



## Use of the WiSiER database by the FSIO and third parties

The WiSiER (**W**irtschaftliche **S**ituation von Personen im **E**rwerbs- und im **R**entenalter) database was created to conduct analyses of the economic well-being of the working- and retirement-age population in Switzerland. It links harmonized cantonal tax data with data supplied by the Federal Statistical Office (FSO), the Central Compensation Office (CCO) and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO).

Use of WiSiER is governed by the contracts with the cantons which provided their tax data to WiSiER and in specific data protection and affiliation agreements with the Federal Statistical Office (FSO).

The database is held by the FSIO. For more detailed information (methodological report and codebooks), go to the FSIO's website, under [Research and evaluation](#).

### 1. Use of WiSiER by the FSIO

WiSiER was created for FSIO research projects. The contracts established between the cantons and the FSIO stipulate that the FSIO will use the database for the purposes of analyzing the economic well-being of specific sub-population as well as social policy issues. The call for FSIO research projects will be launched in 2019.

The FSIO tested the usability of WiSiER while it was still under development in the framework of the SSHC-S Postulate 16.3910 as well as the SSHC-N Decision and the later National Council Decision on Child Allowance Cuts (17.022). The resulting report — *Economic situation of recipients of Pillar-1 pensions (AHV/IV) who are entitled to a supplementary children's pension*— can be downloaded from the [FSIO website](#).

### 2. Use of WiSiER by third parties

The contracts established with the cantons stipulate that third-party users may use WiSiER for research purposes. As of 2020, support will be given to research projects which are conducted by private or public research institutes or have been commissioned by a federal, cantonal or communal authority; all must be carried out solely for statistical (i.e. not administrative) purposes. To be granted access to the database, applicants must demonstrate the necessity of using harmonized tax data.

Anyone wishing to use the WiSiER database should follow the instructions below. Applicants should factor in this process during the project-planning phase.

1. Submit a request to [wisier@bsv.admin.ch](mailto:wisier@bsv.admin.ch) using the [form](#) provided.
2. The FSIO will review the request in consultation with the FSO. The applicant may be contacted in order to clarify any outstanding aspects of their application.

The FSIO, in principle, welcomes research by third parties. Each project proposal will be cross-checked with existing FSIO mandates. Where the subject matter is the same, the FSIO's WiSiER usage rights will take precedence.

3. If the application is successful, data use authorization must be sought from the cantons concerned and submitted to the FSIO. The FSIO provides the addresses of cantonal points of contact.
4. In addition, the following must be noted when financial variables from Swiss social assistance statistics are used: efforts aimed at verifying the plausibility of and carrying out quality assurance for assessments based on the financial variables from social assistance statistics are described before any publication takes place and discussed with the FSO ([luzius.vongunten@bfs.admin.ch](mailto:luzius.vongunten@bfs.admin.ch)). Furthermore, publication of cantonal results in relation to financial variables from social assistance statistics is subject to the approval of the cantons. The FSIO can provide the contact details of the relevant cantonal contact persons where required.
5. The FSIO will forward the application together with the necessary cantonal authorizations to the FSO, which will draw up a data protection contract regarding the use of the WiSiER database. The data protection contract is concluded by the applicant, the FSIO and the FSO, and should only be signed by such. Data will be transferred once the contract is signed.
6. The user of WiSiER will submit all reports/publications to the FSIO and FSO and delete the data in accordance with the data protection contract no later than four weeks from the completion of the research project.

All queries about the WiSiER database should be submitted via email to the FSIO at [wisier@bsv.admin.ch](mailto:wisier@bsv.admin.ch).