



Social protection and labour market

Description

The SESAM statistical project aims to provide an essential source for research on employment and social security schemes in Switzerland. This source is composed of a linkage of data from the Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS/ESPA/SAKE) with information gathered from different social insurance registers (old age, survivors' and disability insurance (AVS/AHV); disability pensions (AI/IV); complementary benefits (PC/EL); and unemployment insurance (AC/ALV) as well as from the Social Assistance Statistics (SHS). The SLFS focuses mainly on the labour market but its modules also cover the topics of education and training, unpaid work, migration and social security. The contribution of data from registers to each SLFS makes it possible to broaden analyses of the fields of health, income, retirement, unemployment and social assistance by merging the SESAM data gathered from registers with the SLFS data.

Available since:

since 1999: linkage of SLFS with AVS-AI/AHV-IV, AI/IV and PC/EL registers

since 2004: additional linkage with AC/ALV registers

since 2021: further linkage with the Social Assistance Statistics (SHS)

Published results:

Situation of persons following the end of entitlement over a five-year period

Methodology

Synthesis of data from surveys and registers

Methodology used:

SESAM is a synthesis survey based on the population of the SLFS and is conducted as a panel survey. It draws on a variety of register data sources. These include the unemployment figures from SECO and the social insurance register of the Central Compensation Office (CCO).

Variables used:

Register data:

- Persons contributing to AHV from their earned income
- Persons receiving an AHV/IV pension
- Persons receiving AHV / IV supplementary benefits (EL)
- Persons receiving unemployment insurance (ALV) benefits
- Persons receiving social assistance (SHS)

Survey data:

- Employment (current or previous)
 - Reasons for inactivity (retirement, training, etc.)
 - Profession learnt and practiced
 - Place of work and volume of work
 - Working conditions: Working hours, night work, weekend work
 - Economic sector
 - Income from employment
 - Job search (unemployment, underemployment)
 - Occupational and geographical mobility
 - Training and further education
 - Unpaid work: family and housework, voluntary work, supporting relatives, etc.
 - Migration
-

- Social security

Survey period:

from 1999 to 2009: the annual data survey took place in the 2nd quarter of each year
from 2010: linkage on the basis of the annual SLFS dataset (waves 1 and 3 of each quarter), with the target persons being surveyed continuously.

Degree of regionalisation:

Switzerland and main regions

Periodicity of publication:

The following year, around the middle of the year

Used linkages:

Basis: Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS, FSO)

Linked register sources:

- Central Compensation Office (CCO): Register of social insurances (AHV, IV, EL)
- State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO: Unemployment insurance (AC/ALV)
- Federal Statistical Office (FSO): Social Assistance Statistics (SHS)

Quality of the statistical information:

The quality of the data depends on both the quality of the source and the quality of the linkage. The AHV number of the persons surveyed serves as a key when linking the register data with those of the SLFS. The AHV number is only used for linking with the registers. All data processing is based on anonymised data.

Policy on revisions

Revision:

None. See SLFS sheet indicating revisions

Legal bases

Ordinance of 30 April 2025 on Federal Statistics

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO) in collaboration with the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the Central Compensation Office (CCO)

Information Services of the Labour Force Section

+41 58 463 64 00

info.arbeit@bfs.admin.ch

To order anonymised SESAM data for your research project: form and conditions for receipt of anonymised SESAM data (in [french](#) or in [german](#))
