



# WIRTSCHAFT UND GESELLSCHAFT

PROFIL

E

DOCUMENTATION

SERIE

2

PART 1

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## 1

## CASE STUDY LANZ AG

## A Enterprise description of LANZ AG

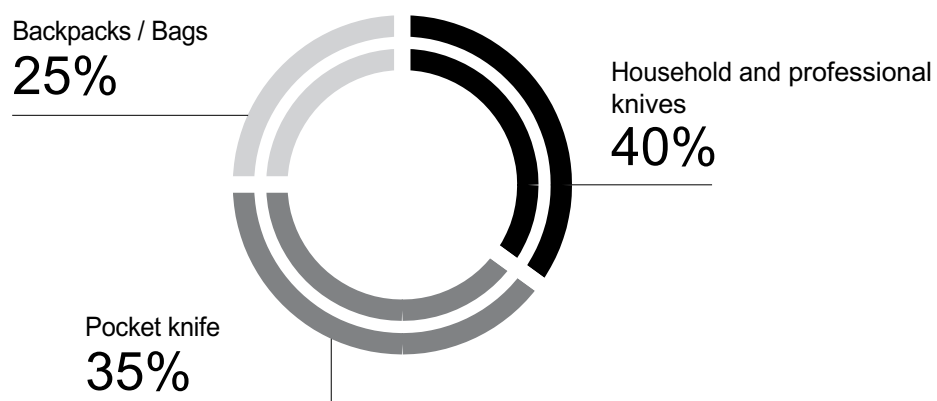
**Short portrait**

LANZ AG is a family-owned company that is now being managed by the fourth generation. The headquarters of LANZ AG are located in Spiez, Canton of Bern.

In 1910, Hans Lanz founded a cutlery workshop (deutsch: Messerschmiede) in the centre of Spiez and began producing kitchen knives for butchers and restaurant kitchens. In the course of the company's history, the range of knives was expanded more and more. The LANZ AG pocket knife achieved worldwide fame. In the meantime, the product range includes not only high-quality knives for various applications, but also backpacks (deutsch: Rucksäcke). In 2003, LANZ AG took over the backpack manufacturing company "Backpack AG" based in Burgdorf. The business units of "Backpack AG" were later incorporated into the LANZ AG organisation.

**Facts and figures**

LANZ AG employs over 800 people and achieved sales of around CHF 240 million in 2020. This turnover is divided between the following product categories:



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**Market performance**


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**Household and professional knives**

The name "Lanz" stands first and foremost for high-quality household and professional knives. The product category "household and professional knives" is still the core competence today of LANZ AG. The range includes 400 different products for almost every application in private homes, professional kitchens and butcheries. In this product category, LANZ AG has earned every second franc abroad in 2020.

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**Pocket knife**

Over the last 50 years, the pocket knife of LANZ AG has become a best-seller abroad under the name "Helvetic Knife". In normal business years, foreign tourists account for over 50% of domestic sales of pocket knives. The range comprises over 100 models with more than 50 different functions. New developments and designs are introduced to the market every year.

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**Backpacks**

The product category "Backpacks" is the youngest child of LANZ AG. In contrast to the other two product categories, sales of backpacks have been growing very strongly for years. LANZ AG has the right backpack for all travel, business and everyday requirements. LANZ AG currently offers the "Business", "Trecking", "Family" and "Swiss Alpine Backpack" models, each in five different versions.

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**Sales**

LANZ AG runs so-called brand stores in Switzerland (e.g. Thun, Gstaad, Saas Fee, Davos).

Only Lanz products are sold in these Lanz brand stores. The largest Lanz brand store is located in Thun. Here, customers can find the entire LANZ AG product range. In larger cities in Switzerland and abroad, LANZ AG relies on "shop-in-shop" concepts\*. However, specialised retailers in Switzerland and abroad serve as the main sales channel. LANZ AG does not run its own online shop. However, they benefit from the many online shops of the retailers, where one can find a variety of Lanz products can acquire.

*\* Explanation of the "shop-in-shop" concept:*

*Shop-in-shop refers to a retail space concept in which a large sales area is separated into several small, boutique-like sales niches. This concept is often found in large department stores to market expensive brands.*

Excerpt from the interview with Beat Lanz, CEO of LANZ AG



**Beat Lanz, CEO of LANZ AG, has been working for the family business for over 30 years. In the interview, he tells us what expansion plans he has.**

**The pocket knife must have a hard time these days. Children would rather have a smartphone or a computer than a pocket knife.**

*Beat Lanz:* I have experienced that with my children too, and in a certain sense smart phones are competition for our pocket knife. But with every trend there is a counter-trend. Many Swiss parents want their children not only to sit in front of the screen, but also to spend time in nature. Hiking trips in the beautiful homeland are very popular again. A Lanz pocket knife is an essential piece of equipment.

**So you are not experiencing a sharp decline in sales of your core product?**

*Beat Lanz:* No, the pocket knife is still very popular. The sales figures are only slightly declining.

**You are looking for new channels to sell your products. In the future, you want to open more points of sale in the mountains and now also at airports. Why?**

*Beat Lanz:* LANZ AG is particularly successful where tourists are on the move. We achieve good sales with our pocket knives and our backpacks in tourist destinations. We definitely want to expand this sales network. At selected airport locations, we want to be present in duty-free shops in the future.

**With what goals?**

*Beat Lanz:* We would like to double the sales turnover of the product category "backpacks" in the next ten years. Besides the pocket knife, the leather backpacks of the product line "Swiss Alpine Backpack" are especially popular with Asian tourists. We still have a big restriction with knives at airports. In Europe, the regulations have been relaxed somewhat. Today, you are allowed to take a knife with a blade of up to six centimetres back on board. But that only applies to Europe. When travelling to the USA or Asia, our pocket knives have to go in the checked baggage, otherwise they will be confiscated. The duty-free business is thus lost for knives, at least in these markets.

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**The trade conflict with China unleashed by US President Donald Trump is weighing on the global economy. What does this mean for LANZ AG?**

*Beat Lanz:* We are already feeling the slowdown in the economy. Our partners abroad are unsettled, they are reluctant to place orders. In addition, the Swiss franc is strengthening. This is a disadvantage for all export-oriented companies. It puts pressure on our margins and our competitiveness, especially in comparison to foreign knife producers.

**The word "recession" is going around. Are your shareholders getting nervous? How does LANZ AG deal with weaker economic cycles?**

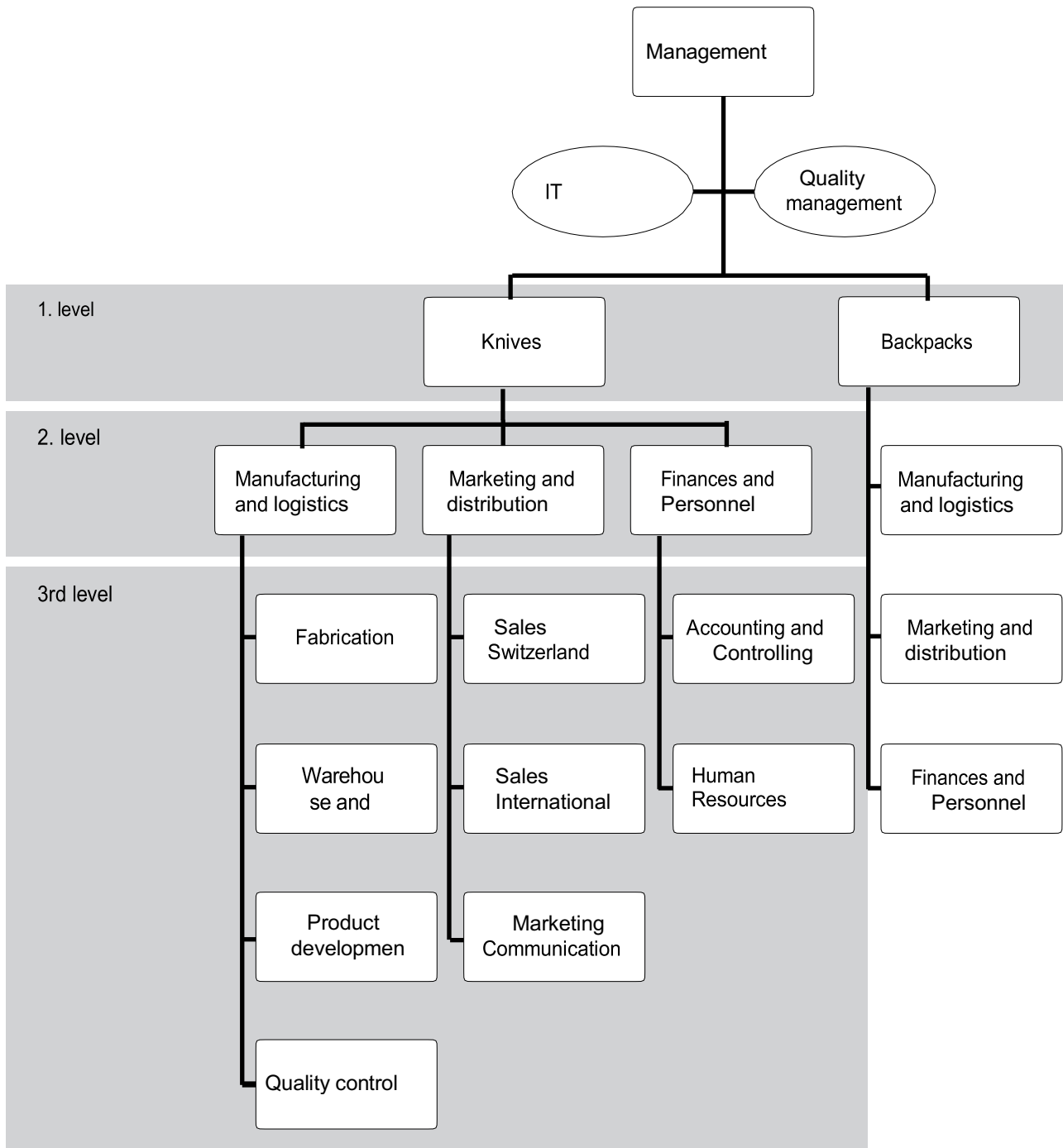
*Beat Lanz:* No, fortunately the shareholders of LANZ AG think very long-term. For us, creating and maintaining jobs is also a high priority. That's why we pursue an anti-cyclical strategy. We try to build up reserves in good times and then invest them in new products, marketing or opening up new markets in bad times. In this way we can smooth out these economic cycles somewhat. The ups and downs cannot be completely prevented. But this is how we have been able to keep staff numbers stable in the past. We are doing the same now.

**Last week you announced that LANZ AG would be sponsoring the well-known Swiss ski racer Michelle Gisin in the coming ski season.**

Why Michelle Gisin of all people?

*Beat Lanz:* ...

## C Organisational





# D Chart of accounts

1	Assets	2	Liabilities and Equity
<b>10</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Current Liabilities</b>
<b>100</b>	<b>Cash and Securities</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>Accounts Payable from Goods and Services</b>
1000	Cash in office	2000	Accounts payable from goods and services (Creditors)
1020	Bank (including PostFinance)	2030	Prepayments received
1060	Securities (with stock exchange price)	<b>210</b>	<b>Current Interest-Bearing Liabilities</b>
<b>110</b>	<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	2100	Bank overdraft (Bank)
1100	Accounts receivable from goods and services (Debtors)	<b>220</b>	<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>
1109	Del credere (Accumulated depr. on debtors)	2200	Sales Tax (VAT) owed
1170	Input Tax (VAT) receivable on material, goods, services, energy	2206	Withholding Tax (WT) owed
1171	Input Tax (VAT) receivable on investments, other operating expenses	2261	Dividend payouts resolved (Dividends)
1176	Withholding Tax (WT) receivable	2270	Social insurances owed
1190	Other short-term receivables	<b>230</b>	<b>Deferred Revenue &amp; Accrued Expense (Accounts Received in Advance) and Short-Term Provisions</b>
<b>120</b>	<b>Inventories</b>	2300	Deferred revenue and accrued expense (Accounts received in advance)
1200	Goods / Merchandise (Trade)	2330	Short-term provisions
1210	Raw materials		
1260	Finished products	<b>24</b>	<b>Long-term Liabilities</b>
1270	Products in process / Unfinished products	2430	Debentures
<b>130</b>	<b>Accrued Revenue &amp; Deferred Expense (Accounts Paid in Advance)</b>	2450	Loans
1300	Accrued revenue and deferred expense (Accounts paid in advance)	2451	Mortgages
		2600	Long-term provisions
<b>14</b>	<b>Capital Assets</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Equity</b>
<b>140</b>	<b>Financial Assets</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>Equity of Limited Company</b>
1400	Securities	2800	Share capital
1440	Loan (Asset)	2900	Legal capital reserves
1480	Participations	2950	Legal retained earnings (Reserves)
<b>150</b>	<b>Movable Tangible Assets</b>	2960	Voluntary retained earnings
1500	Machinery	2970	Profits brought forward / Losses brought forward
1509	Accumulated depreciation on machinery	2979	Annual profit or annual loss
1510	Equipment	<b>280</b>	<b>Equity of Sole Proprietorship</b>
1519	Accumulated depreciation on equipment	2800	Equity
1520	Office Equipment (including Information & Communication Technology)	2850	Drawings
1529	Accum. depr. on office equipm. (incl. ICT)	2891	Annual profit or annual loss
1530	Vehicles		
1539	Accumulated depreciation on vehicles		
1540	Tools		
<b>160</b>	<b>Immovable Tangible Assets</b>		
1600	Real estate		
1609	Accumulated depreciation on real estate		
<b>170</b>	<b>Intangible Assets</b>		
1700	Patents, Licences		
<b>180</b>	<b>Non-Paid-in Share, Corporate or Foundation Capital</b>		
1850	Non-paid-in share capital		

3	Operating Revenue from Goods and Services	7	Profit and Loss from Non-Core Business
3000	Sales of products (Manufacturing)	7000	Non-core business revenues
3200	Sales of goods (Trade)	7010	Non-core business expenses
3400	Revenues from services	7500	Revenues from operational real estate
3600	Other revenues	7510	Expenses from operational real estate
3805	Losses from bad debts		
3900	Changes in inventories of finished and unfinished products	<b>8</b>	<b>Non-operational, extraordinary, non-recurring or prior-period Expenses and Revenues</b>
		8000	Non-operational expenses
<b>4</b>	<b>Expenses for Materials, Goods and Services</b>	8100	Non-operational revenues
4000	Cost of raw materials (Manufacturing)	8500	Extraordinary expenses
4200	Cost of materials (Trade)	8510	Extraordinary revenues
4400	Cost of purchased services	8900	Direct Taxes
<b>5</b>	<b>Staff Cost</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Financial Statements</b>
5000	Wages and salaries	9000	Profit and Loss Account
5700	Social benefits	9100	Balance Sheet
5800	Other staff cost		
<b>6</b>	<b>Other Operating Expenses, Depreciations and Financial result</b>		
6000	Rent		
6100	Maintenance & repair expenses		
6200	Vehicle expenses		
6300	Insurance premiums		
6400	Energy expenses & disposal expenses		
6500	Administration expenses		
6600	Promotion and advertising expenses		
6700	Other operating expenses		
6800	Depreciations		
6900	Financial expenses (Interest expenses, Securities expenses, Participations expenses)		
6950	Financial revenues (Interest revenues, Securities revenues, Participations revenues)		



## E Simplified balance sheet after profit distribution as at

Balance sheet as at 31.12.2020 (short figures in CHF 1 000)

Current assets	
Cash and bank	2 440
Accounts receivable	540
Inventories and work in progress	4 800
Fixed assets	
Machines + apparatus (net)	2 100
Furniture + fixtures (net)	260
Vehicles (net)	360
Commercial properties	16 800
Total assets	27 300
Debt capital	
Accounts receivable	2 480
Loans payable (long-term)	250
Mortgages	11 200
Equity	
Share capital	7 500
Retained earnings	5 870
Total liabilities	27 300

Operating profit according to income statement from 1.1 to 31.12.2020 (in CHF 1000): 1120

## F Formulary

Key figure	Calculation	Target figure
Liquidity ratio 2 (quick ratio)	$\frac{(\text{cash and cash equivalents} + \text{receivables}) \times 100}{\text{current liabilities}}$	At least 100%
Return on equity	$\frac{\text{Net profit} \times 100}{\text{equity}}$	At least 8%
Return on assets	$\frac{(\text{net profit} + \text{interest on borrowings}) \times 100}{\text{total capital}}$	At least 6%
Self-financing level	$\frac{\text{equity} \times 100}{\text{total capital}}$	30–60%
Leverage ratio (Verschuldungsgrad)	$\frac{\text{debt capital} \times 100}{\text{total capital}}$	Maximum 70%
Fixed assets to equity ratio (balance sheet golden rule)	$\frac{(\text{equity} + \text{long-term debt}) \times 100}{\text{fixed assets}}$	At least 100%



