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# Swiss Stats Explorer: User guide for data searches

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# 1 Introduction

[Swiss Stats Explorer](#) is a web application designed to make it easier to find, understand and use data. It offers efficient navigation, clear overviews and contextual metadata and allows you to download data in standardised formats using an API or by clicking 'share'.

## 2 Searching for data

There are two ways to search for data in Swiss Stats Explorer.

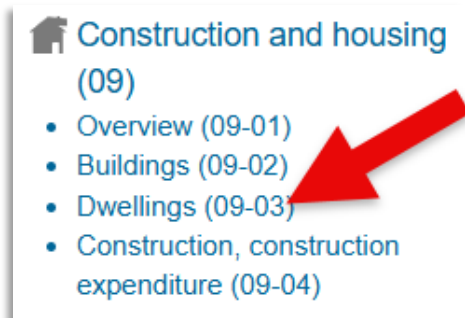
### 2.1 Facet search

The facet search allows you to filter datasets by various criteria listed in the navigation pane. Activating a filter limits the search results and displays only those matching the search criteria. The facet search criteria are:

- **Topic** (select one): These match the official subject areas for Swiss public statistics. Each topic is broken down into associated **sub-topics**.
- **Survey** (select one): This is the list of official statistical surveys.




For example, if you select the sub-topic 'Dwellings', a list of corresponding datasets will appear.



## 2.2 Keyword search



Another way to search for statistical data among the many datasets is by keyword.

Find, access and share data...

Search by keywords 

Enter a keyword such as 'commuters'.

Find, access and share data...

commuters  

Then launch the search by clicking on the blue arrow icon or add another keyword.

Once you activate the filter, a list of datasets in which the keyword(s) appear will be displayed.

3 results Sort Share

Foreign cross-border **commuters** by commune of work and sex ▼  
This dataset presents quarterly data on foreign cross-border **commuters** by commune of work and sex, since 1996.  
**Dimensions:** Commune of work, Sex, Time Period  
**Inquiry, statistics:** Cross-border **Commuters** Statistics

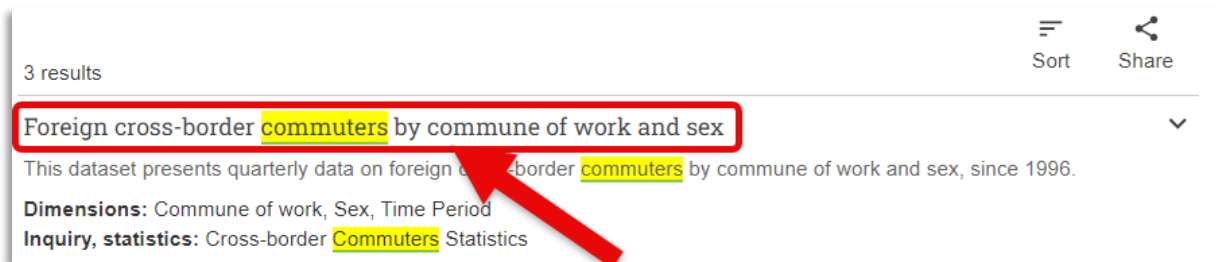
Foreign cross-border **commuters** by canton of work, country of residence, economic division, employment status, duration of work permit and sex ▼  
This dataset presents quarterly data on foreign cross-border **commuters** by canton of work, country of residence, economic division, employment status, duration of work permit and sex, since 2002.  
**Dimensions:** NOGA Division, Country of residence, Age classes, Employment status, Categories of foreigners, Canton of work, Sex, Time Period  
**Categories of foreigners:** Total > Cross-border **commuter** with EU/EFTA agreement, <12 months  
**Inquiry, statistics:** Cross-border **Commuters** Statistics

Foreign cross-border **commuters** by region of residence, canton of work and sex ▼  
This dataset presents quarterly data on foreign cross-border **commuters** by region of residence, canton of work and sex, since 2002.  
**Dimensions:** Country of residence, NUTS3, Sex, Canton of work, Time Period  
**Inquiry, statistics:** Cross-border **Commuters** Statistics

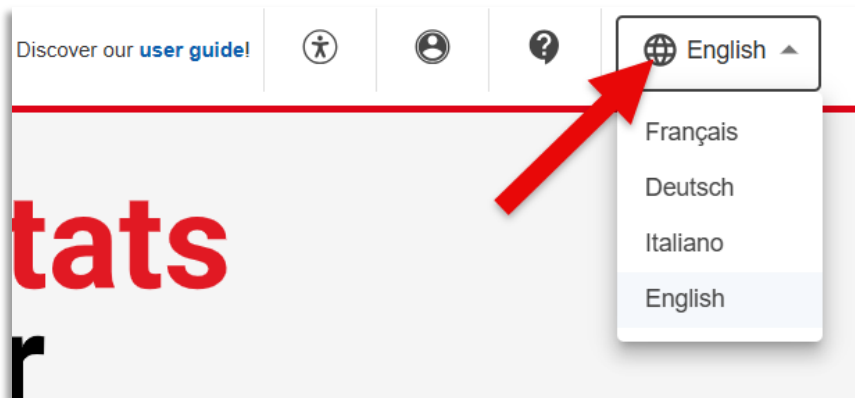
### 3 Selecting a dataset

When you apply a filter, a list of datasets that match the search query is displayed.

Clicking on the dataset title takes you directly to the default view of the data table.



Swiss Stats Explorer allows you to switch language at any time using the option in the top right-hand corner.

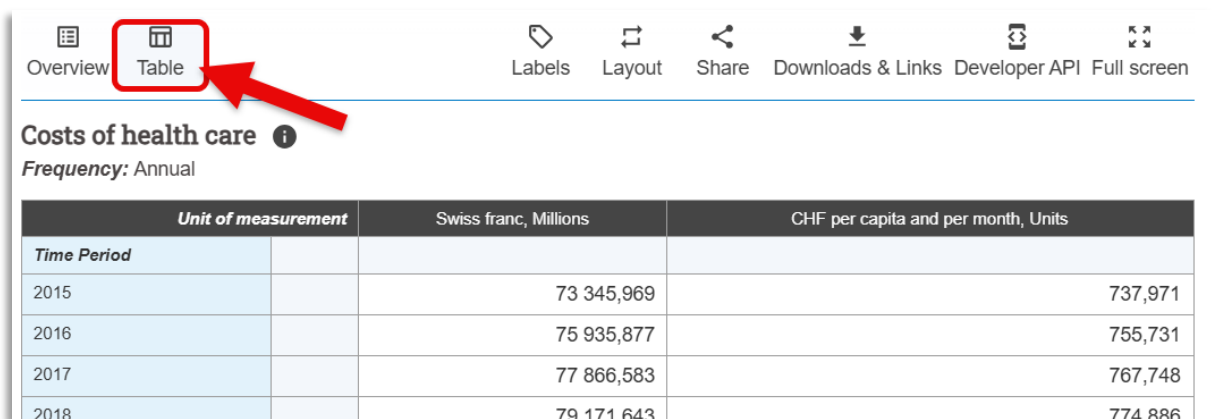


### 4 Displaying the search results

Once you have selected the dataset, several views are available.

#### 4.1 Data table view

This is the default view displayed in the table tab.



## 4.1.1 Use filters to refine your selection

In the table view, the **filters** corresponding to the dataset variables appear under the heading '**Refine your data selection:**', to the left of the table.

Refine your data selection:

TIME PERIOD	10
SERVICE PROVIDER	1
SERVICE	1
MODE OF PROVISION	1
FINANCING SCHEME	1
AGE GROUPS	1
SEX	1
SWISS CANTONS	1

- Clicking a filter displays its options and allows you to select the values to apply to the table.

Refine your data selection:

TIME PERIOD	10
SERVICE PROVIDER	1
SERVICE	1
MODE OF PROVISION	1
FINANCING SCHEME	1
AGE GROUPS	1
SEX	1
SWISS CANTONS	1

Search in all 3 items below

Collapse All Expand All Select All Deselect All

- Total
- Male
- Female

Change selection mode

- Single item
- Item and all items directly below
- Whole branch
- All items at the same level

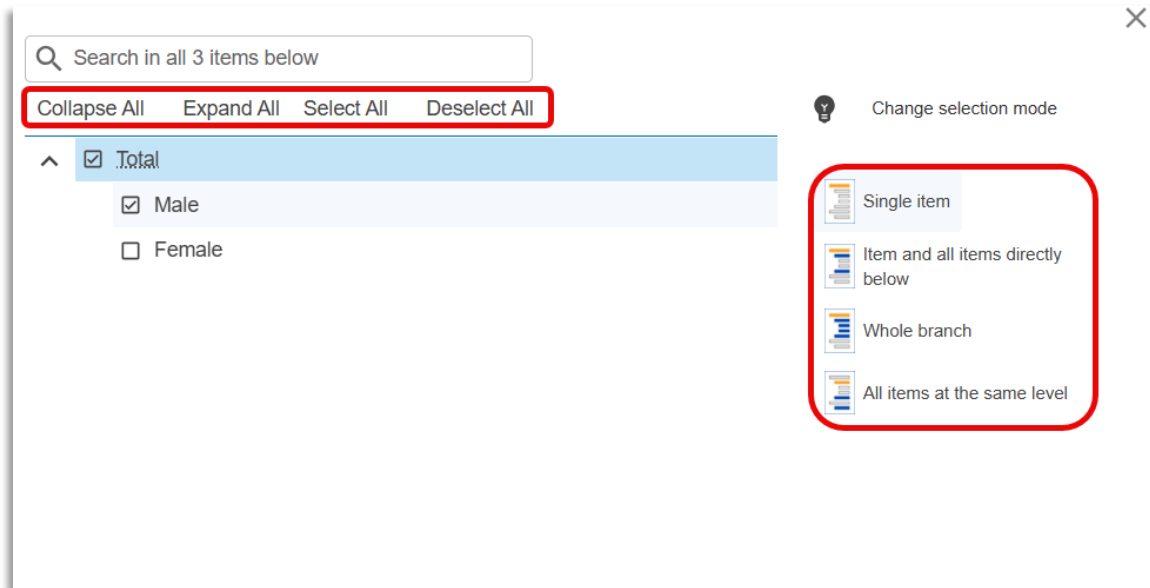
- The selections made affect the other filters: some options may appear greyed out when they are no longer compatible.
- The values selected for each filter are automatically saved. You then simply need to click '**Apply**' to update the entire table.

AGE GROUPS	1
SEX	1
SWISS CANTONS	
MEASUREMENT UNIT	

Apply

## 4.2 Advanced filters

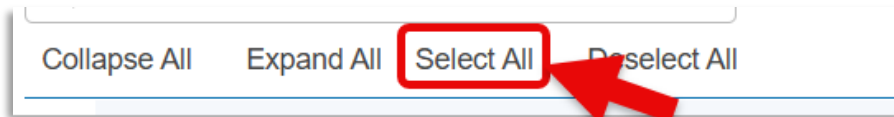
Swiss Stats Explorer also offers advanced filtering options for variables with many values. These modes are directly available when the variable is selected.



There are several options for selecting different items in the list of variables. By default, only one item can be selected or deselected at a time, but other selection options are also available:

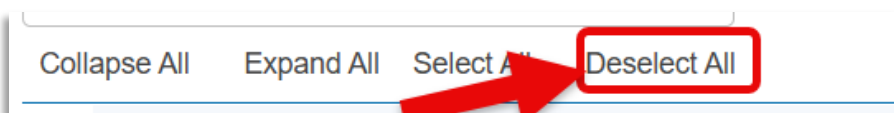
### 1. **Select All**

Selects all the items in the variable with a single click.



### 2. **Deselect All**

Deselects all the items in the variable.



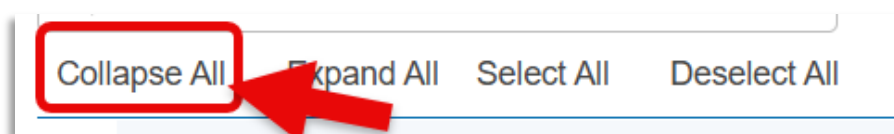
### 3. **Expand All**

Shows all available items.



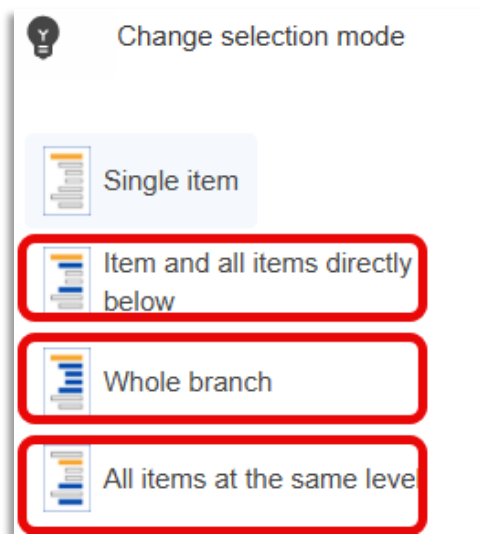
### 4. **Collapse All**

Collapses the items so that only the main items in the list are displayed.



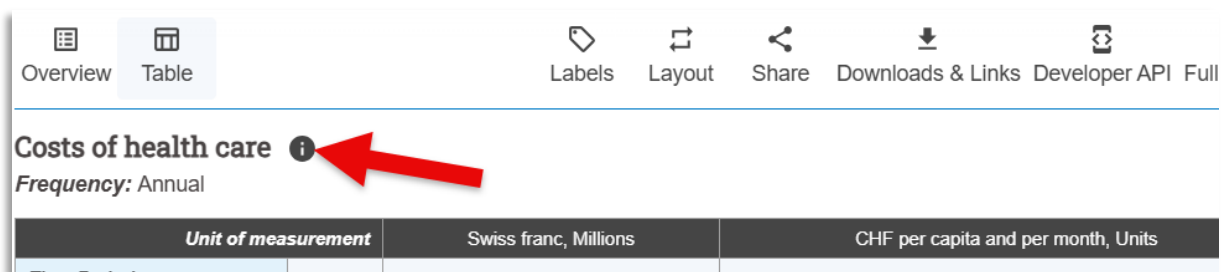
Three additional selection modes make it easy to filter and select items that come under each variable at various levels in the hierarchy.

The selection modes are 'Item and all items directly below it', 'Whole branch' and 'All items at the same level'.



#### 4.2.1 Further information

Click on the **i** icon next to the title of the dataset to open a window displaying additional information, notes or comments relating to the data.



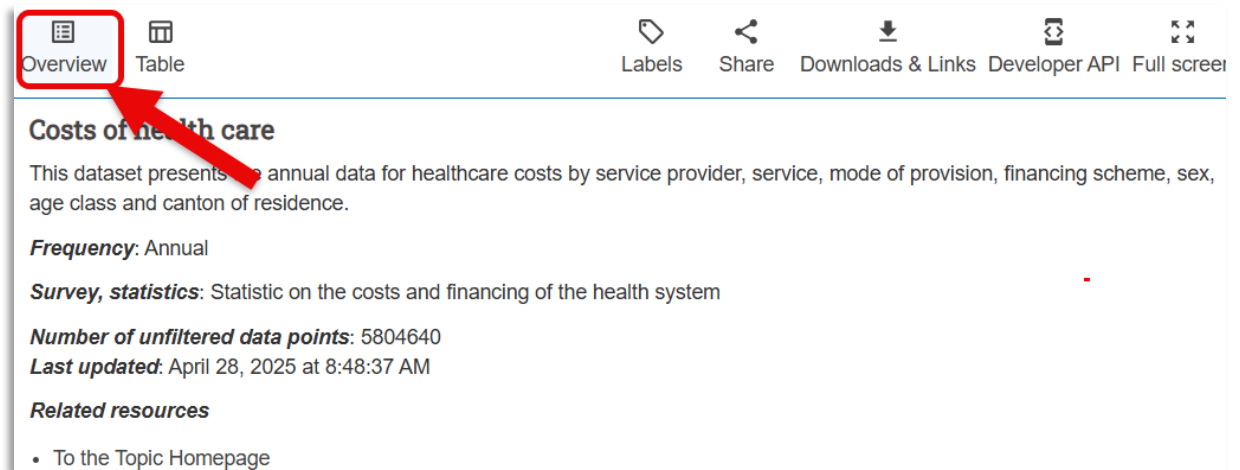
Sometimes you will see the **i** symbol or other icons (often small letters) inside the table. These also provide access to information about certain filters or additional observations.

	89 099,258	852,996
	Code list for Observation Status: Provisional value	
	<b>P</b> 83 952,272	<b>P</b> 880,809
	€ 97 076,374	€ 898,579

© Costs of health care

## 4.3 Overview (description)

Click on the 'Overview' tab to display a description of the dataset and additional information. This may include information about periodicity (annual, monthly, etc.), the number of data points (total number of observations), the date of the last update, etc.



The screenshot shows the 'Overview' tab selected in the top navigation bar. The main content area displays the following information:

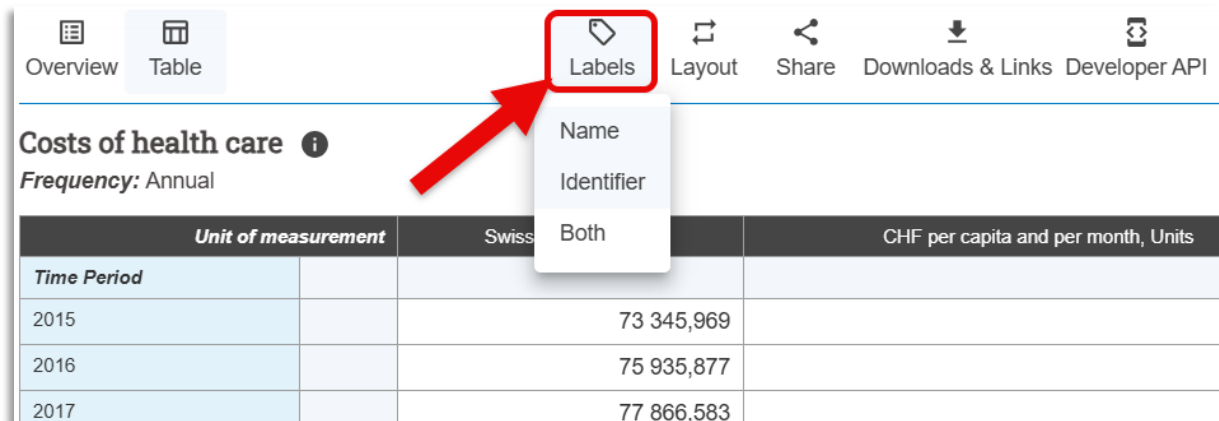
- Costs of health care**
- This dataset presents the annual data for healthcare costs by service provider, service, mode of provision, financing scheme, sex, age class and canton of residence.
- Frequency:** Annual
- Survey, statistics:** Statistic on the costs and financing of the health system
- Number of unfiltered data points:** 5804640
- Last updated:** April 28, 2025 at 8:48:37 AM
- Related resources**
  - To the Topic Homepage

## 5 Changing the layout

The application allows you to adjust the table in various ways.

### 5.1 Labels

The 'Labels' tab simply displays code rather than the text for each value.



The screenshot shows the 'Labels' tab selected in the top navigation bar. The main content area displays the following information:

- Costs of health care** ⓘ
- Frequency:** Annual

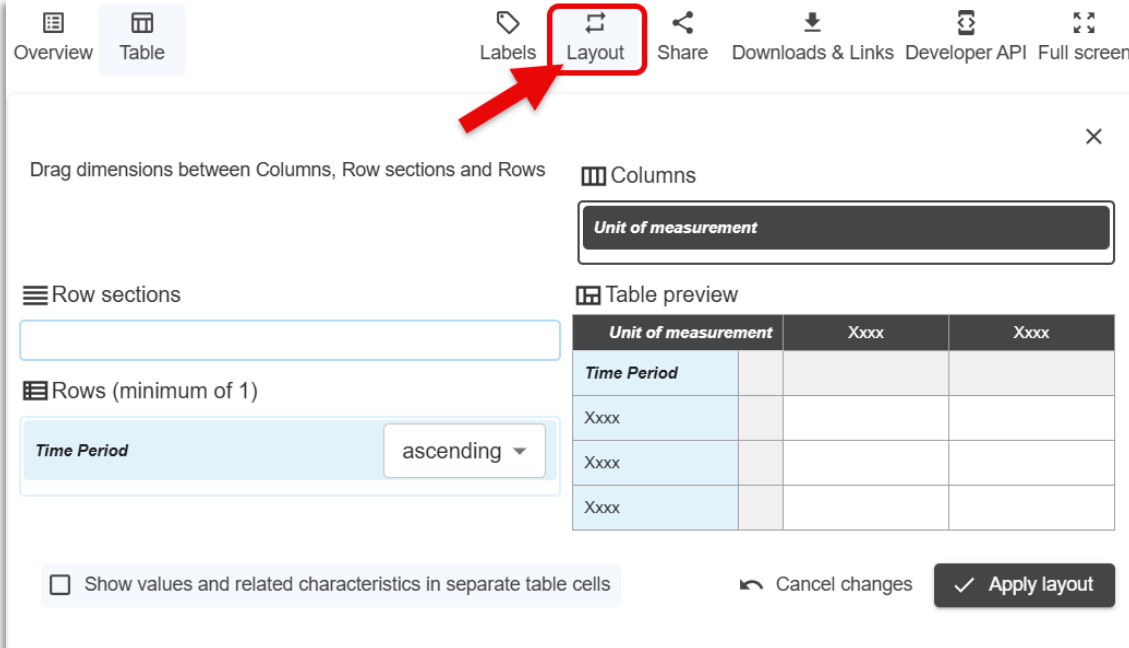
	<i>Unit of measurement</i>	Swiss	Both	CHF per capita and per month, Units
<i>Time Period</i>				
2015			73 345,969	
2016			75 935,877	
2017			77 866,583	

For example, if you select 'Identifier', the heading 'Foreign cross-border commuters by commune of work and sex' becomes 'DSI\_DIFF\_GGS\_2'. 'Neuchâtel' becomes 'NE'.



## 5.2 Layout of rows, columns and row sections

Use the 'Layout' tab to change the layout of the variables in the table. You can choose whether to display the data in a column row, or in a row section.



Drag dimensions between Columns, Row sections and Rows

Columns

Unit of measurement

Row sections

Rows (minimum of 1)

Time Period ascending

Table preview

Unit of measurement	Xxxx	Xxxx
Time Period		
Xxxx		
Xxxx		
Xxxx		

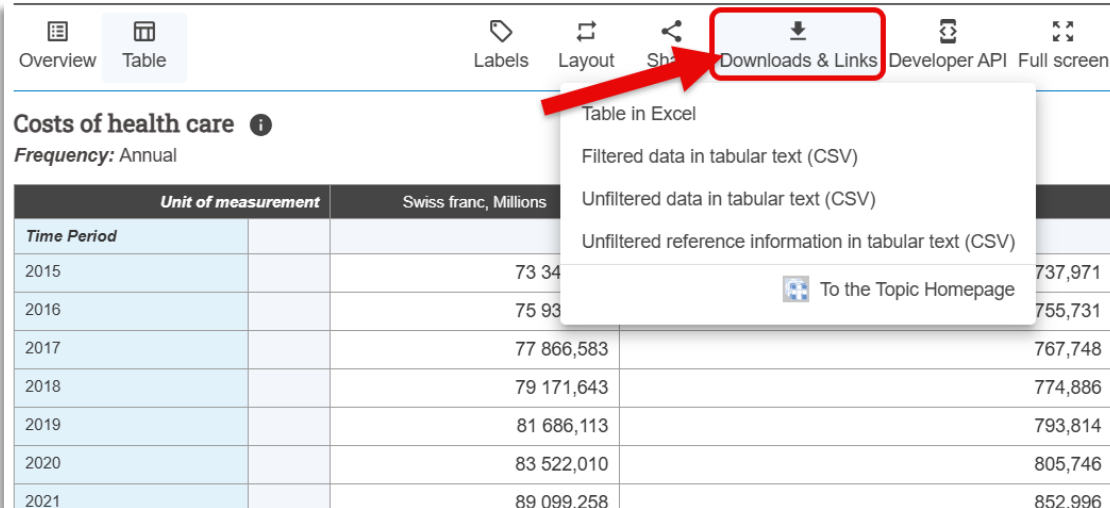
Show values and related characteristics in separate table cells

Cancel changes Apply layout

As indicated in the application, simply drag a variable to the rows, columns, or sections, then click 'Apply layout' to adjust the layout of the table.

## 6 Save

In the 'Downloads and links' section, you can export the selected data in various formats. Three types of export are available.



Costs of health care ⓘ

Frequency: Annual

Unit of measurement	Swiss franc, Millions	
Time Period		
2015	73 34	737,971
2016	75 93	755,731
2017	77 866,583	767,748
2018	79 171,643	774,886
2019	81 686,113	793,814
2020	83 522,010	805,746
2021	89 099,258	852,996

Table in Excel

Filtered data in tabular text (CSV)

Unfiltered data in tabular text (CSV)

Unfiltered reference information in tabular text (CSV)

To the Topic Homepage

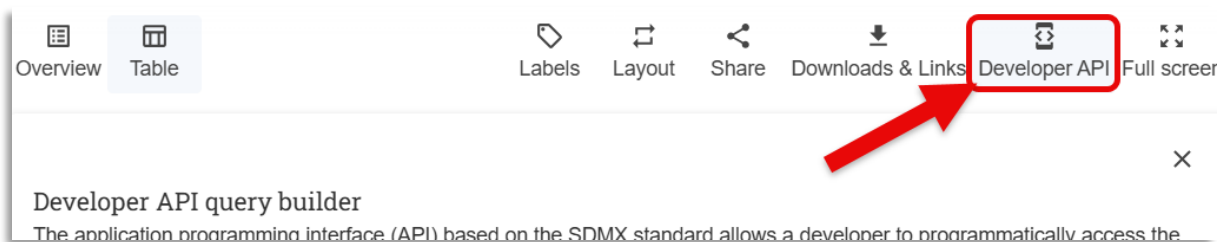
- Select 'Table in Excel' to download the table exactly as displayed, in XLSX format.
- Select 'Filtered data in tabular text' to download all data corresponding to your selection, without the limitation of the maximum number of observations shown in the table.
- The last option, 'Unfiltered data in tabular text', will download the complete dataset, with no filters applied in CSV format. Note that this last option may fail for very large datasets.

A link to the page dedicated to this asset on the FSO website is also available. There you will find detailed information about the dataset.

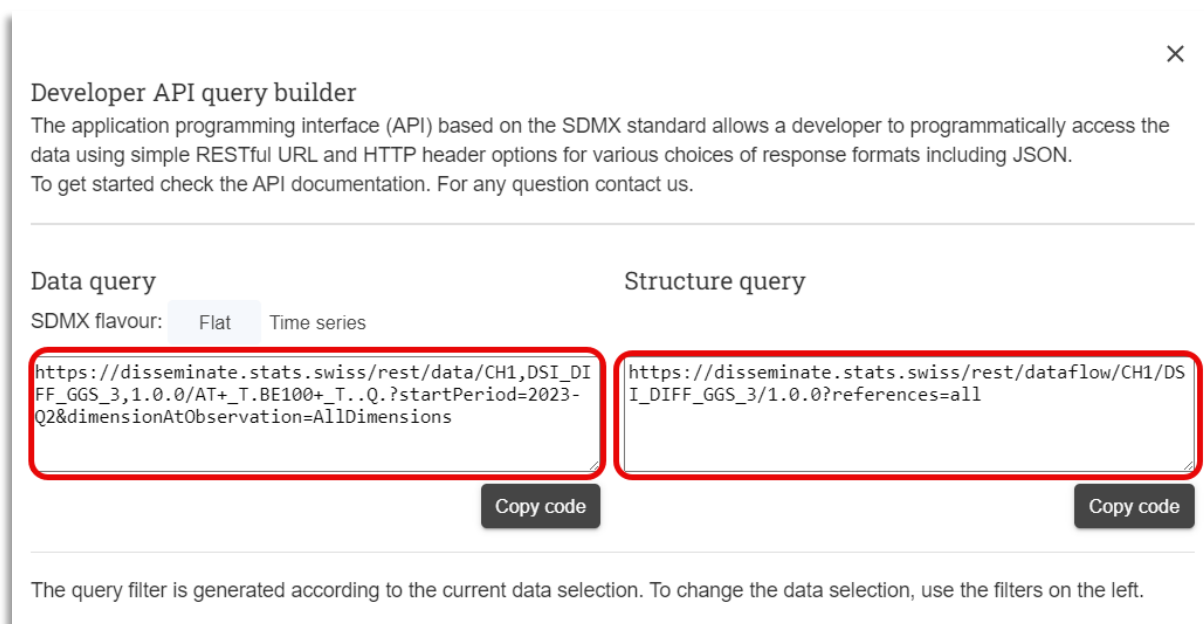


## 7 Generate API query

All the statistics in Swiss Stats Explorer can also be accessed via the FSO's API (application programming interface), which enables users to quickly retrieve statistics by executing automated queries. The API returns statistics in an SDMX format for seamless integration with other systems.



Select 'Developer API' in the top right to display the API queries available for your selection. The query will return the exact same data as that displayed in the table in Data Explorer. The 'Structure query' box displays the structural metadata for the dataset.



The Swiss Stats Explorer's data API can be used to retrieve data in XML, JSON and CSV formats. The query shown above exports the data and structure in XML format by default. To export the data in another format, simply add the desired parameter to the end of the query: For example, '&format=csvfile' for CSV format or '&format=jsondata' for JSON format.

For example, to retrieve data in CSV format, the query would be:

[https://disseminate.stats.swiss/rest/data/CH1,DSI\\_DIFF\\_GGS\\_2,1.0.0/Q.8100.?startPeriod=2023-Q2&dimensionAtObservation=AllDimensions&format=csvfile](https://disseminate.stats.swiss/rest/data/CH1,DSI_DIFF_GGS_2,1.0.0/Q.8100.?startPeriod=2023-Q2&dimensionAtObservation=AllDimensions&format=csvfile)

## 8 About dataset versions

In Swiss Stats Explorer, some datasets are updated regularly, especially those containing municipalities, as their structure changes frequently. To ensure that you always use the most recent version of a dataset, it is important to correctly manage the version parameter in URLs.

### 8.1 Getting the latest version

#### 8.1.1 Links

In Swiss Stats Explorer links, the version appears as `df[vs]=1.0.0`. By completely removing this parameter from the URL, Swiss Stats Explorer automatically selects the latest available version of the dataset.

**Example with version:**

[https://stats.swiss/vis?df\[id\]=DF\\_COU\\_HEALTH\\_COSTS&df\[ag\]=CH1.COU&df\[vs\]=1.0.0](https://stats.swiss/vis?df[id]=DF_COU_HEALTH_COSTS&df[ag]=CH1.COU&df[vs]=1.0.0)

**To directly access the latest version:**

[https://stats.swiss/vis?df\[id\]=DF\\_COU\\_HEALTH\\_COSTS&df\[ag\]=CH1.COU](https://stats.swiss/vis?df[id]=DF_COU_HEALTH_COSTS&df[ag]=CH1.COU)

#### 8.1.2 API

The same logic applies to API calls. In data endpoints, the version typically appears after the dataset identifier.

**Example with version:**


[https://disseminate.stats.swiss/rest/data/CH1.COU,DF\\_COU\\_HEALTH\\_COSTS,1.0.0/\\_T.\\_T.\\_T.A?startPeriod=2015](https://disseminate.stats.swiss/rest/data/CH1.COU,DF_COU_HEALTH_COSTS,1.0.0/_T._T._T.A?startPeriod=2015)

**To automatically retrieve the latest version of the data:**

[https://disseminate.stats.swiss/rest/data/CH1.COU,DF\\_COU\\_HEALTH\\_COSTS/\\_T.\\_T.\\_T.A?startPeriod=2015](https://disseminate.stats.swiss/rest/data/CH1.COU,DF_COU_HEALTH_COSTS/_T._T._T.A?startPeriod=2015)

The same approach applies to metadata via the API: by not specifying the version in structure URLs, the API automatically returns the most recent version of the metadata associated with the dataset.

## 9 More information

For questions regarding data or their availability, please contact the section responsible for the relevant topic. The contact address can be found in the 'Information' section (  symbol next to the dataset title) for each dataset.

If you have any questions about how Swiss Stats Explorer works or how to use it, please contact the central information service:

Email: [info@bfs.admin.ch](mailto:info@bfs.admin.ch)

Tel.: +41 58 46 36011