



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

A blurred photograph of a crowd of people walking in a city street at night, with light trails from buildings and streetlights in the background. The text 'Free movement of persons' is overlaid in large white font.

Free movement of persons

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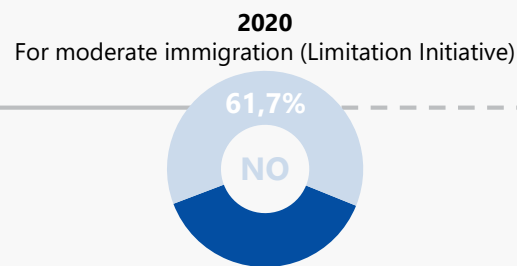
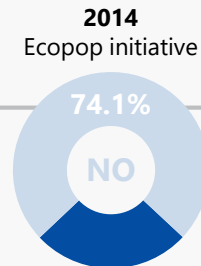
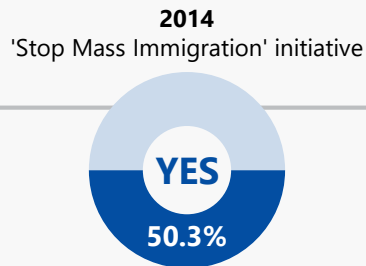
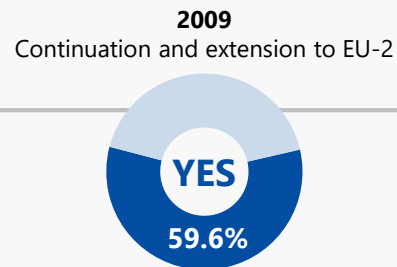
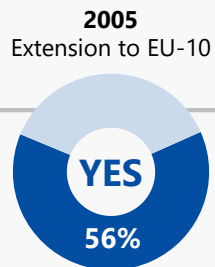
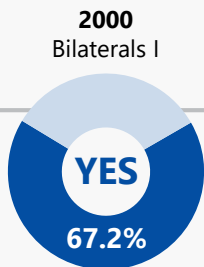
Free movement of persons

Title, date, speaker

As of February 2021



Voting on free movement of persons





Principles of 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.

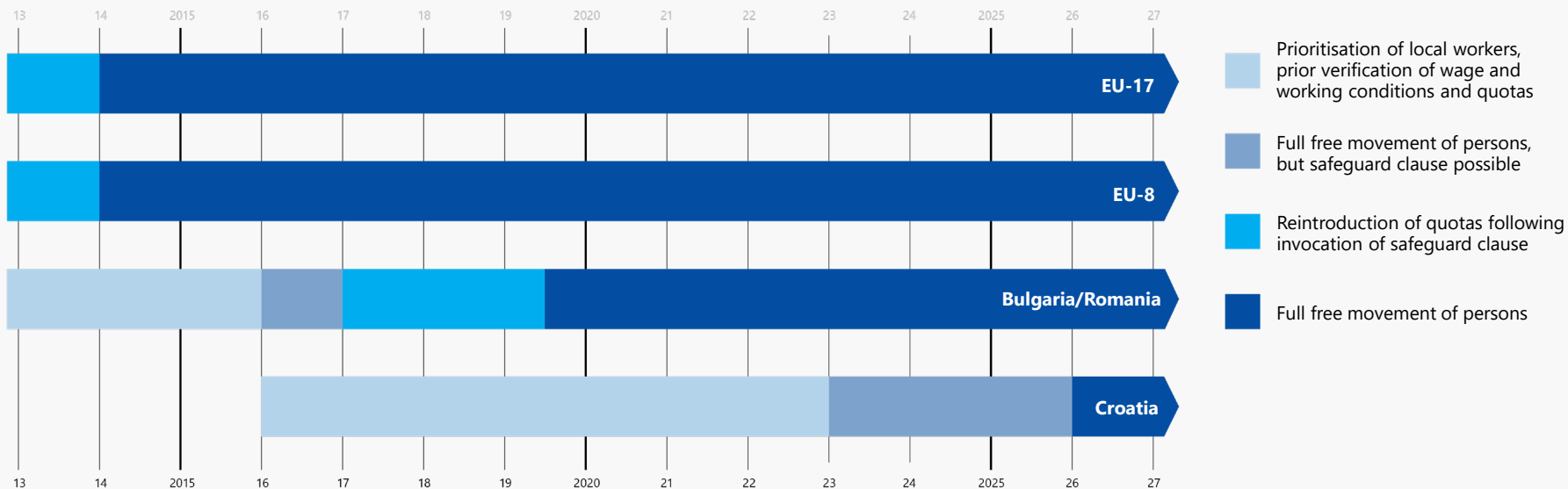
Workers remain subject to the employment contract in their country of origin.

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.



Transitional arrangements





Coordination of social security systems

Content

- 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 country or Switzerland.



Recognition of qualifications

Content

- Individuals from EU/EFTA and third countries can have their professional qualifications recognised in Switzerland
- Recognition of foreign professional qualifications in regulated professions, EU/EFTA citizens and EU/EFTA academic qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC)

Principle

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



Posted workers and accompanying measures

Content

- An employer may send workers to another country on a temporary assignment
- 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

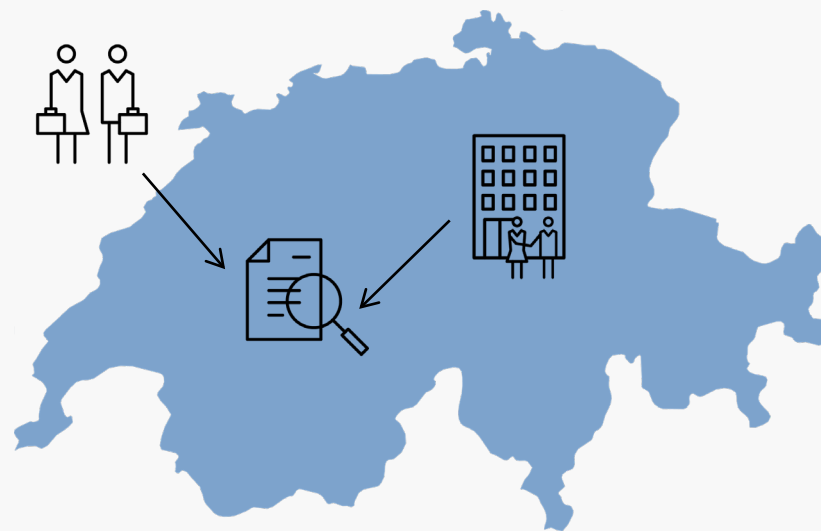
- Protection of Swiss and posted workers against the undercutting of wage and working conditions applicable in Switzerland.

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).

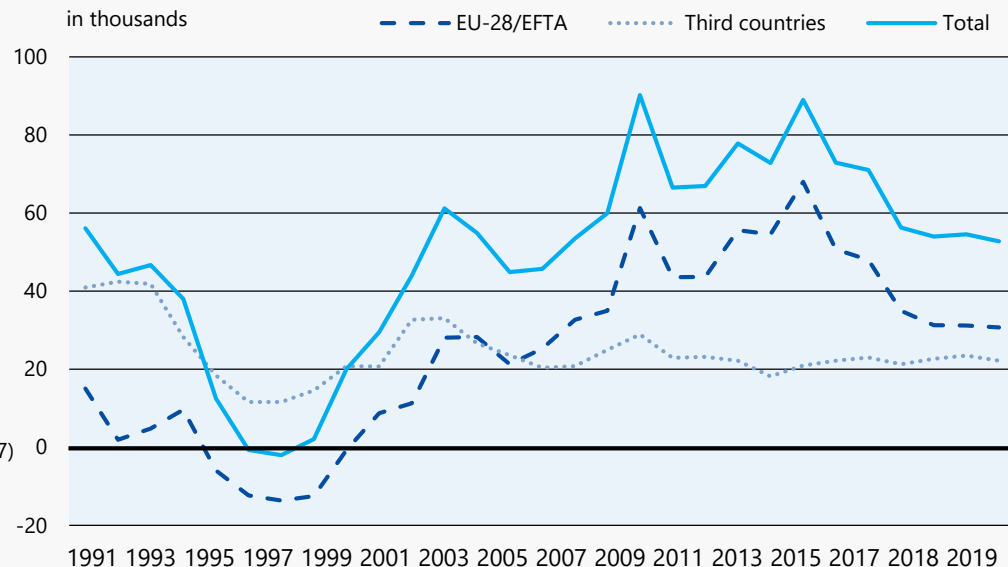
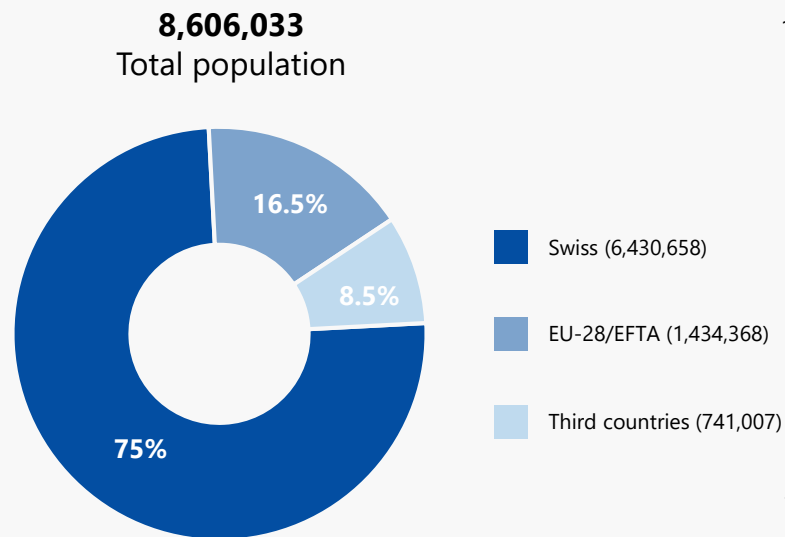
Implementation

- Verification of wage and working conditions of 41,305 companies and 165'969 individuals by joint and tripartite commissions in 2019.





Total population and net migration

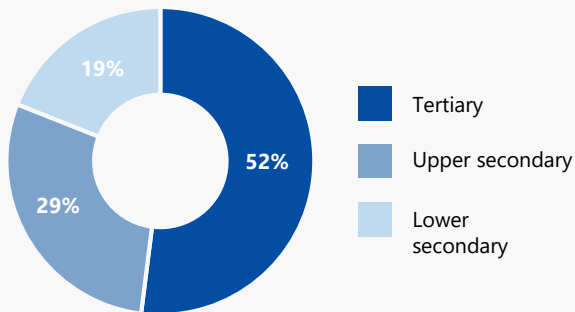


2020, Sources: Federal Statistical Office, ZEMIS

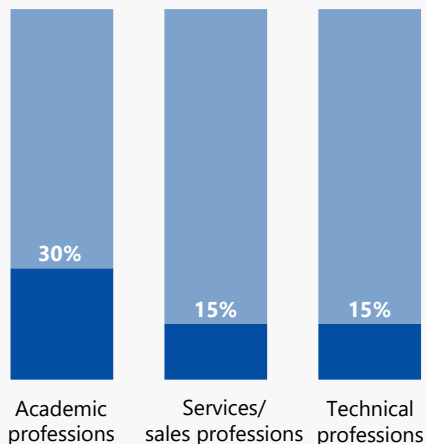


Professional profiles and unemployment

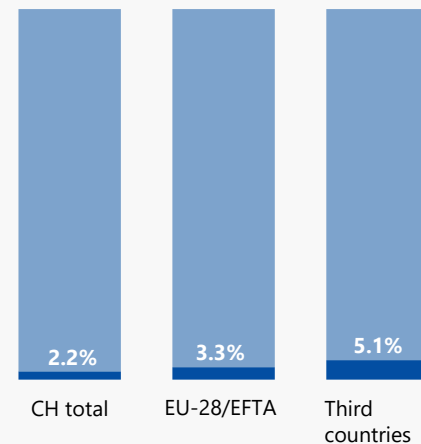
Education level of AFMP migrants



Main professions of AFMP migrants



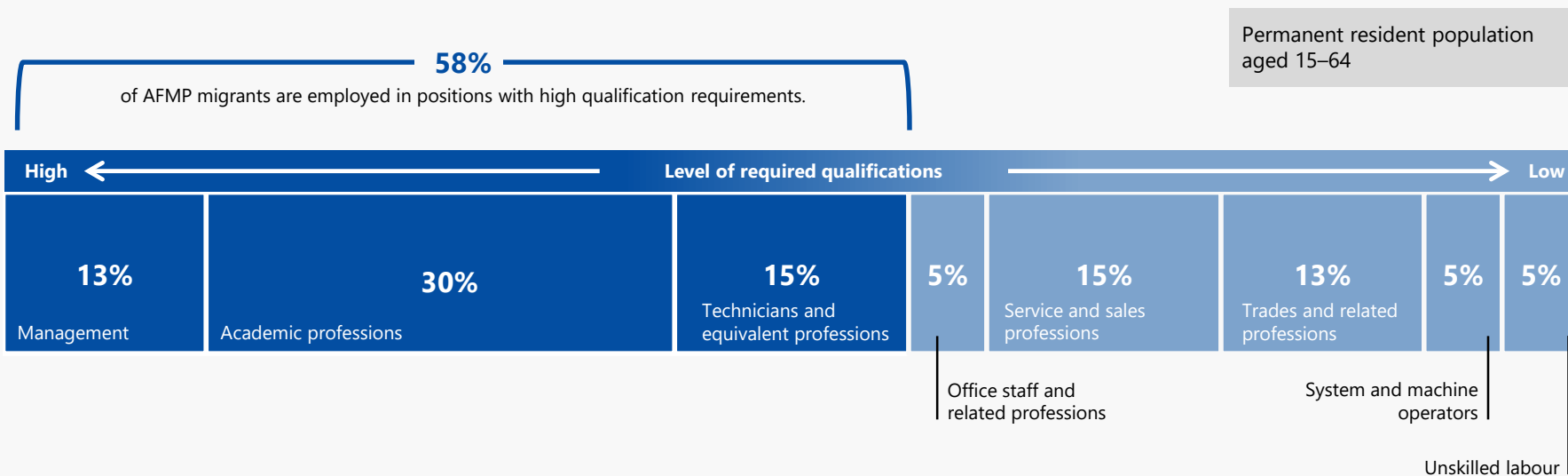
Unemployment in Switzerland by origin



2018, 2019 Sources: 16th Report of the Observatory for the Swiss-EU Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs



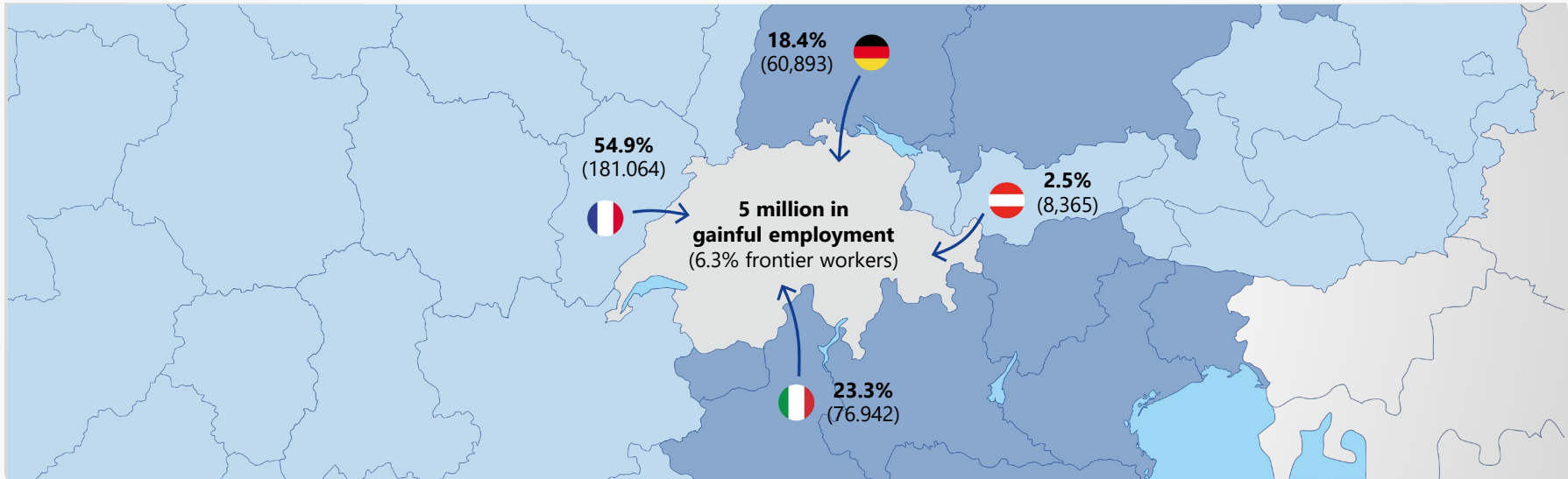
Professional profiles of AFMP migrants



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



Frontier workers

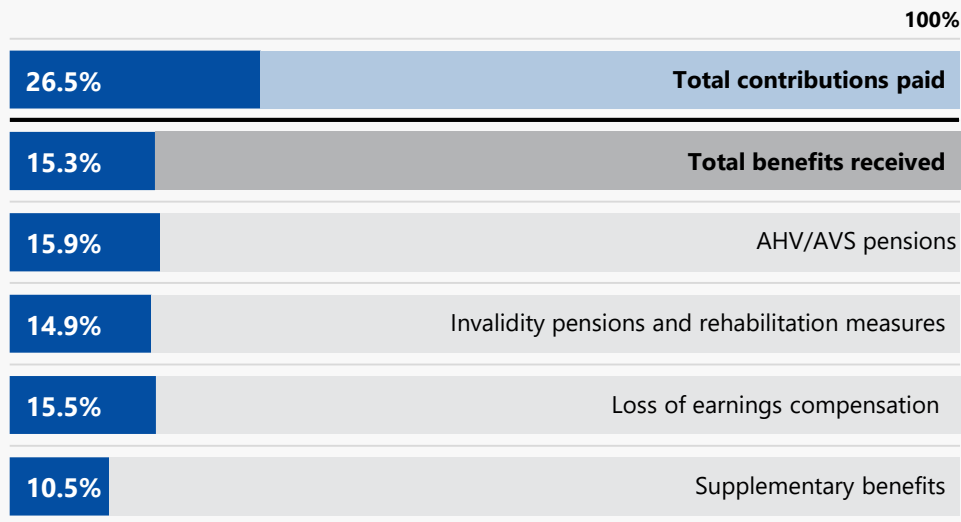




Social insurance – First pillar

Percentages of EU/EFTA nationals in first-pillar contributions and main benefits

- EU/EFTA migrants pay in more than they receive.
- EU/EFTA nationals make up approximately 15% of beneficiaries of invalidity pensions and rehabilitation measures and of AHV/AVS and other pensions.
- Short-term relief, but not a solution to the age-related funding problems of the first pillar (future pension entitlements).



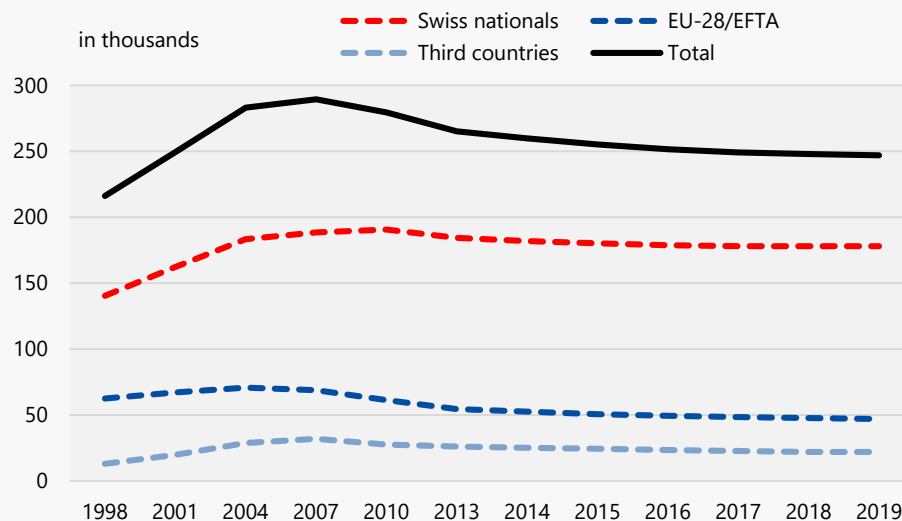
2019. Source: 16th Report of the Observatory for the Swiss-EU Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons, 2016. Source: Federal Social Insurance Office



Social insurances – Invalidity insurance

The fear that the free movement of persons would lead to a massive increase in the number of foreigners receiving invalidity pensions has not been confirmed.

- 247,200 invalidity pensions were paid out, 72% to Swiss nationals, 19% to EU-28/EFTA nationals and 9% to third-country nationals.
- Invalidity pensions are decreasing more among EU-28/EFTA nationals than among Swiss nationals.



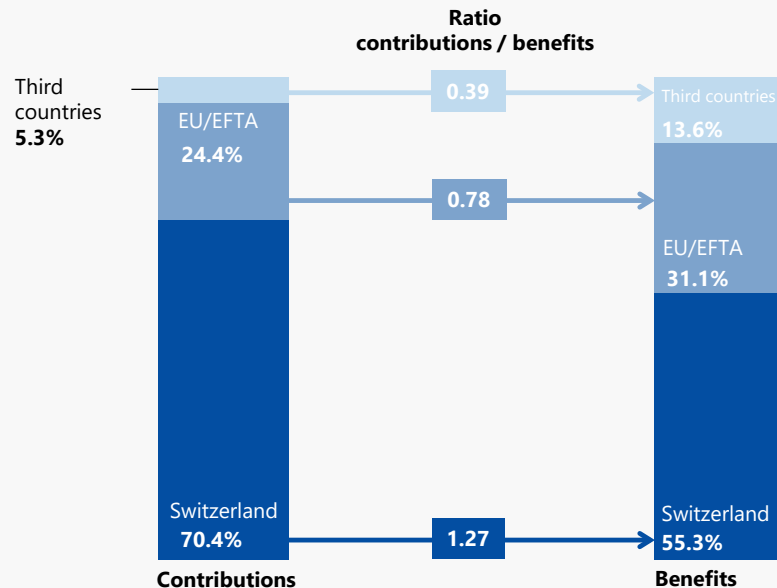
2019. Source: 16th Report of the Observatory for the Swiss-EU Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons



Social insurances – Unemployment insurance

Proportion of revenue from unemployment insurance and expenditure on unemployment benefits by nationality group (including refunds and contributions returned to the home country for short-term residents)

- According to AHV/AVS statistics for 2017, unemployment revenue from payroll contributions came to CHF 7 billion while expenditure on benefits totalled CHF 5.5 billion.



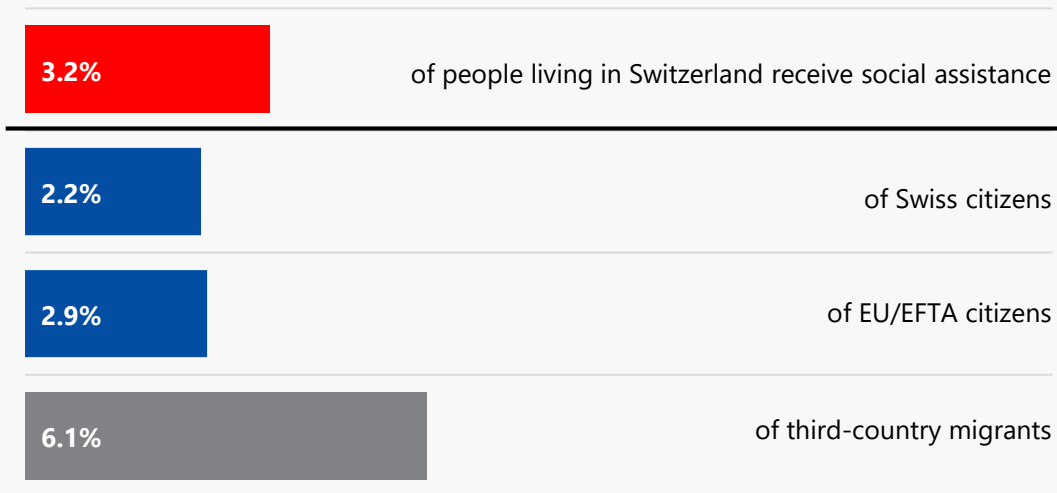
2017. Source: 15th Report of the Observatory for the Swiss-EU Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons



Social assistance

Social assistance ratio by nationality group

- No 'welfare tourism': there has been no massive influx of EU/EFTA citizens into the Swiss social security system.
- Social assistance is rarely provided shortly after entering the country.

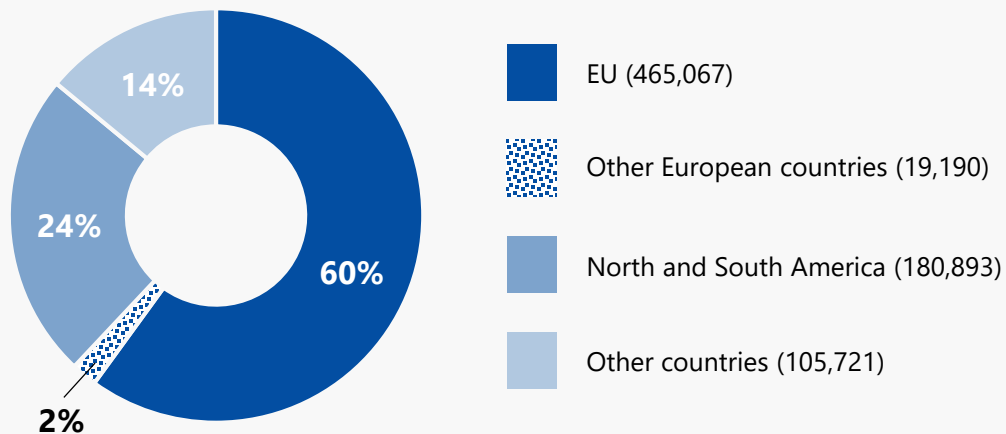


2019 Source: 16th Report of the Observatory for the Swiss-EU Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons



Swiss nationals abroad

A total of **770,871**
Swiss citizens live abroad





Initiative to limit immigration

- If the initiative had been accepted, the AFMP would have been suspended within 12 months of the adoption or scrapped altogether.
- Due to the guillotine clause, ending the free movement of people would have led to the cessation of all other agreements of the Bilaterals I and thus to the end of the bilateral path.
- Rejection of the popular initiative by the electorate with 61.7% of votes.
- The electorate once more confirmed the free movement of people with the EU.
- The rejection of this initiative shows the support for the 'bilateral approach' with the EU.





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A blurred photograph of a crowd of people walking in a public space, likely a train station or airport, with warm lighting and motion blur effects.

Thank you for your attention

www.fdfa.admin.ch/europe_en

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Free movement of persons

Title, date, speaker