



01

Population

1155-1500

Switzerland's population 2015



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Statistical Office FSO

Neuchâtel 2016

Facts and Figures 2015



Permanent resident population
at the end of 2015 8 327 126



Live births in 2015

86 559



Deaths in 2015

67 606



Family households with at least
one child under 25

1 070 800



Marriages Registered partnerships

41 437 701



Divorces

16 960



Life expectancy at 65

22,2 years



Life expectancy at 65

19,2 years

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Rules of gender designations

For reasons of readability only the male form is used in this publication. However, the text includes women and men equally.

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1 Population

Depending on the region, Switzerland's population shows a different demographic profile. There are variations on indicators such as population size, birth rate, marriage rate, divorce rate and population ageing.

Permanent resident population 2015

T1

	Total	Men	Women	Swiss	Foreigners
Total	8 327 126	4 121 471	4 205 655	6 278 459	2 048 667

Source: FSO – STATPOP

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Switzerland's population doubled between 1932 and 2015. In just over 80 years, it rose from 4.1 million to 8.3 million. The growth of the permanent resident population in the individual cantons varies significantly. Zurich (1.54 million) and Bern (1 million) are Switzerland's most populous cantons. These are followed by Vaud with 773 400 inhabitants and Aargau with 653 700. The cantons of St. Gallen (499 100) and Geneva (484 700) also had large populations at the end of 2015.

More women than men live in Switzerland. However, the canton of Uri has more men (18 300) than women (17 600). The percentage of men is higher in the cantons of Aargau, Appenzell Innerrhoden and Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Glarus, Schwyz, Zug, Obwalden, Nidwalden and Thurgau (cf. T.2). In the other cantons, women are in the majority, or the proportion of men and women is balanced.

The cantons with the highest proportion of foreign residents are Geneva (41%), Basel-Stadt (35%) and Vaud (34%). Appenzell Innerrhoden and Uri have the lowest proportion of foreign residents, with 11%, followed by the cantons of Jura, Nidwalden and Obwalden, each with around 14%.

The vast majority of cantons reported population growth in 2015. The sharpest increase was in the canton of Zug with +1.9%. The only canton to record a population decline was Uri at -0.1%.

Permanent resident population by canton, 2015

T 2

	Total	Men	Women	Swiss	Foreigners
Switzerland	8 327 126	4 121 471	4 205 655	6 278 459	2 048 667
Zurich	1 466 424	728 517	737 907	1 083 372	383 052
Berne	1 017 483	498 258	519 225	860 017	157 466
Lucerne	398 762	198 192	200 570	327 503	71 259
Uri	35 973	18 348	17 625	31 840	4 133
Schwyz	154 093	78 825	75 268	122 921	31 172
Obwalden	37 076	18 801	18 275	31 716	5 360
Nidwalden	42 420	21 705	20 715	36 514	5 906
Glarus	40 028	20 309	19 719	30 721	9 307
Zug	122 134	61 708	60 426	89 157	32 977
Fribourg	307 461	153 729	153 732	240 182	67 279
Solothurn	266 418	132 439	133 979	209 355	57 063
Basel-Stadt	191 817	92 514	99 303	124 365	67 452
Basel-Landschaft	283 231	138 808	144 423	221 489	61 742
Schaffhausen	79 836	39 391	40 445	59 664	20 172
Appenzell A.Rh.	54 543	27 506	27 037	45 985	8 558
Appenzell I.Rh.	15 974	8 196	7 778	14 240	1 734
St. Gallen	499 065	249 392	249 673	381 712	117 353
Graubünden	196 610	98 212	98 398	160 689	35 921
Aargau	653 675	327 787	325 888	495 277	158 398
Thurgau	267 429	134 455	132 974	202 663	64 766
Ticino	351 946	171 466	180 480	254 288	97 658
Vaud	773 407	379 074	394 333	513 739	259 668
Valais	335 696	166 426	169 270	258 612	77 084
Neuchâtel	178 107	87 021	91 086	132 556	45 551
Geneva	484 736	234 427	250 309	287 521	197 215
Jura	72 782	35 965	36 817	62 361	10 421

Source: FSO – STATPOP

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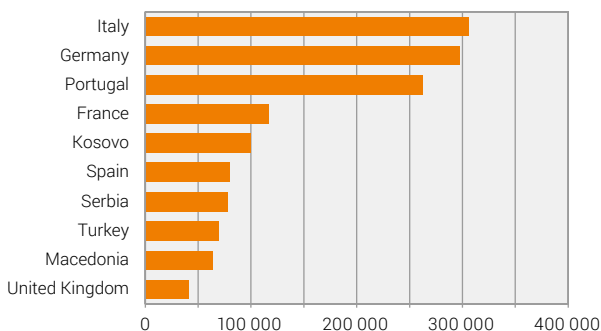
Most common nationalities of the foreign permanent resident population

The number of foreign nationals reached the 2 million mark in 2015, totalling 2.049 million (25% of the permanent resident population). Of these, 396 619 were born in Switzerland and 1.652 million were born abroad. Two-thirds (66.7%) of those born abroad came from a EU28/EFTA country.

The foreign permanent resident population increased by 3.0% (+50 208 people) compared with the previous year. The most common countries of origin of the foreign permanent resident population are Italy (311 742), Germany (300 691), Portugal (267 474), France (122 970), Kosovo (106 879), Spain (82 334), Serbia (71 260), Turkey (69 215), Macedonia (64 448) and the United Kingdom (41 766).

Foreign permanent resident population, 2015

G 1



Source: FSO – STATPOP

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The number of foreign nationals in Switzerland was subject to major fluctuations in the 20th century, largely driven by the economic and political situation. In 1910, the proportion of foreign nationals in Switzerland already represented 14.7% – a value only reached again in 1967. However, the foreign population in Switzerland declined in the years 1975–1979 and again in 1983. Since then, the proportion has increased steadily and amounted to approximately 25% at the end of 2015. Switzerland has one of the highest percentages of foreign residents in Europe.

The **acquisition of Swiss citizenship** also has an impact on the distribution of nationalities in the resident population and the proportion of foreign nationals.

In 1990, 8 658 foreign citizens were naturalised, in 2006, their numbers reached 46 711. In 2015, 40 689 persons acquired a Swiss passport, of whom 43% were under 30 years old.

The acquisition of Swiss citizenship can be applied if the persons have lived in Switzerland for 12 years or are married to a Swiss citizen.

Acquisition of Swiss citizenship

T3

	1990	2000	2010	2015
Total	8 658	28 700	39 314	40 689
Men	3 228	13 314	18 553	19 430
Women	5 430	15 386	20 761	21 259
Of which:				
Europe	6 970	21 975	30 458	32 317
EU-28 countries	6 198	13 386	15 673	22 266
Africa	273	1 824	2 499	2 336
America	600	1 875	2 015	2 488
Asia	796	2 981	4 261	3 415
Oceania/stateless/ no indication	19	45	81	133

Sources: FSO – PETRA, STATPOP

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2 Natural population change

By natural **population change**, we mean events that naturally increase or diminish the size of the population, i.e. **live births** and **deaths**.

Women are increasingly postponing the age of first childbirth, which is currently 30.7 years¹.

In 1970, 70.6% of live births were to mothers aged between 20 and 30, while in 2015 that figure was just 37.4%. Well over half of mothers (58.0%) were aged between 31 and 40 when they gave birth. The number of mothers aged over 40 has more than doubled since 1970 (rising from 1.8% to 4.1%).

¹ Sources: FSO – BEVNAT, ESPOP, STATPOP / Indicators of fertility in Switzerland, 1950-2015

Live births

T4

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2015
Total	99 216	73 661	83 939	78 458	86 559
Boys	51 235	37 717	42 914	40 402	44 649
Girls	47 981	35 944	41 025	38 056	41 910
Age of the mother at birth					
less than 20 years	3 562	1 746	1 007	834	393
20 – 29 years	70 068	51 153	53 921	37 856	26 120
30 – 39 years	23 798	20 135	28 286	38 428	54 490
40 – 49 years	1 787	625	724	1 337	5 525
50 years or older	1	2	1	3	31

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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Increase in the average age at maternity

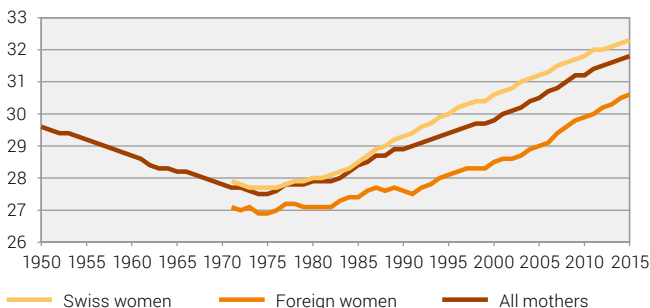
In 2015, the average age at maternity was 31.8 (compared with 27.8 in 1970). This rise may be explained by two diverging trends: the fall in the number of women under 30 having children and the rise in the number of mothers aged 35 and over. More time spent in education and training, later entry into the world of work and changing lifestyles and behaviour can explain this 'postponement' of childbearing to later in life. In addition, we see that the average age of foreign mothers remains lower than Swiss mothers (30.6 compared with 32.3).

The average number of children per woman remained stable in 2015. However there is a difference between Swiss and foreign women. The latter show a slightly higher fertility rate (1.86 compared to 1.54).

Fertility is the number of live births per woman of childbearing age. The number of live births is therefore calculated in relation to the number of women of childbearing age (15 – 49 years).

Average age at maternity

G 2

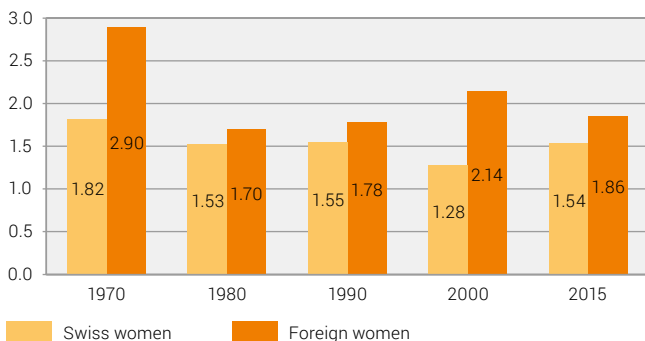


Sources: FSO – BEVNAT, ESPOP, STATPOP

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Average number of children per woman

G 3



Sources: FSO – BEVNAT, ESPOP, STATPOP

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Deliveries

The number of deliveries registered during a calendar year corresponds to the number of women giving birth. Each delivery is counted as one event, regardless of the number of children born (live or stillborn).

The number of multiple births has risen in the last 30 years. For example, the proportion of twin births almost doubled, from 1.0% in 1970 to 1.9% in 2015.

Deliveries

T 5

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2015
Total¹	99 184	73 247	83 316	77 600	85 284
Single	98 276	72 486	82 336	76 490	83 678
Multiple	908	761	980	1 110	1 606
Twins	898	747	949	1 079	1 580
Others	10	14	31	31	26

¹ Incl. both live births and stillbirths

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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19488 paternity acknowledgements

The majority of children are born to married mothers (77.1%). However, the percentage of births outside marriage increased from 3.8% in 1970 to 22.9% in 2015. From 1980 to 2005, the majority of children were acknowledged after their birth.

Childlessness

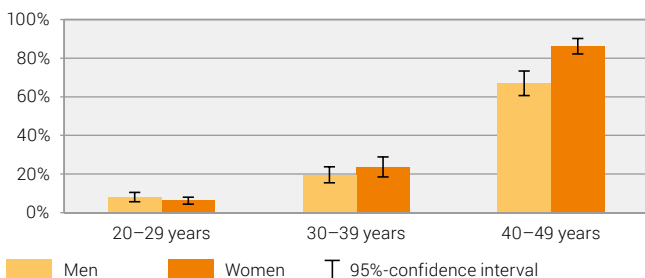
Childlessness is a relatively widespread phenomenon in Switzerland: 19% of women and 21% of men aged between 50 and 80 have no biological or adopted children.

Only around six in ten people living in Switzerland aged between 20 and 80 are parents of one or more biological children (59% of men and 65% of women).

Besides women and men who choose not to have children, there are also people who are childless due to external circumstances such as the lack of a suitable partner, difficulties combining a family and career, illness or infertility.

Proportion of childless people who do not want children, by sex and age group

G 4



Source: FSO – EFG 2013

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Adoptions

The number of adoptions per year fell from 1 583 in 1980 to 329 in 2015.

The decline in the number of adoptions within and outside the family could be explained by a number of hypotheses, including changes in child protection law², the decline in unwanted pregnancies and better acceptance of single mothers in today's society.

Adoptions usually occur when children are young. Chart G5 shows that the majority of adoptions concerned children aged between 0 and 9 years old. In principle, however, adults can also be adopted.

² Hague Convention: www.bj.admin.ch/bj/de/home/gesellschaft/adoption/haue.html

Adoptions by sex and nationality before the adoption

T 6

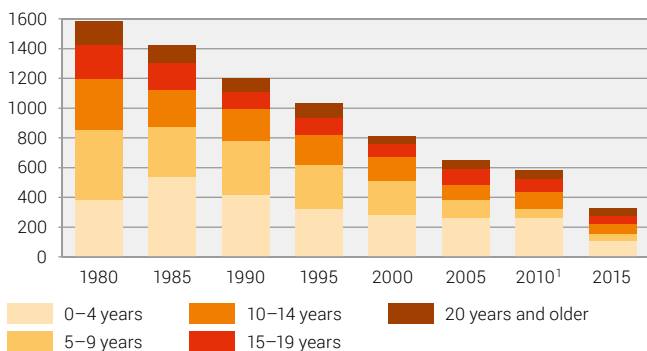
	1980	1990	2000	2015
Total	1 583	1 198	808	329
By sex of the adopted person				
Men	796	570	386	159
Women	787	628	422	170
By nationality before the adoption				
Switzerland	1 060	525	198	132
Rest of Europe	230	156	190	39
Africa	21	43	79	53
America	102	257	192	37
Asia	168	216	148	63
Oceania	2	0	1	0
Stateless, unknown nationality (or not stated)	0	1	0	5

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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Adoption by age of the adopted person

G 5



¹ From 2010: New definition of the permanent resident population including people in asylum procedure with a stay of at least 12 months.

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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Deaths, mortality and life expectancy

The **number of deaths** increased, although there have been significant changes in the age structure of the deceased. For example, **infant mortality** has sharply decreased since 1970, while the number of deaths in persons over the age of 65 has increased. **Life expectancy** at birth, i.e. the average number of years a person is expected to live, increased from 76.2 to 84.9 for women resp. from 70.1 to 80.7 for men between 1970 to 2015.

Deaths

T 7

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2015
Total	57 091	59 097	63 739	62 528	67 606
Men	29 954	30 847	32 492	30 400	32 646
Women	27 137	28 250	31 247	32 128	34 960
Swiss	53 084	55 506	59 802	58 190	61 280
Foreigners	4 007	3 591	3 937	4 338	6 326
Died in their first year	1 494	667	574	386	340
Infant mortality rate ¹	15.1	9.1	6.8	4.9	3.9
Life expectancy at birth (in years)					
Men	70.1	72.3	74.0	76.9	80.7
Women	76.2	78.9	80.8	82.6	84.9

¹ Deaths of children in the first year of life per 1 000 live births

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

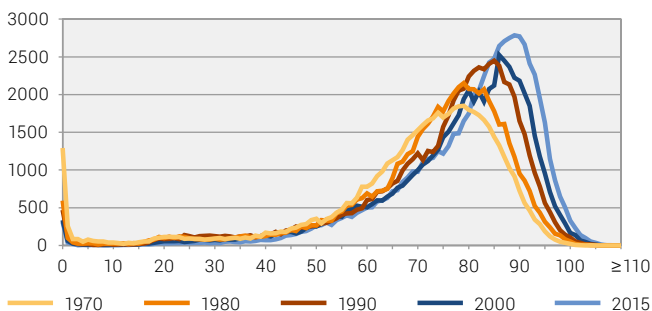
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Deaths by age

The proportion of deaths below the age of 65 fell sharply and amounted to just 13.4% in 2015 (compared with 28.3% in 1970). By contrast, the proportion of deaths over the age of 75 sharply increased. The increase is particularly marked in the over 84 category: in 2015 46.0% of the deceased were 85 or older, while in 1970 that figure was 15.4%.

Deaths by age

G 6



1) From 2001, only those observations are counted, where a person of reference has a permanent residence in Switzerland.

2) From 2010: New definition of the permanent resident population including people in asylum procedure with a stay of at least 12 months.

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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Leading causes of death

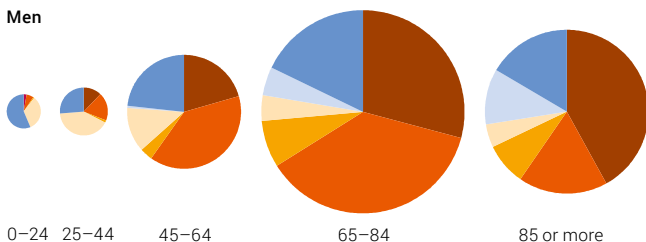
Most deaths are due to a small number of causes: cardiovascular disease, cancer, dementia, diseases of the respiratory tract, as well as accidents and violent deaths. The order of importance of these causes varies widely according to the stage of life.

The relative importance of the causes of death varies depending on age. In the first two years of life, hereditary diseases are the predominant cause of death. Between 2 and 15, deaths are very rare and are spread across a variety of causes. Between 16 and approximately 34, accidents and suicide are the prevailing causes. From around the age of 40, cancer is the most frequent cause of death. After the age of 80, cardiovascular diseases are most common.

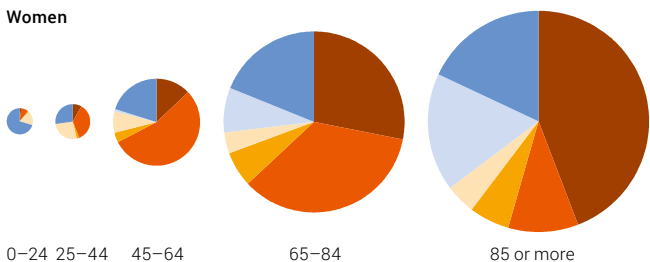
Leading causes of death by age group, 2014

G 7

Men



Women



Cardiovascular diseases

Respiratory diseases

Dementia

Malignant tumours

Accidents and violent deaths

Other causes of death

Surfaces are proportional to the absolute number of deaths.

Source: FSO – Causes of deaths statistics

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3 Migration

Migration is when a person permanently changes their place of residence, and may occur over short distances or across continental borders. Besides fertility and mortality, migration is the third demographic component that determines population trends.

In terms of migration flows (changes of residence), a distinction is drawn between international migration and internal migration. The former refers to migration from abroad to Switzerland (immigration) and from Switzerland to other countries (emigration). The net migration figure shows that 71 900 more people immigrated to Switzerland than emigrated in 2015.

International migration

T 8

	1990	2000	2010	2015
Immigration¹	154 244	110 302	161 778	188 515
Swiss	31 465	26 102	22 283	25 952
Foreigners	122 779	84 200	139 495	162 563
Emmigration	97 601	90 078	96 839	116 631
Swiss	31 888	30 776	26 311	30 103
Foreigners	65 713	59 302	70 528	86 528
Net migration¹	56 643	20 224	64 939	71 884
Swiss	-423	-4 674	-4 028	-4 151
Foreigners	57 066	24 898	68 967	76 035

¹ Until 2010 incl. change of status and switchers from the asylum process, from 2011 incl. conversions from non permanent residence status.

Sources: FSO – ESPOP, STATPOP

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International migration

The comparison of immigration and emigration (G8) shows major differences between different nationality groups. For Swiss citizens there is a clear emigration surplus (immigration: 25 952, emigration: 30 103). The chart shows that almost two third of Switzerland's foreign permanent resident population come from the EU countries; mostly from Germany, France, Italy and Portugal.

Internal migration

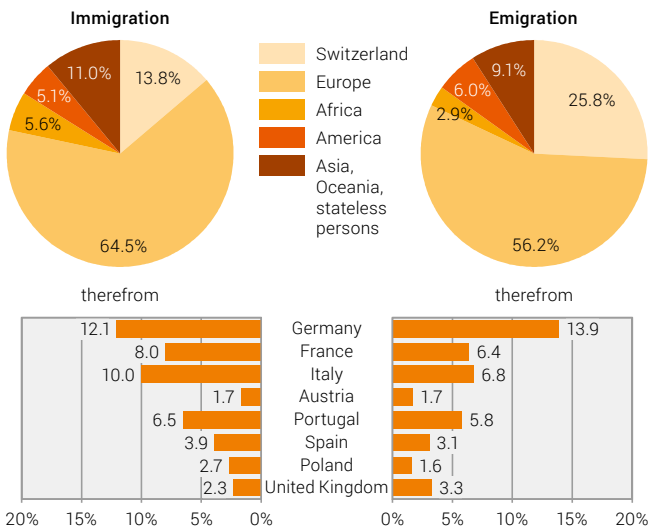
Internal migration refers to a change of residence within Switzerland, either between two communes in the same canton (intracantonal) or between two communes in different cantons (intercantonal).

Internal migration is the most significant element of Switzerland's demographic development. In 2015, the number of internal migrations (505 659 moves) clearly exceeded the number of immigrations (188 515), emigrations (116 631), births (86 559) and deaths (67 606). Three-quarters of all internal migrations take place within the same canton.

While some cantons attract inhabitants through intercantonal migration, other cantons lose inhabitants due to emigration to other parts of Switzerland. The cantons that benefit most from domestic migration flows are Fribourg, Thurgau and Aargau. Meanwhile, the cantons with the greatest population losses as a result of intercantonal migration include Basel-Stadt, Neuchâtel, Graubünden, Geneva and Uri (G9).

Immigration and emigration by nationality, 2015

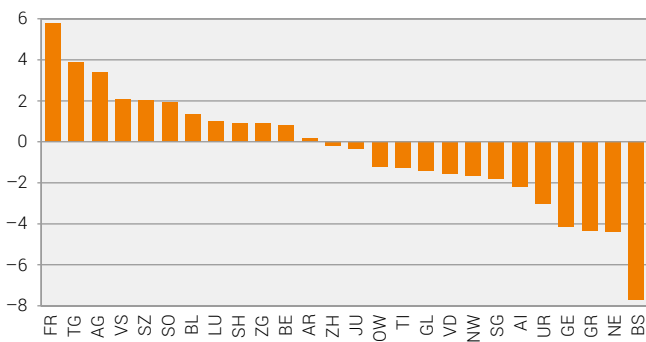
G 8



Sources: FSO – ESPOP, PETRA, STATPOP

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Intercantonal net migration per 1000 inhabitants by canton, annual average, 2011–2015 (aggregated) G 9



Source: FSO – STATPOP

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Population by migration status

The population with a migration background' includes people with foreign citizenship, naturalised Swiss citizens³ and native Swiss citizens whose parents were both born abroad. In 2014, 2.445 million people belonged in this category.

This population with a migration background makes up 35% of the permanent resident population aged 15 and over. One third of this population group (855 000) holds Swiss citizenship. Four-fifths of people with a migration background are first generation (i.e. they are migrants themselves), whereas one fifth were born in Switzerland.⁴

Permanent resident population aged 15 and over, by migration status, 2014 T 9

	2015
Total	6 914 567
Men	3 392 647
Women	352 192
Population without a migration background	
Swiss citizens	4 409 947
Foreign nationals	5 156
Population with a migration background	
Swiss citizens	854 521
Foreign nationals	1 590 661
1st generation	
Swiss citizens	562 482
Foreign nationals	1 406 094
2nd generation	
Swiss citizens	292 039
Foreign nationals	184 567

Source: FSO – Swiss Labor Force Survey (SLFS)

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The **population without a migration background** is mainly made up of native Swiss nationals, as well as some naturalised Swiss citizens (0.2%) and foreign nationals of third generation or higher (0.1%).

³ With the exception of naturalised citizens born in Switzerland whose parents were both born in Switzerland.

⁴ This refers to second generation foreign nationals as well as native and naturalised Swiss citizens.

4 Families and households

Family households with children

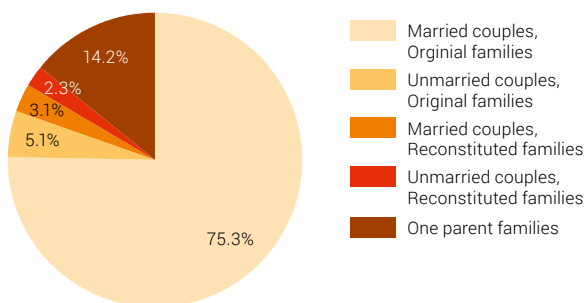
In 2014, there were around 3.5 million private households in Switzerland, of which some 1 million were family households⁵ with at least one child aged under 25⁶. The majority of these (80.4%) comprised couples with exclusively biological or adopted children, known as original families.

14.2% of the households were one-parent families with mostly single mothers (82.8%). A relatively small percentage (5.4%) were patchwork families, in other words households in which at least one parent has brought a child from a previous relationship into the new family.

The vast majority of children under 25 (80.4%) still lives in original families.

Family households with at least one child under 25 years according to type, 2014

G 10



Source: FSO – Structural Survey

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⁵ The data used are taken from a random sample survey (SE 2014). However, to make the text easier to read, the confidence interval is omitted.

⁶ This contribution takes into account children and young people up to the age of 25 provided they live in their parents' household.

One-person households

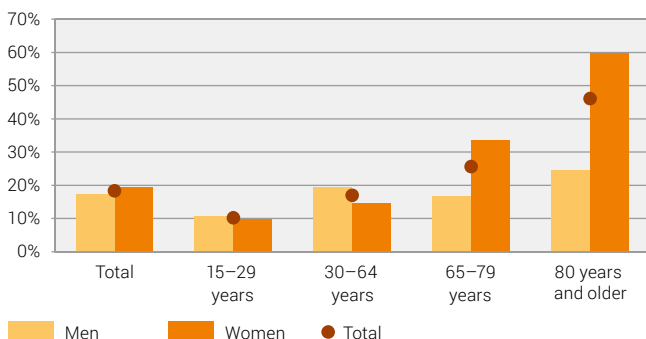
In Switzerland, 18% of the permanent resident population aged 15 and over lives in a one-person household. The likelihood of living alone increases with age: whereas only one tenth of persons aged 15 to 29 live in a one-person household, in the age group 80 and over this figure is almost half (46%). Particularly among women, the percentage of people living alone rises sharply with age, totalling 34% of 65- to 79-year-olds and 60 % of women over 80 (versus 17% and 25% respectively of men). This can be attributed to the higher life expectancy of women and the age differences in couples – in the majority of couples, the man is older than the woman. Conversely, there are proportionally more men living alone among 30- to 64-year-olds. One of the reasons behind this is that in separations and divorces, the children more commonly live with the mothers, while the fathers live alone.

Young people fall in love but don't live together

Some 15% of men and women aged between 18 and 80 in Switzerland are in a relationship but do not live with their partners. This form of relationship is most common in younger age groups: 74% of 18- to 24-year-olds do not live with a partner, and 19% of 25- to 34-year-olds. The percentage of men and women aged 35 and over who have a partner but do not co-habit represents just below 10%.

Percentage of persons living alone, by sex and age group, 2014

G 11



Source: FSO – STATPOP

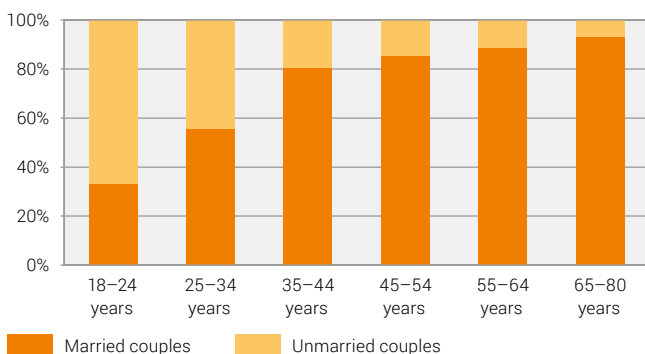
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The main reason people live separately is to preserve their independence. Professional and financial aspects also play an important role. Over half of those who do not live with their partners (56% of 25- to 80-year-olds) only need half an hour or less to visit their partner and the vast majority of couples who live separately meet at least once a week (84%).

Persons who are married or in a partnership, by age group

Women and men living with a partner in the same household

G 12



Source: FSO – FGS 2013

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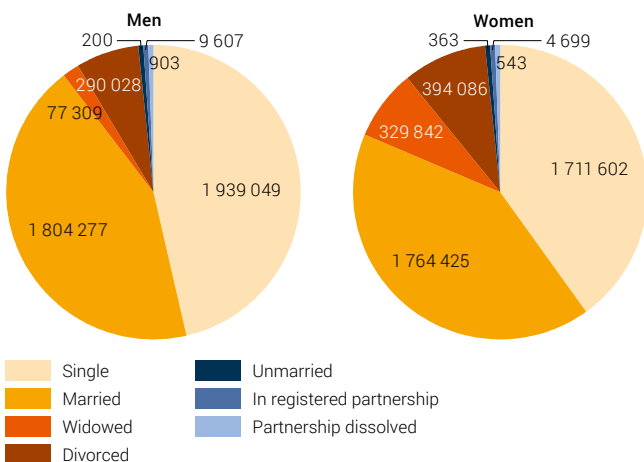
5 Marital status, marriage, registered partnership and divorce

The population statistics comprise seven marital statuses: single, married, divorced, widowed, unmarried⁷, in a registered partnership and partnership dissolved.

At the end of 2015, single and married persons were more or less equally distributed between both sexes (single men: 53.1%, single women: 46.9%, married men: 50.6%, married women: 49.4%). Among the divorcees, women represent a greater share (57.6%). However, differences are observed in registered partnerships, with more men still entering into registered partnerships than women (67% versus 33%).

Permanent resident population by marital status and sex, 2015

G 13



Source: FSO – STATPOP

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The difference is more marked among widowed persons of whom 81.0% are women. The reasons for this are the higher life expectancy of women and greater propensity of men to remarry. The share of divorced persons in the total population rose from 1.9% in 1970 to 8.2% in 2015.

⁷ The marital status 'unmarried' is the result of a declaration of invalidity of a previous union or a declaration of disappearance of the previous partner.

Marriages

In 2015, 41 437 couples tied the knot. Of these, 70.3% (29 120) were marrying for the first time, i.e. were previously single. In 12 317 marriages, at least one of the spouses was not previously single. The average age at first marriage is steadily increasing. In 1970, it was 26.5 for men and 24.1 for women, while today it is 32 for men and 30 for women.

Marriages

T 10

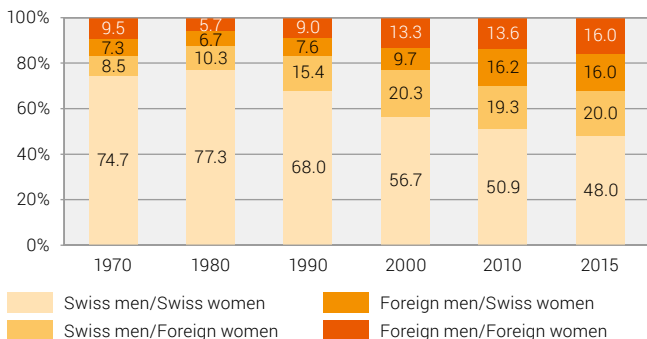
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2015
Total	46 693	35 721	46 603	39 758	41 437
Men					
of which single	41 536	30 212	38 316	30 467	32 423
widowed	1 437	791	795	618	462
divorced ¹	3 720	4 718	7 492	8 673	8 552
Women					
of which single	42 607	31 175	39 624	31 531	33 616
widowed	950	417	436	432	323
divorced ¹	3 136	4 129	6 543	7 795	7 498
Average age at first marriage (in years)					
Men	26.5	27.4	29.1	30.3	31.9
Women	24.1	25.0	26.7	27.9	29.6

¹ Incl. other marital status

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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Marriages by citizenship

G 14


Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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Since the mid-1980s there has been a rise in the number of marriages, in which at least one of the spouses is a foreign national. In 2015, this concerned 21 575 of all marriages, of which 14 908 (69.1%) were between a Swiss citizen and a foreign national.

Registered partnership

Since the Same-Sex Partnership Act (SSPA) came into force on 1 January 2007, same-sex couples have been able to register their partnership at a civil register office.

Registered partnership

T 11

	2007	2010	2015
Total	2 004	720	701
Couples (Men)	1 431	499	440
Couples (Women)	573	221	261

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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The highest number of registered partnerships was recorded in the first year, thereafter the number steadily decreased. In 2015, there were 701 registered partnerships, which corresponds to a decrease of 65% compared with 2007.

Among women, partnerships are mainly between Swiss citizens. Among men, partnerships between Swiss men and a partner from another country of origin are most common.

Divorces

A divorce is the formal legal dissolution of a marriage. Most divorces occur when the man and woman are aged between 42 and 52. In 2015, divorces occurred most frequently in the seventh year of marriage (5.6%), but an increasing number of couples who have been married for 20 years or longer are getting divorced (29.4%). In 2015, 16 960 divorces were registered.

Registered partnership by sex and nationality

T12

	2007	2010	2015
Total	2 004	720	701
Women			
Between Swiss partners	378	133	137
Between a swiss and a foreigner partner	159	67	95
Between foreigner partners	36	21	29
Men			
Between Swiss partners	543	130	130
Between a swiss and a foreigner partner	782	280	229
Between foreigner partners	106	89	81

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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Divorces

T13

	1970	1990	2010	2015 ²
Total	6 406	13 184	22 081	16 960
Duration of marriage ¹				
0–4 years	1 568	3 128	2 454	2 077
5–9 years	1 926	3 473	6 117	4 324
10–14 years	1 143	2 051	4 087	3 192
15–19 years	778	1 679	3 216	2 379
20 years and over	991	2 853	6 207	4 988
Average duration of marriage at time of divorce (in years)	11.6	11.9	14.5	14.9
Consolidated divorce rate	15.4	33.2	54.4	41.4

¹ Calculation: year of the divorce minus year of the marriage

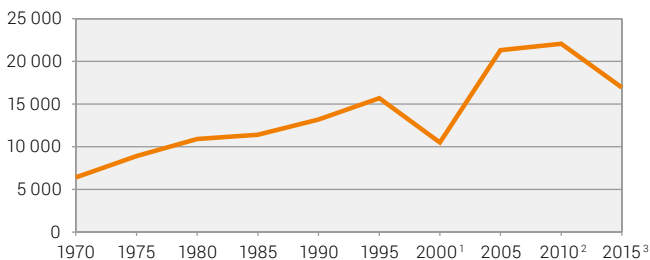
² Since 2011, this change in source results in a series break in the divorce statistics. To wit, the information on divorces involving two spouses of foreign nationality is no longer entirely available in the divorce statistics.

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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Divorces

G 15



¹ The development of divorces after 1998 (strong increase in 1999, strong decrease in 2000) is related to the new divorce law, which entered into force on 1 January 2000.

² From 2010: New definition of the permanent resident population, which also includes those in the asylum process with a total length of stay of at least 12 months. The new Swiss Civil Procedure Code (CPC), entered into force on the 1 January 2011, is replacing the 26 cantonal civil procedure legislation. It contains among others regulation on divorce procedure (art. 274–294).

³ Divorces: Break in series due to a new data source. From 2011, data on separations and notices of dismissal are no longer available.

Source: FSO – BEVNAT

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6 Demographic ageing

When the proportion of older generations (65 and over) increases and the proportion of younger people in a population declines, we talk about demographic ageing. This is the result of a low fertility rate, falling annual birth figures and an increase in the average age at maternity. Meanwhile, the lower mortality rates and the higher life expectancy of older generations also contribute to demographic ageing.

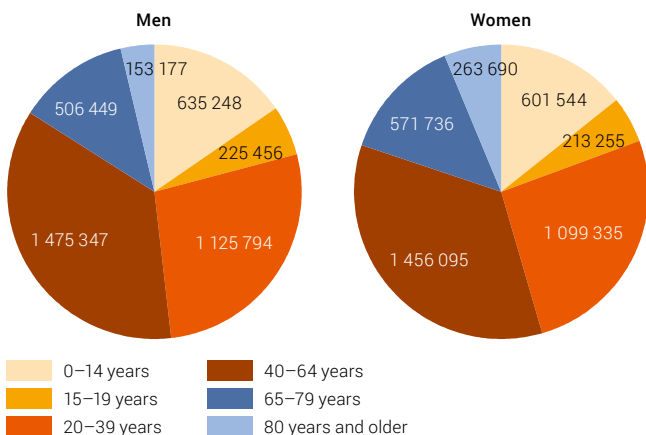
Population structure

Chart G16 shows that in 2015 the permanent resident population was made up of 4.2 million women and 4.1 million men. The number of men and boys is higher in the under 20 age group than in women. Between 20 and 39, the gender ratio balances out, with 1.1 million men and women. The same applies to the 40–64 age group, with 1.5 million men and women.

The proportion of women only becomes higher from retirement age. This is due to the higher mortality of men and is particularly marked in the over 80 age group. Almost one-fifth (1.5 million) of the permanent resident population is made up of over-65s.

Permanent resident population by age group and sex, 2015

G 16



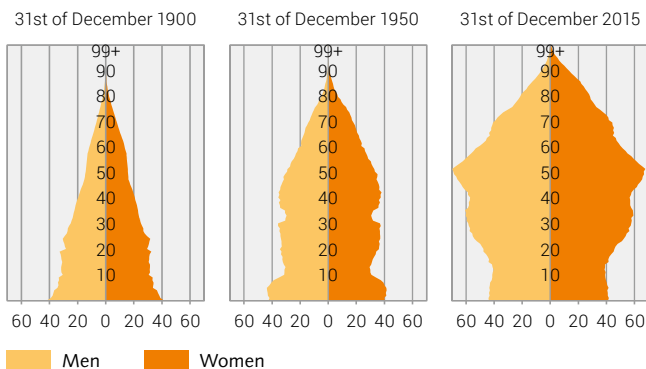
Source: FSO – STATPOP

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Age structure of the population

Number of people in 1,000

G 17



Sources: FSO – FPC, STATPOP

© FSO 2016

During the course of the 20th century, the age distribution in the population changed significantly, to become a population where fewer and fewer young people live alongside an increasing number of older people. The rising life expectancy, the ratio of immigration to emigration and the birth rates have largely determined this trend.

We can expect that the top of the age pyramid will further expand as the baby boom generation enters the higher age categories. However, the base of the age pyramid may widen if there are more births or may even become narrower if birth rates fall.

Old-age dependency ratio

The old-age dependency ratio is the ratio of over 64-year-olds to 20- to 64-year-olds.

Youth dependency ratio: $\frac{\text{Persons aged 0–19 years}}{\text{Persons aged 20–64 years}}$

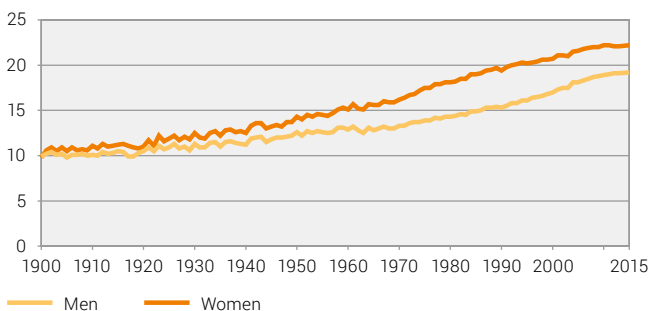
Old-age dependency ratio: $\frac{\text{Persons aged 65+ years}}{\text{Persons aged 20–64 years}}$

Life expectancy at 65

Life expectancy at 65 increased throughout the course of the 20th century, as shown by chart G18. Since 1900, it has risen from 9.9 to 19.2 for men and from 9.7 to 22.2 for women. Although women continue to have a longer life expectancy than men, a convergence between men and women has been observed. The successful treatment of cardiovascular diseases is one of the reasons for the sharp decline in mortality in old age.

Life expectancy at 65 years

G 18



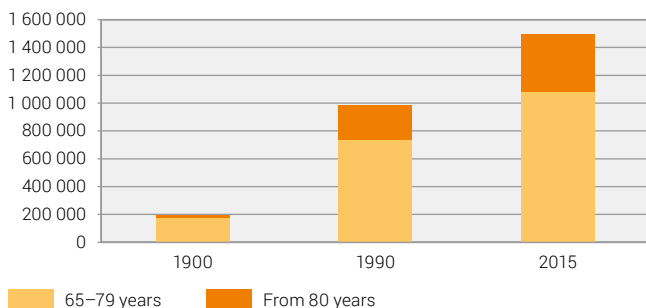
Sources: FSO – ESPOP, STATPOP

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In 2015, there were 1.495 million people aged 65 or over (18.0%) living in Switzerland. Of these, women accounted for 10.0% of the total population and men 7.9%. Due to the higher mortality among men, the proportion of women increases with age.

Permanent resident population at the age of 65–79 years and from 80 years

G 19



Source: FSO – STATPOP

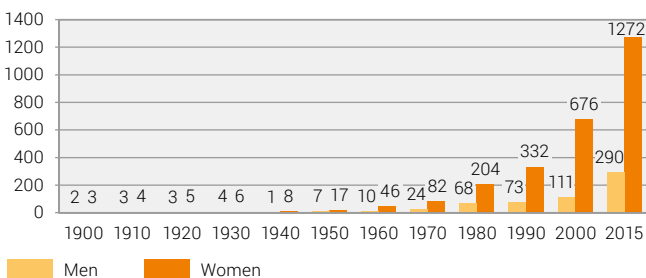
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Centenarians in Switzerland

The number of people aged 100 or over is steadily rising, both among Swiss and foreign nationals (G20). At the end of 2015 there were 1 562 centenarians living in Switzerland, with women making up the majority.

Number of centenarians

G 20



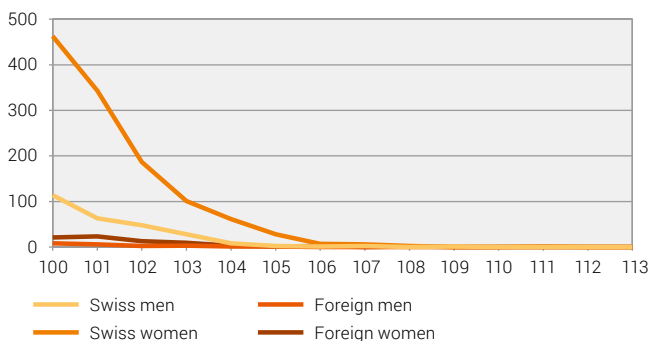
Sources: FSO – ESPOP, STATPOP

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The proportion of foreign nationals in this age group (6.2%) is significantly lower than with the Swiss citizens (24.6%). This underrepresentation can be explained by the fact that some foreign nationals will acquire Swiss citizenship or will over the course of their lives, return to their home country.

Centenarians by nationality, 2015

G 21



Source: FSO – STATPOP

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7 Switzerland compared with other countries

Switzerland differs from its neighbouring countries in its higher rate of foreigners. The proportion of older people is higher in Germany and Italy than in Switzerland. France is characterised by its high fertility rate.

Main indicators for different countries, 2015

T 14

	Switzerland	Italy	Germany	France	Austria
Population (in 1000) ¹	8 327	60 800	81 200	66 415	8 600
Share of the population under 15 years (in %) ¹	14.9	13.8	13.2	18.6	14.3
Share of the population 65 or older (in %) ¹	18.0	21.7	21.0	18.4	18.5
Share of foreigners (in %) ¹	24.6	9.5	12.6	11.9	17.2
Average number of children per woman ²	1.5	1.4	1.5	2.0	1.5
Life expectancy at birth (in years) ³					
Men	80.7	80.7	78.7	79.5	79.2
Women	84.9	85.6	83.6	86.0	84.0
Net migration (per 1000 persons)	8.7	0.5	14.1	0.7	14.2
Marriages (per 1000 persons) ⁴	5.0	3.1	4.8
Divorces (per 1000 persons) ⁵	2.0	0.9	2.1

¹ January 1, 2016² Germany, France, Italy, Austria: 2014³ Germany, France, Italy, Austria: 2014⁴ Germany, Italy: 2014⁵ Germany, Italy: 2014

Sources: Switzerland: FSO, other countries: Eurostat, on August 05, 2016

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8 Swiss living abroad

In 2015, 762 930 Swiss nationals lived abroad. This roughly equates to the population of the canton of Vaud.

Three-fifths of Swiss nationals living abroad live in Europe – most of whom in France, Germany and Italy. One quarter of the Swiss abroad, live in the United States.

The number of Swiss nationals living abroad increases every year.

Swiss citizens living abroad by country of residence

T 15

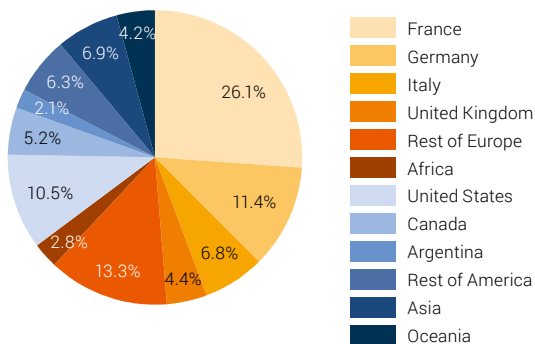
	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015
Total	527 795	580 396	634 216	695 123	761 930
Europe	326 193	358 786	395 336	429 498	472 002
France	137 528	151 037	169 437	181 462	198 647
Germany	65 664	67 728	71 115	77 827	86 774
Italy	36 821	41 140	46 327	49 187	51 556
United Kingdom	22 543	25 043	26 441	29 505	33 745
Africa	16 650	17 467	18 017	20 008	21 592
America	143 030	154 872	163 122	174 158	183 875
USA	62 793	67 929	71 773	75 252	80 218
Canada	32 218	34 192	36 204	39 186	39 869
Argentina	14 163	14 546	14 931	15 690	15 865
Asia	19 845	24 167	30 378	41 466	52 409
Océanie	22 077	25 104	27 363	29 993	32 052

Source: FDFA – Relations with the Swiss abroad

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Swiss citizens living abroad by country of residence, 2015

G 22



Source: FDFA – Relations with the Swiss abroad

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9 Information, sources and publications

Here you will find information on the data sources and FSO publications on population statistics:

BEVNAT (Vital statistics) provides data on births, deaths, marriages, registered partnerships, divorces, adoptions and acknowledgements of paternity.

For additional information on BEVNAT, see: www.statistics.ch
→ Look for statistics → Surveys → Vital statistics (BEVNAT)

STATPOP (Population and Households Statistics) is part of the new census system and has been providing data on the size and composition of the resident population in Switzerland as well as on natural and spatial changes in the resident population in Switzerland's communes, cantons and districts since 2010.

Additional information on STATPOP can be found at www.statistics.ch → Look for statistics → Surveys → Population and Households Statistics (STATPOP)

Electronic publications

In the interactive STAT-TAB application, you'll find STATPOP and BEVNAT data cubes, which allow you to create your own customised tables (available in German and French): www.pxweb.bfs.admin.ch
→ Population

Additional information, texts and tables are published on our website: www.statistics.ch → Look for statistics → Population

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