

## **2022 in review: comfortable increase, significant slowdown, unexpected final spurt**

*Labor shortage, omicron, supply bottlenecks and inflation – the annual figures from staffing service providers illustrate the roller coaster ride that was 2022.*

**Staffing service providers concluded 2022 with an increase of 7.2 percent year-on-year in the temporary sector. The number of permanent position placements even rose by 9.3 percent. According to the Swiss Staffingindex, there were huge variations in growth rates over the course of the year. These were shaped by the hot topics of 2022: labor shortage, omicron, supply bottlenecks and inflation. The temporary sector saw a boom in the first quarter of 17.6 percent due to omicron, and the increasing lack of skilled workers and employees prompted an increase in business development of 3.4 percent in the fourth quarter. Even more astonishingly, there was strong growth of 10.0 percent in the temporary sector and 20.1 percent in the permanent staffing sector in December.**

### **The situation in healthcare is symptomatic of staff leasing development**

“The extremes of growth experienced by staffing service providers in 2022 are symptomatically reflected by the situation in healthcare,” explains Dr. Marius Osterfeld, an economist at swissstaffing. Vaccination centers, staffing shortages in hospitals, and work absences as a result of coronavirus brought staffing service providers onto the scene at the beginning of the year. They provided the economy with the short-term workers it needed and helped keep Switzerland's economic engine running. The result was a comfortable increase in the temporary staffing sector. At the end of the year, healthcare once again illustrated the greatest challenge facing the economy and staffing service providers – hospitals needed nurses to keep things running, but had a shortage of staff. This is where staffing service providers came in: with their flexible working models, they helped to fully tap skilled labor potential and keep nurses at work. However, the labor shortage also limited the growth of staffing service providers and caused a significant slowdown.

### **Surprisingly, a strong end to the year**

The trend for permanent positions progressed in contrast to the development of the temporary staffing sector. Strong growth of around 9 percent in the first and second quarter was then followed by a weak third quarter due to the explosion in fuel prices and increasing uncertainty. The lasting shortage of skilled and manual labor prompted a real boom in the fourth quarter, with business up 21.8 percent compared

with the previous year. In addition, fear of failing to find any candidates prompted companies to choose from even a small cohort if candidates fitted the required profile. The temporary staffing sector also enjoyed a pleasing end to the year with 10.0 percent more working hours rendered. The warm weather kept construction activities growing, and without concerns about the coronavirus, retail and gastronomy enjoyed a boom.

### **Outlook for 2023**

Despite numerous challenges, staffing service providers are viewing 2023 optimistically. More than 50 percent of swissstaffing members are expecting to see an increase in business over the next six months, compared with fewer than 60 percent in the third quarter. A cooling economy and a labor shortage will remain the major challenges facing staffing service providers over the coming year. The reason for this paradoxical development: due to demographic change, Switzerland's labor market is losing manpower as each year passes and causing the economy to evolve. For example, over the past twenty years, over 150,000 new jobs have been created in healthcare and social services alone. This trend is likely to continue in 2023.

### **→Further Information:**

The next page shows the index's key data and the development of the underlying index values. Other statistics are available by clicking on [this link](#).

#### **Marius Osterfeld, Economist**

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

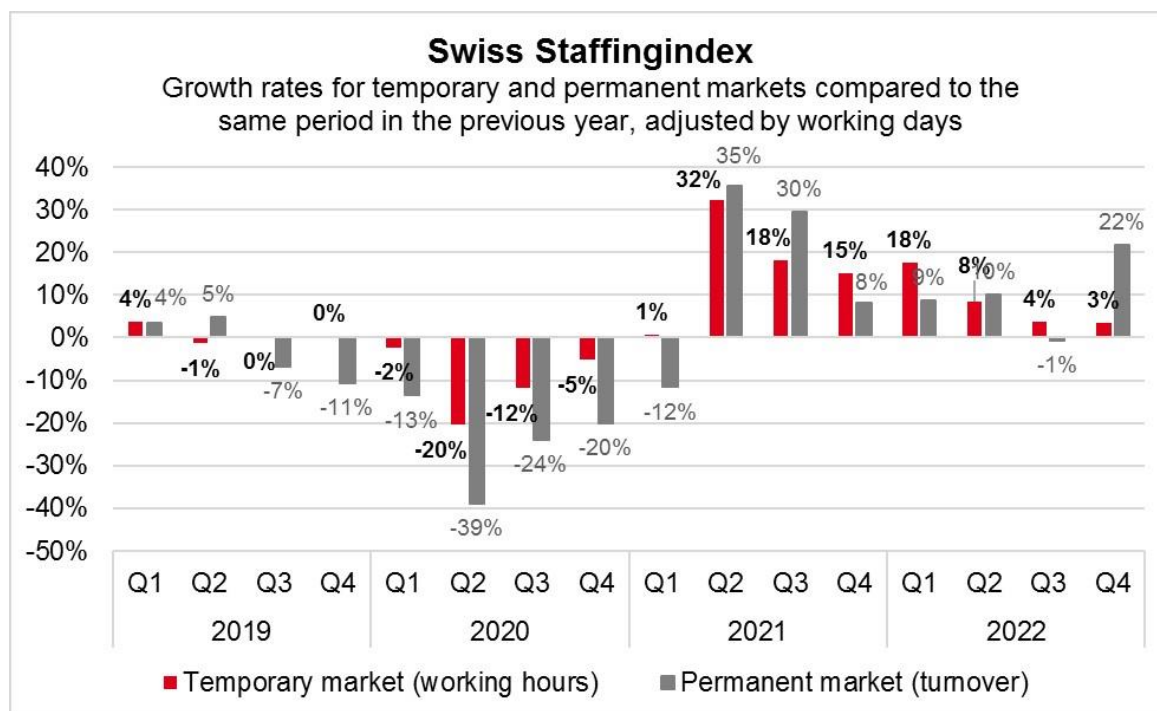
[marius.osterfeld@swissstaffing.ch](mailto:marius.osterfeld@swissstaffing.ch)

#### **Blandina Werren, Head of Communications**

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

[blandina.werren@swissstaffing.ch](mailto:blandina.werren@swissstaffing.ch)

[www.swissstaffing.ch](http://www.swissstaffing.ch)



<b>Swiss Staffing Index key data</b>	
Staffing service providers included	400 companies
<b>Temporary Market</b>	
Working hours recorded per year	103 million
Market coverage of temporary market	Approx. 50 percent
<b>Permanent Market</b>	
Permanent position placements recorded per year	8,500
Market coverage of permanent market	Approx. 40 percent
<b>Publication Schedule</b>	
Frequency of publication	Monthly
Media release interval	Quarterly
Next provisional publication date	April 28, 2023

Source: swissstaffing, Q4/2022

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

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Q1</b>	100.0	103.7	101.4	102.0	120.0
<b>Q2</b>	134.6	132.8	105.6	139.7	151.3
<b>Q3</b>	140.5	140.1	123.4	145.8	151.4
<b>Q4</b>	128.7	129.2	122.4	140.8	145.6

Source: swissstaffing, Q4/2022

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

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Q1</b>	100	103.5	89.6	79.2	86.0
<b>Q2</b>	105.7	110.7	67.7	91.7	100.9
<b>Q3</b>	97.4	90.9	69.2	89.6	89.1
<b>Q4</b>	92.3	82.6	66.0	71.5	87.1

Source: swissstaffing, Q4/2022

**swissstaffing** is the center of excellence for staff leasing companies in Switzerland. As an employers' association, swissstaffing represents the interests of its 470 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](#).