



Press release

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3 Employment and income

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Hours worked in 2008

Increase in total number of hours worked in 2008

Neuchâtel, 02.02.2010 (FSO) – **According to results from the Federal Statistical Office (FSO), the total number of hours worked in Switzerland reached 7,382 billion in 2008, representing an increase of 1.8% compared with the previous year. The gross domestic product (GDP), expressed in terms of the previous year's prices, increased at the same rate, resulting in stagnation of labour productivity between 2007 and 2008. Compared with the previous year, the annual volume of actual hours worked by self-employed workers registered a decline, unlike that of salaried workers. Between 2003 and 2008, the actual length of the working week of full-time employees increased by 11 minutes, reaching 42 hours and 4 minutes.**

According to the Work Volume Statistics (WV), 7,382 billion work hours were worked in 2008 in Switzerland, which is 1.8% more than in the previous year. Both the number of jobs (+2.2%) and the number of days worked (+0.3%) contributed to this increase. The latter increase would have been even more marked had the actual length of the working week per job not decreased over the same period (-0.7%). When considered over a 5-year period, the increase in the number of hours worked is significant at 8.1%.

SWISS FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE
Press Office

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Interested readers will find the complete text of the press release in the German, French or Italian version:

For German see: [Bundesamt für Statistik > Aktuell > Medienmitteilungen](#)

For French see: [Office fédéral de la statistique > Actualités > Communiqués de presse](#)

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