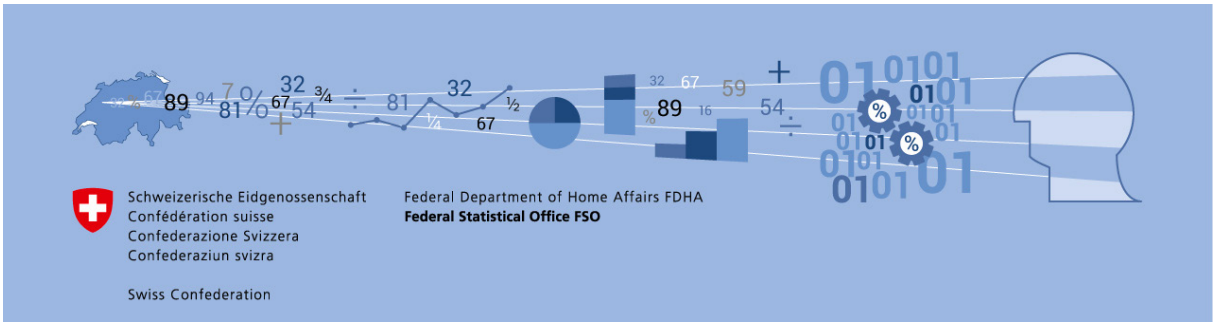


Press release

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06 Industry and services

Employment barometer in the 3rd quarter 2024

Solid trend in employment in 3rd quarter 2024

In the 3rd quarter 2024, total employment (excluding agriculture) in Switzerland rose by 1.2% compared with the same quarter of the previous year (seasonally adjusted, +0.2% over previous quarter). Enterprises reported 12.4% fewer vacancies than a year earlier. Difficulties recruiting personnel have declined slightly. In addition, the employment outlook remained positive despite enterprises' cautious estimates. These are some of the latest findings from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

Enterprises in Switzerland reported 5.528 million jobs in the 3rd quarter 2024. This was an increase of 65 800 jobs (+1.2%) year on year. Women made up 46.6% of the workforce. At the end of September 2024, 2.258 million jobs were part-time (women accounted for 69.6% of these jobs). In full-time equivalents, the total volume of employment was 4.321 million jobs. This was 58 600 full-time equivalents more than the previous year (+1.4%).

Secondary sector employment (industry and construction) rose only slightly in the 3rd quarter 2024 compared with the same quarter of the previous year by 7600 jobs (+0.7%) to 1.139 million jobs. The tertiary sector (services) had 58 200 (+1.3%) more jobs in the same period, with a total volume of 4.389 million jobs.

Moderately upward short-term trend

In the short term (compared with previous quarter), seasonally-adjusted employee numbers in enterprises grew by 10 700 jobs (+0.2%). In the same quarter, there was a slight upward trend in the secondary sector, with 900 additional jobs (+0.1%), while the tertiary sector saw an increase of 13 300 jobs (+0.3%).

Number of vacancies declined

Enterprises reported a total of 98 800 vacancies in the 3rd quarter 2024. Year on year, this was a decline of 14 000 jobs (−12.4%). Both the secondary (−13.1%) and tertiary sectors (−12.2%) had fewer vacancies. Vacancies represented 1.8% of all jobs, 2.1% of secondary sector jobs and 1.7% of tertiary sector jobs.

Fewer difficulties in finding skilled workers

Difficulties in the recruitment of skilled workers declined in 3rd quarter 2024 in comparison with the same quarter of the previous year (37.9%; –2.8 percentage points). Nevertheless, skilled labour remained difficult to find in long-term comparison.

Somewhat gloomy employment outlook

The share of enterprises announcing an increase in the number of jobs in the short-term was 10.9% in 3rd quarter 2024 (12.4% in the same quarter of the previous year) weighted by number of jobs. Those planning to reduce their workforce represented 5% (4.5% in previous year's quarter). The employment outlook indicator fell again slightly compared with the previous year (1.03; –1%).

Methodological appendix

The employment barometer reflects changes in certain economic indicators of labour demand. The indicators are based on a quarterly sample survey of approximately 18 000 enterprises with a total of 65 000 secondary (industry and construction) and tertiary (services) sector businesses.

The **jobs** in all enterprises are divided into four employment categories. For people with more than one job, each job is counted separately. Jobs with a weekly working time of less than six hours (work-time percentage of less than 15%) are also included. Jobs in private households and those with reduced working hours are not included.

Full-time equivalents represent the total volume of all jobs converted into full-time jobs.

Seasonal adjustment neutralises the effects of seasonal factors in a time series. The entire time series is recalculated for each new quarter.

Vacancies are newly created, unoccupied or vacant positions that an enterprise intends to fill immediately or in the near future and for which active recruitment steps have been taken. Results from NOGA division 78 'Employment activities' (recruitment and placement agency activities) are not included. The percentage of vacancies is the ratio of vacancies to labour demand (occupied jobs + vacancies) i.e.: *Percentage of vacancies = vacancies / labour demand x 100*

Difficulties in recruiting personnel: At the end of the reporting quarter, enterprises indicate whether the personnel they were looking for were found easily, with difficulty or not found at all. The results are published in summarised or detailed form for each level of education and weighted either by the number of businesses or by their number of jobs.

Employment outlook: Enterprises indicate whether they are planning to maintain, increase or reduce their workforce in the next quarter. The employment outlook indicator is based on their answers on a scale of 0.5 (reduction) to 1.0 (status quo) to 1.5 (increase).

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Access to results

This press release has been checked for conformity with the European Statistics Code of Practice, which ensures the independence, integrity and accountability of the national and community statistical offices. Privileged access is supervised and under embargo.

In accordance with the relevant laws, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) received the employment statistics data five working days prior to the publication of this media release in order to fulfil their tasks. Those cantons and cities that have financed additional samples received the data for their region three working days prior to publication. The text was sent to the press agencies with a 15-minute embargo.