Swiss watchmaking in May 2023 **Continued strong growth**

Following a dip in April, Swiss watch exports grew at a particularly strong pace in May, increasing by +14.4%, to a total value of 2.3 billion francs. In five months, exports in the sector have already far exceeded the 10 billion franc threshold (to 10.9 billion) and are 11.3% above their 2022 level.

Swiss watch exports in May 2023

Products	Units in mio.	Change	Mil. of CHF	Change
Wrist watches	1.4	+19.7%	2,233.7	+14.5%
Other products			104.8	+12.3%
Total			2,338.6	+14.4%



Jun 22 Jul 22 Aug 22 Sep 22 Oct 22 Nov 22 Dec 22 Jan 23 Feb 23 Mar 23 Apr 23 May 23

Watches made from precious metals rose sharply, by both number of items and value. These made a significant contribution to overall growth, alongside bimetallic watches. Products in the *Other materials* category again saw a sharp increase in volumes (+74.0% compared with May 2022). The total number of watches exported rose by 230,000 units (+19.7%), and has grown by 840,000 items (+14.6%) since the start of the year.

Wristwatches by materials

Materials	Units (in 1'000)	Change	Mil. of CHF	Change
Precious metal	41.8	+19.8%	850.6	+14.4%
Steel	729.9	+4.3%	807.4	+6.1%
Gold-steel	90.7	+8.1%	354.4	+27.0%
Other metals	100.4	+0.1%	125.6	+15.6%
Other materials	439.9	+74.0%	95.7	+60.7%
Total	1,402.8	+19.7%	2,233.7	+14.5%

Main markets

Markets	Mil. of CHF	Change	Share
USA	359.4	+9.8%	15.4%
China	237.4	+158.3%	10.2%
Hong Kong	227.0	+19.2%	9.7%
Japan	161.8	+11.0%	6.9%
United Kingdom	155.0	+6.7%	6.6%
Singapore	135.7	-1.7%	5.8%
Total 6 markets	1,276.3	+22.9%	54.6%

Wristwatches by price categories



Except for the 200-500 francs (export price) segment, which declined slightly, the main price categories all saw a significant increase compared with May 2022, by value and number of items.

All regions contributed to the overall growth, despite a few markets recording a moderate decline in May. Nonetheless, the five-month trend remains very positive across the board. Only South Korea (-22.4% in May and -14.0% since January), saw a significant decline in its performance, in response to the ongoing lack of Chinese tourists. The United States (+9.8%) quickly overcame the decline in April and returned to robust growth. China (+158.3%) continued to benefit from a strong base effect, increasing by 2.5 times, though still fell short of the position it had reached before the Shanghai lockdown (-10.1% compared with May 2021). At the same time, Hong Kong (+19.2%) continued to recover rapidly. Watch exports to Japan (+11.0%) were very solid, producing one of their strongest monthly results. European markets saw an 8.8% increase on average, split between France (-2.9%) on the one hand and Italy (+23.1%) on the other.