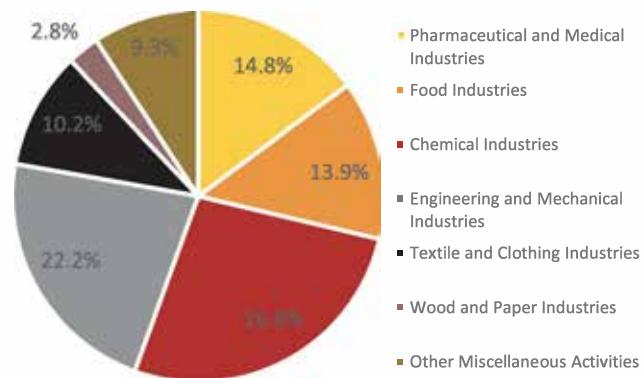
- Swiss-linked companies form only **5.9%** of the total.
- Non-Swiss-linked make up **94.1%**.

## Manufacturing

**Manufacturing Investors Estimated Geographic Presence**



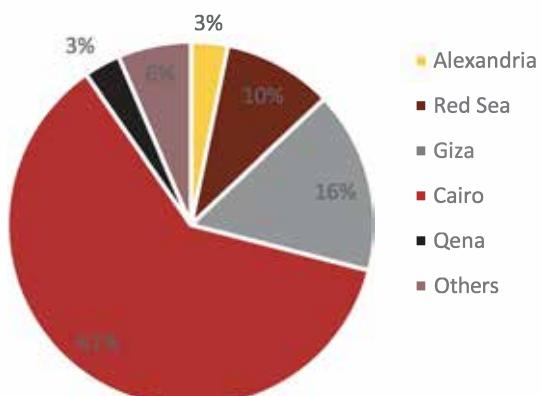
**Estimated Subsector Distribution in Manufacturing Sector**



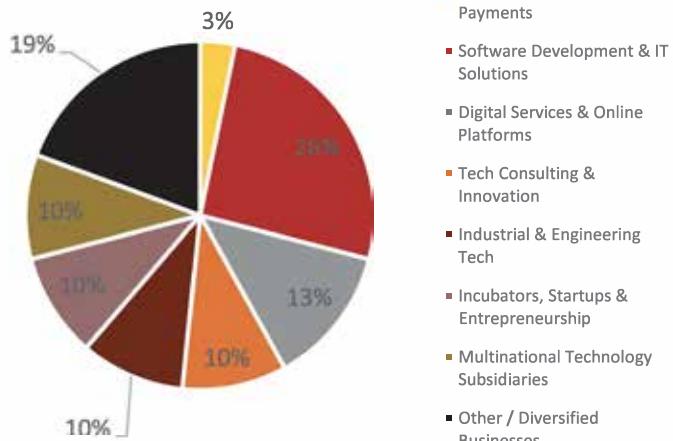
Source: SwissCham in Egypt, 2025

## Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

ICT Investors Estimated Geographic Presence



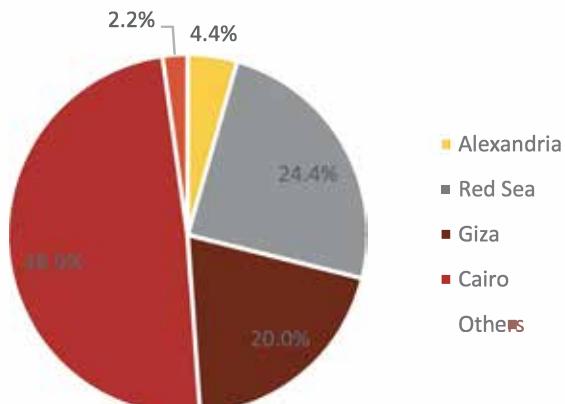
Estimated Subsector Distribution in ICT Sector



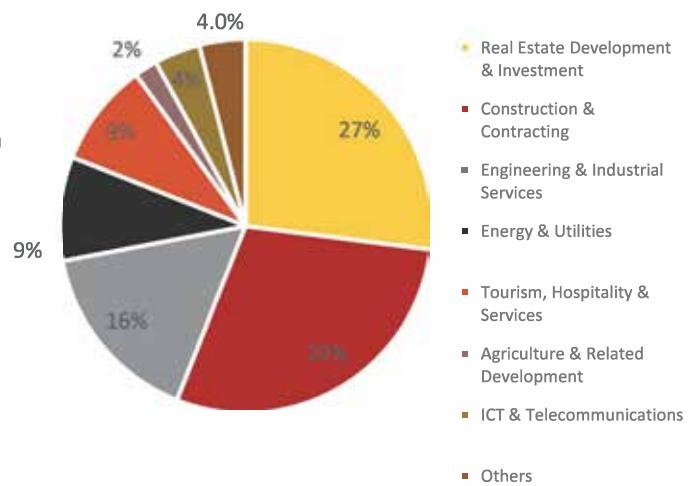
Source: SwissCham in Egypt, 2025

## Building & Construction Sector

Building & Construction Investors Estimated Geographic Presence



Estimated Subsector Distribution in Building & Construction Sector



Source: SwissCham in Egypt, 2025

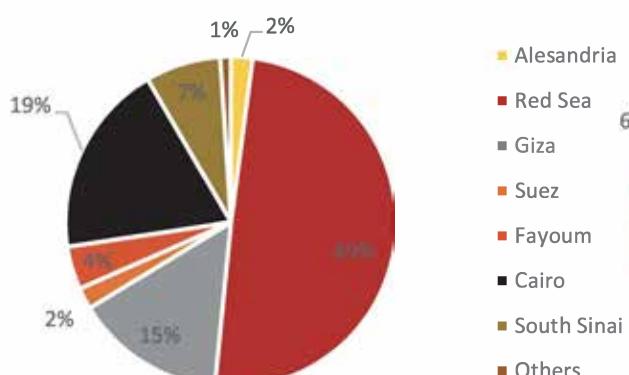
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## Tourism Services Sector

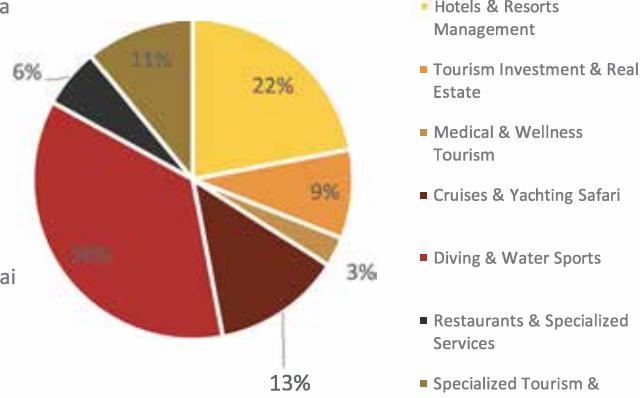
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Tourism Investors Estimated Geographic Presence



Estimated Subsector Distribution in Tourism Services Sector



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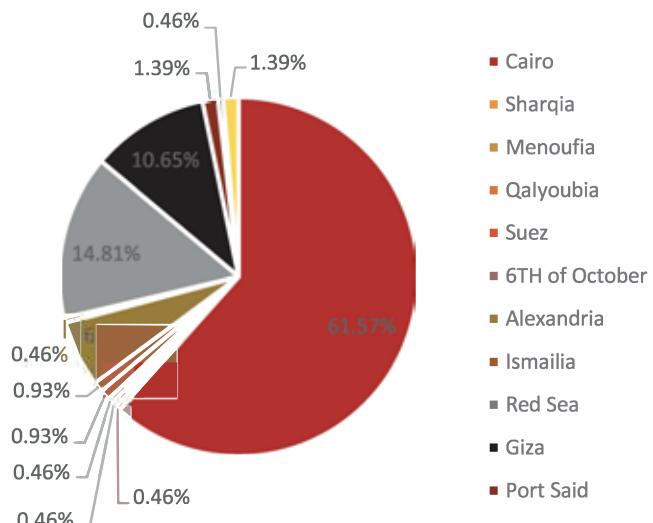
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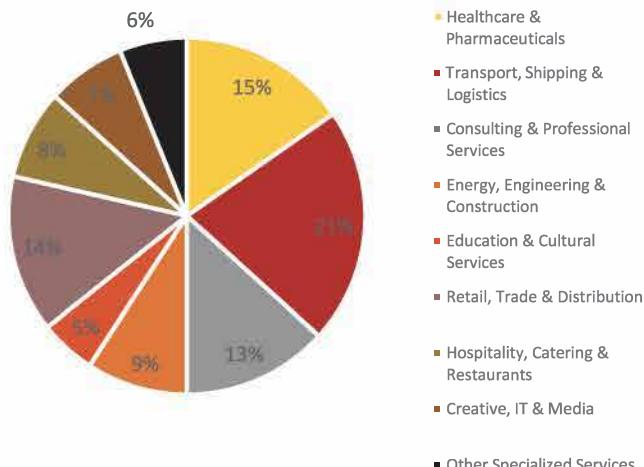
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## Other Services Sector

Estimated Subsector Distribution in Other Services Sector



Estimated Subsector Distribution in Services Sector



# Swiss Sectoral Impact in Egypt

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Over the past two decades, Swiss companies have significantly deepened their presence in the Egyptian market, playing a vital role in supporting key national priorities such as industrial development, food security, access to healthcare, and sustainable infrastructure. This engagement spans a variety of sectors including food and beverage, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, building materials, and professional services, with each sector reflecting a distinct aspect of Swiss know-how, quality, and long-term commitment.

Swiss firms contribute to the Egyptian economy not only through direct investments and capital flows, but also through on-the-ground manufacturing, technology transfer, workforce development, and integration with local and global supply chains. Their activities are aligned with Egypt's Vision 2030 goals, particularly those related to industrial localization, export growth, and inclusive economic development.

**In this section, the sector-specific footprint of Swiss businesses in Egypt, starting with the food industry, one of the most dynamic areas of Swiss Egyptian cooperation are highlighted. Works of leading companies, including Nestlé Egypt and Hero Middle East & Africa, whose long-standing presence in the country exemplifies innovation, responsible business, and deep-rooted partnership. Each company profile begins with a message from its leadership, followed by an overview of its impact on the local economy, employment, sustainability, and regional exports.**



# Spotlight on the Food & Beverage Industry: Anchoring Food Security and Industrial Growth

The food and beverage industry stands as one of the most established and strategically important areas of Swiss and international business engagement in Egypt. As population growth, food security considerations, and industrial localization remain central national priorities, the sector plays a critical role in supporting economic resilience, nutritional access, and domestic manufacturing capacity.

Egypt's large consumer market, strategic geographic position, and growing role as a regional export hub for Africa and the Middle East have made the food industry a key destination for long-term foreign direct investment. Swiss and multinational companies operating in this sector have increasingly aligned their operations with Egypt's development objectives, particularly through localized production, supply-chain integration, and sustainable sourcing practices.

Beyond capital investment, these companies contribute through technology transfer, workforce development, and the establishment of localized value chains that reduce import dependency and enhance export competitiveness. Collectively, their engagement highlights the role of the food and beverage sector as a platform for advancing food security, industrial development, and inclusive growth, while reinforcing Egypt's position as a regional center for food production and distribution.



A message from  
**Tarek Kamel**

**Managing Director,  
Nestle Egypt and Sudan**



Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt

**2025**



At Nestlé Egypt, we are committed to creating shared value through sustainable growth, localized solutions, industry innovation, and meaningful community investment. Our journey in Egypt spans more than 125 years, we take pride in being among the first Swiss multinationals to invest in Egypt—a legacy that reflects our deep-rooted Swiss presence that continues to shape Egypt's economy today. Over the decades, Nestlé Egypt has grown in step with the country's transformation, evolving from a local presence into a strategic regional hub. Today, with three production facilities, a workforce of over 10,000 direct and indirect employees, and robust local supply chains, we continue to strengthen Egypt's industrial capabilities and economic resilience.

But our impact extends beyond business. Guided by our core values, we champion youth employability, promote sustainable agriculture, raise nutrition awareness, and uphold environmental stewardship—ensuring our progress benefits society at large.

As Egypt emerges as a competitive center for manufacturing and exports, Nestlé remains a steadfast partner in advancing food security, industrial development, and community well-being. Our purpose is clear: to build a resilient “farm-to-fork” value chain that delivers nourishment, empowers individuals, and drives lasting, sustainable impact.

Looking ahead, we are committed to shaping the future of the region's food and beverage industry through science-based innovation, digital transformation, and eco-conscious practices that reduce our environmental footprint.



# Nestlé Egypt

## A Century of Commitment to Nutrition and Sustainability

Nestlé Egypt is committed to contributing to the country's economic, societal and environmental development through accessibility, affordability, education, agripreneurship and sustainability.

With a legacy dating back to 1900, Nestlé has built a strong presence in Egypt, offering trusted and beloved brands such as Nido, Nescafé, and Maggi.

Our key areas of contribution include:

### **1. Increasing Access to Essential Goods**

Nestlé is dedicated to ensuring that food and water is accessible to all Egyptians. Our extensive distribution network reaches over 300,000 retail outlets.

### **2. Promoting Affordable Nutrition**

Nestlé is committed to promoting wellbeing by making healthy nutrition affordable and investing in nutrition awareness programs.

### **3. Investing in Education; Youth and Female Empowerment**

Nestlé supports the development of skills and knowledge through youth employment programs, programs that empower female entrepreneurs, and collaborating with schools.

### **4. Developing Local Agriculture and Supply Chains**

We actively contribute to the development of Egypt's agricultural sector by prioritizing local sourcing, promoting regenerative agriculture practices, and enhancing the capabilities of local farmers by providing training to improve agricultural productivity and sustainability.

### **5. Driving Sustainability and Circular Economy**

Nestlé has implemented several sustainability initiatives, including the first large-scale PET collection and recycling program.

### **6. Creating High-Value Employment through Shared Service Centre**

Through our Nestlé Business Services (NBS) hub in Egypt, we provide support to Nestlé operations worldwide, creating skilled jobs in areas such as finance, IT, procurement, human resources, and customer service.



Hero MEA (Middle East and Africa) proudly serves as the regional headquarters for the Middle East and African region, reaching more than 1 billion consumers across 40 countries.

Our factory in Tersa, Qalyubia is the largest and most advanced jam production plant in the Middle East and Africa, featuring 11 state-of-the-art production lines with an annual capacity of 70,000 tons. Operating under Swiss international standards, Hero Egypt has become a strategic export hub for the region.

Hero Egypt employs over 1,200 Egyptians directly and supports more than 600 indirect jobs through our distribution network and partnerships. Each year, we also host +180 undergraduates in internship programs, equipping young talents with practical skills and workplace readiness to become highly employable in the Egyptian market.

With exports generating over USD 20 million annually, our products reach global clients including major retailers in Japan, the USA, and Canada, as well as world-class airlines such as Emirates, Etihad, Gulf Air, EgyptAir, and Lufthansa. We also export infant milks to Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Palestine, reinforcing Egypt's position as a regional trade gateway.

We encourage mothers to continue breastfeeding, as breast milk is the best nutrition for babies. For infants unable to receive breast milk, we offer Hero Baby Nutrasense, a unique formula enriched with Milk Fat Globule Membrane (MFGM) to support cognitive development. Developed in line with the latest European guidelines, our premium formulas strengthen immunity, promote healthy growth, and remain consistently available nationwide.

Hero Egypt sources 85% of its raw materials locally, directly contributing to the Egyptian economy by strengthening supply chain resilience and reducing import dependency. The company collaborates with Egyptian beekeepers, offering technical support programs that enhance productivity, improve livelihoods, and promote rural economic development. Hero Egypt is committed to environmental sustainability, protecting native honeybee species, safeguarding biodiversity, and promoting agricultural resilience. Additionally, the company invests in its workforce through literacy programs and technical training, creating sustainable career opportunities and improving employee well-being. As a flagship example of Swiss investment, Hero Egypt drives industrial excellence, job creation, export growth, and sustainable development, reflecting Switzerland's long-term confidence in Egypt as a strategic partner and regional growth engine.

Coca-Cola HBC Egypt, the exclusive bottler and distributor of Coca-Cola beverages, operates five manufacturing plants, employs nearly 5,000 people, and supports over 80,000 indirect jobs across its value chain. The company works closely with local suppliers, sourcing almost 95% of materials locally and serving more than 258,000 outlets nationwide. Since the acquisition, Coca-Cola HBC Egypt has invested 302 million Euros in Egypt, including the inauguration of a 31.5 million USD high-speed production line in Sadat City, one of the fastest and most advanced in the region.

Coca-Cola HBC Egypt also opened a Digital Hub in Cairo, enhancing its technology services across its footprint and supporting Egypt's role in tech development. Recognized as the "World's Most Sustainable Beverage Company" for eight years, Coca-Cola HBC Egypt implements the Group's Mission 2025 sustainability agenda, focusing on emissions, water stewardship, packaging recovery, and community development. Through the #YouthEmpowered program (#Shabab\_Bokra), the company has certified over 59,000 Egyptian youth, offering soft skills courses, networking, and certification, further contributing to Egypt's economic growth and development.

## **Sector Outlook and Strategic Takeaways**

The food and beverage sector illustrates how sustained foreign engagement can translate into tangible economic and developmental outcomes when aligned with national priorities. Through localized production, supply-chain integration, and skills development, the sector contributes to strengthening food security, enhancing industrial capacity, and supporting inclusive growth.

Looking ahead, continued investment in innovation, sustainability, and export-oriented manufacturing will remain essential to consolidating Egypt's position as a regional hub for food production and distribution. The sector's experience highlights the importance of long-term partnerships, operational depth, and value-chain integration in delivering resilient and scalable impact across the Egyptian economy.

## Medical & Pharmaceutical Sector: Strategic Impact in Egypt

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The medical and pharmaceutical sector represents a strategic pillar of Swiss business engagement in Egypt, particularly in the context of national efforts to strengthen healthcare resilience, expand access to essential medicines, and localize pharmaceutical production. As Egypt works to reduce import dependency and enhance domestic manufacturing capacity, the sector plays a critical role in supporting public health outcomes and industrial development.

Swiss pharmaceutical companies operating in Egypt contribute through localized manufacturing, technology transfer, and partnerships that support regulatory alignment, workforce development, and innovation across the healthcare value chain. Collectively, these contributions reinforce Egypt's ambitions to position itself as a regional hub for pharmaceutical production while ensuring sustainable access to high-quality medical products.





A message from

**Jihan El Murr**  
**Country President Egypt**



Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt

**2025**

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"At Novartis Egypt, we are reimagining medicine while empowering communities and safeguarding the environment. By uniting Swiss innovation with local expertise, localizing production, transferring skills and technology, and advancing sustainable practices like clean energy, we are expanding access to innovative medicine, supporting Egypt's 2030 Vision, and building a healthier future for generations to come."

## Transforming Care, Building Capacity, Improving Lives

### Reimagining Medicine for Egypt's Future

For more than six decades, Novartis Egypt has been a leading healthcare partner, bringing Swiss innovation and global standards of quality to millions of patients. Ranked among Egypt's top three pharmaceutical companies by market share, Novartis leads in oncology, cardiology, ophthalmology, neuroscience, and immunology. In 2024, its therapies reached over 18 million patients in Egypt across 64 therapeutic brands. The company works closely with government bodies, academic institutions, and NGOs on awareness campaigns, patient-support programs, and capacity-building for healthcare professionals in line with Egypt's 2030 Vision.

As part of Novartis' global network, which delivers medicines to more than 250 million people worldwide, Novartis Egypt combines international expertise with local knowledge to ensure advanced therapies benefit Egyptian communities.

### Localized Production, Capacity Building and Collaboration

The manufacturing site in Cairo is central to the Novartis strategy to localize production in Egypt, ensuring a reliable supply of essential medicines while supporting the country's regional export ambitions. Producing 1 billion dose annually, the site was among the first Novartis plants globally to adopt clean energy solutions. Through technology transfer and skills development, Novartis equips local teams and partners with advanced capabilities, reinforcing Egypt's self-sufficiency and elevating manufacturing standards.

In partnership with the Ministry of Health, Novartis supports screening and early detection initiatives, with a focus on oncology and women's health. To advance this commitment, Novartis Egypt partnered with the Egyptian Healthcare Authority to enhance breast cancer care through early diagnosis. The partnership includes training doctors, raising community awareness, and providing digital tools to support healthcare providers. On the Cardiovascular Disease front, Novartis Egypt supported the "100 Million Seha" non-communicable disease screening campaign, offering training and educational forums to equip physicians to expand care capacity in diabetes and hypertension. These efforts are complemented by expanded resources for medical education and coordinated care, along with broader training initiatives and collaborations that continue to build long-term capacity within Egypt's healthcare workforce.





Roche has been a key partner in Egypt's healthcare system for nearly 40 years, based on a united vision Roche commits to supporting the national health strategies, driving innovation in healthcare and contributing to alleviating diseases with the highest social impact in Egypt. In partnership with GYPTO Pharma, Roche is localizing the production of biologic drugs through Swiss tech transfer to Egyptian factories, focusing on medicines for Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC).

Roche also is a main partner with the presidential initiatives, such as the Presidential Initiative for Women's Health, enhancing breast cancer care through detection campaigns, diagnostics, therapies, and Human Development.

The company drives digital transformation, improving data systems for oncology and other diseases. Roche's ongoing commitment strengthens Egypt's healthcare system, making it more sustainable, accessible and impactful on Egyptians wellbeing.

## **Sector Outlook and Strategic Takeaways**

The medical and pharmaceutical sector demonstrates how targeted foreign engagement can support both public health priorities and industrial development. Through localized production, technology transfer, and regulatory alignment, the sector contributes to strengthening healthcare resilience, reducing import dependency, and enhancing domestic manufacturing capacity.

Looking forward, continued collaboration across the healthcare value chain will be essential to sustaining innovation, expanding access to advanced therapies, and reinforcing Egypt's position as a regional center for pharmaceutical production and medical innovation.

# Industrial Technology & Infrastructure Development

Industrial technology and infrastructure development constitute a critical foundation for Egypt's long-term economic transformation. As the country advances large-scale national projects, expands its industrial base, and seeks to enhance productivity across key sectors, the role of advanced industrial systems and resilient infrastructure has become increasingly central to national development priorities.

This sector underpins the effective functioning of manufacturing, energy, transport, and urban development through the deployment of modern industrial technologies, reliable infrastructure systems, and locally embedded execution capabilities. Investments in automation, power systems, industrial services, and construction materials contribute directly to improving operational efficiency, reducing production bottlenecks, and strengthening the resilience of national infrastructure networks.

Egypt's industrial and infrastructure agenda places strong emphasis on local value creation, technology transfer, and skills development. Within this context, the integration of advanced engineering solutions with domestic manufacturing and execution capacity supports the modernization of production facilities, the localization of industrial know-how, and the development of competitive supply chains capable of serving both domestic and regional markets.

Moreover, the sector plays a pivotal role in enabling sustainable growth. The adoption of energy-efficient technologies, optimized industrial processes, and innovative construction solutions contributes to reducing environmental impact while supporting the scalability and durability of infrastructure investments. As such, industrial technology and infrastructure development function not only as enablers of economic expansion, but also as key drivers of long-term resilience and sustainable industrialization.





A message from  
**Ahmed Hammad**  
**Chairman of ABB Egypt**



**ABB Egypt**



“For a century, ABB Egypt has stood at the heart of the nation’s progress—engineering solutions that power industries, transform cities, and improve lives. Our story is one of innovation, resilience, and an unwavering belief in Egypt’s future. Today, as we look ahead, we are driven by a bold vision: to lead the transition toward a zero-emission future where clean energy and smart technologies empower generations to come. True to our purpose, Engineered to Outrun, we will continue to go beyond limits—helping Egypt not only meet the challenges of today, but also shape the opportunities of tomorrow.”



## A Century of Progress, Innovation, and Sustainability

ABB Egypt is a pioneering technology leader in electrification and automation, guided by its global purpose “Engineered to Outrun.” For 100 years, ABB has been at the heart of Egypt’s industrial and infrastructure development—delivering advanced technologies, empowering industries, and driving sustainable growth. With seven strategic sites, a 100,000 m<sup>2</sup> state-of-the-art manufacturing hub, 13 production lines, and more than 1,100 employees, ABB Egypt provides world-class electrification solutions across the nation and beyond.

The company’s facility in 10th of Ramadan City is one of the region’s most advanced, producing medium voltage switchgear, RMUs, load break switches, compact substations, instrument transformers, and low voltage switchgear. By localizing production, ABB not only strengthens Egypt’s industrial capacity but also creates skilled jobs and enhances the competitiveness of Egyptian technology in regional and international markets. ABB’s commitment to sustainability is central to its mission: through energy-efficient systems, renewable integration, and smart digital technologies, ABB is actively enabling Egypt’s transition to a zero-emission future—one where clean energy powers industries, infrastructure, and communities.

### Powering Egypt’s Growth with Smart and Sustainable Solutions

The energy and infrastructure sectors are among the most impactful areas of Swiss engagement in Egypt, with ABB at the forefront of transformation. Through its technologies, ABB has powered some of the country’s most ambitious projects:

- New Grand Egyptian Museum – state-of-the-art electrification and energy-efficient systems preserving Egypt’s heritage for future generations.
- New Administrative Capital – advanced electrification and automation supporting one of the region’s largest smart cities.
- Benban Solar Park – technologies enabling one of the world’s largest solar power plants.
- Cairo Metro & Transport Projects – reliable systems advancing sustainable mobility.
- Bahr Al-Baqar Water Treatment Plant – powering the world’s largest agricultural water reuse facility.

As Egypt positions itself as a regional hub for clean energy and industry, ABB’s investments in local manufacturing, digital innovation, and community development reinforce Swiss leadership in enabling sustainable growth. At 100 years in Egypt, ABB continues to embody its values of Curiosity, Collaboration, Courage, and Care, proving what it means to be “Engineered to Outrun”—shaping a greener and more resilient Egypt for generations to come.





A message from

**Khaled El Dokani**  
**CEO of Lafarge Egypt,  
Holcim Group**



"At Holcim Group, we are proud of being a leading partner for sustainable building solutions in Egypt, providing innovative, low-carbon materials for a greener future. We empower future leaders by investing in skills, fostering a unique workplace, and driving a positive social impact.

This aligns with our NextGen2030 Strategy and Egypt Vision 2030, focusing on operational excellence, environmental stewardship, and digital transformation to lead the industry and deliver lasting national value."

Swiss Economic Impact in Egypt | **2025**

# LafargeHolcim Egypt

## Powering Sustainable Infrastructure

Lafarge Egypt, a member of Holcim group, is leading a green & smart transformation of the building materials industry through its innovative and sustainable solutions. The company has an ambitious strategy to reach a net zero future, empowered by a comprehensive plan to significantly reduce carbon emissions and minimize environmental impact.

By focusing on sustainability, the company is not only addressing climate change but also driving innovation and creating a more sustainable built environment. Starting from greening its operations to make buildings more sustainable, shaping the new era of construction where reducing the carbon footprint is the main priority.

In addition to its environmental commitment, Lafarge Egypt is harnessing the power of digital technology to optimize operations and deliver innovative solutions. By integrating cutting-edge technology into its processes, the company is enhancing efficiency, reducing waste, and providing customers with advanced products and services.

Our NextGen2030 strategy comes in line with Egypt's Vision 2030 for sustainable development, where Holcim group is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping a greener and more prosperous future for the nation. It focuses on several key areas, Green Operations, Green Products, Circular Economy, Digital Transformation and Community Engagement.

With over 25 years in Egypt, EAST is a leader in roads, rail, industrial automation, and heavy industries. From 2020 to 2024, the company invested LE 315 million in infrastructure, plants, and technology, including a LE 123+ million expansion. Operating 50 production lines with a 2,000-ton annual capacity, EAST exports products to Libya, Armenia, West Africa, and the Middle East, supporting Egypt as a regional hub. EAST is committed to sustainability through energy efficiency, waste reduction, and renewable energy.

EAST has partnered with global leaders like Ammann, ABB, and Minebea Intec, bringing Swiss technologies to Egypt. The company was recognized by ABB Analytics and Minebea Intec for outstanding performance. Through EAST Academy, it offers training and collaborates with Coventry and Cairo universities to bridge industry-academia gaps. Employing over 200 staff, EAST creates direct and indirect jobs, while promoting Swiss standards in operations and workforce development.

## Sector Outlook and Strategic Takeaways

Industrial technology and infrastructure development highlight the critical link between productive capacity and long-term economic resilience. Through the deployment of advanced technologies, localized execution capabilities, and integrated infrastructure systems, the sector supports productivity gains, industrial modernization, and the effective delivery of national development projects.

Looking ahead, sustained investment in innovation, skills development, and energy-efficient solutions will be essential to strengthening Egypt's industrial base, enhancing infrastructure resilience, and ensuring that industrial growth remains competitive, scalable, and environmentally sustainable.



## Testing, Certification & Quality Infrastructure

Testing, certification, and quality infrastructure constitute a fundamental pillar for industrial competitiveness, trade facilitation, and regulatory compliance. As Egypt continues to expand its manufacturing base and integrate more deeply into regional and global markets, the ability to meet international quality, safety, and conformity standards has become increasingly critical to economic growth and export performance.

This sector supports market access across a wide range of industries by ensuring that products, systems, and processes comply with applicable technical regulations and international benchmarks. Through testing, inspection, certification, and conformity assessment services, quality infrastructure enables trust in products and services, reduces technical barriers to trade, and enhances the credibility of domestic producers in global value chains.

Moreover, quality infrastructure plays a strategic role in strengthening institutional capacity and regulatory effectiveness. By supporting harmonization with international standards, improving risk management, and enabling data-driven oversight, the sector contributes to a more transparent, efficient, and resilient economic environment. As such, testing and certification systems are not only technical enablers, but also key instruments for sustainable industrial development and international competitiveness.





## SGS Egypt

### A Trusted Partner for Quality and Compliance

SGS is the world's leading testing, inspection and certification company. We operate a global network of more than 2,500 laboratories and business facilities across 115 countries, supported by a team of 99,500 professionals. With over 145 years of service excellence, SGS combines precision and accuracy to help organizations achieve the highest standards of quality, compliance and sustainability.

Our brand promise - When you need to be sure - reflects our commitment to trust, integrity and reliability, enabling businesses to operate with confidence. SGS began serving Egypt in the 1960s. Today, SGS Egypt is one of the country's leading providers of inspection, testing, verification and certification services, supporting both government entities and private sector organizations across multiple industries.

Our services span a wide range of activities, from certifying management systems at Egypt's airports to inspecting high-rise buildings and testing fertilizer and ore shipments prior to export. This diversified portfolio allows SGS Egypt to support key sectors that contribute to national economic growth. We support Egypt's farmers and traders by helping them meet international market standards and regulatory requirements through the testing of grains, oils, oilseeds, feed and agricultural inputs. These services enhance market access and reduce the risk of shipment rejection or recall.

SGS Egypt also provides comprehensive testing, sampling and quantity inspection services for ores and industrial minerals. By verifying compliance with international specifications, we help local producers protect the integrity of mineral exports and access global markets with confidence. Our expertise includes advising clients on sampling protocols, loss control and contract conformity, which are essential for fair trade in bulk commodities.

In addition, SGS supports the quality, safety and compliance of oil, gas and fuel products through advanced laboratory testing, pre-shipment inspection and certification. Early detection of contamination and verification of product specifications help reduce disputes and ensure energy products meet international standards.

SGS supports workforce development in Egypt through SGS Academy's globally aligned professional training programs, strengthening individual and organizational capabilities for sustainable growth. Building on over 30 years of leadership in sustainability, SGS also launched IMPACT NOW, a solutions initiative focused on climate, circularity, nature and ESG assurance to simplify and accelerate the path to a sustainable future.



# Agriculture & Agribusiness: Strategic Impact in Egypt

The agriculture and agribusiness sector represents a foundational pillar of Swiss engagement in Egypt, given its direct link to food security, rural livelihoods, and export-oriented growth. As Egypt seeks to enhance agricultural productivity, adapt to climate challenges, and strengthen its position in global food markets, the sector plays a critical role in supporting sustainable economic development.

Swiss companies operating in this space contribute through agricultural innovation, farmer-centric solutions, and the deployment of advanced technologies that improve yields, resource efficiency, and environmental sustainability. Their engagement supports national priorities related to modernizing agricultural practices, empowering growers, and reinforcing resilient food systems capable of meeting both domestic and international demand.



A message from  
**Hisham El Desouki**  
**Country Head - Egypt**



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At Syngenta Egypt, we believe that our growers are the cornerstone of progress in Egyptian agriculture and export. Their resilience, innovation, and hard work are the driving force behind the sector's growth and our mission is to ensure they succeed.

Syngenta is more than a provider of crop protection & biological solution and seeds; we are true partners to our growers. We stand beside them in every step of their journey, especially during times of difficulty, offering not only innovative solutions but also our knowledge and technical support. Through this partnership, we empower growers to improve productivity, enhance quality, adopt sustainable practices, and meet the standards required to compete in global markets.

Our promise is simple: when growers rise, Egypt rises. Syngenta Egypt will continue to invest in solutions, knowledge, and partnerships that enable our growers to thrive because they are not just our customers, they are our greatest assets, and the key to evolving Egypt's agriculture and export future.



Syngenta Global AG is an agricultural technology company headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, we operate in over 90 countries. Workforce in Syngenta Group is around 56,000 people globally: Over 6,500 employees in R&D, in 150+ hubs worldwide.

Our specialty is the following: -

Crop Protection: Weed Control, Insect Control, Diseases Control

Biologicals: Bio stimulants & Biocontrol

Seeds: Hybrid seeds, field crops, vegetable seeds and seed care

Agritech / Digital & Service Solutions: we also use data, digital tools, precision agriculture, advisory services to farmers, Syngenta & Al Dahra partnership (2025) to deploy digital farm-management system over 220,000 acres globally with Cropwise operation.

We contribute to the Food Industry / global food system through boosting crop productivity & high yield, sustainability, environmental impact, regenerative agriculture,

food safety, the impact of climate change, biodiversity, smallholders' awareness & rural communities.

Syngenta Global AG had revenue of about USD 28.8 billion, we invest USD 2 billion in sustainable agriculture breakthroughs in 2025.

#### Kaha Research Station in Egypt

A research station operated by Syngenta in Kaha, Qalyubia Governorate, about 30 km north of Cairo, founded in 1974 and employs over 100 technical & support staff. It's part of Syngenta's global chain of field stations in Africa & the Middle East. It plays a significant role in Syngenta's Global Field Station Network, The station does research

on efficacy and crop safety under local Egyptian growing conditions. Also works on optimal application methods of agrochemical products, to ensure safety and sustainability and not only that but also, we offer various training programs:

- Safe and efficient handling, storage and use of crop protection products.
- Field trial techniques.
- Center of Excellence concept

# Energy, Process Industries & Measurement Technologies

The energy and process industries sector plays a central role in supporting Egypt's industrial activity, resource management, and energy security. As the country continues to expand its power generation capacity, modernize its industrial base, and improve operational efficiency across energy-intensive sectors, advanced process technologies and accurate measurement systems have become essential to national development priorities.

This sector underpins the safe, efficient, and reliable operation of industries such as oil and gas, power generation, water and wastewater management, chemicals, and heavy manufacturing. Through the deployment of advanced measurement, control, and monitoring technologies, process industries are able to optimize performance, reduce operational losses, enhance safety standards, and improve asset reliability across complex industrial environments.

Beyond operational efficiency, energy and measurement technologies contribute directly to sustainability and long-term resilience. Accurate data, process transparency, and real-time monitoring enable better energy management, emissions reduction, and regulatory compliance. In this context, the sector supports Egypt's broader transition toward more efficient, sustainable, and resilient energy and industrial systems, while strengthening its competitiveness within regional and global value chains.

Endress+Hauser 



Endress+Hauser Egypt, a 100% Swiss affiliate established in 2021, is playing a pivotal role in advancing Egypt's Oil & Gas sector in alignment with Egypt Vision 2030. With a strong focus on infrastructure development and industrial automation, the company delivers cutting-edge measurement and control solutions that enhance operational efficiency, safety, and sustainability across upstream, midstream, and downstream operations. Leveraging global expertise and local insight, Endress+Hauser Egypt has introduced transformative technologies such as Coriolis flowmeters and zero-mass balance systems, which are now setting new standards in energy monitoring and loss prevention. By partnering with national authorities, planning to invest in local calibration, and training centers, the company is not only supporting Egypt's strategic goals for energy independence and environmental stewardship but also positioning the country as a regional hub for innovation and excellence in Oil & Gas.

## Strategic Implications and Outlook

Across multiple sectors, Swiss business engagement in Egypt demonstrates how long-term investment, localized operations, and technology-driven solutions can contribute meaningfully to economic development, industrial capacity building, and market resilience. Through alignment with national priorities, sectoral integration, and skills development, these engagements support productivity growth, trade competitiveness, and sustainable value creation across the Egyptian economy.

Looking ahead, strengthening cross-sector collaboration, fostering innovation, and deepening local value chains will remain critical to sustaining impact and scaling outcomes. Continued alignment between public policy objectives and private-sector capabilities will be essential to reinforcing Egypt's position as a regional hub for industry, trade, and innovation, while ensuring that economic growth remains inclusive, resilient, and forward-looking.



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# Strategic Sector Mapping:

## Where Egypt Benefits Most

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### SECTOR

### SWISS VALUE PROPOSITION

### BENEFIT TO EGYPT

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Food & Nutrition

Nestlé, Givaudan

FX savings, food security

5

Pharmaceuticals

Novartis, Roche

Import substitution, R&D

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Machinery

ABB, Bühler

Industrial upgrading

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Green Tech

SMEs & investors

Climate & infrastructure

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Chemicals/Agro

Syngenta, specialty

Fertilizer, high yield

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Med Devices

Roche Diagnostics

Health system uplift

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Source: Collected by the Researchers

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# 9

## **Supply Chain & Local Procurement**

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# IV. Supply Chain & Local Procurement

## IV. Supply Chain and Local Procurement

In 2024 Egypt's government unveiled a new 2024–2030 economic strategy explicitly targeting 60–80% local content in manufacturing by 2030 (IEA, 2024). It offers incentives (customs relief, training grants, tax breaks) for projects achieving more than 50% local value, especially in areas like renewable energy, automotive and pharmaceuticals. Such policies encourage Swiss firms in those sectors to deepen Egyptian sourcing. For example, the USD 120 million pharmaceutical zone launched in 2025 (Egypt's Sinai) aims to localize active ingredient production. The zone is an initiative from which Switzerland's pharma investors (Roche, Novartis, Acino) stand to benefit. Likewise, the government's "Golden License" program (fast-track permits) and improvements in customs procedures have eased establishment for foreign manufacturers, a point underscored in GAFI's outreach to Swiss investors. External factors have also influenced strategy (EY, 2023). The COVID-19 pandemic and recent Red Sea shipping disruptions highlighted supply-chain vulnerabilities, prompting some Swiss firms to consider more local inventory and suppliers. Currency pressures, which is Egypt's 2022-2023 devaluation of the pound, made imported inputs costlier, further motivating companies to seek domestic alternatives where possible. Conversely, Egypt's role as a gateway to Africa and its free-trade links, like EFTA–Egypt FTA, mean that many Swiss exporters view local production as a platform for regional exports, a rationale cited by Barry Callebaut's plans to export from Egypt (GAFI, 2023). In sectors like energy and construction, Swiss companies like ABB and Lafarge Holcim have aligned with Egypt's investment in infrastructure and energy transitions, enabling them to source some materials locally and contribute to upskilling the workforce. The 100 Swiss companies invest in local factories, partner with Egyptian companies especially in food and pharma, and comply with government drives for "Made in Egypt" content (ITA, 2022).

Swiss companies have long been a major source of foreign investment and trade in Egypt. As of 2023, Switzerland ranked among Egypt's top ten foreign investors, with around 100 Swiss firms operating in the country. Collectively these companies have invested heavily, over USD 676 million in FY 2021/2022, and generated tens of thousands of jobs. For example, Nestlé



reports having invested EGP 5 billion, which is about USD 160 million, in Egypt over the past decade, creating more than 10,000 direct and indirect jobs. ABB, the Swiss automation and energy group, similarly employs about 1,800 people in its five Egyptian factories and a total ecosystem of about 3,500 including local partners, having invested over USD 200 million in the past ten years. These figures underline the scale of Swiss involvement, in 2023 bilateral trade reached roughly CHF 1.6 billion, making Egypt Switzerland's largest African trade partner. Major Swiss firms span sectors such as food and beverage (Nestlé, Barry Callebaut, Hero), pharmaceuticals and healthcare (Roche, Novartis, Acino), industrial/manufacturing (ABB, Lafarge Holcim cement) and chemicals/agribusiness. A Swiss Chamber of Commerce forum noted that Swiss companies are at the forefront of expanding local production, particularly in pharmaceutical, food, and textile sectors in Egypt (ITA, 2022).

***By investigating the local production and procurement strategies*** adopted by the Swiss businesses in Egypt, Swiss multinationals have steadily shifted toward sourcing inputs locally and boosting in-country manufacturing. Nestlé Egypt, for example, explicitly reviewed the company's strategy for localizing production inputs in 2024. Its goal is to source certain agricultural components (wheat, fruits, etc.) from Egyptian farmers and suppliers that meet global standards, thereby reducing imports and increasing exports. The company even partnered with Egypt's Ministry of Industry, which is the Industrial Modernization Centre (IMC), to identify and qualify local suppliers for its inputs. Likewise, Swiss food group Hero sources fruit from renowned farms in Egypt and processes it in its Cairo production facility, by selling jam products under the local "Vitrac" brand. These and similar efforts by Swiss firms mean that a growing share of raw materials and intermediate goods is procured domestically. In its 2025 market update, the Swiss foreign ministry explicitly noted that many Swiss companies in Egypt are "expanding local production" in key sectors (Nestle, 2024b).

Barry Callebaut, the Swiss cocoa processor, announced a new USD 30 million chocolate factory in Egypt (2024) to meet domestic demand and turn Egypt into a regional export hub. This project, supported by the Egyptian government, will rely on imported cocoa but also source other ingredients (sugar, milk) and services locally. Similarly, major Swiss healthcare firms are localizing production, where for instance, the global Roche Group signed a 2022 collaboration with the state-owned "Egyptian Medicine City" complex to produce a liver cancer drug locally. Novartis also operates a large generics manufacturing plant in Beni Suef.

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1 Thus, Swiss companies are increasingly integrating Egyptian suppliers and labor into their value chains, from Egyptian wheat for Nestlé noodles to local packaging, logistics and assembly for industrial goods, thereby embedding themselves into domestic supply networks(GAFI, 2023). In the  
2 Inspection, Testing, and Certification (TIC) sector, SGS allocates about 20% of its revenue to local  
3 procurement, with plans to expand its Egyptian supplier base.

4 Concerning the partnerships and joint ventures with companies and authorities,Swiss firms  
5 have forged numerous collaborations. For example, in May 2023 Swiss  
6 pharmaceuticals firm Acino formalized a strategic partnership with Egypt's MultiCare  
7 Pharmaceutical Industries, covering marketing and distribution of various products and  
8 underscoring the country's local manufacturing strategy. These alliances often entail  
technology transfer and capacity-building: Acino executives emphasized that the deal would  
strengthen Egypt as a regional export hub and add value to a healthcare sector undergoing  
9 transformation. In the consumer goods sector, Nestlé's 2017 acquisition of local coffee brand  
10 Caravan is another case, where Nestlé invested about EGP 1 billion in Egyptian manufacturing  
doubled its Egypt workforce, from 3,200 to 6,300, around that time. Although some of these  
11 deals predate 2011, they exemplify the trend of Swiss companies absorbing and scaling up Egyptian  
12 enterprises (Nestlé, 2024a).

13 On the agribusiness side, wholly Egyptian companies with Swiss ties also play a role. The  
Egyptian Swiss Group, which is an Egyptian-owned pasta, flour and tomato concentrate  
14 producer, emphasizes value-added exports. Swiss organization even featured it at GrainCom  
15 suggesting vibrancy in food manufacturing partnerships, though detailed sourcing figures are  
not public. In building materials, Swiss-headquartered Lafarge Holcim's Egyptian subsidiary 2025,  
(Lafarge Egypt) engages local contractors and suppliers for major projects,exemplified by a  
2025 contract to supply concrete for 300,000 m<sup>3</sup> of new development. These projects stimulate  
16 SME development; while exact numbers are scarce, a study of Nestlé's Nigerian operations  
noted that local suppliers "are engines of job creation" and grow their workforce rapidly, a  
17 pattern echoed by Nestlé's own support programs in Egypt (skills training, supplier development)  
(globalCement, 2025).

Overall, partnerships between Swiss companies and Egyptian entities help transfer skills and capital. Swiss investments often come with training and quality-control support, raising standards in local industry. For instance, Nestlé runs nutrition- and safety-training for local farmers, and ABB has supplied technical expertise to Egyptian grid and water projects. In



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# **Environmental Impact**

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## IV. Environmental Impact

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Switzerland's government supports Egypt's green transition. In 2022–2025, **Swiss development cooperation (SECO/SDC)** funds projects in eco-industrial parks, water reuse, and cleaner production. Notably, Switzerland financed a UNIDO-led Green Industrial Parks program. The agreement of the program, which was in January 2022, creates eco-industrial zones that reduce waste and GHGs by promoting shared utilities and resource efficiency. This aligns with Egypt's Vision 2030 sustainable development strategy. Moreover, Swiss Export–Credit agencies and banks, like Bürgenstock, have backed renewable projects. For example, Swiss contacts advised on Cairo's solar farms (UNIDO, 2022). Several Swiss companies have made direct sustainability investments in Egypt. For instance, **Nestlé Egypt** invested about EGP 1 billion (USD 60 million) since 2020 in expanding ice-cream and food lines, upgrading plant efficiency and local sourcing (Nestle, 2021). Globally Nestlé announced a USD 2 billion fund for sustainable packaging by 2025 (EBRD, 2025). Similarly, **Lafarge Egypt (Holcim Group)** is investing in its Geocycle waste unit and clean fuels, and co-funding R&D centres on low-carbon cement which is part of Holcim's USD 2 billion annual sustainability R&D. **Zurich Insurance and Swiss Re**, though with limited local presence, have participated in Egypt's climate-risk forums, reflecting Swiss financial sector interest in ESG (Lafarge, 2025a).

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At a micro firm level, Swiss-owned and affiliated firms in Egypt have increasingly integrated environmental and ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) goals into their operations. For example, **in building materials and construction industries, Lafarge Egypt (Holcim Group)** is producing "green" building materials through its ECOPlanet cement, with 50–60% lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than ordinary cement, and ECOPact concrete of 30–40% lower carbon footprint. In the expansion of Egypt's Ain Sokhna port, Lafarge supplied 85,000 tons of ECOPlanet cement, yielding a 45% of CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and saving about 39,760 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, according to Holcim Group statement. Additionally, **Sika Egypt** (Swiss chemical firm for construction) has



an ISO14001 environmental management system at all major sites (Holcim, 2022). Sika's local targets (mirroring group goals) include a 15% reduction in energy and waste per tonne and 50% renewable electricity by 2023. The company emphasizes efficient resource use, waste recycling and water savings in Egypt, consistent with its corporate commitments (Sika Egypt, 2025). Likewise, in food and beverages industries, Nestlé Egypt, a wholly owned subsidiary of Nestlé S.A. (Switzerland), follows the parent company's global sustainability policies such as zero deforestation, human rights, and UN Global Compact principles. Nestlé Egypt's factories maintain ISO 14001 environmental-management systems. The company plans to double recycled PET content and cut plastic usage by 2025, reaching about 30% renewable by 2023, while investing in plastic waste reduction and recycled PET packaging through an expansion plan of included a USD 2 billion global investment in sustainable packaging. The CEO Tarek Kamel announced about an EGP 1 billion invested over 3 years, with many projects approved to upgrade energy and water use, including solar, in Egypt. By 2026 Nestlé Egypt will source 100% of its electricity from renewables. Nestlé Waters Egypt also commits to 100% water-stewardship certification (Alliance for Water by 2025) and fully recyclable bottles, supporting the country's water/EHS goals (Nestle, 2023). Novartis is committed to sustainability, with ongoing environmental projects aiming to reduce waste, water usage, and carbon emissions.

The company has reduced its carbon footprint by 75% in 2024 through local production processes and plans to achieve CO2 neutrality by 2026. In addition to its sustainability efforts, Novartis has invested over USD 2.5 million in environmental initiatives from 2024 to 2026, reinforcing its commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and sustainable operations.

In the industrial-automation (energy, power and technology related industries) sector, ABB Egypt (Swiss-headquartered) partners with the government's 2035 energy plan, are committing to renewables and efficiency to stabilize supply and cut emissions. In 2023, ABB Egypt launched an Energy Efficiency Movement to mobilize businesses on renewables and savings. ABB globally has set Science-Based Targets for net-zero (scope 1–3 by 2030 and 2050) and circular product strategies. Under such movement, ABB brings together more than 400 companies to share best practices on cutting energy use and deploying renewables. ABB's Egypt leadership is aligned with the Integrated Sustainable Energy Strategy 2035. ABB works with the government to expand renewables and efficiency, aiming to reduce greenhouse gases and boost climate resilience. Globally, ABB has set rigorous SBTi-aligned targets as it revised its Scope 1/2/3 reduction targets for 2030/2050 and emphasizes circular economy practices such as equipment retrofits, motor recycling. These commitments influence its Egyptian projects, e.g. smart grids, efficient drives, to lower industry emissions (Egyptian Gazette, 2024).



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Moreover, in the same industries, **Kuehne+Nagel** Egypt (Swiss logistics), the world's largest freight forwarder, headquartered in Switzerland, has extended its sustainability program to Egypt. K+N aims for carbon-neutral logistics and is **ISO 14001-certified** globally. It offers clients green transport and tracks Scope 3 emissions. The firm's 2022 Sustainability Report notes ambitious carbon reduction and renewable-energy use targets, for example 70% renewable electricity by 2028 globally. While Egypt-specific figures are scarce, K+N Cairo operations follow the group's ESG policies (Kuehne+Nagel, 2025).

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Concerning **chemicals, agriculture and ingredients industries**, **Givaudan** Egypt, the Swiss flavor and fragrance producer runs sustainable-sourcing projects in Egypt. Givaudan and its Egyptian supplier Fridal (geranium oil) invested in solar-powered irrigation pumps and water monitoring in the Western Desert. They also banned open burning of crop residues, instead composting waste to enrich soil. These measures reduce air pollution and greenhouse gases and build capacity in local farming. Givaudan's local site also complies with global EHS standards, and the group participates in UN Global Compact and sets science-based environmental targets (Givaudan, 2025).

Furthermore, **Syngenta** Egypt, which was a Swiss agrichemical, now became Chinese-owned, operates in Egyptian crop protection and seed markets. While local data is limited, the global Syngenta Group has robust sustainability goals, like **ISO 14001 EMS** at sites and works with farmers on Integrated Pest Management and preserving biodiversity. Syngenta Egypt participates in regulatory compliance and likely adheres to parent company's environmental safety protocols (Syngenta Egypt, 2025).

**Many Swiss firms in Egypt adhere to international ESG frameworks. All the above companies participate in, or align with the UN Global Compact. For instance, Nestlé explicitly commits to its Ten Principle; Holcim and Givaudan are UNGC participants. They report sustainability metrics in line with GRI and CDP standards. On environmental management, ISO 14001 certification is widespread. Nestlé Egypt's factories and Sika Egypt's sites are ISO 14001-certified. Holcim and Givaudan similarly use certified EHS systems. For governance, these firms implement Swiss-influenced Codes of Conduct and Ethics like anti-corruption, human rights due diligence, much of it published in corporate Non-Financial Reports. In Egypt the Egyptian Exchange (EGX) now encourages ESG disclosures, so Swiss subsidiaries also align with any local reporting rules.**



**Table: Key Swiss-affiliated companies in Egypt and their sustainability metrics (2020–2025)**

Company and Sector	Initiative / Commitment	Impact and Target
Holcim (Lafarge) – Cement	ECOPlanet low-carbon cement	50–60% CO <sub>2</sub> ↓ vs OPC; used 85k t in Ain Sokhna port (45% ↓CO <sub>2</sub> , 39,760 t CO <sub>2</sub> saved)
	ECOPact green concrete	30–40% CO <sub>2</sub> ↓ vs conventional concrete
	Geocycle waste-to-fuel	Use of industrial/urban waste as kiln fuel (replacing coal)
Nestlé Egypt – Food/Beverage	Renewable electricity	100% renewables by 2026 (30% by 2023)
	Packaging/Plastic	Double recycled PET by 2025; 40% plastic cut in bottles
	ISO 14001 EMS	All plants ISO 14001-certified
ABB Egypt – Automation	Energy Efficiency Movement (2023)	More than 400 organizations engaged; promotes renewables, efficiency.
	Renewables & efficiency (ISES 2035)	Endorses Egypt's 2035 plan: develop renewables, cut GHG.
	Net-Zero targets (global)	SBTi targets for 2030/2050 (scopes 1,2,3)
Sika Egypt – Chemicals	ISO 14001 EMS	Management system certified ISO 14001
	Energy/Waste reduction (2023 target)	15% less energy/ton; 15% less waste/ton; 50% renewables
Givaudan Egypt	Sustainable sourcing (Fridal project)	Solar pumps for irrigation; crop-residue composting (no open burns).
Kuehne+Nagel – Logistics	Carbon-neutral logistics (2030)	Group committed to net-zero by 2050; 70% renewables in operations; EcoVadis Platinum.
UNIDO–Switzerland	Eco-industrial parks (2022 proj.)	Develop green industrial zones: reduce waste & GHGs; attract green investment.

Sources: All data 2020–2025; compiled by the researchers from Company sustainability reports and announcements

Swiss firms in Egypt are actively working on carbon reduction, waste valorization and energy efficiency. They regularly achieve ISO 14001 certification and adhere to UNGC/GRI reporting. Swiss-backed projects, via UNIDO/SECO, investment programs, further bolster Egypt's industrial decarbonization. From 50–60% emissions cuts in green cement to 100% renewable power targets in manufacturing. These companies publish quantitative goals and data for 2020–2025. Their efforts span industries, from construction (Holcim, Sika) to F&B (Nestlé), logistics (K+N) and energy (ABB), reflecting a broad Swiss commitment to Egypt's sustainability transition. These companies publish quantitative goals and data for 2020–2025. Their efforts span industries, from construction (Holcim, Sika) to F&B (Nestlé), logistics (K+N) and energy (ABB), reflecting a broad Swiss commitment to Egypt's sustainability transition (IFC, 2025).

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# **Fiscal Sector Developments**

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## VI. Fiscal Sector Developments

Fiscal Year	Primary Surplus (% of GDP)	Interest Payments (% of Spending)	Budget Deficit
2021/2022	1.30%	35%	-6.70%
2023/2024	2.20%	40%	-6.90%
2024/2025	1.0% (to date)	Still elevated	-6.9% (proj.)

Source: Conducted by the Researchers from (MOF, 2025)

Egypt's recent fiscal developments have created both challenges and opportunities for Swiss businesses operating in the country. Over the past few years, the government has aimed to improve its fiscal health, as seen in its effort to generate primary surpluses, reaching 2.2% of GDP in FY2023/24. However, the budget deficit remains high at around -6.9%, and interest payments now consume over 40% of total public spending, reflecting the country's growing debt burden (MOF, 2025; IMF, 2025).

Moving forward, as part of its IMF-supported reform program, Egypt has revived its privatization agenda, aiming to sell around USD 3 billion worth of state assets in FY2025/26, compared to just USD 0.6 billion in FY2023/24. This presents strategic entry points for Swiss investors, especially in sectors where they have strong global experience, infrastructure (e.g., ABB, SGS), green energy technologies, and healthcare services. Companies looking to acquire stakes in hospitals, clinics, or utility firms may find attractive prospects as the Egyptian government opens more space for private and foreign participation (IMF, July 2025).

### Tax Reforms

Egypt has made significant strides in reforming its tax system in recent years, aiming to broaden its revenue base and improve compliance. Key reforms include the expansion of VAT collection, the adoption of digital tax platforms, and greater efforts to curb tax evasion. These reforms were spurred in part by repeated IMF-supported programs (2016, 2020, 2022, and 2024), which encouraged Egypt to enhance fiscal transparency and spending efficiency (IMF, July 2025).



1 The corporate income tax rate remains at 22.5%, which is standard for most businesses operating in Egypt. However, special exemptions apply in Free Zones and Special Economic Zones, making those areas more attractive to foreign investors, including Swiss firms. In tandem, Egypt introduced VAT in 2016, which currently stands at 14%, and has since broadened its application across sectors while rolling out digital e-invoicing systems to streamline tax collection and limit underreporting (PwC, 2025).

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## Strategic Outlook: Where Swiss Firms Stand Today

Year	Key Shift	Swiss Firm Response
2016	EGP Float & VAT	Margin pressure; initial cost shock
2018–2020	IMF-led reform cycle	Expansion of local operations (e.g., Nestlé, Roche)
2021–2023	FX crunch & Ukraine shock	Shift to localization, downsized imports
2024–2025	IMF SBA, COP27 legacy	Green pivot & regional export base strategies

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Over the past decade, Swiss businesses operating in Egypt have had to continually adapt to a shifting macroeconomic landscape. The 2016 flotation of the Egyptian pound and the introduction of VAT created an immediate margin squeeze, particularly for import-heavy sectors like pharmaceuticals, food, and industrial machinery. Many firms experienced a sudden rise in operational costs and disruptions in supply chains. However, this period also marked the beginning of deeper structural reforms (IMF, July 2025).

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Between 2018 and 2020, Egypt implemented an IMF-backed reform cycle aimed at restoring fiscal discipline and improving investment conditions. In response, leading Swiss firms, such as Nestlé and Roche, doubled down on Egypt by expanding local production capacity and investing in workforce development. These moves proved prescient, as subsequent years brought intensified foreign exchange constraints and external shocks, notably from the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. By 2021–2023, Swiss firms increasingly localized operations to manage price volatility, limit FX exposure, and sustain market share amid import bottlenecks (IMF, July 2025).

The current strategic pivot, shaped by Egypt's 2024 IMF Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) and its



models and regional integration strategies. Swiss companies are particularly well-positioned to lead on both fronts. Whether through investments in waste-to-energy systems, hydrogen technologies, or the use of Egypt as a manufacturing base for MENA exports, the shift is clear: sustainability and regional competitiveness are now essential components of doing business in Egypt (IMF, July 2025).

In sum, Swiss firms in Egypt are navigating a complex yet high-potential environment that requires agility and adaptability. Success will depend on strategic localization, policy engagement, and resilience planning. Those that align with Egypt's reform path and position themselves as long-term partners in development will be the ones to thrive.

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## **Social Contributions**

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**Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt**

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## VII. Social Contributions

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Swiss companies have social contributions in various sectors, including education, healthcare, and community development that serves and fits the corporate social responsibilities for the companies.

*In the education sector*, Swiss companies have supported a range of educational programs in Egypt, from nutrition education to vocational training. For example, Nestlé Egypt runs the global Healthy Kids initiative in primary schools, teaching nutrition and healthy habits. By 2019 this program had reached about 750,000 children in 1,025 schools across 12 governorates. Nestlé also partnered with NGOs and other firms including Swiss-founded ABB and Sanofi on the “United for Healthier Kids” campaign to educate young mothers and families about child nutrition (Nestle, 2019) . In 2021 Nestlé launched the “Because You Are a Girl” campaign under the National Council for Women to empower Egyptian girls in education and careers (Nestle, 2021).

Lafarge Egypt (Holcim Group) contributes to social development through extensive vocational and technical training, having trained over 23,000 students and 200 teachers in safety and job-related skills since 2016, alongside workshops on green building and human rights. Its CSR initiatives are allocated 40% to Health, 25% to Education, 20% to Women Empowerment, and 15% to Disabilities, reflecting a strong commitment to diversity, inclusion, and gender equity. The company also invests in young talent through the GROW Graduate, Step-IN, and EXPLORE Internship Programs, while prioritizing a comprehensive health and safety strategy aimed at achieving a zero-harm workplace and reinforcing its role as a responsible corporate citizen.

In the private-education sector, a Swiss-linked project began in 2024, where Madinet Masr partnered with Lemania Swiss International School to open Egypt's first sports-focused Swiss international school, investing EGP 350 million for the school and about EGP 2 billion for an associated sports club. The school will follow a Swiss curriculum (IB program) to provide high-quality schooling. Smaller initiatives by the Swiss Egyptian business community are also noted, such as SEBA's support of special education, autism awareness art exhibitions, and vocational projects, for example a bakery training for youth with Down syndrome (Investgate, 2024).

- Nestlé Healthy Kids (nutrition education), where about 750,000 Egyptian pupils reached in 1,025 schools with classroom lessons on healthy eating (Nestle, 2019).



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- “Because You Are a Girl” (girls’ empowerment), which is a campaign under the National Council for Women (2021) to support education and rights of girls (Nestle, 2021).
- Also, there is a program known by “Project Kayan” for Swiss International School in Madinet Masr, Lemania Swiss School and CIRA Education launched a sports-focused Swiss IB school in New Cairo, EGP 350 million investment (Investgate, 2024).
- Lafarge Vocational Training, which focuses on the Ongoing safety/skills program in Suez technical schools, training 23,060 students and 208 teachers since 2016 (Lafarage, 2021).

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*In the healthcare sector*, Swiss firms have helped expand healthcare access and public-health education in Egypt. A leading example is Lafarge Egypt’s medical convoys, where in 2020 the company and its partner, the Egyptian Council of Pro-Peace Physicians, ran 50 free medical camps across Giza, Qalyubia, South Sinai and Monufia. These convoys served 23,224 patients in 2020 alone, offering pathology, pediatrics, eye care, HCV and diabetes testing, minor surgeries, and free medicines. Since 2011 Lafarge has reached 441 convoys and 268,048 patients nationwide. During the COVID-19 pandemic (2020–2021), Lafarge Egypt also donated thousands of masks, sanitizers, gloves, and repaired 460 hospital ventilators via the Egyptian Cure Bank (Investgate, 2020).

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Swiss pharmaceutical companies have contributed via partnerships and educational initiatives. Novartis Egypt teamed up with the Ministry of Health in 2019–2020 to support the “100 million Seha” NCD screening campaign. Novartis organized educational forums for doctors on managing diabetes and hypertension, training health professionals as multipliers for nationwide heart and diabetes care (Novartis, 2019).

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Roche Diagnostics and Roche Pharma signed a 2024 tripartite agreement with Egypt’s General Authority for Healthcare, bringing advanced lab equipment (digital pathology scanners) and training programs to Egyptian hospitals. Roche’s earlier support was also crucial in Egypt’s Hepatitis C elimination, it provided 23 automated PCR systems to hospitals and trained staff, enabling the screening of over 60 million people by 2020 (Egyptian Healthcare Authority, November, 2024).



- Lafarge medical convoys (health access): In 2020, 50 free clinics benefited 23,224 patients across four governorates; cumulatively 441 convoys have aided 268,048 people since 2011.
- COVID-19 support: Lafarge donated PPE and repaired 460 ventilators in public hospitals; Nestlé launched a “Together We Are Up To It” campaign to thank health workers and provided food/personal supplies.
- Novartis–MoH partnership: Novartis helped train Egyptian doctors for the national “100 Million Seha” NCD screening program (hypertension/diabetes).
- Roche Diagnostics (2024): Donated Ventana DP 600 digital pathology scanners and established training for Egyptian pathologists.
- Hepatitis C elimination (Roche): In 2018–20, Roche delivered 23 high-throughput PCR systems to support Egypt’s mass HCV screening (50+ million people).
- Nestlé humanitarian health aid: In 2023, Nestlé MENA provided millions of food/water units and organized treatment for 1,030 injured children in Egypt

*Serving the community and its development*, Swiss businesses have funded infrastructure, environmental and social projects benefiting local communities. Lafarge Egypt has been especially active: it financed the paving of 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> of roads in Baltim, Kafr El Sheikh to improve village access and connect children to schools (CSR Egypt, 2020). The project benefitted about 2,500 residents and used Lafarge’s low emission “Hydraulic Road Binder” material. In urban areas, Lafarge partnered with NGOs on a women’s empowerment scheme in Helwan, which was a literacy and microenterprise program for 503 women, with a sewing center that trained an additional 92 women in vocational skills. As part of ongoing community aid, Lafarge has supported the Egyptian Food Bank since 2010. In 2020 it funded 2,000 food boxes for affected daily-wage families and joined the Cure Bank initiative to refurbish 460 hospital ventilators (Lafarge, 2025).

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## **Regulatory Compliance & Governance**

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**Swiss Economic  
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regulations. Egypt's Investment Law No. 72/2017, updated in 2022 grants certain guarantees for example full repatriation of profits but also requires compliance with Egyptian codes and permits. In the financial sector, banks and insurers including Swiss-owned ones must follow Egyptian Financial Supervisory Authority regulations and anti-money-laundering rules. In sum, Swiss firms in Egypt are subject to the same statutory corporate governance and compliance framework as other enterprises (Embassy of Switzerland Egypt, 2025).

Importantly, Swiss state policy and private-sector norms reinforce good governance. The Swiss Confederation is a signatory of OECD and UN conventions on anti-bribery and corporate responsibility, and Swiss multinationals typically adopt robust internal compliance for example codes of conduct, audit functions, and ethics training in all markets. This policy environment encourages Swiss investors to meet international governance benchmarks. For example, the Swiss development cooperation program specifically targets vocational education & training and public-finance management in partnership with the private sector activities which indirectly promote managerial professionalism and transparency in Egyptian industry (Egyptian Institute of Directors (EIoD), 2016).

Several Swiss companies have global sustainability and CSR policies that extend to their Egyptian operations. For example, multinational Nestlé publishes a global Creating Shared Value (CSV) strategy that includes food safety and ethical sourcing requirements, which its Egyptian affiliate implements. Similarly, Swiss construction or pharma firms often apply their parent-company standards in health, safety and environmental management. These practices help raise overall corporate governance in the sectors where they operate, by requiring good labor practices, quality assurance, and stakeholder reporting that might exceed local norms (Ahram Online, 2025b).

Concerning the *contributions to corporate governance in Egypt*, Beyond the Swiss businesses' own compliance, Swiss entities have supported corporate-governance capacity-building in Egypt. Swiss development projects and public-private partnerships have had elements that indirectly promote corporate best practices in terms of skills and training, transparency and anti-corruption, and institutional cooperation (Ahram Online, 2025b).

Switzerland has contributed to establishing vocational training programs (TVET) in Egypt based on the Swiss dual-system model. By improving workforce skills and linking education to

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1 industry, these initiatives foster professional management and organizational discipline in companies. A better-skilled labor force and robust training institutions contribute to a more transparent and efficient business environment (Embassy of Switzerland Egypt, 2021-2024).

2 Swiss organizations, such as the Swiss Agency for Development and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, have backed anti-corruption and public financial reforms. Even though, 3 the organizations are aimed at the public sector, changes like budgeting transparency and 4 procurement reforms have a ripple effect since these entities raise standards of responsibility 5 in both business and government. Such initiatives are supported by Switzerland's emphasis 6 on "transparency and accountability" in Egypt. Switzerland, for example, indirectly promoted 7 an oversight culture that businesses must deal with by contributing to the funding of Egyptian 8 civil-society platforms that keep an eye on governmental spending (Ahram Online, 2025b).

9 Additionally, Switzerland cooperates with Egyptian authorities on improving the investment 10 climate. The Joint Economic Committee (JEC) signed in 2022, for example, aims to identify 11 obstacles to trade and investment. While details are emerging, Swiss businesses have a voice 12 in such dialogues, advocating clearer regulations and stronger enforcement against corporate 13 misconduct. This multilateral cooperation signals to all foreign investors (not just Swiss) that 14 Egypt seeks higher governance standards (Ahram Online, 2025b).

15 By comparing Swiss investments in Egypt with other foreign investments, Swiss investors in 16 Egypt are part of a diverse group of foreign enterprises. In terms of corporate governance and 17 compliance, Swiss firms are generally comparable to other Western (especially EU) companies, as they tend to apply advanced governance norms like global best practices. By contrast, some investors from countries with less stringent governance cultures may have different operating styles. For example, large Gulf-invested firms or conglomerates sometimes have more family-based management and may follow regional norms rather than international codes. Chinese firms (infrastructure, energy) may also follow different frameworks, though many still must meet Egyptian legal requirements (Embassy of Switzerland Egypt, 2021-2024).

Switzerland is a middle-tier investor, as it is far behind the leading sources (Gulf and some European countries) in FDI volume. In regulatory cooperation, all major foreign investors operate under the same Egyptian laws. However, in practice Swiss (and other EU) companies



often implement corporate-governance practices such as independent auditing and board oversight that exceed the legal minimums. In contrast, smaller or less formal foreign ventures may not adopt such measures unless required (Embassy of Switzerland Egypt, 2021-2024).

The Egyptian government has consistently worked to enhance governance in all areas. The financial regulator has tightened corporate governance regulations for listed firms and banks in recent years, and these regulations now apply to all shareholders, domestic and foreign. According to World Bank and OECD assessments, Egypt's reforms (such as investment incentives for "governance-friendly" sectors) are applicable to all investors, even though there are compliance hurdles (Embassy of Switzerland Egypt, 2021-2024).



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## Digital Infrastructure & Innovation

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## IX. Digital Infrastructure & Innovation

Swiss firms bring specialized software, automation equipment, and knowledge transfer to Egypt's digitalization efforts. Companies often work in partnership with local institutions or multinationals to modernize sectors such as banking, energy, healthcare and education.

- **Swiss businesses' contributions to digital transformation in Egypt**

Throughout various sectors, the Swiss firms have been contributing significantly to Egypt's digital transformation. These sectors are mainly *fintech and financial services, industrial automation and energy infrastructure, healthcare and life science, education and skills development, and telecommunication and ICT infrastructure*.

For *fintech and financial services*, Temenos could be a perfect example in Egypt, based in Geneva. Temenos offers major Egyptian banks digital front-end platforms and fundamental banking services. For example, as part of a visionary IT transformation, MidBank (Egypt) decided to replace outdated systems in 2021 with Temenos Transact (core banking) and Temenos Infinity (online/mobile). The Central Bank of Egypt's objectives for financial inclusion and a cashless society are directly supported by this project. Similar to this, Banque du Caire, a sizable state-owned bank with 2.9 million clients and 225 branches, implemented Temenos Infinity omni-channel banking software in 2019 and chose Temenos T24 Transact as its central system. In order to enhance agility, cut expenses, and introduce new digital banking services were the goals of the Banque du Caire deployment (Temenos, 2025b).

Temenos' other significant activities are the Egyptian National Post Organization (ENPO), which runs over 4,000 locations. For the purpose of supporting government financial inclusion objectives, ENPO replaced 20 outdated IT systems with Temenos T24 and Infinity (cloud deployment. Swiss fintech companies like Avaloq and Crealogix are engaged in the race for the Middle Eastern market on a regional scale (Swiss Info.ch, 2020). Also, ADCB Egypt, a division of Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, implemented ISO20022 and Swift GPI standards in 2022 by utilizing the Temenos Payments platform. This allowed for immediate cross-border payments and the automation of front-, middle-, and back-office tasks (ADCB, 2022).

In the *industrial automation and energy infrastructure sector*, for instance, ABB, the Swedish Swiss tech solutions multinational corporation that has headquartered in Zürich, traded as

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1 ABBN, exists in Egypt since more than 10 years. ABB considers Egypt as the main hub for the  
 2 Near East, North and Central Africa, and the gate in achieving its electrification and  
 3 automation objectives. About 1,800 people work for ABB in five factories in Egypt, and its  
 4 ecosystem supports about 3,500 jobs with local partners. ABB has already invested USD 200  
 5 million in Egypt over the past 10 years (ABB, 2018).

6 In 2021, ABB introduced the Energy Efficiency Movement (EEM) project worldwide, and in  
 7 May of the same year, it expanded to Egypt, and 400 businesses from around the world have  
 8 already joined the program. EEM's main goal is to increase awareness and motivate action to  
 9 lower energy costs and carbon emissions while maintaining sustainability and safety. ABB  
 10 hopes to reduce energy consumption by promoting scalable alternatives, inexpensive energy  
 11 sources, and technological best practices. The company signed a memorandum of  
 12 understanding with the Ministry of Trade and Industry. It includes the donation of a specialized  
 13 energy-efficient electric motor testing laboratory, worth USD 120,000, to the General  
 14 Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC). In 2023, the company announced to  
 15 expand business in Egypt. ABB's production includes about 20% exported, with a goal to raise  
 16 this to 25% (Ahram Online , 2023)

17 Concerning the company's significant projects in Egypt, the company worked on the  
 12 electrification systems in national cultural sites like the Grand Egyptian Museum, the control  
 13 systems for a new potable water treatment plant in Cairo, the power and control systems for  
 14 major infrastructure, such as the power stations at Cairo International Airport Terminal 2, and  
 15 the control systems for a 280 MW wind farm. Beyond ABB, other Swiss industrial players  
 16 contribute to factory digitization and infrastructure. For example, Swiss machinery and  
 17 robotics support manufacturing sectors, and firms like Georg Fischer or Schindler  
 (elevators/controls) also have local footprints. The partnership models are typically joint  
 ventures or local factories (ABB's factories date back decades), with technology transfer  
 through training and local production (ABB, 2018).

In *healthcare and life sciences*, Swiss pharmaceutical and healthcare corporations are becoming more and more involved in Egypt's health tech development. Prominent Swiss pharmaceutical companies, mainly Novartis and Roche are investigating digital health and have robust local operations. Novartis, which has operated in Egypt for more than 58 years, makes it clear that it develops cutting-edge therapies using innovative science and digital



technologies. Its local investments cover patient programs, manufacturing infrastructure, and research and development. Despite Novartis' emphasis on medicine, the company's reference to digital technology raises the possibility that it is involved in telemedicine or health informatics projects, such as digital aids for managing diseases (Novartis, 2025).

Roche Egypt has pursued partnerships to bring artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud tech into healthcare. Thus, Roche and Microsoft Egypt inked a memorandum of agreement in late 2021 to work together to enhance patient diagnosis and care through the use of AI and Azure cloud solutions. Through the use of digital advances, this partnership specifically seeks to optimize the patients' journey and speed up early cancer identification in Egypt. The country manager for Roche acknowledged the company's 125-year history of innovation and promised to use technology to help more patients receive an earlier diagnosis. Other Swiss companies contribute to health tech indirectly. For instance, Roche Diagnostics (Basel-based) supplies advanced laboratory systems, and medical device makers like Straumann (dental implants) introduce smart instrumentation. Swiss NGOs and foundations also support digital literacy in healthcare. While precise investment figures are scarce, the Roche–Microsoft MoU signals a strategic effort, Swiss and US tech working with Egyptian health authorities to integrate AI into care pathways (Microsoft & Roche, 2021).

For Switzerland's contribution in *education and skills development sectors* in Egypt, SwissCham's charter places a strong emphasis on training to enhance corporate skills, culture, recruitment, and retention, as well as leadership development programs and mentoring opportunities. To put it another way, professional training and business education are part of Swiss Egyptian partnerships that aim to strengthen the talent pool for digital enterprises. For instance, SwissCham events frequently include workshops on innovation and technology aimed at both Egyptian management and Swiss expats (SwissCham Egypt, 2022).

Other key contributions in *quality assurance and standards*, such as SGS, a Swiss multinational, has collaborated with the General Organization for Export and Import Control (GOEIC) to enhance conformity assessment services. This partnership focuses on training programs and quality assurance initiatives, ensuring that Egyptian exports meet international standards. In *investment consultancy services*, the partnership between SwissCham Egypt and the Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) aims to provide tailored investment consultancy

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1 services. This collaboration is designed to optimize business operations and drive sustainable economic growth (SGS, 2024).

2 Under collaborations with the government, Egypt and Switzerland are preparing a  
 3 cooperation program for 2025–2028, focusing on *governance, human rights, green growth,*  
 4 *youth skills development, protection issues, and migration*. The program builds upon the  
 5 existing 2021–2024 cooperation framework and aims to support projects like Egypt's Country  
 6 Platform for the *Nexus of Water, Food, and Energy (NWFE)*, which seeks to attract investments  
 worth USD 14.7 billion (MPEDIC, 2024).

7 In January 2024, Switzerland and Egypt's Ministry of International Cooperation (MOIC) signed  
 8 two grants valued at USD 19 million. These grants support the second phase of the drinking  
 9 water management program in Upper Egypt and the sludge management project in Beni Suef.  
 10 This is part of a broader joint development cooperation program between 2021 and 2024,  
 totaling approximately USD 94 million. As of 2022, Switzerland's investments in Egypt  
 amounted to nearly USD 2.2 billion across 433 projects, with trade volume between the two  
 countries increasing by 7.8% to USD 1.52 billion (MPEDIC, 2024).

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- 12 • **Investments in AI, automation, ERP systems, R&D, and Industry 4.0  
 13 technologies**

14 Swiss companies are key players in digital transformation: ERP, AI, IoT: ABB integrates  
 15 automation in power sectors. Smart Manufacturing: Nestlé uses predictive maintenance and  
 digital twins. R&D: Novartis Egypt contributes clinical trial data. Startup Partnerships: Some  
 firms work with local healthtech and foodtech startups (Swiss Confederation, 2025).

16 Switzerland's Digital Strategy 2025 focuses on areas such as artificial intelligence,  
 17 cybersecurity, and the promotion of open-source software. These priorities resonate with  
 Egypt's digital transformation goals, fostering a conducive environment for Swiss companies  
 to contribute effectively to Egypt's digital infrastructure (Swiss Confederation, 2025).

Swiss companies' engagement in Egypt's digital transformation spans multiple sectors and  
 reflects both Switzerland's high-tech strengths and Egypt's development priorities.  
 Quantitatively, *Switzerland is a major investor where direct Swiss investment in Egypt is about USD 1.2 billion, supporting some 25,000 jobs across industries such as pharmaceuticals,*



*chemicals, food, building materials and energy. While concerning the technology driven investments, as mentioned previously, ABB has USD 200 million in industrial expansion, and banking software deals by Temenos covering 12+ Egyptian banks. Thus, digital investment estimated at USD 50–80 million over past 5 years (GAIFI, 2023).*

Switzerland and Egypt maintain robust trade and investment ties. Notably, Egypt is “Africa’s main export market for Swiss companies”, with bilateral trade reaching about USD 2.65 billion in 2024; where Egypt exports to Switzerland about USD 1.28 billion and Switzerland exports to Egypt about USD 1.36 billion (ITC, 2025).

In January 2025, Egypt and Switzerland signed a Joint Economic Committee agreement during the World Economic Forum. This agreement is set to bolster bilateral relations, particularly in trade, investment, and economic development. It emphasizes the importance of digital innovation and sustainable development in the collaborative efforts between the two countries (SIS, 2025).

Through Egypt’s Industrial Modernization Center (IMC), technology agenda and collaborations such as an Industry 4.0 Innovation Center with Siemens, Egypt has initiated an Industry 4.0 program. The government is actively looking for AI applications, corporate software, and automation in the fields of services, energy, and manufacturing. This makes room for Swiss knowledge: Swiss companies are in a good position to help Egypt with its efforts to implement digital transformation, smart industries, and sustainable energy (ITIDA, 2021).

- **Collaborations with Egyptian tech startups and research institutions**

Under the context of *innovation labs for youth empowerment*, in 2022, the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) of Egypt, in partnership with UNICEF and supported by the Swiss Embassy's Office of International Cooperation, inaugurated the first of six innovation labs at El Waily Youth Center. These labs aim to develop social innovation, digital, and entrepreneurship skills among young people, including refugees and migrants. This initiative is part of the 'Meshwary' programme, which has reached 400,000 young people with life and employability skills since its inception in 2008 (UNICEF, 2022).

Additionally, in terms of *research and development initiatives*, the Swiss software company Modeso established a tech hub in Egypt in 2015 to leverage the country's pool of skilled

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software engineers. By 2016, Modeso had over 15 employees in Egypt and emphasized knowledge transfer between Switzerland and Egypt through monthly tech talks, hack days, and blog posts. The company highlighted the loyalty and strong work ethic of Egyptian employees as key assets (Modeso, 2023)

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Concerning *eco-industrial parks initiatives*, in April 2024, a Swiss Egyptian high-level delegation visited the Suez Canal Economic Zone and Orascom Industrial Park to showcase the impact of their collaboration on promoting eco-industrial parks. This visit highlighted the role of the Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme (GEIPP) in Egypt, emphasizing the commitment to fostering inclusive and environmentally responsible economic growth (GEIPP, 2024).

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# **Assessed Economic Contributions of Swiss Business in Egypt**

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**Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt**

**2025**



## 1 X. Assessed Economic Contributions 2 of Swiss Business in Egypt

3 The continued presence of Swiss companies in Egypt reflects a set of business characteristics  
4 that have measurable implications for economic development. This section presents an  
5 assessment of those attributes, such as innovation capacity, production localization, and  
6 supply chain integration, based on data-driven analysis. It seeks to illustrate how Swiss-  
7 affiliated firms contribute to Egypt's national economic objectives through specific, evidence-  
based outcomes.

- 8 1. *Innovation and R&D Capabilities*
2. *Transfer of Technology & Skills Development*
3. *Local Manufacturing & Supply Chain Integration*
4. *Long-Term Investment Commitment*
5. *Ethical Practices & Corporate Responsibility*
6. *Quality & Precision Standards*
7. *Strategic Enablers: Diplomacy, ESG, and Finance*
8. *Financial Stability & Institutional Credibility*



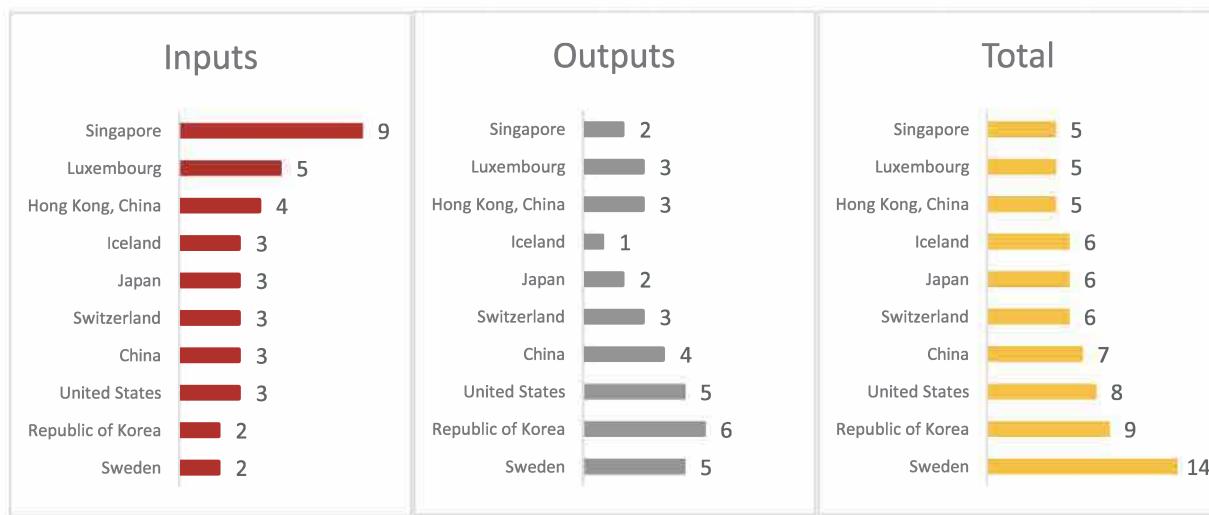
## 1. Innovation and R&D Capabilities

Switzerland consistently ranks among the top countries in global innovation indices. Swiss firms bring strong research and development capacities, particularly in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, precision manufacturing, and industrial automation. These capabilities support Egyptian industry by introducing advanced solutions and fostering a culture of innovation in local operations.



Switzerland is ranked as the first country for the overall Global Innovation Index (GII) in 2024 for the 14th consecutive year. It is still the global leader among innovative outputs in the 1st position in Knowledge and technology outputs and in Creative outputs. It is also in the top 4 and 5 of all the other GII pillars except Infrastructure, where it is 7th (WIPO, 2024).

### Economies with the Most GII Indicators Ranked Top, 2024



Source: Conducted by the Researchers from (WIPO, 2024)

Swiss companies bring advanced technologies in automation, digital banking, pharmaceuticals, and food safety, helping Egypt modernize its industries. About over CHF 18 billion, which is equivalent to EGP 1.111 trillion<sup>3</sup>, is spent on R&D by Swiss firms in 2023 **globally** and were allocated to companies, according to the official SME portal of the Swiss Confederation (Government of Switzerland), operated by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). This reflects an annual growth rate of 3.5% since 2021, according to a study

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1 conducted by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) (FSO, 2025). Switzerland spent just under €  
2 915 CHF856, and equivalent to EGP 52.859 thousand<sup>4</sup> per capita on research and  
3 development in 2023, the highest in Europe. The average per capita spending in the European  
4 Union (EU) was around €275, equivalent to EGP 15.866 thousand<sup>5</sup>. Switzerland ranks sixth in  
5 Europe (swissinfo.ch, 2024).

6 Thus, in Egypt, this is reflected locally through R&D partnerships in Egypt, such as Roche's  
7 partnership with Gypto Pharma on biotech production, according to the companies'  
8 statement (Roche Middle East , 2024). Hence, as a sectoral level glimpse companies, like  
9 Temenos and ABB are pioneering **digital finance and smart industrial solutions** in Egypt  
10 . While Novartis and Roche have transferred biotech manufacturing processes to local partners,  
enabling the production of advanced medications domestically. Also, Bühler supports the  
modernization of Egypt's food silos and processing plants, enhancing national food security,  
according to the companies' websites (ABB, 2025; Temenos, 2025; Novartis, 2025; Roche,  
2025; Bühler, 2025).

11 **In the field of medical devices**, companies like Roche Diagnostics bring in new technologies  
12 and expertise that can significantly improve Egypt's domestic healthcare infrastructure, not  
13 only in terms of the availability of machinery, but also diagnostics capability and training  
14 competence. Similarly, Switzerland's global pre-eminence **in water and waste management**  
15 **technology** makes Swiss companies the ideal business partners to address Egypt's critical  
16 environmental and sustainability issues. Swiss **clean-tech firms** can help upgrade Egypt's  
17 municipal infrastructure, reduce industrial waste, and promote water efficiency, especially  
beneficial in a water-scarce country (Roche, 2025; Switzerland Global Enterprise,2025).

16 **In agribusiness**, Swiss firms are top in the precision agriculture technology. Their systems and  
machinery, striding from smart irrigation to soil analysis, can help Egyptian farmers maximize  
yields using less input, build food security, and adapt to climate change. Additionally,  
Switzerland's **renewable energy technology**, particularly in solar and hydrogen, is  
complementing Egypt's ambitions towards energy diversification and sustainability realization

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<sup>4</sup> Converted on 27 July 2025

<sup>5</sup> Converted on 27 July 2025



under Vision 2030 and its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Swiss investment also generates substantial jobs beyond the sectoral skills.

***With the ILO and Swiss Contact frameworks, with every USD 1 million investment by Swiss companies, 11 direct employment opportunities are generated, usually formal and skilled, along with potentially double the amount of indirect employment opportunities through supply chain and service linkages. Swiss partnerships hence become a channel for both innovation and capital and a secure pool of high-quality, inclusive employment opportunities in Egypt. In addition, through backward (suppliers) and forward (service providers) linkages, the investment may indirectly create up to double that, meaning approximately 22 additional indirect jobs (IFC, 2021).***

## **2. Transfer of Technology and Skills Development**

Swiss firms play a fundamental role in Egypt's industrial transformation by bringing advanced production techniques, global managerial expertise, and a commitment to sustained local development. Programs carried out in partnership with the UNIDO–Switzerland initiative such as eco-industrial parks in the Suez Canal Economic Zone, have helped launch collaborative clusters where Swiss and Egyptian companies develop integrated manufacturing facilities, share sustainable practices, and infuse higher-quality processes into local industrial operations. These efforts are not just trendy slogans, they create real-world synergies where Swiss technology elevates Egyptian manufacturing standards, strengthens quality control, and embeds Industry 4.0 practices (GEIPP, 2024).

In the digital economy, Swiss firms have also proven to be pillars of Egypt's financial modernization. Temenos, the Swiss banking software leader, has equipped major Egyptian players, including Banque du Caire, Suez Canal Bank, and Banque Misr, with open architecture digital platforms and sophisticated core banking systems (Business Chief, 2021).

Behind every such successful deployment is skills transfer. Swiss firms almost always pair their technology rollouts with intensive training programs, whether on smart grid operations, digital banking maintenance, or export-grade manufacturing. This approach builds up a pool of locally trained engineers, IT specialists, and quality managers, catalyzing Egypt's deeper



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integration into global value chains. In effect, Swiss partnerships do not merely deliver equipment or software, the partnership also build lasting institutional capacity within Egypt's industries, bridging the gap between local capability and international competitiveness (Business Chief, 2021).

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### **3. High-Quality Local Manufacturing and Supply Chain Integration**

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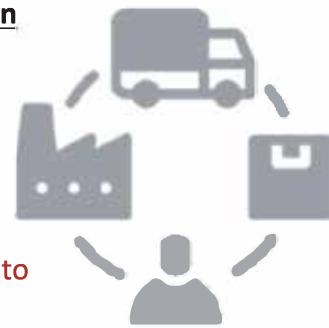
Swiss companies have significantly extended local sourcing and production in Egypt, proactively complementing Egypt's import substitution strategy. **This aligns with Egypt's 2024–2030 strategy of increasing local manufacturing content to 60–80%, according to Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) (IEA, 2024).**

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For example, Nestlé Egypt has localized 16 key raw materials, has three factories in the country, and now exports its products to 22 markets (Nestlé, 2024a). Meanwhile, Barry Callebaut is investing USD 30 million in a new chocolate production plant in Egypt, aimed at supplying both domestic and broader MENA markets. Additionally, major Swiss pharmaceutical firms have begun locally producing biologic medicines and insulin analogues, resulting in annual import savings for Egypt of around USD 180 million, according to GAFI (GAFI, 2023).

Through local production, Swiss businesses not only reduce dependence on imported inputs but also increase the resilience of Egypt's supply chains. Their partnerships bring stringent global quality standards that spur Egyptian suppliers to upgrade their capabilities, increasing their value chain integration into regional and global value chains. Finally, Swiss investment in domestic production and sourcing is turning out to be a sure path towards greater supply chain resilience, sustainable import substitution, and increased export opportunity (Embassy of Switzerland Egypt, 2025).

***Egypt's total import bill hovers around USD 80–85 billion/year, based on Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) and IMF data (2022–2024 average) (CBE, 2025). If Swiss firms help Egypt localize some of USD 1.6–2.4 billion, as an assumption, then about 2–3% of Egypt's total imports are assumed as partial substitution of high-impact import segments. And, if the import multiplier is 1.5 according to UNCTAD trade development models, this***



would mean USD 2.4-3.6 billion in annual foreign exchange savings, along with an inflation-stabilizing effect from currency stability<sup>6</sup>.

#### 4. Long-Term Investment Commitment and Economic Contribution

Swiss firms demonstrate sustained capital engagement in Egypt's economic development. Rather than representing trend-driven or short-term investment flows, Swiss investment has shown resilience and consistency, even during periods of macroeconomic volatility such as the COVID-19 pandemic, currency devaluations, and regional uncertainty.



According to the Swiss Embassy in Egypt, Swiss FDI inflows increased from USD 471 million in FY 2020/21 to USD 676.4 million in FY 2022/23 and then reached to USD 600.6 million in FY 2023/2024 and most recently USD 116 million in Q1 2024/2025, even as Egypt faced significant macroeconomic turbulence such as the 2022 devaluation and pandemic-related slowdown. These funds entered broad sectors, pharma, food, machinery, infrastructure, reflecting a sustained, diversified Swiss presence. Unlike opportunistic foreign investments, Swiss capital holds firm through economic ups and downs, contributing to continuous job creation and steady industrial capacity growth (CBE, 2025).

This steadfastness sends a powerful message to Egyptian stakeholders: Swiss companies view Egypt not simply as a short-term business opportunity, but as a strategic regional hub for manufacturing, exports, and industrial integration. Their long-term view fosters infrastructure investment, local supply-chain development, and deeper skill transfer, all of which support employment stability and enhanced technological competence across the Egyptian economy.

Swiss businesses have committed more than USD 1.3 billion to Egypt through 433 investment projects, establishing Switzerland as one of the country's top ten foreign investors. These investments are consistently directed toward key value-added sectors, including pharmaceuticals, food and beverages, chemicals, and industrial machinery, highlighting the long-term



<sup>6</sup> Total impact on FX saving=1.5\*1.6 or 2.4; The import multiplier measures how much foreign exchange savings and domestic value-added result from reducing imports by a certain amount.

1 confidence Swiss firms have in Egypt's economic potential. This confidence translates into real economic growth, directly creating over 25,000 jobs in the local market and supporting a rising industrial output, according to an interview between the CEO of the GAFI, Hossam Heiba, with the Swiss State Secretary for Economic Affairs, Helene Budliger Arteda, in September 2023 (GAFI, 2023).

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7 In financial terms, Swiss foreign direct investment (FDI) in Egypt grew by around 45% in the fiscal year 2022/2023, increasing from approximately USD 676 million to USD 980 million. In FY 2023/2024, the trend continued strongly with an estimated USD 600.6 million in new Swiss investments, maintaining momentum despite global economic instability (Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt, 2024; CBE, 2025).

8 These investments do more than just fill financial ledgers, actively plug Egypt into global markets. Take Nestlé Egypt, for example, the company manufactures locally and exports its products to 22 countries across the Middle East and Africa, directly contributing to Egypt's regional trade participation (Nestle, 2023).

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11 **5. Ethical Business Practices and Corporate Responsibility**

12 Swiss multinationals in Egypt are not solely focused on profit generation. The Swiss companies demonstrate actions aligned with lasting economic and environmental impact. Their 13 operations reflect high Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, which align with Egypt's development priorities 14 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 15 as outlined in ESG disclosures such as Nestlé Egypt 2023 and Novartis Egypt 2023 (Ahram Online, 2025b).



16 Between 2021 and 2024, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) allocated 17 approximately USD 94 million to support initiatives in Egypt, ranging from clean water access and waste management to vocational training and green growth. These grants empower Swiss and Egyptian partnerships to drive infrastructure development (for example, improved water supply in Upper Egypt and Beni Suef) and enhance private sector capabilities, especially in sectors such as agritech and artisan microenterprises (Ahram Online, 2024).



Moreover, Swiss companies active in Egypt, including ABB, Nestlé, Roche, and others, have embedded CSR programs that focus on technical education, internships, and inclusive hiring practices. In 2023, Nestlé Egypt reported monitoring water use and quality continuously across 100% of its factories, aiming for improvements in water efficiency and wastewater management. These practices showcase rigorous environmental stewardship and align with Nestlé's global "WASH Pledge" to provide safe water and sanitation at all operational sites by 2025 (Novartis, 2024).

The Swiss Embassy and SwissCham Egypt play a vital role in coordinating such efforts, facilitating collaborative programs in green energy, circular economy, and youth employment. These programs reinforce the link between Swiss private investment and national development objectives. Thus, these efforts support Egypt's efforts to advance sustainable urbanization, create employment opportunities, and build inclusive economic systems (Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt, 2022).

In sum, Swiss-affiliated entities in Egypt exemplify how foreign investment can go beyond financial metrics to deliver societal value, through targeted CSR, environmental care, community engagement, and youth empowerment, all closely aligned with Egypt's strategic priorities and global sustainability frameworks.

## **6. Elevating Standards in Quality and Precision**

The collaboration with Swiss firms is setting the bar higher for Egyptian industries in terms of quality and precision. In ***the food sector***, SGS Egypt works closely with Egypt's National Food Safety Authority to introduce globally accepted standards, like ISO 22000 and HACCP, and conducts independent testing and certification for export purposes to deliver better-quality, safer food to the domestic and global markets (SGS, 2023).



In the ***infrastructure and construction industries***, companies like Sika and LafargeHolcim Egypt are bringing high-technology advanced green building technologies to meet Egypt's growing demand for sustainable urbanization. Their technology enhances strength and energy efficiency in large-sized projects, making it easier for Egypt to transition toward eco-friendly construction (Lafarge, 2025).

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In **consumer goods**, firms such as Nestlé Egypt and Hero Middle East & Africa implement rigorous international food safety standards, for example, ISO and HACCP systems, incorporated within manufacturing. The systems ensure traceability, hygiene, and consistency, improving the general quality of Egypt's food industry production and making it more appealing on foreign markets (SGS, 2023).

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Bringing all of this together is a Swiss-led culture of precision and conformity. By incorporating these high standards of quality into local value chains, Swiss businesses not only ensure their own brands remain competitive globally, but the companies also enable Egyptian suppliers to do better too. This domino effect enhances Egyptian product quality, boosts export preparedness, and enhances Egypt's standing in regional and international markets.

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## **7. Strategic Enablers: Diplomacy, ESG, and Finance**

The Switzerland–Egypt partnership is anchored in strong diplomatic ties, legal frameworks, and shared sustainability goals. A 2020 Memorandum of Understanding between Swiss Global Enterprise and Egypt's General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAIFI) marked a step forward in streamlining investment processes and facilitating trade. Building on this, both countries are preparing to launch a Swiss Egyptian Business Council in 2025 to enhance private-sector collaboration and policy dialogue (GAIFI, 2023).

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This cooperation is reinforced by robust international agreements, including the ***Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) and Double Taxation Agreement (DTA), which provide legal certainty, risk protection, and tax efficiency for investors. These frameworks offer Swiss businesses a reliable environment for long-term planning in Egypt*** (ITA, 2022).

Beyond legal and diplomatic alignment, Swiss firms are also recognized for their leadership in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards and climate finance. Institutions such as Zurich Insurance, UBS, Swiss Re, and SIFEM play an important role in channeling capital into green sectors through blended finance models, combinations of public and private funds designed to attract investment in sustainability projects.



*Egypt has pledged to invest USD 246 billion by 2030 to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), with about 80% of that earmarked for mitigation efforts according to the IMF's Fourth Review 2025 report. Emerging collaborations include Waste-to-energy projects converting municipal and agricultural waste into clean power; Green hydrogen initiatives under joint ventures; and Climate-smart irrigation systems from SwissAgro and others, promoting efficient water use in arid regions (MPEDIC, 2022).*

*These projects do more than reduce emissions, the projects promote green industrialization, create high-value jobs, and enhance Egypt's fiscal and environmental resilience. According to UNCTAD (2023), every USD 1 billion in green foreign direct investment (FDI) can add 0.6–0.9% to GDP, underscoring the strategic value of Swiss Egyptian sustainability partnerships (CBE, 2025).*

*Ultimately, these enablers, diplomacy, ESG leadership, and innovative finance, position Swiss firms as trusted partners in Egypt's journey toward inclusive growth and global competitiveness.*

## **8. Financial Stability & Institutional Credibility**

Swiss banks are globally recognized for their conservative, stable banking approach, rooted in Switzerland's tradition of fiscal prudence, neutrality, and strong regulatory oversight qualities that enhance their reliability in long-term investment in markets like Egypt and reduce exposure to volatility. By partnering with Swiss banking institutions, Egyptian banks, businesses, and SMEs can benefit from enhanced financial intermediation, enabling improved access to credit, especially where local banking systems may struggle due to limited collateral or higher perceived risks.



Moreover, Swiss Egyptian financial collaborations are already leveraging blended finance models<sup>7</sup>, combining concessional funds, grants, and private investment, to channel climate-

<sup>7</sup> Blended finance combines public funds, such as concessional loans, and grants, with private sector capital, leveraging the former to de-risk investments and attract greater private participation. Common structures include grants or technical assistance to reduce project risk or build capacity, concessional loans or guarantees that improve the risk-return profile for private investors, equity investments or co-financing, where public and private partners share both returns and risks, and public–private partnerships (PPPs) with shared infrastructure

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1 focused investments effectively. Documents from NGFS and OECD highlight how blended finance is central to a strategy that de-risks investment in climate and sustainability projects, thereby attracting more private capital into emerging markets like Egypt.

2 The **Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), in cooperation with the Egyptian government**, has implemented mixed-financed infrastructure projects totalling approximately CHF 300 million (which is equivalent to EGP 18.5 billion). These projects focused on financing key infrastructure areas, including irrigation systems, healthcare facilities, and hazardous waste management, through a blend of Swiss concessional finance, local public funds, and private investments (SIS, 2015).

3 At COP27, in November 2022, Egypt launched its **Water-Food-Energy Nexus (NWFE) Program**, a national platform mobilizing USD 1 billion in blended finance to drive private sector participation in green infrastructure projects such as clean energy, water desalination, agriculture and irrigation. **The Swiss Development and Cooperation Agency (SDC)** is a key partner in this initiative, providing technical support, concessional funding, and facilitating public–private investment collaboration (MPEDIC, 2022).

4 Through the **Global Eco-Industrial Parks Programme (GEIPP), a collaboration between UNIDO and SECO**, Egypt hosts eco-industrial parks where development financing is structured to blend grant support with private investment. This model shares capital costs, risk, and expertise to support sustainable industrial clusters, showing a scalable example of blended finance in industrial settings (Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt, 2023).

5 Implemented Swiss–Egypt Blended Finance Initiatives:

16	Initiative	Swiss Partner	Blended Finance Elements	Sector Focus
17	SECO Mixed-Finance Programs	SECO	Concessional loans + public/private capital	Water, health, waste infrastructure
	NWFE Climate Nexus Program	SDC + Ministry of Int'l Cooperation Egypt	Grants + private investment mobilization	Clean energy, water, agri-infrastructure
	Eco-Industrial Parks (GEIPP)	UNIDO & SECO	Grant & private finance within industrial parks	Sustainable manufacturing

18 ownership, revenue, or management responsibilities. It is simply mixing money from governments or donors (such as development agencies or charities) with private investors (like banks or companies). This helps attract more money to important projects, especially in areas like clean energy, water, or farming, by making them less risky and more attractive for businesses.



Sources: Compiled by the researchers from Egyptian Government Portal, Ministry of Planning

Swiss agencies like SECO, SDC, and SIFEM are actively deploying these blended models in partnership with Egyptian government entities, multilateral organizations, and private investors to mobilize climate-resilient development. This demonstrates real-world application, not merely future potential (Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt, 2023).

***On top of these structural advantages, the presence of a Swiss bank or firm in a syndicated deal has a measurable “confidence effect”: it typically lowers the country risk premium, reducing the cost of capital by approximately 50–100 basis points, as documented by MENA-based development finance institutions (DFIs). This rate reduction substantially improves the viability and affordability of major investment projects across sectors in Egypt.***

As a Summary for the Section:

Pillar	Highlights	Insights/Impact
1. Innovation & R&D	Switzerland ranks top in the Global Innovation Index (2024); Swiss firms invest CHF 18 billion in R&D globally	Supports biotech, automation, digital banking; Novartis localize biotech in Egypt
2. Transfer of Technology & Skills Development	Partnerships via UNIDO and with banks (e.g., Temenos with Banque du Caire); comprehensive local training programs	Technology transfer is combined with upskilling Egyptians, increasing productivity, and enabling global value chain integration.
3. Local Manufacturing & Supply Chain Integration	Nestlé, Barry Callebaut, and pharma firms produce locally; Swiss input saves USD 2.4–3.6 billion annually in foreign exchange; 2–3% import substitution	Reduces import dependency, strengthens domestic industry, and stabilizes inflation while supporting national industrial goals.
4. Long-Term Investment Commitment	USD 1.3 billion+ in Swiss FDI across 433 projects; 25,000+ direct jobs; resilient investment during crises (COVID-19, 2022 devaluation)	Demonstrates stable, long-horizon investment, strengthening infrastructure, industrial capacity, and workforce resilience.
5. Ethical Practices & Corporate Responsibility	USD 94M in SDC development grants; ESG focus by Nestlé, Roche, ABB; CSR efforts in youth, education, and clean water	Aligns with SDGs; creates social and environmental value beyond financial returns, reinforcing inclusive growth.
6. Quality & Precision Standards	Partnerships with regulators (SGS with NFSA); ISO and HACCP implementation; green construction by Sika and LafargeHolcim	Raises national product standards, boosts export readiness, and accelerates Egypt's transition to sustainable urbanization.
7. Strategic Enablers:	MoU with GAFI; BIT, DTA agreements; new Swiss-Egyptian Business Council in 2025; support from UBS, Zurich, SIFEM	Enhances investor confidence, de-risks green investment, and scales up climate finance partnerships in Egypt.

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Diplomacy, ESG, and Finance		
8. Financial Stability & Institutional Credibility	CHF 300M in blended finance (SECO); COP27 projects under NWFE; eco-industrial parks via GEIPP	Swiss credibility and blended finance models reduce risk, lower capital costs, and boost bankable project pipeline.

Sources: Compiled by the Researchers from WIPO (2024) Global Innovation Index, Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO, 2025), Roche, Novartis, Nestlé, Temenos, ABB, SGS, Bühler, Barry Callebaut official websites (2024–2025), IMF (2025), UNCTAD (2023), Central Bank of Egypt (2024), GAFI (2024), CBE, 2025; Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt, SwissCham Egypt (2024); UNIDO Egypt Industrial Parks Reports (2022–2024); OECD Labor Cost Indicators (2024); NGFS, OECD Blended Finance Studies (2023–2024)



# 16

## Strategic Recommendations

Swiss Economic  
Impact in Egypt

2025



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## XX. Strategic Recommendations

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Over the past decade, Swiss companies operating in Egypt have faced a dynamic environment marked by both macroeconomic volatility and significant structural opportunities. Despite periodic currency devaluations, inflation surges, and challenges with foreign exchange access, the long-term fundamentals of Egypt continue to present a compelling case for investment, especially for firms willing to adapt to local realities and leverage Egypt's strategic geographic position.

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One key recommendation for Swiss investors is to *think local, sell regional*. By *localizing production within Egypt*, companies can mitigate foreign exchange (FX) exposure, reduce logistics costs, and improve responsiveness to market dynamics. Egypt's strategic position, anchored by Suez Canal connectivity, free trade agreements, and proximity to Sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab world, offers a springboard into wider regional markets. However, such regional access is only truly unlocked when firms invest in local infrastructure and workforce development, enhancing their ability to serve neighboring economies competitively.

4

A second core insight is the *critical role of policy engagement*. Swiss firms, along with the Swiss embassy and chambers of commerce, must remain proactive in advocacy efforts, particularly around FX repatriation, VAT refund delays, and customs efficiency. These are recurring pain points that affect operational liquidity and capital planning. Strategic partnerships with Egyptian authorities and coordinated policy dialogue can contribute to shaping a more predictable and supportive regulatory environment.

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Moreover, **sector diversification is increasingly necessary**. While Swiss investment has traditionally concentrated in pharmaceuticals, machinery, and precision tools, new sectors such as fintech, green infrastructure, agritech, and renewable energy present untapped growth potential. These areas align with Egypt's national priorities and international donor funding, making them ripe for both commercial expansion and impact-driven investment.

Importantly, Swiss firms that have weathered Egypt's recent economic cycles demonstrate the value of a long-term, resilient strategy. This includes **embedding FX risk hedging, maintaining supply chain flexibility, and building local managerial capacity**. Egypt's privatization roadmap and infrastructure megaprojects also offer first-mover advantages for firms willing to invest early and align with structural reform momentum.

- **Egypt and Switzerland have strong economic and trade relations that have been crowned by the FTA signed between Egypt and the EFTA members including Switzerland. This was reflected on the bilateral trade movements, when Egypt's exports to Switzerland increased by 84% over the past 5 years, while its imports hiked by 2% during the same period (ITA, 2022)**
- **Egypt and Switzerland still have more untapped export opportunities to increase their bilateral trade. Egypt has untapped export potential estimated at USD 188 million, while the Swiss untapped export potential in Egypt worth USD 1.3 billion (GAFI & FEDCOC, 2025).**
- **Egypt can focus on unleashing its export to Switzerland in gold, orange, medicaments, mixtures of odoriferous substances used in food & drink, knitted or crocheted T-shirts & vests, and Women's trousers & shorts of cotton. Egypt has tariff exemptions in these products, and it has competitive prices compared to other competitors in the Swiss market (ITC, 2025).**
- **Switzerland can focus on unrealize its untapped export potential to Egypt in medicaments, mixtures of odoriferous substances used as raw materials, medical instruments & appliances, and Appliances for pipes. Switzerland does not have preferential tariffs in these products; however, it has competitive prices compared to other competitors in the Swiss market (ITC, 2025).**

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Recommendation	Strategic Insight
Localize Production	Reduce FX exposure and tap into Egypt's trade agreements across Africa and MENA.
Engage in Policy Dialogue	Advocate on FX, VAT refunds, and customs reforms through coordinated platforms.
Diversify Sector Focus	Expand into fintech, green infrastructure, agritech, and renewable energy.
Hedge and Localize Strategically	Embed risk buffers and invest in local capacity to withstand economic shocks.
Leverage Privatization Windows	Position early in state divestment plans and infrastructure megaprojects.



# 17

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Impact in Egypt

2025



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