

## **The transition to VET and the future evolution of the number of VET beginners in Switzerland**

Laurent Gaillard, Swiss Federal Statistic Office, Switzerland

Jacques Babel, Swiss Federal Statistic Office, Switzerland

Since 2004, the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) has published on a yearly basis scenarios for the evolution of the whole educational system in Switzerland ([www.eduperspectives-stat.admin.ch](http://www.eduperspectives-stat.admin.ch)). In particular, forecasts are produced for vocational education and training (VET) and other secondary level II education and training programmes. They are mainly based on an analysis of comprehensive surveys carried out over the past 25 years by the FSO. Although these data do not lend themselves to longitudinal studies, they permit to measure transition rates to the secondary level II and offer a unique opportunity to follow the dynamics that affect VET in Switzerland.

In this context, an understanding of the transition from compulsory schooling to secondary level II education and training is of crucial importance. Entry into VET, which in Switzerland involves most of the population, has evolved as a result of a variety of influences, the most important factors being school demographics, the economic climate and structural trends. The role of all these factors is studied on the regional scale (the seven main regions of Switzerland), taking into account the differences between VET domains and the interplay between VET and other types of education and training. We also investigate the role of sociodemographic factors affecting this transition, such as gender and nationality. The results of these analyses are compared with other studies and used to improve the quality of the forecasting model.