

Novartis announces 2,000 job losses, profits up

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Swiss pharmaceutical giant Novartis announced 2,000 job losses Tuesday, mostly in Switzerland and the United States, while reporting net profits of \$3.53 billion (2.5 billion euros) for the third quarter.

The firm said in a statement profits for the quarter were up 12 percent and that the job cuts were part of a \$300 million restructuring programme to strengthen productivity.

Sales in the July through September period increased by 18% to \$14.84 billion.

[Novartis](#) said it would begin consulting with employees on the modalities of the job cuts. The company said it would create 700 [new jobs](#), mainly in countries with a lower cost base.

The cost-saving measures are to be spread over three to five years the company said. In the plan, Novartis expects to close one plant in Switzerland and another in Italy.

Research currently based in Switzerland would be transferred to the United States, Novartis said

After the earnings news, shares in Novartis fell by 0.97 percent Tuesday morning, in a [Zurich](#) market down by 0.30 percent.

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