



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Federal Department of
Foreign Affairs FDFA

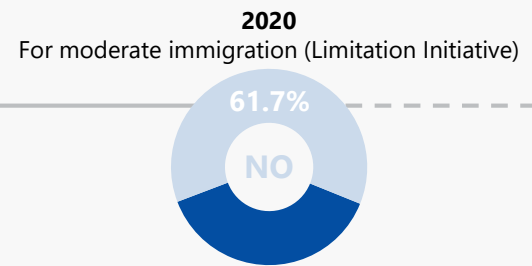
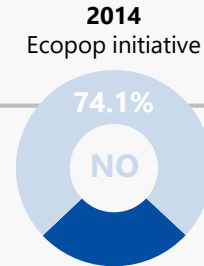
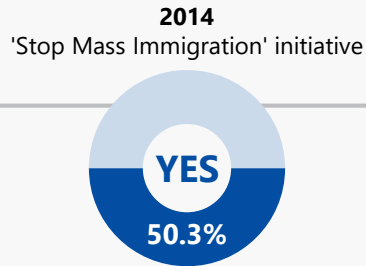
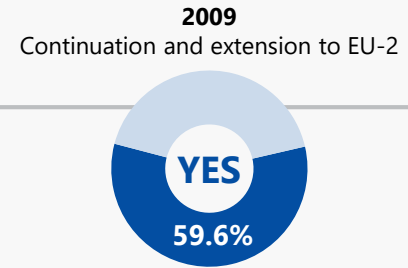
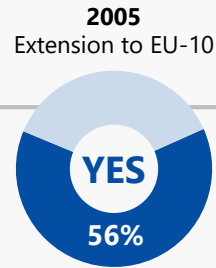
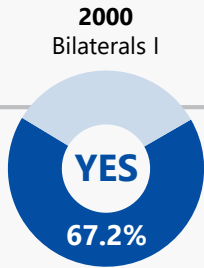
A long-exposure photograph of a busy city street at night, showing a crowd of people walking. The image is heavily blurred to convey a sense of motion and activity. The lights from buildings and street lamps create a warm, golden glow in the background.

Free movement of persons

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Voting on free movement of persons





The AFMP's importance for Switzerland

- The free movement of persons is very important for Switzerland as a business location because it facilitates labour mobility, improving the opportunities for companies based in Switzerland to recruit suitable personnel.
- As recruitment in the EU area is demand-driven and complementary to the domestic labour supply, the labour market integration of immigrant workers works well.
- Swiss citizens also make use of the free movement of persons; two thirds of the Swiss abroad live in Europe.



Principles of the free movement of persons

Entitlement to work/live/study

At least one of the following conditions must be met:

- Valid employment contract or confirmation of employment from employer.
- Adequate financial resources and comprehensive health insurance
- Self-employed.

Coordination of social security systems

Insurance entitlements are not affected by working in another EU country or Switzerland.

Recognition of qualifications

Swiss and EU professional qualifications in regulated professions are mutually recognised.

Provision of services

Cross-border services may be provided for up to 90 days per calendar year.

Workers remain subject to the employment contract in their country of origin.

Conditions

- Maximum of 90 days per calendar year allowed.
- Prevailing wage and working conditions must be applied (Posted Workers Act as part of the accompanying measures).
- Self-employed persons must provide proof of self-employment.



Coordination of social security systems

Contents

- National social security systems not standardised or harmonised, but coordinated.
- Each country is free to decide who is to be insured under its national legislation and what benefits are granted and under what conditions.
- Guarantee that no one loses insurance entitlements when working in another state.

Principle

Insurance entitlements are not affected by working in another EU/EFTA state or Switzerland.



Recognition of qualifications

Contents

- The regulations on the recognition of professional qualifications significantly simplify access to the labour market and the exercise of regulated professions within the EU and Switzerland.

Principle

Swiss and EU professional qualifications in regulated professions are mutually recognised.



Posted workers and accompanying measures

Contents

- An employer sends workers on a temporary assignment in a country of the contracting states other than that of its head office.
- Workers remain subject to the social security systems of their country of origin.
- Introduction of accompanying measures on 1 June 2004 to prevent unfair undercutting of wage and working conditions applicable in Switzerland.

Principle

Freedom to provide services for 90 working days per calendar year.



Accompanying measures

Objective

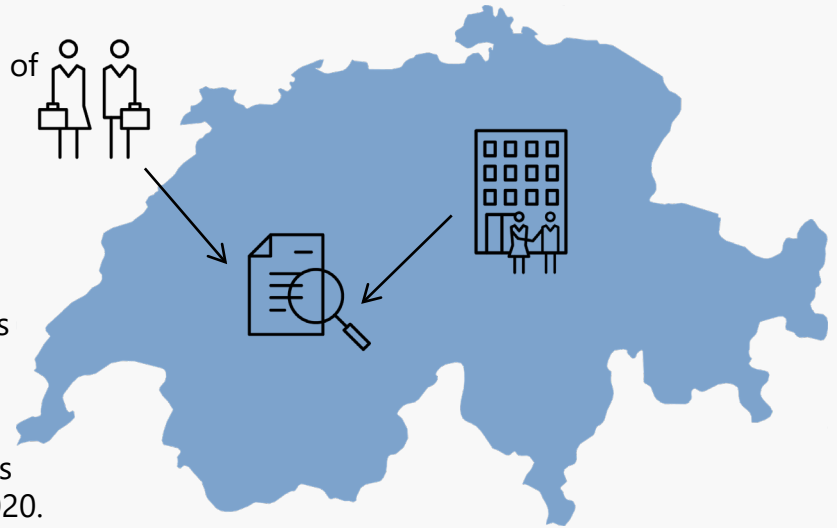
- Protection of Swiss and posted workers against the undercutting of wage and working conditions applicable in Switzerland.

Content

- Includes the advance declaration requirement, facilitated declaration of the general application of collective employment agreements, standard employment contracts with mandatory minimum wages, possibility of penalties in the event of violations (fines of up to CHF 30,000).

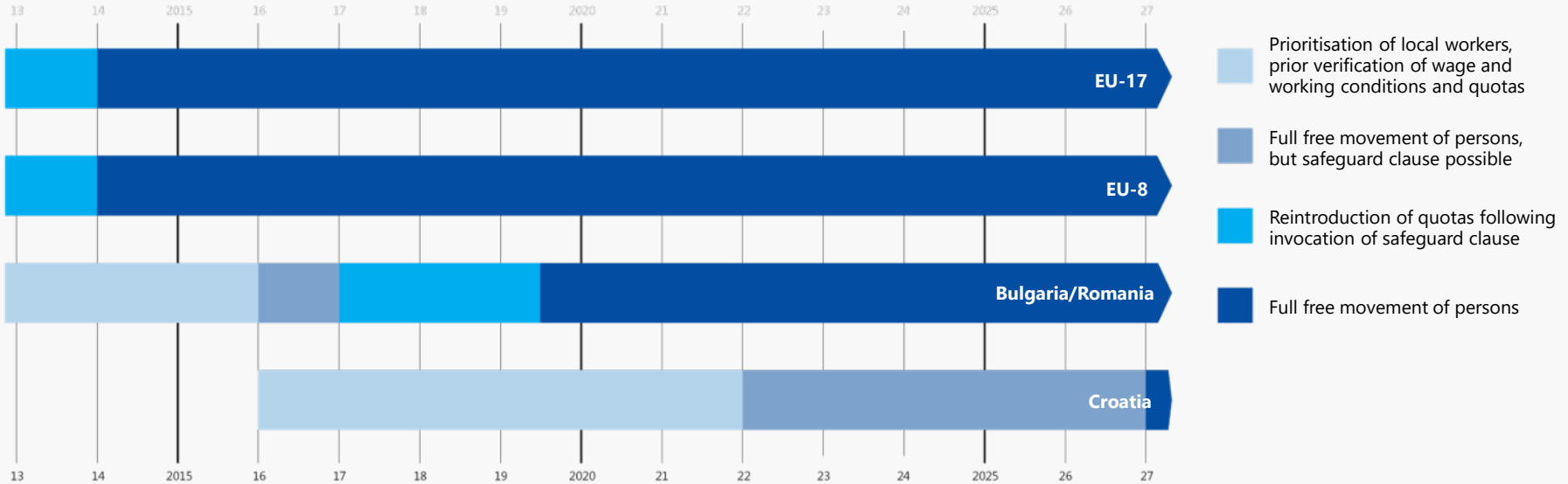
Implementation

- Verification of wage and working conditions of 34,126 companies and 132,922 individuals by tripartite and joint commissions in 2020.



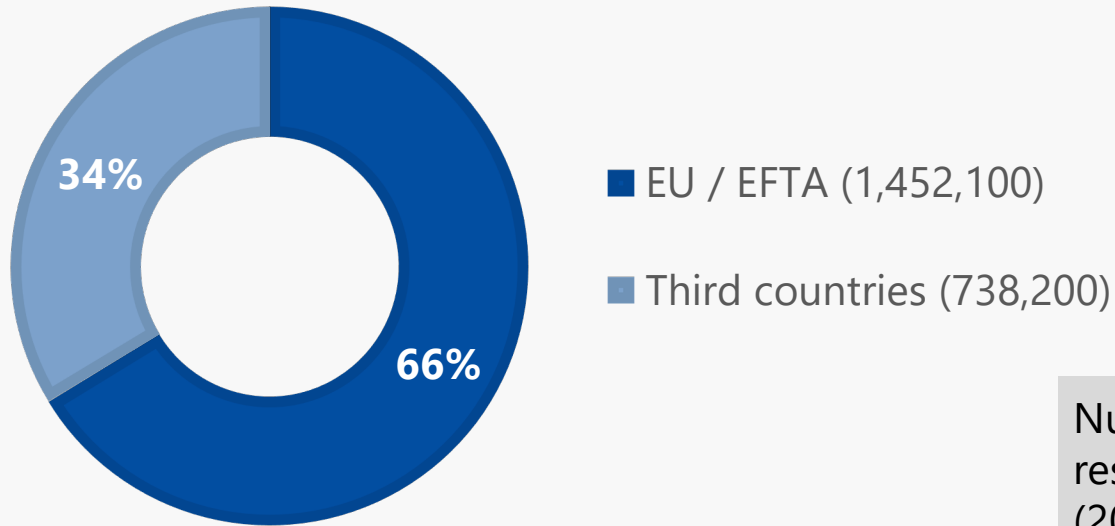


Transitional arrangements





Foreign nationals residing in Switzerland

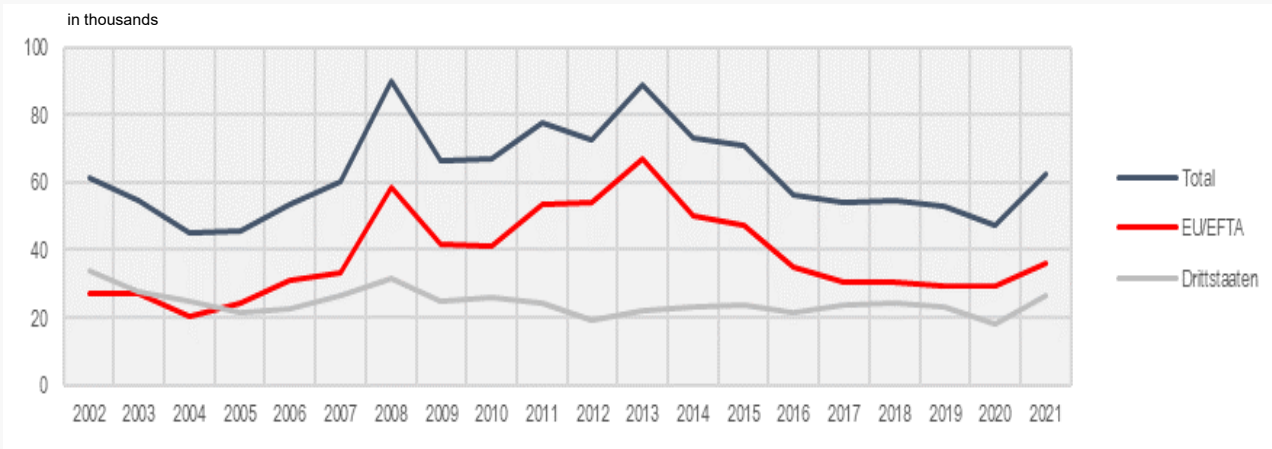


Number of foreigners
residing in Switzerland
(2021)

As at: 24.02.2022. Source: State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)



Net migration

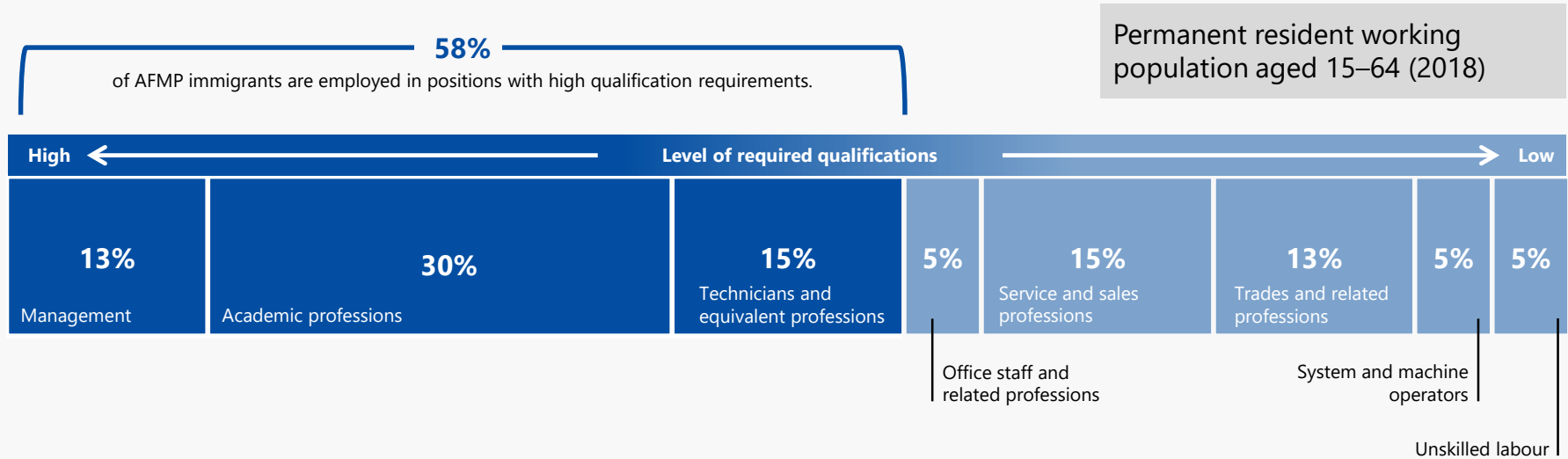


Number of foreigners
with (non-)permanent
residence in Switzerland

As at February 2022: Source: State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)



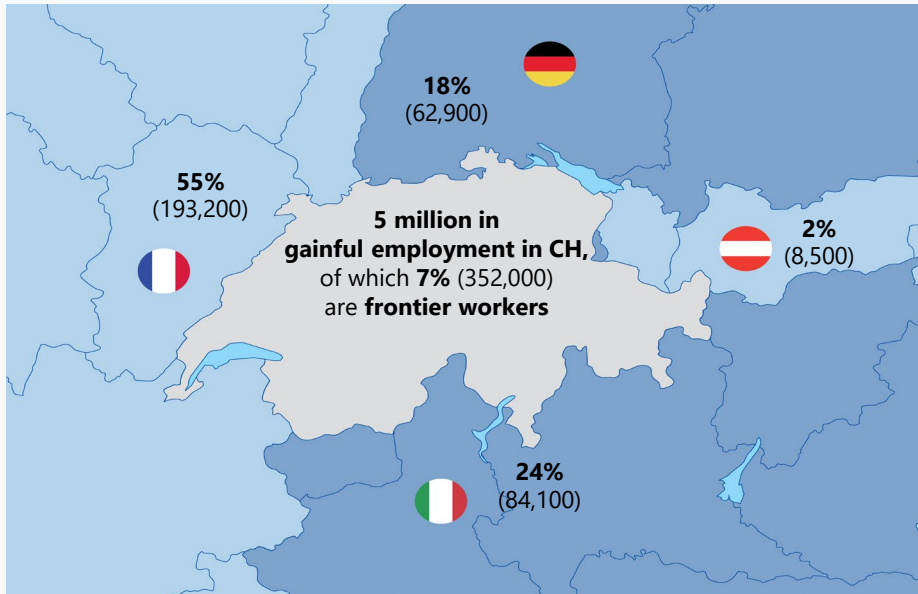
Professional profiles of AFMP immigrants



2018. Source: 15th Report of the Observatory for the Swiss-EU Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons



Frontier workers from neighbouring countries



Foreign frontier workers, annual average 2021 (rounded)

2022, Source: Federal Statistical Office



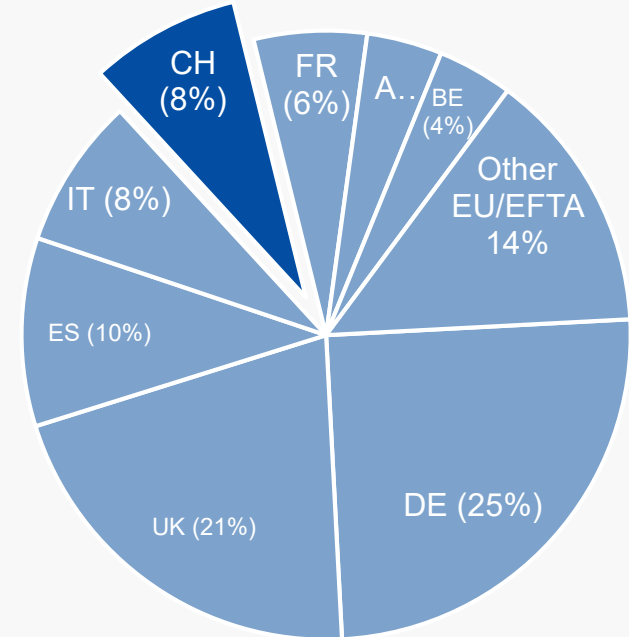
Facts and figures – social security

First pillar	Invalidity insurance	Social assistance	Unemployment insurance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">EU/EFTA immigrants pay in more to the social security system than they receive from it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No increase in the number of foreign nationals receiving invalidity pensions due to the free movement of persons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduction in social assistance rate in recent years thanks to high professional qualifications of EU/EFTA immigrants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EU/EFTA citizens made 24.7% of contributions and received 31.4% of benefits in 2019.



Workforce mobility within the EU area

- EU/EFTA labour markets: Mobile workforce of 11.2 million persons (2019).
- With 0.9 million workers (8%) from EU/EFTA countries, Switzerland ranks fifth after Germany, the UK, Spain and Italy.
- This means that as a destination country, Switzerland has a significant share of intra-European labour migration.



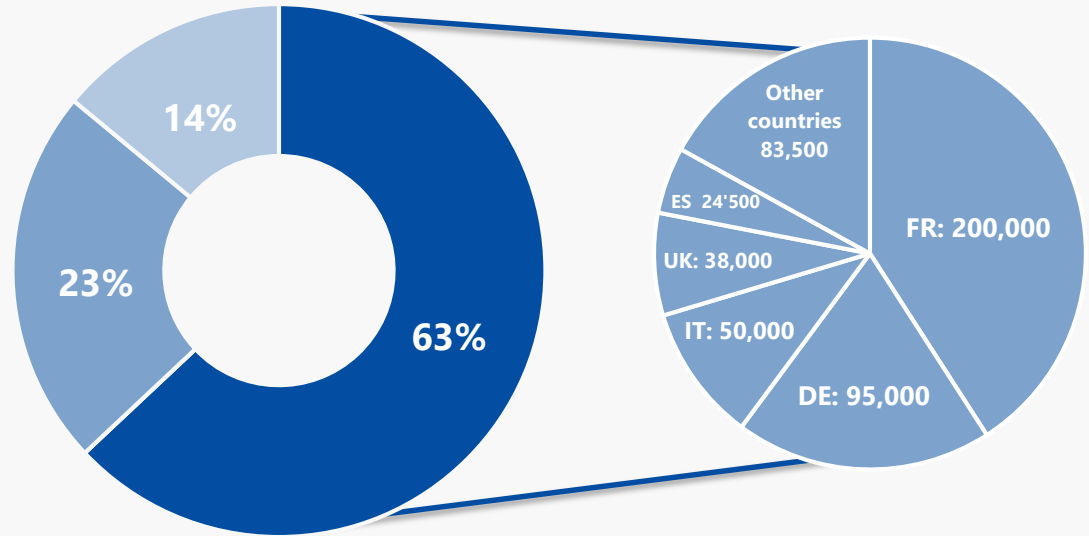
2019, Source: 17th Report of the Observatory for the Swiss-EU Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons



Swiss citizens living abroad

A total of **776,300** Swiss citizens
are living abroad.
(as at 31.12.2020)

- Europe (EU/EFTA, other European states): 490,800
- North, Central and South America, Caribbean: 180,600
- Other continents: 104,800





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A blurred, long-exposure photograph of a crowd of people walking in a public space, likely a train station or airport, with warm, golden light in the background. The motion blur creates a sense of constant movement and activity.

Thank you for your attention.

<https://www.eda.admin.ch/dea/en/home.html>

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Free movement of persons