

Social Insurance of Switzerland



Credits

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The Three-Column Principle

In Switzerland, provision for old age, disability and death is taking place on several levels, and in the context of various interrelated social insurance systems.

1st column

Mandatory old-age, survivors' and disability insurance (AHV and IV). These two insurances cover the basic subsistence needs of the insured persons in old age or in the event of disability. In case of death, the AHV pay benefits to survivors.

Since in practice actual pensions often fall short of this goal, the government provides supplementary benefits, i. e. need-based additional allowances to recipients of AHV and IV benefits. AHV and IV are general pension schemes for anybody residing or working in Switzerland.

2nd column

Industrial insurances (employee pension funds) aim to maintain the recipients' accustomed standard of living.

The law (BVG) provides for a mandatory minimum solution according to which contributions are levied from income up to a certain ceiling to save up retirement capital and to cover risk protection.

In practice, many companies offer more comprehensive pension schemes since the mandatory minimum amounts do not suffice to achieve the target level of benefits.

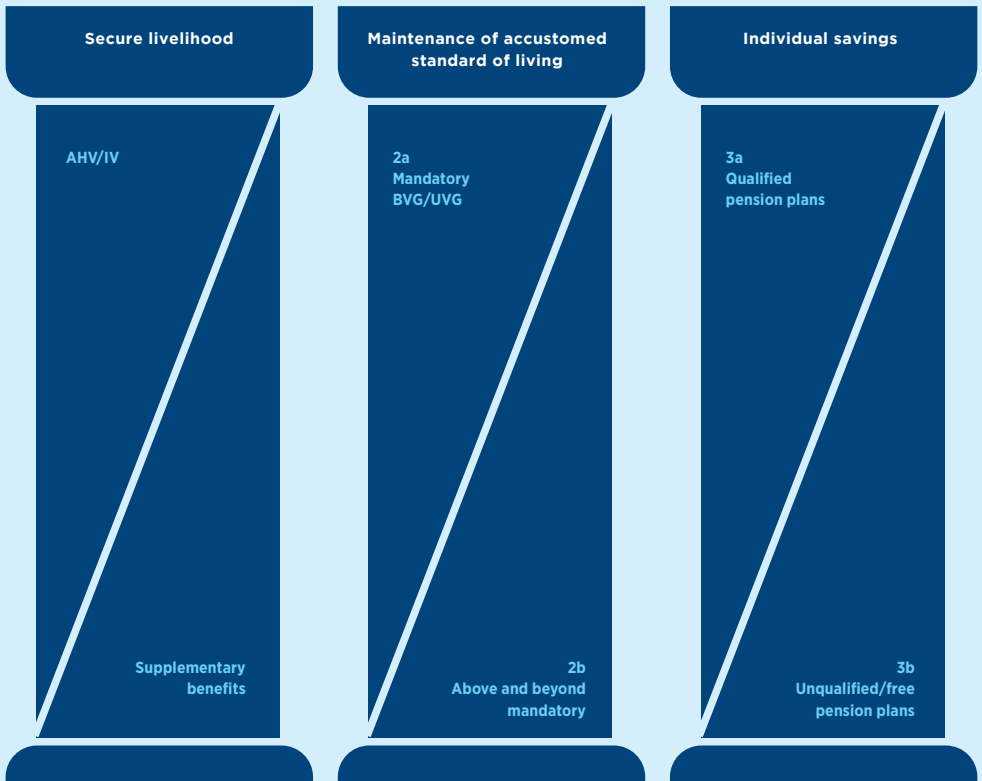
3rd column

To supplement the government's pension schemes, individual investment in private savings plans offered by banks or insurance companies is encouraged. Incentives include tax deductibility of contributions to so-called qualified savings plans, i. e. where funds cannot be accessed freely (column 3a).

1st column
Governmental
pension scheme

2nd column
Industrial
pension scheme

3rd column
Private pension
provisions



Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance

In principle, the AHV/IV pensions are adjusted at two-year intervals to the trend of the mixed index which corresponds to the arithmetical mean of the wage and price indexes. The Federal Council raised the AHV and IV pensions as well as the minimum living allowance under supplementary benefits as of 1 January 2021.

Purpose

To secure the minimum subsistence needs when income from gainful employment ceases because of old age or death.

Persons insured

All persons residing or working in Switzerland as well as (in special cases) individuals who are working abroad for a Swiss employer.

Basis for determining contributions

Employees

Total earned income (= all salaries and wages from employment). The employer settles contributions directly with the social security authorities.

Contributions may optionally be made on small items of income of up to CHF 2,300 annually (not applicable to domestic staff). For persons up to the age of 25 inclusive, contributions will only be deducted on request if the annual income does not exceed CHF 750 ("pocket money jobs").

Self-employed persons

Income from self-employment less the deductions prescribed by law. The contributions shall be calculated on the basis of the current income in the contribution year.

Employed AHV pensioners

AHV pensioners in active employment only pay contributions on that part of their earned income which exceeds CHF 1,400 per month or CHF 16,800 per year per employer. Any income above this limit is subject to AHV, IV and EO, but not ALV deductions.

Unemployed persons

The level of the contributions is calculated on the basis of the current pension income and the assets in the current contribution year. Women over 64 and men over 65 are exempt. For unemployed married persons contributions are considered paid if the wage-earning spouse pays at least double the minimum amount.

Education and care credits

Education and care credits are also imputed for pension calculation purposes. These credits constitute supplements to the pensionable income, but are not direct cash benefits. The claim to care credits must be made annually.

Financing/Contributions

Contributions to AHV, IV and EO are levied collectively and remitted as a single amount.

Employees

AHV	8.70 %
IV	1.40 %
EO	0.50 %
Total	10.60 %

Contributions to AHV, IV and EO are shared equally by employer and employee (5.30 % each).

Self-employed persons

AHV	8.10 %
IV	1.40 %
EO	0.50 %
Total	10.00 %

For earned income

- from CHF 57,400 to CHF 9,600 a diminishing scale from 10.000 % to 5.371 % applies;
- below CHF 9,600 at least CHF 503 (AHV, IV, EO).

Unemployed persons

Contributions to AHV, IV and EO depending on assets and pension income (in CHF/year): min. CHF 503; max. CHF 25,150.

Public sources

In 2019, some 25 % of annual AHV income was financed by the public authorities. This amount consists of the Federal contribution, levies on value-added tax revenue and money raised by the casino tax.

Insurance benefits
(selection)

Annual ordinary pensions for insured parties with a full contribution period from age 64 (women) or from age 65 (men).

Pension type	min. CHF	max. CHF
retirement pension	14,340	28,680
both pensions of a married couple		43,020
widow's/widower's pension	11,472	22,944
orphan's and child's pension	5,736	11,472
full orphan's and double child's pension	8,604	17,208
allowance for incapacitation (at home) minor/medium/severe	2,868/7,176/11,472	

Anticipated withdrawal
or deferment of the
retirement pension

In the context of flexible retirement women and men can draw their retirement pension

- 1 or 2 full years earlier (no individual months possible), or
- defer the withdrawal of the pension for 1 to 5 years at maximum.

The reduction for early drawing of the retirement pension is 6.8 % for one year and 13.6 % for two years. Upon deferment of the withdrawal the pension is increased by a monthly supplement (max. 31.5 %). During the deferment, the pension may be taken, i. e. drawn, at any time by the beneficiary.

Predictions

To ensure that pension financing can still be guaranteed in future, the Federal Council submitted its explanatory statement on stabilisation of the AHV (AHV 21) to Parliament in summer 2019. The purpose of the submission is to maintain the level of pension benefits and safeguard the financial balance of the AHV until 2030: at the same time, it seeks to make the retirement age more flexible and give greater incentives to remain in employment for longer. Originally planned for 2022, entry into force is now unlikely before 2023 because of the delays that have occurred.

Disability Insurance

Purpose	(Re-)Integration of the insured persons into the workforce, securing the minimum living requirements of the disabled and their dependents.
Persons insured	See AHV (page 3).
Basis for determining contributions	See AHV (page 3).
Financing/Contributions	See AHV (page 4). In addition, considerable payments from the government.
Insurance benefits (selection)	<p>Integration measures</p> <p>Medical and occupational measures (including occupational advice, initial occupational training, retraining, job finding, capital assistance), integration measures for induction into an occupation, provision of aid. Participants in integration measures are entitled to daily allowances.</p> <p>Disability pension, disability child benefits</p> <p>100 % disability pension in CHF: min. 14,340, max. 28,680; disabled person's child's pension: 40 % of the disability pension.</p>

Degree of disability	entitlement to
min. 40 %	quarter pension
min. 50 %	half pension
min. 60 %	three quarters pension
min. 70 %	full pension

Compensation for totally incapacitated persons living in their own household

minor disability	CHF 5,736 annual pension
medium disability	CHF 14,340 annual pension
severe disability	CHF 22,944 annual pension

Compensation for totally incapacitated persons living in a care home

minor disability	CHF 1,440 annual pension
medium disability	CHF 3,588 annual pension
severe disability	CHF 5,736 annual pension

Predictions	Parliament adopted the revised Act on further development of the disability insurance in June 2020. The aim of the adjustments was to prevent incapacitation and strengthen reintegration. The text focuses on more intensive accompaniment of the persons concerned. The proposal also replaces the existing pension model with threshold figures by a continuously variable system. The intention is for the revised Act on further development of the disability pension to enter into force on 1 January 2022.
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AHV and IV Supplementary Benefits

Purpose To cover the living requirements of Swiss residents receiving AHV and IV benefits.

Insurance benefits **Pecuniary benefits** Annual supplementary benefits equivalent to the difference between spending recognised by law and imputable income.

Within the framework of recognised expenditure, in the case of persons living at home the vital minimum is as follows:

For single persons	CHF	19,610			
For married couples	CHF	29,415			
For 1st child	CHF	7,200	under age 11	CHF	10,260 above age 11
For the 2nd child	CHF	6,000	under age 11	CHF	10,260 above age 11
For the 3rd child	CHF	5,000	under age 11	CHF	6,840 above age 11
For the 4th child	CHF	4,165	under age 11	CHF	6,840 above age 11
For each further child	CHF	3,470	under age 11	CHF	3,420 above age 11

In addition, health insurance premiums are taken into account in the calculation of supplementary benefits as an item of expenditure corresponding to the actual premium, but to not more than the average regional premium.

Benefits in kind Reimbursement of illness and disability costs to the extent that these are not already covered by an insurance.

Financing/Contributions Supplementary benefits are financed by the federal and cantonal authorities.

Disbursement Disbursement of supplementary benefits is handled by the cantons. Registration for benefit payments is made at the branch of the cantonal equalisation scheme at the place of residence (except for ZH canton: local authority offices; BS canton: Amt für Sozialbeiträge; GE Canton: Service des prestations complémentaires [SPC]).

Occupational Old-Age, Survivors' and Disability Benefit Plan

The minimum interest rate for the year 2021 is 1.00 %. For termination benefits, interest on arrears is charged at the rate of 2.00 %.

Purpose

To secure the accustomed standard of living (in conjunction with benefits from AHV/IV). BVG requirements constitute the legally stipulated minimum benefits (column 2a). In practice, more comprehensive pension plans are offered (column 2b).

Persons insured

Mandatory

- Employees with annual wages of over CHF 21,510 (only for risk of death or disability for 18- to 24-year-olds, also for old-age benefits in the case of individuals older than 24)
- Unemployed persons with a daily allowance of at least CHF 82.60 are insured for the risks of death and disability

Voluntary

Self-employed individuals and employees who are not obliged to contribute to the scheme.

Basis for determining contributions

Coordinated annual wages = insured wages (corresponds to AHV wages less coordination deduction of CHF 25,095).

AHV wages which have to be considered

lower limit	CHF	21,510
upper limit	CHF	86,040

Coordinated wages

lower limit	CHF	3,585
upper limit	CHF	60,945

For unemployed persons: daily remuneration which has to be considered

lower limit	CHF	82.60
upper limit	CHF	330.40

Coordination deduction from the daily wage	CHF	96.35
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Coordinated daily remuneration

lower limit	CHF	13.75
upper limit	CHF	234.05

Financing/Contributions

The mandatory employee old-age pension is financed by contributions from the insured and his or her employer. The law does not stipulate specific contribution rates, but only the amount of savings to be credited to the insured persons’ pension accounts. At the time of retirement the savings capital is used to finance pension benefits. The employer pays at least half of the total contributions. Depending on the individual pension fund regulations, uniform or age-related contributions may be levied.

Age	Credits to pension savings accounts in % of the insured wages
25 to 34	7.0 %
35 to 44	10.0 %
45 to 54	15.0 %
55 to 64/65	18.0 %

The BVG contribution for unemployed persons (death and disability risks) amounts to 0.25 % of the coordinated daily wage and is payable in equal shares by the unemployed person and by the unemployment insurance fund.

The contributions for risk coverage, security fund and administrative expenses together amount to an average of between 3 % and 4 % of the insured wages. Total contributions (pillar 2a and pillar 2b): on average, approx. 20 % of insured wage or approx. 15 % of AHV wage. Individual contributions depend on the age of the insured person and on the regulation of the occupational benefits scheme.

Insurance benefits

Old-age pension

6.8% of the retirement savings existing for the insured person at the time when his or her entitlement begins.

Disability benefits

6.8% of the savings capital available at the beginning of the insured person’s pension eligibility, as well as the credits for the years missing until age 64 (women) respectively 65 (men), without interest, based on the insured wages at the time the disability occurred.

Spouse’s pension

60 % of the old-age or full disability pension. A registered partner of either gender is treated in the same way as a widower or a widow.

Child’s and orphan’s pension

Children of retired, disabled or deceased insured individuals receive a pension amounting to 20 % of the old-age or disability pension.

Form of benefits

Old-age, survivors' and disability benefits are generally paid out in the form of pensions. The insured person may ask for one quarter of his or her retirement savings to be paid out as a single lump sum.

Cost of living adjustment

The compulsory second pillar survivor's and disability pensions that have been paid since 2017 will be adjusted to the cost of living for the first time on 1 January 2021. The adjustment rate is 0.3 %. Pensions that were paid out for the first time before 2017 will not be adjusted.

Home ownership subsidy

Federal legislation on home ownership financing through employee pension plans stipulates that insured individuals may withdraw parts of their termination benefits to purchase a home. Similarly, for the same purpose they may pledge that amount or their claim to pension benefits. If an insured individual withdraws parts of his or her termination benefits, the pension benefit claim is reduced accordingly.

Termination benefit

Upon change of employment the savings capital will be transferred to the new employer's pension fund. The termination benefit falls due when the person concerned leaves the pension fund. From that time onwards, it will bear interest at the minimum rate stipulated in BVG (1.00 %). If the pension fund fails to transfer the termination benefit within 30 days of receiving the necessary information, the sum concerned will bear interest on arrears from that date onwards as stipulated in Art. 7 FZV (2.00 %).

Divorce

In principle, the termination benefit acquired during a marriage will be divided into two. The date on which the divorce proceedings are opened is used as the determining time for the calculation. If a spouse is disabled or has already retired, the theoretical termination benefit is used as the basis or the pension will be divided and converted into a lifelong pension for the entitled spouse.

Purchase in column 2b

The purchase conditions provide for the inclusion of any capital sum saved in column 3a for the purpose of calculation of the maximum possible purchase. A calculation must be made in every case to determine whether the savings capital in column 3a exceeds the maximum permitted value assigned to the particular year of birth of the insured person (see table below).

The excess sum will be deducted from the possible purchase (see also Art. 60a BVV 2). The maximum permitted 3a savings capital amounts:

Year of birth	Status on 31 December 2020	Status on 31 December 2021
1962 and earlier	290,370	300,157
1963	279,966	289,648
1964	269,544	279,122
1965	259,523	269,001
1966	249,245	258,621
1967	239,363	248,639
1968	228,672	237,842
1969	217,937	227,000
1970	207,615	216,574
1971	197,373	206,229
1972	187,524	196,282
1973	177,810	186,472
1974	168,470	177,038
1975	159,399	167,876
1976	150,676	159,065
1977	142,080	150,383
1978	133,814	142,035
1979	125,615	133,754
1980	117,596	125,655
1981	109,624	117,603
1982	101,847	109,748
1983	94,048	101,871
1984	86,457	94,204
1985	78,780	86,451
1986	71,254	78,849
1987	63,745	71,265
1988	56,347	63,793
1989	48,996	56,369
1990	41,771	49,072
1991	34,640	41,870
1992	27,597	34,756
1993	20,624	27,714
1994	13,720	20,740
1995	6,826	13,777
1996	0	6,883

The values are to be interpolated when calculations are made for less than a full year.

Predictions

The Federal Council's submission for a hearing on the reform of the BVG (Federal Pensions Act) makes provision for the BVG minimum conversion rate to be reduced to 6.0 % and measures taken to offset the resulting benefit reductions (coordination deduction halved, adjusted pension savings and a pension supplement financed jointly via wage contributions). The hearing was completed in May 2020 and the Federal Council's explanatory statement is still awaited. Entry into force of a revised BVG is therefore not expected before 2023.

Column 3a (Qualified Fiscally Privileged Pension Schemes)

Purpose

Encouragement of investment in private savings plans in addition to the first two columns. Up to a certain amount contributions to column 3a can be deducted from the taxable income.

Saving schemes

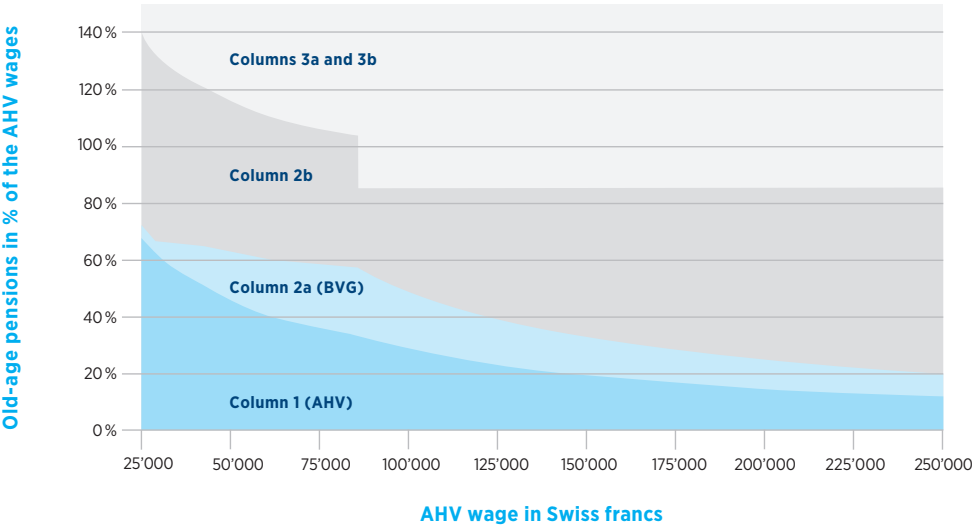
Bank savings and insurance policies. The maximum annual deduction is:

Assessment year	Normal deduction (with 2nd column)	Self-employed persons (without 2nd column)
	CHF	20 % of earned income, but a maximum of CHF
1990	4,608	23,040
1991	4,608	23,040
1992	5,184	25,920
1993	5,414	27,072
1994	5,414	27,072
1995	5,587	27,936
1996	5,587	27,936
1997	5,731	28,656
1998	5,731	28,656
1999	5,789	28,944
2000	5,789	28,944
2001	5,933	29,664
2002	5,933	29,664
2003	6,077	30,384
2004	6,077	30,384
2005	6,192	30,960
2006	6,192	30,960
2007	6,365	31,824
2008	6,365	31,824
2009	6,566	32,832
2010	6,566	32,832
2011	6,682	33,408
2012	6,682	33,408
2013	6,739	33,696
2014	6,739	33,696
2015	6,768	33,840
2016	6,768	33,840
2017	6,768	33,840
2018	6,768	33,840
2019	6,826	34,128
2020	6,826	34,128
2021	6,883	34,416

This deduction can be applied to both the direct federal tax and the cantonal income tax.

If gainful activity continues beyond the ordinary AHV retirement age, benefit savings may at the same time also continue in column 3a. The continuation of benefit savings is permitted for a maximum of five years beyond the ordinary retirement age.

Interplay of the three columns
(old-age pensions)



The graph above shows the old-age pension in consideration of the principle of adequacy in column 2b.

Unemployment Insurance (ALV) and Insolvency Compensation

Purpose	Appropriate compensation for loss of earnings, prevention of threatening unemployment and measures against existing unemployment, together with promotion of integration into the labour market.
Persons insured	All employees liable for AHV contributions up to ages 64 (women) and 65 (men) as well as certain non-wage-earning individuals.
Basis for determining contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regular contribution: earnings liable for AHV, subject to a maximum of CHF 148,200 - solidarity contribution: income components from CHF 148,201
Insured wages	Earnings liable for AHV, subject to a maximum of CHF 148,200. Earnings on which the solidarity contribution is levied and earnings from labour market measures financed by the public authorities are not insured.
Financing/Contributions	2.2% of earnings subject to AHV each year up to CHF 148,200 and 1% of the income components from CHF 148,201 of earnings subject to AHV (solidarity contribution); one half of the contribution is payable by the employer and the other half by the employee. The insurance is also financed by income earned on the assets of the equalisation fund. In addition, the federal authorities contribute to the costs of intermediation and labour market measures.
Persons exempt from contribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - members of a farmer's family working on the farm, who are considered self-employed for purposes of family benefits - women and men after the beginning of the month following completion of their 64th respectively 65th year of age - employers for continued payments of wages to the above persons - unemployed persons who receive an unemployment allowance and the unemployment scheme for the corresponding employer's share

Insurance benefits

Unemployment compensation

Amount:

- (full) daily allowance of 80 % of the insured wage, together with children's and training allowances, provided that there is not already another entitlement to allowances for the child
- daily allowance of 70 % for insured persons without children under the age of 25, insured persons who are not disabled and insured persons in receipt of a full daily allowance of more than CHF 140

Duration:

- max. 200 daily allowances (DA) (min. 12 months contribution time, under 25, no children)
- max. 260 DA (min. 12 months contribution period, above the age of 25)
- max. 400 DA (min. 18 months contribution period)
- max. 520 DA (min. 22 months contribution period and over the age of 55 or drawing an IV pension with IV degree of more than 40 %)
- max. 90 DA (exempt from contributions)

Waiting times: 0-120 days.

Short-time employment compensation

80 % of the imputable loss of earnings for a maximum of 12 accounting periods within 2 years.

Bad-weather compensation

80 % of imputable loss of earnings for a maximum of 6 accounting periods within 2 years.

Insolvency compensation

Wages due for the last four months of employment, before bankruptcy, together with any wage entitlement for work done after opening of bankruptcy proceedings, subject, however, to a maximum of CHF 12,350 per month.

Labour market measures

- educational measures (courses)
- employment measures, including refund of costs to the organisers of employment measures
- special measures (induction subventions, commuting costs and contribution to weekly subsistence costs, training subventions, promotion of self-employment)

Predictions

Parliament adopted the proposal for the new Federal Act on bridging benefits for older unemployed persons (ÜLG) in June 2020. Persons who have lost their jobs after age 58 and have been excluded from unemployment insurance after age 60 will qualify for bridging benefits until they draw a retirement pension. The hearing on the corresponding ordinance ends on 11 February 2021; entry into force of the ÜLG is planned for 1 July 2021.

Rules on income compensation/ Maternity and paternity compensation

Purpose	Partial cover for loss of earnings, e.g. during military, civil defence and civilian service (compensation for loss of earnings EO), maternity (maternity benefits) and paternity (paternity benefits).																			
Persons insured	See AHV (page 3).																			
Financing/Contributions	Contributions (basis: AHV) and resources from the equalisation fund under the EO. The contribution on earned income is 0.5 %. Contributions are levied on a diminishing scale. Persons who are not in active employment pay a contribution of between CHF 24 and CHF 1,200 per year.																			
Beneficiaries	<p>Maternity allowance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – women who are in employment, self-employed or unemployed at the time of childbirth – women who draw daily allowances for incapacity due to illness, accident or disability at the time of childbirth – women who are in an employment relationship at the time of childbirth but do not receive any continuing wages or daily allowances because their entitlement has been used up <p>Paternity allowance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In employment at the time of childbirth; – compulsory AHV insurance in the nine months prior to the birth and in active employment for at least five months during that period. 																			
Insurance benefits	<p>Basic allowance (irrespective of civil status and employment activity) in CHF/day:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Employed persons (E)</td><td>62–196</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Non-active employees (NE)</td><td>62–111</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Children's allowances (per child)</td><td>20</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Total allowance E/NE (max.)</td><td>245/123</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Supplement for care costs</td><td>20–67</td><td>effective costs</td></tr> <tr> <td>Business supplement</td><td>67</td><td></td></tr> </table> <p>Maternity allowance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – duration: for 14 weeks (98 days) after childbirth; – amount of daily allowance: 80 % of average income from gainful employment prior to childbirth, max. CHF 196/day. <p>Paternity allowance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – duration: for 2 weeks (14 days). A framework period of 6 months applies to qualify for the paternity allowance; – amount of the daily allowance: 80 % of average income before birth of the child, max. CHF 196/day. 		Employed persons (E)	62–196		Non-active employees (NE)	62–111		Children's allowances (per child)	20		Total allowance E/NE (max.)	245/123		Supplement for care costs	20–67	effective costs	Business supplement	67	
Employed persons (E)	62–196																			
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Children's allowances (per child)	20																			
Total allowance E/NE (max.)	245/123																			
Supplement for care costs	20–67	effective costs																		
Business supplement	67																			

Accident Insurance

Purpose

Compensation or alleviation of the health, economic and intangible consequences of accidents and occupational illnesses for all employees.

Persons insured

Mandatory

Occupational accidents: all employees working in Switzerland. Non-occupational accidents: all employees working in Switzerland with a weekly working time of at least 8 hours with the same employer.

Voluntary

Self-employed individuals and family members working in the family business.

Basis for determining contributions

Wages subject to AHV, up to a maximum of CHF 148,200 per annum, CHF 12,350 per month, or CHF 406 per calendar day.

Insured wages

Wages subject to AHV, up to a maximum of CHF 148,200 per annum.

Financing/Premiums

Occupational accident insurance

Payable by the employer: amount of the premiums depending on the risk (branch of the economy) concerned.

Insurance for non-occupational accidents

Charged as a rule to the employees: the premium sum depends on the branch of the economy.

Insurance benefits (selection)

Key material benefits:

- medical treatment (outpatients and inpatients)
- aid devices
- travel, transport and rescue costs

Key pecuniary benefits (save where otherwise stated as percentage of insured wages):

- daily allowances (max. 80)
- IV pension (for complete disability max. 80) or settlement
- survivors' benefits: pension or settlement for the spouse (pension: 40) and divorced spouse (pension: 20); pensions for orphans of one parent (15); pension for orphans of two parents (25)
- compensation for incapacitation, monthly CHF 812 – 2,436
- allowance for damage to integrity: depending on severity of damage max. CHF 148,200

Health Insurance

The Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) states that compulsory healthcare insurance premiums will rise by an average of 0.5% in 2021. The BAG website (www.priminfo.ch) provides a premium calculator to compare all the approved basic insurance premiums which are available.

Purpose	Coverage of treatment costs for illnesses, accidents (in excess of accident insurance coverage), as well as maternity.
Persons insured	All persons residing or working in Switzerland.
Financing/Contributions	<p>Contributions of the insured</p> <p>Every health insurance scheme is required to levy the same premiums from all individuals residing in the same canton and premium area. The federal and cantonal authorities pay contributions to reduce the premiums of insured persons in modest economic circumstances.</p> <p>Cost sharing</p> <p>Deductible: fixed annual amount payable by the insured in case of a claim. The law requires a deductible of at least CHF 300 for adults. Deductibles of CHF 500, 1,000, 1,500, 2,000 and 2,500 may be elected. Retention: 10% of the costs exceeding the deductible up to a maximum of CHF 700.</p>
Premium reductions through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - election of a higher deductible - reduced choice of physicians and hospitals through affiliation with an HMO insurance or a primary physician care model - exemption from accident coverage for persons adequately insured according to UVG
Insurance benefits (selection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - medical and chiropractic treatments - complementary medicine treatments - preventive measures - special treatments during maternity - dental treatments (very limited) - contribution to cost of transportation and salvage cost - analyses and medicines

Family Benefits

Purpose

Partial equalisation of the financial burden for one or more children.

Entitled persons

Employees who are compulsorily insured with AHV, the self-employed and persons not in gainful employment, employees of an employer who is not required to pay contributions and unemployed mothers who draw a maternity allowance.

Minimum rates

Pursuant to the Federal Law on Family Allowances (FamZG, in force since 1 January 2009) the following minimum monthly allowances per child will be paid in every canton:

- A child allowance of CHF 200 for children up to age 16 or until entitlement to education allowances;
- an education allowance of CHF 250 for young persons who are taking a course of non-compulsory education, from age 15 at the earliest until age 25 at the latest.

Family allowances in agriculture

Agricultural employees: family allowances equivalent at least to FamZG provision and household allowance CHF 100/month. Full-time and part-time self-employed farmers/ full-time self-employed alpine farmers: family allowances equivalent at least to FamZG.

Cantonal family allowances

The cantonal rates for the allowances payable in 2021 can be consulted on the Federal Social Insurance Office's website (www.bsv.admin.ch/bsv/en/home/social-insurance/famz.html).

General Part of the Social Insurance Legislation

The ATSG unifies concepts and procedures within the framework of social insurance law (with the exception of occupational benefits), coordinates benefits and regulates redress against third parties. This law stipulates in particular that a registered same-sex partnership is to be equated with marriage, the dissolution of a partnership by the courts with divorce and the surviving person with a widow or widower upon the death of his or her partner. This law is applicable if and to the extent that the individual social insurance laws so provide.

Bilateral Agreements

Since 1 January 2017, the agreement on freedom of movement between Switzerland and the European Community has been extended to the new Member State Croatia. During a transitional phase lasting for not more than seven years, special provisions including restrictions under employment law and maximum numbers will apply to Croatian citizens.

Overview of the Social Insurances

	Insured wages	Contributions	Benefits
AHVG	With influence on pension amount: up to a max. of CHF 86,040 Mandatory contribution: unlimited	Employees 8.7 % Self-employed individuals 8.1 %	Retirement pensions, supplementary pensions, children's pensions, widows' and widowers' pensions, orphans' pensions, incapacitation allowance, aid devices
IVG	Same as AHV	Employees 1.4 % Self-employed individuals 1.4 %	Incorporation measures, disability, supplementary and children's pensions, allowance for helpless persons, assistance contribution
ELG			Need-based contributions in addition to AHV and IV benefits
BVG	AHV wages less CHF 25,095, minimum CHF 3,585	Depending on the pension fund regulation	Retirement benefits, spouse's, orphan's and disability pensions, pensions for the children of retired and disabled persons
AVIG	Earnings subject to AHV, up to a maximum of CHF 148,200	2.2 % for wage components up to CHF 148,200; 1 % for wage components from CHF 148,201 (solidarity contribution)	Unemployment, short-time employment, bad-weather and insolvency compensation, labour market measures, advice and placement
EOG	Same as AHV and IV	Employees 0.50 % Self-employed 0.50 %	Daily allowances (for EO: including children's allowances) and for EO: allowance for care costs, business supplements
UVG	Maximum CHF 148,200	Depending on economic sector and risk level of the company	Benefits in kind (e. g. medical treatment, aid devices), pecuniary benefits (e. g. daily allowances, survivors' benefits, disability pension, compensation for helpless persons and loss of integrity)
KVG		Per capita contributions depending on insurance provider, canton and area of residence	Coverage of treatment and care-taking costs
FamZG/ FLG		Based on cantonal rates	Children's and education allowances, where applicable birth and adoption allowances, household allowance (agriculture)

Legal Sources

AHVG	Federal law on old-age and survivors' insurance	20.12.1946
IVG	Federal law on disability insurance	19.06.1959
ELG	Federal law on old-age and survivors' insurance and disability insurance supplementary benefits	06.10.2006
BVG	Federal law on employee old-age, survivors' and workmen's compensation insurance	25.06.1982
FZG	Federal law regarding pension cash surrender values of the employee old-age, survivors', and workmen's compensation insurance	17.12.1993
BVV 2	Ordinance by the Federal Parliament on employee old-age, survivors' and workmen's compensation insurance	18.04.1984
BVV 3	Ordinance by the Federal Parliament on tax deductibility of contributions to qualified pension schemes	13.11.1985
AVIG	Federal law on mandatory unemployment insurance and insolvency compensation	25.06.1982
EOG	Federal law on compensation for loss of income for persons performing service and in the event of maternity	25.09.1952
UVG	Federal law on accident insurance	20.03.1981
KVG	Federal law on health insurance	18.03.1994
ATSG	Federal law on the general part of the social insurance legislation	06.10.2000
PartG	Federal law on the registered partnership of same-sex couples	18.06.2004
FamZG	Federal law on family benefits Cantonal laws on family benefits	24.03.2006
FLG	Federal law on family allowances in agriculture	20.06.1952

Libera is a leading Swiss provider of consultancy and management services for occupational benefit schemes. Its core tasks include activity as experts and actuarial advice, legal consultancy, pension fund management, technical and administrative management, finance and securities bookkeeping, accountancy in compliance with international accounting standards and investment consulting.

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