



## Press release

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### 06 Industry and services

Economic trends in 3rd quarter 2025

## Turnover and employment in Swiss market sector activities fell in 3rd quarter 2025

**Market sector activities across the Swiss economy posted negative results in the 3rd quarter 2025. Turnover fell by 1.4% compared with the same quarter of the previous year and employment in these same market sectors fell by 0.2% (total employment +0.1%). These are provisional findings from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).**

In the secondary sector (industry and construction), turnover fell by 4.8% and employment by 0.7%. Tertiary sector (services) activities recorded an increase in turnover of 1.0%, while employment remained stable compared with the previous year.

### Secondary sector

In the third quarter 2025, the secondary sector recorded weaker results than a year earlier. Industry recorded a fall in turnover of 5.7% and employment also fell (−1.0%). Turnover in the construction industry fell by 1.3%, while employment remained at the previous year's level.

### Tertiary sector

Turnover growth was observed in the tertiary sector in the 3rd quarter 2025. The highest increase in turnover was recorded in real estate activities (+9.5%). However, a negative trend was observed in terms of employment (−3.1%). Retail turnover increased by 0.2%, and employment remained unchanged in the same period.

### Focus: chemical industry under pressure

The chemical industry (excluding pharmaceuticals) recorded markedly weaker results than the secondary sector as a whole. While turnover in the secondary sector fell by 2.1% in the 3rd quarter of 2025 compared with the previous quarter (seasonally adjusted), the chemical industry (economic sections 19–20) recorded a slump of 13.6%. A year-on-year comparison (calendar adjusted) also revealed an above-average 7.0% fall in turnover, much more than in the secondary sector (−4.8%). The change in employment in full-time equivalents (FTEs) this year also reflects this negative trend, (−2.0% to −1.0% FTEs across the secondary sector). A longer-term, ten-year comparison highlights the structural transformation. While turnover in the secondary sector as a whole has risen by 30.0% since the 3rd quarter 2015, the chemical industry has grown only by 8.3%. There has been a similarly striking trend in employment over the past decade. Chemical industry employment in FTEs has fallen by 17.8%, contrasting with an increase of 2.5% across the sector as a whole.

The chemical industry accounts for 6.5% of turnover in the secondary sector (base year 2021) and around 2.5% of employment.

## 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 survey is 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).

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

The quarterly survey is based on a random sample of around 3000 enterprises. The Swiss Contractors' Association (SBV) conducts its own survey among its members (some 1300 companies). Data from this survey is used by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) to calculate the building construction (NOGA 41) and civil engineering figures (NOGA 42) for the BAPAU statistics.

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

They are based on a random sample of some 3000 enterprises. 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 market activities G to N (excluding K).

The survey is based on a random sample of approximately 7000 enterprises. This is a monthly survey, with small-sized companies being asked to provide monthly turnover figures on a quarterly basis.

### Market activities

Market activities are economic activities that generate turnover on the market. The concept of market activities includes the industrial sector, the construction industry and services. It is based on the Eurostat concept of "Total Market Production".

*It encompasses:*

Industry:

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

Construction:

- F Construction

Wholesale and retail trade:

- G Wholesale and retail trade and repair and maintenance of motor vehicles and motorcycles
  - 45 Wholesale trade and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles
  - 46 Wholesale trade
  - 47 Retail trade

Services:

- 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:*

- K Financial and insurance activities
- O Public administration
- P Education
- Q Human health and social work activities
- S Other service activities
- or divisions 72 Scientific research and development, 75 Veterinary activities or group 70.1 Activities of head offices.

### **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 \(admin.ch\)](#)

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## **Online**

Further information and publications: [www.bfs.admin.ch/news/en/2025-0624](http://www.bfs.admin.ch/news/en/2025-0624)

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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.

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.