Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Swiss Federal Statistical Office FSO

Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

Survey on diversity and coexistence in Switzerland

Description

In a societal context of diversity, the Survey on diversity and coexistence in Switzerland aims to present an accurate picture of the issues raised by the coexistence of different groups living in Switzerland. It collects information on the acceptance, rejection and integration of certain groups. The survey also allows monitoring of trends in society in several areas such as racism, xenophobia or discrimination.

The data collected are used to observe social change and to make detailed analyses. They help to guide policies on anti-discrimination, on fight against racism and on promotion of integration.

Available since:
2016 - dissemination of first FSO data in October 2017
2010 - pilot project gfs.bern, commissioned by the Service for combating racism (SLR)

Statistical basis and survey units:
Permanent resident population living in private households and aged between 15 and 88, with the exception of persons in the asylum process (N, S and F permits).
Weighting and calibration ensure that the sample accurately reflects the population's structure in terms of sex, age, nationality, and major regions. Starting in 2026, the survey plan will be oversampled for young people and those born abroad in order to optimize the accuracy of data on experiences of discrimination.

Thematic variables registered:

- feeling of discomfort towards diversity
- attitudes towards foreigners
- stereotypes of target groups
- attitudes towards target groups
- perception of racism
- perception of anti-racism policies
- perception of integration
- contacts with target groups
- experience of discrimination
- grounds, situations, and forms of discrimination
- reactions to discrimination
- support in the face of discrimination
- thematic module

Sociodemographic variables registered:

- household composition
- migration status
- religion
- interest in politics
- political stance left-right
- level of education
- professional situation
- employment status
- living conditions

Methodology

The survey forms part of the Omnibus series of multiple-theme surveys. It is a sample survey of 3,000 people from 2016 to 2024 and 6,000 people starting in 2026. People are randomly selected from the FSO's SRPH sampling frame.

Survey mode:
Between 2016 and 2024, the survey is conducted using a mixed-mode approach, and participants can respond either via an online questionnaire (CAWI) or by telephone (CATI). Starting in 2026, the survey is conducted exclusively via an online questionnaire (CAWI).

Degree of regionalisation:
Switzerland and NUTS 2 major regions (Lake Geneva, Espace Mittelland, Northwestern Switzerland, Zurich, Eastern Switzerland, Central Switzerland and Ticino).
Due to the sample size, breakdowns by canton are not statistically significant in most cases.

Periodicity:
Every two years

2016: Diversity and coexistence in Switzerland
2017: Discrimination of black people in Switzerland (module)
2018: Diversity and coexistence in Switzerland
2019: Different ways of life in Switzerland (module)
2020: Diversity and coexistence in Switzerland
2021: Acceptance, tolerance and exclusion (module)
2022: Diversity and coexistence in Switzerland
2023: Discrimination (module)
2024: Diversity and coexistence in Switzerland

2026: Diversity and coexistence in Switzerland and Social participation module
2028: Diversity and coexistence in Switzerland and module
2030: Diversity and coexistence in Switzerland and module

Reference period:
Surveys from 2026 on: September–December
Surveys from 2016 to 2024: April–June

Policy on revisions

Regular revision or continuous revision: Regular adjustments made to questionnaire every two years. Next regular revision in 2028.
Methodology revision or fundamental revision: Data from the period before a revision are not recalculated due to methodological changes. Last fundamental revision in 2026.

Legal bases

Federal Act of 22 June 2007 on the Federal Census
Census Act; RS 431.112
Ordinance of 19 December 2008 on the Federal Census
Census ordinance; RS 431.112
Ordinance of 30 June 1993 on the Conduct of Federal Statistical Surveys
Ordinance on statistical surveys; RS 431.012.1

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO), Demography and Migration section (DEM)
In cooperation with:
Service for Combating Racism (SLR)
State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)
Demoscope AG

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