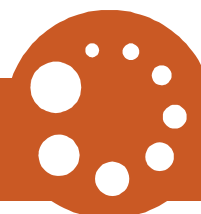




Early estimate of Swiss business structure (STATENT-Flash)

Management Summary

EXPERIMENTAL STATISTICS



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Each year, the Structural Business Statistics (STATENT) provide comprehensive and detailed information on the structure of the Swiss economy, focusing on the structural and geographic characteristics of productive capacities at the level of businesses and establishments, and in terms of jobs and jobs in full-time equivalents. The data are widely used for both economic analyses (e.g. market analyses) and spatial analyses (e.g. spatial planning). However, STATENT is published 20 months after the end of the reference year t to which it relates. Data for the reference year 2022, for example, will be available in August 2024. This lengthy 'time lag' is due to the fact that the master data are available approximately 12 months after the reference year and production requires the integration of numerous data sources. This is necessary to guarantee the completeness and accuracy of STATENT.

As part of its innovation strategy, the FSO develops new products, for example by making full use of the information that is already available. The aim of the STATENT-Flash is to considerably shorten the time it takes to make available basic structural information relevant to users, compared with the conventional STATENT. Results targeted are the number of businesses and jobs, broken down by size class, economic section (FSO NOGA 50) and canton.

To produce these results outside the usual STATENT production cycle, it is necessary to use prediction-based estimation techniques to complete missing or incomplete information. Ultimately, the aim is to publish short-term structural results (known as STATENT-Flash) 8 months after the end of the reference year. This means that STATENT-Flash data for the reference year 2024 will be available in August 2024. Concurrently with the conventional STATENT, the FSO can thus offer a more up to date overall view of the economy's structure as a whole.

Two options have been identified to produce the STATENT-Flash. The first is to predict the legal units that will be present, giving us an estimated population for which jobs are subsequently predicted. There are two models in this option: one for the presence of a legal unit and another for the entity's jobs. This approach is said to be 'individual' as modelling takes place at legal unit level. It has yet to be investigated and no results are available for the time being. The second option tests modelling directly at the level of the most requested aggregations. Here too, there are two models: one for the number of jobs and another for the number of legal units. This modelling is based on the development of explanatory variables. In addition to STATENT, these variables come from provisional data from OASI funds, the Business and Enterprise Register (BER) and the Job Statistics (JOBSTAT).

Given that the aggregated approach is currently unable to produce sufficiently robust and accurate results, instead of trying to improve it, we have decided to focus on the individual approach. This approach offers the advantage of incorporating a larger variety of data sources (and therefore of explanatory variables) which should potentially lead to improved estimates.