

Factsheet: Switzerland

Last update: 10 April 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

Switzerland has several definitions of youth. The [Youth Law](#) (2011) defines childhood and youth as kindergarten age to 30 years. The [Youth Policy Strategy](#) (2008) identifies youth promotion measures in cantons as being aimed at youth aged 16-25 years.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

Upper House **--**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)
Cantonal law governs minimum candidacy age for the upper house.
The upper house is directly elected.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

| | Without Parental Consent | Opposite Sex | With Parental Consent | Same Sex |
|--------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------|
| Male | 18 | 16 | 16 | ++ |
| Female | 18 | 16 | 16 | ++ |

Civil unions/partnerships legal. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

VOTING AGE

18

The canton of Schaffhausen requires compulsory voting at the federal, cantonal and municipal elections.
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [Civil Code](#) (1907)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

10

Minimum Age
Source: [Federal Law Governing the Criminal Status of Minors](#) (2003)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.8

7 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

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Both sexes (15-24) %

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Male (15-24) % Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

81.02%

Both sexes %

82.19% **79.80%**
Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 84815.41

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.913

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)
3 out of 187 countries.

GINI

32.35

Year: 2004

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

86

5 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

PRESS FREEDOM

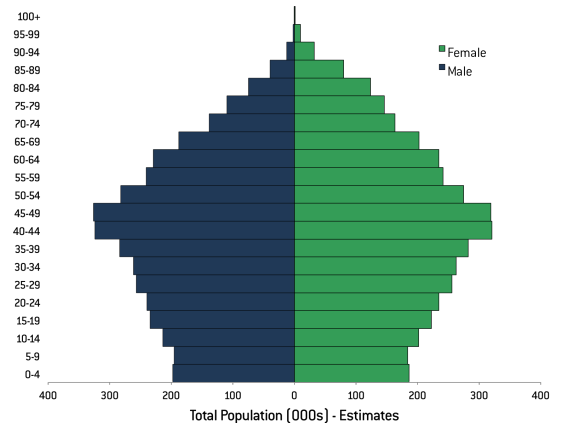
10.47

15 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



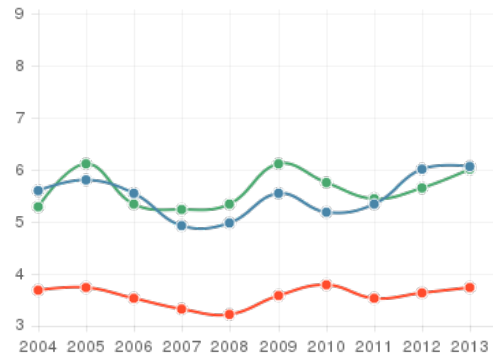
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Source: [United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division](#)

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment



SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

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Male (15-24) %

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Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

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Both sexes (13-15) %

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Male (13-15) % Female (13-15) %

Year: No data.

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The purpose of the [Child and Youth Promotion Act](#) (2011) is to promote work with young people and help to ensure that they are encouraged in their physical and mental wellbeing and are able to develop into responsible adults who are integrated into the community.

The law is described by the "[Child and youth policy in Switzerland](#)" (2013) fact sheet as being a "policy of protection, promotion and participation".

According to the [Youth Policy Strategy](#) (2008), eight cantons have independent youth laws and a further nine cantons have youth-specific provisions in other acts.

The Strategy includes information on the development and challenges of youth policy, a situational analysis and measures

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

Switzerland has a 2011 youth law and a 2008 youth policy strategy. A 2012 briefing exists.

male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or

for evaluation.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The [Family, Generations and Society Domain](#) of the [Federal Social Insurance Office](#) is responsible for youth affairs. Its main activities include coordination of the "Youth and Violence" prevention programme, provision of financial support to organisations working with young people, and as an organising partner of the annual [Federal Youth Session](#).

The [Youth Policy Strategy](#) (2008) highlights that while the federal government has a role to play in youth policy, primary responsibility for implementation lies with the cantons and municipalities.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?

YES

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [Swiss National Youth Council](#) (SNYC) is an umbrella organisation of 65 youth organisations. Their mission is "to generate possibilities for young people to participate in society as a whole and to develop into socially conscious, active citizens."

The SNYC coordinates a series of projects including a training programme on physical and mental health, a project supporting migrant minors, and the "Youth Rep" scheme, which sends three young representatives to the UN. The SNYC also engages in political advocacy work on policy positions determined by members.

Does the country have a national youth organisation / association (council, platform, body)?

YES

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to [Budget Figures for Administrative Units 2014](#), CHF 2.2 million (USD 2.5 million) is allocated for Measures for the Protection of Youth, CHF 10.3 million (USD 11.8 million) for Encouragement for Children and Youth, and CHF 700,000 (USD 798,653) for Incentive Financing for Cantons for Children and Youth. Extensive devolution in Switzerland gives cantons control of tax revenues, and as such expenditure on youth in addition to federal funding varies by canton. According to the [World Bank](#), Switzerland spent 15.94% of its government expenditure and 5.22% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

**CHF 13.2 MILLION
USD 15.0 MILLION**

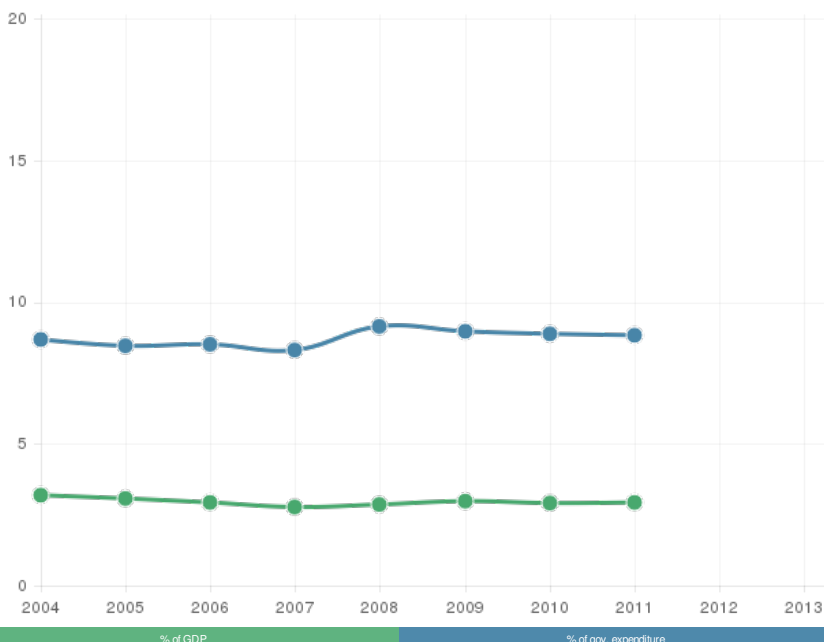
youth programming?

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

% of GDP

% of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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