



Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

Cross-border Commuters Statistic

Description

The Cross-Border Commuter Statistics provide quarterly information on the number of foreign cross-border commuters working in Switzerland and their main characteristics. A worker of foreign nationality is defined as a person in possession of a special permit for cross-border commuters (G permit) and who carry out a gainful activity in Switzerland. The numbers supplied by the cross-border statistics are lower than those for current border permits from the SYMIC. This is because the authorities are not always informed when a person stops work.

Available since:
Since 1996

Published results:
Foreign cross-border commuters working in Switzerland

Methodology

Used Methodology:

Summary statistics. The cross-border statistics' sources are the Central Migration Information System (SYMIC), Old-age and survivor's insurance (OASI) data, the vocational education database, Social protection and labour market (SESAM) data, and for time series prior to the 4th quarter 2010, the job statistics (JOBSTAT).

Using the information contained in the SYMIC, the statistics on cross-border commuters provide information on the place of residence and the place of work, as well as on activity and various socio-demographic criteria such as age and gender.

OASI data is used to identify foreign cross-border commuters who have paid social insurance contributions. This explains the difference between the number of permits issued by the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) and the number of people covered by cross-border commuters statistics. This is because some people whose permits are active are not, or are no longer, working in Switzerland. However, there is a definite discrepancy between the latest OASI and SYMIC data, which means that it is not possible to know precisely the number of foreign cross-border workers in employment for the most recent quarters. In this case, their number is estimated.

Certain sub-populations are, however, subject to other contribution conditions. This is the case for cross-border commuters workers under the age of 18, those aged 65 and over who are still in work and those who are self-employed. For this reason, vocational education and SESAM data are needed to estimate the number of people concerned. However, this represents only 2% to 3% of the total number of cross-border commuters.

Used variables:

- Gender
- Age groups
- Municipality/Canton of work
- Country of residence
- Region of residence NUTS3
- NOGA economic activities
- Employment status
- Period of validity of the permit

Reference period:
Last working day of each nes

Periodicity:
Quarterly statistic

quarter Degree of regionalisation:
Swiss major regions, cantons, commu

Revision:
2007/2010/2015/2020

Policy on revisions

Routine revisions

Since 2020, routine revisions can be divided into two categories:

1. Annual revision in 3rd quarter; once every year (in 3rd quarter) the new OASI data are incorporated and the series is recalculated from the new OASI data. No previous years incorporating OASI data will be readjusted.
2. Quarterly revision; permits entered belatedly are corrected every quarter. After several quarters, information on belatedly entered permits is almost complete, meaning that the whole series does not have to be corrected every quarter. Only quarters for which OASI data has not yet been incorporated are revised.

Methodology revisions:

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

Legal bases

Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (SFSO)

Further information: Information Service Labour Force Section
+41 58 463 64 00
Info.arbeit@bfs.admin.ch
