



Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC)

Description

The SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) survey has been conducted by the Federal Statistical Office since 2007. It examines the income and living conditions of households in Switzerland. Participating households answer questions each year on a wide range of topics, covering the multidimensional aspects of living conditions in Switzerland both objectively and subjectively. Cross-sectional data (relating to a given point in time or period of time) and longitudinal data (relating to changes at individual level, observed over a period of four years) are collected. This information enables a description to be made of the social and economic conditions of life in Switzerland and a better understanding of which factors influence them. SILC is conducted in over 30 countries in Europe, enabling the Swiss results to be compared with those of other countries.

Findings published (non-exhaustive list):

- Indicators measuring poverty, in particular the poverty rate, risk of poverty and material and social deprivation
- Equivalised disposable income, enabling living standards in European countries to be compared by adjusting for price level differences
- Self-reported financial situation of households
- Measurement of the level of subjective satisfaction with current life and with various areas of life
- Confidence towards Swiss institutions, political interest, frequency of participation in federal votes, political leaning and opinion on equal opportunities between Swiss and foreign nationals living in Switzerland
- Active or passive participation in associative life and the possibility of asking others for help
- Self-reported physical and mental health and health-related limitations
- Topics such as social mobility and indebtedness of private persons are regularly included to complement the standard indicators on the population's social and financial situation.

Information is published in the form of tables, graphs and web content. Data are sent to Eurostat.

Methodology

Methodology used:

Sample survey of approximately 8000 households. This corresponds to some 18 000 people. The survey is carried out as a telephone interview and online. Households are randomly selected from the FSO's sample register and the persons taking part are questioned for several consecutive years.

Statistical basis and survey units:

Permanent resident population living in private households (incl. non-permanent residents living in a household with at least one permanent resident). Information on social exclusion and housing conditions is collected at household level. Information on labour, education and health is obtained from persons aged 16 and over.

Variables used (selection):

- Income and social exclusion (poverty, material and social deprivation, arrears)
- Housing situation (type of dwelling, housing conditions, cost)
- Education and employment
- Health (state of health, access to healthcare)
- Values and satisfaction with living conditions

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- Confidence towards institutions
 - Sense of security
 - Social contacts
 - Childcare

Survey date:

Annual

Reference period:

Year before survey (income)

In the past 12 months (arrears, ...)

At the time of the interview (housing, deprivation, labour, satisfaction, ...)

A usual week (childcare)

Survey period:

Survey period from January to June

Degree of regionalisation:

Major region and language region

Linked with:

Population and Households Statistics (STATPOP), Business and Enterprise Register (BER), Buildings and Dwellings Statistics (BDS), State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), New Pensions Statistics (NRS), Statistics on Social Assistance Recipients (SSA) and Social Insurances Register (Central Compensation Office, CCO).

Quality of statistical information:

EU quality criteria for EU-SILC surveys apply.

Policy on revisions

Routine revision:

none

Methodology revisions:

Methodological revisions to improve the quality and accuracy of the estimates are carried out as necessary. They are described in detail in the [Analysis of the Revision](#).

SILC 2014:

- Revision of the household type
- Change to sample frame and revision of cross-sectional weighting
- New concept of material and social deprivation and introduction of imputations

SILC 2015: Revision of deprivations in healthcare

SILC 2017: Revision of the longitudinal weighting

SILC 2023: Introduction of the CAWI survey method (online questionnaire)

Legal bases

Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics (SR 431.011)

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in cooperation with [MIS Trend](#), Lausanne.

Information and orders for anonymised data: Information service, SILC survey

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