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Slight Drop in the Number of Foreign Workers

There were 860,996 foreigners employed in Switzerland at the end of August last year. This figure, which includes resident workers, yearly permit-holders, seasonals and foreign borderer workers, is 4.1 per cent down on the figure published at the same time in 1973.

The policy of stabilisation has evidently brought results. Official figures show a 12 per cent rise in resident foreign workers (who enjoy the same working rights as Swiss) compensated by a drop in yearly permit-holders and seasonals. This means that many yearly permit-holders have acquired residence status, and that several thousand seasonals (a great many of them "false seasonals" in that they remain in the country all year round) have been promoted to yearly resident status.

On the other hand, the number of foreigners crossing daily for work in Switzerland has increased by 6 per cent to 110,809.

The various categories of foreign workers in Switzerland are distributed as follows: Residents 36 per cent; yearly permit-holders 33.5 per cent; seasonals 17.6 per cent; and borderers 12.9 per cent.

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