



Statistics on the Swiss Abroad 2016: Additional information

1. Overview

1.1 Overall community of Swiss nationals abroad

- In 2016, 774,923 Swiss citizens living abroad were registered with a representation (as at 31 December).
- Whereas in recent years the number of Swiss citizens living abroad grew by around 2% per annum, this increased to 2.9% in 2016.
- Approximately one in nine Swiss nationals now live abroad.
- As regards age structure, more than 21% of Swiss citizens abroad are minors, around 59% are aged 18 to 65, and just under 19% are senior citizens (over 65).
- Among the adult population, the majority (56.0%) are women.

1.2 Continents

Position	Continent	Persons	in %	Share Dual citizens in %	Age 65+	Age 18-65	Age <18
1	Europe	482 194	62.2	73.7	19.4	58.6	21.1
2	America	185 015	23.9	77.2	20.2	61.1	18.7
3	Asia	53 814	6.9	59.9	11.1	55.9	33.1
4	Oceania	32 316	4.2	78.3	17.7	63.1	19.1
5	Africa	21 584	2.8	63.7	19.3	56.3	24.3

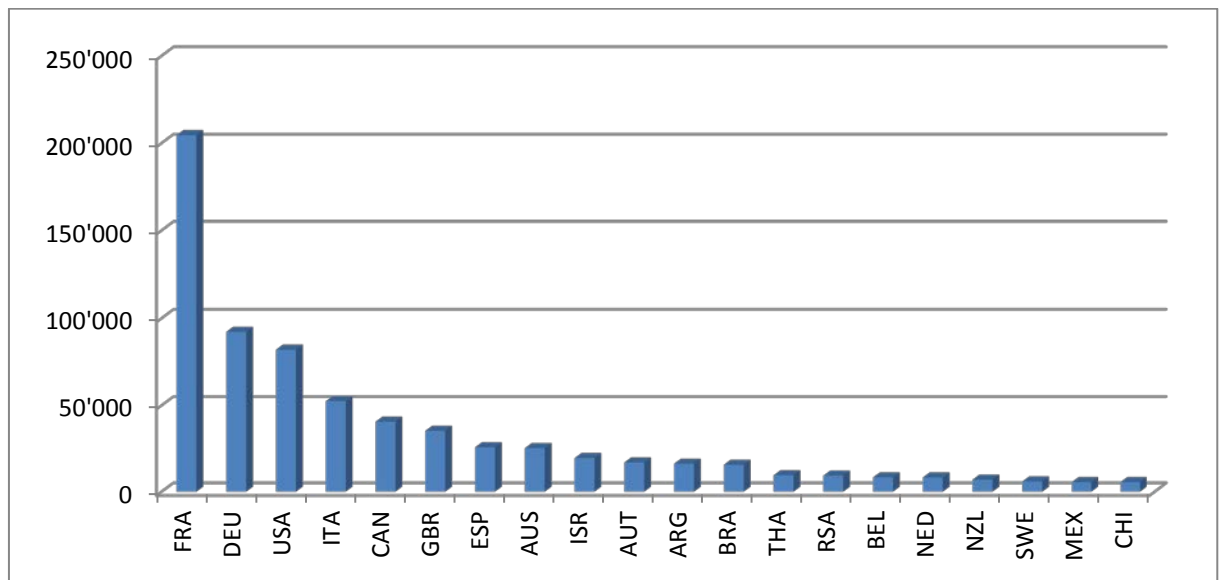
- 62% of all Swiss citizens living abroad are resident in other European countries.
- Indeed, in absolute terms the number of Swiss citizens living in these countries has grown the most, going up 14,530 in 2016. This is equivalent to a percentage increase of 3.1%, which is slightly above the global average.
- However, the biggest rise in percentage terms was in Asia as the number of Swiss citizens living in that region increased by 4.3%. The statistics show smaller increases in Africa, America and Oceania (growth rates of between 2.1% and 2.5%).

1.3 The top 20 countries of residence

Position	Country ¹	Persons	in %	Share Dual citizens in %	Age 65+	Age 18-65	Age <18
1	FRA	200 730	25.9	82.9	19.3	59.2	21.5
2	DEU	89 390	11.5	63.8	18.6	59.7	21.7
3	USA	81 075	10.5	74.4	20.7	60.5	18.7
4	ITA	51 895	6.7	84.0	21.7	58.3	20.0
5	CAN	40 280	5.2	77.1	21.3	62.8	16.0
6	GBR	34 971	4.5	68.2	14.2	62.6	23.2
7	ESP	25 168	3.2	57.3	30.0	52.6	17.4
8	AUS	25 148	3.2	80.2	18.7	62.4	19.0
9	ISR	19 433	2.5	82.6	6.0	47.4	46.6
10	AUT	16 602	2.1	57.6	17.4	60.1	17.4
Total 1-10		584 692	75.5				
11	ARG	15 816	2.0	92.3	22.0	60.8	17.2
12	BRA	15 321	2.0	79.7	20.9	61.6	17.9
13	THA	9377	1.2	37.8	21.6	59.2	14.7
14	RSA	9132	1.2	71.1	23.7	58.7	17.7
15	BEL	8219	1.1	70.7	18.0	59.1	22.9
16	NED	8183	1.0	67.8	15.3	64.9	19.9
17	NZL	6925	0.9	72.2	14.5	66.1	19.4
18	SWE	5758	0.7	60.2	17.5	61.7	20.8
19	MEX	5489	0.7	78.2	14.7	62.8	22.4
20	CHI	5366	0.7	88.0	14.9	60.5	24.6
Total 1-20		674 278	87.0				

- The top 10 countries of residence account for around 75% of Swiss citizens living abroad, with another 12% living in the other countries in the top 20.
- There are two changes from the 2015 ranking: Australia has swapped places with Spain in the top 10, while South Africa has done the same with Thailand in the top 20.
- The average proportion of dual nationals in the top 10 is 75.7% – a percentage that rises to 81% for the top 20.
- If just dual nationals were to be included in the ranking, the USA and Australia would be one position higher and Argentina would join them by jumping two places. There would also be major changes in the ranking from 11th to 20th (with Latin American countries moving up the table and Turkey joining the top 20 at the expense of Sweden). 65% of dual nationals live in the European countries in the top 20.
- In contrast, if only single-nationality Swiss citizens were considered, the ranking would change significantly. In the top 10, the UK, Austria and Spain would be two places higher whereas Australia and Israel would slip one place and Italy would drop three places. It would also make the difference between the top two countries, France and Germany, negligible. China (including Hong Kong), the Philippines and Denmark would then make an appearance in the lower half of the top 20. 34% of single-nationality Swiss citizens live in one of the European countries in the top 20 countries of residence.

¹IOC country codes



Number of Swiss nationals by country

1.3 Breakdown by country of residence

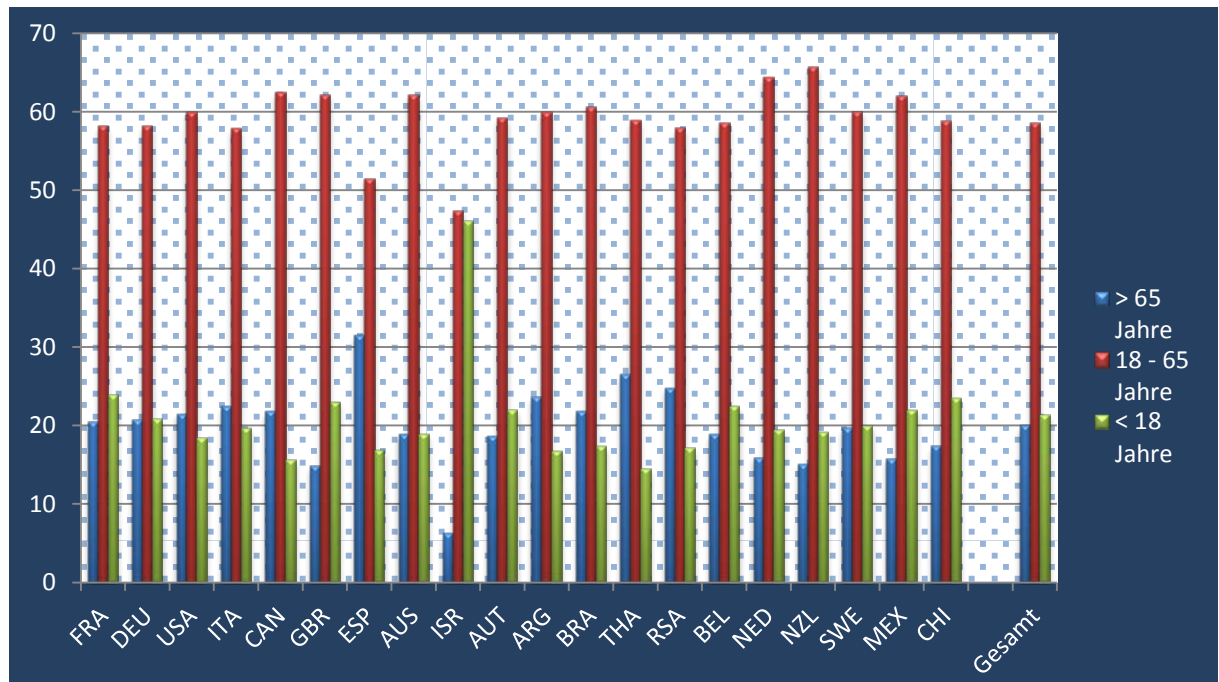
- 26% of all Swiss citizens living abroad are registered in France.
- Among the bigger countries of residence in Europe, there have been significant rises in, for example, Portugal (up 8.7%), Turkey (up 8.6%), the UK (up 4.6%) and Germany (up 3.8%). There have been double-digit increases in the smaller numbers of Swiss nationals living in various Southeast European countries.
- Various countries outside Europe have also experienced above-average increases in the Swiss population living there, namely the United Arab Emirates (up 8.5%), Thailand (up 6.8%), Morocco and Lebanon (both up 6.6%), the Dominican Republic (up 5.5%), Tunisia (up 5.1%), Peru (up 4.7%), and Israel and Japan (both up 3.9%).
- Compared with 2015, the number of Swiss nationals living in a series of countries, including New Zealand, India, South Africa, Argentina and Brazil, has stayed at (virtually) the same level. Meanwhile, there has been a decrease in the numbers living in Nepal, Syria and Venezuela.

2. Sex and age

2.1 Sex structure

- Over half of Swiss adults living abroad are women, who accounted for 56% of the total in 2016.
- However, the steady gradual decline in their overrepresentation compared with adult men continued: the percentage dropped below 58% for the first time in 2007 and under 57% for the first time in 2011. Nevertheless, this proportion is higher than among Swiss nationals living in Switzerland.
- A regional breakdown of the percentage of women as a proportion of all adult Swiss citizens living abroad in 2016 reveals that this stood at 58.1% in Europe, 54.4% in America, 57.7% in Oceania and 52.7% in Africa, while the percentage in Asia is lower at 42.9%.

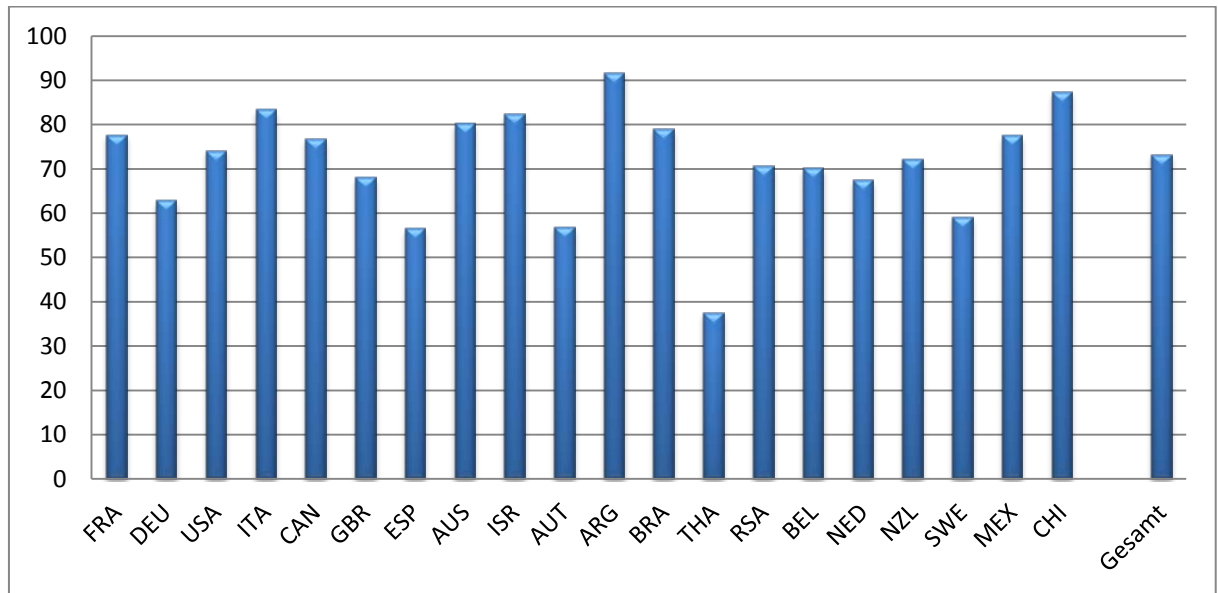
2.2 Age structure



Age structure by country in % (seniors, employed persons, children/young people)

- The proportion of seniors (over-65s) among Swiss citizens living abroad is slightly below the one for Swiss living in Switzerland.
- In Asia, the average Swiss national living abroad is younger, with seniors accounting for 11% and a third of all registered minors living on this continent. On the other continents, around one fifth are registered as seniors.
- In Europe, the average age of Swiss nationals living abroad is rising slowly but surely.
- Among the countries with the largest populations of Swiss nationals (see the top 20 countries of residence), the age structure in Israel is unusual in that almost half of Swiss citizens living there are minors (47.0%), and the percentages for the minor and employed-person groups are virtually identical, while there is a low percentage of seniors. Minors also outnumber seniors in Chile, Mexico, the UK, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium and New Zealand.
- In Spain, almost one third of Swiss residents are older than 65, while in Thailand the proportion is one quarter. As in Spain, more seniors than minors are registered in the United States, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, South Africa and Italy.
- The percentages of seniors and minors cancel each other out in Germany, Sweden and Australia.

3 Dual and multiple citizenship



Share of dual or multiple citizenship by country, in %

- Worldwide, the percentage of Swiss dual nationals living abroad in 2016 was 73.5%, 0.1% down from the previous year. The growth of the community of Swiss nationals abroad cannot be attributed only to the new registration² of dual citizens.
- In Asia, the percentage of dual nationals was just below 60%, while in Africa it was 63.7%. These percentages are significantly lower than the level of 73.7% recorded in Europe: 73.7 %. The percentage in North and South America was 77.2%, and in Oceania 78.3%.
- In Argentina, 92% of Swiss citizens living there also have another nationality, while the proportions in Chile and Turkey are 88%. In France, the country with the highest percentage of resident Swiss nationals, 83% have multiple citizenship.