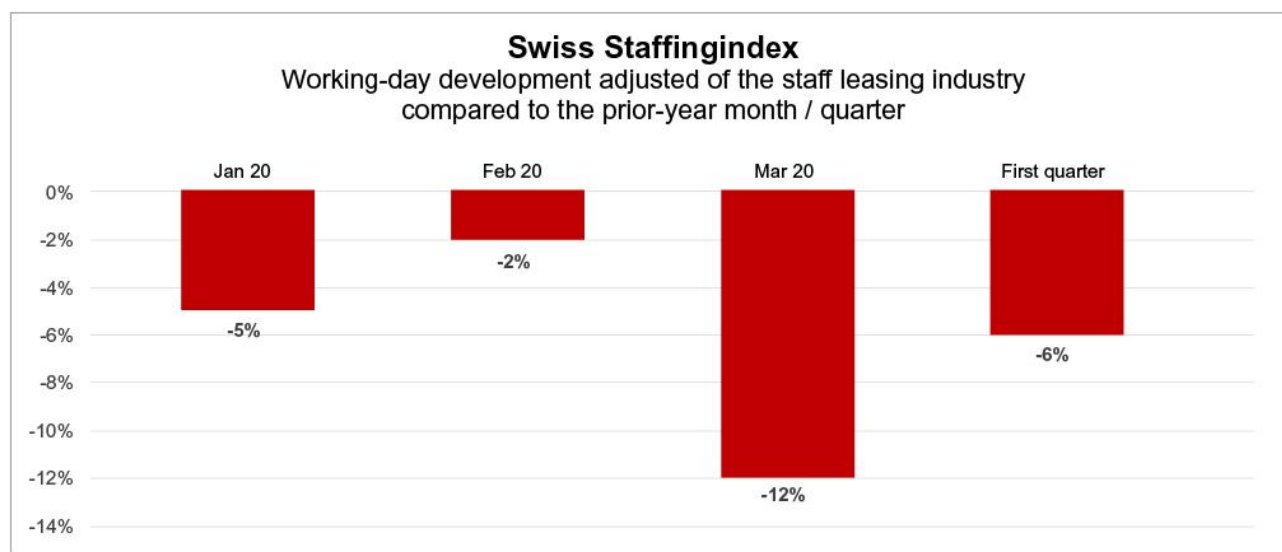


The Crunch of the Corona-minus: 12% Slump in March

As a result of the coronavirus crisis, the Swiss Staffingindex shows 12% fewer working hours rendered by temporary workers than during the same month in the previous year – without taking short-time working hours into account. A survey conducted by gfs-zürich shows that on average, nearly half of temporary workers were on short-time working after the lockdown if this had been applied for by a staff leasing company. This was the case for around 60% of staff leasing companies. Smaller declines in January and February have meant a more moderate downturn of 6% for the first quarter of 2020. As the economy was only affected by the lockdown for the second half of March, business growth is likely to collapse further during April.



Unia Playing with Fire

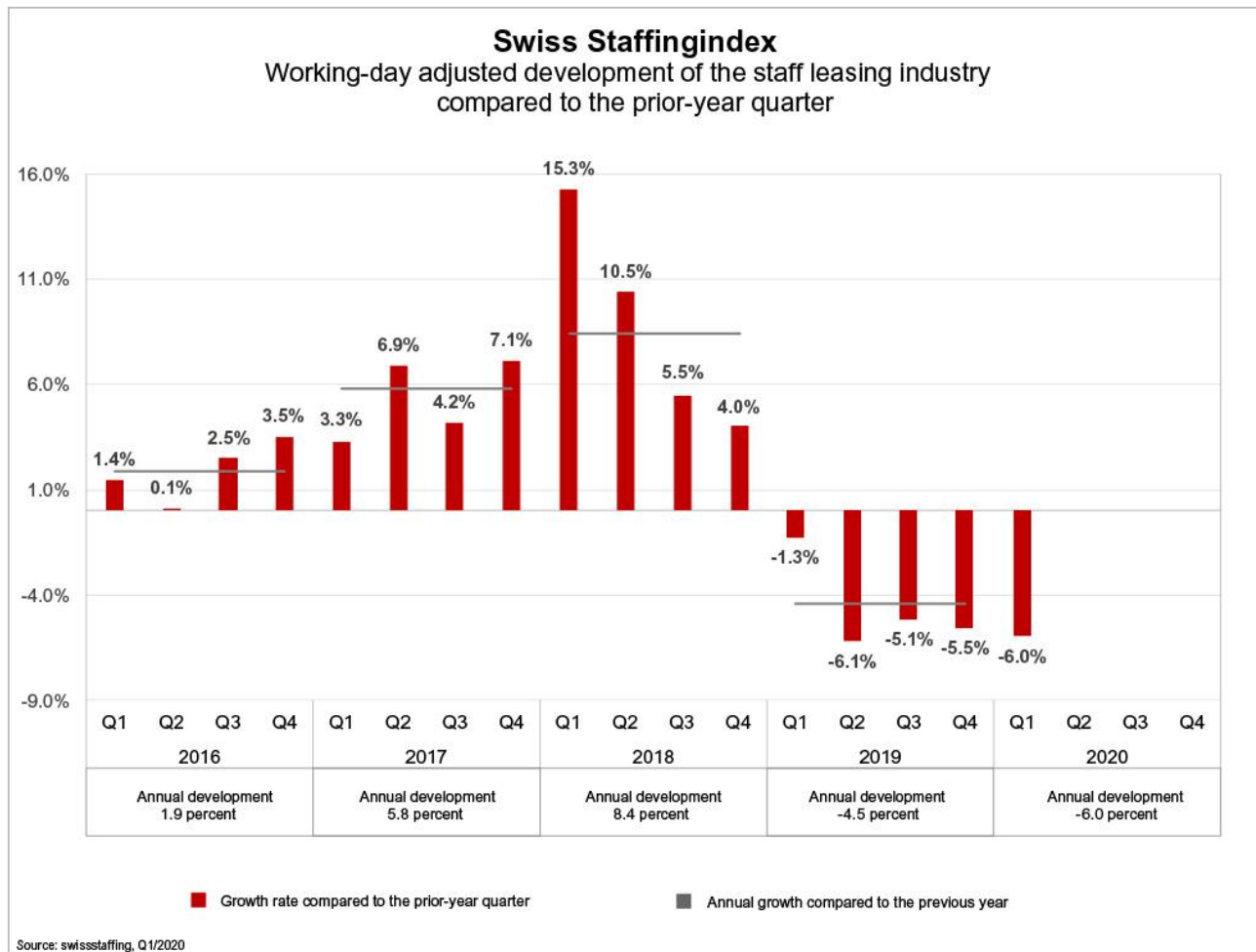
“Demanding that businesses close and then complaining about redundancies is hypocritical” is how Myra Fischer-Rosinger, Director of swissstaffing, views Unia’s current policy. “The biggest union in the country has a social responsibility to work with employers to find solutions for implementing remote-working and hygiene measures. Each week of lockdown is inflicting greater damage and destroying both temporary and permanent positions.” The traditional spring upturn in the staff leasing sector has come to an abrupt halt. A lack of recruitment and a tapering off of short-term deployments are having a greater effect on the downturn than redundancies. However, terminations are inevitable. If business continues to decline for an extended period of time, which is conceivable, short-time working will not be legally permissible for

either permanent employees or temporary workers, meaning that changes will have to be made to the emergency ordinance.

Success Stories and Corporate Responsibility during the Crisis

Staff leasing companies are taking commercial responsibility during the crisis. By providing digital training opportunities or application tips on social networks, they are getting job seekers ready for the labor market. They are using their networks of contacts to occupy employees outside of their traditional fields, for example in logistics, and are providing them with gloves, face masks and disinfectant when needed. They are completing short-time working applications for corporate customers free of charge, or helping them with new recruitment for after the lockdown. Where there are redundancies, they are helping terminated employees register with their regional employment center. The crisis also represents a way out of illegal employment: numerous employees have become legal via temporary work due to restrictions on cross-border movement without a work permit.

Some first-hand accounts can be found at the end of this press release.



→ **Further Information:**

The index's key data and the development of the underlying index values can be seen below. Other statistics are available by clicking [this link](#).

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Swiss Staffing Index key data	
Staff leasing companies included	200 companies
Working hours recorded per year	76 million
Market coverage	42%
Frequency of publication	Quarterly
Data collection	Monthly
Next provisional publication date	29 July 2020

Source: swissstaffing, Q1/2020

Overview of the development of the Swiss Staffingindex, basis: Q1 2012

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Q1	100	104.1	114.3	110.9	112.4	116.1	133.9	132.2	124.2
Q2	136.3	144.3	148.9	143.0	143.1	153.0	169.1	158.8	
Q3	153.8	159.9	160.9	154.4	158.3	165.0	174.0	165.1	
Q4	138.2	147.5	145.7	139.6	144.5	154.7	160.9	152.1	

Source: swissstaffing, Q1/2020

swissstaffing is a service centre and centre 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 recruitment agencies 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](#).

Coronavirus crisis stories from the staff leasing industry

The coronavirus crisis is likely to become the largest economic crisis in recent history. However, major crises are also the making of success stories and fortunes, both large and small. In this supplement, swissstaffing provides a synopsis of six stories from the staff leasing industry.

- **Preparing for the rush**
Topic: Short-time working and reopening, **canton:** Bern, **sector:** Garden centers
- **Flexibility in times of crisis**
Topic: The fate of flexworkers, **canton:** Zurich, **sector:** Gig economy
- **Health comes first – double stitching is better**
Topic: Hygiene measures, **canton:** Zug, **sector:** Construction
- **Setting a new course in the crisis**
Topic: Applications, **canton:** Vaud, **sector:** IT, banking, finance
- **Crisis: escaping illegal employment**
Topic: Illegal employment, **canton:** Vaud, **sector:** Care in private households
- **Working for every employee**
Topic: Short-time working and redundancies, **canton:** Ticino, **sector:** all sectors

Preparing for the rush

Hansruedi Brunner, Arban Personal, Canton of Bern

“The crisis is hurting garden centers financially and emotionally,” says Hansruedi Brunner, owner of Arban Personal and qualified master gardener. “To make room for new flowers, the March plants had to be composted rather than sold.” His temporary workers were working short-time while sales were halted since hiring companies are having to count every penny. Once they reopen, it will be all hands on deck again to cope with the rush of customers. Hansruedi Brunner reports: “Our garden centers are happy because we have taken on the handling of short-time work and the recruitment of new employees for them. They have plenty of other things to worry about right now.”

Flexibility in times of crisis

Michael Urs Schneider, 58, temporary worker at Coople, Canton of Zurich

Michael Schneider lost his job as a sales representative during the euro crisis. Since then, he has been working flexibly via the online platform Coople. “No job has ever enthused me enough for me to want to stay on longer,” explains the 58-year-old. “So what I'm missing the most during the coronavirus crisis is job variety.” The Federal Council's measures mean that contracts with many contacts, such as in the catering trade and at events, will no longer be awarded. Michael Schneider is instead working in logistics for major distributors and online retailers. His flexibility ensures that he has an income and that society can benefit from stable basic supplies.

Health comes first – double stitching is better

Luciano Bertozzi, Swiss Private Job AG, Canton of Zug

Health comes first. The same applies on a construction site. Hygiene measures must be enforced in order to prevent construction sites being closed. Temporary workers have two options for obtaining the obligatory protective equipment – either from the temporary office or the hiring company. “To protect our employees, we regularly remind them of the hygiene procedures,” explains Luciano Bertozzi from Swiss Private Job. “At the same time, we are providing them with gloves, disinfectant and protective masks as required. Fortunately, placing an order was never a problem.”

Setting a new course in the crisis

Roger Cisier, Fit1Job SA, Canton of Vaud

Roger Cisier is the Director of Fit1Job and his company specializes in the placement of highly qualified IT, banking and finance professionals. He believes that knowledge sharing and mutual assistance are key to overcoming the crisis. The company is therefore sharing its expertise on social media and providing job seekers with advice on how to improve their application portfolio. “Candidates must prepare for the period following the crisis,” Roger Cisier explains. “Many candidates find it difficult to sell their skills properly on their CV. We’re sharing simple, bite-sized pieces of advice, recommending people use the shutdown period to update their portfolio. Our advice seems to be highly appreciated in view of the feedback we are receiving from candidates. Some former candidates have even contacted us again after several years.”

Crisis: escaping illegal employment

Katja Stiefele-Eker, Curahome, Canton of Lucerne

Carers and domestic workers who were working illegally are no longer able to reach their place of work. The borders are closed. It is only possible to enter Switzerland with a valid work permit. Many private households are only now becoming aware that their relatives requiring support were being cared for illegally. “During the crisis, we have been able to legalize many care relationships,” says Katja Stiefele-Eker, Managing Director of Curahome. “This is a huge success for the newly appointed carers, those in need of care and their families, and the state.”

Working for every employee

Paolo Thoma, Team Personnel Solutions, Canton of Ticino

“This crisis is the time for social responsibility,” says Paolo Thoma, Managing Director of Team Personnel Solutions. “On behalf of every temporary worker, we are doing everything we can to convince hiring companies that they should work short-time.” Thanks to the Federal Council extending short-time working to cover temporary workers, and the efforts of Team Personnel Solutions, over 200 jobs have been secured for the time being. The company is not abandoning employees who could not be registered for short-term work; personnel advisors are supporting employees when they register with the regional employment center and are trying to get them back to work as quickly as possible.