

## **Swiss Staffingindex: staffing service providers defy Iran conflict**

*The temporary staffing market has begun to recover for the first time in twelve quarters, despite the conflict in Iran. The market for permanent positions is still suffering. However, this upturn is still fragile.*

**The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2026 marked the end to numerous years of decline for staffing service providers in Switzerland: after twelve quarters in negative figures, the number of hours worked by temporary workers increased by 1.3 percent compared with the previous year. The permanent staffing sector, on the other hand, is still being adversely affected by the economic slowdown and an uncertain business environment. This market segment has trended downwards for the eleventh quarter in a row, with a drop of 16.9 percent. The Swiss Staffingindex, as a barometer for the Swiss economy as a whole, is therefore reflecting positive labor market and economic trends.**

The temporary market experienced profound stabilization in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, with some significant regional differences. Industrial companies in eastern Switzerland increasingly had to deploy short-time working for their permanent staff and had no need for temporary workers. As a result, business in the region dropped by 2.2 percent compared with the same quarter in the previous year. Mittelland, on the other hand, saw a rise of 5.5 percent, thanks in particular to the watch industry. Marcel Keller, Country President Adecco Group Switzerland, explains: "This slight improvement in the first quarter is not a broad upswing, but rather a selective counter-movement in specific clusters of industry – especially in Mittelland. After numerous weak quarters, companies are responding conservatively with temporary appointments but remain very cautious overall."

### **No business impact from Iran conflict in March**

The Iran conflict had not yet made an impact in March. The number of hours worked increased by 1.1 percent compared with the previous year – lower than January but higher than February. Dr. Marius Osterfeld, an economist at swissstaffing, puts things into perspective: "By historical standards, energy prices only experienced a moderate increase in March, despite the noticeable impact at the gas pumps. This means that the Iran conflict did not significantly affect staffing service providers' business." Any impact on business in March would have been significant for the sector's development during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, as the number of hours worked during this business month is generally around 20 percent higher than in January due to seasonal factors. However, Osterfeld is not sounding the all-clear for the coming months: "If the conflict in the Strait of Hormuz is not resolved, this will hit Swiss industry particularly hard – including staff leasing." Around a quarter of the turnover achieved by staffing service providers

comes from the industrial sector, meaning that the staffing industry is particularly sensitive to developments there.

However, Osterfeld notes that the Iran conflict is boosting other market segments: “Uncertainty about fuel prices and flight cancellations could increasingly prompt undecided customers to spend their holidays in Switzerland or invest in consumer products rather than booking vacations. This increases demand for restaurants, hotels, logistics, and retail.” Nevertheless, the overall impact remains negative, as some of the money saved is eaten up by price rises. Despite the tense geopolitical situation, the CEOs of swissstaffing’s member companies remain optimistic. A membership survey conducted by opinion and social research institute gfs-zürich found that 38 percent of the CEOs responding expected to see an upward trend in business over the next six months – similar to the findings from the survey in the previous quarter.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Dr. Marius Osterfeld, Head of Economics & Politics**

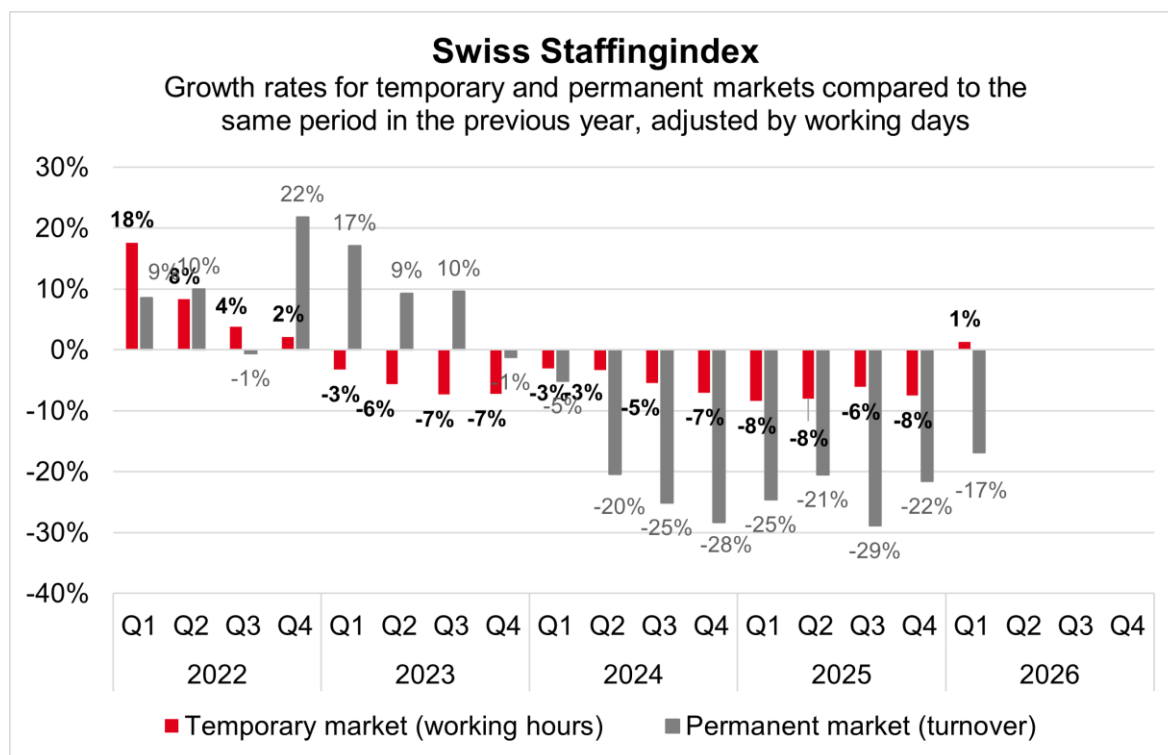
Tel.: +41 (0)44 388 95 70 / +41 (0)79 930 45 25  
marius.osterfeld@swissstaffing.ch

**Celeste Bella, Head of Marketing & Communication**

Tel.: +41 (0)44 388 95 65 / +41 (0)79 388 94 22  
celeste.bella@swissstaffing.ch

www.swissstaffing.ch

The pages that follow show the index’s key data and the development of the underlying index values. Other statistics are available by clicking on [this link](#).



Source: swissstaffing, Q1/2026

<b>Swiss Staffing Index key data</b>	
Staff leasing companies included	400 companies
<b>Temporary staffing market</b>	
Working hours recorded per year	103 million
Temporary staffing market coverage	approx. 50 percent
<b>Permanent staffing market</b>	
Permanent job placements recorded per year	8500
Permanent employment market coverage	approx. 40 percent
<b>Publication dates</b>	
Frequency of publication	Monthly
Frequency of press releases	Quarterly
Next provisional publication date	July 29, 2026

Source: swissstaffing, Q1/2026

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

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>Q1</b>	100.0	103.7	101.4	102.0	120.0	116.1	112.7	103.2	104.5
<b>Q2</b>	134.6	132.8	105.6	139.7	151.3	142.8	138.1	127.1	
<b>Q3</b>	140.5	140.1	123.4	145.8	151.4	140.3	132.7	124.6	
<b>Q4</b>	128.7	129.2	122.4	140.8	143.8	133.5	124.1	114.8	

Source: swissstaffing, Q1/2026

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

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
<b>Q1</b>	100.0	103.5	89.6	79.2	85.6	100.6	95.5	72.0	59.8
<b>Q2</b>	105.7	110.7	67.7	91.7	99.1	110.2	87.7	69.7	
<b>Q3</b>	97.4	90.9	69.2	89.6	89.1	95.1	71.3	50.7	
<b>Q4</b>	92.3	82.6	66.0	71.5	87.1	86.0	61.7	48.3	

Source: swissstaffing, Q1/2026

**swissstaffing** is the centre of excellence for staffing service providers in Switzerland. As an employers' association, swissstaffing represents the interests of its over 500 members in matters of policy, the economy and society. swissstaffing is a social partner of the CBA on Staff Leasing, the contract covering the majority of Switzerland's employees.

**Studies on temporary workers and staffing service providers in Switzerland**

The market research institute gfs-zürich completes regular surveys on behalf of swissstaffing. The current study can be found at [this link](#).