

## Extended essay cover

*Candidates must complete this page and then give this cover and their final version of the extended essay to their supervisor.*

Candidate session number			
Candidate name			
School number			
School name			
Examination session (May or November)	May	Year	2014

Diploma Programme subject in which this extended essay is registered: World Studies

(For an extended essay in the area of languages, state the language and whether it is group 1 or group 2.)

Title of the extended essay: Do immigrants take nationals' jobs in their host countries?

### Candidate's declaration

***This declaration must be signed by the candidate; otherwise a grade may not be issued.***

The extended essay I am submitting is my own work (apart from guidance allowed by the International Baccalaureate).

I have acknowledged each use of the words, graphics or ideas of another person, whether written, oral or visual.

I am aware that the word limit for all extended essays is 4000 words and that examiners are not required to read beyond this limit.

**This is the final version of my extended essay.**

**Candidate's signature:**

### Supervisor's report and declaration

The supervisor must complete this report, sign the declaration and then give the final version of the extended essay, with this cover attached, to the Diploma Programme coordinator.

Name of supervisor (CAPITAL letters)

Please comment, as appropriate, on the candidate's performance, the context in which the candidate undertook the research for the extended essay, any difficulties encountered and how these were overcome (see page 13 of the extended essay guide). The concluding interview (viva voce) may provide useful information. These comments can help the examiner award a level for criterion K (holistic judgment). Do not comment on any adverse personal circumstances that may have affected the candidate. If the amount of time spent with the candidate was zero, you must explain this, in particular how it was then possible to authenticate the essay as the candidate's own work. You may attach an additional sheet if there is insufficient space here.

As an African immigrant family in Switzerland,  
had a very personal interest in this  
research topic. She was well organised, engaged  
and worked independently throughout the process.  
She found/gathered research from a variety of  
sources. Although she struggled to see the links  
between some of the ideas she encountered, this  
is clearly an essay with a good level of understanding  
and insight into this crucially important current  
world issue.

This declaration must be signed by the supervisor; otherwise a grade may not be issued.

I have read the final version of the extended essay that will be submitted to the examiner.

To the best of my knowledge, the extended essay is the authentic work of the candidate.

I spent  hours with the candidate discussing the progress of the extended essay.

A helpful comment  
from the supervisor

Supervisor's signature



**IB Extended Essay**

**Topic:** World Studies

**Subjects Involved:** Geography and Economics

**Global Issue:** Immigration

**Local Example:** Switzerland

IB academic subjects  
and global/local issue  
noted on title page

**Title:** Do immigrants take nationals' jobs in their host countries?



Source: <http://www.digitalcrusades.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/16-SVP-Stop-JA.jpeg>

School:

Session: May 2014

Candidate:

Candidate No.:

Supervisor:

Word Count: 3804 Words

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The abstract should  
not be included in the  
page run



## Abstract

This extended essay investigates the question *Do immigrants take nationals' jobs in their host countries?* This was chosen as a significant global issue due to the extent that immigration affects most countries today, especially economically. Switzerland, which is the focus of this study, has one of the largest foreign populations in the world, currently at 22.8%<sup>1</sup> of its total population. There is on-going political debate regarding the effect of such high numbers on the economy and the labour market.

An integrated approach was utilized to collect and analyse data. In particular, desk review of crucial policy documents and survey instruments have been employed. Three main areas – importance of immigrants, types of immigrants and unemployment – were analysed to respond to the research question.

The analysis of the data suggests that immigration is nationally permitted as a way of filling existing job gaps and is normally guided by strict policies and rules, some of which are part of trade and bilateral agreements. The results of the research further provide insights into other immigration motives mainly identified as: the impacts of the global economic crisis; Switzerland's demographic transitions; and dependency ratio, all of which create labour gaps.

Results of the research provide conclusions pointing to the clear paradox on the beneficial aspects of immigrants for the economies of countries whereby labour market gaps need to be filled, and the continuing blame game of unemployment on immigration.

## 233 Words

An excellent abstract which states clearly the the research question, scope/ methodology and conclusion

The only missing element is mention of the IB academic subjects but this is on the cover sheet, and in any case is not mentioned in the criterion because it is specific to World Studies

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<sup>1</sup> July 2011 estimate.

"Swissworld.org - Switzerland's Official Information Portal." *Demographic Trends*.

N.p., n.d. Web. 10 July 2013.

<<http://www.swissworld.org/?45>>

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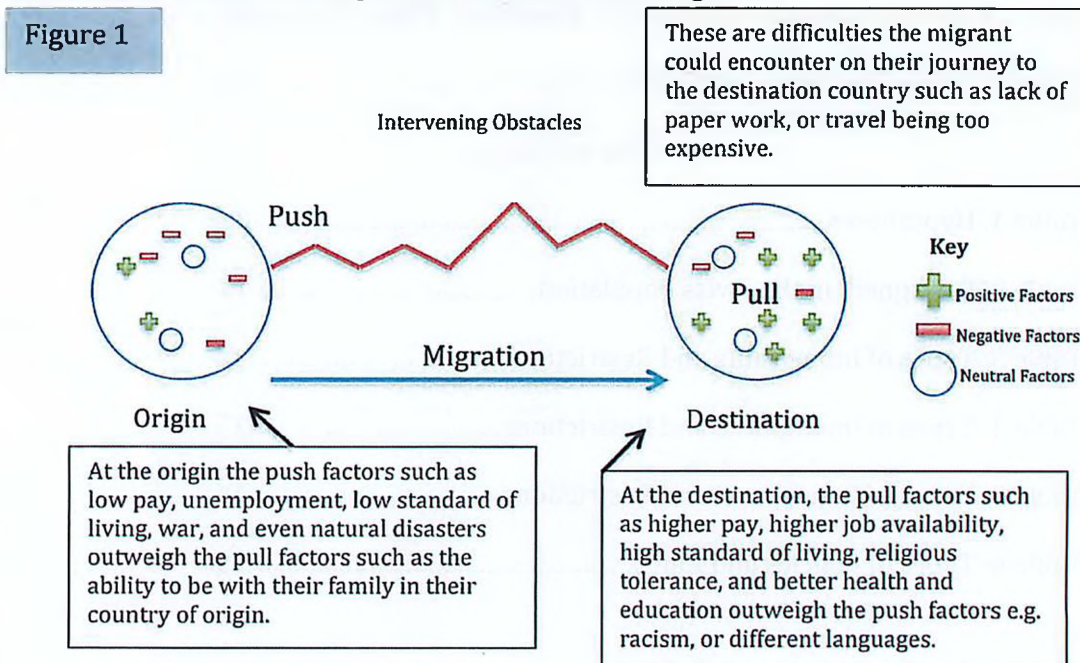
It's possible to see  
concepts from  
Geography  
(demographic  
transition) and  
Economics (labour  
market) even before  
the Essay begins

## 1.0. Introduction

The movement of people to a new area or country, in order to find work or better living conditions, is one definition of migration.<sup>2</sup> Immigration is happening in such large quantities that its impacts cannot go unnoticed. To get a sense of the immensity of immigration it is important to note that in 2010 alone, out of the total world population of 6.84 billion<sup>3</sup>, approximately 3 per cent was living outside their country of origin.<sup>4</sup> In the UK, the net migration figures have risen from 0 in 1980 to 190,000 per annum by 2005, while in the same period in the USA, the immigrant population has doubled to approximately 1.1. billion per annum.<sup>5</sup> Based on such statistics, one can see how much of a global issue immigration is due to the way it involves and affects such a vast quantity of people.

Something wrong with this figure

Generally, the reasons that people migrate to other places can be summed up in Lee's Push-Pull Model of Migration<sup>6</sup> shown below in **Figure 1**:



<sup>2</sup> Simpson, J. A., and E. S. C. Weiner. *The Oxford English Dictionary*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1989. Print.

<sup>3</sup> "Total Population of the World." *Infoplease*. Infoplease, n.d. Web. 21 July 2013. <<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0762181.html>>.

<sup>4</sup> "Migration: A World on the Move: Population & Development : UNFPA." *Unfpa.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 July 2013. <<http://www.unfpa.org/pds/migration.html>>

<sup>5</sup> "The Challenge of Immigration: A Radical Solution." *Iea.org.uk*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 July 2013. <<http://www.iea.org.uk/publications/research/the-challenge-of-immigration-a-radical-solution>>

<sup>6</sup> Nagle, Garrett, and Briony Cooke. *Geography Course Companion*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2011. Print.



Based on this model, it is usually the promise of a better life that attracts millions to new countries each year. With reference to the push and pull factors, most immigrants tend to move to areas that have better job opportunities for them. In international migration, this usually involves migrants moving from less economically developed countries (LEDCs) to more economically developed countries (MEDCs). However, with the rise in immigration over the years, MEDCs have been noticing negative economic impacts that they believe come with the increase in immigration.

This essay aims to investigate the effects immigrants have on the economy of host countries, by closely studying the make-up of the host country's population; the unemployment in the population; and the policies or rules put in place by the country to protect nationals' jobs. A review of the combination of all these areas will enable this essay to explore the concept of whether immigrants take nationals' jobs or if they in fact take the jobs that are not wanted in the host countries by filling in labour gaps.

Since it is a problem too large to approach from a global scale, Switzerland has been selected as a case study, in the confidence of finding an answer to this question. This choice was based partly on the fact that Switzerland records an enormous 22.8%<sup>7</sup> of foreign residents in its 7,996,026<sup>8</sup> total population and therefore has one of the largest foreign populations in the world.<sup>9</sup> This makes it an excellent choice for investigating the trends between immigration and the economy. In addition, there is a huge politically motivated focus on the link between the Swiss economy, the state of the labour markets and the levels of immigration, which are summed up in the excerpts of some recent political statements made by the Swiss Peoples' Party (SVP) below:

*"The increasing flood to Switzerland from foreign workers and asylum seekers must be curbed for the protection of the labour market and our social institutions."*

*"Despite rising unemployment, immigration remains high. The need for a limitation is more obvious and urgent."*

*"The effect of immigrants on the Swiss labour market is becoming increasingly apparent. Foreigners from EU countries displace Swiss workers."<sup>10</sup>*

- Quotes taken from the Swiss Peoples' Party (SVP) website

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<sup>7</sup> July 2011 estimate.

"Swissworld.org - Switzerland's Official Information Portal." *Demographic Trends*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 July 2013.

<<http://www.swissworld.org/?45>>

<sup>8</sup> "Central Intelligence Agency." *The World Factbook*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 July 2013.

<<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sz.html>>

<sup>9</sup> "Switzerland - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development." *Oecd.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 July 2013.

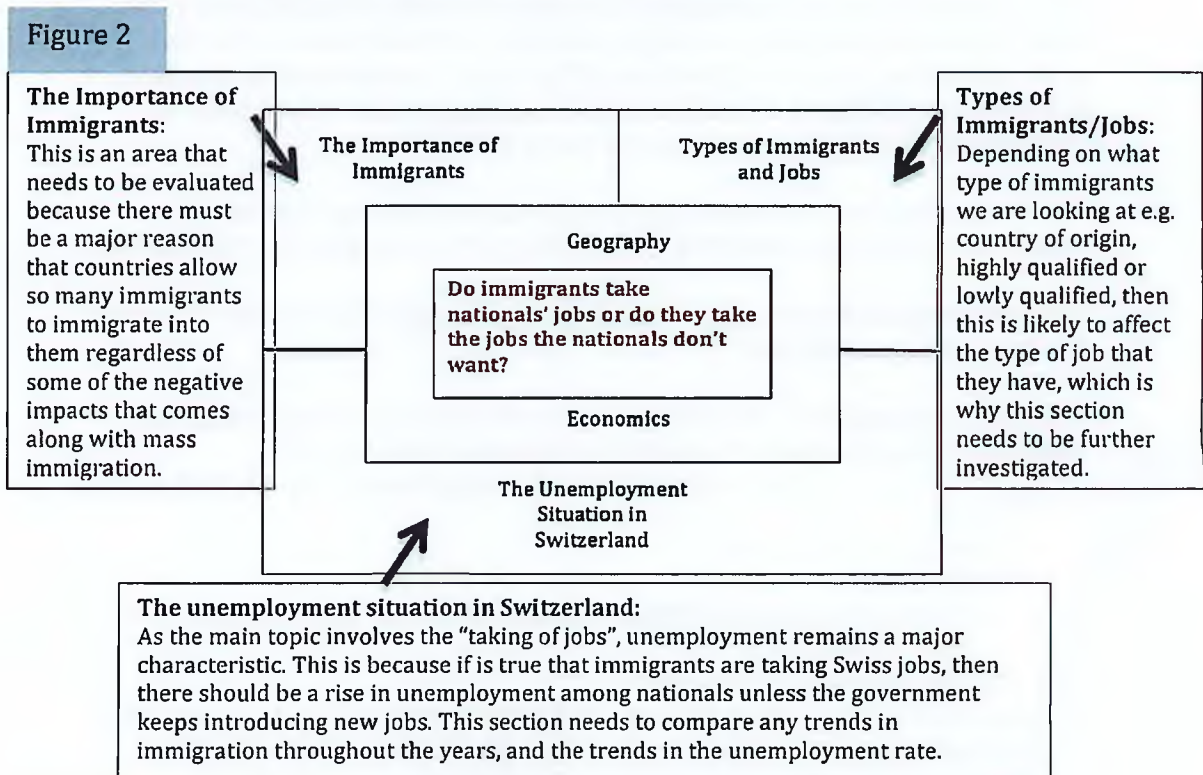
<<http://www.oecd.org/switzerland/>>.

<sup>10</sup> "Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP." *Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 July 2013. <<http://www.svp.ch/>>.

Developed countries such as Switzerland tend to have right wing political parties that are worried about the national integrity of their country, and therefore they see immigration as a threat to the way of life of nationals. In Switzerland, the main party is known as the Swiss People's Party (SVP)—a group recognized for openly voicing their opinions on the negative effects of immigration on Switzerland. It can be assumed that a large proportion of Swiss residents support their ideas as in 2007 they had 29% of votes in the Swiss elections. The SVP's main arguments include stating that the rise in unemployment is due to the rise in immigration, as well as stating that immigration is negatively impacting the labour market, the welfare system, housing, and the general infrastructure.<sup>11</sup>

If these quotes are proven true, immigration could create a colossal problem for host countries as it means that their own nationals could be out of work and the state's resources placed under immense pressure. However, if the opposite is true, and the immigrants are indeed taking the jobs that the nationals don't want or cannot do, then this would be beneficial to the country and help the economy as demand for these jobs could be filled with the supply of immigrants.

The structure of this essay is best presented as provided in **Figure 2**<sup>12</sup>, which recognizes the 3 main areas of analysis that have been used to answer the research question along with the associated IB subject areas.



<sup>11</sup> "Swiss People's Party." *Swissinfo.ch*. N.p., n.d. Web. 12 June 2013.  
[http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/politics/Swiss\\_Peoples\\_Party.html?cid=371954](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/politics/Swiss_Peoples_Party.html?cid=371954)

<sup>12</sup> Diagram created by author.

The research question is stated and expanded in the introduction, a model is offered to set the scene of the global issue, the local manifestation of the issue (immigration) is introduced, and the structure of the Essay is visualised in a helpful manner. The significance and worthiness of study of the topic is well established.

This hypothesis/methodology approach is often seen in science Essays. It is also helpful in humanities Essays like this one because it reflects planning, as mentioned in Criterion C

## **2.0. Hypotheses and the Methodology for Investigation**

### **2.1. Hypotheses**

In order to answer the research question whether immigrants take nationals' jobs in the host countries, the following assumptions were formulated:

<b>Hypothesis Number</b>	<b>Hypothesis</b>
1	The country of origin of the immigrants affects the type of jobs that they can access or do.
2	Highly skilled immigrants are more likely to take the jobs wanted by nationals, while lowly skilled immigrants are likely to take the unwanted jobs.
3	Positive correlations between increased unemployment and increased immigration do not necessarily mean that immigration is the cause of the rise in unemployment.

Table 1

### **2.2. Methodology**

Information for supporting this study was mainly collected through desk review of:

- i) Relevant policy documents and reports such as UN and IMO publications on migration issues.
- ii) The Swiss Federal Statistical Office, where majority of all the Swiss data in this essay originates.

It is important to note that this being a political and policy issue, most of the information gathered to reach a conclusion has been collected through the review of the policy documents and reports on current political and popular debates.

However, supplementary data was also collected through the survey instruments, targeting employers and employees of different calibres. Both structured interviews and face-to-face discussions were conducted on a limited number of interviews, mainly to gain perspectives from targeted individuals in the public domain. The interview schedules were designed specific to each interviewee, but due to time constraints, only a limited number of interviews were undertaken in order to provide certain perspectives on some of the main issues of the research. Their responses are therefore used indicatively but not as a means of drawing a conclusion and can be found in the appendix.

The author has undertaken primary research (as well as secondary) such as interviews. This is not a requirement for a top quality Essay: it is perfectly possible to write an outstanding Essay based on secondary research only

Interviews and discussions were held with immigrants of varying skills:

- i. 2 highly skilled IOM employees
- ii. 1 lowly skilled house cleaner

Additionally, interviews were conducted on Swiss nationals

- i. A Swiss farm owner (employer)
- ii. A nationalised Swiss resident of Bangladeshi origins (shop-owner)

The immigrants (including the nationalised immigrant) were asked questions to find out their positions on what type of impacts immigrants have on the Swiss economy, what difficulties there are in finding jobs in Switzerland, and what they feel about current views on immigrants. On the other hand, the Swiss farm owner was asked her general view on the effect of immigrants on Switzerland and its economy.

### **3.0. Discussion of Findings**

This section is organised into 3 main sections based on the structure identified under **Figure 2**: i) the need for immigrants, which explores the reasons why Switzerland needs immigrants; ii) the types of immigrants and jobs, which looks at the formal policies and regulations supporting the presence of the different sources of immigrants and the types of jobs they can access; and iii) the unemployment situation in Switzerland, which evaluates the extent to which immigrants do in fact take nationals' jobs if at all.

#### **3.1. The Need for Immigrants**

From an economic perspective, immigration is permitted by many countries as a way of filling any existing job gaps that they may have. Such gaps could arise in times of economic growth and prosperity as witnessed in the 1960's and the 1980's in Switzerland whereby hordes of immigrants arrived to take up these jobs<sup>13</sup>. Moreover, economic agreements such the European Free Trade Association (EFTA)<sup>14</sup>, and the bilateral agreements remain another main reason for the increase in foreign residents in Switzerland due to how these agreements allow nationals of member states to take up residence and work in Switzerland as well as in other EU/EFTA member states without any transitional period.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> "Immigration to Switzerland." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, n.d. Web. 24 July 2013.

<[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration\\_to\\_Switzerland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_to_Switzerland)>

<sup>14</sup> It is composed of 4 states including Switzerland.

"Trade Relations Division." *EFTA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 July 2013.

<<http://www.efta.int/about-efta/efta-staff-directory/trade-relations-division>>.

<sup>15</sup> "Trade Relations Division." *EFTA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 July 2013.

<<http://www.efta.int/about-efta/efta-staff-directory/trade-relations-division>>.



The issue of labour shortage partly brought on by the current economic crisis within Europe has had a profound effect on Switzerland and many other European countries due to the interrelationships created by the EFTA and EU-27 agreements. If the economic crisis continues, then each economic sector (primary, secondary, and tertiary) may be disturbed by the looming threat of a shortage of workers. For years, Swiss organizations have been trying to fill labour gaps primarily through hiring immigrant workers from the EU—one explanation for the rise in immigration in Switzerland. This action has however sparked contrasting debates whereby some proponents argue that immigrants negatively affect the economy and therefore immigration needs to be more limited, while others argue that immigration should continue as is because immigrants have a positive effect on the economy.

Possible reference here, but the point is expanded below.

Left-leaning groups such as the Social Democrats, the Greens and the trade unions share the latter view and have claimed that immigrants have had a positive impact on the economy.<sup>16</sup> Their main argument is that with immigrants, the economy can keep moving forward as major labour gaps in the economy can be efficiently filled and so Switzerland can continue remaining competitive in the international market. On the contrary, groups like the SVP claim that, "The unions want a bloated state as possible. Therefore, they see the need for labour in the future, primarily in the public sector. Alarming, these needs will be met again by particular immigration of workers from abroad."<sup>17</sup> They argue that this increase in immigration will place pressure on hospitals, schools, and other public services, which will call for more immigration as a means of dealing with the current shortage of labour. They perceive a detrimental cycle will occur whereby the more immigrants are brought in to deal with the labour shortages, the more pressure that would be placed on public services, and again the more immigration that would be needed. But suppose everyone went along with the latter opinion whereby immigration needs to be curbed, would this then benefit the Swiss economy?

One may think that the answer would be solid yes. However, one aspect that often plagues most highly developed countries such as Switzerland, which if left unchecked could lead to an economic disaster, is that of an ageing population. Since the Swiss population is shrinking and the population is ageing<sup>18</sup>, this impacts the demand for semi-skilled workers in the economy. Evidence of the changing population of Switzerland can be illustrated using the Demographic Transition Model<sup>19</sup> shown in Figure 3 on the next page.

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<sup>16</sup> "As Europe Reels, Switzerland Builds New Barriers Against Immigrants." *World.time.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 June 2013.

<<http://world.time.com/2013/05/01/bachmann-on-switzerland/>>.

<sup>17</sup> "Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP." *Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 July 2013. <<http://www.svp.ch/>>.

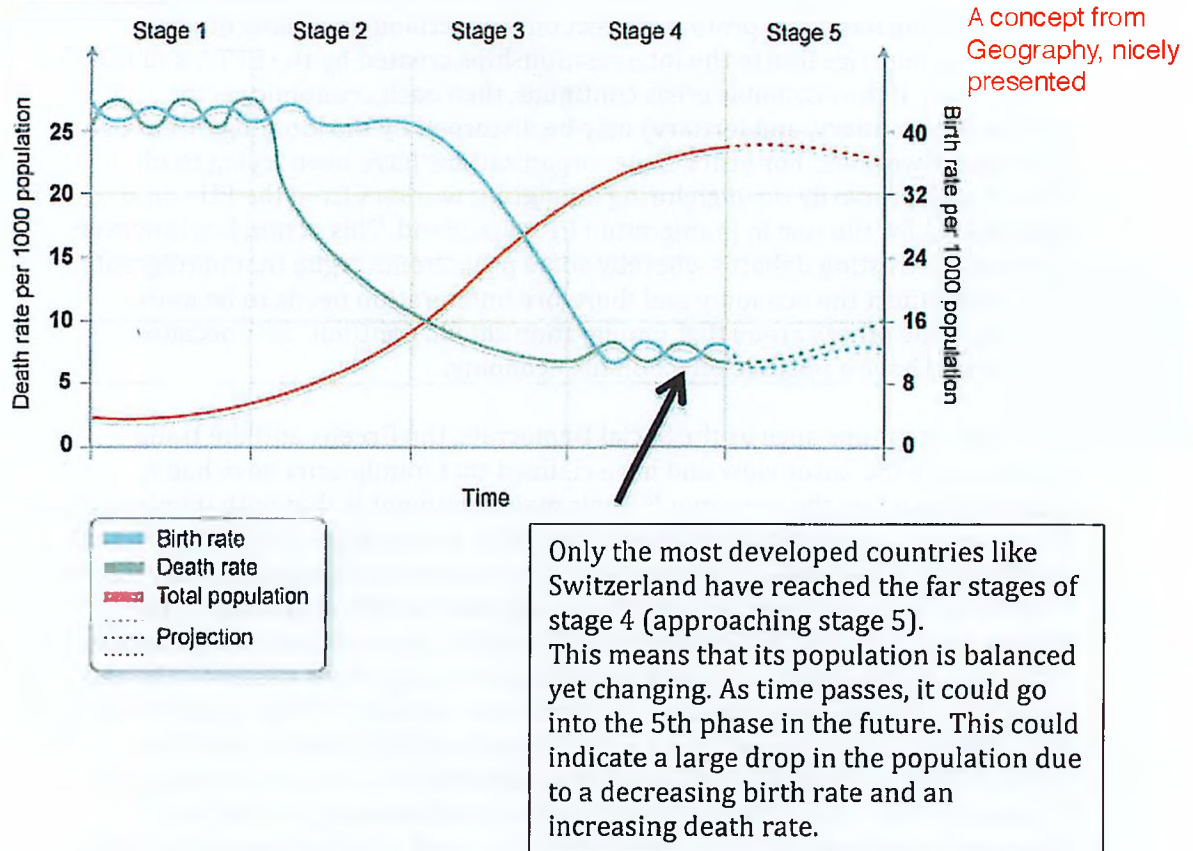
<sup>18</sup> "Swiss Statistics." *Bfs.admin.ch*. N.p., n.d. Web. 6 June 2013.

<[http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/institutionen/bundesamt\\_fuer\\_statistik.html](http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/institutionen/bundesamt_fuer_statistik.html)>.

<sup>19</sup> A model that looks at the changing birth rates and death rates of a country and also shows the overall population growth/decline of it.



Figure 3



The main economic problem of a country in Switzerland's position is that if the death rate keeps on increasing and the birth rate keeps on decreasing, this could lead to lack of people of working age and an elderly population, both of which stress the Swiss government and economy.

To make matters worse, Switzerland's dependency ratio<sup>20</sup> of 47.28<sup>21</sup> is expected to nearly double. Simply put, it tells us that each person of working age will have more people to support if things continue as predicted. Given that the population in Switzerland is decreasing, and the dependency ratio is increasing, it means that the working age population will find it harder and harder to support the grey population. Thus, even if Switzerland wanted to close off their borders to other countries, it wouldn't be practical, as its economy would suffer due to a

Another concept from Geography

"The Demographic Transition Model." *Bbc.co.uk*. BBC, n.d. Web. 4 July 2013. <[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/population/population\\_change\\_structure\\_rev4.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/population/population_change_structure_rev4.shtml)>.

<sup>20</sup> The population below age 15 and above age 65 divided by the population aged 15-64.

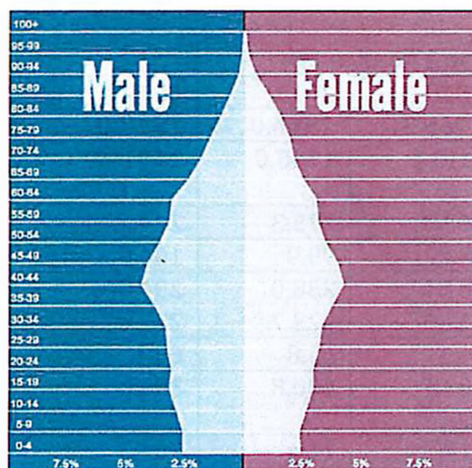
<sup>21</sup> "Index Mundi - Country Facts." *Index Mundi - Country Facts*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Aug. 2013.

<<http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/switzerland/age-dependency-ratio>>

decline in the labour force. These labour shortages would likely continue and eventually become more serious.

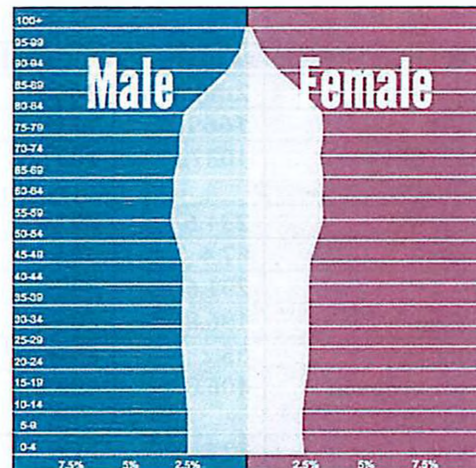
The population pyramids<sup>22</sup> below show Switzerland's population in 2010 and its population projection for 2050.

Figure 4



Switzerland's Population Pyramid 2010

Figure 5



Switzerland's Population Projection Pyramid 2050

Another Geography concept applied

The pyramids above help to illustrate the previous point by showing how if the situation carries on as it is, the middle section of the pyramid (the working population) narrows, while the top of the population pyramid (the old population) widens. So when the dependency ratio is calculated, the smaller working population will have a lot more older people to support—something that is not good for an economy wishing to grow. Social security is something that the government will tremendously struggle with if such trends continue. This is why immigrants are (and will be if things continue as is) needed in highly developed countries like Switzerland.

### 3.2. Types of Immigrants and Jobs: Protecting Swiss Jobs

In this research it was crucial to evaluate the country of origin of the immigrant since this has a significant amount of importance in determining what

<sup>22</sup> Also called age-sex pyramids. They are graphical illustrations that shows the distribution of various age groups in a human population of countries which normally forms the shape of a pyramid. "Population Pyramids of the World from 1950 to 2100." *Populationpyramid.net*. N.p., n.d. Web. 4 July 2013. <<http://populationpyramid.net/Switzerland/2010/>>.

restrictions apply to them from the policies set by the host country. This is discussed under this next sub-section.

**Table 1** below has been used to provide details of the Swiss foreign population by their country of origin during 2008 to 2012.

Permanent Foreigners in the Swiss Population in Thousands <sup>23</sup>					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1669.7</b>	<b>1714.0</b>	<b>1766.3</b>	<b>1816.0</b>	<b>1870.0</b>
EU-27/EFTA Countries	1037.1	1077.6	1101.5	1145.0	1191.9
Germany	234.6	251.9	263.3	275.3	284.2
France	87.4	92.5	95.6	99.9	104.0
Italy	291.6	290.6	287.1	288.0	291.8
Portugal	196.8	206.0	212.6	223.7	237.9
Spain	65.2	65.0	64.1	65.8	69.4
Other European Countries	406.8	402.2	403.4	400.8	399.8
Turkey	72.2	71.6	71.8	71.4	70.8
Africa	54.8	57.7	71.5	74.8	78.2
America	69.8	72.7	74.5	76.6	77.7
Asia	96.9	99.3	110.5	113.6	117.2
Oceania	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.1
Other/Unknown	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.1

Table 2

From the table, it is clear that there has been a general increase in the number of foreigners, especially in the EU-27/EFTA countries where the main immigrant groups are from—e.g. Portugal, France, Italy, and Spain. The EFTA and the bilateral agreements have, in part, enabled Switzerland to experience such an increase in immigrants from these European countries. However, even though we would expect there to be a rise in immigration from all countries, for countries that are categorized under “Other European Countries” such as Turkey, there is a decrease in the number of immigrants coming into Switzerland.<sup>24</sup> The overall decreasing trend could be due to the quotas instilled on some European countries by the Swiss government.

<sup>23</sup> "Swiss Statistics." *Bfs.admin.ch*. N.p., n.d. Web. 6 June 2013.  
<[http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/institutionen/bundesamt\\_fuer\\_statistik.html](http://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/portal/en/index/institutionen/bundesamt_fuer_statistik.html)>.

<sup>24</sup> For Turkey this may be because of the drop in their unemployment rate from 2009 onwards.

"Turkey Unemployment Rate." *Tradingeconomics.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 8 June 2013.  
<<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/turkey/unemployment-rate>>



If immigration is seen as such a problem, especially regarding which jobs immigrants take, then we can assume that the host country has already put in place some rules to monitor the immigrants that come into their country and the types of jobs they can take. This is explored further in the table on the next page, which identifies the restrictions for the different types of immigrants and provides an interpretation in the context of this research. It is clear that the Federal Office for Migration helps to set the rules that immigrants into Switzerland have to abide by.<sup>25</sup>

Good secondary research

Type of Immigrant	Restriction	Evaluation
EU-27 and EFTA member states.	Permits are required from the Cantonal Migration Offices for individuals wishing to work in Switzerland for longer than three months. <sup>26</sup> To qualify, a person must either have secured employment or meet the requirements that apply if they are not employed. <sup>27</sup>	Even though there is 'free movement' into Switzerland by members of the EU-27 and EFTA, the immigrants still need to apply for permits that are categorized by either being short-term residence permits (less than one year), annual residence permits (limited), or permanent residence permits (unlimited). <sup>28</sup> Ensuring that the immigrants are employed or have met certain requirements if currently unemployed is one way the migration offices guarantee that immigrants are not coming into Switzerland to raise the unemployment rate or take advantage of Swiss unemployment services.

Table 3

<sup>25</sup> The information in the tables is from:

Federal Office For Migration. *Bfm.admin.ch*. Berne: Federal Office For Migration, 2011. *Bfm.admin.ch*. FOM. Web. 8 June 2013.

< <https://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home.html> >

<sup>26</sup> These vary from short-term residency (less than one year), standard residency (one year-renewable), and settlement residency (unlimited validity).

<sup>27</sup> "Residence and Work Permits in Switzerland." *Expatica.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 July 2013.

<sup>28</sup> These permits have to be issued by the Cantonal Migration Offices that also work together with the Cantonal Labour Offices that are in charge of work authorization.

"Residence and Work Permits in Switzerland." *Expatica.com*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 July 2013. <[http://www.expatica.com/ch/essentials\\_moving\\_to/essentials/Residency-and-work-permits-in-Switzerland\\_13351.html](http://www.expatica.com/ch/essentials_moving_to/essentials/Residency-and-work-permits-in-Switzerland_13351.html)>.

Type of Immigrant	Restriction	Evaluation
Non EU-27 and EFTA European Countries (Third State Nationals)	Labour market restrictions such as annual quotas, preferential treatment for local workers, and control of pay exist for immigrants from these countries. <sup>29</sup> Only highly qualified third state nationals are authorized to work in Switzerland. <sup>30</sup> When hiring, priority is given to Swiss nationals first, then foreign nationals with a settlement permit, followed by foreign nationals with a standard residence/work permit, and finally foreign nationals in the EU/EFTA. <sup>31</sup>	Although some of these immigrants may be from European countries, because they are not part of the main agreements, they have stricter immigration controls such as the annual quotas. <sup>32</sup> The table also shows how the Swiss migration offices protect nationals' jobs by giving them the priority in a hierarchy that results with the non EU-27 and EFTA at the bottom. Out of all the types of immigrants, limitations appear tightest on third state nationals, whereby they are only allowed to work in Switzerland if they are highly skilled, if they have an employment offer, and after all the categories in the hiring hierarchy have been exhausted.

Table 4

<sup>29</sup> Federal Office For Migration. *Bfm.admin.ch*. Berne: Federal Office For Migration, 2011. *Bfm.admin.ch*. FOM. Web. 8 June 2013.

< <https://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home.html> >

<sup>30</sup> They may be issued a permit if no one else with similar qualifications can be found on either the Swiss labour market or on the EU/EFTA labour market. Federal Office For Migration. *Bfm.admin.ch*. Berne: Federal Office For Migration, 2011. *Bfm.admin.ch*. FOM. Web. 8 June 2013.

< <https://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home.html> >

<sup>31</sup> It is important to note that foreigners from other countries must have an employment offer, and employers must show that they have made "intensive efforts" to recruit professionals inside Switzerland and the EU.

Federal Office For Migration. *Bfm.admin.ch*. Berne: Federal Office For Migration, 2011. *Bfm.admin.ch*. FOM. Web. 8 June 2013.

< <https://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home.html> >

<sup>32</sup> However, even though quotas are not usually placed on EU-27 or EFTA countries, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2013, Switzerland began limiting residency permits among 17 EU countries. These restrictions are stated to run until May 31 2014 where there will be a vote among the Swiss to decide if the quotas should be kept. Such restrictions place Switzerland in a tricky situation as they are trying to please the population concerned with immigration, but at the same time their decision could damage relations with the EU as they then view



Type of Immigrant	Restriction	Evaluation
Refugees and Asylum Seekers (Forced Immigration)	Refugees are authorized to take up gainful employment. But asylum seekers are not authorized to carry out any economic activities for the first three months after they have submitted their asylum application. Once this waiting period has expired, the asylum seeker is issued a work permit as long as labour market and/or the general economic conditions are favourable. <sup>33</sup>	In Switzerland there are approximately 26,346 recognized refugees with 14% of the refugee applications granted each year. <sup>34</sup> The number of accepted refugee applications is highly regulated and limited in Switzerland, therefore it can be assumed that asylum seekers cannot have a noticeable impact on the Swiss economy because firstly, they don't make up a significant portion of the Swiss population and not all of them are granted temporary protection. Secondly, assuming that they usually don't have the qualifications to obtain any higher status jobs they usually settle for lowly skilled, lower paying jobs, suggesting that they would be taking the jobs that are unwanted by Swiss nationals.

Table 5

This clearly shows that the rules and regulations have been put in place to protect the Swiss economy. However, one must also consider how such restrictions or conditions affect the immigrants themselves. Firstly, the major labour market imbalances in Switzerland such as: certain professions reserved for nationals and mismatches between the immigrants' existing skills and those in high demand: have pushed many foreign nationals into low-status or low-wage jobs. In fact, on average, foreign nationals earn around 17% less than Swiss nationals<sup>35</sup>. As noted by one of the interviewed immigrants, "*The Swiss often feel*

Switzerland as trying to benefit from the agreements while trying to escape the burden that is shared by signatory nations.

<sup>33</sup> For those awarded with temporary protection, the labour market or general economic conditions do not have to be favourable for them to get a job and the preferential treatment is also put out of effect.

Federal Office For Migration. *Bfm.admin.ch*. Berne: Federal Office For Migration, 2011. *Bfm.admin.ch*. FOM. Web. 8 June 2013.

<sup>34</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Federal Office For Migration. *Bfm.admin.ch*. Berne: Federal Office For Migration, 2011. *Bfm.admin.ch*. FOM. Web. 8 June 2013.

< <https://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home.html> >

These pages could be considered descriptive, but the evaluation column allows for the material to contribute to the core argument throughout.

too qualified to take lower status jobs, which is why many immigrants who need jobs seem to have worse jobs." Although this is a personal opinion, it highlights how such policies put in place by the Swiss government, prevent access to highly skilled jobs, and may lead to the immigrants taking the more lower-status jobs since they are likely to be more readily available.

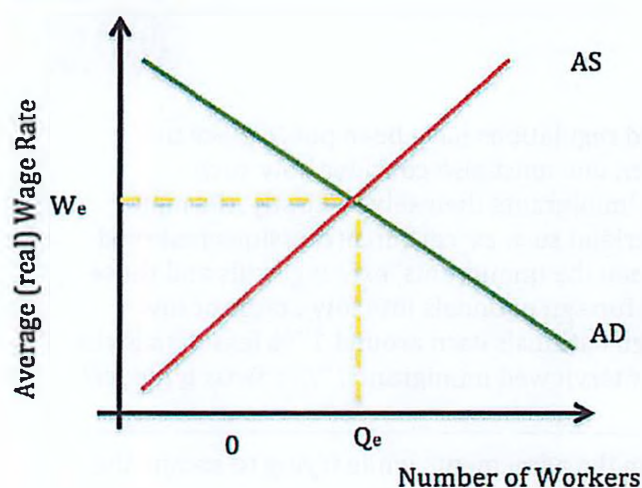
### 3.3. Immigrants and the Unemployment Rate

As mentioned earlier, unemployment is a crucial sub-topic and a necessary component in answering the essay's research question. This is mainly because there is a strong political focus on immigration, which is perceived as responsible for unemployment among the Swiss population. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), unemployment is defined as, "people of working age who are without work, available for work, and actively seeking employment".<sup>36</sup> Therefore, when talking about 'taking jobs', if indeed immigrants 'take' a national's job, then the other person will be left without work, and this should have an effect on the unemployment rate within the host country. This is what will be investigated in the ensuing discussion.

Turning to  
Economics  
concepts

The Swiss labour market would work as follows on **Figure 6** if there were no labour market imbalances:

Figure 6



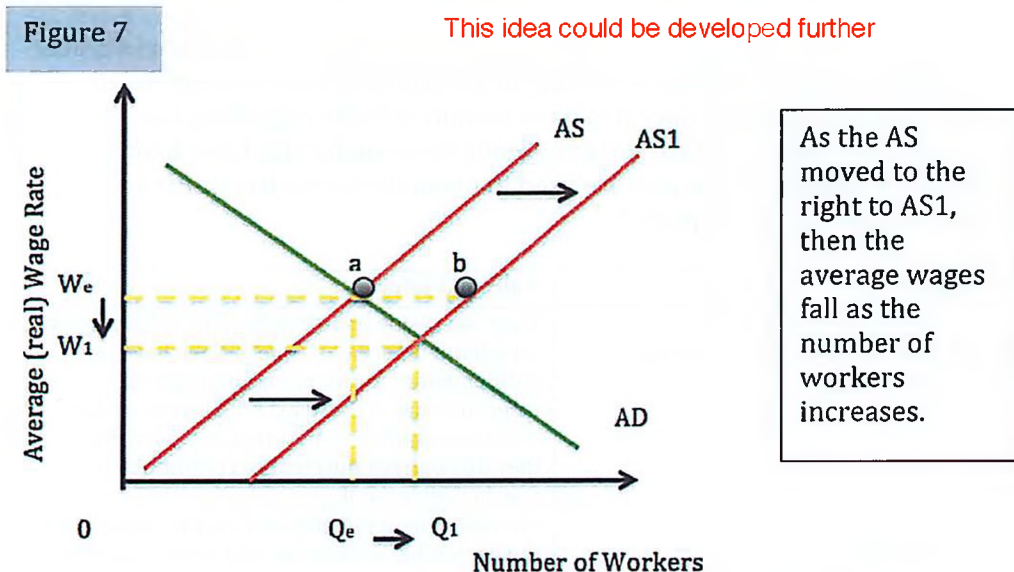
If AS stands for the supply of all labour in the market, and AD stands for all the demand for labour in the market, then the graph above shows the ideal labour market where the demand for labour equals the supply for labour and there is no unemployment. So the equilibrium wage for the economy is  $W_e$  and the equilibrium quantity of labour is  $Q_e$ .

*"Unemployment rates have been rising and so has the number of immigrants in the country. SVP draws a direct correlation between the two and thinks that immigration is one of the main problems."<sup>37</sup>*

<sup>36</sup> Blink, Jocelyn, and Ian Dorton. *Economics: Course Companion*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2007. Print.

<sup>37</sup> "Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP." *Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 July 2013. <<http://www.svp.ch/>>.

When a statement like the one on the previous page is made, it is suggesting that the supply of labour has risen (the AS moves to the right to indicate this), and so this would cause unemployment of a-b to be created (shown on the graph below) because of the imbalance between the supply of labour and the demand for it (in this situation the supply is more than the demand for labour). One other problem that is created is what has been referred to as “wage dumping”, which means that due to the new inflow of immigrants; the average wages for everybody goes down. **Figure 7** below shows all of these situations in better detail.



One of the concerns regarding any increase in unemployment in Switzerland is that it leads to higher costs for unemployment insurance and other social services, which in turn will lead to higher taxes. This is clearly one of the main worries of the SVP and its supporters<sup>38</sup> who ultimately believe that the competitiveness of the Swiss economy will continue to weaken.<sup>39</sup> This is evident in this SVP statement: *“More and more people in Switzerland are out of work and the pressure on our social welfare system is growing steadily. Nevertheless, the trade associations still promote an irresponsible yes to freedom, which leads to a further increase in unemployment.”*<sup>40</sup>

However, the review of literature undertaken in this study did not offer adequate statistical data to support this claim. It was, for example, clear that the expected additional costs on social insurance were significantly lower than expected since the share of unemployed foreigners out of all unemployed in Switzerland has decreased. As evident in the past years, for example, in 2007, this was 42.5% - a

<sup>38</sup> "Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP." *Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 July 2013. <<http://www.svp.ch/>>.

<sup>39</sup> "Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP." *Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 July 2013. <<http://www.svp.ch/>>.

<sup>40</sup> "Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP." *Schweizerische Volkspartei SVP*. N.p., n.d. Web. 11 July 2013. <<http://www.svp.ch/>>.



decrease of 4% since the year 2000 - despite the steady increase in the proportion of foreigners in the population at the time.<sup>41</sup>

In fact, it has been found that the free movement of persons is advantageous as the people that immigrate into Switzerland are mostly young and qualified people of working age. It can also be noted that they are also actually financing the Swiss welfare since they are lessening the dependency ratio between the elderly and the working age, relieving the pressure on the government to provide for the older population.

Reference?

As we had seen under section 3.1 of the essay, the Swiss government has in place rules and regulations that foreigners living in Switzerland have to abide by to protect Swiss jobs. Likewise, they also have certain policies regarding the protection of their social welfare system. Examples of such rules have been summarized in **Table 6** below and are used to evaluate the earlier quoted statements made by the SVP party:<sup>42</sup>

Type of Policy	Rules of Policy
EU-27/EFTA immigrants who are having difficulty finding a job.	They can reside in Switzerland to look for a job for a limited period of time <sup>43</sup> . They have no entitlement to the Swiss unemployment insurance and are also excluded from social assistance. If they cannot find any jobs, then they do not have the right to continue their stay in Switzerland.
L Permit Immigrants (Short-Term Resident Immigrants)	Unemployment benefits can only be imposed if the person has worked in Switzerland and has contributed for the minimum period of 12 months. They are required during the transitional period, to fulfill this contribution fully in Switzerland.
B Permit Immigrants (Long-Term/Permanent Immigrants)	They may receive unemployment benefits paid by Switzerland, even if they are paid a portion of their mandatory abroad contributions.
Policy regarding the abuse of rights.	In case of abuse of rights, the right of residence and the right to unemployment benefits are cancelled. Such abuse is found, for example, when an employment contract is entered into solely for the purpose of obtaining a residence permit and is terminated shortly after entering Switzerland.

Table 6

<sup>41</sup> "Impacts Sur Les Assurances Sociales." *Impacts Sur Les Assurances Sociales*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 June 2013.

<[http://www.personenfreizuegigkeit.admin.ch/fza/fr/home/haeufige\\_fragen/a\\_uswirkungen\\_auf\\_sozialversicherungen.0005.html](http://www.personenfreizuegigkeit.admin.ch/fza/fr/home/haeufige_fragen/a_uswirkungen_auf_sozialversicherungen.0005.html)> (Source for previous footnote.)

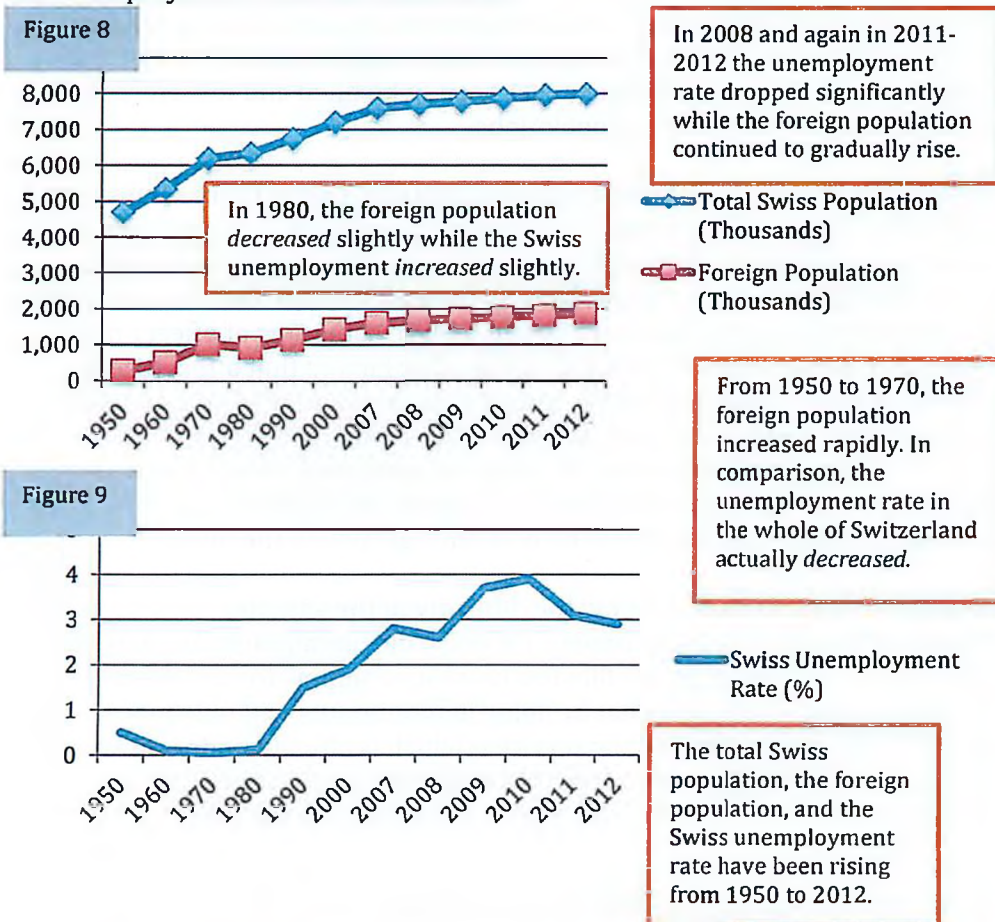
<sup>42</sup> "Impacts Sur Les Assurances Sociales." *Impacts Sur Les Assurances Sociales*. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 June 2013.

<[http://www.personenfreizuegigkeit.admin.ch/fza/fr/home/haeufige\\_fragen/a\\_uswirkungen\\_auf\\_sozialversicherungen.0005.html](http://www.personenfreizuegigkeit.admin.ch/fza/fr/home/haeufige_fragen/a_uswirkungen_auf_sozialversicherungen.0005.html)>

<sup>43</sup> Three months without authorization room, then another three months with a short term residence permit.

In light of this, it is therefore possible to challenge the SVP claims since the table above shows that the Swiss government has put in place strict rules concerning who is allowed to obtain unemployment benefits. A large proportion of residents in Switzerland are from EU-27 and EFTA countries and even they are not entitled to the Swiss unemployment benefits. In contrast, for those who are allowed to have unemployment benefits such as the L permit residents, the Swiss government makes sure that they have been contributing to the Swiss economy. The only residents that are able to obtain unemployment benefits without major barriers are the B permit immigrants of Switzerland, which do make up majority of the foreign population of Switzerland. Nevertheless, under the policies aiming to protect Swiss jobs, immigrants should have either secured employment or met the requirements stated by Swiss authorities if they have no employment.

To further investigate any trends that the immigrants in Switzerland have on the unemployment rate, the unemployment rate of the whole of Switzerland throughout the years (1950-2012) was graphically compared with the inflow of foreigners throughout the corresponding years in **Figure 8** and **Figure 9** below.<sup>44</sup> This was to try and show if there exists any relationship between the two so that the common belief that 'as immigrants increase in a country so does the unemployment' could be evaluated.



<sup>44</sup> Graphs created by author.

Good analysis: the omission to this point was some account of the unemployment rate



Clearly, the data from these sections does not support the claim that as more immigrants come into the host country, the unemployment rate increases: in some cases when the unemployment rate fell, the foreign population continued to rise, while when the foreign population fell (e.g. 1980), the unemployment rate increased. What these trends may suggest is that the unemployment rate in Switzerland is affected by factors other than immigration. Such factors could be the general rise in population, increased/decreased quantity of jobs, or the economic situations of EU countries. This would require further research to be ascertained.

#### 4.0. Conclusion

This research shows that there are diverse immigration motives into Switzerland depending on the background of the job seekers i.e. highly skilled or low skilled or LEDC or MEDC country of origins. Most of the immigrants from the EU member states are accessing gainful employment under the existing instruments such as trade agreements and bilateral agreements. Other immigration motives identified include the response to the impacts of the global economic crisis, which caused labour shortages. At another level, the immigration seems necessary to respond to Switzerland's demographic transitions and dependency ratio. It is clear that immigrants are beneficial for the Swiss economy considering there are labour market gaps that need to be filled and therefore it cannot be assumed that they take nationals' jobs.

While these economic considerations justify jobs for immigrants, there seems to be growing politicisation of immigration in spite of the existing policy measures to safeguard Swiss jobs for Swiss people. In the process of trying to answer the question: "Do immigrants take nationals' jobs in their host countries?" one comes to realise that while, yes, immigrants are bound to have some sort of effect on the unemployment in a country, there are also many other factors that affect it such as the general increase in the population. But what is the country supposed to do when there are negative consequences that arise as a result of bringing in immigrants? This paradox is clear from this investigation: Switzerland knows that there is a need for further immigration to compensate for the ageing population and to ensure that there will be economic growth in the future.<sup>45</sup>

Some sense of an emerging social conscience and international mindedness here

The arguments brought forth here show the difficulty of the situation between immigration and the effect on the economy. On one hand, immigrants are needed to ensure the labour market gaps are filled so that the economy doesn't suffer. But on the other hand, some argue that bringing in immigrants will only place pressure on the government and public services (which is already under stress due to the older population), and this too has a negative effect on the economy. Either way, Switzerland realizes the importance of immigrants and still

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<sup>45</sup> "Migration Information Source." *Migration Information Source*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 July 2013.

< <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=284>>

continues to abide by the bilateral agreement and let immigrants in from a variety of different countries. There will be increased pressures for greater integration of labour markets through migration. Therefore the effective management of migration flows is set to become a top priority for policymakers in Switzerland and across Europe.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> "Migration Information Source." *Migration Information Source*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 July 2013.  
<<http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=274>>

## **5.0. Appendix**

### **Interviews**

**Interviewee:**

**Nationality:** Turkish,

**Employment:** International Office for Migration (IOM) Employee

**Age:** 45-50 years

#### **Questions:**

**1. What causes people to immigrate into countries like Geneva?**

Usually people migrate because the place they are going to has something better to offer. In this case, Switzerland is a very rich country, and so even just this attracts many people into moving here because of the high average salaries compared to many other European countries. The same job here compared to a poorer country would give the person so much more income, which they can use to help themselves and their families. The quality of life in countries like this is very high. People are so much better off, and by moving to countries like this, people aim to have this high quality of life they see. Of course, there are different types of immigrants. Economic immigrants like the ones I have mentioned who move for economic purposes. Or there are immigrants such as refugees who are forced to move, but still move because things are better for them in the new place. They are offered security and protection.

**2. Do immigrants take people's jobs or do they take jobs that the locals don't want?**

This is a very tough question to answer because there are many factors that play a part in it. A lot of it depends on whether we are talking about highly qualified immigrants or the opposite. There are many different types of immigrants like I said, and that means that they take different jobs. So some would take jobs that Swiss people usually take, while others take the worse jobs. These are usually poorer, less well-off people. There are many rules that Governments put up thought to prevent the stealing of jobs.

**Interviewee:**

**Nationality:** Bangladeshi

**Employment:** International Office for Migration (IOM) Employee

**Age:** 45-50 years

**Questions:**

**1. What kind of effect do immigrants have on the host countries economy?**

A lot of the time many immigrants are usually allowed to come into the host country to help fill in gaps in the labor market. So aside from helping the economy in this way, immigrants could also damage it while trying to give themselves a better life such as through remittances. Since a lot of immigrants earn more when they move to a richer country, they use the extra money to help their families in their own countries by sending it there. So while this helps them, it doesn't help the economy in the host country.

**2. Do immigrants take people's jobs or do they take jobs that locals don't want?**

It all depends on the type of immigrant and what job they have since there is a distinction between higher qualified and lower qualified immigrants. But usually in the host country they have ways of preventing jobs being lost in this way.

**Interviewee:**

**Nationality:** Pakistani,

**Employment:** Asian Shop Owner

**Age:** 35-40 years

**Questions:**

- 1. What is your nationality?**  
Swiss.
- 2. Where is your family originally from?**  
Pakistan.
- 3. When did you move to Switzerland?**  
My Dad moved our family when I was 4 years old, so I have been living in Switzerland ever since then.
- 4. Why did you move to Switzerland?**  
My Dad had been working in hotels, as a driver, and in diners, so it was a big struggle. He thought that moving to Switzerland would open more doors for the family, and it has.
- 5. What do you think draws people to Switzerland?**  
Mostly I think that it is the quality of life, the respect, security, and the lower crime.
- 6. Did you find it difficult to come to Switzerland?**  
Integration was initially difficult, but once we were better integrated then things were fine.
- 7. Did you always want to run your own shop?**  
We were wholesalers for Geneva before we decided to just own the shop, but bad experiences with many people not paying what they owe led us to stop being wholesalers.
- 8. Was it easy to start your business?**  
Not at all. We had to have many back up plans, and we had to invest a lot into it. We were also thoroughly investigated to make sure that setting up a business here would be ok with the government.
- 9. Did you speak French before coming here?**  
I learnt it quickly as I had moved to Switzerland at a young age.
- 10. Is the Pakistani community very prominent in Switzerland?**  
There is a big community here, but a lot of them are here on short contracts, only about 20 percent of them are here long-time.
- 11. What do you think about the blame placed on immigrants regarding loss of jobs?**  
Well, the MCG does give a lot of priority to Swiss people, and also there are many jobs that Swiss people don't want but that the French want. The car park next to my shop is usually filled with many French number plates because a lot of the French people come during the day to work these jobs and then they return back to France afterwards. Sometimes the Swiss feel that some jobs are beneath them and that they are overqualified to do them so then many immigrants like the French take these jobs.
- 12. Where do most of your customers come from?**  
At the beginning they were mostly Indian and Pakistani, but now it has grown to include Swiss, French, Spanish, African, and Portuguese.



**13. Do you have many Swiss customers?**

Yes I do. They have realized that my prices are cheaper and better so Swiss customers have increased.

**14. Where your employees come from?**

Currently I only have one employee and he is from Nigeria.

**15. Where do you get your stock?**

A lot of my Indian and African products I purchase from London. But for the seafood I usually get it from local suppliers and also from Thailand.

**Interviewee:**

**Nationality:** Filipino,

**Employment:** Domestic Worker

**Age:** 35-40 years

**Questions:**

**1. How hard/easy is it to find work in Switzerland for you?**

It was not easy at the start.

**2. What are the biggest challenges in finding work here?**

There are a lot of people from Italy and Spain that are also looking for jobs, so the competition makes it hard.

**3. What made you want to come to Switzerland? What makes it better than the Philippines?**

It was for financial reasons. I would get paid more, so that made it better.

**4. Do you rely on your income here to benefit your family at home?**

Yes, very much.

**5. Have you always spoken French?**

No, it took me four years to learn it.

**6. Is there a prominent Filipino population here?**

Yes, there are a lot of people from the Philippines.

**Interviewee:**  
**Nationality:** Swiss  
**Employment:** Farm Owner  
**Age:** 60-65 years

**Questions:**

- 1. In your opinion, do you think immigrants steal people's jobs, or do they take the jobs that Swiss people don't want?**

This is not an easy issue. There are many problems; it is a difficult question to answer. I am not racist, but when you read on the news about someone being murdered and it's often done by Algerians, *Romas*, Albanians...you begin to see immigration as a problem. We begin to notice many problems and crimes that didn't exist before so it is hard not to link it with immigration.

- 2. How long do you think that immigrants should stay and work in Geneva?**

I remember back when workers would come for only 9 months and could only work for that period of time and then they had to go back to their country, then next spring they would come back again to work. I think that that was more effective in managing immigration.

- 3. What type of effect do immigrants have on unemployment?**

Certainly I think that there is an effect from immigrants. But the Swiss government has so many laws that are in place to make sure that the impact from immigrants on unemployment can be dealt with correctly, so to some extent it is made worse by immigrants, but not entirely.

- 4. What do you think about the rules and regulations that are currently in place for immigrants?**

Some years ago it used to be that when an immigrant came into the country, they had their passports stamped, and it was very well controlled, but I find that now people from other countries can just come and go as they please and can stay for as long as they like. I think the problem is that the Swiss are just not used to it. It has all just happened so fast, and we have noticed problems that we never noticed before until all the immigrants came in.

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