



## Press release

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### 06 Industry and services

Employment barometer in 3rd quarter 2025

## Employment growth slows in 3rd quarter 2025

**In the 3rd quarter 2025, total employment (excluding agriculture) in Switzerland rose by just 0.1% compared with the same quarter of the previous year (seasonally adjusted, -0.1% over previous quarter). Enterprises reported 10.5% fewer vacancies than a year earlier, and difficulties recruiting skilled workers have continued to decline. Employment prospects remained stable, despite enterprises' muted expectations. These are some of the latest findings from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).**

Enterprises in Switzerland reported 5.532 million jobs in the 3rd quarter 2025. This corresponds to an increase of 2800 (+0.1%) jobs year on year. Women made up 46.6% of the workforce. At the end of the 3rd quarter 2025, 2.283 million employees worked part-time (women accounted for 69.2% of these jobs). In full-time equivalents, the total volume of employment was 4.320 million jobs (women accounted for 40.6%). This was 3000 full-time equivalents fewer than a year ago (-0.1%).

Secondary sector employment (industry and construction) fell in the 3rd quarter 2025 compared with the same quarter of the previous year, by 7600 jobs (-0.7%) to 1.132 million jobs. The tertiary sector (services) had 10 400 (+0.2%) more jobs in the same period, with a total volume of 4.400 million jobs.

#### Downward short-term trend

Compared with previous quarter, seasonally-adjusted employee numbers in enterprises fell by 3300 jobs (-0.1%) in the 3rd quarter 2025. Employment in the secondary sector thus fell by 2100 jobs (-0.2%) within one quarter, while the number of jobs in tertiary sector remained stable compared with the previous quarter.

#### Number of vacancies declined

Enterprises reported a total of 88 400 vacancies in the 3rd quarter 2025. Year on year, this was a decline of 10 300 jobs (-10.5%). Both the secondary (-13.4%) and tertiary sectors (-9.6%) had fewer vacancies. Vacancies represented 1.6% of all jobs, 1.8% of secondary sector jobs and 1.5% of tertiary sector jobs.

## Skilled workers easier to find

Weighted by number of jobs, difficulties in the recruitment of skilled workers declined in the 3rd quarter 2025 in comparison with the same quarter of the previous year (36.3%; -1.7 percentage points).

## Cautious employment prospects

The share of enterprises announcing an increase in the number of jobs in the short-term was 9.8% in the 3rd quarter 2025 (11% in the same quarter of the previous year) and those planning to reduce their workforce represented 5.4% (5.1% in previous year's quarter). The employment outlook indicator has fallen (-0.9%) compared with that of the previous year, but remains positive (1.02).

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## Methodological appendix

The employment barometer reflects changes in certain economic indicators of labour demand. The indicators are based on a quarterly sample survey of approximately 18 000 enterprises with a total of 65 000 secondary (industry and construction) and tertiary (services) sector businesses (establishments).

The **jobs** in all enterprises are divided into four employment categories. For people with more than one job, each job is counted separately. Jobs with a weekly working time of less than six hours (work-time percentage of less than 15%) are also included. Jobs in private households and those with reduced working hours are not included.

**Full-time equivalents** represent the total volume of all jobs converted into full-time jobs.

**Seasonal adjustment** neutralises the effects of seasonal factors in a time series. The entire time series is recalculated for each new quarter. As a result, the total of the adjusted sub-series differs from that of the adjusted overall series.

**Vacancies** are newly created, unoccupied or vacant positions that an enterprise intends to fill immediately or in the near future and for which active recruitment steps have been taken. Results from NOGA division 78 'Employment activities' (recruitment and placement agency activities) are not included. The percentage of vacancies is the ratio of vacancies to labour demand (occupied jobs + vacancies) i.e.:  $Percentage\ of\ vacancies = \frac{vacancies}{labour\ demand} \times 100$

**Difficulties in recruiting personnel:** At the end of the reporting quarter, enterprises indicate whether the personnel they were looking for were found easily, with difficulty or not found at all. The results are published in summarised or detailed form for each level of education and weighted either by the number of businesses or by their number of jobs.

**Employment outlook:** Enterprises indicate whether they are planning to maintain, increase or reduce their workforce in the next quarter. The employment outlook indicator is based on their answers on a scale of 0.5 (reduction) to 1.0 (status quo) to 1.5 (increase).

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## Online

Further information and publications: [www.bfs.admin.ch/news/en/2025-0618](http://www.bfs.admin.ch/news/en/2025-0618)

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## 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.

In accordance with the relevant laws, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) received the employment statistics data five working days prior to the publication of this media release in order to fulfil their tasks. Those cantons and cities that have financed additional samples received the data three working days prior to publication, as did the canton of Tessin. The text was sent to the press agencies with a 15-minute embargo.