Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss Federal Statistical Office FSO

Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

Language, religion and culture survey (ESRK)

Description

The survey on language, religion and culture has the aim of providing statistical information on the current situation and the evolution of practices in these areas. The data collected are used as the basis for monitoring developments and as input for more detailed analysis. Among other things, they provide a basis for targeted measures with regard to multilingualism, cultural diversity and integration in Switzerland.

Statistical basis and survey units:
Permanent resident population in private households aged 15 and over

Features registered:

- household composition
- sociodemographic features (e.g. migration status, education, labour-market status)
- languages and their use in different situations, language learning, language barriers
- main language(s) of partner and children
- past and present affiliation with a church or religious community, religious and spiritual practice (current and in childhood), religious / spiritual beliefs and personal faith, experiences of discrimination on the basis of religious affiliation
- religious affiliation of partner, parents and children
- cultural activities, leisure, media use, amateur cultural activities, social participation (see factsheet "'Statistics on cultural and leisure activities")

Methodology

Two sample surveys (language and religion; culture and leisure), each with 10 000 respondents (plus any possible expansion of the sample by the cantons). The respondents are selected at random from the FSO's sample register. Since 2024, the ESRK has been conducted as a mixed-mode (online or phone) survey. Until 2019, the survey was conducted by telephone and supplemented by an online or paper questionnaire.

Degree of regionalisation:
Switzerland, major regions and cantons that have enlarged their cantonal sample

Available since:
2014

Periodicity:
Every 5 years

Policy on revisions

Adaptation of the questionnaire before each survey
Methodology is revised as necessary (e.g. revision of sources).

Legal bases

Federal Act of 22 June 2007 on the Federal Census (SR 431.112)
Ordinance of 19 December 2008 on the Federal Census (SR 431.112.1)
Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics (SR 431.011)

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

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