

Mobility: immigration alert

December 2019

Switzerland

Work permit quota update for 2019 and outlook for 2020

Executive summary

In Switzerland, long term work permits (B permits) and short-term work permits (L permits) for both non-EU/EFTA nationals as well as EU/EFTA nationals on assignment are subject to an annual and quarterly quota release.

The quotas enable companies in Switzerland to recruit highly qualified specialists from abroad. For 2019, the work permit quotas for non-EU/EFTA nationals as well as for seconded EU/EFTA nationals have not been exhausted and for 2020 the quotas remain at the same level.

Key points

Quota situation 2019: Review and estimation for December

Compared to 2018, the work permit quota for non-EU/EFTA nationals were increased from 8,000 to 8,500 for 2019, while the annual work permit quota for assigned EU/EFTA nationals remained unchanged at 3,500. As of 31 October 2019, the remaining permit quota for Non-EU/EFTA and assigned EU/EFTA nationals is as follows:

Non-EU/EFTA nationals

Short-term work permits (L permits)	
Annual quota:	4,000
Used by October 2019:	2,887 (72%)
Available by the end of 2019:	1,113

Long term work permits (B permits)	
Annual quota:	4,500
Used by October 2019:	3,181 (71%)
Available by the end of 2019:	1,319

Assigned EU-28/EFTA nationals

Short-term work permits (L permits)	
Annual quota:	3,000
Used by October 2019:	1,824 (61%)
Available by the end of 2019:	1,176

Long term work permits (B permits)	
Annual quota:	500
Used by October 2019:	307 (61%)
Available by the end of 2019:	193

Quota situation 2020: Outlook

The Federal Council announced on 27 November 2019 that the quotas for non-EU/EFTA nationals and assigned EU/EFTA nationals in 2020 remain unchanged, as in 2019. Further, the quota for Croatian nationals will be slightly increased (according to pre-defined numbers). The Federal Council has also provided a quota for employment of UK nationals in Switzerland in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

	Short-term work permits (L permits)	Long term work permits (B permits)
Non-EU/EFTA nationals	4,000	4,500
Assigned EU/EFTA nationals	3,000	500
Croatian nationals	1,158	133
UK nationals (in case of no-deal Brexit)	1,400	2,100

Next steps

Owing to the increase in quotas in 2019 and the expected balance that will be unused by the end of 2019, it is expected that work permit quotas will also not be fully utilized in 2020. However, it is still recommended that employers forecast their foreign workforce requirements whenever possible to benefit from the available quota where needed. Further, a planning ahead of project timelines may allow employers to benefit from permits that are not subject to quotas, such as L120 day work permits and L permits for up to 4 months.

EY | Assurance | Tax | Transactions | Advisory

About EY

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

Ernst & Young LLP is a client-serving member firm of Ernst & Young Global Limited operating in the US.

© 2019 EYGM Limited.
All Rights Reserved.
EYG no. 005468-19Gbl

ED None`

This material has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as accounting, tax, or other professional advice. Please refer to your advisors for specific advice.

ey.com

Zurich

Julia Leuenberger

Tel: +41 58 286 46 42

Email: julia.leuenberger@ch.ey.com

Jeannine Pasquinelli

Tel: +41 58 286 4268

Email: jeannine.pasquinelli@ch.ey.com

Geneva

Laure Baumann

Tel: +41 58 286 55 96

Email: laure.baumann@ch.ey.com

Jérémy Sitbon

Tel: +41 58 286 5875

Email: jeremy.sitbon@ch.ey.com