Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss Federal Statistical Office FSO

Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

Vital Statistics (BEVNAT)

Description

Annual statistic of births, marriages, divorces, deaths, acknowledgements of paternity, adoptions, registered and dissolved partnerships, sex changes at a registry office. BEVNAT is one of the most important bases for monitoring the evolution of marriage and family in Switzerland and provides benchmarks for the population scenarios and the calculation of demographic indicators.

Available since:
1969 (births, deaths, marriages, divorces), 1979 (paternity acknowledgments, adoptions) and 2007 (registered and dissolved partnerships). As a rule, the definitive results are available from July of the year following the reference year.
Historical data are available from 1801 (marriages), 1803 (births and deaths), 1876 (divorces), 1898 (legitimations), 1931 (paternity acknowledgments), 1974 (adoptions), 2018 (stepchild adoptions by same-sex couples) and 2022 (sex changes at a registery office, same-sex marriages and divorces) .

Survey type:
BEVNAT is a comprehensive survey and is based on the data of the official Infostar register of the Federal Civil Status Office (EAZW).

Statistical basis and survey units:
Persons from the permanent resident population

Features registered:
Natural population change (births, deaths, marriages, divorces, registered partnerships, dissolved partnerships, adoptions, acknowledgements of paternity) by:

- sex
- age
- marital status
- citizenship
- commune of residence (main residence)

Methodology

Degree of regionalisation:
Communes

Periodicity:
Annual, provisional monthly results are available

Reference period:
Calendar year

Quality of statistical information:
Births, marriages, divorces and deaths of persons abroad who are not permanently resident in Switzerland are only partially recorded. From 2011, divorces concluded between two foreign nationals are no longer fully recorded (if neither person is a Swiss citizen, the dissolution of marriage is only registered in Infostar if the data pertaining to the persons concerned have already been recorded in the system).

Policy on revisions	The last comprehensive revisions of the survey content took place in 1987 and 1998, 2002, 2007 (registered partnerships, dissolved partnerships), 2011 (divorces). Since 2001 and 2022 (gender change in the civil register), births, marriages and deaths have only been recorded if the reference person has had their permanent residence in Switzerland. However, since 2001 marriages between a woman with permanent residence in Switzerland and a man resident abroad have also been recorded.
Legal bases	Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics (SR 431.011)
Organisation	Federal Statistical Office (FSO) Section Demography and Migration DEM Espace de l'Europe 10 CH-2010 Neuchâtel Switzerland Tel: +41 58 463 67 11 info.dem@bfs.admin.ch