



Fact sheet – Statistical activity and published results

Diploma Statistics (SBA): survey on upper-secondary and professional final exams

Description

Every year, the Diploma Statistics (SBA) record the number of leaving certificates awarded by general education schools at upper-secondary level in addition to federal diplomas of higher education, advanced federal diplomas of higher education, postgraduate qualifications and tertiary-level postgraduate (professional education) qualifications. The statistics also include figures on exam candidates. These statistics have been recorded since 1977. However, the availability of data depends on the type of programme.

Methodology

Type of survey

Exhaustive survey (80,000 people/year). The cantons and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SEFRI) are responsible for gathering data on final exams. The survey is based on individual-level data and covers upper-secondary and tertiary level (professional education) exams. Participation is compulsory. Initial vocational training examinations are recorded separately in the Vocational Education and Training Statistics (SBG-SFPI).

Variables

Diplomas awarded on completion of educational programme (upper-secondary specialised school, baccalaureate, federal diploma of higher education, advanced federal diploma of higher education, postgraduate qualifications) and socio-demographic characteristics of exam candidates and graduates. Data is collected at the level of the individual and the training institution.

Personal identifier
Sex
Date of birth
Commune of residence
Educational institution identifier
Type of programme
Type of exam
Exam date
Exam number
Exam results
Bilingual qualification (academic baccalaureate)

Reference period

Calendar year

Periodicity

Annual

Degree of regionalisation

Communes (aggregated at cantonal level for data protection reasons)

Linkages

STATPOP, CdC, BER

Quality of statistical data

The quality of the data is high overall. The personal identifier enables longitudinal analyses.

Revision policy

Periodic revisions

The annual publication of new findings includes retroactive corrections received throughout the previous year and any nomenclature updates (e.g. including changes to the structure of communes). The time series has been updated for up to 2012.

Methodological revisions

Methodological revisions are undertaken as required (e.g. nomenclature updates).

Latest methodological revision

2012: introduction of the OASI number (NAVS13) and fully digitalised census. Data is available at individual level.

Legal basis

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

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in collaboration with the competent cantonal authorities and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI)

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