

Press release

Date

28 May 2019

Gross domestic product in the 1st quarter of 2019: domestic and foreign demand support growth

Switzerland's GDP rose by 0.6% in the 1st quarter of 2019. Growth was driven primarily by increasing domestic demand. Foreign trade also provided positive impetus. Value added grew in most sectors.

Switzerland's GDP rose by 0.6% in the 1st quarter of 2019, after increasing by 0.3% (revised) in the previous quarter.¹ As in other European countries, growth accelerated.

Private consumption (+0.4%) saw slightly above-average growth for the first time in six quarters. Consumption expenditures increased in almost all segments and most significantly in healthcare, followed by mobility. **Investment in construction** (+0.5%) grew considerably after experiencing a small decline in the second half of 2018. Value added in **construction** (+1.9%) climbed more sharply than it had since the end of 2017. Construction turnover was boosted both in construction of buildings and in civil engineering. **Investment in equipment** also recorded a positive development (+1.5%) spread across many categories. Research and development, vehicles and IT services saw increased investment in particular.

Supported by growing domestic demand and rising **exports of services** (+1.7%), most service sectors developed positively in the 1st quarter. In the important sector of **business-related services** (+0.4%), the slightly above-average growth of the previous quarter continued, while in **healthcare** (+0.8%) the pace only slowed marginally. In **trade** (+0.5%), too, value added made gains again for the first time after five negative quarters, bolstered by the positive development in wholesale. Finally, the **finance sector** (+0.7%) also returned to growth.

As in the previous quarter, **manufacturing** (+1.5%) saw dynamic growth. Production stepped up in the pharmaceutical industry as well as in watchmaking and precision instruments. This was not least due to international demand for Swiss products, with **exports of goods**² (+2.2%) growing again in the 1st quarter. At the same time, **imports**² of goods and services also rose (+2.0%).

¹ Percentage changes on the previous quarter of chained series, price, seasonal and calendar-adjusted national accounts aggregates in accordance with ESA 2010.

² Excluding non-monetary gold and valuables.

Enquiries:

Eric Scheidegger, SECO, Head of the Economic Policy Directorate, Tel.: +41 58 462 29 59

Ronald Indergand, SECO, Head of Short-Term Economic Analyses, Economic Policy Directorate, Tel.: +41 58 460 55 58

Gross domestic product, expenditure approach (ESA 2010)

Table 1: Quarter-on-quarter growth rates (real)

	2018:1	2018:2	2018:3	2018:4	2019:1
Consumption of households and (NPISHs)	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4
General Government consumption	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3
Equipment and software investment	1.9	0.4	-1.9	-0.1	1.5
Construction investment	-0.5	0.5	-0.1	-0.2	0.5
Changes in inventories (GC)	-1.3	0.0	0.5	-1.8	-0.3
Exp. of goods excl. valuables	4.8	-0.3	-4.0	5.8	2.2
Exp. of goods excl. merchanting and valuables	1.6	0.9	-3.2	6.4	1.2
Exports of services	-0.8	0.9	0.4	0.6	1.7
Imp. of goods excluding valuables	1.6	-1.2	-2.9	0.8	2.4
Imports of services	-3.4	-0.1	-0.9	-0.4	1.3
Gross domestic product	0.8	0.7	-0.2	0.3	0.6

Growth rates in % with respect to the previous quarter (seasonally adjusted) and growth contributions (GC); at prices of preceding year, chained values. The valuables contain precious metals, jewellery and gems, works of art and antiques and non-monetary gold. Further figures on foreign trade are published on the following website: <https://www.seco.admin.ch/seco/en/home/wirtschaftslage---wirtschaftspolitik/Wirtschaftslage/bip-quartalsschaetzungen-.html>

Table 2: Year-on-year growth rates (real)

	2017	2018	2018:2	2018:3	2018:4	2019:1
Consumption of households and (NPISHs)	1.1	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.9	0.8
General Government consumption	0.9	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.9
Equipment and software investment	4.5	2.9	4.9	1.3	0.7	-0.4
Construction investment	1.4	0.7	2.2	0.8	-1.0	1.3
Changes in inventories (GC)	-0.1	-0.2	-0.6	2.3	-3.0	-0.9
Exp. of goods excl. valuables	5.1	5.3	8.6	-2.0	7.1	3.5
Exp. of goods excl. merchanting and valuables	6.0	5.0	7.6	0.2	6.7	5.2
Exports of services	0.7	1.0	2.8	-0.3	1.0	3.6
Imp. of goods excluding valuables	5.5	4.8	7.3	3.0	-1.2	0.3
Imports of services	1.6	-5.4	-5.1	-5.5	-5.2	-0.2
Gross domestic product	1.6	2.6	3.4	2.4	1.5	1.7

Growth rates in % with respect to the same period of the previous year and growth contributions (GC); at prices of preceding year, chained values; raw data (unadjusted). The valuables contain precious metals, jewellery and gems, works of art and antiques and non-monetary gold. Further figures on foreign trade are published on the following website: <https://www.seco.admin.ch/seco/en/home/wirtschaftslage---wirtschaftspolitik/Wirtschaftslage/bip-quartalsschaetzungen-.html>

Table 3: Price indices

	2017	2018	2018:2	2018:3	2018:4	2019:1
Consumption of households and (NPISHs)	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.2
General Government consumption	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7
Equipment and software investment	0.0	1.2	1.7	1.4	0.4	0.2
Construction investment	-0.6	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.5
Exp. of goods excl. valuables	0.1	1.9	3.4	3.1	1.0	0.2
Exp. of goods excl. merchanting and valuables	-1.2	0.5	1.5	1.4	0.0	0.2
Exports of services	-0.3	3.2	4.3	3.0	1.9	1.3
Imp. of goods excluding valuables	1.5	3.2	3.8	2.8	3.0	1.1
Imports of services	2.8	6.4	9.4	5.1	2.0	0.3
Gross domestic product	-0.4	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8

Growth rates in % with respect to the same period of the previous year; raw data (unadjusted). The valuables contain precious metals, jewellery and gems, works of art and antiques and non-monetary gold. Further figures on foreign trade are published on the following website: <https://www.seco.admin.ch/seco/en/home/wirtschaftslage---wirtschaftspolitik/Wirtschaftslage/bip-quartalsschaetzungen-.html>

Gross domestic product, production approach ESA2010

Table 4: Quarter-on-quarter growth rates (real)

	2018:1	2018:2	2018:3	2018:4	2019:1
Agriculture, & industry	1.6	1.6	-0.5	1.5	1.4
Construction	0.2	-0.8	0.6	-0.4	1.9
Trade, comm., transp. & food service activities	0.0	-0.2	-0.4	0.1	0.4
Financial & other services	0.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.5
Public administration & rest	1.5	1.3	-0.4	-0.2	-0.1
Gross domestic product	0.8	0.7	-0.2	0.3	0.6

Growth rates in % with respect to the previous quarter (seasonally adjusted); at prices of preceding year, chained values

Table 5: Year-on-year growth rates (real)

	2017	2018	2018:2	2018:3	2018:4	2019:1
Agriculture, & industry	3.8	5.6	7.9	6.1	4.0	4.9
Construction	1.3	1.4	1.4	2.1	-0.4	1.4
Trade, comm., transp. & food service activities	0.9	0.2	0.6	-0.9	-0.9	0.3
Financial & other services	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.5	1.6
Public administration & rest	0.5	3.1	4.3	3.1	2.1	0.5
Gross domestic product	1.6	2.6	3.4	2.4	1.5	1.7

Growth rates in % with respect to the same period of the previous year; at prices of preceding year, chained values; raw data (unadjusted)

Table 6: Price indices

	2017	2018	2018:2	2018:3	2018:4	2019:1
Agriculture, & industry	-2.8	-0.1	-0.2	0.5	-0.1	-1.1
Construction	-0.6	-0.6	-0.9	-0.6	-0.2	-0.3
Trade, comm., transp. & food service activities	1.4	2.5	3.2	3.6	2.0	0.6
Financial & other services	-0.4	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.1
Public administration & rest	0.1	-0.7	1.0	-1.1	0.1	2.4
Gross domestic product	-0.4	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.8

Growth rates in % with respect to the same period of the previous year; raw data (unadjusted)

Agriculture, & industry: Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Mining and quarrying; Manufacturing; Energy and water supply, waste management

Trade, comm., transp. & food service activities: Trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles; Transportation and storage; Information and communication; Accommodation and food service activities

Financial & other services: Financial and insurance service activities; Real estate activities, professional, scientific and technical activities; Administrative and support service activities

Public administration & rest: Public administration; Education; Human health and social work activities; Arts, entertainment, recreation and other services; Activities of households as employers and producers for own use; Taxes on products; Subsidies on products