

Access to the Job Market

Whether or not a person is granted permission to work or start a business in Switzerland may vary according to citizenship and reasons for entering Switzerland. All persons working in Switzerland must register with social insurance and pay taxes.

Work Permit

Granting a work permit is usually determined upon the granting of a residence permit. Generally, persons with residence permits can work in Switzerland. Depending on the nationality and the duration of the work, the employer or the worker applies for the permit. The following addresses will provide further information on the subject, including assistance for persons who do not yet live in Switzerland, yet would like to work here. Since 2019 recognized refugees (B permit) and temporarily admitted persons with or without refugee status (F permit) no longer require a special permit. However, the start and end of each employment must be reported to the canton using an official form (Meldeverfahren). The canton in which you work is responsible. This registration is free of charge. Asylum seekers (identity card N) still need a permit.

Owning a Business

Whether or not a person in Switzerland can start their own business may vary according to citizenship and permit. The process is simpler for persons from EU/EFTA-Countries as well as persons with a C permit. The canton's migration department informs migrants whether it is possible to start a business.

Illegal Work

It is illegal and punishable to work without having social insurance, a work permit, or without declaring income in the tax return. This is illegal work (Schwarzarbeit). Illegal work has consequences for both the employer and the employee involved. In addition, illegal workers are not insured in the case of an accident and are not paid a contribution to their pension. Persons who suspect that they have not been employed correctly should consult with a pro bono legal service (Rechtsberatungsstelle).

Young People

Generally young people who have reached the age of 14 can work. Simple tasks over short periods of time (e.g. summer jobs) are allowed before the age of 14. Parents and employers must ensure that young people are not overburdened. Special labour regulations apply to young people under the age of 18.

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

www.hallo-ar.ch/en/work/access-to-the-job-market