



Swiss Labour Force Survey

Description

Conducted for the first time in 1991, the Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS) is sent out to individuals every year. The main purpose of the SLFS is to provide information on the structure of the labour force and employment behaviour patterns. Strict adherence to international definitions allows Swiss data to be compared with OECD and EU data. Since 2010, the SLFS is conducted on a continuous basis.

Available since:

1991

Statistical basis and survey units:

Permanent resident population aged 15 and older

Features registered:

- Employment (current or past)
- Reasons for remaining economically inactive (retirement, education or training, etc.)
- Educational background and profession
- Place of work, work volume (in hours)
- Working conditions: work schedule, night shift, work over the weekends
- Economic branch
- Job income, household income
- Jobseeker (unemployed, underemployed)
- Professional and geographical mobility
- Education and continued education
- Unpaid work: household and family-related chores, community service and volunteer work, helping relatives, etc.
- Migrations
- Social security.

Methodology

Survey based on sampling of individuals. The SLFS is a telephone survey based on a sample of some 105,000 interviews (approx. 35,000 from 2002 to 2009 and approx. 16,000 until 2001). The addresses are selected at random from the FSO's sample register. This is mainly based on official records of the inhabitants of the municipalities and cantons. Since 2003, an additional sampling of foreigners (15,000 until 2009 and 21,000 from 2010) was selected from the central information system on migration (ZEMIS). From the 2nd quarter of 2014, this subsample is also selected from the FSO's sample register. In total, 126'000 interviews are conducted. The persons who participate in the survey are interviewed 4 times over a period of one and a half year.

Degree of regionalisation:

Switzerland and main regions

Periodicity:

from 1991 to 2009: annually, from 2010: quarterly

Reference period:

from 1991 to 2009: 2nd quarter, every quarter from 2010

Statistical quality of data:

Coefficient of variation of 0.3% for all employed persons and of 3.4% for all unemployed

(ILO-based) (3 rd quarter 2015). An indication of the coefficients of variation is given in the quarterly press releases "Swiss Labour Force Survey and its derived statistics".

Revision:

2001: questionnaire revised

2002: population sample increased

Since 2003: additional population sample taken from Central Information Service on Migration

Since 2010: continuous survey, revision of questionnaire

Since 2nd quarter 2014: changing sampling frame

2017: Revision of the cross-sectional weighting of persons between 2010 and 2016

Legal bases

Swiss Federal Ordinance of 30 June 1993 (RS 431.012.1)

Organization

SFSO with the help of LINK Marketing Services Lucerne/Lausanne/Zurich/Lugano

Responsible person: Sylvie Regli Greub

Further information: Information service Labour Force Section

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To order anonymised SLFS data for your research project: form and conditions for receipt of anonymised SLFS data (in [French](#) or [German](#)).
