Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss Federal Statistical Office FSO

Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

Poverty Statistics

Description

The Poverty Statistics describe poverty in Switzerland on the basis of various concepts and indicators. The concept of absolute poverty ('poverty') uses a poverty threshold based on the social subsistence level. In addition to this concept comes the internationally recognised concept of relative poverty ('risk of poverty'). A European indicator for measuring material and social deprivation is also used to cover non-monetary aspects of poverty. Detailed analyses of specific topics (e.g. on older people or children) are carried out occasionally, adding further objective and subjective indicators to the key indicators of the Poverty Statistics.

The publication 'Armut in der Schweiz: Konzepte, Resultate und Methoden' describes in detail the various approaches and methods of the FSO's Poverty Statistics. (available in German/French)

Variables recorded:
Based on the Poverty Statistics, evaluations and analyses relating to individuals and households are published. Particular emphasis is given to how poverty indicators change over time as well as to how poverty affects different population groups. This is broken down by various variables such as major region, age group, sex, nationality, educational attainment, employment status, household type and housing status.

Methodology

The main data source for the Poverty Statistics are the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC), whose methodology is described in detail in the factsheet on the Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (SILC). The Guidelines from the Swiss Conference for Social Welfare (SKOS) provides information on the social subsistence level.

Survey period:
available since 2007

Periodicity:
annual

Reference period:
calendar year before the survey (income);
at the time of the interview (housing, deprivation, labour, satisfaction, ...)

Degree of regionalisation:
Switzerland, major region and language region

Policy on revisions

Routine revision:
none

Methodology revisions:
depend on methodological revisions of the SILC data source, which are described in detail in the relevant Analysis of the Revision Report.

Legal bases

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

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO, Income, Consumption and Living Conditions Section)

Enquiries:
Income, Consumption and Living Conditions Section
+41 58 463 64 21
info.ekl@bfs.admin.ch