

Mobility: Immigration alert

December 2022



Switzerland

2023 work permit quotas for EEA, non-EEA and UK nationals to remain unchanged

Executive summary

The Swiss government announced last week that the quotas issued annually to nationals of the UK, European Economic Area (EEA) countries and countries outside the EEA, who seek to apply for short-term and long-term work permits (i.e., L and B Permits), will remain unchanged in 2023.

Background

Nationals of EEA Member States who are hired locally (i.e., local hires) may undertake work in Switzerland provided they have an employment contract with a Swiss employer and are registered with the local commune with jurisdiction over their place of residence in Switzerland. These individuals are not subject to quotas.

EEA nationals and non-EEA nationals (i.e., third-country nationals) who are assigned to work in Switzerland (i.e., non-local hires) are required to apply for work authorization and subject to annual quotas. Third-country nationals who seek to work in Switzerland 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 2023, the following quotas will continue to apply to individuals who seek to apply for L and B Permits:

- ▶ EEA nationals who are assigned to work in Switzerland (i.e., non-local hires) 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. Applications to renew B Permits are not subject to quotas.
- ▶ 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.

In November 2022, the Swiss Federal Council announced the introduction of [new quotas](#) for Croatian nationals entering Switzerland as of 1 January 2023.

Impact on employers

While the 2022 work permit quotas for EEA, non-EEA and UK nationals were not fully exhausted, there is a possibility that this will change in 2023 as travel volumes increase. Employers may consider the quota numbers 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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