

Mobility: Immigration alert

November 2023

Switzerland

Switzerland to retain work permit quotas for EEA, UK and third-country nationals in 2024

Executive summary

On 29 November 2023, the Swiss government announced that the annual quotas for nationals of the UK, European Economic Area (EEA) Member States and countries outside the EEA ("third-country nationals"), who seek to obtain short-term and long-term work permits (i.e., L and B Permits) in 2024, will be the same as those for 2023.

Background

EEA nationals and third-country nationals who are assigned to work in Switzerland are required to apply for work authorization and are subject to annual quotas. Third-country nationals who seek to work in Switzerland on a local contract also require work authorization and must be highly specialized or qualified professionals who possess skills that are not easily found in the Swiss labor market. UK nationals are subject to the same requirements as third-country nationals, but are subject to different quotas.

Key developments

In 2024, the following quotas will continue to apply to EEA, UK and third-country nationals who seek to apply for L and B Permits:

- ▶ EEA nationals who are assigned to work in Switzerland for up to two years and require L Permits will be subject to a quota of 3,000. Those who are assigned to work in Switzerland for longer durations (e.g., two to six years) and require B Permits will be subject to a quota of 500.

- ▶ Non-EEA nationals who require L Permits will be subject to a quota of 4,000, while those who require B Permits will be subject to a quota of 4,500.
- ▶ UK nationals who require L Permits will be subject to a quota of 1,400, while those who require B Permits will be subject to a quota of 2,100.

On 22 November 2023, the Swiss Federal Council announced that the number of available B and L permits for [Croatian nationals](#) will remain fixed at 1,204 and 1,053, respectively, for calendar year 2024.

Impact on employers

While the 2023 work permit quotas for EEA, UK and third-country nationals were not exhausted, this may change in 2024 as travel volumes are expected to increase. Employers may consider the quotas for 2024 for strategic planning purposes.

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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