



Statistics on social assistance recipients

Description

The statistics on social assistance recipients drafted and carried out by the Federal Statistical Office provide information on the number social assistance recipients, the type of means-tested social benefits received, the duration of receipt of benefit and the family structure of the recipients. Thanks to the detailed results, these statistics close the previous information gap at national, cantonal, regional levels.

For the Swiss Social Assistance Statistics, economic social assistance and means-tested social benefits upstream of social assistance are surveyed. Only the social benefits granted at cantonal level are considered here and not those at communal level.

The aims of the statistics are:

- Knowledge of the situation and structure of social assistance recipients at national, cantonal and regional levels
- Information on the social and economic situation of recipients
- Details on the structure of the social benefits received
- Information on the composition of recipient groups
- Information on the development and duration of receipt of benefit and on the reasons for the stopping of benefits.

Available since:

2000: Pilot survey on the economic social assistance, for which the social assistance costs are financed by the cantons and communes.

2005-2006: First results of the pilot survey on the economic social assistance, for which the social assistance costs are financed by the cantons and communes.

2007: Introduction of the survey on other means-tested social benefits.

2009: Survey on economic social assistance or persons, for whom the Confederation compensates the cantons with the global flat-rate subsidy 2 for refugees; "refugees with asylum and refugees whose asylum application dates less than five years" and "provisionally admitted refugees residing in Switzerland for a maximum of seven years". The data are revealed in the scope of the social assistance statistics in the asylum and refugee sector *SH-FlüStat*.

2014-2016: Project to extend the statistics on social assistance with a survey on economic social assistance for persons, for whom the Confederation compensates the cantons with the global flat-rate subsidy 1 for refugees; "asylum seekers" and "provisionally admitted refugees residing in Switzerland for a maximum of seven years".

2017: First survey on social assistance recipients in the scope of social assistance statistics in the asylum sector *SH-AsylStat*. The first results for the 2016 survey year were published in December.

Characteristics recorded:

See guidelines on the implementation of the survey

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/social-security/surveys/shs.html>

Methodology

Individual data for the social assistance statistics are collected once every year in the subsequent year at commune level (comprehensive survey).

The FSO provides the agencies conducting the survey that work with a case management system with the PlausEx module. The data can be validated and exported using this module. The FSO has also developed and guarantees the maintenance of SOSTAT. This is provided free of charge to agencies conducting the survey that do not have their own case management system. Paper questionnaires are also still used in some cases. One standardised questionnaire per performance category is used as an instrument for collecting data.

Degree of regionalisation:
National, cantonal and communal

Periodicity:
Annual

Reference period:
From 1.1. to 31.12.

Legal bases

Ordinance on the Conduct of Statistical Surveys by the Confederation of 30 June 1993 (RS 431.012.1), (as on 1 July 2017), annex no. 67 and 68

Revised Asylum Act of 16th December 2005 (SR 142.31): Art. 102a of the Swiss statistics on social assistance recipients concerning the transfer of anonymised and aggregated data by the FSO to the State Secretary for Migration (SEM).

Organization

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