CSNCH Network Schweiz Network Suisse Network Svizzera Network Switzerland
Career Service

Q1/2026

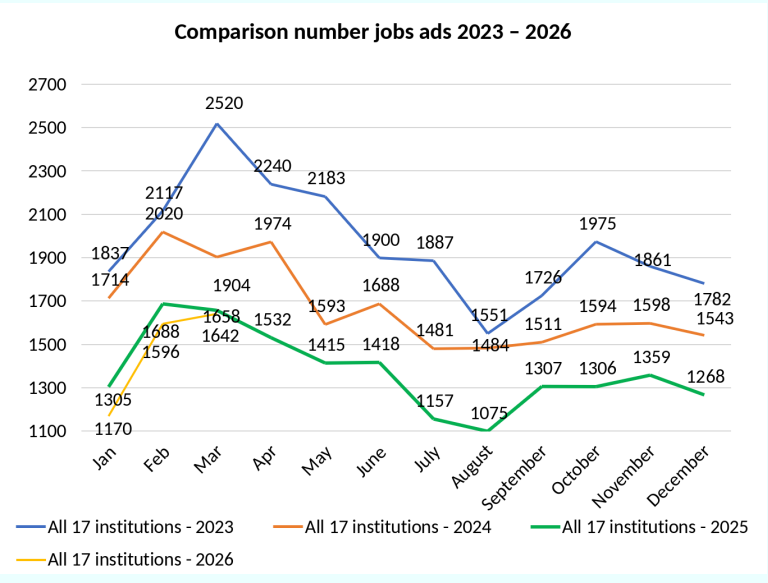
Swiss Graduate Jobmarket Monitor

Indicator J - Job Ads

This monthly indicator measures the number of job ads published on the platforms of Career Services of Universities & Universities of Applied Sciences in Switzerland.
The focus is on tracking job ads for graduates, e.g. career entry positions, traineeships, internships and so on.
From Q1 2026 onwards, the index is calculated based on 17 institutions. This change should be considered when comparing results with previous periods.

Q1 2026 in a nutshell

17 institutions	3 Months	4'408 job ads	Jan: 1170 jobs Feb: 1596 jobs Mar: 1642 jobs	-22% compared to 2024	-5% compared to 2025



Graph 1: Total number of monthly Job ads Jan - Dec 2023-2026
Numbers based on 17 institutions

Overall Development

The number of job ads posted on university job portals across Switzerland continues to show an overall downward trend over the years. While 2023 recorded the highest levels, both 2024 and 2025 show consistently lower numbers, and 2026 continues this pattern.

The lower values at the beginning of the year may reflect typical seasonal patterns, as hiring activity tends to be slower in the early months following year-end.

Overall, 2026 follows a similar monthly pattern to previous years, with fluctuations throughout the year but consistently lower levels than earlier years, indicating a sustained weakening in job market activity across universities.

Q1 Comparison over time

This graph compares the total number of job ads published in the first quarter (Q1) across 17 universities in Switzerland.

- 2024 (reference year): Peak level with 5'638 job ads
- 2025: Decline to 4'651 job ads (–18% vs. 2024)
- 2026: Further decrease to 4'408 job ads (–5% vs. 2025, –22% vs. 2024)

Overall, the data shows a sharp decline between 2024 and 2025, followed by a more moderate decrease in 2026.

		comparison year		
reference year	Total number Job ads	2024	to 2025	to 2026
2024	5638	-	21%	28%
2025	4651	-18%	-	6%
2026	4408	-22%	-5%	-

Table: Total number of Q1 Job ads in comparison (17 Universities)

Graph 2: Total Q1 Job ads 2024-2026 and comparison
Numbers based on 17 institutions

This suggests that while the job market for graduates remains under pressure, the pace of decline is slowing.

From university to university

This graph shows how individual universities contribute to the overall trend.

As institutions differ significantly in size and number of job ads, this view helps to reduce distortions caused by very large or very small platforms.

The bottom row indicates the net change: positive values mean more universities increased job ads, negative values indicate the opposite.

In Q1 2026, the trend fluctuated strongly:

- January: Net decrease (–5), with more universities reporting declines
- February: Strong rebound (+19), with broad-based increases
- March: Slight positive balance (+2), indicating a near-balanced development

Remark: While the core index is based on 17 institutions, this analysis includes data from 19 universities in order to provide a more comprehensive view of the Swiss job market.

Jan-26	Feb-26	Mar-26
-42%	95%	-22%
17%	31%	-26%
33%	25%	55%
200%	67%	-80%
-48%	112%	67%
5%	10%	5%
14%	31%	5%
-28%	50%	34%
18%	23%	17%
-23%	51%	45%
-29%	79%	37%
-38%	40%	24%
8%	56%	-38%
-37%	8%	54%
-31%	98%	-53%
-49%	94%	-20%
-3%	16%	-37%
-2%	1%	0%
-39%	126%	-44%
-5	19	2 net increase

Graph 3: Change in job ads compared to previous month per university

Impressum

The "Swiss Graduates Job Market Monitor" is a project of the Career Services Network of Switzerland (CSNCH), which attempts to record and map the development of the labour market for university graduates using four indicators.

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