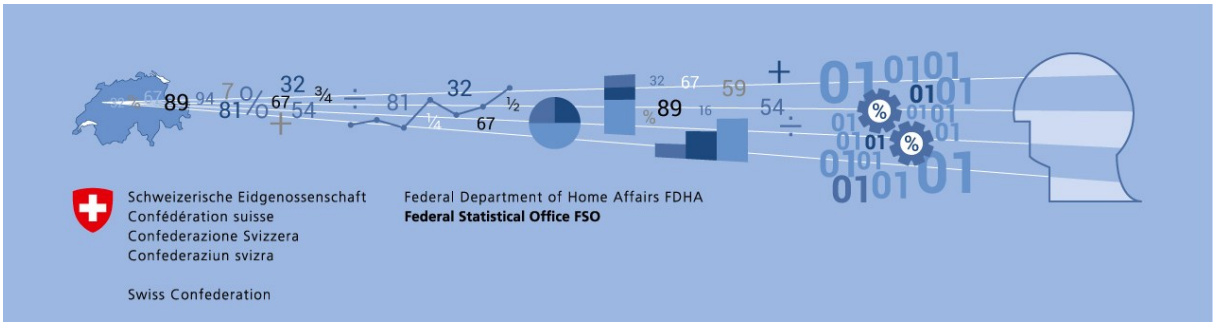


Press release

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06 Industry and services

Employment barometer in 3rd quarter 2026

Increase in employment in 3rd quarter 2026

In the 3rd quarter 2026, total employment (excluding agriculture) in Switzerland rose by 1.2% compared with the same quarter of the previous year (seasonally adjusted, –0.3% compared with previous quarter). Enterprises reported 3.3% more vacancies than a year earlier. Difficulties recruiting skilled workers have increased compared with the previous quarter. The employment outlook remains stable. These are some of the latest findings from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

Enterprises in Switzerland reported 5.684 million jobs in the 3rd quarter 2026. This was an increase of 67 800 jobs (+1.2%) year on year. Women made up 46.6% of the workforce. At the end of the 3rd quarter 2026, 2.370 million employees worked part-time (women accounted for 68.7% of these jobs). In full-time equivalents, the total volume of employment was 4.438 million jobs (women accounted for 40.6%). This was 67 000 full-time equivalents more than the previous year (+1.5%).

Secondary sector employment (industry and construction) rose in the 3rd quarter 2026 compared with the same quarter of the previous year, by 10 500 jobs (+0.9%) to 1.150 million jobs. The tertiary sector (services) had 57 300 (+1.3%) more jobs in the same period, with a total volume of 4.534 million jobs.

Downward short-term trend

Compared with the previous quarter, seasonally-adjusted employee numbers in enterprises fell by 19 800 jobs (–0.3%) in the 3rd quarter 2026. In the same quarter, the number of jobs fell by 1600 in the secondary sector (–0.1%) and by 18 200 jobs (–0.4%) in the tertiary sector.

Number of vacancies increased

Enterprises reported a total of 93 900 vacancies in the 3rd quarter 2026. Year on year, this was an increase of 3000 jobs (+3.3%). Both the secondary (+8.9%) and tertiary sectors (+1.7%) had more vacancies. Vacancies represented 1.6% of all jobs, 1.9% of secondary sector jobs and 1.5% of tertiary sector jobs.

More difficulties in finding skilled workers

Weighted by the number of jobs, 34.2% of enterprises reported difficulties in recruiting skilled labour in the 3rd quarter of 2026. In comparison with the previous quarter, this is an increase of 0.3 percentage points. The labour market situation has tightened in both the secondary and tertiary sectors (by +0.3 percentage points each).

Somewhat gloomy employment outlook

The share of enterprises announcing an increase in the number of jobs in the short-term was 10.6% in the 3rd quarter 2026 (11.3% in the previous quarter) and those planning to reduce their workforce represented 5.1% (3.9% in the previous quarter). The employment outlook indicator has fallen compared with the previous quarter (1.03; –1.0%).

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 = vacancies / labour demand x 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 (establishments) 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).

Information

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Access to results

This press release has been prepared in accordance with the European Statistics Code of Practice, which ensures the independence, integrity and accountability of national and regional statistical services. Any privileged access is monitored and subject to 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.