



Statistics on Equality of People with Disabilities

Change in data source for labour market and education indicators

Neuchâtel, 2025

Published by: Federal Statistical Office (FSO)
Information: gesundheit@bfs.admin.ch, tél. 058 463 67 00
Editors: Magalie Wegmann, FSO
Contents: Magalie Wegmann, FSO
Topic: 20 Economic and social situation of the population
Original text: French
Translation: FSO language services

Layout concept: PUB Section
Downloads: www.statistics.ch
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Change in data source for labour market and education indicators

In light of a number of considerations, on 27 May 2025 a change in methodology was implemented with regard to the labour market and education indicators in the Statistics on Equality of People with Disabilities.

Indicators in these two areas will now be based on the Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS) instead of the Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), necessitating the recalculation of the time series up to 2010.

When the equality statistics for disabled people were introduced, SILC was chosen as the main survey, as it has included questions to identify disability since 2007 (compared with 2010 for the SLFS). Up to present, SILC data had been preferred wherever possible to ensure consistency in the system of indicators.

Why switch to the SLFS?

The SLFS is the official source of data for labour market participation indicators. In the long term, the advantages of using the SILC (longer time series and uniform base data) have become less pertinent and thus no longer justify this exception.

In general, SLFS data enables more accurate (smaller confidence intervals) and stable results than SILC data. This is mainly due to the larger sample size, which improves the accuracy of the statistics, particularly when analysing small subgroups of the population such as those with severe disabilities. With a larger sample size, the number of individuals with a severe disability is more consistent from one sample to the next, leading to more stable results over time. In addition, the SLFS questionnaire has undergone fewer changes and adaptations over the years, which helps to produce more homogeneous time series.

The transition to the SLFS will also increase the consistency of all employment-related statistics. This will make it possible to directly compare results concerning people with disabilities with those of other population sub-groups. The indicators produced using SILC data thus far have been slightly modified to align them as closely as possible with the official SLFS standards.

What are the consequences of this change?

The two surveys produce slightly different results. This is largely owing to differences in focus topics and methodology, in addition to the size of the samples (65 000 people surveyed per year in the SLFS compared with 18 000 for SILC) and the design of the surveys (different respondents...). One major difference is that all the members of the selected households are interviewed for SILC, while only one person per household is interviewed in the SLFS).