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Stronger growth in the Swiss community abroad

The 2016 statistics on the Swiss Abroad published by the FDFA in February showed 774,923 Swiss citizens were registered with the representations abroad. The Swiss community abroad boasted 21,784 more people last year, which equates to a 2.9% increase. This percentage rate is above the constant growth of 2% in recent years. In other words, the growth of the "Fifth Switzerland" has accelerated.

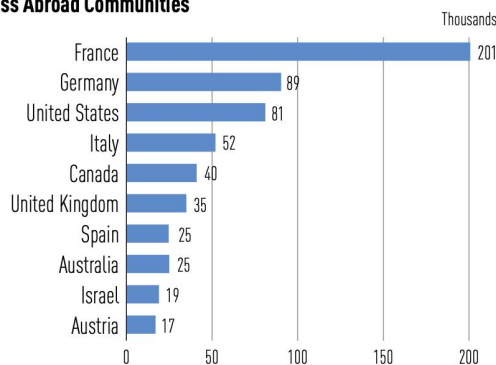
The Swiss community in every country has its own history and dynamism. In regional terms, Asia achieved the highest percentage growth at 4.3%, as was also previously the case in recent years. A slightly above-average rise of 3.1% was recorded for the Swiss communities in Europe. The growth rates in Africa, the Americas and Oceania were lower or practically the same as in the previous years, ranging from 2.1% to 2.5%.

However, the growth rate trend varies significantly within regions in some cases. It is therefore worth taking a closer look at the differences from one country to another. In Europe, the region favoured by two thirds of all Swiss Abroad, the situation is as follows: growth of 8.7% in Portugal, 8.6% in Turkey, 4.6% in the United Kingdom, 3.8% in Germany, 2.5% in France (the largest community of Swiss abroad in the world) and 1.8% in Italy. Outside Europe the Swiss communities in the following countries recorded significant growth rates: growth of 8.5% in the United Arab Emirates, 6.6% in both Morocco and Lebanon, 5.1% in Tunisia, 3.9% in Israel as well as Japan, and 3.6% in Mexico. In a notable number of countries, the figures remained at the previous year's level, such as in New Zealand, China, India, South Africa, Argentina and Brazil. However, there are also countries where the already tiny Swiss communities declined owing to war, instability or natural disasters, etc.

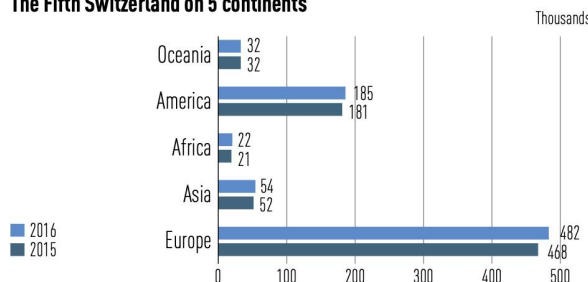
Just under three out of four Swiss Abroad hold at least one other passport in addition to their Swiss one because dual citizenship has been accepted by an increasing number of countries in recent decades. The sta-

tistics on the Swiss Abroad nevertheless indicate a slight decline of -0.1% in this area, with the figure standing at 73.5%. In view of the increased growth in the Swiss community abroad, this fact indicates that more Swiss are emigrating abroad than returning to Switzerland. The Federal Statistical Office's statistics on emigration, which are published at the end of August, will provide a more accurate picture.

Top 10 Swiss Abroad Communities



The Fifth Switzerland on 5 continents



The statistics on the Swiss Abroad on the FDFA's website: <http://www.eda.admin.ch> > Living abroad > Publications and statistics > Statistics

Readers can find out how many Swiss are living in their country of residence from the FDFA's statistics on the Swiss Abroad. They can also discover how many of their compatriots have left Switzerland or returned home. Since 2011, the Federal Statistical Office's website has contained detailed information on emigration and return migration by destination country and country of origin broken down into nationality and other demographic variables. Users can obtain the figures using interactive "data cubes" which enable them to create their own tables in line with individual requirements and to save them in different formats: Emigration / Immigration and return migration

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Online registration for Swiss citizens travelling abroad
www.fdfa.admin.ch/itineris



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90 years of statistics on the Swiss Abroad

In 1927, for the very first time, the consular service of the Federal Political Department (the FDFA's title at the time) instructed all consulates to record the number of Swiss residing abroad at the end of the year 1926 (see illustration, evaluation list). From 1930 onwards, the figures were then published regularly in the Statistical Yearbook ("yearbook archive" of the FSO). Federal government had in fact collected data on its diaspora even earlier – the 1891 to 1960 yearbooks show that emigrants were recorded according to different characteristics. However, 1926 marked a new beginning. Firstly, the statistics – in contrast to those on emigration abroad – gathered data not on migratory movement but instead on Swiss citizens residing abroad. Secondly, they recorded Swiss citizens comprehensively whereas the earlier statistics only covered those in places outside Europe. (Photo: Swiss Federal Archives)

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Schweizer im Ausland
am Anfang u. am Ende des Jahres 1926, nach
Konsularbezirken bzw. Ländern

A. Länder Konsularbezirke	Männliche		Weibliche		Gesamt	
	1926	1926	1926	1926	1926	1926
Albanien	-	-	-	-	4	4
Belgien: Brüssel	3237	1737	1139	3756	100	100
Antwerpen	675	306	114	717	250	250
Brüssel-Kongopost	-	-	-	-	150	150
Belgien: Lüttich	113	62	7	168	-	168
Dänemark: Kopenhagen	291	23	94	205	45	45
Frankreich: Paris	551	17	83	478	21	30
Frankreich: Paris	2712	77	43	2741	3300	3300
Frankreich: Paris	3077	191	243	3026	28	30
Frankreich: Paris	1467	26	61	1494	46	50
Frankreich: Paris	4618	333	370	4797	110	120
Frankreich: Paris	908	573	71	1377	620	650
Frankreich: Paris	3453	325	310	3470	250	300
Frankreich: Paris	2026	242	391	1813	100	200
Frankreich: Paris	2666	163	393	2416	200	200
Frankreich: Paris	3573	357	345	3595	251	300
Frankreich: Paris	3044	211	64	3159	6000	5700
Frankreich: Paris	3060	673	128	3623	40	60
Frankreich: Paris	750	67	42	767	40	45

In the period after 1926 the statistics on the Swiss Abroad had to deal with "teething problems". It appears that some shortcomings were glossed over using estimates. The increasing number of people holding dual citizenship amongst the diaspora raised the question of how this factor should be taken into account. The following solutions were found: from 1951, the Statistical Yearbooks simply stated that persons holding multiple citizenship were not included; then in 1974 they began listing them separately alongside "solely Swiss citizens".

The FDFA's current statistics on the Swiss Abroad and the FSO's migration statistics can be viewed on the FDFA website.

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The 2017 Federal Council photograph

The full Federal Council in 2017 (from top right to bottom left): President of the Swiss Confederation Doris Leuthard, Federal Councillor Alain Berset (Vice-President), Federal Councillor Ueli Maurer, Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter, Federal Councillor Simonetta Sommaruga, Federal Councillor Johann N. Schneider-Ammann, Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, Federal Chancellor Walter Thurnherr



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At www.admin.ch (by searching for "Federal Council photograph 2017") you can find out more about the Federal Council photograph. The press release on the photo was published on 31 December 2016.

Federal referenda

Voting proposals are determined by the Federal Council at least four months before the voting date. The following three proposals will be put to the vote on 21 May 2017:

- Energy Act of 30 September (EnA)

Further voting dates 2017: 24 September, 26 November

All information on the proposals (voting pamphlets, committees, recommendations of Parliament and the Federal Council, electronic voting, etc.) can be found at www.admin.ch/votes.

Popular initiatives

The following new federal popular initiatives had been launched at the time of going to press (deadline for the collection of signatures in brackets):

- "For better nursing care (Nursing Care Initiative)" (17.07.2018)

The list of pending popular initiatives can be found at www.bk.admin.ch under **Aktuell > Wahlen und Abstimmungen > Hängige Volksinitiativen**.

