

Planned future development of Switzerland's largest bilingual city. 2016/2017 edition

update!



← NEUCHÂTEL 30mins
← GENEVA 1hr 30mins

Map extract reproduced with the kind permission of swisstopo (BA 150297)

1.2 Biel/Bienne forms part of the Swiss Innovation Park network



1.1 Biel/Bienne Campus: Project ramp-up and Rolex SA commitment

2.1 Schüss Park: Distinctive key-stone for a new district

2.2 Fantastic urban dwelling opportunities at Biel/Bienne's «Central Park»

2.3 Esplanade: A new place to meet, and a new conference and hotel centre

1.3 The city on the lake becomes reality: Private investor found

4.1 Bözingenfeld industrial estate: Growth ongoing

3.1 Gurzelen district redeveloped: Urban development project completed

3.2 Living in «Jardin du Paradis», starting 2016

3.3 New Swatch headquarter and Omega facility extension – under construction

4.2 Georg Fischer completes new building for 500 staff in Biel/Bienne

4.3 Tissot Arena: Multi-purpose sports and event infrastructure

4.4 Highway eastern bypass: Opening in 2017

City of Biel/Bienne's four key strategic development focal points
1. Train station/Lake, 2. Esplanade, 3. Gurzelen and 4. Bözingenfeld. The City of Biel/Bienne also has exclusive ownership rights of land reserves in all four areas, thus providing ideal conditions for its involvement in the dynamic development of these areas for strategic private projects.

1.1 Biel/Bienne Campus: Project ramp-up and Rolex SA commitment

In 2014 Berne Cantonal Parliament unanimously agreed CHF 30 million in project funding for the construction of the new Campus of the Berne University of Applied Sciences (BFH) in Biel/Bienne. Biel/Bienne Campus will provide dedicated facilities for engineering, IT, architecture, timber trades and construction for some 2,000 students. Rolex SA will be sponsoring Campus Hall, the main auditorium which will also double up as a room for staging public events. The project entitled «Trèfle», submitted by Pool Architects of Zurich, was chosen in open competition. Set to open in 2021, the new campus will make Biel/Bienne an even more attractive location for education and R&D and will greatly enhance the urban space between the train station and the lake.



Biel/Bienne Campus for Berne University of Applied Sciences (BFH): The «Trèfle» Project submitted by Pool Architects of Zurich
Photographs/Illustrations: maaars architecture visuals, Zurich, for Pool Architects, Zurich

1.2 Biel/Bienne forms part of the Swiss Innovation Park network

Since 2013 Innocampus AG has been running a pilot version of the future Innovation Park at a provisional location in Biel/Bienne. As of 2015, this state-launched initiative was being funded to the tune of 85 % by private shareholders, most of whom come from industry. At the end of 2015, some 100 engineers and innovators from start-ups, established companies and research institutes are currently developing projects and products in the key focus areas of production technology, medical engineering and energy. In tandem with this, a dedicated new building providing approx. 15,000 m² of floor space is being prepared right next to the Berne University of Applied Sciences campus. In June 2015, Swiss Federal Parliament gave its approval for the inclusion of the Biel/Bienne project within the Swiss Innovation Park network, thus allowing Biel/Bienne to figure in the international marketplace as a centre for innovation on equal terms with such centres of excellence as ETH and EPFL.



1.3 The city on the lake becomes reality: Private investor found

The towns of Nidau and Biel/Bienne are uniquely positioned to expand the last undeveloped lake-side bay in Switzerland as part of a prestigious urban and recreational space project. Up to 2,000 new residents and a hotel building will bring life to the former Expo 02 site. Mobimo has already pledged investment for the entire private project which covers some 120,000 m² of floor space. The «citélac» project submitted by Bauzeit Architects was chosen as part of an urban planning

open competition. In 2017 voters will decide on the legal conditions for construction work.



AGGLOlac: Aerial view of the «citélac» Project, Bauzeit Architects, Biel/Bienne
Photographs/Illustrations: AGGLOlac Project Company

2.1 Schüss Park: Distinctive key-stone for a new district

Completion of the Schwanengasse Project, developed by Espace Real Estate AG, marks the end of construction work on the Schüss Park area, one of the city's largest urban brownfield sites. The final phase of the project involves the construction of 180 apartments in total as well as the development of space for service sector companies. Of these 180 apartments, more than 60 have already been completed. Planning on the next tranche of 60-70 apartments is currently ongoing.

2.2 Fantastic urban dwelling opportunities at Biel/Bienne's «Central Park»

Situated at the heart of Biel/Bienne's city centre, a new residential development to satisfy even the most demanding of requirements is currently under construction: investor Hans Widmer is building 160 apartments right next to the green park area in the city's Esplanade district. The city centre



location combined with a view over an extensive parkland area promises outstanding quality of life and accommodation. The first occupants are expected to take up residence in 2018.



Apartments on «Central Park»: Project submitted by Graber Pulver Architects / Visuals: maaars architektur visuals
Photographs/Illustrations: maaars architecture visuals, Zurich, for Graber Pulver Architects Zurich and Berne

2.3 Esplanade: A new place to meet, and a new conference and hotel centre

Work on converting the former gasworks district near Biel/Bienne conference centre into a spacious urban square is due to be completed in 2016. The underground car park providing spaces for 500 vehicles was opened in 2015. An overground

structure is planned for the northern side, offering apartments, retail facilities and a hotel. Construction work is due to begin in autumn 2017. The Esplanade development is set to be a prime location for conferences in Biel/Bienne as well as a popular open air meeting space.

3.1 Gurzelen district redeveloped: Urban development project completed

Work on demolishing the old football stadium, constructing new buildings for the Swatch Group and PREVIS, and landscaping the area around the city's River Schüss Island has proved to be a real game-changer for local urban development in Biel/Bienne's Gurzelen district. To make the very best of these new circumstances, the City of Biel/Bienne commissioned an urban study into an area of some 58,000 m² around the former football stadium and today's Gurzelen Square. The winning project reveals a potential residential development area of more than 50,000 m², combined with attractive public spaces. The land is owned by the City of Biel/Bienne and will be advertised during 2016.

3.2 Living in «Jardin du Paradis», starting 2016

In 2015 PREVIS pension fund institute began construction work on a total of 280 apartments in the city's Gurzelen-River Schüss Island district. Located in Biel/Bienne's historical watchmaking centre, right next to newly landscaped terrain around the island, the first occupants are expected to take up residence here between 2016 and 2018.

3.3 New Swatch headquarter and Omega facility extension – under construction

The Swatch Group is investing well over CHF 100 million in new construction work for its Omega and Swatch brands in the city's Gurzelen district. The buildings will be commissioned on a staggered basis beginning in 2016. In addition to the Swatch head office and Omega production facilities, the site will also feature a discovery centre with museums and a public access production facility. This not only strengthens the presence of two world-class brands within Biel/Bienne while providing a boost to the job market, but also creates additional tourist attractions with broad international appeal.



New Swatch headquarter and Omega facility extension. Project submitted by the Japanese architect Shigeru Ban
Source: The Swatch Group Ltd

4.1 Bözingenfeld industrial estate: Growth ongoing

Bözingenfeld to the east of Biel/Bienne continues to develop as a location for industrial and high-tech companies. As the most important land owner here, the City of Biel/Bienne is enjoying a lively demand for industrial and commercial land. There is a clear political will to make land exclusive-

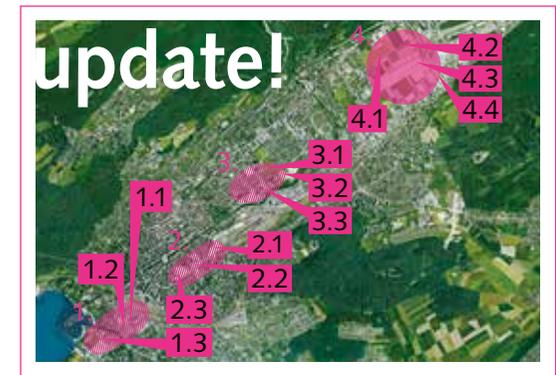
ly available for projects with a high likelihood of providing added value and to promote efficient structural use. Since the new Rolex building was opened in 2012, further industrial projects (e.g. those of high-tech companies Malisani, Polydec, et al.) and commercial concepts involving the intensive exploitation of construction projects (e.g. Cube 116, by Espace Real Estate AG) have been completed or have had plans approved. The Swatch Group is transferring jobs in assembly and distribution to the Biel/Bienne site to the building formerly occupied by Sputnik, thus offering potential for several hundred jobs.

4.2 Georg Fischer completes new building for 500 staff in Biel/Bienne

In 2015, international industry group Georg Fischer (GF) announced plans to invest more than CHF 100 million in a new building in Biel/Bienne. By means of its subsidiary Mikron Agie Charmilles AG, GF will concentrate its production and R&D activities for milling solutions at Bözingenfeld, as well as expanding existing developments and working on the introduction of new technology. To achieve these goals, GF will be acquiring some 28,000 m² of land adjacent to the Tissot Arena.

4.3 Tissot Arena: Multi-purpose sports and event infrastructure

Biel/Bienne-East has a new focal point and icon: The Tissot Arena, a complex unique of its kind, with a total investment of some CHF 200 million, was inaugurated in 2015. The facility combines a football stadium and multipurpose ice rink, an outdoor ice rink, a curling rink, a retail park and an underground car park with 750 spaces, all under one roof. The striking architecture of the spacious Place Publique and the wide range of attractive



dining opportunities on offer will ensure the Tissot Arena is a popular meeting place, attracting people from the region as well as forming an ideal location for corporate events, conferences, shows and exhibitions on a national scale.

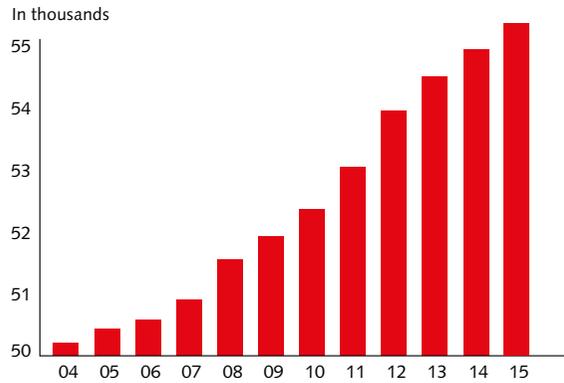
4.4 Highway eastern bypass: Opening in 2017

The opening of the tunnel as part of the Berne link road scheme will make Biel/Bienne even more accessible, with the city's industries particularly benefiting from this development. In addition, the overall project for the western bypass was given the go-ahead in 2014, thus opening up access to the city centre and the training and innovation centre near to the train station. Completion of the entire bypass is expected in 2030.

FACTS & FIGURES

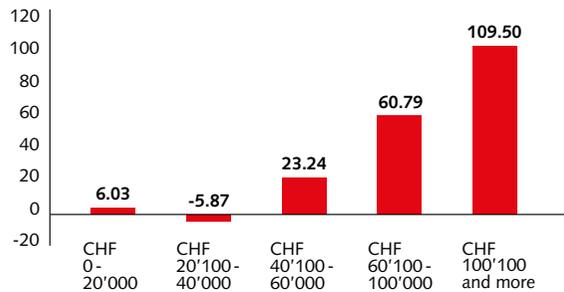
Growing population

Biel/Bienne, permanent and temporary residents
Source: Register of residents, Office for Statistics of the City of Biel/Bienne



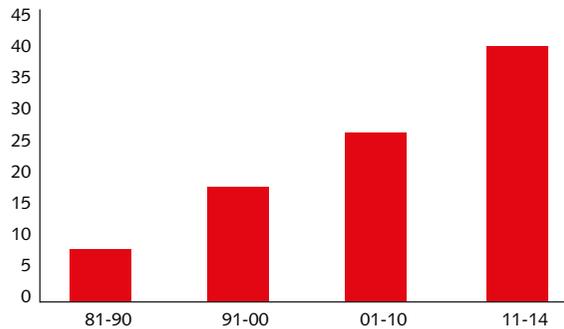
Growing income

Higher/Lower income band for natural persons between 2000 and 2013 (in %).
Basis: Actually assessed taxable income
Source: Tax Administration of the City of Biel/Bienne



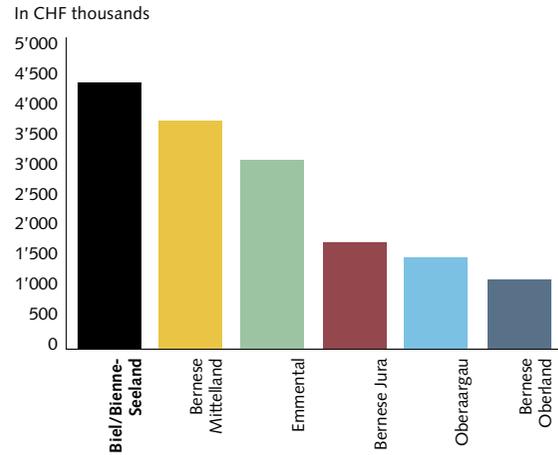
Growing investments

Average net government investment volume per annum (in CHF million)
Source: Department of Finance of the City of Biel/Bienne



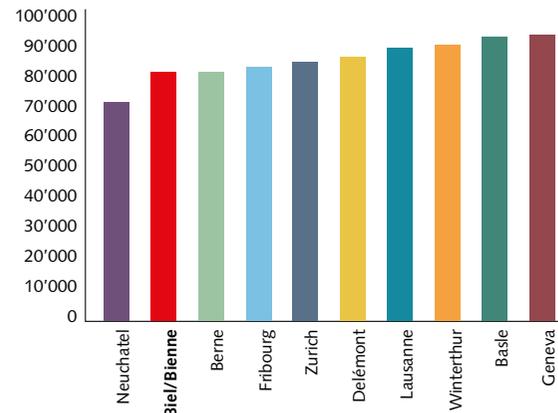
International profile: Export regions in canton of Berne

Source: Swiss Customs Administration, Statistics Department 2014



Above-average favourable tax situation for business

Direct state tax, canton tax and local taxes (in CHF).
Calculation example: Share capital CHF 2 millions, net profit CHF 400'000.
Source: Swiss Tax Administration 2014



The various local government departments within the City of Biel/Bienne are interested in talking to companies and investors who are ambitious to write their own success story in Biel/Bienne. We look forward to hearing from you:

Department of Economy/City Marketing
Zentralstrasse 49
CH – 2501 Biel/Bienne, Switzerland
T: +41 (0)32 326 13 21
marketing@biel-bienne.ch
www.biel-bienne.ch

Biel
Bienne