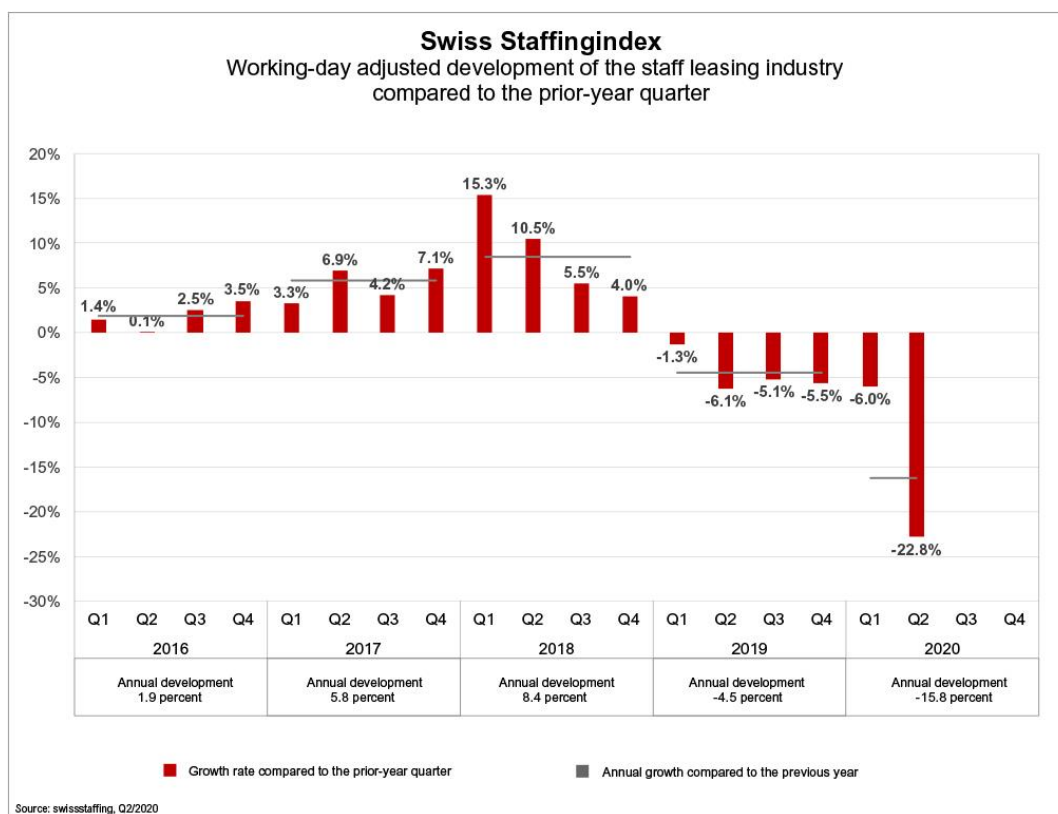


Coronavirus slump of 22.8 percent, 20,000 short-time workers threatened with unemployment

The coronavirus crisis has rocked the staff leasing sector. The number of working hours rendered during the second quarter of the year was around 23 percent lower than the previous year, without taking short-time working hours into account. This is illustrated by the industry barometer that is the Swiss Staffing Index. Some 20,000 temporary employees are currently on short-time working. This employment measure will no longer be available once the federal government's emergency decree expires on August 31, 2020. If the employees affected cannot be fully reinstated after this date, it is likely that their contracts will be terminated.



Industry association sounds the alarm

In the critical words of Leif Agnéus, President of the industry association swissstaffing: "It is incomprehensible that the federal government's emergency decree is not being extended until the parliament's new Covid-19 law is adopted. The lack of a subsequent solution for temporary employees

on short-time working threatens an unnecessary number of temporary employment relationships from early September onwards.” One particularly delicate issue is the fact that even though further, most likely regional or sector-specific lockdowns cannot be ruled out, the new law does not offer any further short-time working solutions for temporary employees. Staffing service providers are taking their responsibilities seriously during this crisis and are not just putting all temporary employees across the board on short-time working, despite public pressure to do so. Instead, as provided for by the law and decree, they are limiting their applications to longer-term employment contracts. Leif Agnéus emphasizes: “Parliament must act urgently to incorporate short-time working for temporary employees into the law.”

French-speaking and Italian-speaking Switzerland particularly affected

The coronavirus and resulting lockdown have hit French-speaking and Italian-speaking Switzerland hard, both from a health perspective and in terms of the economy. A gfs-zürich survey of swissstaffing members showed that the number of temporary employees in these regions fell by 80 to 90 percent during the lockdown. By comparison, the number of temporary employees in German-speaking Switzerland fell by just over 40 percent. A significant portion of this decrease is not due to redundancies but rather to limited-term contracts coming to an end combined with a lack of new recruitment. What is disconcerting for the future is the fact that business activities have not yet picked up strongly across Switzerland, despite the lockdown measures being eased in June. However, French-speaking and Italian-speaking Switzerland have fortunately enjoyed a faster recovery.

→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 October 2020

Source: swissstaffing, Q2/2020

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	122.6
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, Q2/2020

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](#).