

## Press Release

Zurich, 6 August 2015, 9.00am

### **KOF Employment Indicator: Employment Indicator Remains Low**

**The KOF Employment Indicator remained deep in negative territory in July for the second time running. The number of businesses that plan to shed jobs is higher than those planning to create jobs. The employment outlook is negative above all in the sectors that have been significantly affected by the increase in the value of the Swiss franc.**

The KOF Employment Indicator, which enables an early assessment to be made of the labour market situation, hardly moved in July 2015 at -6.1 points. The Employment Indicator had already fallen significantly below zero in the second quarter of 2015 (-6.9, revised down from -6.2). The level of the indicator is obtained from the assessments made by businesses surveyed by the KOF in July regarding their employment situation. At present the number of businesses that consider staffing levels to be too high is greater than the number that consider levels to be too low. This means that in the near future businesses are generally planning to lay off workers rather than to create jobs. The tense exchange rate situation is thus expected to have a negative impact on the development of the Swiss labour market also over the coming months and to lead to a slight decrease in jobs in the Swiss private sector.

#### **Results broken down according to sector**

According to the results of the survey, the employment situation remains tense, above all in the sectors that are directly feeling the effects of the strong franc. Thus, the employment indicator for the manufacturing sector continues to be highly negative. The situation is not any better for the hotel and catering sector or for wholesalers and retailers. The indicator for retail trade is at its lowest level for more than 10 years. Overall Swiss employment rates should be held up over the coming months by the sectors that are less exposed to exchange rate fluctuations and those that are able to benefit from the increase in the value of the Swiss franc, in part thanks to cheaper imports. These include in particular the construction sector and a large part of the knowledge-intensive service sector. This sector includes inter alia banks, insurance companies, information and communication and the health care sector.

#### **Further information is available at:**

<http://www.kof.ethz.ch/en/indicators/employment-indicator/>

#### **Contacts:**

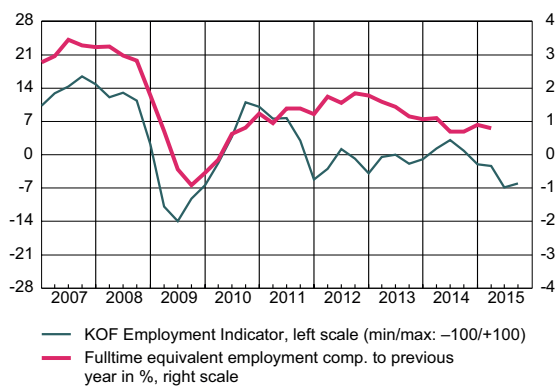
Klaus Abberger  
Phone: 044 632 51 56  
[abberger@kof.ethz.ch](mailto:abberger@kof.ethz.ch)

Corporate Communication  
Phone: 044 632 40 61  
[kofcc@kof.ethz.ch](mailto:kofcc@kof.ethz.ch)

## Graph and table

### KOF Employment Indicator and Employment

(employment according to FSO)



### Values Employment Indicator

Current status / Status for the previous quarter

2nd quarter 2014	3.1	3.2
3rd quarter 2014	0.8	0.7
4th quarter 2014	-2.0	-2.0
1st quarter 2015	-2.4	-2.4
2nd quarter 2015	-6.9	-6.2
<b>3rd quarter 2015</b>	<b>-6.1</b>	