swissstaffing

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Swiss Staffingindex: staffing service providers on path to recovery

The Swiss labor market is displaying a change in trend: the temporary employment market enjoyed robust growth during the 3rd quarter of the year. The permanent employment market is also stabilizing in impressive fashion.

Good news for the Swiss labor market: following three years of significant decline in the temporary employment market, Swiss staffing service providers are finally heading toward solid growth for 2026. The number of hours worked by temporary workers increased by 3.9 percent during the 3rd quarter compared to the previous year. This marked a slight acceleration in growth compared with the previous quarter. For the year as a whole, the temporary employment market was up around 3 percent compared with the previous year. Turnover from permanent position placements fell by 5.5 percent during the 3rd quarter, dropping into the single figures for the first time in 9 quarters. The recovery achieved over the course of the quarter has been impressive: the permanent employment market fell 9.3 percent in July, but by September this decline was down to 2.3 percent. Business in the permanent staffing sector is expected to be back in the black by the 4th quarter.

Positive development in the staff leasing and permanent placement markets is a good sign for the Swiss labor market as a whole. Dr. Marius Osterfeld, Chief Economist at swissstaffing, states: “Staffing service provider business serves as an early indicator of what can be expected on the labor market in the coming months. If more temporary and permanent positions are both being offered, this indicates that the labor market is recovering. This turning point should be reached during the 4th quarter.” This trend reversal is surprising given frequent reports of redundancies, company closures and the tense geopolitical situation, which is currently having a particular impact on the economy via oil prices. As Dr. Osterfeld explains: “In an economy, new jobs are constantly appearing and disappearing. The question is which of the two trends currently has the upper hand. The latest figures from staffing service providers suggest a change in trend.”

Domestic economy and investment providing momentum

The good development seen on the Swiss labor market and in staffing service provider business is wide ranging. The domestic economy is a key cornerstone of this recovery: construction has enjoyed particularly robust development, but the low inflation rate compared to international levels is also providing steady domestic demand. In addition, many companies’ cautious approach in recent years has created

an investment backlog. Anyone wanting to remain competitive cannot indefinitely delay investing in artificial intelligence, digitalization, or research and development. Osterfeld explains: “Investment pressure is strengthening demand for highly qualified temporary workers in particular. These range from developers to project managers to interface roles who serve as bridges between development departments, sales divisions, and end customers.” The weaker franc is also providing a further boost to exporting companies. This means that the economic recovery is underpinned by multiple elements. The fact that business in the permanent staffing sector is stabilizing indicates that companies are starting to gradually increase their capacity for the long term.

Note: the index values for the 2nd half of 2025 and the 2nd quarter of 2026 have been corrected due to a technical data processing error. The interpretation of the sector’s development remains unaffected. The updated values can be seen in the website cockpit and graphics.

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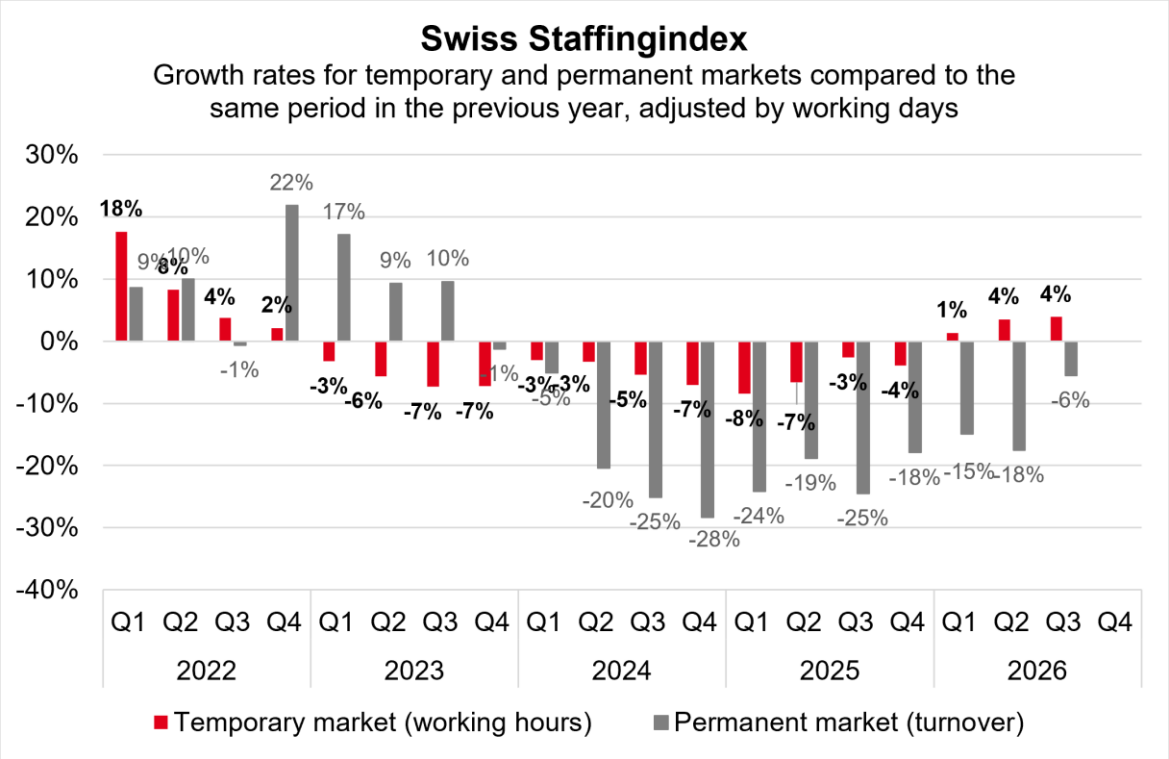
The pages that follow show the index’s key data and the development of the underlying index values. Other statistics are available by clicking on this link.



Source: swissstaffing, Q3/2026

Swiss Staffing Index key data	
Staff leasing companies included	400 companies
Temporary staffing market	
Working hours recorded per year	103 million
Temporary staffing market coverage	approx. 50 percent
Permanent staffing market	
Permanent job placements recorded per year	8500
Permanent employment market coverage	approx. 40 percent
Publication dates	
Frequency of publication	Monthly
Frequency of press releases	Quarterly
Next provisional publication date	January 28, 2027

Source: swissstaffing, Q3/2026

Swiss Staffingindex: temporary staffing market (working hours), basis: Q1 2018

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Q1	100.0	103.7	101.4	102.0	120.0	116.1	112.7	103.2	104.5
Q2	134.6	132.8	105.6	139.7	151.3	142.8	138.1	129.0	133.5
Q3	140.5	140.1	123.4	145.8	151.4	140.3	132.7	129.3	134.3
Q4	128.7	129.2	122.4	140.8	143.8	133.5	124.1	119.3	

Source: swissstaffing, Q3/2026

Swiss Staffingindex: permanent staffing market (turnover in CHF), basis: Q1 2018

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Q1	100.0	103.5	89.6	79.2	85.6	100.6	95.5	72.0	61.3
Q2	105.7	110.7	67.7	91.7	99.1	110.2	87.7	69.7	57.5
Q3	97.4	90.9	69.2	89.6	89.1	95.1	71.3	50.7	47.9
Q4	92.3	82.6	66.0	71.5	87.1	86.0	61.7	48.3	

Source: swissstaffing, Q3/2026

swissstaffing is the centre of excellence for staffing service providers in Switzerland. As an employers' association, swissstaffing represents the interests of its over 500 members in matters of policy, the economy and society. swissstaffing is a social partner of the CBA on Staff Leasing, the contract covering the majority of Switzerland's employees.

Studies on temporary workers and staffing service providers in Switzerland

The market research institute gfs-zürich completes regular surveys on behalf of swissstaffing. The current study can be found at this link.