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Values

Leisure

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Leisure activities are by far the most important reason why the Swiss population is on the move.

Statistics-free leisure time?

Dr. Jürg Marti

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Neuchâtel/Switzerland



Leisure plays an increasingly important role in Western work-oriented society. It contributes to relaxation as well as to personal development. In contrast to working time, no statistical data on leisure time are collected by the Federal Statistical Office. But a distinction is made between voluntary, paid and unpaid work. Unpaid work is defined according to the “third-person criterion”, which means that it is characterised by the fact that it could be performed by a third party for payment. However, leisure activities such as doing sports, playing music, socialising or pursuing further education or training cannot be delegated, nor would one want to.

Statistics that shed light on various aspects of leisure are as varied as leisure activities themselves. For example, the Labour Force Survey (SLFS) shows that the average working time of a full-time job has decreased by 35 minutes per week over the past twenty years and that men have somewhat reduced their high work-time percentage. This leaves more leisure time.

Leisure activities are sometimes directly related to work. This is particularly the case with further education and training, where learning foreign languages ranks at the top.

When one thinks of leisure, holidays also come to mind. As the Swiss Household Panel (SHP) indicates, beach holidays are the most popular, followed by holidays in the mountains and city breaks. The Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) highlights the economic importance of tourism. During their leisure time, people also pursue cultural interests, such as attending cultural performances, which are often partly publicly funded, or engaging in a cultural activity of their own, such as photography or playing a musical instrument. It is evident from the Mobility and Transport Microcensus 2010 that leisure is by far the most important reason why the Swiss population travels.

Leisure behaviour is increasingly influenced by new electronic technologies which are much used by all age groups. But watching movies and listening to music on the internet is still mainly popular among young people. As the Accident Statistics of the Council for Accident Prevention (bfu) impressively documents, leisure is not always without risks.

With a wide range of articles, this issue of *ValeurS* sheds statistical light on various aspects of leisure.

Working time versus leisure time

Over the past 20 years, working life has undergone profound structural changes. Women's participation in the labour market has increased considerably while men's has decreased, and the forms of work have changed, particularly due to the development of part-time work. Full-time employees have seen the length of their working week reduced by almost half an hour over the past two decades. They have also obtained an additional day and a half of annual holidays over the past 15 years. Rongfang Reutter

A 35-minute shorter working week and 1.7 more days of holiday

In Switzerland, working hours are regulated by Swiss law, which sets the maximum length of the working week and the minimum number of weeks of annual holiday of workers, as well as by model contracts or collective labour agreements negotiated by the social partners. The latter sometimes contain more generous provisions for workers. For example, many companies and collective labour agreements give employees aged 50 or over five or more weeks holiday.

The statistics on normal working hours in enterprises (NW) show a slight decrease in the working hours of full-time employees: they fell from 42.2 to 41.6 hours per week (-35 minutes) between 1991 and 2010. According to the Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS), the holidays of full-time employees increased from an average of 4.6 to 5.0 weeks per year between 1996 and 2010, representing an additional 1.7 days of holiday.

It is worth noting that self-employed persons differ from employees as far as their weeks of holiday and working hours are concerned. An analysis conducted in 2006¹ showed that the self-employed worked an average of 10 hours more per week and took six days less holiday per year than employees.

Increase in part-time work

The Swiss labour market is characterised by a high proportion of people working part-time. Over the past 20 years, the share of part-time employees has risen sharply, both among women (from 49.1% in 1991 to 58.3% in 2010) and men (from 7.8% in 1991 to 13.4% in 2010).

The development of part-time work enables persons in employment to devote more time to non-work activities. Moreover, it also enables people who would otherwise have to forgo gainful employment to maintain or resume a professional activity (e.g. people with

children or dependent relatives, people in education or training or people who want to retire gradually from working life). While this development has certain advantages, it should not be overlooked that approximately 6% of part-time employees would like to work more and are available to increase their work-time percentage in the near future.

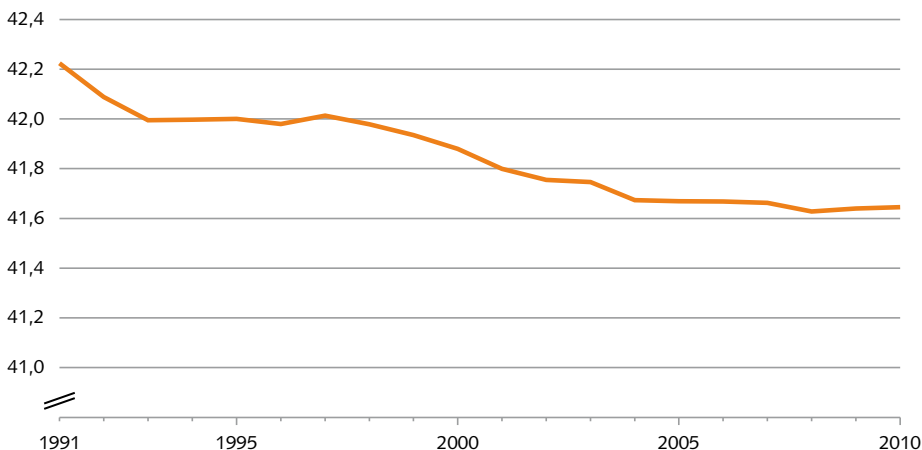
Increased participation in the labour force

Due to the increase in the average length of education and training, both men and women are entering the labour market later in life than used to be the case; consequently, the activity rate of 15–24-year-olds has decreased. In the older age groups, the growing number of women with a greater interest in employment has resulted in an increase in women's activity rate, while men's activity rate has been declining slightly. These trends are accentuated among 55–64-year-olds: the raising of the legal age of retirement for women in 2001 and again in 2005 contributed to an increase in women's activity rate, despite the fact that the early retirement rate has been declining both among men and women.

Overall, women's participation in the labour market has increased while men's has decreased slightly. In 2010, 76% of women and 88% of men aged 15 to 64 were economically active. Over the past two decades, the gender gap has narrowed considerably, as in 1991 68% of women and 91% of men were economically active.

Normal working hours of full-time employees

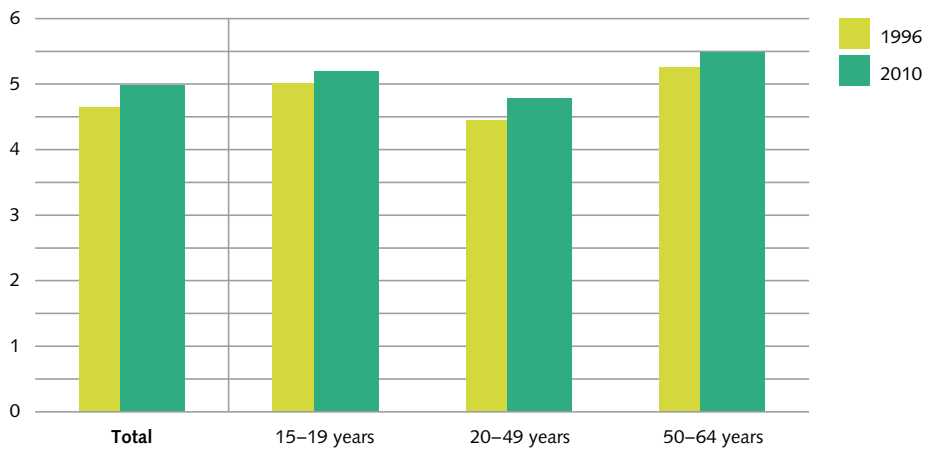
In hours per week



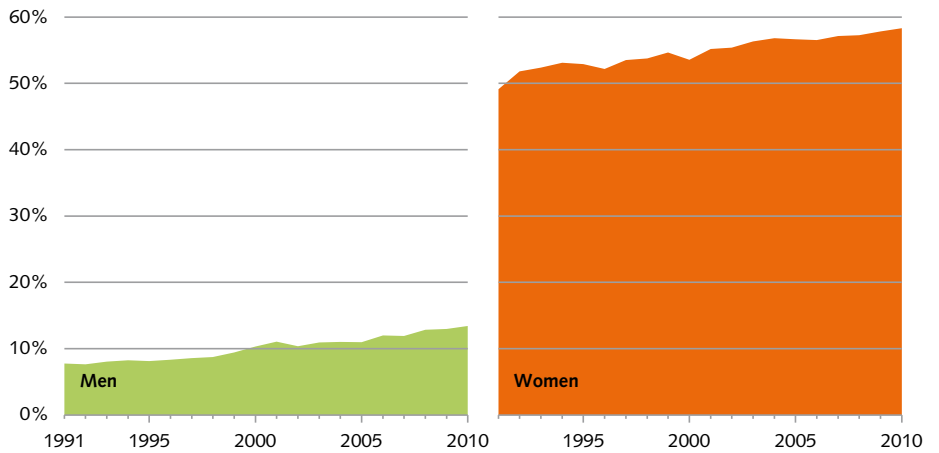
Over the same period, the actual hours worked per capita by the permanent resident population aged 15 to 64 declined by 4.1%. Therefore, overall, the population has more time to devote to non-work activities than 20 years ago.

Rongfang Reutter, is a research associate, Employment and Income Section, FSO

Weeks of holiday per year of full-time employees by age groups

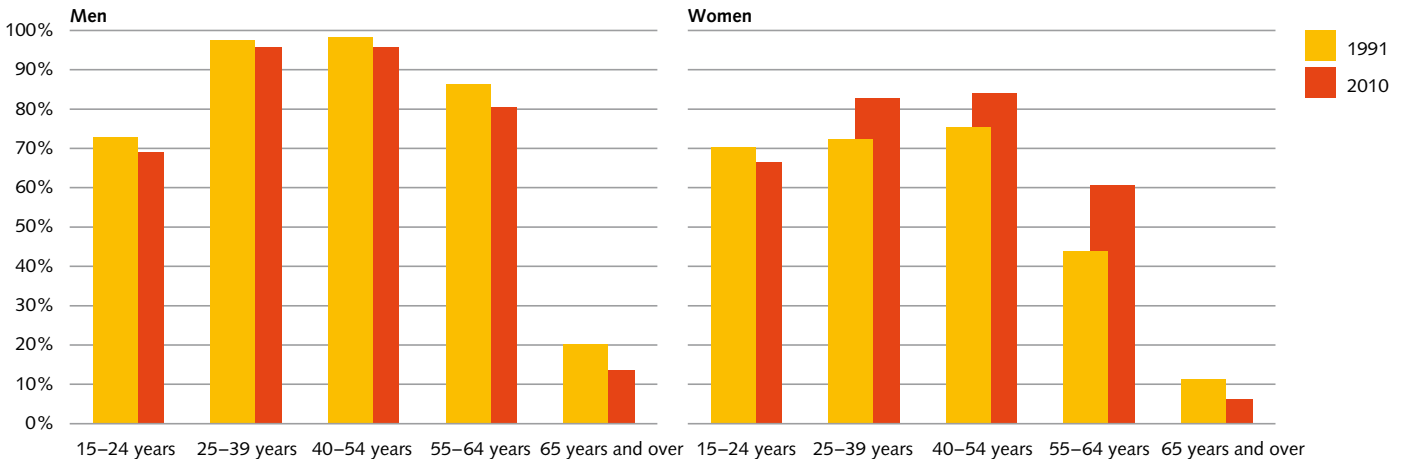


Persons employed full-time and part-time by sex



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For further information please refer to the publication in German or French: Selbständige Erwerbstätigkeit in der Schweiz. Eine Untersuchung zu den Ergebnissen der Schweizerischen Arbeitskräfteerhebung / L'activité indépendante en Suisse. Une étude basée sur les résultats de l'enquête suisse sur la population active. BFS / OFS, Neuchâtel 2006.

Activity rate by sex and age groups



Learning during free time: a few figures

Although more attention is paid to the economic role of continuing education, thus obscuring the role it plays in people's private lives, it is nevertheless a phenomenon that exists beyond the professional context. Figures show us that it does have a place in our free time and that many people in Switzerland devote a part of their leisure time to it. Brice Quiquerez

Today, learning does not stop upon entering the workforce. This rigid view of education does not reflect the reality of our society. Increasingly, learning is becoming a continuous process which accompanies individuals throughout their lives. According to the Federal Statistical Office, every second person takes part in continuing education in the course of the year and this rate rises to as much as 80%¹ if one takes into consideration people who are studying on an individual basis. Far from being a marginal phenomenon, continuing education has today become a reality that is present not only in people's professional lives but also during their free time.

Continuing education

In this text, the expression continuing education refers to non-formal learning activities. By non-formal learning we mean educational activities that take part within an organised framework, but which do not form part of an institutional education system. They are generally short educational courses which do not lead to a state-recognised qualification. They may be in the form of group or individual courses, seminars, conferences, congresses or workshops.

Non-formal learning is in contrast to two other main types of learning: on the one hand, formal education – that is educational courses which lead to qualifications that are recognised by the institutional education system (Federal VET diploma, diplomas from the institutions of higher education, etc.) – and on the other hand, the different informal learning activities (learning by doing, reading specialised literature, etc.) by which an individual seeks to gain knowledge outside of any organised framework and without any educational support.

Half of the time spent on continuing education is done outside of working hours

Continuing education, which plays an important role in the preservation and development of businesses' human capital, has strong links with working life. Furthermore, when participants are questioned on the main reason for undertaking continuing education, professional reasons come first and by a wide margin (77% of hours spent on continuing education are done so for this reason).

This does not mean, however, that continuing education is confined to professional life: 42% of continuing education activities take place entirely outside of working hours and represent almost half (48%) of the hours devoted by the Swiss population each year to continuing education activities. People are, therefore, studying almost as much during working hours as during free time.

Even among people in employment, continuing education activities occurring during leisure hours take up a considerable amount of time. If we consider only persons in this group of the population, for example, educational activities carried out during free time represent 38% of the total number of activities and 44% of the total volume of time spent on continuing education.

Profile of participants

As mentioned above, every second person participates in at least one continuing education activity in the course of the year. For 25% of people, learning takes place only during working hours (29 hours on average). The number of persons who learn in their free time is certainly lower (17%) but they are more hard-working: they devote an average of 36 hours per year to their education. 8% of people follow their continuing education both during working hours and free time.

Men and women show different behaviour with regard to continuing education. Women are proportionally much more likely than men to devote their spare time to their education (29% and 18%, respectively). These differences between men and women remain even when taking into account the fact that the two sexes are not equally integrated in the labour market (status and work-time percentage). In addition, unlike men, more women spend time learning during their free time than during working hours.²

Other characteristics make up the typical profile of people who spend their free time on education. They are in employment but work relatively few hours (less than 50% of a full-time job); they are generally holders of a higher education qualification (tertiary level diploma) and are more likely to live in German-speaking Switzerland than in the French or Italian-speaking areas.

Diversity of demand

Continuing education meets a wide range of needs which may be for either private or professional reasons: remaining competitive on the labour market, preparing for a change in career, contributing to personal fulfilment, achieving greater social integration or improving one's health or physical condition. To meet this multitude of needs, a wide range of educational resources exists, which varies greatly in content.

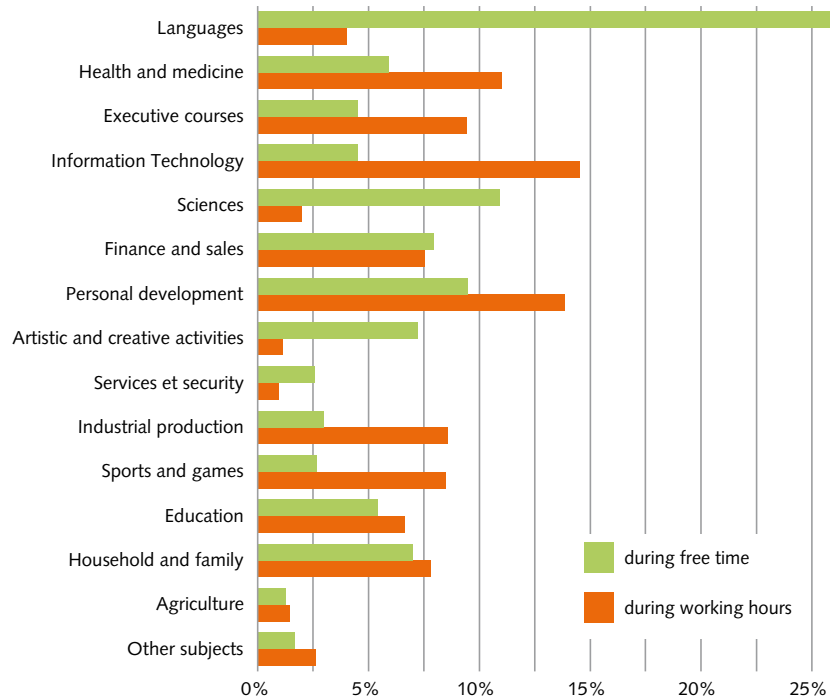
The different subjects of continuing education activities reflect this diversity and their respective importance gives an idea of the main areas of interest of those participating. For people who are learning in their spare time, more than half of the time spent on continuing education is divided among the following four subjects: "Languages", "Artistic and creative activities", "Health and medicine" and "Personal development". Language courses, which alone represent a quarter of all hours, take the lion's share.

It is also worth noting that professional reasons remain the principal reason for undertaking a course of continuing education, regardless of whether it is done in working or free time. The number of hours spent in the latter case, however, is much smaller as it represents only 57% of all hours spent, compared with 96% in the former.

Brice Quiquerez is a research associate, Education System Section, FSO

Subjects of continuing education activities 2009

Share of continuing education



1 The figures shown here refer to the permanent resident population aged 25 to 64. The data are from the Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS) 2009.

2 With the exception, however, of women who work full-time who are more likely to follow continuing education during their working hours.

When play is work

People also work during their leisure time: they work a considerable amount and without pay. In Switzerland, more unpaid than paid work is performed. The Federal Statistical Office estimates that in 2010, the permanent resident population aged 15 or over performed approximately 8.2 billion hours of unpaid work. The volume of paid work that year amounted to about 7.5 billion hours. Jacqueline Schön-Bühlmann

Every person in the resident population aged 15 or over spends an average of 23 hours per week doing unpaid work. What activities take up so much time? How is unpaid work defined and how does it differ from leisure activities or other activities?

Unpaid work refers to work that is not paid but that could in principle be performed by a third person for payment ("third-person criterion"). Accordingly, unpaid work does not include activities such as education and training and other personal activities such as sleeping, eating or doing sports, because such activities cannot be delegated to another person.

On the other hand, household work, childcare, care of dependent household members, volunteering in a club or informal assistance to friends and neighbours count as unpaid work and, like paid employment, also represent productive work.

Major involvement in household work and caring for others

Household work accounts for the largest share of unpaid work in the population as a whole. Preparing meals takes up

the most time. Women spend markedly more time than men on most household and family work activities. Home maintenance and administrative tasks are the exception.

In households with children under 15 years, looking after them takes considerably more time than, for example, cooking or cleaning. Mothers spend an average of 9.5 hours per week on the physical care of young children such as feeding, dressing, washing and putting them to bed; fathers spend 4.5 hours on such activities. Mothers spend an average of ten hours per week on educational care, such as helping with homework, having conversations and playing with children; Fathers spend seven hours on such activities. Looking after and caring for children as well as for dependent adult household members is very time consuming for the affected households.

Of course, such unpaid work leaves individuals a certain room for manoeuvre. Depending on need and preference, the amount of time spent cooking can be either increased or decreased. Caring responsibilities usually leave individuals

less room for manoeuvre. The fact that a relatively large amount of time is spent on caring responsibilities indirectly shows the importance that is attached to such tasks by the population. In 2010, unpaid care work in one's own home amounted to 1.3 billion hours and exceeded by a considerable margin the total number of hours worked in the entire health and social services sector (about 0.8 billion hours).¹

Jacqueline Schön-Bühlmann is a research associate in the FSO's Employment and Income Section

¹ The Federal Statistical Office provides further information on unpaid work under www.statistik.ch > Topics 20 > Unpaid work.

Domestic work and childcare by group of activities in 2010, hours on average per week¹

	Women	Men		Women	Men
Total of households			Only households with child(ren) or adults in need of care		
Meal preparation	7,0	3,1	Feeding and bathing young children	9,5	4,5
Washing-up and putting away crockery, laying the table	2,6	1,6	Playing with children, helping with homework	9,7	6,8
Shopping	2,5	1,8	Accompanying children, taking them out	1,3	0,9
Cleaning, tidying	4,5	1,6	Provision of care and assistance to adults	7,1	3,2
Laundry, ironing	2,3	0,5			
Home maintenance, handicraft	0,9	1,8			
Animals, plants, gardening	2,2	1,7			
Administrative tasks	1,1	1,3			

¹Permanent resident population aged 15 and above

Source: FSO, Swiss Labour Force Survey (SLFS): unpaid work

Leisure: Having fun sometimes entails risks and consequences

Every year 2000 people die and 3000 become permanently disabled in Switzerland as a result of a recreational accident. Several thousand injuries cause much suffering both to the victims and their relatives. The Swiss Council for Accident Prevention (bfu) aims to prevent this suffering and is working together with various partners to substantially reduce the number of accidents. Roland Allenbach

Accidents in Switzerland

Despite intensive prevention efforts, the number of recreational accidents has been growing steadily in Switzerland for several years. Approximately one million people are injured each year in a non-occupational accident: 100,000 in road traffic, 300,000 while doing sport and 600,000 at home or while practising a hobby.¹ About 80,000 people suffer moderate to serious injuries, 3000 suffer injuries so severe that they remain permanently disabled and about 2000 die each year in an accident. Of the fatal non-occupational accidents, about 1500 occur at home or during leisure activities, about 330 in road traffic and 130 while practising sports.

The trend in the number of road traffic accidents is encouraging. Since the sad record year of 1971 (1773 deaths; 18,785 serious injuries), the number of serious injuries has continuously decreased. Between 1998 and 2008 alone, the number of deaths fell by about 40% and that of serious injuries by about 23%. The number of serious sports accidents rose by about 8% during this period, and that of serious accidents at home/leisure by 11%. When interpreting these figures, account should be taken of the fact that the population increased by

7% during this period and that more and more people are getting older, which increases their risk of falling.

Costs caused by accidents

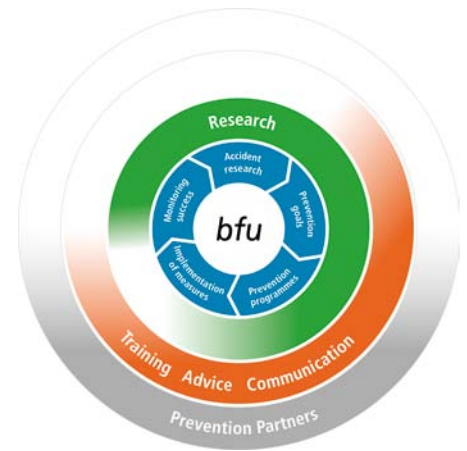
Each year, accident insurers have to pay out compensation for 7.3 million working days lost due to non-occupational accidents. This corresponds to an average of 1.9 lost working days per full-time employee. The costs to the economy are correspondingly high. The material costs alone amount to CHF 12 billion per year, 45% of which are accounted for by road traffic accidents; sports accidents account for approximately 15% and accidents at home and leisure for approximately 40% of costs.¹ If the immaterial costs are also taken into account the annual damage to the economy amounts to CHF 55 billion, CHF 13 billion of which are attributable to road traffic accidents, CHF 12 billion to sports accidents and CHF 30 billion to accidents at home and leisure.

Social and political conditions

The population's awareness of the problem of accidents is gratifyingly high in Switzerland. Surveys have shown again and again that even issues that are constantly in the media, such as unemployment, illness, etc., are perceived as being less of a threat than accidents. This awareness is reflected in widespread

support for numerous security measures, including some repressive ones. Nevertheless, individual safety behaviour is not always sufficient. People often underestimate their personal risks and overestimate their own capacity to avoid accidents.

Roland Allenbach is head of research, bfu – Council for Accident Prevention



¹ For further information please refer to the publication in German or French: STATUS 2011: Statistik der Nichtberufsunfälle und des Sicherheitsniveaus in der Schweiz, Strassenverkehr, Sport, Haus und Freizeit/ Statistique des accidents non professionnels et du niveau de sécurité en Suisse. Circulation routière, sport, habitat et loisirs. Bpa, Bern/Berne 2011.

² More information and detailed descriptions of the work of the bfu can be found on the internet at www.bfu.ch.

The bfu is a private foundation which is publicly mandated to promote accident prevention in the areas of road traffic, sports, home and leisure and to coordinate activities in these areas (Art. 88 Accident Insurance Act and Art. 59 Accident Prevention Ordinance). The main task of the bfu is to create safer systems; influencing the behaviour of the population is an additional ongoing task. The bfu tries to find promising combinations of educational, technical and legislative measures.



Almost the entire Swiss population (93%) visited at least one cultural institution during the course of the year 2008.



"Relaxation" is cited with striking frequency as the reason for going on holiday.

How and where do people who live in Switzerland spend their holidays?

A household panel survey conducted by the Swiss Centre of Expertise in the Social Sciences FORS¹, a social science competence centre in Lausanne, examined the holiday behaviour of the Swiss population in considerable detail. The 7546 respondents were asked about their travel destinations, the purpose of their stays the reasons why they had not taken a holiday. Because the respondents participated repeatedly in the household panel survey, it is also possible to draw conclusions about trends over the past ten years. Flurina Schmid

In 2000, 86% of households² surveyed travelled together on holiday for at least one week with all members of their household.³ In 2010, only 79% of those households did so. The older the household's members, the less frequently they went on holiday together.⁴ Of 469 households who stayed at home in 2000, 45% indicated that they had done so for financial reasons. In 2010, 27% of the 688 households that stayed at home could not afford a holiday together.

Is it the same households that can still not afford to go on holiday? Yes, to some extent: 30% of households that had to forgo a holiday for financial reasons in the year 2000, stayed at home for the same reason ten years later. Health was another often cited reason for doing without a holiday.

Different preferences

In addition to households as a whole, individual members of each household were asked detailed questions about their holidays.

Besides Switzerland's neighbouring countries, the most frequently mentioned holiday destinations included Spain, Greece, Great Britain, the United States, Portugal, Egypt and Turkey.⁵

In 2010, it was especially the population in German-speaking Switzerland that frequently went on holiday in Switzerland (42%), whereas the corresponding share in French-speaking Switzerland was 26% and in Ticino 19%.

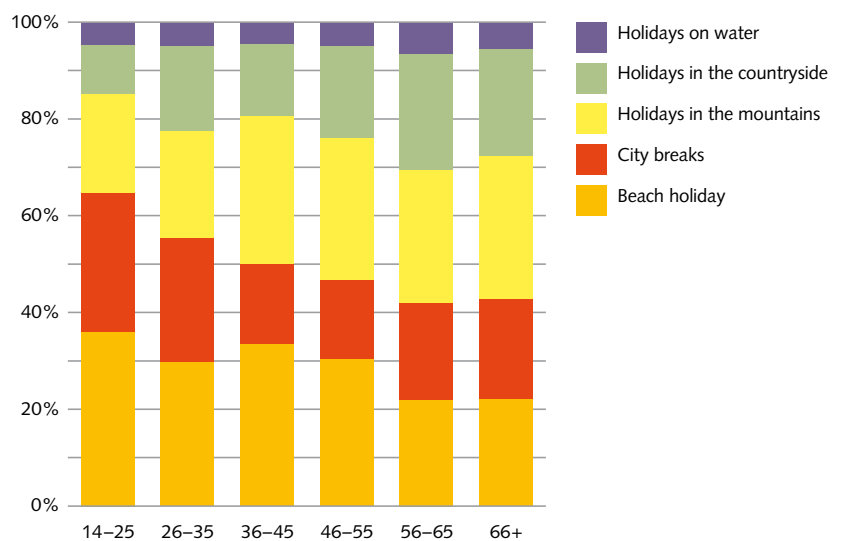
In French-speaking Switzerland and in Ticino, a preference for the respective neighbouring country was found: In 2010, 42% of the population in French-speaking Switzerland spent at least one week or more in France. In Ticino, as

much as 67% of the population went on holiday in neighbouring Italy. Although the Swiss-German population travelled more often than the rest of the the Swiss population to the German-speaking neighbouring countries of Germany and Austria, their most popular holiday destination was Italy (25%).

Beach holidays are the most popular

In 2010, the most popular types of holiday were beach holidays, followed by holidays in the mountains, city breaks, holidays in the country and holidays on water such as cruises.⁶ The graph below also shows that young people up to age 25 preferred beach holidays and city breaks, while older people primarily went on holiday in the mountains.

Holiday type by age group in 2010



Relaxation is the most frequently cited reason for holidays

“Relaxation” was cited with striking frequency as the reason for going on holiday, followed by visiting family, relatives or friends. Sports (including hiking) and culture were other often cited reasons. Far less frequent were study trips or trips for educational purposes, party holidays, shopping trips, visits to amusement parks, pilgrimages, excursions to accompany someone on a business trip and travel for medical treatments.

Satisfaction depends on age

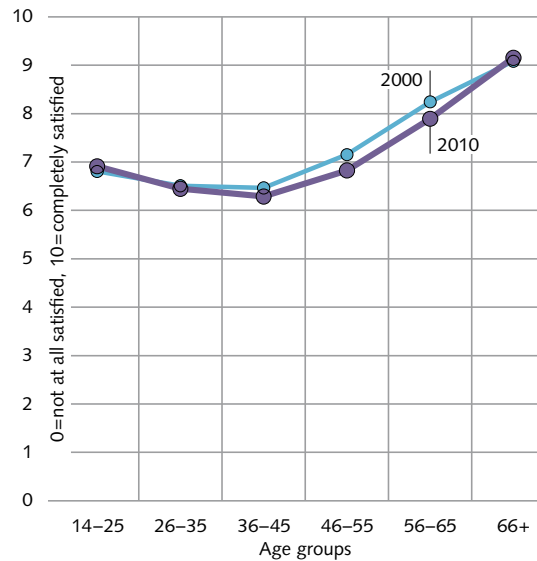
For more than ten years, the participants of the Swiss Household Panel survey have also been asked how satisfied they are with the amount of leisure time they have. On a scale from 0 to 10, with 0 meaning “not at all satisfied” and 10 “completely satisfied”, the average was just over 7 points both in 2000 and in 2010.⁷

A line showing satisfaction among different age groups forms a U-shaped curve (see graph). The lowest satisfaction with the amount of leisure time is found in the 36–45-year-old age group. The data for the years 2000 and 2010 show a similar pattern, but in 2000 people aged 46 to 65 were more satisfied with the amount of leisure time they had. The difference is small, but statistically significant.

Flurina Schmid is a research associate at the Swiss Household Panel (SHP), FORS

The SHP (www.swisspanel.ch) is a panel survey of a random sample of households in Switzerland which interviews the households members annually. The main objective of the SHP is to observe social change and particularly the living conditions of the population in Switzerland. Data for the SHP began to be collected in 1999 with a sample of 5074 households with 12,931 household members. In 2004, a second sample containing 2538 households with 6569 individuals was added. At present, the data for the years 1999 to 2010 are available.

Satisfaction with amount of leisure time



- 1 Swiss Foundation for Research in Social Science, FORS.
- 2 An adult person answers on behalf of the whole household.
- 3 Holidays at home are not counted.
- 4 In 2000 the average age of the households was 36 years.
- 5 Each person was allowed to mention no more than five destinations.
- 6 Precise response category: Holidays on the sea or a river (e.g. cruise ship, yacht or sailing boat).
- 7 The median of the years 2000 and 2010 was eight points.

Cultural practices during leisure time: reasons, desires and obstacles

Who visits culture venues in which cultural sectors and for what reasons? Is there a connection between the cultural activities carried out by people themselves and the cultural venues they visit in particular cultural sectors? Do Swiss people want to become more culturally active? What obstacles do they face in fulfilling this desire? A national FSO study on cultural practices provides answers to this and other questions.¹ Olivier Moeschler

Almost the entire Swiss population (93%) visited at least one cultural institution during the course of the year and a majority are also culturally active themselves during their leisure time (62%). But there are considerable differences in the various cultural sectors.

Almost all attendance and practice rates increase with household income and very markedly so with the level of education. Thus, 82% of people with a tertiary level education visited some type of museum or exhibition and 24% played music; among people with an upper secondary level education, the corresponding shares are 32% and 9%, respectively. Age also plays an important role: Concerts, cinemas, festivals and libraries are “younger” venues, while theatre and classical concerts are more popular among older people. The media are used by virtually the entire population: newspapers and television (97%), radio (92%), books and magazines (80%). DVDs, VHS, video on demand (60%) and comics (20%) are somewhat less popular. The internet, which offers access to a wide range of media and cultural content, is used by approximately 80% of the population.²

Different reasons for cultural visits and activities

Theatres, cinemas and monuments are mainly visited out of an “active interest”, such as the desire to learn or to inform

oneself (68%), closely followed by the desire for entertainment (i.e. to pass the time, for diversion: 60%). Lifestyle, social relationships or the need to be “in” (31%), as well external circumstances such as accepting an invitation (19%) were cited less often as reasons for cultural visits.

The reasons for cultural visits vary significantly depending on the level of education and household income: Persons with a tertiary education and those with a high household income are more likely to cite an “active interest” as a reason. Interestingly, however, “entertainment” is cited by all persons with roughly equal frequency (see graph). Age also plays a role: 15–29-year-olds go out much more often for “entertainment” than older people, who tend to cite an active interest more often. Lifestyle and social relationships become less and less important the older the respondents are.

People who are culturally active are more likely to consume culture

Amateur artists visit cultural institutions related to their own artistic activities more often than people who do not practice those particular activities. For example, 58% of people who draw, paint or sculpt have visited an art museum, art exhibition or gallery, compared with 39% of people who do not create visual art. The same applies to other cultural sectors. Creating art oneself thus motivates people to consume art, and vice versa. But in both cases there is a particular

demographic profile in the background: relatively high levels of education and household income.

Do Swiss people want to be more active culturally?

Despite the fact that they are already widespread activities, some 60% of the population would like to go to concerts or other music events, 40% to the cinema and just under a third to a museum more often. 42% would also like to attend theatre or dance performances more often, i.e. to pursue cultural activities that are somewhat less common. Only one person in seven would like to go to a library or a media library. A large proportion of people who already visit venues or attend events in a particular cultural sector would like to do so more often. The proverb “appetite comes with eating” evidently also applies to culture. Concerts and music events are a case in point: 64% of people who attend them would like to do so more often, compared with 49% of people who do not attend concerts.

The desire to attend cultural events rises, as does attendance itself, the higher the household income and educational level. This applies to concerts and music events in particular (see graph), but also to cinema: 47% of people with a tertiary level education would like to go to the cinema more often, compared with 34% of people with a lower secondary school education.

What prevents people from visiting cultural venues or attending cultural events more often?

Six out of ten people who would like to visit cultural venues or attending cultural events more often say that lack of time or inconvenient opening times prevent them from doing so. Cost reasons are reported less often (20%). The social or family environment and the cultural offerings available were cited by about 15% of respondents. Personal reasons, such as illness or logistical factors (difficult access, etc.), were mentioned less often. These obstacles depend on the cultural sector but also on socio-demographic characteristics such as age and education. For libraries, for example, the cost factor is expectedly low, whereas in the case of concerts and music events it

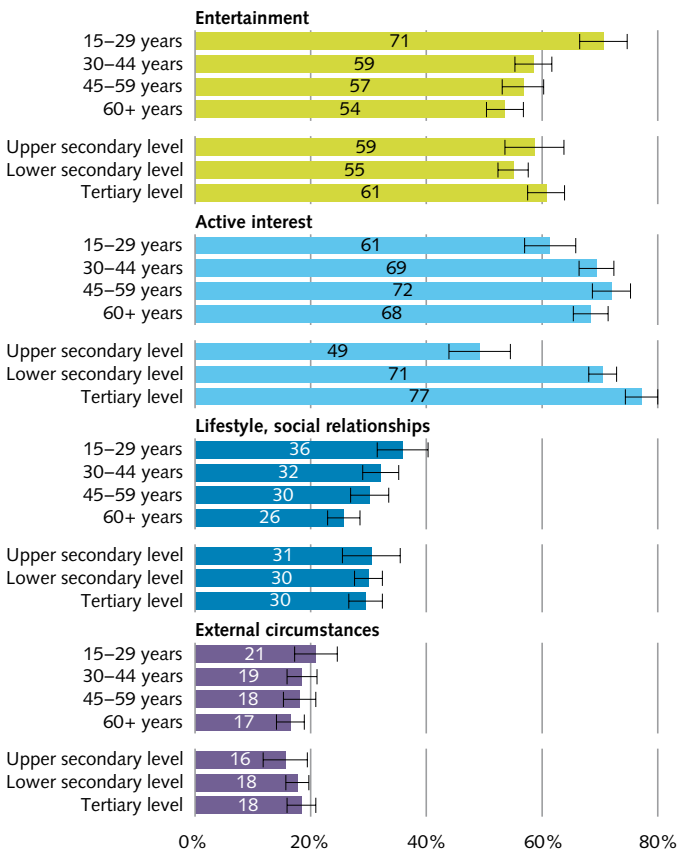
is high. Men typically cite time reasons and women their social and family environment and also cost as obstacles. The higher the level of education and household income, the more a lack of time is cited as an obstacle, whereas for people with a lower educational level and lower household income, cost is a more important factor. Young people complain about high ticket prices, for the middle age groups the social and family environment is often an obstacle, and with increased age respondents tend to mention personal and logistical reasons.

Dr Olivier Moeschler is head of "Cultural Statistics", Politics, Culture and Media Section, FSO

¹ FSO Survey on Cultural Practices in Switzerland (2008). A random sample of 4346 people aged 15 or over were asked about their activities during the 12 months preceding the survey. The survey will be repeated in 2014 and every five years thereafter to enable time comparisons and the monitoring of trends. Results and analysis are available in German and French at: Bundesamt für Statistik > Themen > 16 - Kultur, Medien, Informationsgesellschaft, Sport > Kultur > Kulturverhalten.

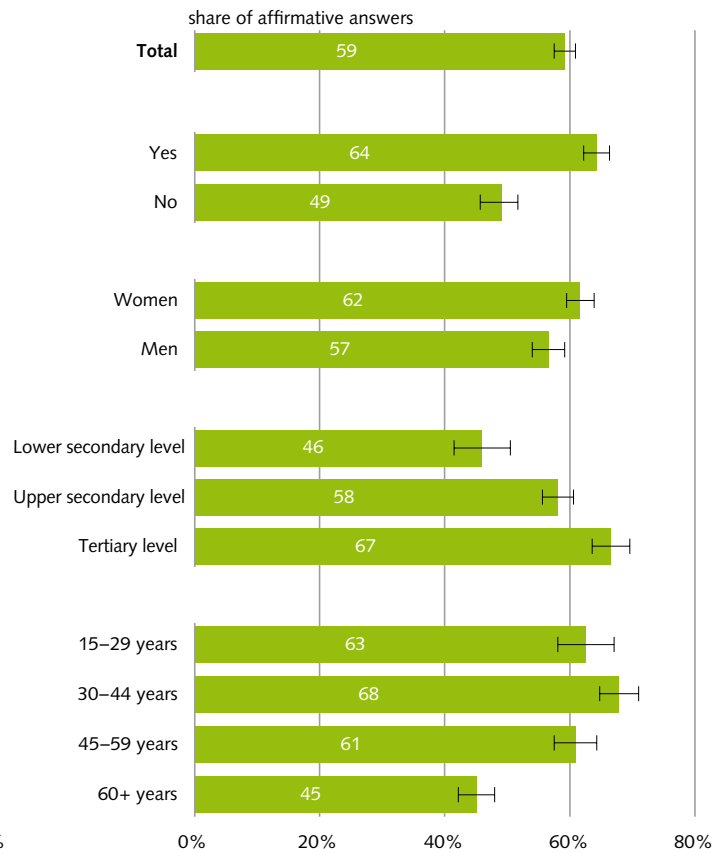
² In this volume, Yves Froidevaux investigates internet behaviour during leisure time (on pages 18–19).

Motivations for visits to cultural venues/attendance of cultural events



With respect to the educational level, only persons aged 25 or over who have completed a degree or training programme are taken into account. Source: FSO Survey on Cultural Practices in Switzerland (2008).

Desire to attend concerts or music events more often



Public funding of culture

The Swiss population is enthusiastic about culture Accordingly, Switzerland has a wealth of cultural offerings which are largely funded by the public sector. The following article introduces the principal actors and their contribution to Swiss cultural life.¹ David Vitali

Culture is an integral part of our lives. Two-thirds of the Swiss population regularly attend concerts and theatres and visit monuments and historical sites, museums and exhibitions. Libraries, theatres and festivals are also very popular. Public-sector support is necessary to provide a wide range of cultural offerings. The promotion of culture is therefore a natural task of the state. The fact that culture also has positive economic effects is a welcome side effect: Culture is a dynamic branch of the economy as well as an image factor with external benefits for areas such as the consumption of leisure activities and products, tourism, employment and urban development. In 2005, the Swiss cultural and creative industries, comprised of 40,600 independent enterprises, contributed 4.5% to gross domestic product (CHF 19.5 billion gross added value) and employed approximately 200,000 employees in some 41,600 full-time equivalent positions.²

In Switzerland, public-sector promotion of culture follows the principle of subsidiarity, which stipulates that higher state authorities must focus on and limit themselves to tasks that cannot be carried out by lower-level authorities. The distribution of cultural expenditure reflects this:

In 2007, public expenditure on culture totalled CHF 2.24. Some 45.8% of this amount was accounted for by the communes (CHF 1.03 billion), 39.3% by the cantons (CHF 881.4 million) and 14.9% by the Confederation (CHF 334.4 million). This distribution is comparable with the situation in other federal states (values for Germany in 2005: federal government 11.1%, Länder 36.6%, municipalities 52.3%). The variety of funding structures is therefore characteristic of cultural promotion in Switzerland. The wide range of governmental (and private) funding organisations guarantee the diversity of cultural life in Switzerland.

In 2007 public expenditure on culture in Switzerland stood at approximately 0.43% of GDP. This indicator for the development of cultural expenditure has declined since 2001 (year of the

all-time high of 0.54%, due to the Expo 02). This means that cultural expenditure grew less than the Swiss economy overall. The Swiss value is also rather low in international comparison: Denmark 0.94% (2002), Austria 0.88% (2002), Sweden 0.88% (2002), Italy 0.57% (2000).

The funding of culture by cities and communes

Cities and communes are naturally predisposed to promote culture because of their proximity to cultural actors and their participation in the sponsorship of cultural institutions (libraries, museums, theatres, concert halls, orchestras, etc.). Most of their cultural expenditure is earmarked for theatres and concerts (30%), museums (17.9%) and libraries (16.5%).

Urban centres account for a significant share of public expenditure on culture. For example, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich together account for 43.5% (CHF 445 million) of the cultural expenditure of all Swiss communes. They are the focal points of cultural activity in Switzerland.

The City of Zurich, which introduced a new cultural strategy in 2011, is an exemplary model. The City of Zurich promotes cultural creativity by means of subsidies to productions, deficit guarantees, prizes, work grants and sabbatical bursaries. To this end, it runs institutions of its own such as the Rietberg Museum, the Theater am Hechtplatz, Helmhaus Zürich and the Film-podium, and organises cultural events such as the Zürcher Theaterspektakel, the Tage für Neue Musik festival and the Zurich Literature Podium. In 2012–2015, approximately CHF 100 million will have flowed annually to the promotion of culture.

The funding of culture by the cantons

Most cantons have their own culture laws, which regulate the areas, criteria, measures, responsibilities and procedures for the promotion of culture. Like the cities and communes, the cantons mainly fund theatres and concerts (30.8%), museums (19.4%) and libraries (8.2%). The conservation

of historic monuments and the protection of the cultural heritage is comparatively speaking more important for cantons (18.1%) than for cities and communes.

There are major regional differences in the level of cultural expenditure. The highest level of cultural expenditure is found in cantons where major cities and cultural institutions are located. Thus, more than 50% of cultural expenditure is accounted for by the four cantons of Zurich, Geneva, Vaud and Bern (and their communes); if the canton of Basel-Stadt is included, these cantons account for more than 60% of cultural expenditure. The important role of urban centres is also seen in this area.

In addition to the regular culture budget, the cantons also use lottery money to fund culture. The Lottery Act stipulates that revenues from lotteries be used for charitable or philanthropic purposes. The cantonal government (and in exceptional cases the Parliament, the relevant office or a commission) decides how the funds are to be used.

The funding of culture by the Confederation

The Confederation's cultural expenditure is relatively modest, in accordance with its more narrowly defined role in this area (the principle of subsidiarity). Accordingly, the Confederation mainly supports projects and institutions of national importance. After the various domains of culture, most funds are earmarked for mass media, i.e. film and television (55%), as well as the conservation of historic monuments and the protection of the cultural heritage (12.8%).

The Confederation's promotion of culture is primarily based on cooperation between the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia and the Federal Office of Culture (FOC):

- Pro Helvetia promotes talented young artists, art education and artistic creativity in all disciplines and supports cultural exchanges at home and abroad. Its most important instruments are grants (approximately 70% of funds), its own programmes (10%), and cultural centres and liaison offices abroad (17%). Pro Helvetia is funded entirely by the Confederation.
- The Federal Office of Culture (FOC) is on the one hand responsible for carrying out various tasks in its capacity as a federal authority (drafting ordinances, negotiating agreements, representing Switzerland in multilateral organisations, cultivating international relations).

On the other hand, it is also active in the fields of cultural heritage (conservation of historic monuments and the protection of the cultural heritage, transfer of cultural property, museums and collections, the National Library), cultural creation (films, prizes and awards, support of cultural organisations) and basic funding of culture (language and communication policy, musical education, the promotion of reading, cultural minorities, Swiss schools abroad).

The tasks and responsibilities of the FOC are partially regulated and those of Pro Helvetia fully regulated by the Culture Promotion Act which entered into force on 1 January 2012. The Confederation's funding of culture is managed in accordance with a four-year payment framework. The Federal Council's Dispatch on Culture 2012–2015 established the following key objectives in the Confederation's cultural policy: cultivating cultural diversity, improving access to culture, promoting cultural exchanges in Switzerland and with other countries, strengthening cooperation and creating good framework conditions. Along with the Dispatch on Culture, Parliament has decided to approve credits for the 2012 to 2015 period totalling CHF 669.5 million.

David Vitali is head of the Culture and Society Section in the Federal Office of Culture

1
The statistical data on cultural funding are provided by the Federal Statistical Office in German and French at: Bundesamt für Statistik > Themen > 16 - Kultur, Medien, Informationsgesellschaft, Sport. Unless otherwise indicated, all figures refer to 2007. Data for the years 2008–2009 (not complete) can be found in German and French at: Bundesamt für Statistik > Themen > 16 - Kultur, Medien, Informationsgesellschaft, Sport > Kultur > Kulturfinanzierung > Detaillierte Daten.

2
Christoph Weckerle, Manfred Gerig, Michael Söndermann: Creative Industries Switzerland: Facts, Models, Culture. Birkhäuser, Basel 2008.

Online leisure activities: young people are leading the way

For the majority of the population the internet is becoming increasingly important in all areas of daily life, be it to stay informed, to communicate and for entertainment. The results of the survey “The internet in households in Switzerland”¹ show that online leisure activities vary depending on the level of education and particularly on age. Yves Froidevaux

In Switzerland, 77% of households had access to the internet in 2010. The internet was used by more than 5.1 million people aged 15 or older. In 2004, the number of internet users was 3 million. The increasingly important role of the internet is also reflected in the greater frequency, duration and mobility of internet use.

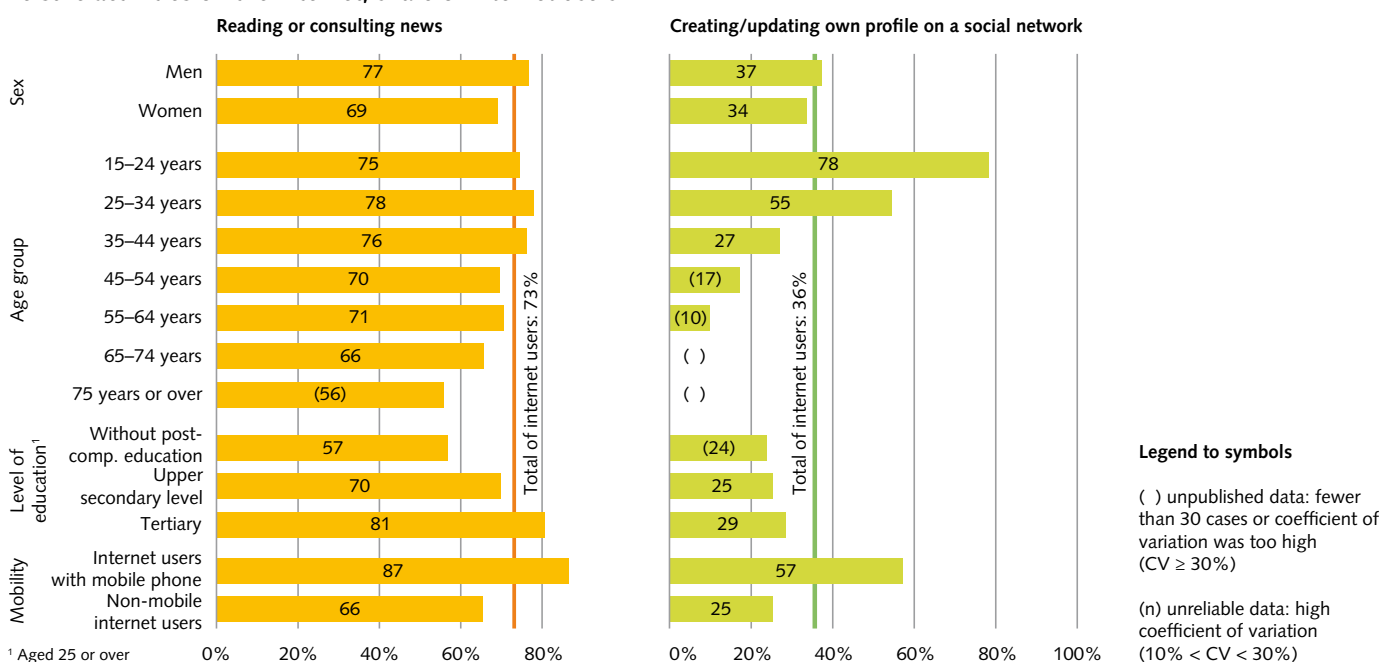
The importance of the internet in people's recreational lives can be illustrated by the proportion of internet users who engage in certain specific activities. For example, almost three quarters (73%) of internet users read or consult news on the websites of newspapers or other media outlets. As a result of the widespread availability of broadband connections and the concomitant development of internet content, particularly images and videos, the number of people who turned to the internet for information almost quadrupled between 2004 and 2010, from 1 to 3.7 million.

Mixed profiles

In 2010, people of all generations, including older internet users, used the internet to read and consult news (see graph). In the 65–74-year-old age group, the proportion of internet users was 66%. The differences were not very pronounced for the other variables. The most marked differences depended on the level of education and type of internet use. People with a tertiary-level education and mobile phone (smartphone) users were the most frequent users of the internet to read or consult news. Mobile internet use, which is the cutting edge of web development, goes hand in hand with above-average participation in all internet activities for private purposes.

Creating or updating one's profile on a website or social network is a more recent and less widespread activity. Social networks, which were only just emerging in, were not considered in the

Leisure activities on the internet, share of internet users



2004 survey. In 2010, 36% of internet users, i.e. 1.8 million people, created or updated their profile on a social network. While this practice varies greatly by age and mobility of internet use, the differences are less marked by sex and educational level. More than three-quarters of internet users aged 15 to 24 had a profile on a social networking site (78%). The proportion fell sharply among older age groups. Less than 20% of people aged 45 and over communicated through social networks. Being active on social networks is also associated with the mobility of internet use: 57% of smartphone users were involved in social networks, compared with 25% of internet users who relied exclusively on a desktop computer. Taking internet users active on social networks as a whole, the gender difference was small.

Age differences in internet use

The further development of the internet, the evolution of applications, the expansion of available content and the spread of new online activities are evolving at a rapid pace. Internet use differs fundamentally depending on age, and the more recent the activity, the greater the difference. This is particularly true of the use of social networks and the online consumption of audiovisual content. In 2010, 44% of internet users, i.e. 2.2 million people, reported that they downloaded or watched movies or videos online; 40% downloaded or listened to music online. Among internet users aged 15 to 24, the proportions were almost twice as large. Among the 25–34-year-old age group, there was a smaller proportion of internet users who consumed online audiovisual content, and the share became smaller the older the age group.

Listening to the radio or watching TV on the internet is a less frequent practice, done by only 37% of internet users. Differences by age, though significant, were much less pronounced. The overall proportion was only 13% in 2004. The relatively high frequency of internet users aged 45 or over who listen to the radio or watch TV online indicates that this practice is found across all age groups.

Posting personally created content online, a practice that is closely linked to social networks, is less frequent (22%) but is characterised by a sharp differentiation by age. Lastly, playing online games or downloading games remains a minority practice (16%), even among the younger age groups (28%).

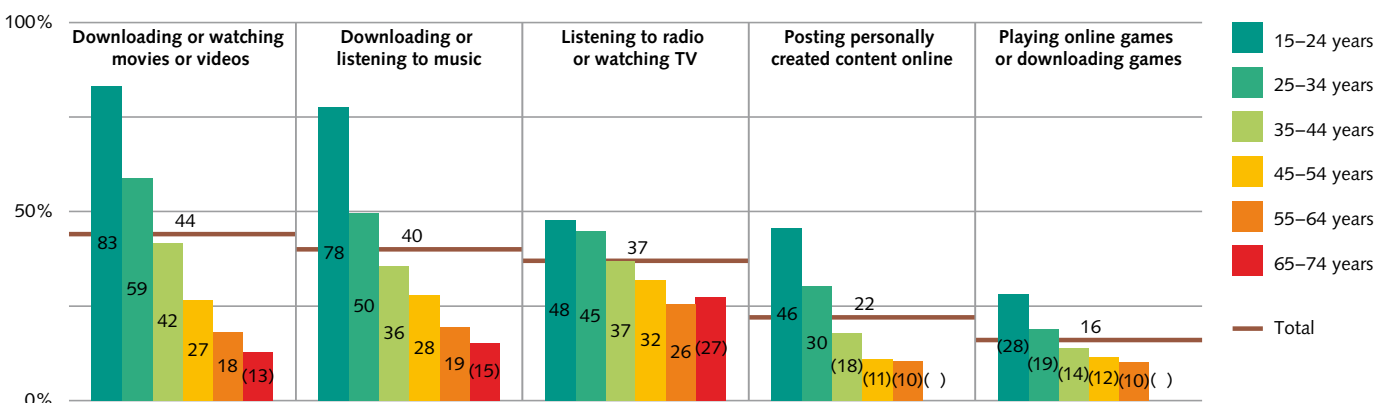
Overall, age appears to be a decisive criterion to differentiate online leisure activities. Activities which have shown rapid growth in recent years and which are associated with social networks and audiovisual content are very much differentiated by age. By contrast, a more traditional internet activity, such as consulting news online, clearly depends on other individual characteristics, particularly the level of education.

Yves Froidevaux is a research associate responsible for the indicators on the information society² in the FSO's Economic Structure and Cycle section

1 See Publication in German and French Internet in den Schweizer Haushalten. Ergebnisse der Erhebung Omnibus IKT 2010 / Internet dans les ménages en Suisse. Résultats de l'enquête Omnibus TIC 2010. BFS / OFS, Neuchâtel 2012.

2 Further information is also available in German and French at www.infosociety-stat.admin.ch.

Leisure activities on the internet, share of internet users





On average, eleven day trips are made per person per year.



Over 40% of tourist excursions and tours involve travelling more than 20 kilometres.

Travelling for leisure

Leisure is the main reason people take trips. 40% of the average daily distance (37 kilometres) covered by the resident population aged six years or over is for the purpose of leisure, 24% for work and 13% for shopping. The daily duration of trips for leisure purposes is consequently also the longest: approximately 43 minutes, i.e. 47% of the average daily duration of all trips. Verena Hirsch interviews Marc Gindraux

Trips related to leisure activities represent 40% of the daily distances covered. Do leisure trips account for the largest share of trips?

For several years, leisure activities have ranked at the top of the reasons why the Swiss population undertake trips. The largest share of leisure-related trips was found during the 1994 survey, when they accounted for 50% of the total daily distance, corresponding to 15.8 kilometres per day per person for this purpose. Since then, this share has declined slightly (40%), but in 2010 the distance travelled for leisure purposes was still 14.7 kilometres per day per person.

A large share of distances travelled on foot or by bicycle is related to leisure activities. Does this mean that non-motorised traffic is restricted to leisure activities?

Different means of transport complement each other and are often combined in the same trip. Thus, one can use the bicycle for a first stage, the train for a

second stage and a taxi for the last stage of a trip. On national average, non-motorised traffic (on foot, by bicycle) accounts for 7–8% of daily distances, but it is mainly attributable to a large number of stages for various trip purposes, particularly for education (69%), leisure activities (53%) and shopping (52%). Public transport (train, tram, trolley bus) accounts for 23% of daily distances, with the largest share of stages for education (23%) and work (17%) and a smaller share for leisure purposes (11%).

Are the distances travelled for leisure purposes identical throughout the week?

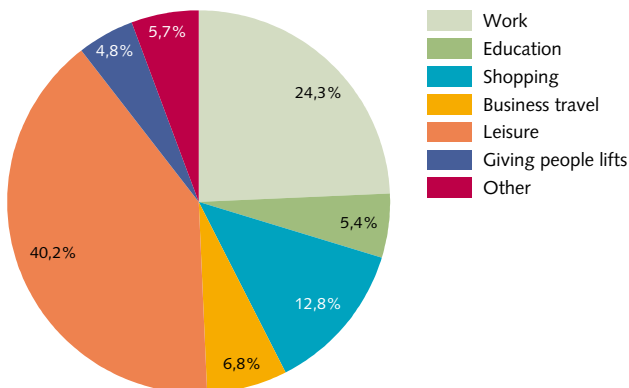
The weekend is of course the time when most people prefer to engage in leisure activities. Sunday is the day when the longest distance is travelled for this purpose: an average of 24.4 kilometres per person. Saturdays come a close second, with 23.7 km covered per person for leisure purposes. During the working

week, the average daily distance for leisure is only 11.0 kilometres, i.e. less than half. In comparison, the distance travelled to commute to work is slightly longer: 11.8 kilometres per day on weekdays (Monday to Friday).

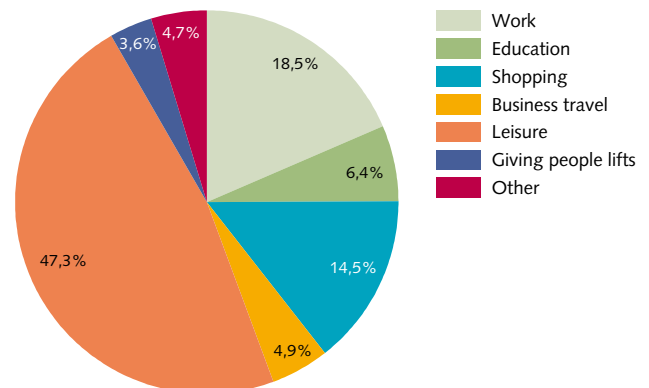
What types of leisure activities involve making trips?

There are many and varied reasons for travelling for leisure purposes. The Mobility and Transport Microcensus surveys a score of reasons including, in order of importance, restaurant meals (22%), non-sport outdoor activities such as going for walks (20%), visiting friends or acquaintances (19%) or practising a sport (12%). These are followed by activities related to cultural events and amusement parks (5%) or hiking (3%). Volunteering, shopping, religious or associative activities respectively represent about 2% of trips. Here we are only talking about usual leisure activities in Switzerland, not holidays or travel abroad.

Daily distances by trip purpose¹



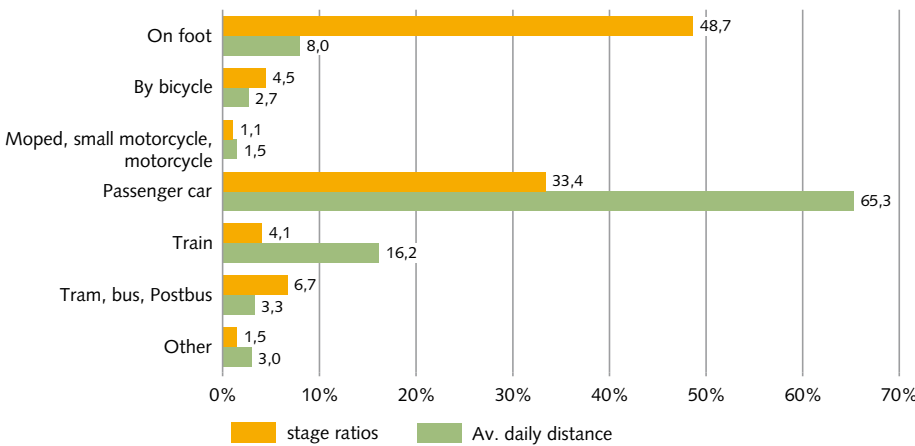
Daily duration of trip by purpose¹



¹ Base: 62 868 persons, inland stages

Source: FSO, ARE

Choice of a means of transport for leisure



Base: 114 932 inland stages for leisure

Source: FSO, ARE

For what types of leisure activities do people travel the farthest?

Keeping in mind that right now we are only talking about leisure trips within Switzerland, relatively infrequent activities are the ones that involve the longest distances. For example, over 40% of tourist excursions and tours involved travelling more than 20 kilometres. On the other hand, restaurant meals, walks, religious activities and volunteer work mentioned earlier involve short trips, 50% of them of less than two kilometres.

Have you found gender differences in leisure mobility behaviour?

Yes, there are generally fairly marked differences between men and women. For example, the percentage of women who have a driving licence is still smaller than that of men (75% of women, compared with 90% of men) and fewer women than men have a car (74% of women and 88% of men). But more women than men have a public transport season ticket (60% against 52%). These differences are reflected in mobility: the daily distance covered by women (31 km) is 30% shorter than that covered by men (almost 43 km). The difference is less marked, however, in the case of leisure activities, for which women cover about 15% shorter distances than men.

Are there age-related differences in leisure behaviour?

It is obviously the case that the daily distances travelled for leisure purposes change over the course of people's lives. Whereas youngsters (aged 6 to 17) already cover some 12 kilometres per day on average for leisure purposes, young adults (aged 18 to 24) cover the longest distances (approximately 19 kilometres). It is interesting to note that the daily distance covered for leisure purposes remains relatively stable between the ages of 25 and 79 (approx. 15 kilometres) and that it is only from age 80 that this distance fall below 10 km per day. Leisure activities, like the means of transport that are used, change depending on age.

Are day trips primarily undertaken to engage in sports activities?

On average, there are 11 day trips per person per year. These are either occasional excursions or business trips outside the usual environment. Most of these day trips are made for private reasons; business trips account for only 8% of day trips. Whereas visits to friends or family top the list of day trips for leisure activities (33%), practising a sport ranks fourth (12%).

What about air travel: leisure or business?

Nearly 80% of air travel trips are undertaken for private reasons and most of these trips are holiday-related (58% of air travel). Business trips account for only 19% of air travel. While the number of air travel trips per person is relatively low, the distances covered are considerable. Thus, on average, each of us travels more than 5200 kilometres by plane, i.e. a quarter of all our trips within Switzerland and abroad (20,500 km per year). Consequently, in terms of distance travelled, the aeroplane ranks second as a means of transport after the car (10,000 km/year) and before the train (3200 km/year).¹

Marc Gindraux, head of the Mobility Section, FSO

Verena Hirsch, head of the Communication Section, FSO

¹ Data and current information on the transport behaviour of the Swiss population are available in French and German in the publication *La mobilité en Suisse – Résultats du microrecensement Mobilité et Transports 2010 / Mobilität und Verkehr – Ergebnisse des Mikrozensus Mobilität und Verkehr 2010*. OFS / BFS, Neuchâtel 2012 or on the internet in German and French at www.mobilita2010.ch.

Measuring the economic importance of tourism: the Tourism Satellite Account makes this possible

Tourism is one of the most important branches of the Swiss economy and has a large influence on employment, production and value added. But the diversity of tourism production makes it difficult to measure the numerous effects that tourism has on the economy and to present them statistically. For this reason, data from the tourism-related components has to be extracted from the various branches and merged into a separate account, the “Tourism Satellite Account”. Ueli Schiess

The Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) is a fundamental synthesis statistic on which measurement of the economic effects of tourism is based. Its purpose is to accurately record tourism's importance to different sectors of the economy, as well as tourism's contribution to the economy in terms both of value added and employment. The reference system for economic analysis is the National Accounts. Therefore the concepts and terms of the Tourism Satellite Account should largely coincide with those of the National Accounts.

Key challenge

A key challenge in recording the economic statistics of tourism is that the construction of these statistics is usually supply-oriented. *The General Classification of Economic Activities (NOGA) classifies “Enterprises” and “Establishments” by their principle economic activity which is itself based on the predominant goods and services that they produce and provide.* This enables income and employment analyses of supply-side defined sectors, for example the chemical industry or banking, to be made comparatively easily by using characteristics such as production value, value added or employment. As it extends across different sectors, tourism is made up of several of these supply-side defined branches such as accommodation, hotel and restaurant industry, transport services or travel agencies and tour operators. Thus hotel and restaurant services are not fundamentally touristic, but can be considered so to the extent that they are actually consumed by tourists. *A good only becomes touristic, therefore, when it is consumed by tourists. As a result, tourism is defined on the demand-side.*

Visitors' travel

The Tourism Satellite Account deals with Visitor's travel.¹ Visitors are travellers on trips outside their usual environment. Places that can be described as a person's usual living environment include their principal place of residence, their workplace or place of study and any place in the immediate vicinity thereof, even if such places are seldom or never visited by the person in question. Any other place in which a traveller makes an uninterrupted stay of more than 12 months can also be defined as their usual living environment. The definition of “usual living environment” is not universal internationally, but one or more of three criteria – frequency, distance and duration – are normally used. An often-used criterion for frequency, for example, is whether a place is visited less than once a week, on average, over the course of a year. An often-used criterion for distance is a minimum distance of 15 or 30 kilometres from the place of residence, workplace or place of study. As a rule, a trip must last at least three or four hours in order to be considered as touristic. A combination of criteria regarding frequency and length of stay are used for the two basic statistics, Travel behaviour of the resident population and the Mobility and Transport Microcensus used for the Tourism Satellite Account: For a trip to be defined as “touristic”, the destination should be visited less than once a week, on average, over the course of a year, and the duration of the trip must be at least three hours.

Gross value added by tourism, demand and employment 2010¹

	Gross value added		Demand		Employment	
	at current prices in CHF million	Growth in %	at current prices in CHF million	Growth in %	in full-time equivalents	Growth in %
Total	14 898	2.0	35 510	2.2	144 838	-0.4
A. Tourism-specific products	14 458	2.0	27 652	2.8	142 715	-0.4
A.1 Tourism-characteristic products	11 027	1.6	22 423	2.7	108 984	-0.9
1 – Accommodation services	3 792	1.5	5 185	-0.5	35 333	-2.5
of which accommodation in hotels	2 091	0.6	4 333	0.6	31 689	-2.1
2 – Food and beverage serving services	2 533	2.6	5 193	2.6	38 833	-0.3
3 – Passenger transport services	2 296	1.8	7 612	5.8	16 112	0.1
Of which cableways, funiculars, ski-tows	434	0.5	1 079	2.1	3 381	-2.3
of which air (transport)	857	3.3	4 349	9.1	4 365	1.1
4 – Travel agency, tour operator and tourist guide services	1 546	0.2	2 597	1.8	11 935	0.0
5 – Cultural services	118	4.5	307	7.1	1 940	-0.5
6 – Recreation and other entertainment services	461	3.4	1 034	2.2	3 753	-0.5
7 – Miscellaneous tourism services	281	-2.2	495	-2.5	1 076	0.3
A.2 Connected products	3 431	3.4	5 229	3.2	33 731	1.1
B. Non-specific products	440	0.3	7 858	0.3	2 123	3.2

¹Provisional values

FSO, National Accounts

The main results

As not all basic statistics are available annually, the Tourism Satellite Account cannot be calculated every year. However, in order to present annual figures on the gross value added of tourism, the TSA Indicators are calculated for the years in between. First estimates of the three main aggregates of the Tourism Satellite Account (gross value added, demand and employment) can thus be published. The following table gives an overview of the main findings for 2010.

After a sharp decline of all aggregates in 2009, the tourism sector posted a positive year in 2010. Thanks to a 2.2% increase in demand, the value added also rose by 2%. Employment declined for the second time in a row (0.4%) and, with 144,838 full time equivalents, now stands at the level of 2007.

Despite the fall in demand in accommodation (-0.5%), demand for tourism-characteristic products showed above-average growth (+2.7%). This was due, besides the growing demand for food and beverage serving services (+2.6%), to additional demand for tourism products from the area of transport services (+5.8%) and particularly passenger air traffic (+9.1%).

The additional value added in 2010 in the tourism sector was mainly derived from accommodation (+1.5%), food and beverage serving services (+2.6%) and passenger transport services (+1.8%). But the share of the tourism sector in GDP remained constant at 2.9%.

Despite higher value added, employment in the tourism sector declined once again. This negative trend was confirmed in particular in the products accommodation (-2.5%) and food and beverage serving services

(-0.3%), whereas in passenger transport services (+0.1%) employment remained virtually unchanged.

Ueli Schiess is deputy head of Section and head of the Non-financial Unit of the National Accounts, National Accounts Section, FSO

¹ Visitors are commonly called "tourists" but in the scientific terminology used here, the term "tourists" only includes visitors staying one or more nights.

What is our leisure time worth to us?

Spending on leisure in household budget, amount in Swiss francs per month per household (mean)

	All households		Household type					
			Single person households		Couples without children		Couples with children	
Gross income	8915.64	a	5630.50	b	10254.00	b	10934.00	b
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	640.68	a	355.91	b	686.36	a	907.39	b
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	102.79	c	67.27	c	136.31	c	102.35	c
Hotels and restaurants	523.21	b	347.33	c	628.08	b	617.08	b
Clothing and footwear	231.33	b	129.05	c	246.43	c	346.06	c
Housing and energy	1428.47	a	1194.70	b	1490.09	b	1658.10	b
Furnishings, household equipment and routine maintenance	277.10	b	162.72	c	315.89	c	381.34	c
Health	258.59	b	178.75	c	327.23	c	285.10	c
Transport	728.16	b	431.19	c	836.22	c	942.52	c
Communication	173.32	a	120.07	b	167.24	b	217.74	b
Other goods and services	275.03	b	170.29	c	281.81	c	408.26	c
Entertainment, recreation and culture	639.57	b	397.31	c	725.90	b	836.74	c
Audiovisual, photographic and IT equipment and accessories	98.80	c	72.99	d	101.87	d	124.69	c
Durable goods for leisure and sport	18.00	e	12.08	e	16.18	e	28.74	e
Toys, board games and hobbies	23.67	c	10.06	e	16.23	e	56.48	c
Sports and camping equipment and accessories	20.74	c	8.29	e	19.85	e	39.31	d
Garden products and nondurable goods for garden maintenance	31.59	c	20.60	c	40.26	c	34.97	c
Pets and pet care products	29.45	c	19.03	d	34.38	d	34.97	d
Admission to sporting events	3.38	e	1.55	e	3.62	e	4.25	e
Services of sport and recreational facilities, excl. skilifts	27.95	c	18.42	d	28.34	d	37.82	d
Tickets and season tickets for cable cars, incl. skilifts	11.58	d	4.15	e	9.65	e	25.03	d
Hire of sports and recreational equipment	3.71	d	1.05	e	2.97	e	7.90	d
Sport and handicraft courses	9.87	d	3.09	e	6.92	e	24.90	d
Music and dance courses	11.08	c	3.79	e	4.62	e	30.34	d
Contributions to sports clubs or associations	6.61	c	2.91	e	7.20	e	10.71	d
Contributions to recreational clubs	1.57	c	1.10	d	1.98	d	1.77	d
Other recreational courses	12.74	d	9.94	d	10.76	d	18.40	e
Theatre and concerts	16.41	c	11.19	d	21.98	d	15.08	d
Cinema	5.18	c	3.52	d	5.04	d	6.72	d
Museums, exhibitions, libraries, zoos etc.	4.75	c	2.46	d	5.41	d	7.68	d
Radio and television licence	33.62	a	30.77	a	35.36	a	34.94	a
Subscriptions to private television channels	3.04	d	1.98	e	3.19	e	3.97	d
Subscriptions for cable television	8.90	b	6.55	c	10.25	c	10.56	c
Hire of appliances and DVD and CD rental	0.93	e	1.06	e	0.62	e	1.03	e
Contributions to cultural associations	1.83	d	1.34	e	2.55	e	1.75	e
Other entertainment and cultural services	6.45	d	3.77	e	6.73	e	8.58	d
Gambling stakes (lottery and other games)	9.86	c	6.55	d	13.77	d	8.49	d
Books and brochures	20.89	c	14.58	d	20.73	d	29.49	c
Newspapers and magazines	34.60	b	26.79	c	44.11	c	33.23	c
Other printed matter	14.43	c	8.94	d	14.18	d	22.84	c
Package holidays	167.96	c	88.76	d	237.15	d	172.11	c

Quality of the estimated values: a: Very good (variation coefficient of < 1%)
 b: Good (variation coefficient of ≥ 1% to < 2%)
 c: Correct (variation coefficient of ≥ 2% to < 5%)
 d: Satisfactory (variation coefficient of ≥ 5% to < 10%)
 e: Poor (variation coefficient ≥ 10%)

Source: FSO, Household Budget Survey 2006–2008

Switzerland is not a blank spot on the statistical map of Europe

In view of the globalisation of markets, Switzerland's economic actors are increasingly dependent on statistical data that are comparable internationally and particularly with data from the EU, which is Switzerland's most important economic partner. Since 2007, the agreement between Switzerland and the EU on cooperation in the field of statistics has facilitated the production and publication of harmonised statistical data. Five employees of the Federal Statistical Office are working in Luxembourg, where Eurostat and the EFTA Statistical Office are located, to achieve these goals. Caroline Schnellmann

The people who work at Eurostat or the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Statistical Office are part of an international and multicultural world. In addition to Commission staff and seconded experts from all 27 EU Member States, there are employees from the EFTA States – currently Switzerland and Norway – and trainees from the EU accession candidate countries. Major meetings are often also attended by statisticians from North America, Southeast Asia and China. Delegations and students from all over the world visit and observe the work carried out in the two institutions.

Five Swiss statisticians in Luxembourg

Based on the bilateral agreement on statistics, the FSO seconds three national experts to the Statistical Office of the European Union and two to the EFTA Statistical Office. Claude Macchi began working in the European Commission's Business Statistics Coordination and Registers unit very soon after the bilateral agreement entered into force in 2007. David Biddle has been working as a seconded national expert in Eurostat's Environmental Accounts and Climate Change unit since 2011 and Martin Teichgräber in the Labour Market unit since February of this year. Eurostat secondments are for terms of two to four years, and in special cases six years. During their time in Luxembourg, all seconded national experts are Eurostat employees and consequently

exclusively represent the interests of the European Commission during that period. The Swiss nationals Andrea Scheller and Patrick Lemp are currently working at the Luxembourg office of the EFTA Secretariat. Andrea Scheller, who worked at Eurostat as a seconded expert from 2008 to 2010, now heads the the EFTA Statistical Office, which has twice been headed by Swiss nationals – Heinrich Brügger and Gabriel Gamez – in recent years.

Comparability of data and increased visibility

The bilateral agreement on statistics provides the basis for harmonised statistical production and dissemination. This enables Swiss statistics to be comparable with those of its partners in the European Economic Area (the 27 EU member states plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein). Moreover, by publishing Europe-compatible Swiss statistics in EU publications, Switzerland gains international visibility, for example as a business location.

A European statistical system: two institutions

Though located in the same building, Eurostat and the EFTA Statistical Office are separate entities. Eurostat's main task is to harmonise data at the European level to ensure their comparability, as well as to summarise and publish European data. The EFTA Statistical Office was established in 1991 a result

of many years of informal cooperation between the EFTA countries and the EU, and deals with statistics from the EFTA countries. As a partner institution of the "European Statistical System" it is also significant for Switzerland within the framework of the bilateral agreement.

The world does not begin in Chiasso and does not end in Basel

For Claude Macchi, the most senior Swiss national in Luxembourg, it is a fascinating experience as a statistician to work in a context encompassing more than 500 million inhabitants and a wide range of cultural and economic realities. As soon as the second package of bilateral agreements between the EU and Switzerland was signed he applied for a secondment, and since then he has been working in the EuroGroups Register (EGR) project. As part of this project, a pan-European network of registers is being developed which contains data on multinational enterprises that operate in Europe. These registers are to become a key source for statistics on globalisation. Data from the years 2008 to 2010 have already been provided to the producers of statistics and to statistical offices and central banks. EGR will become fully productive in 2013.

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