

CRIF AG STUDY: OVER 200,000 GHOST COMPANIES IN SWITZERLAND



CRIF has examined how many of the companies entered in the commercial register are economically active and how large the number of ghost companies is. There are 202,115 ghost companies in Switzerland, which corresponds to 29.3% of all companies entered in the commercial register. Most of the ghost companies are domiciled in the canton of Zurich (34'419), followed by the canton of Vaud (20'095) and the canton of Bern (18'468).

If you look at the total number of companies, the canton of Jura has the highest percentage of ghost companies with 37%. The canton of Ticino has the least inactive companies with 24.2%.

Industry sectors

Most of the ghost companies (40,968) are united in the area of "providing professional, scientific and technical services". These include companies that offer tax consultancy, auditing or management consultancy. This is followed by the trade and repair of motor vehicles (33,045) and other services (14,845).

Legal forms

If one examines the legal forms, the following picture emerges: Ghost companies can be found most frequently with sole proprietorships, over 50% of the registered companies are inactive. General partnerships follow with a share of 42.7% and foundations with 29.8%. The fewest inactive companies are in stock corporations (14.1%).

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Survey methods

All companies older than 18 months were examined for their economic activity. Companies that neither apply for credit nor buy goods or services or publish changes in the Swiss Official Gazette of Commerce were defined as ghost companies. The deadline for the investigation was October 13, 2021.

The full analysis can be requested to: presse.ch@crif.com.