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The Swiss Federal Office of Immigration, Integration and Emigration

Some key statements about migration in Switzerland

- One in three people in Switzerland is an immigrant or a descendant of immigrants - this amounts to two million people.
- One in five inhabitants of Switzerland is a foreign national - this amounts to nearly 1.5 million people.
- One in 274 people in Switzerland is a recognised refugee - this amounts to 26,500 people.
- One in 111 people in Switzerland is an asylum-seeker - this amounts to 65,000.
- One in four marriages in Switzerland is bi-national - this amounts to more than 10,000 Swiss/foreign weddings every year.
- One quarter of the entire volume of work in Switzerland is carried out by gainfully employed foreign nationals - this amounts to almost two thousand million hours a year.
- In the hospitality industry, one out of two employees is a foreign national - this amounts to more than 100,000 people.
- People from 196 countries live in Switzerland - most foreign nationals come from Italy: some 300,000 people.
- One in twelve Swiss nationals lives abroad - this amounts to over 500,000 people.
- In Switzerland, the fertility rate is 1.48 children per woman - this is a third less than would be necessary for the long-term constancy of the total population.
- In 1998, Switzerland registered more deaths than births of Swiss nationals for the first time - this tendency has increased ever since.
- Without naturalisations, the number of Swiss nationals would have been on the decrease since as early as 1993.
- The old people's homes and hospitals of the City of Zurich employ people from 87 different nations. Without immigrants, care, kitchen, and cleaning and maintenance work would be unthinkable.
- The cheese most eaten in Switzerland is neither Emmental nor Gruyere, but Mozzarella - last year, this amounted to 2.1 kilograms per head (meanwhile chiefly from Swiss production).

- The most frequent names of new-born children in Switzerland are no longer Karin and Christoph today, but Laura und Luca - in the past two years alone, more than 1,000 boys and 1,000 girls were given these names.
- 40 per cent of the members of junior football teams do not hold a Swiss passport - this amounts to some 50,000 youngsters.
- Almost half the Swiss national football team have foreign roots - captain Jorg Stiel was originally German, Ricardo Cabanas was Spanish, the Yakin brothers are of Turkish origin, and Mario Cantaluppi has Italian ancestors.
- The richest Swiss is a Swede: IKEA founder Ingvar Kamprad, who has been resident in the Canton of Vaud since 1978 (source: Bilanz 12/2002).

In a nutshell

In Switzerland, one person in five is a foreign national, among gainfully employed people even one in four; one in three of us has foreign roots; in the hospitality industry, one out of two employees is not a Swiss national; and in the world at large, all of us are foreigners - almost everywhere.

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