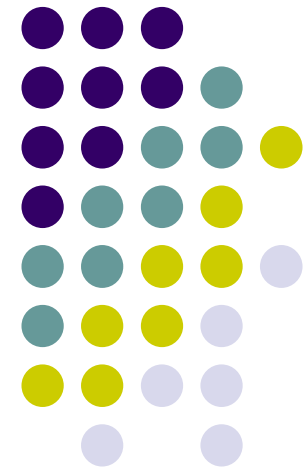
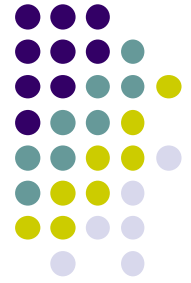


Social Implications of the Economic Crisis: Switzerland

Christian Suter
Institut de sociologie
Université de Neuchâtel



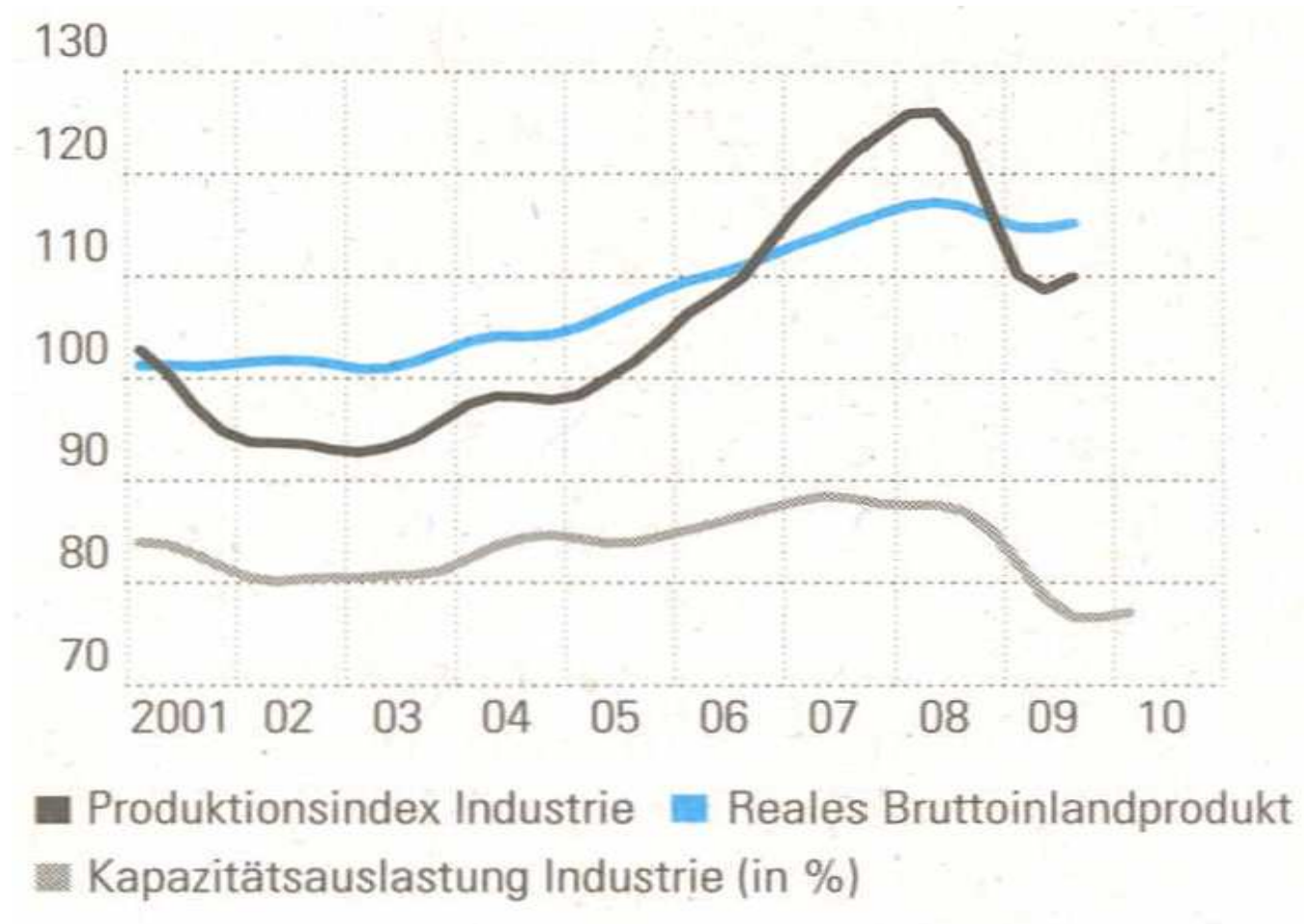
The characteristics of the economic crisis in Switzerland



- A relatively mild economic recession - not comparable to the deep recession of 1991-93
- Primarily a crisis of industrial production and of the export sector (but not a crisis of consumption, public debt/deficit, real estate/mortgage)
- Unemployment increased only slightly but short-term work is relatively high. In comparison to other countries unemployment is, however, still low (4.4%)
- Poverty rates and social welfare will most likely increase (with the well-known time lag of 1-2 years).

The economic crisis in Switzerland

Production (2000=100)

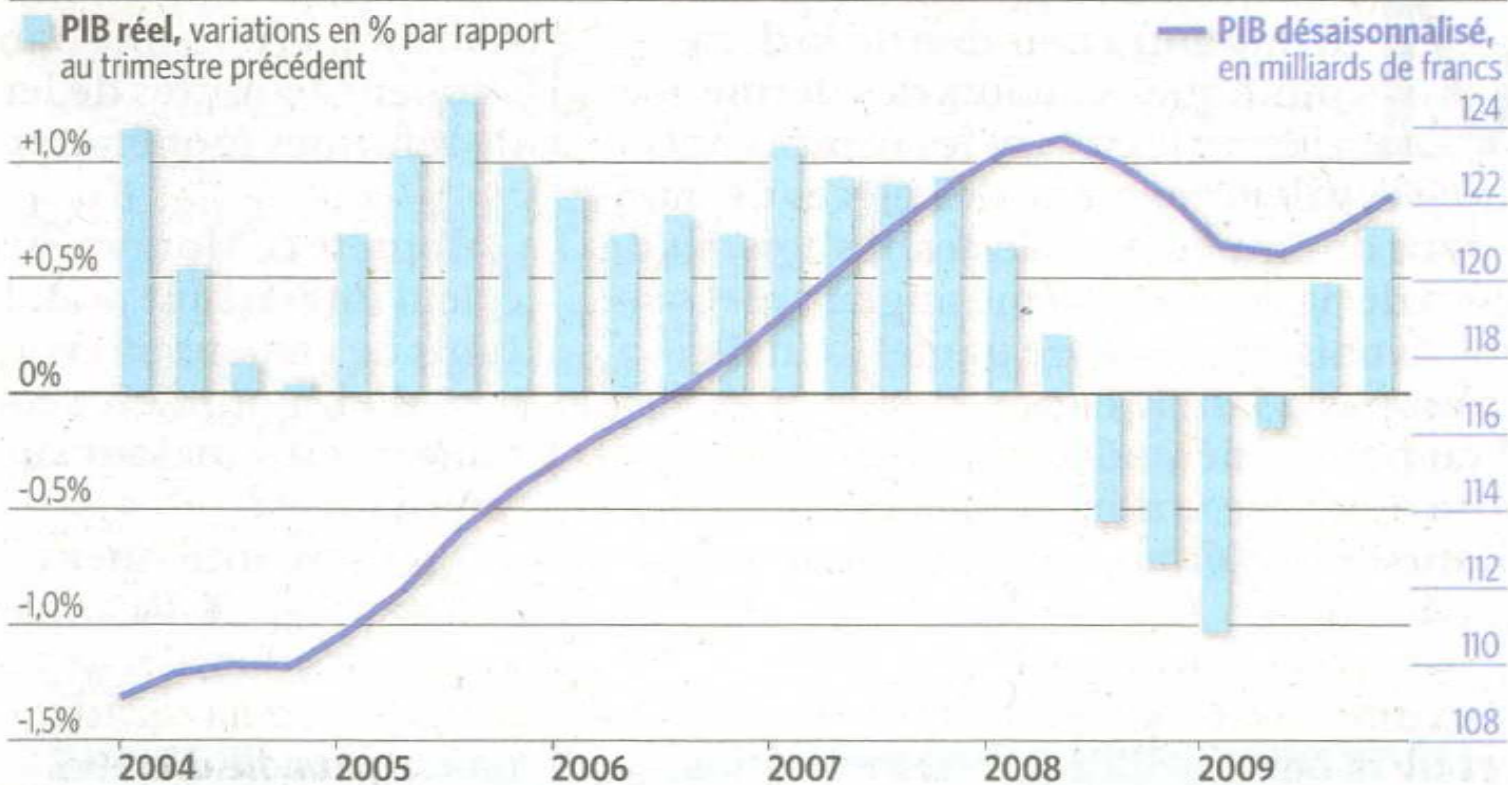


The economic crisis in Switzerland

Economic growth



Le PIB suisse a régressé de 1,5% sur l'ensemble de 2009



SCURCE: SECRÉTARIAT D'ÉTAT À L'ÉCONOMIE

The economic crisis in Switzerland

Investment (2000=100)

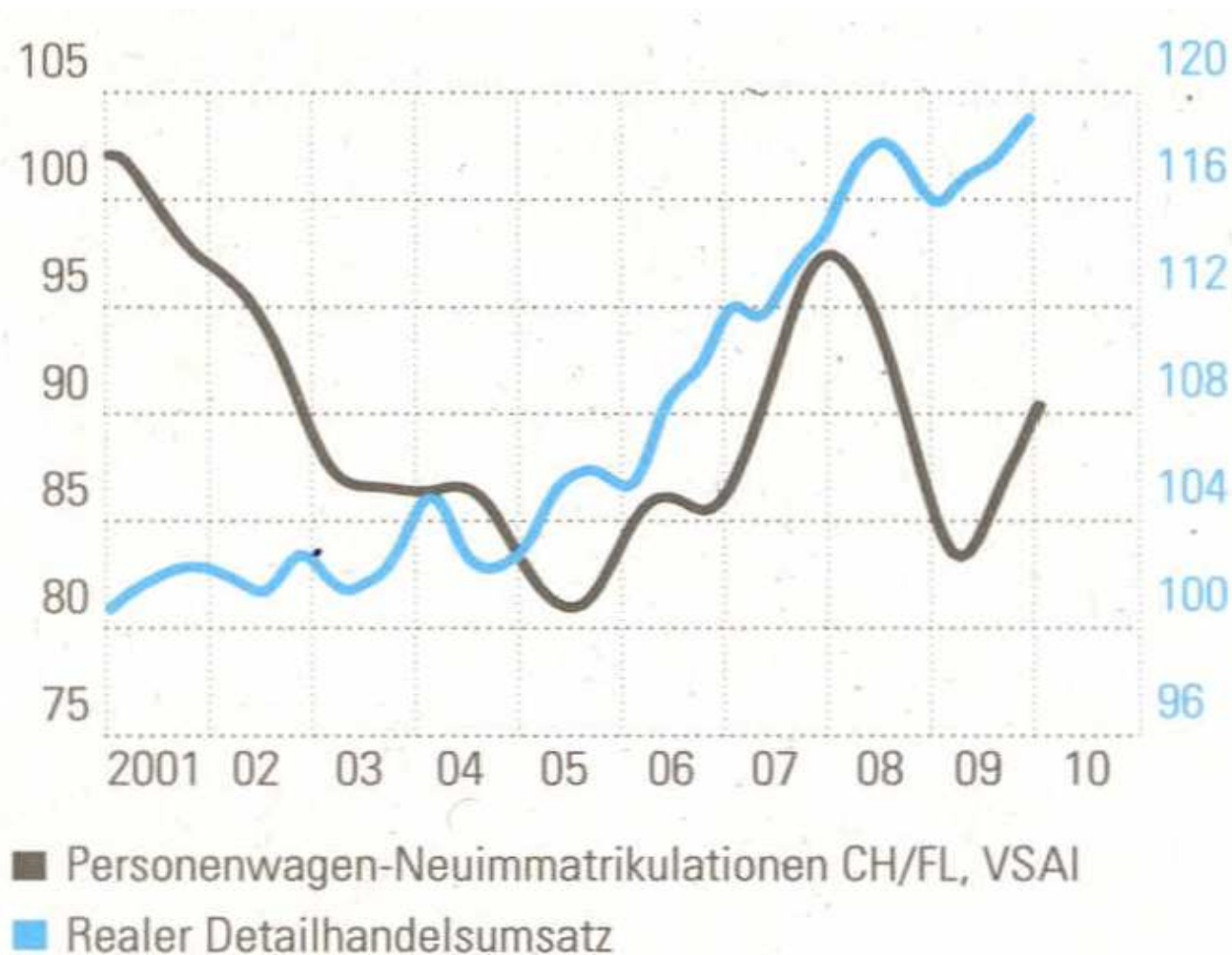


The economic crisis in Switzerland

Export volume (2000=100)

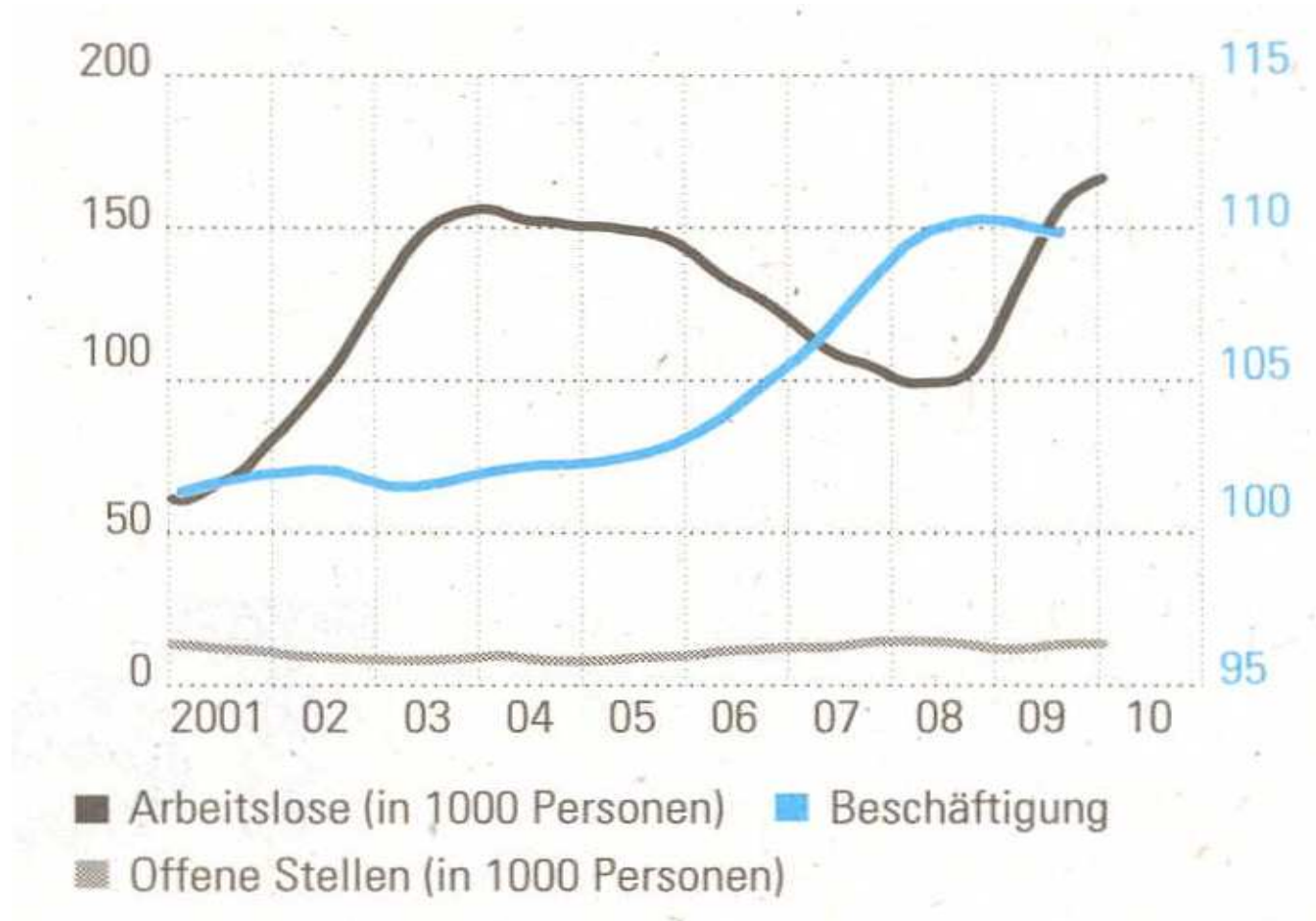


The economic crisis in Switzerland Consumption (2000=100)



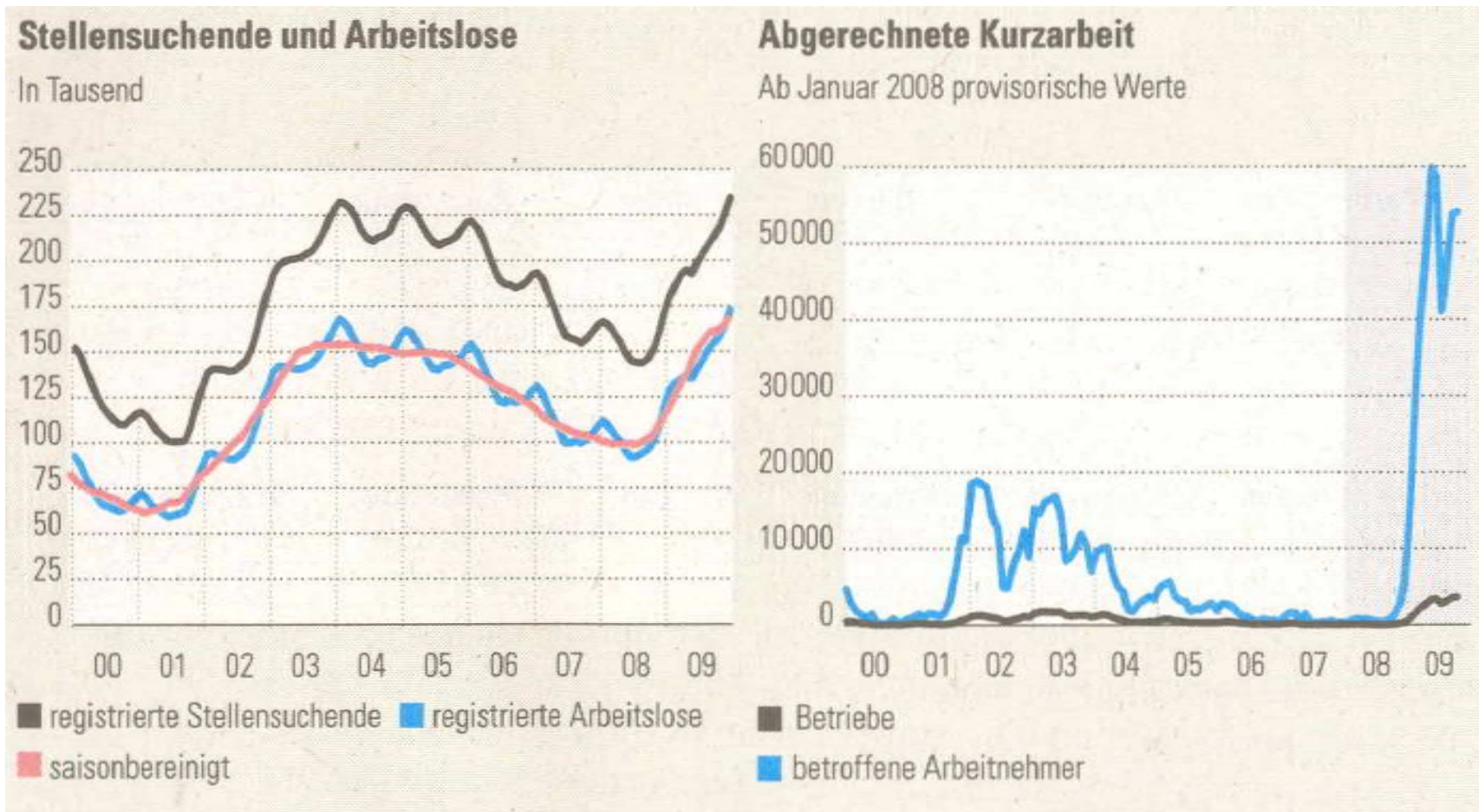
The economic crisis in Switzerland

Employment - Unemployment

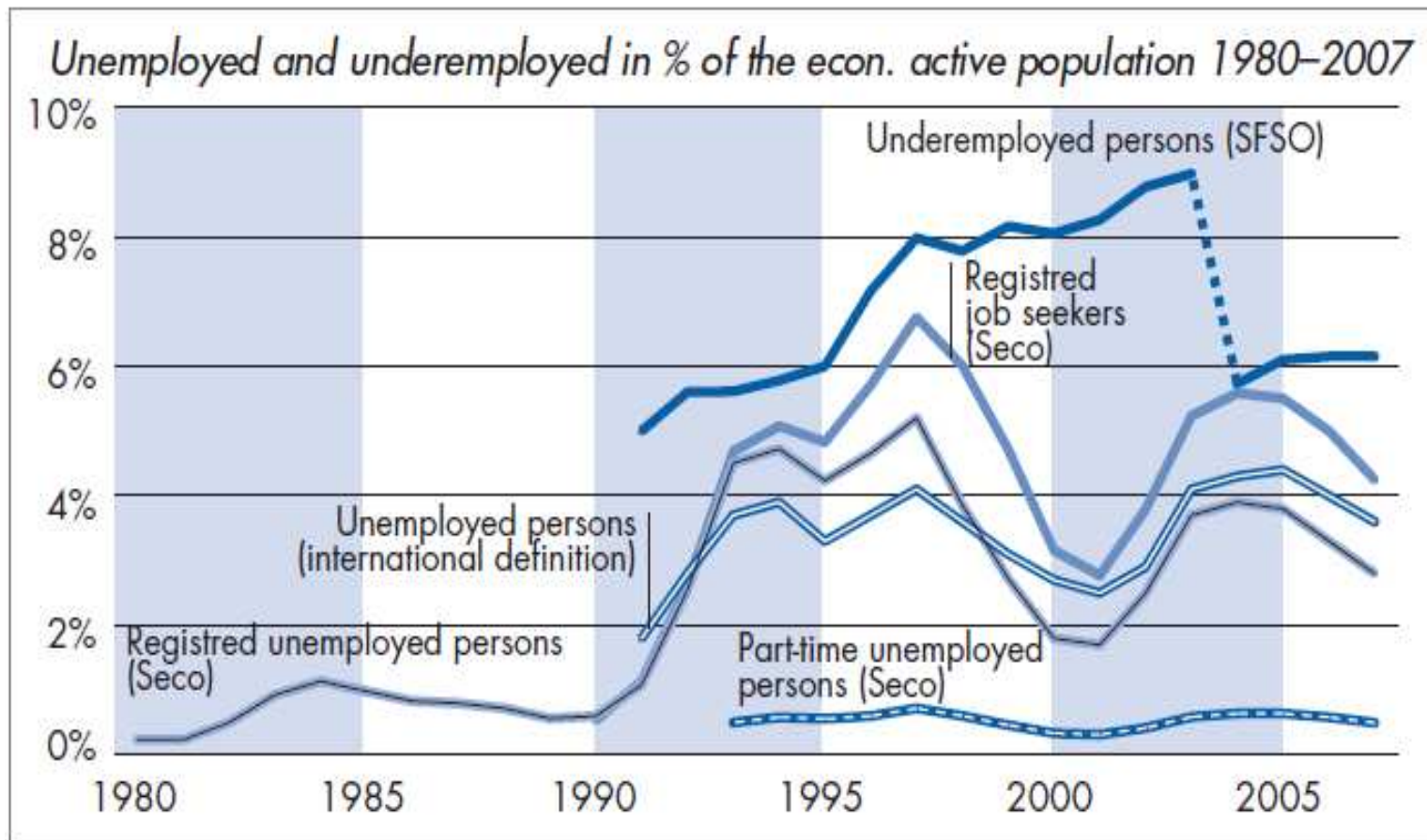


The economic crisis in Switzerland

Unemployment / short-time work



The economic crisis in Switzerland Unemployment 1980-2007

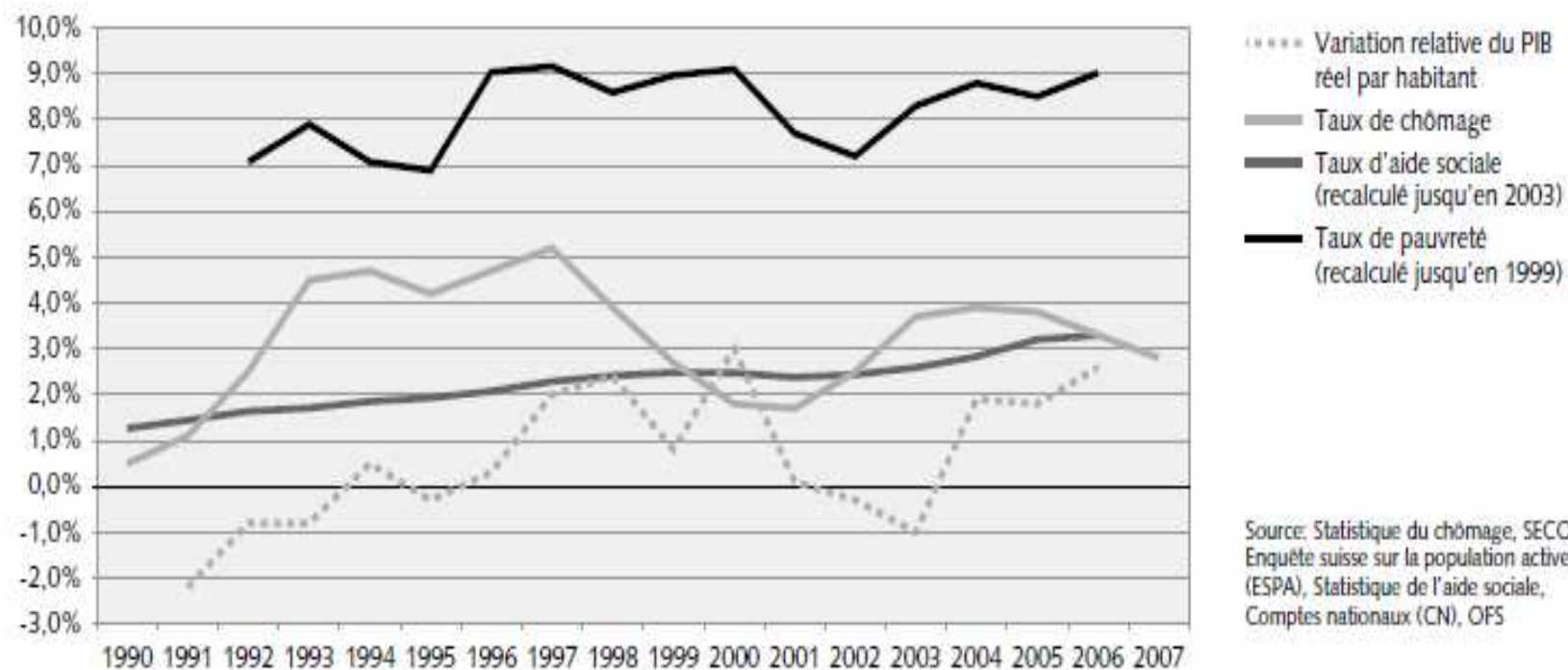




Poverty and unemployment

Evolution économique, taux de chômage, taux d'aide sociale et taux de pauvreté, 1990-2007

G 3



Source: Statistique du chômage, SECO; Enquête suisse sur la population active (ESPA), Statistique de l'aide sociale, Comptes nationaux (CN), OFS

Conclusion



- The Swiss paradox: No (economic) Great Depression but a widespread feeling of crisis
- A political/psychological crisis
 - Loss of credibility of / loss of confidence in economic and political elites
 - Foreign pressure / int. isolation
 - Crisis of identity
 - Increasing political polarization and new cleavages