



Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

Description

SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) is a survey that has been conducted by the Federal Statistical Office, commissioned by the Federal Council, since 2007. The annual survey on household income and living conditions collects information on a wide range of topics allowing it to take both an objective and subjective look at the multidimensional aspects of living conditions in Switzerland. The data collected are both cross-sectional (relating to a given period or moment in time) and longitudinal (relating to changes at individual level, observed over a period of several years). This information enables a description to be made of the social and economic conditions of life in Switzerland and a better understanding of what influences them. The survey is conducted in over 30 countries throughout Europe, enabling the Swiss results to be compared with those of other countries.

Available since:

- 2007 (cross-sectional data)
- Longitudinal data from 2020
- Last version available of data: SILC-2018
- Next version available: SILC-2019, from 2021

Features registered

Base modules:

- Demographic data
- Income
- Social exclusion (poverty, material deprivation, arrears)
- Housing (type of dwelling, housing conditions, cost)
- Education
- Labour
- Health (state of health, access to healthcare)
- Values and satisfaction with living conditions
- Confidence towards institutions
- Sense of security
- Social relations
- Childcare

Annual modules:

- 2007: Housing conditions
- 2008: Over-indebtedness and financial exclusion
- 2009: Material deprivation
- 2010: Intra-household sharing of resources
- 2011: Intergenerational transmission of disadvantages
- 2012: Housing conditions
- 2013: Well-being/material deprivation/indebtedness/cultural participation
- 2014: Material deprivation
- 2015: Social and cultural participation/material deprivation/fortune
- 2016: Access to services
- 2017: Health and children's health /indebtedness
- 2018: Well-being/housing difficulties/material deprivation/fortune
- 2019: Intergenerational transmission of disadvantages
- 2020: Wealth / indebtedness / consumption / labour

Methodology

Sample survey of approximately 7,000 households comprising 15,000 persons. SILC is a

telephone survey. You have been randomly selected from the FSO's sample register. The FSO's sample register is primarily based on the official communal and cantonal population registers. To facilitate initial contact, the sample is completed wherever possible by telephone numbers that telephone operators have to make available to the FSO in compliance with the Federal Statistics Act. This list contains also includes private landline numbers that are not found in the public telephone directory. Persons participating in the survey are questioned for several consecutive years.

Statistical basis and survey units:

Permanent resident population living in private households (incl. non-permanent residents living in a household with at least one permanent resident). Information on social exclusion and housing conditions is collected at household level whereas information on labour, education and health is obtained from persons aged 16 and over.

Degree of regionalisation:

Switzerland and major regions

Periodicity:

Annual

Reference period:

Year before survey (income)

Quality of statistical data

EU quality criteria for EU-SILC surveys.

Revisions:

From 2014, [survey base modification](#) following the transition from CASTEM (register of landline telephone numbers) to SRPH (FSO's sample register primarily based on official communal and cantonal population registers).

From 2014, [weightings adjustment](#) based on survey base modification.

From 2017, [revised household types](#).

Legal bases

The Ordinance on the Conduct of Federal Statistical Surveys (30 June 1993, [RS 431.012.1](#) [↗](#)) forms the legal basis for the SILC survey. The Federal Act on Data Protection (19 June 1992, [RS 235.1](#) [↗](#)) and the Federal Statistics Act (9 October 1992, [RS 431.01](#) [↗](#)) guarantee that data protection is respected

Organization

Survey period from January to June.

Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in cooperation with [DemoSCOPE](#), Adligenswil.

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Information on FSO surveys for academic and research purposes: Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences ([FORS](#)) [↗](#)
