



Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

Unemployment Statistics (ILO-based)

Description

The Unemployment Statistics (ILO-based) provide unemployment figures based on the International Labour Organisation's definitions. The unemployed are defined as permanent residents who do not have a job, who are looking for work and who can start work within a short period of time.

The Unemployment Statistics (ILO-based) have provided monthly unemployment figures since 1991.

Features registered: ILO unemployed, Unemployment rate as defined by ILO

Methodology

Methodology used:

Summary statistics. The Unemployment Statistics (ILO-based) are mainly compiled from the Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS). Calculations are based on the number of unemployed (ILO-based) in the SLFS on a quarterly average. SECO unemployment statistics (registered job-seekers) are used to calculate monthly figures.

Variables used:

Unemployed (ILO-based) by:

Sex, nationality, age groups (15-24 and 25+ yrs)

Sex x nationality x age groups (as of 2010)

Sex x major regions

Quarterly seasonally adjusted values by:

Sex, nationality, age groups (15-24 and 25+ yrs)

(x = combined with)

Survey date:

Monthly, quarterly and annual averages

Periodicity of publication:

Quarterly statistic

Degree of regionalisation:

Swiss major regions (NUTS II)

Quality of statistical information::

Coefficient of variation of 3% for total number of unemployed (ILO-based) and for the unemployment rate (1st quarter 2024). An indication of the coefficients of variation for data by sex, nationality, age etc. is given in the quarterly press releases "Swiss Labour Force Survey: labour supply".

Policy on revisions

Routine revisions :

The Unemployment Statistics (ILO-based) are not subject to routine revisions.

Methodology revisions:

Methodology is revised as necessary (e.g. revision of sources).

The revisions are described in the documents « Analyse des révisions - Statistique du chômage au sens du BIT » (french) and « Analyse der Revisionen – Erwerbslosenstatistik gemäss ILO » (german).

Legal bases

Federal Statistics Act of 9 October 1992

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (SFSO)
Information: Labour Force section information service
+41 58 463 64 00
Info.arbeit@bfs.admin.ch
