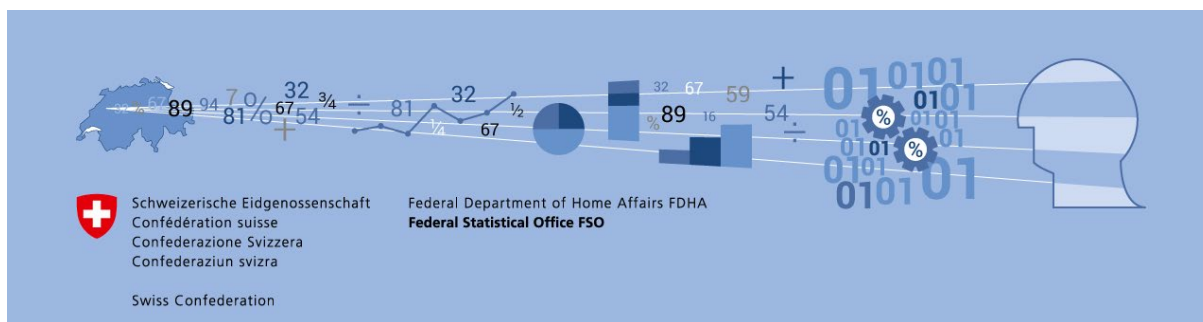




## Press release

Embargo: 11.3.2025, 8:30

### 06 Industry and services

Economic trends in 4th quarter 2024

## Fall in turnover and growth in employment in Switzerland in 4th quarter 2024

**Turnover in secondary and tertiary market activities declined by 1.4% in the 4th quarter 2024 compared with the same quarter of the previous year. The fall in turnover contrasts with an increase in employment of 0.5% in the same period. These are provisional findings from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).**

Turnover in the secondary sector (industry and construction) rose by 2.6%, whereas in the tertiary sector (retail trade and services) it fell by 4.2%. The increase in employment was driven by both the secondary (+0.6%) and tertiary sector (+0.5%).

### Secondary sector

In the industrial sector, turnover in the 4th quarter of 2024 rose by 2.5% compared with the previous year, while construction turnover increased by 3.2%. With regard to employment, both industry (+0.4%) and construction (+1.0%) recorded positive growth.

### Tertiary sector

Turnover in the services sector fell by 4.2% in the 4th quarter 2024 compared with the same quarter of the previous year, while employment rose by 0.5%. Retail turnover remained stable in the 4th quarter 2024 compared with the same quarter of the previous year. Employment in retail decreased (–1.1%), however

### Focus topic: High added value in the pharmaceutical industry

Compared with 2023, in 2024 the pharmaceutical industry (economic division 21 'Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations') achieved the third-highest growth in turnover in the secondary sector as a whole, surpassed only by the energy supply (24.8%) and civil engineering sectors (15.0%). Moreover, as the biggest contributor to secondary sector turnover (12.6% of the share in turnover), the pharmaceutical industry was a key driver of overall growth in this sector. During the same period, pharmaceuticals led the secondary sector in employment growth. Employment (full-time and part-time) in the pharmaceutical industry rose by 6.1% in 2024 over the previous year. The pharmaceutical industry's share of employment in the secondary sector (4.9%) is relatively low compared with its share of turnover – a clear indicator of the high level of added value it generates in the Swiss economy.

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## Methodological appendix

### Sources

The results in this press release come from the following surveys:

The **Job Statistics (JOBSTAT)** cover NOGA sections B to S.

The survey is based on a random sample of some 18 000 secondary and tertiary sector enterprises. Data on jobs, vacancies, difficulties in recruiting personnel and the employment outlook are collected on a quarterly basis.

The **Industry Production, Orders and Turnover Statistics (INDPAU)** cover NOGA sections B to E.

The Industry Production, Orders and Turnover Statistics are based on a random sample of around 3000 enterprises. It is a quarterly survey for which turnover data are collected monthly. The Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) and the Swiss Gas Industry Association (VSG) provide data on the electricity, gas steam and air-conditioning supply sector (NOGA 35). The Swiss organisation for the compulsory stockpiling of oil products (CARBURA) provides data on the manufacture of refined petroleum products (NOGA 19). This coordinated approach makes it possible to avoid duplicate surveys and eases the burden on companies.

The **Construction Industry Production, Orders and Turnover Statistics (BAPAU)** cover NOGA section F.

The Construction Industry Production, Order and Turnover Statistics are based on a random sample of around 3000 companies. The survey is conducted on a quarterly basis. The Swiss Contractors' Association (SBV) conducts its own survey among its members (some 1300 companies), whose data is used by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) to calculate the building construction (NOGA 41) and civil engineering figures (NOGA 42). This coordinated approach makes it possible to avoid duplicate surveys and eases the burden on companies.

The **Retail Trade Turnover Statistics (DHU)** cover NOGA division 47 retail trade).

The Retail Trade Turnover Statistics are based on a random sample of approximately 3000 businesses. It is a monthly survey, with small-sized companies being asked to provide monthly turnover figures on a quarterly basis. The **Turnover Statistics in the Services Sector (DLU)** cover the NOGA divisions G to N (excluding K).

Section K (Financial and insurance activities) and sections 72 (Research and development) and 75 (Veterinary activities) are excluded because they are not market activities in the strict sense or turnover data cannot be meaningfully collected. The group 70.1 (Activities of head offices) is not surveyed for the same reasons.

The Turnover Statistics in the Services Sector are based on a random sample of approximately 7000 businesses. This is a monthly survey, with small-sized companies being asked to provide monthly turnover figures on a quarterly basis.

### Market activities

Market activities are activities that generate turnover on the market. The concept of market activities covers the industrial sector, the construction industry and trade and services. It is based on the Eurostat concept of 'Total Market Production'.

It encompasses:

Industry: NOGA sections

- B Mining and quarrying
- C Manufacturing
- D Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply

Construction: NOGA section F

Wholesale and retail trade: NOGA section G

- Wholesale and retail trade (45)
- Wholesale trade (46)
- Retail trade (47)

Services: Sections

- H Transportation and storage
- I Accommodation and food service activities
- J Information and communication
- L Real estate activities
- M Professional, scientific and technical activities (except divisions 72 and 75 and group 70.1)
- N Administrative and support service activities

It does not include:

NOGA sections K (Financial and insurance activities), O (Public administration), P (Education), Q (Human health and social work activities), R (Arts, entertainment and recreation) or S (Other services activities) or sections 72 (Scientific research and development) and 75 (Veterinary activities).

Group 70.1 (Activities of head offices) is also excluded.

### Nomenclatures

The statistics are based on the General Classification of Economic Activities (NOGA) from the year 2008, which meets international standards and classifies businesses into different economic activity groups based on their economic activities.

### **Calendar adjustment**

Turnover changes are adjusted for working days and holidays.

The calendar adjustment process recalculates the time series for each new value. Published, adjusted figures may vary slightly for this reason.

### **Additional results**

All results are published on the statistics website:

[Job Statistics \(JOBSTAT\) | Federal Statistical Office \(admin.ch\)](#)

[Secondary sector | Federal Statistical Office \(admin.ch\)](#)

[Tertiary sector | Federal Statistical Office \(admin.ch\)](#)

[STAT-TAB – Interactive tables | Federal Statistical \(admin.ch\)](#)

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### **Online**

Further information and publications: [www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home.gnpdetail.2025-0590.html](http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home.gnpdetail.2025-0590.html)

Statistics counts for you: [www.statistics-counts.ch](http://www.statistics-counts.ch)

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### **Access to results**

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

The Swiss National Bank (exercise of its monetary policy) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (production of quarterly GDP estimate) received the data forming the basis of this press release five working days before publication for the purpose of the tasks mentioned. The press agencies received this press release with an embargo of 15 minutes.