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

Population scenarios (SCENARIO)

Description

The scenarios are a series of population projections that describe the possible future development of the population at national or cantonal level. The population scenarios project the population stock broken down by age, gender and nationality group, under certain assumptions about future trends in fertility, mortality and migration.

Available since:
1984 at national level, 2003 at cantonal level

Features registered:
Persons from the permanent resident population

Population size and population change (births, deaths, immigration, emigration and acquisition of Swiss citizenship) by:

- sex
- age
- citizenship group (Swiss / foreign [EEA/non-EEA])

Methodology

Based on certain hypotheses about future trends in fertility, mortality, immigration and emigration, internal migration and the acquisition of Swiss citizenship, the number of births, deaths, immigrations, emigrations and naturalisations is estimated for each year in the future. Population size per year is determined by extrapolation (demographic balance). Household scenarios are calculated on the basis of these results.

Degree of regionalisation:
Cantons

Periodicity:
Every 5 years for the complete series of scenarios

Reference period:
Calendar year

Quality of statistical information:
The results of each scenario are based on a combination of hypotheses specific to that scenario. Knowledge of these hypotheses is necessary in order to interpret the results correctly. The actual outcome will only be consistent with the trends of a scenario if the socio-economic, political and health-related situation in the coming years does not differ significantly from that described in the hypotheses of this scenario.

Policy on revisions

No revision

Legal bases

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

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

Demography and Migration Section DEM
Espace de l'Europe 10
CH-2010 Neuchâtel
Switzerland
Tel. +41 58 463 67 11
info.dem@bfs.admin.ch