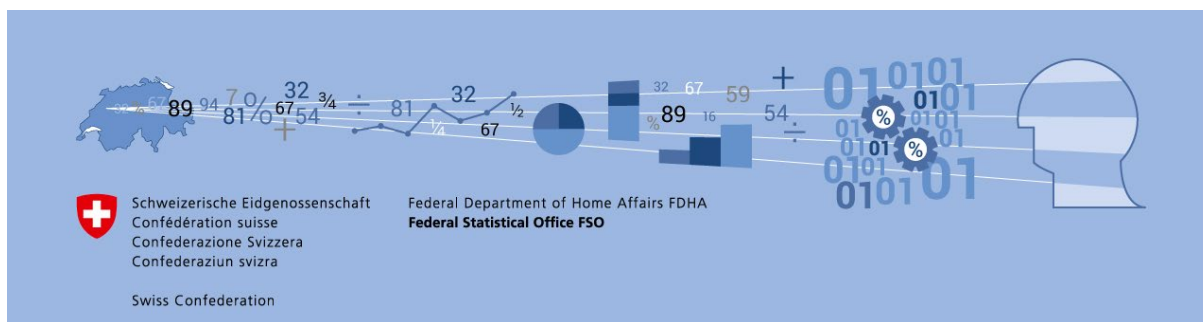




Press release

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06 Industry and services

Employment barometer in the 1st quarter 2026

Slight increase in employment in 1st quarter 2026

In the 1st quarter 2026, total employment (excluding agriculture) in Switzerland rose by 0.5% compared with the same quarter of the previous year (seasonally adjusted, +0.4% over previous quarter). Enterprises reported 5.0% more job vacancies than a year earlier. Difficulties recruiting skilled workers have eased compared with the previous quarter and the employment outlook is positive. These are some of the latest findings from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

Enterprises in Switzerland reported 5.537 million jobs in the 1st quarter 2026. This was an increase of 26 100 jobs (+0.5%) year on year. Women made up 46.8% of the workforce. At the end of the 1st quarter 2026, 2.301 million jobs were part-time (women accounted for 69.3% of these jobs). In full-time equivalents, the total volume of employment was 4.323 million jobs (women accounted for 40.8%). This was 13 900 full-time equivalents more than the previous year (+0.3%).

Secondary sector employment (industry and construction) rose in the 1st quarter 2026 compared with the same quarter of the previous year, by 1100 jobs (+0.1%) to 1.129 million jobs. The tertiary sector (services) had 25 000 (+0.6%) more jobs in the same period, with a total volume of 4.409 million jobs.

Upward short-term trend

Compared with the previous quarter, seasonally-adjusted employee numbers in enterprises grew by 20 700 jobs (+0.4%) in the 1st quarter 2026. In the same quarter, there was an upward trend in the secondary sector, with 1000 additional jobs (+0.1%), while the tertiary sector saw an increase of 20 000 jobs (+0.5%).

Number of vacancies increased

Enterprises reported a total of 98 200 vacancies in the 1st quarter 2026. Year on year, this was an increase of 4700 jobs (+5.0%). Both the secondary (+6.8%) and tertiary sectors (+4.5%) had more vacancies. Vacancies represented 1.7% of all jobs, 1.9% of secondary sector jobs and 1.7% of tertiary sector jobs.

Fewer difficulties in finding skilled workers

Weighted by the number of employees, 34.3% of enterprises reported difficulties in recruiting skilled workers in the 1st quarter 2026. This is a decrease of 2 percentage points compared with the previous quarter. The situation has eased somewhat in both the secondary and tertiary sectors (–0.5 and –2.4 percentage points respectively).

Optimistic employment outlook

The share of enterprises announcing an increase in the number of jobs in the short-term was 11.0% in the 1st quarter 2026 (10.1% in the previous quarter) and those planning to reduce their workforce represented 4.8% (5.2% in the previous quarter). The employment outlook indicator has risen compared with the previous quarter (1.03; +0.8%).

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 (service) sector businesses.

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.: $\text{Percentage of vacancies} = \text{vacancies} / \text{labour demand} \times 100$

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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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 press release in order to fulfil their tasks. Those cantons and cities that have financed additional samples received the data five working days prior to publication, as did the Canton of Ticino. The text was sent to the press agencies with a 15-minute embargo.