



# Press release

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0 Basic statistical data and overviews

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Enterprise Identification Number

## Introduction of Enterprise Identification Number (UID) launched

Neuchâtel, 11.01.2011 (FSO) – **With the entry into force of the Swiss federal law on the Enterprise Identification Number (UIDG) on 1 January 2011, the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) has started allocating every enterprise in Switzerland a unique, comprehensive Enterprise Identification Number (UID). The UID register, where the numbers will be kept, along with the enterprises' key ID details, is available for public access as of today, 11 January 2011.**

With the entry into force of the Swiss federal law on the Enterprise Identification Number (UIDG), every enterprise in Switzerland will receive a unique, comprehensive Enterprise Identification Number (UID). The UID will gradually replace the numerous ID numbers currently used by public administration. This will simplify the cooperation between enterprises and public administration and improve efficiency of the administration. The UID is also an important prerequisite for developing e-Government and electronic data exchange.

An independent register has been created for allocating, administering, using and dealing with queries to do with UIDs. This UID register will be partially available for public access. The data being held about enterprises in this register is limited to the minimum information required for identification, such as name or company name, official head office address, the UID and references to current commercial registers or VAT numbers.

As from today, the UID register is available online for public access via [www.uid.ch](http://www.uid.ch). The register will initially contain the 500,000 or so enterprises or "UID units" indicated as active in the commercial register. The UID register will continue to grow in the following months until every single enterprise is registered in it.

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A timeframe of 3 or 5 years is envisaged under the Swiss federal law on the Enterprise Identification Number (UIDG) for introducing UIDs within the various administrative agencies and replacing the identification numbers currently used (VAT number, commercial register number etc.). These introduction timeframes will provide both enterprises and the administration with sufficient time to implement the necessary modifications.

Visiting [www.uid.ch](http://www.uid.ch) not only provides access to the UID register, but also detailed information about UIDs.

All the relevant enterprises and registered UID units will be notified in writing by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office in the coming months of the UID that has been allocated to them. They will also be informed about the management and use of the UID, as well as about the associated rights and obligations.

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