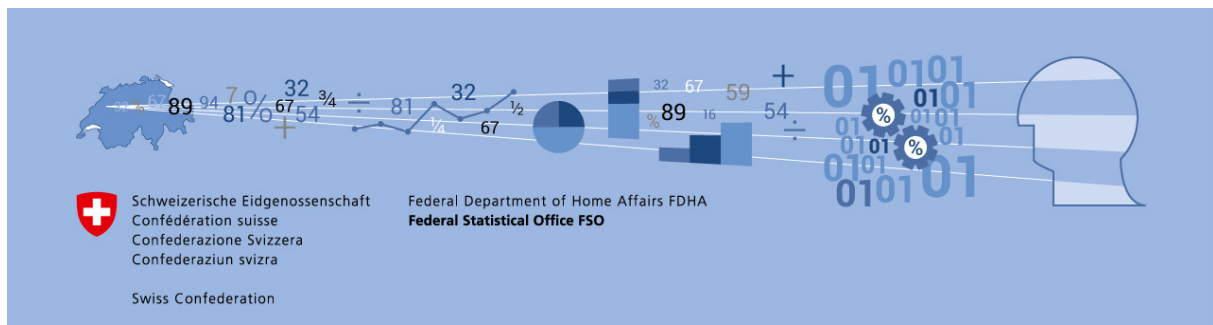




Press release

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06 Industry and services

Employment barometer in 1st quarter 2025

Moderate increase in employment and fewer vacancies in 1st quarter 2025

In the 1st quarter 2025, total employment (excluding agriculture) in Switzerland rose by 0.6% compared with the same quarter of the previous year (seasonally adjusted, +0.2% over previous quarter). Enterprises reported 16.4% fewer vacancies than a year earlier. Difficulties recruiting skilled workers have declined and employment prospects are up, despite enterprises' cautious assessment. These are some of the latest findings from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

Enterprises in Switzerland reported 5.512 million jobs in the 1st quarter 2025. This corresponds to an increase of 31 500 (+0.6%) year on year. Women made up 46.9% of the workforce. At the end of the 1st quarter 2025, 2.265 million jobs were part-time (women accounted for 69.6% of these jobs). In full-time equivalents, the total volume of employment was 4.308 million jobs (women accounted for 40.8%). This was 29 900 full-time equivalents more than the previous year (+0.7%).

Secondary sector employment (industry and construction) rose only slightly in the 1st quarter 2025 compared with the same quarter of the previous year, by 2800 jobs (+0.2%) to 1.128 million jobs. The tertiary sector (services) had 28 700 (+0.7%) more jobs in the same period, with a total volume of 4.384 million jobs.

Upward short-term trend

Seasonally-adjusted employee numbers in enterprises grew by 9600 jobs (+0.2%) in the 1st quarter 2025 compared with the previous quarter. In the same quarter, there was thus a slight downward trend in the secondary sector, with 900 fewer jobs (−0.1%), while the tertiary sector saw an increase of 13 400 jobs (+0.3%).

Number of vacancies declined

Enterprises reported a total of 93 800 vacancies in the 1st quarter 2025. Year on year, this was a decline of 18 400 jobs (−16.4%). Both the secondary (−16.8%) and tertiary sectors (−16.3%) had fewer vacancies. Vacancies represented 1.7% of all jobs, 1.8% of secondary sector jobs and 1.6% of tertiary sector jobs.

Shortage of skilled labour eases

Weighted by number of jobs, difficulties in the recruitment of skilled workers declined in the 1st quarter 2025 in comparison with the same quarter of the previous year (36.1%; –3.0 percentage points).

Gloomy employment outlook

The share of enterprises announcing an increase in the number of jobs in the short-term was 12.3% in 1st quarter 2025, as high as the previous year, and those planning to reduce their workforce represented 5.0% (4.2% in the same quarter of the previous year). Although it fell slightly in comparison with the previous year (–0.5 percentage points), the employment outlook indicator remained positive (1.04).

Revision of calculation methods

The calculation methods for the Job Statistics are being updated, which will also affect the historical data series. Updated results are expected to be released in the 2nd quarter 2025.

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.