



Statistics on registered unemployment, jobseekers and job vacancies

Description

The statistics on registered unemployment and jobseekers are based on a full survey compiled monthly by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) on the basis of jobseekers registered with regional employment centres (RAVs). The statistics on job vacancies track the job vacancies registered monthly with the RAVs. The statistics are used for labour market monitoring and research and the provision of key performance indicators for the authorities involved.

Since 1993, the statistics have indicated the number of registered unemployed at month end, the number of newly registered unemployed, and the number of formerly registered unemployed in the public employment service and labour market statistics information system (AVAM). The unemployment rate is calculated on the basis of the total number of registered unemployed with the RAV and the total working population according to the Structural Survey, which is part of the Federal Census conducted by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

Methodology

Methodology:

The statistics on registered unemployment and jobseekers are based on a full survey. The employment status of registered jobseekers (distinction between unemployed and not unemployed) and their personal characteristics are recorded by the RAVs.

The statistics on job vacancies track the job vacancies registered with the RAVs. The vacancies are usually registered on a voluntary basis, meaning they only represent a portion of total job vacancies. On 1 July 2018 a job registration requirement was introduced throughout Switzerland for occupation types with an unemployment rate of at least 8%. Since 1 January 2020 a registration requirement applies for job vacancies in occupation types with an unemployment rate over the 5% threshold.

To calculate the unemployment rate, the number of people registered unemployed with the RAV is shown as a proportion of the total working population according to the Federal Census Structural Survey.

Variables:

- Information on job search/unemployment (employment situation, duration of job search or unemployment, characteristics of previous job or job sought etc.)
- Person-specific characteristics (sex, age, place of residence, level of education, nationality, residence status etc.)
- Information on job vacancy (sector, occupational group, place of work, etc.)

Survey date:

Last day of the month

Frequency of publication:

monthly

Degree of regionalisation:

Switzerland, cantons, communes

Data linkage:

Business and Enterprise Register (BER)
Federal Register of Buildings and Dwellings (RDB)

Quality of statistical information:

For the unemployment rates, a coefficient of variation is used to denote the accuracy of the working population figures (unemployment rate denominator) using letters: A means a

potential variation of 0.0% to 1.0 % in the working population figures from the true value, B a deviation of 1.1% to 2%, C 2.1% to 5%, and D 5.1% to 10%. Unemployment rates based on a coefficient of variation of over 10% are not published.

Policy on revisions

The figures on the working population according to the Federal Census Structural Survey are updated every three years for calculation of the unemployment rate.

Legal Bases

Bundesstatistikverordnung vom 30. April 2025
ALV-Informationssystemeverordnung vom 26. Mai 2021

Organisation

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

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