

# Swiss Domestic Workers Report 2026

Working and Employment Conditions of Private  
Domestic Workers in Switzerland.

quitt.

# Table of contents

**03** Introduction

**04** Wages of domestic helpers in Switzerland

**06** Profile of domestic helpers

**06** Accidents in Swiss households

**07** Four types of employment compared

**08** Interviews with domestic helpers

**09** We are quitt

## Imprint

Edition 2026

Publisher: ServiceHunter AG, Birmensdorferstrasse 94, 8003 Zürich

Editor: Luna Arnold

Layout & graphics: Lilly Barak

ServiceHunter AG accepts no liability for the accuracy and completeness of all data listed in this report. Printing errors, mistakes and changes are reserved. Swiss publishers may use the content free of charge for their reporting with acknowledgement of the source.

# Introduction

According to a study by the [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#), around 76 million people worldwide work as domestic helpers in private households, of whom 80% are in informal employment. The situation in Switzerland is similar. A representative survey by [Homegate AG \(DE\)](#) found that one in eight Swiss households employs a cleaner. Extrapolated to the whole country, this equates to about 500,000 households. In households with a monthly income above CHF 10,000, more than one in four employs a cleaner. [The Federal Statistical Office \(BFS\) \(DE\)](#)

recorded only **108,000** cleaners in private households, hotels and offices in 2024. Even assuming that one domestic helper looks after an average of **two households**, only about 216,000 households are covered. **The important thing to note:** the actual number of domestic helpers in private households is difficult to estimate. The figures suggest that around **43%** of the households thought to employ a cleaner do not officially register or insure them. As a result, many workers are employed illegally despite clear legal obligations.

## Facts, trends, and insights at quitt

There are no official statistics on working conditions for domestic workers in Switzerland. As a nationwide platform for hiring and paying domestic helpers, quitt has handled over **60,000** employment contracts in the past ten years. They have subsequently analysed the 2025 data and prepared the **“Swiss Domestic Helpers Report 2026”** and, by using real wage data, it has provided insights into the

working conditions of household helpers. In the initial findings, the **average gross wage** of domestic helpers was **CHF 32.57 per hour** (gross wage 2024: CHF 31.98). In the following pages we set out which canton charges the highest hourly wage and which countries the helpers mainly come from.

## Methodology

To prepare this information, quitt conducted comprehensive literature research and analysed the employment contracts with real wage data that is registered on the platform. Employment data for active household helpers between 1 January and 31 December 2025 were considered. The underlying data is based on employers' statements and quitt accepts no liability for possible incorrect information provided by employers.

**Good to know:**  
The wage data from quitt also serve as a data source for the Federal Statistical Office.

## And this is the legal situation

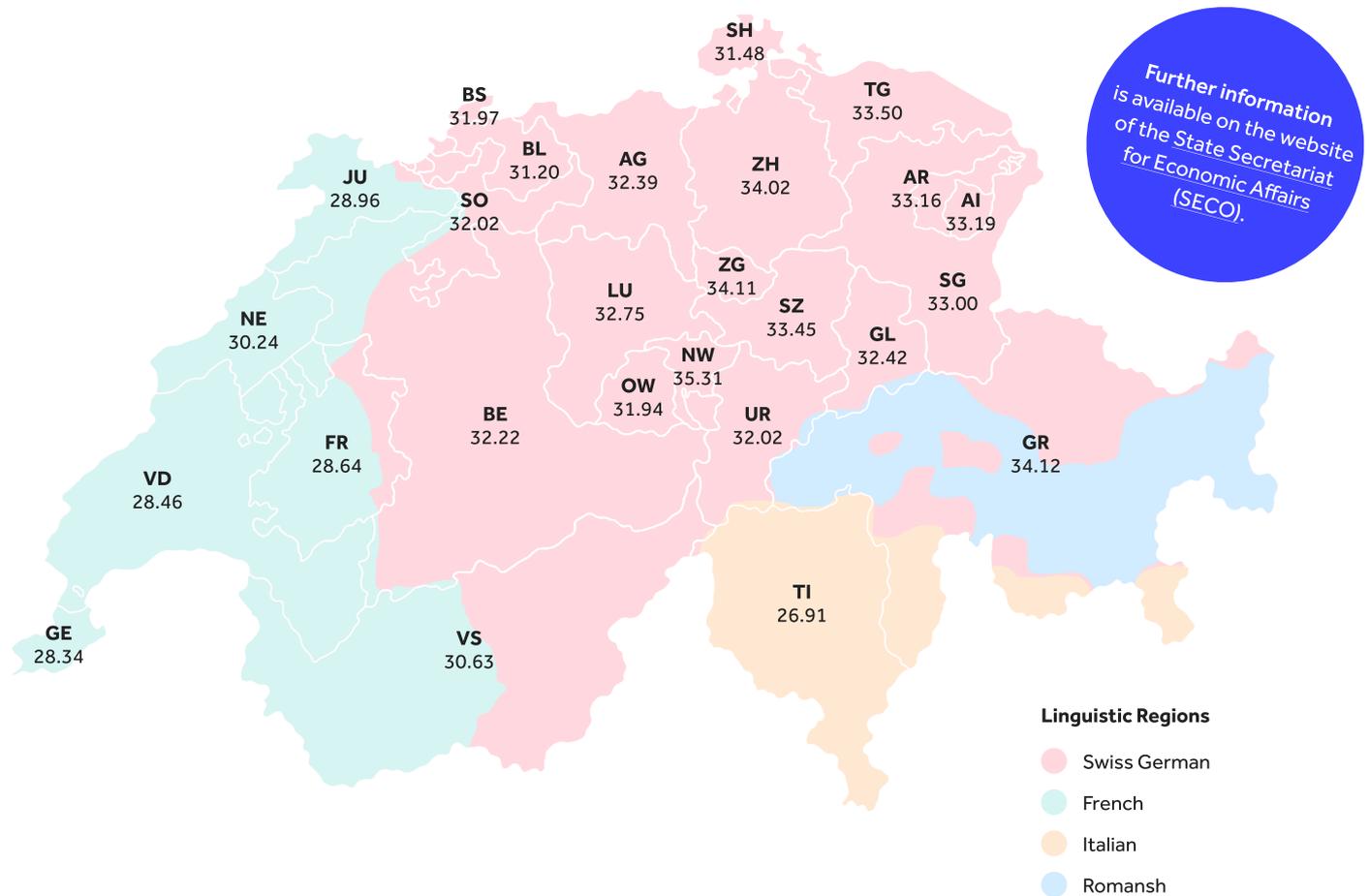
According to the AHV definition, the following roles and activities are considered domestic work: cleaners, au pairs, babysitters, childcare providers, homework tutors, caregivers for elderly persons, as well as all assistants performing tasks in or around the house.

Anyone employing domestic workers in Switzerland is required to pay social security contributions such as AHV from the very first day of employment. This does not apply to young people up to the age of 25 with an annual income of up to CHF 750. Employers must also take out accident insurance for domestic employees.

# Wages of domestic helpers in Switzerland

Since 2011, Switzerland has prescribed a minimum wage for all domestic staff with a workload of five hours per week or more. These rates currently range between **CHF 20.35 and CHF 24.55 per hour**, depending on education and professional experience. Added to this are the mandatory surcharges for four weeks of paid leave, bringing the total to **CHF 22.05 to CHF 26.60 per hour**. In addition, the cantons of Neuchâtel, Jura, Geneva, Ticino and Basel-Stadt have their own minimum wages.

## Overview of all wages and cantons



quitt conducted extensive literature research and analyzed employment contracts registered on the platform, including actual wage data.

The comparatively lower rates in southern and western Switzerland are due to the generally lower salary levels in those regions. In addition, many crossborder workers are employed there who often work for lower wages.

According to the [BGSA report 2024 \(DE\)](#), the highest fines for undeclared work were imposed in Romandy. The canton of Vaud remains by far the leader in personal inspections, which relate to verified employment relationships. However, the total number of business and personal inspections in the sector "services for private households" has been declining sharply in recent years.

# What domestic workers earn on average

Through analysis of 10'971 employment contracts for domestic helpers and their actual gross average wages in Switzerland quitt have discovered:

## Here are the key findings:

The highest wages are paid in the cantons of Nidwalden, Graubünden and Zug.

Around 92 % of all cantons recorded an increase in average gross hourly wages.

The Swiss average wage across active employment contracts is CHF 32.57 per hour.



## Wage and cost comparison: quitt versus cleaning agencies

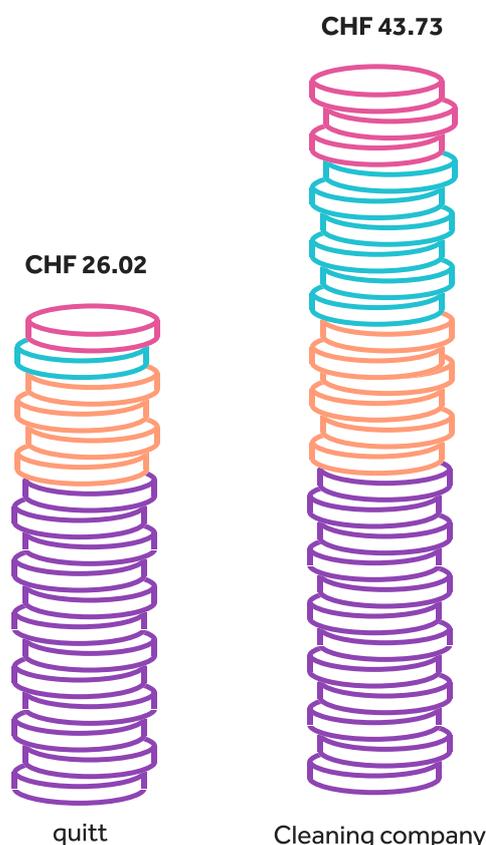
This assumes the cleaner receives the same net wage of CHF 21.4 from the employer through both quitt and an average cleaning agency. The table shows that the total wage cost per hour for the employer is around CHF 26 with quitt but CHF 43.73 at a cleaning agency\*.

Why?

Agencies charge a commission of about 32 % on the gross wage, significantly higher than quitt's commission (5%). At quitt, the 8.1% VAT applies only to the commission and not to the total cost as with agencies.

\* Average price based on research by quitt

	quitt CHF	Cleaning company CHF
● Net wage	21.40	21.40
<b>Employee contributions</b>		
● Social security contributions	1.47	4.60
<b>Gross wage</b>		
	22.87	26.00
<b>Employer contributions</b>		
● Social security contributions	1.70	5.56
● Occupational accident insurance	0.10	0.18
● Administrative fees (AHV)	0.12	0.23
● Commission	1.14	8.20
● Value added tax (VAT) 8.1%	0.09	3.56
<b>Total hourly costs</b>	<b>26.02</b>	<b>43.73</b>



# Profile of domestic helpers

The data from quitt as at 31st December 2025 indicates:

97% of domestic helpers are women.

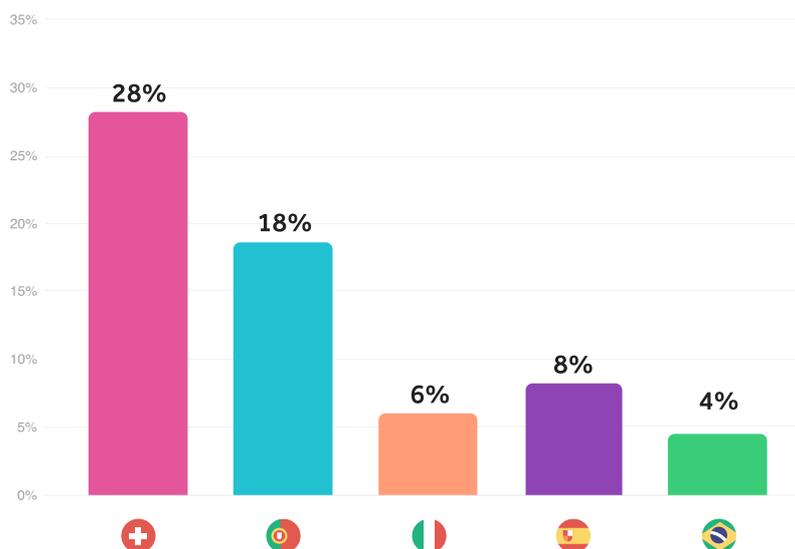
More than a third of all domestic workers work in more than one household.

They represent 122 different nationalities.

Over one third of domestic helpers hold a residence permit B.

Almost 30% hold a C-type settlement permit.

## The five largest nationality groups



## Accidents in Swiss households

Through quitt, a total of 171 occupational and nonoccupational accidents were reported from around 10,971 employments in 2025. A nationwide report for 2025 is not yet available. According to the [Federal Coordination Commission for Occupational Safety \(EKAS\) \(DE\)](#), there were 698 recognized occupational accidents in Swiss households in 2024.

68 of these were classified as "serious accidents" – meaning accidents with more than 90 compensated days, invalidity pensions or fatalities. The average age of those injured was about 49.6 years in 2022. The accident risk for domestic helpers is 2.1 injured per 100 fulltime equivalents. It is clear that domestic helpers face a relatively high risk of accidents.

# Four types of employment compared

If you want to employ a domestic worker in a private household, you basically have four options to choose from:

1

## Selfmanaged employment

You meet your legal obligations as the employer yourself. This means taking out accident insurance for the domestic helper and registering and paying their wages via the compensation office. Managing the employment on your own is often timeconsuming and requires a certain amount of expertise. If this expertise is lacking, mistakes can occur that may harm both employer and employee.

2

## Employment with quitt

The private individual hiring the helper is the employer with all rights and duties. They agree wages and working conditions based on their own preferences, but they hand over all the administration, from drafting the employment contract and registering for Social Securities to paying the salary, to quitt. This option is legally secure, fair, transparent and completely digital.

3

## Cleaning agency

In this case, the employer is not the private person, but a domestic help agency. This option is more expensive due to high margins and is often opaque because the terms of employment are not disclosed. In addition, the private person has no influence on wages (usually at the lowest end), and helpers are stressed by tightly packed work schedules.

4

## Undeclared (illegal) work

Even without an official AHV registration or the mandatory accident insurance, the engagers automatically become employers. In doing so, they fail to meet their legal reporting obligations, employees commit tax evasion and both sides fail to pay mandatory socialsecurity contributions. Not taking out accident insurance can have serious consequences. This approach is illegal, unethical and negligent.

# Interviews with a domestic worker

## Roman's Journey from Kyiv to Zurich



**Roman Donnik, 44**, grew up in Ukraine and moved to Switzerland with his wife and son after the war forced them to leave their home in Kyiv. In Ukraine, he had built an impressive career as a businessman, entrepreneur, and even boxer. Starting over in Zurich, Roman now works as a domestic cleaner, proudly supporting his family while training as a marathon runner in his freetime.

### Why did you choose *quitt*

My wife and son came to Switzerland six months before me. When I joined them, my wife told me about *quitt* and suggested that I register. She also uses *quitt*, and that's how I started. For me, *quitt* is the best company in Switzerland in this field. The registration process was easy, even though my English is not perfect. Everything was simple and clear.

### How did you become a domestic worker in Switzerland?

Three years ago, I was still living in Kyiv. I had three university degrees and worked as a police officer. Later, I moved into banking, I became an entrepreneur, and ran businesses in construction, legal services, renovation, and investment. I was also a boxing champion in Kyiv.

When the war started, my companies stopped operating, and we moved to Switzerland to start over. Despite my professional experience in Ukraine, I could not continue my previous career here. However, I still wanted to work and contribute to this country. That is why I decided to work as a cleaner. For me, cleaning is not a bad job. It is honest work. My employers respect me very much, and I am proud to work and earn my own money. That is what matters most to me. For me, this job is completely normal, and I truly enjoy it.

### How would you describe your relationship with your employers?

My employers appreciate me very much. They give me Christmas and birthday presents, and they see me as an honest and reliable person. It means a lot to me when they write positive reviews about my work. I am very proud of those reviews.

### What do you enjoy most?

I am a perfectionist by nature, so I love doing things properly. Cleaning allows me to express that perfectionism. I enjoy perfect cleanliness, organisation, and order. I always try to do everything to the highest standard.

### What are your plans for the future?

Currently, I have S status in Switzerland. In the future, I would like to obtain a B permit, which would give me more stability and opportunities. For now, I focus on working every day and building our life here step by step.

[Further interviews with domestic helpers can be found on our blog.](#)

# We are quitt



quitt is an online service offered by ServiceHunter AG, headquartered in Zurich. Since 2011, this ETH Zurich spin-off has been handling the proper employment and registration of domestic workers for private individuals in Switzerland. In addition to Switzerland, quitt has also been active in Germany since 2022 and in England since 2024. More than 38,000 private households, representing a cumulative processed payroll of over CHF 600 million, have already entrusted quitt with the administration of their employment relationships.

## Do you have any questions?

Luna is happy to assist you.



**Luna Arnold**  
Marketing  
luna.arnold@quitt.ch

**Hire and insure  
domestic help correctly**

Simple, fair & digital

