

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2021



Switzerland

2022 work permit quotas announced; Croatians to benefit from unrestricted freedom of movement starting in 2022

Executive summary

The Swiss Government recently announced that the work permit quotas for 2022 for non-Swiss nationals remain the same as the 2021 quotas. The Government also recently announced that effective 1 January 2022, Croatian nationals will be eligible to receive a Swiss work permit and residence permit by registering with their local commune, similar to other nationals of the [European Economic Area](#) (EEA) member states.

Background

Switzerland provides two ways for non-Swiss nationals to access the Swiss labor market and work lawfully in the country. Nationals of EEA member states are given priority over third-country nationals (i.e., nationals of countries outside of the EEA), based on the EU-Swiss Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons, and permitted to work in Switzerland pursuant to a local Swiss employment contract, after completing a registration with the local commune with jurisdiction over their place of residence in Switzerland. These individuals (i.e., EEA nationals who are hired locally) are not subject to quotas or rigorous application criteria. EEA nationals who are assigned to work in Switzerland (i.e., not local hires) are still required to apply for work authorization, subject to quotas and other application criteria. Third-country nationals are required to file applications for Swiss work permits, and will be only granted work authorization if they are senior, highly specialized and/or qualified professionals whose skill sets and/or experience are not readily available in the Swiss labor market.

2022 work permit quotas

As in 2021, the 2022 quota for short-term work permits (i.e., L permits) for non-EEA nationals is 4,000. The quota for long-term work permits (i.e., B permits) for non-EEA nationals is 4,500.

As in 2021, the 2022 quota for EEA nationals who are assigned to work in Switzerland for up to two years and require an L Permit is 3,000. The quota for EEA nationals who are assigned to work in Switzerland for up to five years and require a B Permit is 500.

As in 2021, the 2022 quota for short-term work permits (i.e., L permits) for UK nationals is 1,400. The quota for long-term work permit (B permits) for UK nationals is 2,100.

Freedom of movement for Croatian nationals

Effective 1 January 2022, Croatian nationals will benefit from the same access to the Swiss labor market as nationals of other EEA member states. Specifically, citizens of Croatia who are seeking to work in Switzerland pursuant to a Swiss employment contract may do so after registering with the local commune with jurisdiction over their place of residence in Switzerland. They are no longer required to apply for, and obtain, a work authorization document in advance of their travel to Switzerland.

Croatian nationals who are assigned to work in Switzerland, and do not have a local Swiss employment contract, will remain subject to the work permit quotas and application criteria that apply to EEA nationals who are assigned to work in Switzerland.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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