



Survey of higher education graduates (EHA)

Description

The survey's main focus is the employment and educational situation of graduates of institutions of higher education one and five years after graduation. Among the questions it seeks to answer are: How does the labour force participation rate change? What are the decisive factors for a successful transition to the labour market? The survey findings are used as an information tool for various institutions of higher education and as guidelines for educational and employment authorities and career counselling services.

Available since:

1977: First survey of graduates doctoral/research universities by the Swiss Association for Career and Academic Consulting (AGAB/ASOU)

1993: Graduates of universities of applied sciences and higher technical colleges included in the survey

1998: Federal Statistical Office assumes project management

2001: The Federal Statistical Office assumes responsibility for collecting the data

2002: First panel survey ("second-wave survey") of graduates who took part in the first-wave survey in 1999

Features registered:

General information on completed study course

Transition from higher education to labour market

Professional situation one/five years after graduation

Employment history since graduation

Further education and training

Self-evaluation of current professional situation and career to date

Personal data and current living situation

Each questionnaire contains a module that can be modified and adjusted to specific topics.

Methodology

Panel design full population survey of graduates with Bachelor's degree, diploma, licentiate, Master's degree and PhD. In the first-wave survey, all graduates having successfully completed a degree in a recognised Swiss institution of higher education (cantonal universities, Federal Institutes of Technology, universities of applied sciences (incl. universities of teacher education)) in the year in question are asked to complete a questionnaire one year after graduation. Only graduates who participated in the first-wave survey are asked to take part in a second-wave survey four years later.

Online questionnaires. Content and questions are adapted to apply to different degrees. Participation is voluntary.

Degree of regionalisation:

All graduates from cantonal universities, Federal Institutes of Technology and universities of applied sciences (including universities of teacher education) in Switzerland

Periodicity:

every two years

Statistical quality of data:

Response rate:

First-wave survey ca. 60%

Second-wave survey ca. 65%

Data weighting with the aid of Swiss Higher Education System (SHIS) statistics. The aim

is to obtain data on study subjects and individual universities and institutes.

Revision:

Questionnaire revision during first-wave survey in 2003.

Adjusted survey method since 2005: in addition to the paper version of the questionnaire, online version was launched to enable respondent to participate via the Internet. Since 2009 the survey has mainly been conducted online.

Since the first-wave survey in 2005, the period the survey is conducted has been moved to mid-August until the end of November.

Since 2007, graduates with Bachelor's and Master's degrees have also been surveyed.

2021 revision of the questionnaire:

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/fr/home/statistiques/education-science/enquetes/ashs.assetdetail.be-f-15.11.03-eha-01.html> (French),

<https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/bildung-wissenschaft/erhebungen/ashs.assetdetail.be-d-15.11.03-eha-01.html> (German)

Policy on revisions

Methodology revisions:

Methodology is revised as necessary (e.g. revision of sources).

Legal bases

Ordinance on the Conduct of Federal Statistical Surveys of 30 June 1993 (SR 431.012.1)

Organization

Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in collaboration with market and social research institutes

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Information about administrative and technical questions (general information, technical manual, contact with institutions of higher education, information about surveys):

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