

Staffing service providers on growth trajectory in the first quarter of 2022

Staff shortages due to Covid cases and the Ukraine war have been successfully overcome by appointing temporary workers or new permanent staff.

Staffing service providers saw a clear upswing into 2022: According to the Swiss Staffingindex, the staff leasing sector was up 21.9 percent over the previous year based on working hours in the first quarter. Turnover from permanent position placements was 10.5 percent up on the previous year. Surprisingly, the war in Ukraine and the ongoing issues with supplies from China have not yet had an impact on staffing service providers. However, the staff leasing sector did lose a little of its dynamic in March. By contrast, the permanent market closed with a 21.8 percent increase. The good developments among staffing service providers are a clear signal of growth across the whole economy.

The staff leasing sector supported the economy in a number of ways in the first quarter: many companies were struck by COVID outbreaks over the first quarter. Staff leasing agencies helped companies by providing short-term stand-in solutions to ensure that they could continue to supply their products and services without interruptions. Companies needed to find replacements in Switzerland to plug shortages of supplies and services from China and Ukraine. Temporary workers and new appointments have helped to overcome this increase in work. The easing of coronavirus restrictions has also brought new life to the service sector. Private consumption is gradually returning to its previous levels and is triggering demand for staff. "Rarely have there been so many developments leading to increased staffing demand at the same time," explains Dr. Marius Osterfeld, Economist at swissstaffing. "The current combination of economic upturn and global political uncertainty has led to high two-figure growth, especially in the temporary worker sector."

Positive outlook and opportunities in HR consulting

The CEOs of staffing service providers are extremely optimistic about the future. 71 percent expect the next six months to bring an increase in business, as demonstrated by an employee survey conducted by gfs-zürich on behalf of swissstaffing. There is also a flip side to the current positive economic position and the simultaneous shortage of many goods due to crisis situations: inflation is back. During this phase, staff leasing companies cannot only help those seeking either temporary or permanent positions to find work, but can also support them through tricky wage negotiations.

Strong regional differences in market development

This quarter, the temporary market was broken down by region for the first time, and some strong differences emerged. With an increase in excess of 40 percent, the temporary market in Eastern Switzerland is growing strongest. The good economic position in the local industry, lack of expert resources and booming tourism are all behind this development. In Northwestern Switzerland, which was also able to withstand the crisis well thanks to its pharmaceuticals industry, growth is comparatively low at just 14 percent. A look at the permanent market reveals where companies view the economic situation as stable and are taking on permanent staff immediately. The permanent market is seeing the greatest growth across the major economic sites in the Lake Geneva region, Northwestern Switzerland and Zurich, but there is also a clear uptick in Ticino. In the other regions, the market is stagnating or going backwards.

Cockpit for staffing services: More indicators, more market coverage, regionalization

The Swiss Staffingindex was revamped for the first quarter of 2022. The new cockpit for the staffing services industry allows swissstaffing to reliably monitor an industry which is sensitive to economic trends and could be seen as a thermometer for the employment market, setting the pace for developments in the economy as a whole. Instead of the previous national indicator for the temporary market, there are now seven key indicators, five for the temporary market and two for the permanent market, to trace business developments among staffing service providers at a national and regional level. The quality of the data is high, as the information comes directly from the staffing service providers' digital contract and accounting systems. Six leading providers of staffing services software are behind the index: ARCA 24, B&F Solutions, pcjob.net, Quadrigis, Realisator and Zvoove. Together, they cover around 50 percent of the temporary market and 40 percent of permanent position placements brokered through staffing service providers in Switzerland. In the new cockpit, users can select and analyze the [Swiss Staffingindex](#) data on an interactive basis.

→Further Information:

The next page shows the index's key data and the development of the underlying index values. You can access more statistics by clicking on [this link](#).

Marius Osterfeld, Economist

Tel.: +41 (0)44 388 95 70 / +41 (0)79 930 45 25

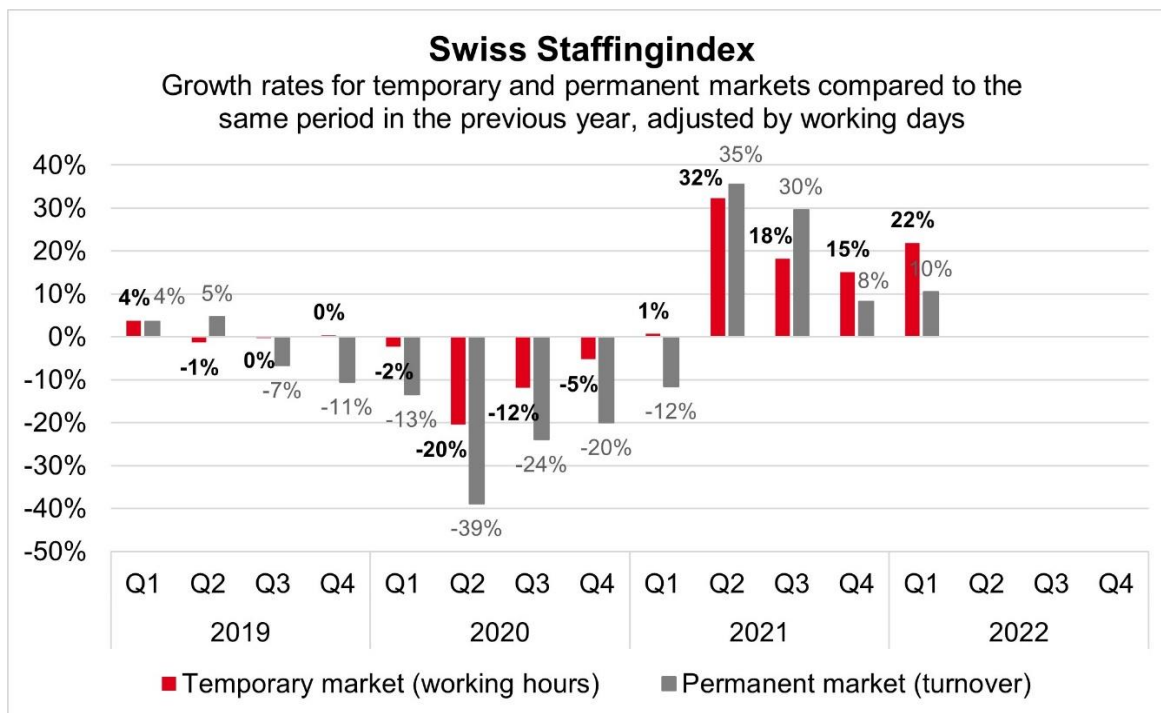
marius.osterfeld@swissstaffing.ch

Blandina Werren, Head of Communications

Tel.: +41 (0)44 388 95 35

blandina.werren@swissstaffing.ch

www.swissstaffing.ch



| Swiss Staffing Index key data | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Staffing service providers included | 400 companies |
| Temporary Market | |
| Working hours recorded per year | 103 million |
| Market coverage of temporary market | Approx. 50 percent |
| Permanent Market | |
| Permanent position placements recorded per year | 8,500 |
| Market coverage of permanent market | Approx. 40 percent |
| Publication Schedule | |
| Frequency of publication | Monthly |
| Media release interval | Quarterly |
| Next provisional publication date | Thursday, July 28, 2022 |

Source: swissstaffing, Q1/2022

Swiss Staffingindex: Temporary market (working hours), basis: Q1 2018

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Q1 | 100.0 | 103.7 | 101.4 | 102.0 | 124.4 |
| Q2 | 134.6 | 132.8 | 105.6 | 139.7 | |
| Q3 | 140.5 | 140.1 | 123.4 | 145.8 | |
| Q4 | 128.7 | 129.2 | 122.4 | 140.8 | |

Source: swissstaffing, Q1/2022

Swiss Staffingindex: Permanent market (turnover in CHF), basis: Q1 2018

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|-----------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| Q1 | 100 | 103.5 | 89.6 | 79.2 | 87.5 |
| Q2 | 105.7 | 110.7 | 67.7 | 91.7 | |
| Q3 | 97.4 | 90.9 | 69.2 | 89.6 | |
| Q4 | 92.3 | 82.6 | 66.0 | 71.5 | |

Source: swissstaffing, Q1/2022

swissstaffing is the center of excellence for staff leasing companies in Switzerland. As an employers' association, swissstaffing represents the interests of its 400 members in matters of policy, the economy and society. swissstaffing is a social partner of the CBA on Staff Leasing, the agreement covering more employees in Switzerland than any other.

Studies on temporary workers and staff leasing companies in Switzerland

The market research institute gfs-Zürich completes regular surveys on behalf of swissstaffing. The current studies can be found by clicking on [this link](#).