

Definitions

Labour market indicators 2023

Neuchâtel, 2023

Editors:

Published by: Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

Information: Labour Force Section, Tel.: +41 58 46 36400

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Section AES, FSO; section LOHN, FSO; section KE, FSO

Topic: 03 Work and income

Original text:

Translation: FSO language services Layout concept: Downloads:

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Section PUB

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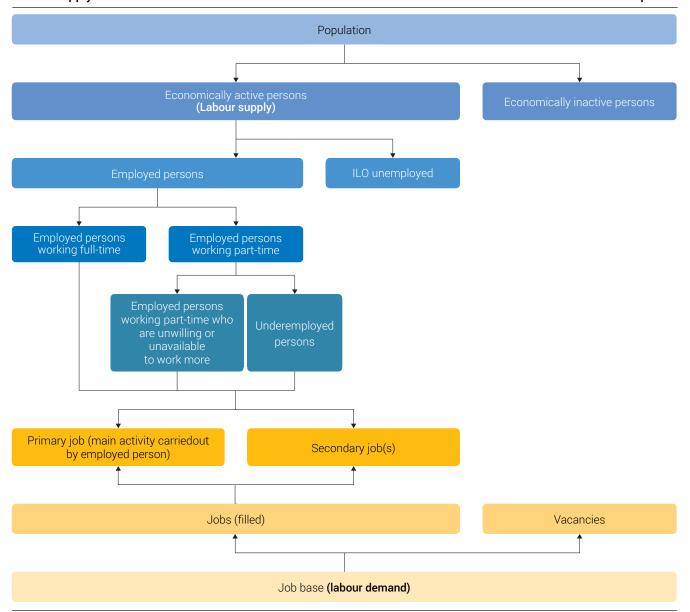
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inactivity



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1. Concepts relating to people

Employed persons

The term "employed persons" refers to all persons aged 15 and over who, during the reference week:

- worked at least one hour for payment or
- who, although temporarily absent from their work (due to illness, holidays, maternity leave, military service, etc.) had a job in an employed or self-employed capacity or
- who worked in the family business without payment.

This definition covers the following, irrespective of the place where this work is done (in a company/business, at home or in another private household): employees, self-employed persons, family workers in family businesses, apprentices, recruits, junior officers and officers who, while undergoing basic or further military training, retain their jobs and employment contracts, school pupils and students who work in parallel with their studies, and retired persons who continue working. People who only do housework in their own households, assist others free of charge, or carry out other voluntary activities are not regarded as employed persons.

(See also related concept: "jobs")

Statistical sources

Employment Statistics, Labour Market Accounts: Employed persons based on the domestic concept

Swiss Labour Force Survey, structural survey conducted within the framework of the population consensus: Employed persons in the permanent resident population

ILO unemployed

(ILO = International Labour Office)

The term "ILO unemployed" refers to people aged 15-74 who:

- were not employed during the reference week and
- were actively looking for work during the previous fourweeks and
- were available for work.

This definition complies with the recommendations of the ILO and the OECD as well as with the EUROSTAT definition. (See also related concepts: "registered unemployed persons" and "registered job seekers")

Statistical sources

Labour Market Accounts:

ILO unemployed in the permanent resident population and the registered unemployed with a non-permanent residence permit

Unemployment Statistics as defined by ILO, Swiss Labour Force Survey:

 ${\it ILO unemployed in the permanent resident population}$

Underemployed persons

The term "underemployed persons" refers to employed persons who:

- usually work less than 90% of the normal full-time workweek in companies (cf. definition of normal hours of work) and
- wish to work more and
- are available to take on a job with a higher occupancy rate within the next three months.

Statistical source

Swiss Labour Force Survey:

Underemployed persons in the permanent resident population

Economically active persons

The term "economically active persons" refers to employed and ILO unemployed. This concept is also expressed in economic terms as "labour supply".

Statistical sources

Labour Market Accounts:

Economically active persons = employed persons based on the domestic concept + ILO unemployed in the permanent resident population + registered unemployed with a non-permanent residence permit

Swiss Labour Force Survey, structural survey conducted within the framework of the population census: *Economically active persons in the permanent resident population*

Economically inactive persons

The term "economically inactive persons" refers to people who are neither employed nor ILO unemployed.

Statistical sources

Swiss Labour Force Survey, structural survey conducted within the framework of the population census: *Economically inactive persons in the permanent resident population*

Labour Market Accounts:

Economically inactive persons in the resident population

Registered unemployed persons

The term "registered unemployed persons" refers to persons who have registered with a regional placement office (RAV). Such individuals do not have work and are immediately available for job placement, regardless of whether or not they receive unemployment benefits.

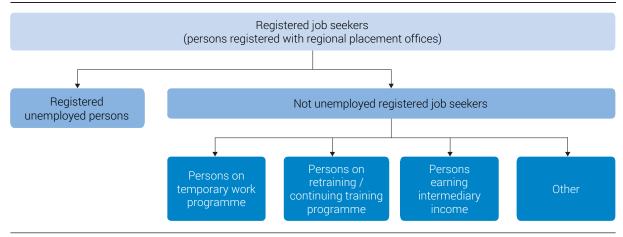
(See also related concepts: "ILO unemployed" and "registered job seekers")

Statistical source

Unemployment Statistics of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO):

Registered unemployed persons in the resident population

Persons registered with a regional placement office



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Registered job seekers

The term "registered job seekers" refers to all economically active persons who are registered with regional placement offices (RAV). There are two groups of registered job seekers: Persons registered as unemployed and persons registered as not unemployed. The latter group differs from the first in that the persons are already gainfully employed or are not immediately available for job placement. Such people are either on a temporary work programme, a retraining or continuing training programme or earn intermediary income.

(See also related concepts: "unemployed persons" and "registered unemployed persons")

Statistical source

Unemployment Statistics (based on SECO definition):

Registered job seekers in the resident population

Persons working part-time

Employed persons with a work-time percentage below 90% are considered to work part-time. A distinction is made between part time I and part time II:

- part time I: work-time percentage between 50 and 89%;
- part time II: work-time percentage below 50%.

Internationally, the threshold for part-time work is higher: all work-time percentages below 100% are considered part-time.

Statistical source

Swiss Labour Force Survey Structural survey

Job-share

A job and its responsibilities are shared between 2 people working part-time, usually with a single job description.

Statistical source

Swiss Labour Force Survey

Evening/night work

Evening work takes place (fully or partly) between 19:00 and 24:00, night work (fully or partly) between 24:00 and 06:00.

Statistical source

Swiss Labour Force Survey

Teleworking from home

Any professional activity that an employed person carries out at home is considered as working from home. Teleworking from home represents a part of working from home: it comprises work in which the employed person, via internet, exchanges data with their employer or client.

Statistical source

Swiss Labour Force Survey

2. Concepts relating to jobs

Jobs (filled)

The term "jobs" refers to all positions of employment that are filled. While largely covering the same concept, "jobs" and "employed persons" do not coincide, given that an employed person may hold several jobs. In such cases, the employed person holds one primary job and one or more secondary jobs.

(See also related concept "employed persons")

Statistical sources

Job Statistics:

The definitions and results of the Job Statistics were adapted in 2015 to conform with the OASI/STATENT universe. A job is counted for every person who carries out a professional activity in an enterprise and who is subject to compulsory contributions to the oldage and survivors' insurance (OASI). Jobs are counted in enterprises according to four categories of work-time percentage and also in terms of full-time equivalents. The statistics cover economic branches in the secondary and tertiary sectors, excluding the "Activities of households as employers of domestic personnel" section.

Calculated in March, June, September and December of the reference year.

Structural Business Statistics:

Employment is defined as paid economic activity, either in a company or as self-employed, implicating the payment of old age and survivors' insurance contributions (OASI), starting from a certain wage threshold (set at CHF 2300). Employment in agriculture is recorded without an income threshold, based on data from the farm census and the farm structure survey. A person with several employment contracts has several jobs as long as the employment contracts are with different companies. However, if the person has several employment contracts with the same employer, they are only recorded as having one job. Calculated in December of the reference year.

Federal Primary Sector Census and Agricultural Structures Survey: *Calculated in January of the reference year.*

Full-time equivalents (FTE)

FTEs are the total number of hours worked divided by the average number of hours worked for a full-time job. An alternative method is to add up the work-time percentages.

Statistical sources

Swiss Labour Force Survey:

Employed persons in FTE are calculated on the basis of hours actually worked. Unemployed persons according to the ILO definition are calculated on the basis of the sought work-time percentages. Underemployed persons in FTE are calculated on the basis of desired working hours. Economically active persons in FTE are the sum of employed persons in FTE, unemployed persons based on the ILO definition in FTE and underemployed persons in FTE.

Employment Statistics:

Employed persons in FTE are calculated on the basis of hours actually worked.

Job Statistics:

Jobs in FTE are calculated based on the total work-time percentages recorded for each establishment participating in the survey.

Structural Business Statistics:

Jobs in FTE are estimated using an estimation model which is mainly based on OASI wage data supplemented by information from surveys, in particular the Job Statistics.

Vacancies

The term "vacancies" refers to a position (new, unfilled or soon to be vacant position) that the employer intends to fill either immediately or in the near future. Moreover, a position is deemed to be vacant if action has been taken, or will be taken very shortly, to recruit a new member of staff.

Statistical sources

Job Statistics:

Vacancies in secondary or tertiary sector establishments

SECO statistics of vacancies reported to regional placement offices:

As reporting is only mandatory for job types with high unemployment (obligation to give notice of job vacancies if the unemployment rate is 5% or more since 1st January 2020), the statistics only cover part of all vacancies in Switzerland.

Difficulties in personnel recruitment

Indicator intended to estimate recruitment difficulties experienced by secondary and tertiary sector establishments during the quarter under review.

Statistical source

Job Statistics:

Establishments are asked to indicate if they have experienced difficulties in recruiting personnel according to 4 categories: 1: personnel found without difficulty; 2: personnel found with difficulty; 3: personnel not found; 4: other (don't know, not looking for personnel, recruitment process not finished) and according to 4 levels of professional training (1: personnel with no training since leaving school; 2: apprenticeship or similar training; 3: higher professional training; 4: university). The indicators are presented as percentages and are weighted by the number of jobs. They are shown in detail for each category. A synthetic indicator (difficulties in recruiting qualified personnel) includes cases where the personnel required was found with difficulty or not found in at least one of the 3 categories with a post-obligatory education qualification. The series starts in the 1st quarter 2004.

Employment outlook

The term "employment outlook" refers to a set of indicators used to predict the job situation in the secondary and tertiary sectors for the next quarter.

Statistical source

Job Statistics:

These indicators express in percentages the proportion of establishments that reported that they would increase, maintain or decrease their total number of employees (figures weighted by the number of jobs) during the coming quarter. In addition, these percentages are presented as a synthetic indicator varying from 0.50 (decrease) to 1.5 (increase). A value of 1.00 indicates no change is expected in the number of employees. The series starts in the 1st quarter 2004.

3. Concepts relating to the economy

Labour supply

The term "labour supply" refers to the total quantity of labour offered by employed persons and ILO unemployed. Also referred to as "economically active persons".

Statistical sources

Labour Market Accounts:

Economically active persons = employed persons based on the domestic concept + ILO unemployed in the permanent resident population + registered unemployed with a non-permanent residence permit

Swiss Labour Force Survey, structural survey conducted within the framework of the population census: *Economically active persons in the permanent resident population*

Labour demand

The term "labour demand" refers to the total quantity of labour required by employers. Also referred to as "job base", labour demand comprises all filled and vacant positions of employment.

Statistical source

Job Statistics:

Jobs, vacancies

Structural Business Statistics

4. Concepts relating to working hours

Contractual working hours of salaried employees

The concept of contractual hours applies to salaried employees. Contractual hours are defined as the hours that salaried employees are expected to spend on productive activities as stipulated in the explicit or implicit individual employment contract.

Statistical source

Work Volume Statistics:

Contractual working hours of salaried employees based on the domestic concept, expressed yearly and weekly per job

Usual working hours

The concept of usual working hours applies to all employees (salaried and self-employed). These are the hours worked in a normal working week with no particular episode (public holiday, leave, illness, or unusual overtime, etc.). Usual working hours include all usual overtime and exclude all absences.

Statistical source

Work Volume Statistics:

Usual working hours based on the domestic concept, expressed yearly and weekly per job

Normal working hours

The term "normal working hours" refers to the number of hours decided upon in the employment contract. In the case of self-employed persons, this figure corresponds to the number of hours usually devoted to their professional activities. Hours of overtime and absences do not have an impact on normal working hours.

Statistical source

Work Volume Statistics:

Normal working hours based on the domestic concept, expressed either yearly or weekly per job or in terms of annual volume

Normal workweek in companies

The normal workweek is defined as the number of hours a company employee is required to work each week over a period of several months or years. Generally speaking, the workweek is understood as being full-time, with no overtime hours nor reduced working hours.

Statistical source

Statistics on normal workweek in companies:

Normal weekly hours for full-time employees

Actual hours worked

The term "actual hours worked" refers to the number of hours that employed persons devoted to their professional activities (i.e. actual hours worked = normal hours of work plus hours of overtime minus hours of absence).

Statistical source

Work Volume Statistics:

Actual hours worked based on the domestic concept, expressed per job and year, expressed per job and week or in terms of annual volume

Overtime

The term "overtime" refers to paid or unpaid hours

- worked over and above the normal workweek, and
- which are not compensated by leave or by a later reduction in working hours within a flexible working hours system.

Statistical source

Work Volume Statistics:

Overtime based on the domestic concept, expressed per job and year, expressed per job and week, in terms of annual volume, or as an overtime rate for the given year

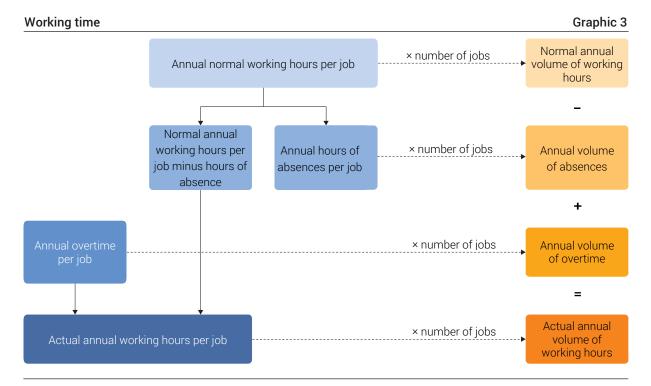
Hours of absences

The term "hours of absences" refers to the number of normal hours of work in which a person was not at their place of work due to illness, accident, maternity leave, military or community service, civil defence, reduction of working hours, labour dispute, personal or family reasons and bad weather. Employee holidays, public holidays and time off work made possible by flexible working schedules are not considered as hours of absence.

Statistical source

Work Volume Statistics:

Hours of absence based on the domestic concept, expressed per job and year, expressed per job and week, in terms of annual volume, or as an absence rate for the given year.



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5. Concepts relating to labour market flows

Gross transitions between employment, unemployment as defined by ILO and economic inactivity

Gross transitions reflect the transition from an (initial) status to another (final) status over a certain period. Measuring gross transitions between employment, unemployment as defined by ILO and economic inactivity produces a distinction between nine different groups of persons (employed persons who have become ILO unemployed, employed persons who have become economically inactive, employed persons who have stayed in employment, ILO unemployed who used to be employed, etc.).

Statistical source

Labour Market Accounts:

Gross transitions are observed over a calendar year

International migrations

International migrations are movements of persons who change their place of usual residence from one country to another. A distinction is made between immigration (when the reference country is the arrival country) and emigration (when the country of reference is the departure country). The balance between immigration and emigration movements is referred to as net migration.

Statistical sources

Population and Household Statistics:

International migration by Swiss and foreign nationals who are part of the permanent resident population. STATPOP replaced the Statistics on Annual Population Status (ESPOP) as of 2011.

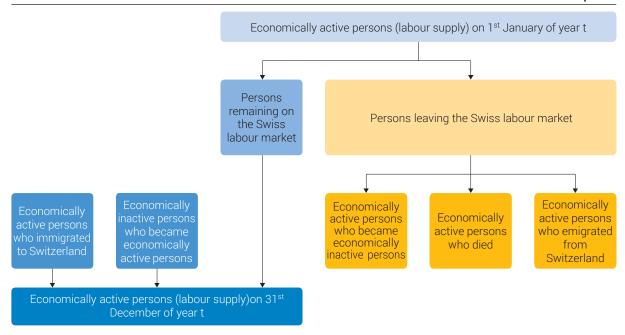
State Secretariat for Migration:

International migration of foreigners

Labour Market Accounts:

International migrations by labour-market status. For statistical purposes, the concept of international migration is expanded to cover new cross-border commuters (counted as immigrations) and persons losing the status of cross-border commuters (counted as emigrations).

Labour market flows Graphic 4



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6. Concepts relating to employment income

Remuneration

Remuneration is made up of revenue (in cash, in kind or in the form of services) earned through work by persons in salaried employment or by the self-employed. Remuneration comprises the sums received as the direct result of professional activity (salaries or profits from self-employment) or because of a person's professional situation (job-related social security benefits). Remuneration does not cover revenue from other sources, such as property, social assistance, transfers, etc. that are not linked to employment.

(See also related concept "Salary")

Statistical sources

Swiss Labour Force Survey:

Captures the professional income of employees and the self-employed belonging to the permanent resident population. The components of an employee's remuneration are the gross salary, 13th and 14th month's salary, premiums and bonuses.

Household Budget Survey:

Provides an overview of the remuneration of private households derived from employment. According to the HBS, "remuneration" is regarded as meaning everything coming into a household under the heading of salaries, profits from self-employed activity and social security benefits linked to employment.

Salary

The term "salary" corresponds to remuneration (in cash or in kind) for the work done by a person on another person's behalf under the terms of a written or oral contract. This other person may be a natural person or a corporate entity (business, non-profit-making institution or government department). Thus, the concept of salary does not cover income from self-employed activity on a person's own account. It is customary to make a distinction between gross salary (before deduction of the employee's social security contributions) and net salary (after deductions). (See also related concept "Remuneration")

Statistical sources

Swiss Earnings Structure Survey:

The salary components taken into consideration are the gross salary for October (including social security contributions payable by the employed person for social insurances, benefits in kind, regular bonus payments, turnover participation and commissions), teamwork allowances and allowances for Sunday or night work, 1/12 of the 13th salary and 1/12 of special annual payments. The findings are expressed in standardised gross monthly salaries (recalculated on the basis of a full-time equivalent of 4 1/12 weeks with a 40-hour working week).

Swiss Wage Index:

The index is calculated from the standardised gross contractual salary. The standardised gross contractual salary corresponds to the wage specified in the employment contract for a full-time employee. It includes the basic salary as well as the 13th salary (including any 14th and subsequent salaries), the cost-of-living allowance, holiday pay and public holiday allowances. This is the salary before any deduction of social insurance contributions (OASI/IV, LEC AC, AANP), contributions (ordinary and voluntary) to LPP occupational pension funds (2nd pillar) and before deduction of taxes, without family allowances and payments in kind. This excludes sporadic salary components (e.g., sporadically paid bonuses, premiums and commissions), the employer's share of lump-sum benefits or pension contributions, and overtime pay.

Swiss Labour Force Survey:

Captures the professional income of employees and the self-employed belonging to the permanent resident population. The components of an employee's remuneration are the gross salary, 13th and 14th salary, premiums and bonuses.

Wage Agreements Survey:

Measures the adjustment of actual salaries and minimum salaries (generally: basic gross salary + 13th salary) agreed by management and staff within the framework of the collective labour agreements (CLA) selected. Minimum salaries are the minimum amounts collectively negotiated and laid down in a CLA or in a rider thereto.

Other sources:

Household Budget Survey and administrative data from the Old-Age and Survivor's Insurance System (OASI) which make it possible to calculate the "remuneration of employees" used in the Income Account that is part of the National Accounts.

Collective Labour Agreement (CLA)

An agreement signed on the one hand between one or more employer associations and/or one or several employers and on the other hand by one or more employee associations in order to establish together clauses on the conclusion, the subject and the purpose of individual employment contracts between employers and the employees concerned (normative provisions). A CLA may also contain other clauses (semi-normative provisions), provided that they deal with relations between the employers and workers (contributions to a compensation fund, representation of employees within the enterprise, professional training and development etc); it can even be limited to these clauses. Furthermore, the agreement can define the reciprocal rights and obligations of the contracting parties (provisions on contractual obligations), as well as the monitoring and application of the prescribed clauses. The CLA is governed by articles 356 to 358 of the Swiss Code of obligations (CO).

CLAs without normative provisions generally overlap with the scope (employers and workers) of other CLAs with normative provisions in the same economic sector. A person who is subject to several CLAs is counted several times.

CLAs signed on behalf of the employer by one or more employer associations are called associative CLAs, CLAs signed on behalf of the employer by representatives of one or more companies are called company CLAs.

Statistical source

Survey on Collective Labour Agreements in Switzerland

Standard Employment Contract

Standard employment contract is a contract in which clauses governing the formation, nature and termination of certain types of employment relationship are laid down. Where the scope of application of a standard employment contract extends over more than one canton, the Federal Council is responsible for issuing it, but otherwise the canton is responsible. Standard employment contract is regulated by articles 359 to 360 of the Code of Obligations (CO).

Unless otherwise agreed, the standard employment contract applies directly to the employment relationships that it governs. The cantons shall draw up standard employment contracts for agricultural workers and domestic staff to regulate in particular working hours, leisure time and employment conditions for female employees and minors (ordinary Standard Employment Contract).

Standard employment contract with mandatory minimum wages: Standard employment contracts decreed in application of Art. 360a of the Code of Obligations (CO). This is a fixed-term standard employment contract that foresees mandatory minimum wages. Where the wages that are customary for a geographical area, occupation or industry are repeatedly and unfairly undercut within a particular occupation or economic sector and there is no collective labour agreement (CLA) laying down a minimum wage that may be declared universally binding, on application by a tripartite commission appointed by the Confederation or a canton, the competent authority may issue a fixed-term standard employment contract providing for a minimum wage. No deviation from a standard employment contract in the sense of article 360a Co shall be made to the disadvantage of the worker (art. 360d, para. 2, CO).

Statistical source

Survey on Collective Labour Agreements in Switzerland

Wage agreements

Agreements reached between the contractual parties of a CLA with regard to the extent and type of effective and minimum wage adjustments and, where applicable, working time or other wage conditions. Any wage development that directly results from the CLA and falls within the competence of both contractual parties shall be deemed equal to a wage agreement.

Statistical source

Survey on Collective Agreements in Switzerland

Labour disputes

A labour dispute is a difference of opinion concerning one or several problems which have resulted in a dispute between employees and their employers or due to which employees or employers have formulated a claim, or due to which employees or employers support other employees or employers in their claims or grievances.

Strike: temporary cessation of work at the initiative of one or several groups of employees in order to enforce or ward off claims, to express grievances or to support other employees in their claims or grievances.

Lockout: temporary closure or partial closure of one or several places of work, or as a measure by one or more employers to prevent employees' normal work routine in order to enforce or ward off claims or to support other employers in their claims or grievances.

Statistical source

Survey on Collective Labour Disputes

7. Miscellaneous rates

Employment rate

Employment rate =
$$\frac{\text{employed persons}}{\text{reference population}} \times 100$$

Statistical source

Swiss Labour Force Survey, structural survey conducted within the framework of the population census

A distinction is made between:

- the gross employment rate in terms of the total population
- the standardised employment rate in terms of the population aged 15 and over
- the net employment rate in terms of the population aged between 15 and 64.

Unemployment rate as defined by ILO

Statistical source

Unemployment Statistics as defined by ILO, Swiss Labour Force Survey

Unemployment rate (SECO-based)

Statistical source

Unemployment Statistics of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), structural survey conducted within the framework of the population census

Underemployment rate

Statistical source

Swiss Labour Force Survey

Activity rate

Statistical source

Swiss Labour Force Survey, structural survey conducted within the framework of the population census.

A distinction is made between:

- the gross activity rate in terms of the total population
- the standardised activity rate in terms of the population aged 15 and over
- the net activity rate in terms of the population aged between 15 and 64.

Overtime rate

Statistical source

Work Volume Statistics

Absence rate

Absence rate =
$$\frac{\text{per job}}{\text{annual normal working}} \times 100$$
hours per job

Statistical source

Work Volume Statistics

Job vacancy rate

Statistical source

Job Statistics

8. Concepts relating to the population and statistical coverage

Domestic concept

The domestic concept describes the productive activity carried out on Swiss economic territory, regardless of whether it is performed by residents or non-residents. This concept can be used to demarcate the population in employment, jobs or even working hours. In practical terms, productive activity under domestic concept covers activity carried out in Switzerland by the following groups: Swiss nationals residing in Switzerland, holders of a permanent residence permit, holders of a residence permit (including recognised refugees), cross-border commuters working in Switzerland, holders of a seasonal work permit (this permit was discontinued on 1 June 2002), holders of a short-term residence permit, EU/EFTA nationals engaged in paid employment (not self-employed) for a Swiss employer for a maximum of 90 days per civil year, persons in the asylum process, the staff of Swiss embassies and consulates and members of the Swiss naval fleet. In contrast, the activities of foreign embassies and consulates in Switzerland, the work of international civil servants in Switzerland and the activities of persons residing in Switzerland but working abroad are not included in the domestic concept.

Statistical source

The domestic concept is mainly used in Employment Statistics, Work Volume Statistics, the Business and Enterprise Register, the Structural and Demographic Business Statistics, the Job Statistics and the Swiss Wage Structure Survey. It is also used in the National Accounts.

Permanent resident population

The permanent resident population has comprised all Swiss nationals whose main place of residence is in Switzerland; foreign nationals with a residence or a permanent residence permit for at least twelve months (B or C permits or FDFA legitimation card [international civil servants, diplomats and their family members]); foreign nationals with a short-term residence permit (L permit) for a cumulative length of stay of at least twelve months; foreign nationals seeking asylum (permits F, N or S) with a total length of stay of at least twelve months.

Statistical sources

Population and Households Statistics

Structural survey carried out in the scope of the Federal Population Census: Without diplomats and international officials

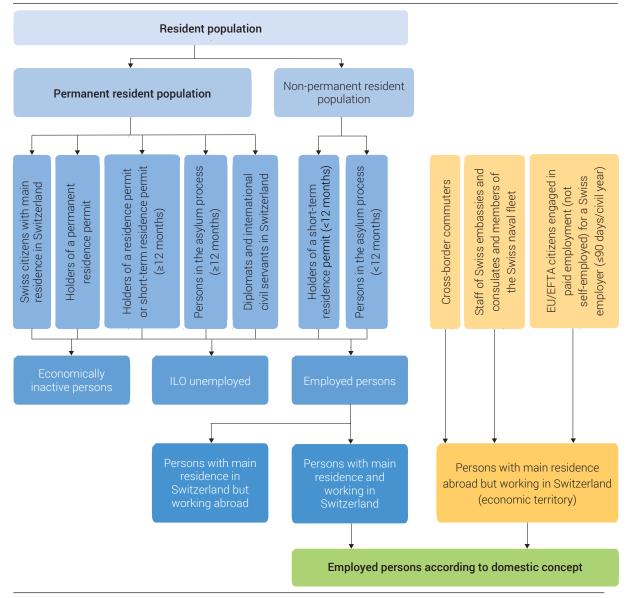
Unemployment Statistics as defined by ILO and Swiss Labour Force Survey: Without diplomats and international officials and without persons in the asylum process

Resident population

The resident population is comprised of all persons residing in Switzerland at a given moment regardless of their nationality, length of stay or type of residence permit. Persons with no registered address in Switzerland, such as cross-border commuters working in Switzerland, tourists, persons visiting or travelling on business are not included in the resident population. The resident population includes the following categories of foreign nationals: settlement permit holders, residence permit holders (including recognised refugees), seasonal workers (this permit is no longer issued as of 1 June 2002), short-term residence permit holders, persons in the asylum process, diplomats and international civil servants and their family members.

Statistical source

The resident population concept was used in the Federal Population Census (FPC) until 2000 and is also used in the Unemployment Statistics of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).



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9. Major regions

Major regions

Lake Geneva region: Vaud, Valais, Geneva

Espace Mittelland: Bern, Fribourg, Solothurn, Neuchâtel, Jura Northwest Switzerland: Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft, Aargau

Zurich: Zurich

Eastern Switzerland: Glarus, Schaffhausen, Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Appenzell Innerrhoden, St. Gallen, Graubün-

den, Thurgau

Central Switzerland: Lucerne, Uri, Schwytz, Obwald, Nidwald, Zug

Ticino: Ticino

Statistical source

The findings of most of the labour market statistics are also available by region.