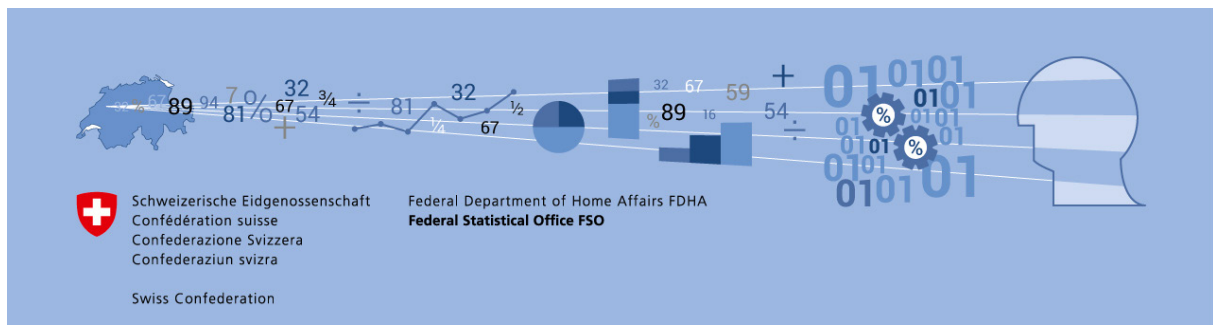




Press release

Embargo: 08.09.2025, 8:30

06 Industry and services

Economic trends in 2nd quarter 2025

Fall in turnover and stable employment in Swiss market sector activities in Q2 2025

Switzerland saw a mixed performance across market sector activities in the 2nd quarter 2025. While turnover fell by 2.0% compared with the same quarter of the previous year, employment in these same sectors rose by 0.1% (total employment +0.6%). These are provisional findings from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

In the secondary sector (industry and construction), turnover fell by 1.2% and employment by 0.4%. The tertiary sector (services) recorded a decrease in turnover of 2.5%, while employment grew by 0.4%.

Secondary sector

Different trends were observed across the secondary sector in the 2nd quarter 2025. While in the industrial sector there was a decrease in turnover of 1.4% and a fall in employment of 1.1%, there was an increase in both turnover (+0.3%) and employment (+0.9%) in construction.

Tertiary sector

Trends varied among different tertiary sector market activities in the 2nd quarter 2025. While service sector activity turnover decreased by 2.5% over the same quarter of the previous year, employment figures rose slightly by 0.4%. In the tertiary sector as a whole, however, there was a 0.9% increase in employment. Retail turnover increased by 0.4% in the same period, while employment fell by 1.5%.

Focus topic: Slower growth in mechanical engineering than rest of secondary sector

Since 2015, mechanical engineering – traditionally a driver of Swiss industry – has lagged behind the rest of the secondary sector. Between the 2nd quarter 2015 and the 2nd quarter 2025, the mechanical engineering sector recorded turnover growth of 11.2 per cent. Meanwhile the secondary sector as a whole grew significantly faster, by 32.3 per cent over the same period.

This difference of over 20 percentage points illustrates the structural challenges in mechanical engineering, where the downward trend in employment is particularly pronounced. While the secondary sector has grown by 3.3 per cent in terms of employment over the past ten years, employment in mechanical engineering has suffered a decline of 2.9 per cent. Compared with the same quarter of the previous year, the picture is mixed: turnover in mechanical engineering increased by 0.7%, while turnover in the secondary sector fell by 1.2%. The downward trend in employment continued, however, with a fall of 3.5 per cent in mechanical engineering compared with a moderate

decline of 0.4 per cent in the secondary sector as a whole. These figures reflect the ongoing changes with regard to this major Swiss export market activity and their impact on the labour market.

Methodological appendix

Sources

The results in this press release come from the following surveys:

The **Job Statistics (JOBSTAT)** cover NOGA sections B to S.

The survey is based on a random sample of some 18 000 secondary and tertiary sector enterprises. Data on jobs, vacancies, difficulties in recruiting personnel and the employment outlook are collected on a quarterly basis.

The **Industry Production, Orders and Turnover Statistics (INDPAU)** cover NOGA sections B to E.

The Industry Production, Orders and Turnover Statistics are based on a random sample of around 3000 enterprises. It is a quarterly survey for which turnover data are collected monthly. The Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) and the Swiss Gas Industry Association (VSG) provide data on the electricity, gas steam and air-conditioning supply sector (NOGA 35). The Swiss organisation for the compulsory stockpiling of oil products (CARBURA) provides data on the manufacture of refined petroleum products (NOGA 19). This coordinated approach makes it possible to avoid duplicate surveys and eases the burden on companies.

The **Construction Industry Production, Orders and Turnover Statistics (BAPAU)** cover NOGA section F.

The Construction Industry Production, Order and Turnover Statistics are based on a random sample of around 3000 companies. The survey is conducted on a quarterly basis. The Swiss Contractors' Association (SBV) conducts its own survey among its members (some 1300 companies), whose data is used by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) to calculate the building construction (NOGA 41) and civil engineering figures (NOGA 42). This coordinated approach makes it possible to avoid duplicate surveys and eases the burden on companies.

The **Retail Trade Turnover Statistics (DHU)** cover NOGA division 47 (retail trade).

The Retail Trade Turnover Statistics are based on a random sample of approximately 3000 businesses. It is a monthly survey, with small-sized companies being asked to provide monthly turnover figures on a quarterly basis.

The **Turnover Statistics in the Services Sector (DLU)** cover the NOGA divisions G to N (excluding K).

Section K (Financial and insurance activities) and sections 72 (Research and development) and 75 (Veterinary activities) are excluded because they are not market activities in the strict sense or turnover data cannot be meaningfully collected. The group 70.1 (Activities of head offices) is not surveyed for the same reasons.

The **Turnover Statistics in the Services Sector** are based on a random sample of approximately 7000 businesses. It is a monthly survey, with small-sized companies being asked to provide monthly turnover figures on a quarterly basis.

Market activities

Market activities are activities that generate turnover on the market. The concept of market activities covers the industrial sector, the construction industry and trade and services. It is based on the Eurostat concept of 'Total Market Production'. It encompasses:

Industry: NOGA sections

- B Mining and quarrying
- C Manufacturing
- D Electricity, gas, steam and air-conditioning supply

Construction: NOGA section F Construction

Wholesale and retail trade: NOGA section G

- Wholesale trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (45)
- Wholesale trade (46)
- Retail trade (47)

Services: Sections

- H Transportation and storage,
- I Accommodation and food service activities,

- J Information and communication,
- L Real estate activities,
- M Professional, scientific and technical activities (except divisions 72 and 75 and group 70.1)
- N Administrative and support service activities

It does not include:

NOGA sections K (Financial and insurance activities), O (Public administration), P (Education), Q (Human health and social work activities), R (Arts, entertainment and recreation) or S (Other services activities) or sections 72 (Scientific research and development) and 75 (Veterinary activities). Group 70.1 (Activities of head offices) is also excluded.

Nomenclatures

The statistics are based on the General Classification of Economic Activities (NOGA) from the year 2008, which meets international standards and classifies businesses into different economic activity groups based on their economic activities.

Calendar adjustment

Turnover changes are adjusted for working days and holidays.

The calendar adjustment process recalculates the time series for each new value. Published, adjusted figures may vary slightly for this reason.

Additional results

All results are published on the statistics website:

[Job Statistics \(JOBSTAT\) | Federal Statistical Office \(admin.ch\)](#)

[Secondary sector | Federal Statistical Office \(admin.ch\)](#)

[Tertiary sector | Federal Statistical Office \(admin.ch\)](#)

[STAT-TAB – Interactive tables | Federal Statistical \(admin.ch\)](#)

Information

Info IID, FSO, Economic Surveys Section, tel.: +41 58 467 23 70, email: info.iid@bfs.admin.ch

FSO Media Office, tel.: +41 58 463 60 13, email: media@bfs.admin.ch

Online

Further information and publications: www.bfs.admin.ch/news/en/2025-0623

Statistics counts for you: www.statistics-counts.ch

NewsMail subscription in German, French and Italian: www.news-stat.admin.ch

FSO website: www.statistics.admin.ch

Access to results

This press release has been established on the basis of the European Statistics Code of Practice, which ensures the independence, integrity and accountability of national and community statistical offices. Privileged access is supervised and under embargo.

The Swiss National Bank (exercise of its monetary policy) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (production of quarterly GDP estimate) received the data forming the basis of this press release five working days before publication for the purpose of the tasks mentioned. The press agencies received this press release with an embargo of 15 minutes.