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Topic

«EU – enhancement of European connections or upholding the independence interest»



Prehistory of Switzerland

- In 1919, Geneva was chosen as the headquarters of the League of Nations. Switzerland has decided not to join the newly formed United Nations (UN) and had received observer status, which allowed the deployment of a European Headquarters in Geneva and several United Nations specialized agencies
- In 2000, Swiss citizens voted to ratify the 1st package of bilateral agreements between Switzerland and the EU. Only in 2002, citizens of Switzerland voted for joining the UN. September 10 Confederation became the 190th member of the United Nations.
- In 2005, Swiss citizens approved the 2nd package of bilateral agreements with the EU, which involved Switzerland's cooperation with the EU within the framework of the Schengen and Dublin agreements.
- 2008 year - Switzerland joined the club of the Schengen countries.
- In 2014, Switzerland became the OSCE chairman



Factors that describe why Switzerland isn't in Europe Union

76.8% of Swiss voted against joining EU. Swiss did vote in several measures that are beneficial to them to help integrate economy with EU, but by slight margins, but any further attempts to create a closer political union, have met with staunch opposition.

There are several reasons for this attitude:

- Swiss have a long tradition of neutrality and non-involvement into European Politics that have served them well over the past several centuries.
- Swiss tend to be more conservative.
- Swiss have recently voted in several measures to prevent further immigration, and to bring back immigration quotas. Being part of EU means that they would have to remove those quotas and follow EU's lead.
- Swiss banking system right now is very independent. And while it did become a bit more open under pressure from US and EU, becoming part of EU would mean changes to the banking laws as well.
- Swiss franc is one of the most stable currencies of the world, independently of any other factors. Becoming part of EU would mean becoming part of Euro zone. Recent events with Greece, showed how one member state can affect others. You don't exchange something as good as Swiss franc for something that can be unstable like Euro, because of one irresponsible member.
- Becoming part of EU would mean abandonment of Neutrality and participation in EU's military actions around the world.



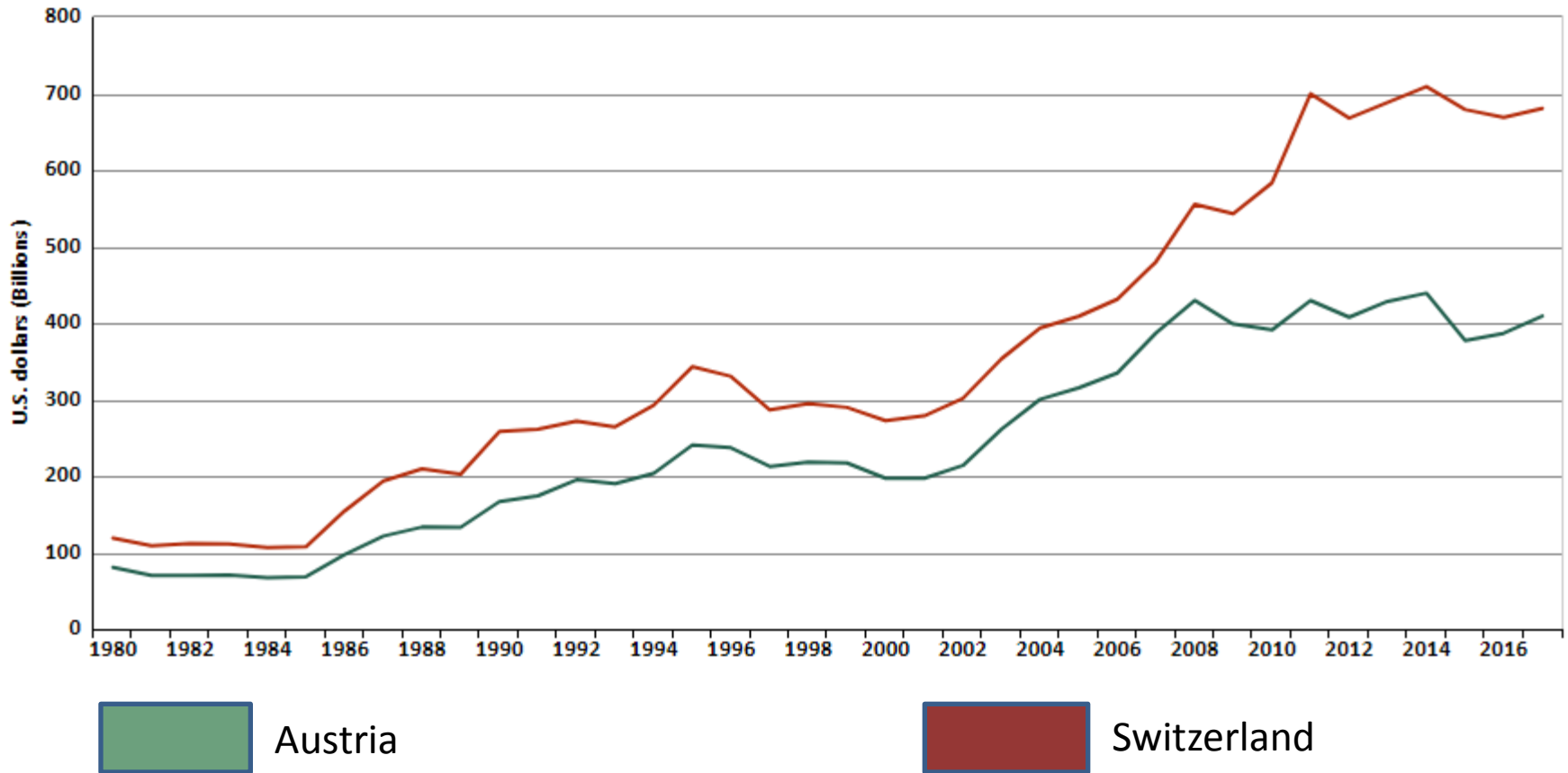
Prehistory of Austria

- In 1938 Austria was integrated as an "eastern territory" to the national-socialist German Reich and Austria lost its state independence.
- in 1955, by signing a state treaty, Austria returned its independence.
- On May 3, 1960, the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), one of the founders of which was Austria, was ratified by the Stockholm Convention.
- In 1973, the first tighter economic ties with the states that set up the European Economic Community were created, when the free trade area between Austria and the EEC was created.
- Following the application of Austria for membership on July 7, 1989, the EU Council agreed to begin the accession process on July 28, 1989, with official opening talks beginning on 1 February 1993.
- 01.01.1995 Austria became a member of the European Union.

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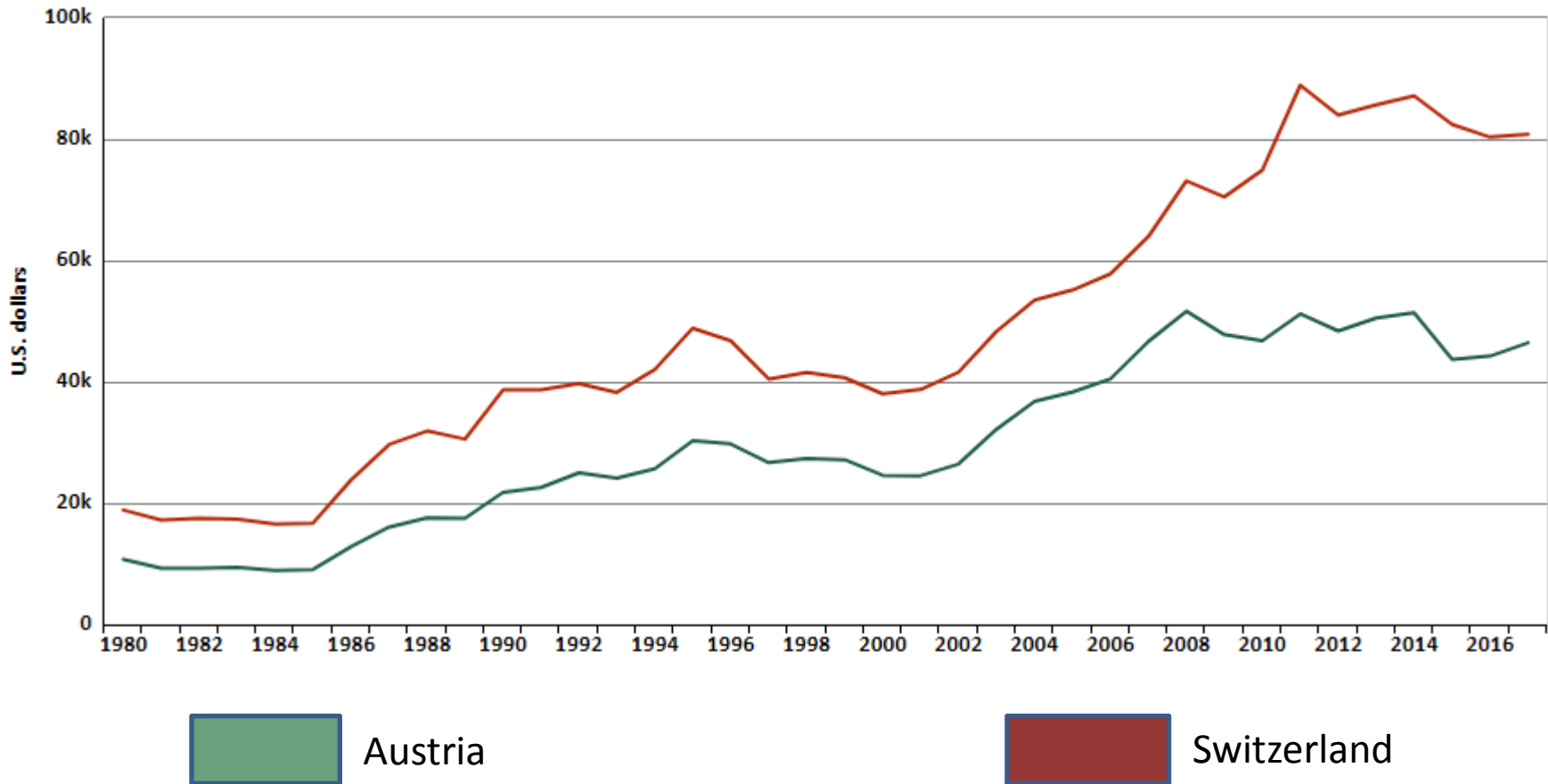
GDP



<https://knoema.ru/atlas/%D0%A8%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%B9%D1%86%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%8F/%D0%92%D0%92%D0%9F>

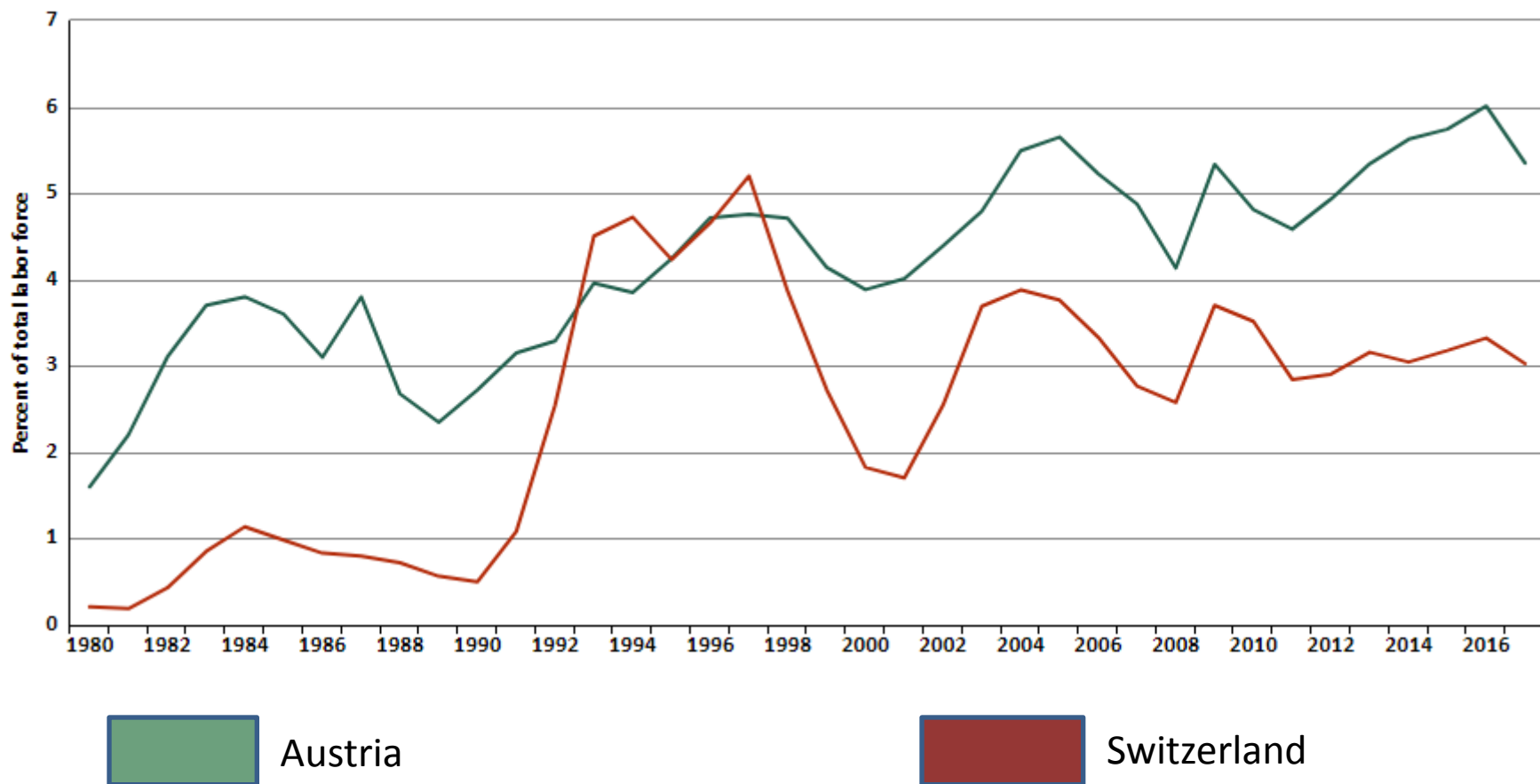


GDP per capita



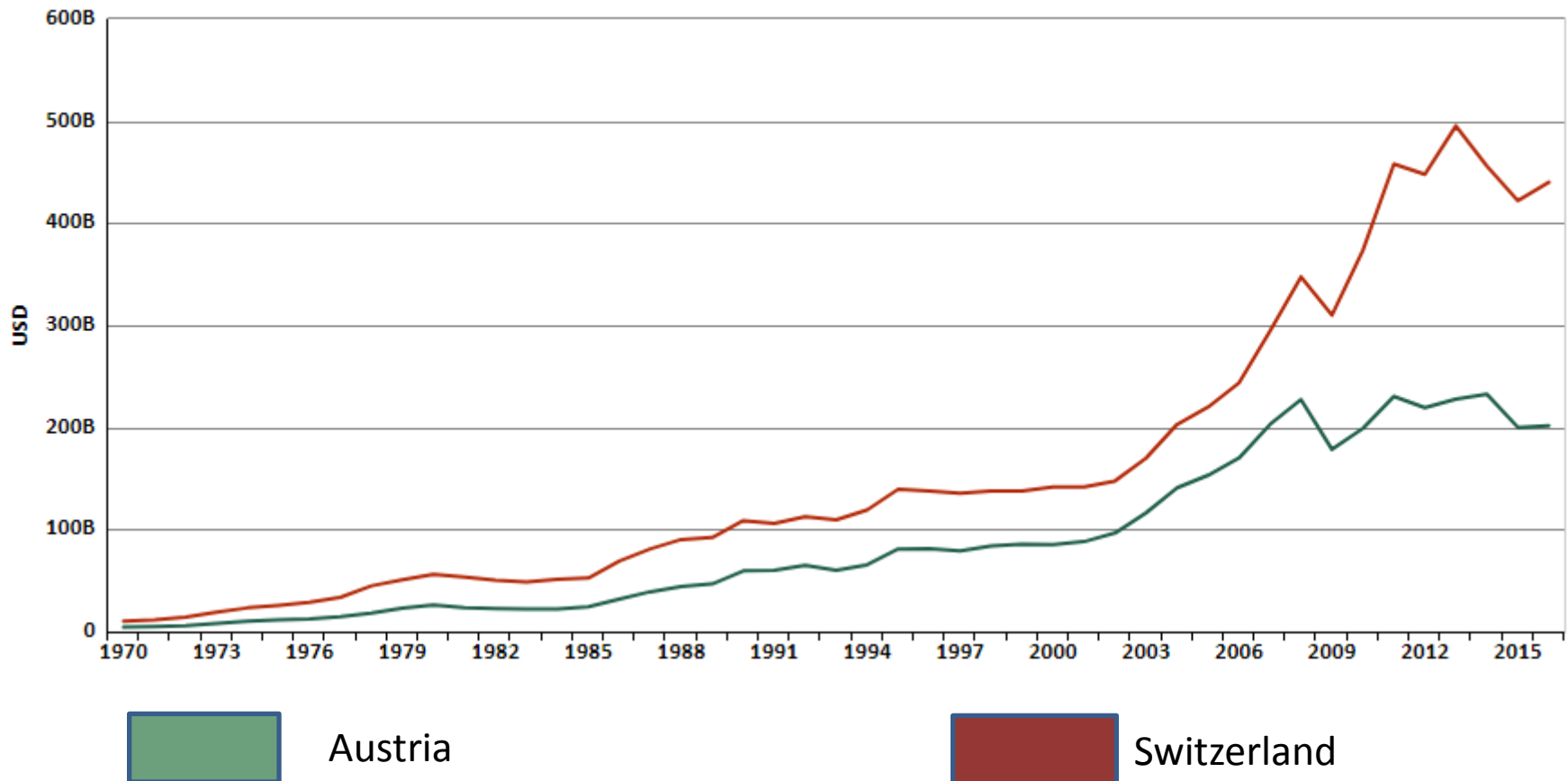


Unemployment rate



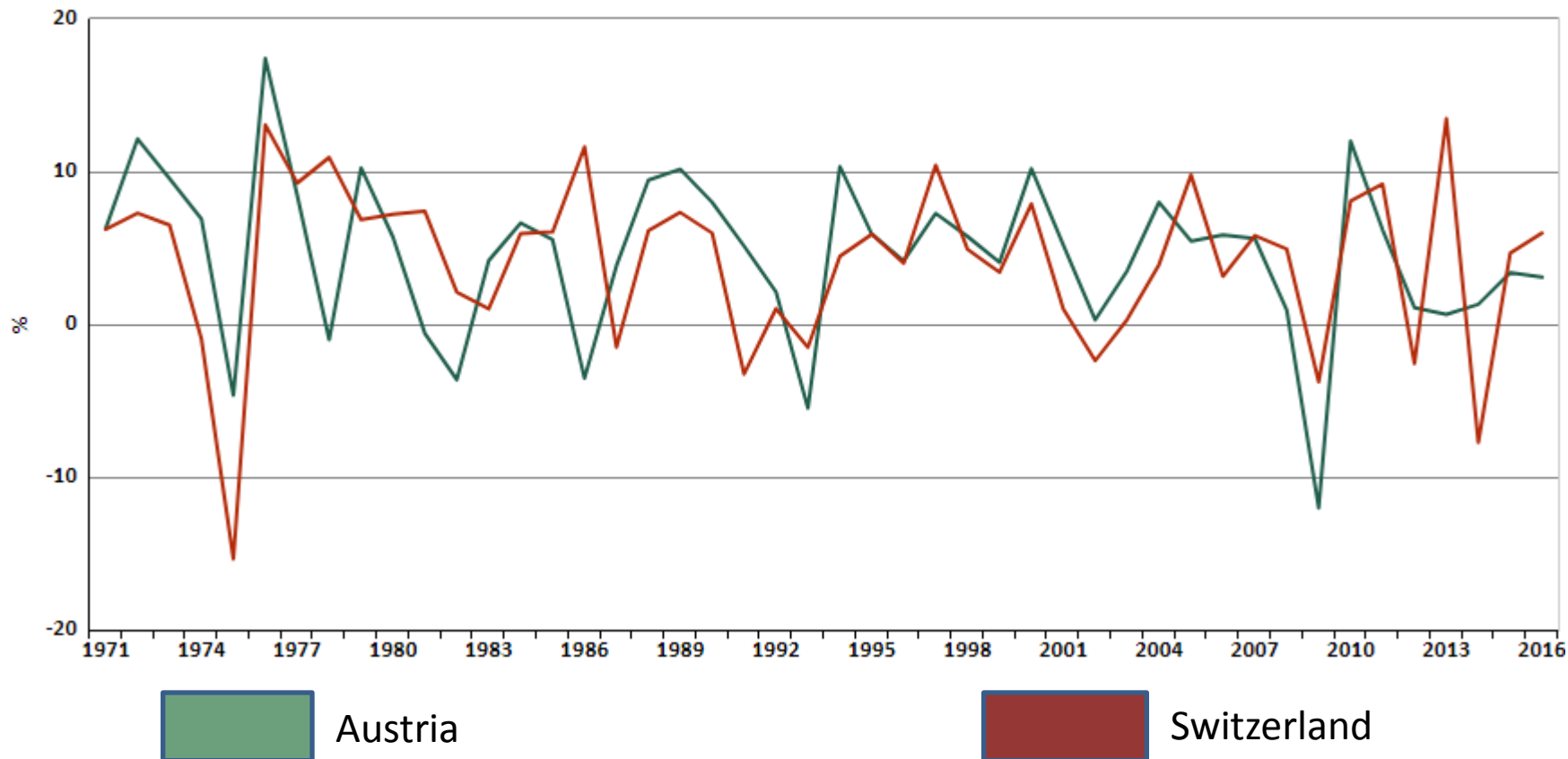


Export



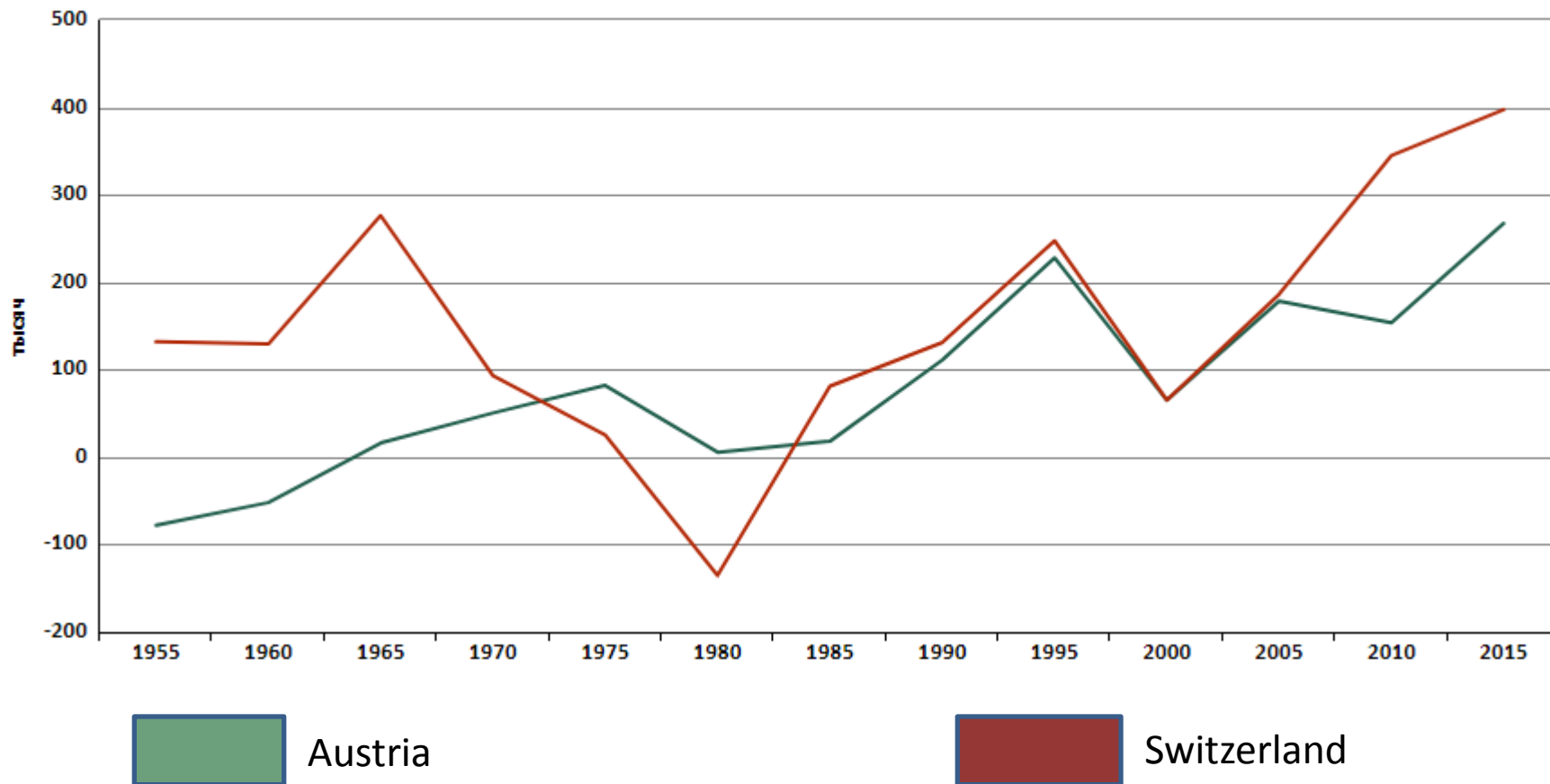


Import



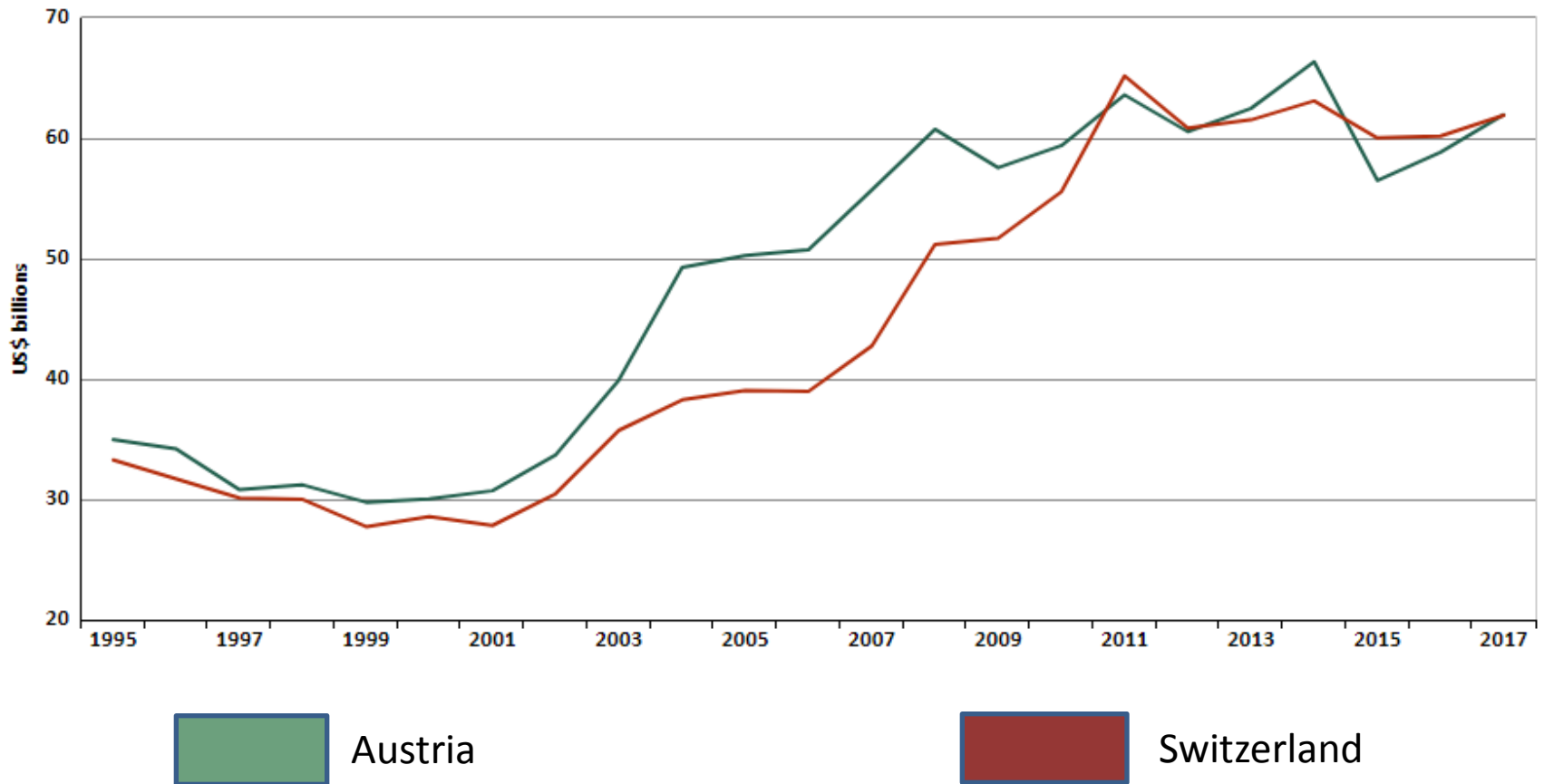


Net number of migrants



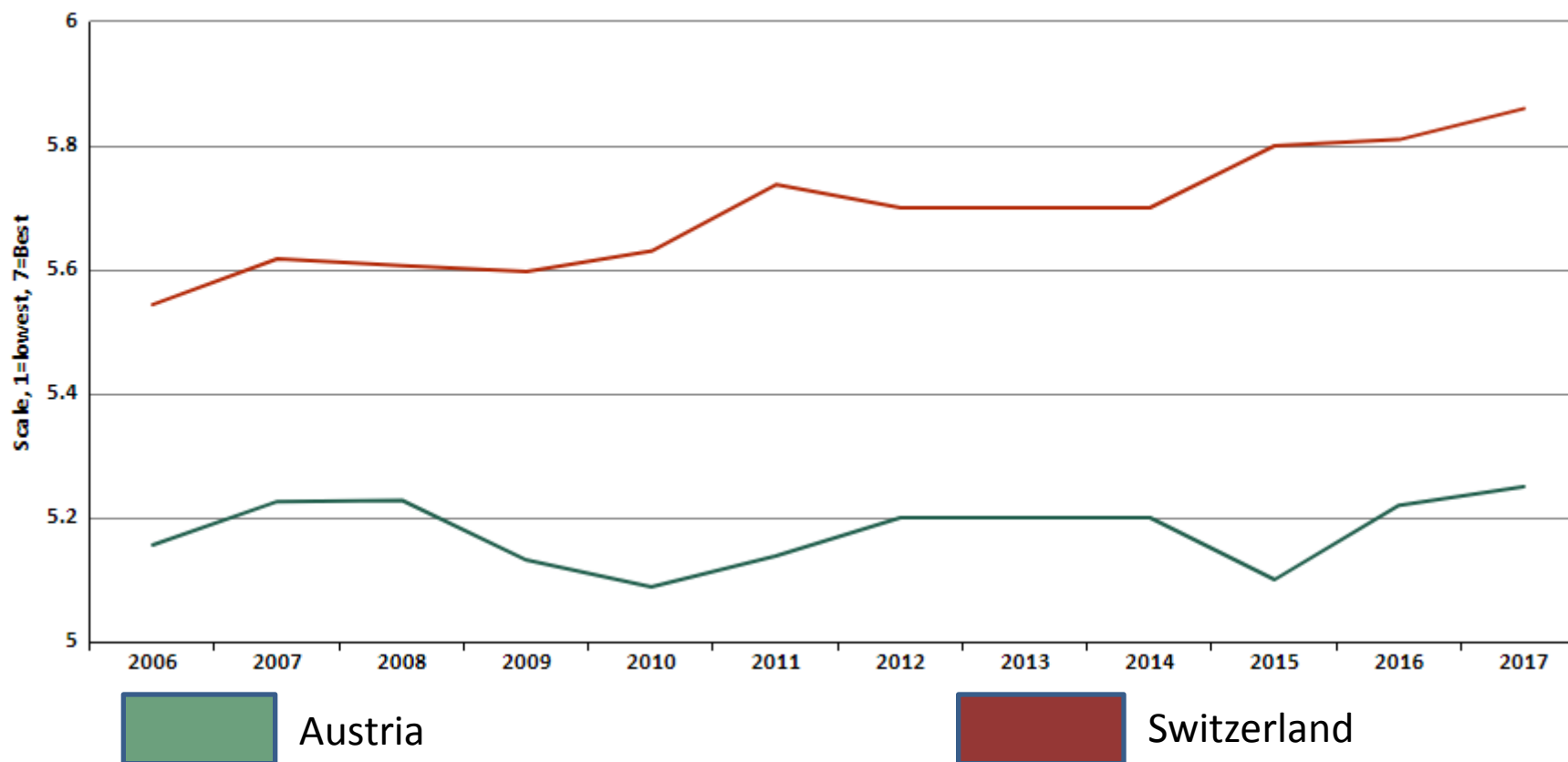


Tourism, the total contribution to GDP



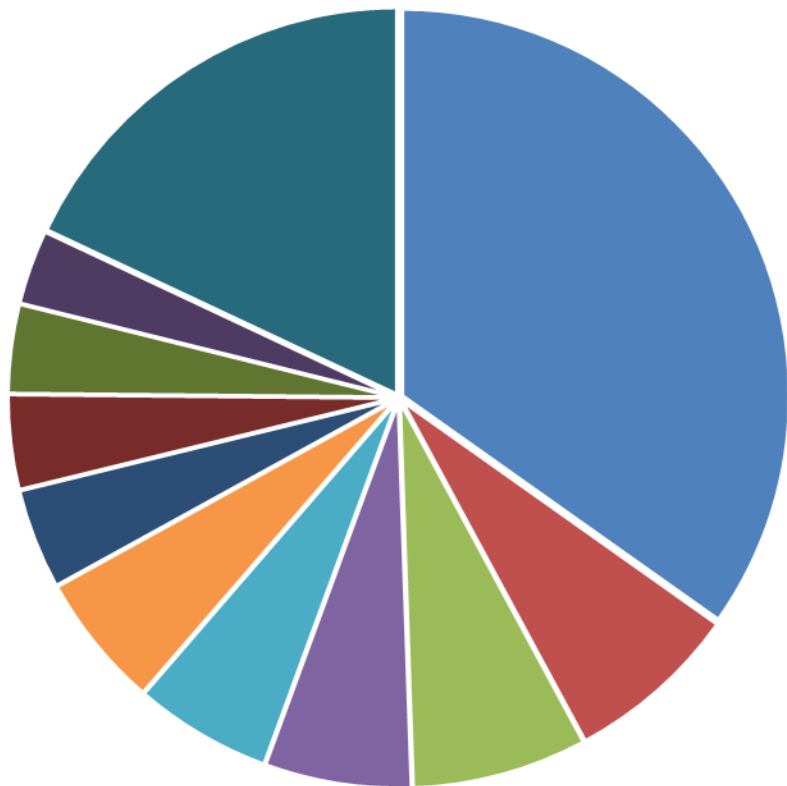


Global competitiveness index



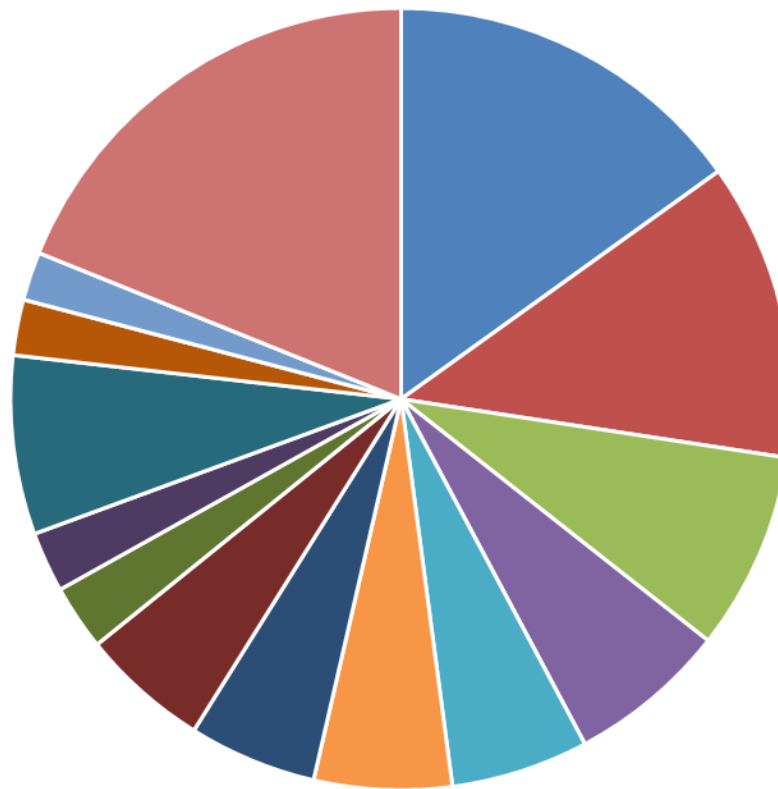


Trade Partners of Austria



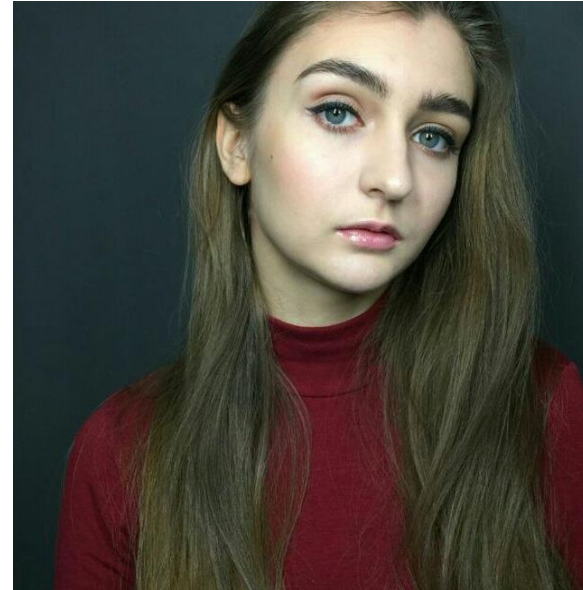
- Germany
- United States
- Italy
- Switzerland
- Slovakia
- France
- Czech Republic
- Hungary
- Poland
- United Kingdom
- Other

Trade Partners of Switzerland



- Germany
- United States
- China
- India
- France
- United Kingdom
- Hong Kong
- Italy
- Austria
- Japan
- Singapore
- Belgium

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2018