



# Plan your retirement, in Switzerland or abroad

**A guide for migrants**





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**Author**

Katja Haunreiter,  
Professor, Haute école  
de travail social et de la  
santé - EESP, in  
conjunction with BLI  
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# Editorial

The introduction of Old Age and Survivors (AVS) insurance was unquestionably one of Switzerland's greatest social advances in the 20th century. Yet there were fierce debates between 1918 and 1947, until the first AVS pension payments were finally made in January 1948. It has also meant that retirement is now recognised as an important stage in life, during which it has become possible for people to live with dignity.



Over recent years, however, impassioned debates about social welfare, on subjects ranging from the age of retirement to how it is funded, have again constantly occupied the public arena, with a particular focus on the issues related to the ageing population. It is against this turbulent background, in which numerous questions about the future of the pension system remain, that this guide has been produced. Aimed primarily at migrants, it has been published in seven languages (Albanian, Bosnian, English, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish), with the goal of making the complexities of the Swiss pensions system more understandable. From our standpoint, allowing people to make the right choices, when it comes to retirement is also about taking a step towards equality of opportunity for those men and women who have contributed, alongside us, to our country's economic prosperity and, more specifically, to the cap-

ital of Vaud Canton, where 42% of the population does not hold a Swiss passport.

Helping you to understand the issues associated with your future retirement, dealing with the specific questions you may have as a migrant and allowing you to live this stage of your life peacefully are the main aims of this publication. Written in clear language, with practical examples and useful addresses, this guide will undoubtedly also become an essential reference for everyone in Lausanne at the age of planning for their retirement, regardless of their national origin.

This is one of many initiatives that reflects Lausanne's commitment to its older citizens, with the aim of supporting social cohesion. This resolute commitment will be further strengthened with the City of Lausanne's membership of the global network of Age-Friendly Cities.

I hope all readers who will soon be reaching retirement age will enter this new stage of their life with excitement, health and happiness.

**Oscar Tosato,**  
Municipal Councillor  
Director of Sports and Social Cohesion

# Introduction

## A new stage of life

Today, retirement marks the start of a new stage of life, offering a range of opportunities that will vary depending on the background, family situation and socio-economic conditions of each individual. Nonetheless, finally stepping away from earning an income, often after decades of work, can be a difficult hurdle to overcome. It is sensible to take the time to reflect on the tangible issues associated with this change of situation, on both the practical and financial levels.

Before you embark on this next step, a new way of organising your life, discussed, if possible, in consultation with your family, should be planned carefully, depending on your lifestyle and the options available to you. It is an opportunity to examine your priorities in terms of housing, health and leisure. It may also be a chance to look at your community involvement, for example in the form of voluntary activities.

Today, a range of services, aimed at allowing you to plan your retirement as effectively as possible, is organised by employers and associations that work on behalf of older people. Since 2013, the Bureau lausannois pour les immigrés (BLI) has been running “retirement preparation workshops” in conjunction with a range of partners, aimed

at men and women living in Lausanne, with a non-Swiss passport, aged between 60 and 65. These workshops are designed to provide an introduction to the pensions system in Switzerland and tackle some more specific questions, depending on the attendees’ country of origin.

This publication is an extension of those highly successful workshops. The BLI is therefore focusing on providing information, to help you plan a happy retirement that is close to your aspirations. Understanding the regulations in effect in Switzerland in terms of pensions, the rights and obligations associated with them, and the preliminary steps to take, are essential aspects of achieving this. What you must do, without fail, is get information about your future financial situation.

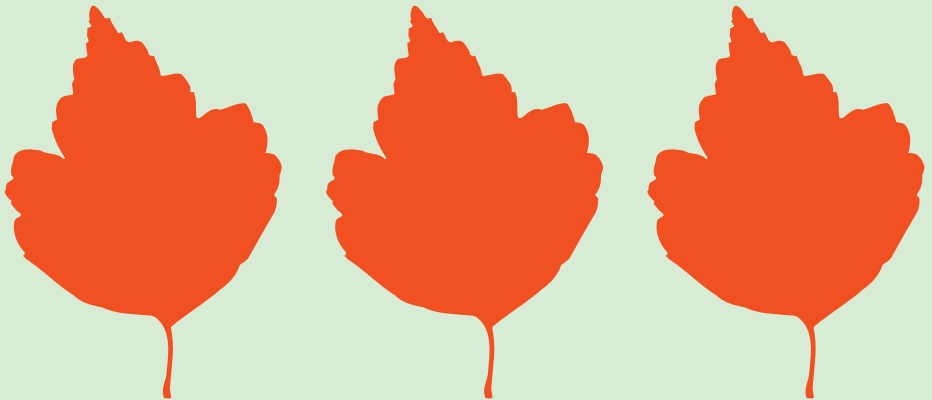
While everyone’s journey will be different, there are numerous organisations working on behalf of older people, which are ready to support your next steps.

**Gabriela Amarelle,**  
Integration Officer



# 1.

## The three pillars of the Swiss pension system



## 1. The concept of risk

Everyone faces different risks during their lifetime, including events such as illness, accidents, disability or unemployment.

When these risks occur, the person concerned can find themselves facing not only personal but also financial difficulties.

Various forms of insurance, particularly social insurance, have been created to limit the impact of the unforeseen events we encounter: in principle, in return for making compulsory payments of premiums or contributions, individuals have access to monetary and other benefits to help them cope with the difficulty they are facing.

## 2. The so-called “three-pillar” system

### a) Principle

Article 111 paragraph 1 of the Swiss Federal Constitution provides that “The Confederation shall take measures to ensure adequate financial provision for the elderly, surviving spouses and children, and persons with disabilities. These shall be based on three pillars, namely the Federal Old-age, Survivors and Disability Insurance, the occupational pension scheme and private pension schemes”.

### b) Risks covered

The aim of this system is to establish a mechanism to limit the financial consequences arising from the occurrence of three specific risks:

- **old age:** it is essential to provide an income for people who are reaching retirement age in order to replace, at least partially, the salary or fees they were earning at the point when they retired;
- **loss of support:** an individual who dies prematurely deprives their family (spouse or civil partner and children up to the age of 25 if they are still in education) of financial resources, which need to be made up through the payment of widow/widowers’ and orphans’ allowances;

- **disability:** if a health problem means that an individual is unable to work or carry out day-to-day tasks over the long term, measures should be taken to mitigate the difficulties they face through rehabilitation or paying them a disability pension.

### c) Coverage of risks

Swiss law provides that these three risks should be covered, in principle on a cumulative basis, by:

- **The first pillar**, which consists of old-age and survivors’ insurance (LAVS) and disability insurance (LAI) and covers the whole of the population residing legally in



Switzerland; responsibility for these insurances falls to the State, which collects the corresponding contributions

- **The second pillar**, represented by occupational pension schemes (LPP), which is generally reserved for employees, who must be enrolled in a pension scheme; responsibility for this pillar rests with employers

- **The third pillar**, namely personal savings, for example in the form of life insurance (LCA), which can be built up by anyone with sufficient financial resources; responsibility for the third pillar rests with individuals.

The first two pillars rely on compulsory social insurance schemes and the third on private insurance cover, which is optional and will depend on the individual's level of disposable monthly income.

Paul, a landscape gardener with Fleurs SA, dies at the age of 49 after suffering from cancer. He leaves a wife and two children, aged 15 and 17.

His family will receive a survivors' pension both from the state compensation fund (1st pillar, LAVS) and the occupational pension scheme (2nd pillar, LPP) in which Paul was enrolled.

If Paul had taken out private insurance, particularly a life insurance policy (LCA), his wife and children will also receive a capital sum from the insurer Paul himself selected.

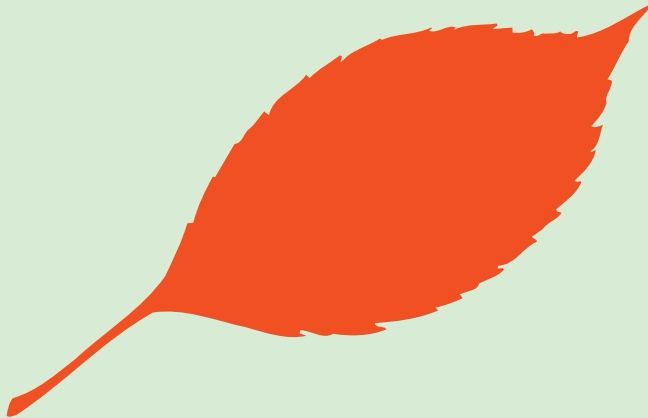
If the amounts an individual receives through this system are not sufficient to cover their basic needs, they may be entitled to supplementary benefits (LPC) on top of their pension payments (see page 27).





# 2.

## The first pillar pension (LAVS)



## 1. Pension age: general remarks

Under the 1st pillar (LAVS), women in Switzerland are deemed to retire at the age of 64 and men at the age of 65<sup>1</sup>: this is defined as their 'pension age' and their pension entitlement begins on the first day of the month following the date they reach the relevant age. Pension payments are made on the 20th of each month.

As soon as the insured person reaches pension age, their obligation to contribute to social insurance under the 1st (LAVS) and 2nd (LPP) pillars ceases, unless they continue to be involved in an income-generating activity<sup>2</sup>.

Conversely, retirement does not impact on their obligation to maintain health insurance, for example: anyone who is resident in Switzerland, regardless of age, must have health insurance (LAMal) to cover the costs of health care, after they have paid their chosen excess and proportion of the cost. The Office vaudois de l'assurance-maladie (OVAM) can provide information on any entitlement to financial assistance for the payment of monthly premiums (see chapter 9, p. 46).

Ana-Maria will be 64 on 17 January: her pension entitlement under the first pillar starts on 1 February and she will receive her first pension payment on 20 February<sup>3</sup>.

Sven will be 65 on 1 September: his pension entitlement under the first pillar starts on 1 October and he will receive his first pension payment on 20 October.

## 2. Pension age for people who are not in employment

The Swiss system requires everyone to contribute to old-age insurance (LAVS), disability insurance (LAI) and loss-of-earnings insurance as a result of national service or maternity leave (LAPG) as soon as:

- they are in paid employment and are over the age of 17<sup>4</sup>: young people on an apprenticeship (CFC), for example, already pay these contributions;
- they are over the age of 20<sup>5</sup> and are not in paid employment: this means that even students have to contribute.

The contribution paid by people who are not in paid employment is referred to as "minimal"<sup>6</sup>, i.e. around CHF 500/year, for

- a) students up to a maximum age of 25;
- b) people who are in receipt of welfare benefits.

Subsequently, the amount of contributions due is determined by the relevant compensation fund based on the person's assets and income from pensions and other sources,



1 Art. 21 LAVS

2 Art. 3 LAVS

3 Art. 72 RAVS

4 Art. 3 para. 2 lit. a LAVS: from 1 January following their 17th birthday

5 Art. 3 para. 1 LAVS: from 1 January following their 20th birthday

6 Art. 10 para. 2 LAVS

except for disability benefits and supplementary benefits<sup>7</sup> (LPC). This means that someone who has requested early payment of their old-age pension must continue to pay their AVS-AI-APG contributions until they reach the age of 64 for women and 65 for men.

Although the system appears complex, it avoids any gaps in contributions that could impact the scale of pension and amount received by the individual concerned.

However, it is important to bear in mind that some people are “deemed to have paid contributions” even if they have not actually made any payments in practice. For example, the spouses or civil partners of people who have paid at least double the minimum contribution are deemed to have paid contributions themselves<sup>8</sup>.

When a child is born, many parents decide that one of them will stay at home, either for a few months or for several years. During this period, the parent who is not working will not make any contributions directly: Swiss law considers that they have contributed through their spouse when the spouse is either employed or self-employed.

As a result, even if they are not in employment, the person can claim an old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS) at pension age since they will have paid into the

compulsory social insurance fund either personally, or through their husband or wife<sup>9</sup>.

Claudia has not been in paid employment since the birth of her first child and has devoted herself to her family for 30 years.

She is now 63 and is married to Javier, aged 60, who is employed by the Etat de Vaud. She will be 64 on 17 November.

From 1 December, she will be entitled to claim payment of an old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS), even though she has not worked for years.

### 3. Early retirement

#### a) Old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS)

It is possible to take early retirement<sup>10</sup>, at the earliest at the age of 62 for women and 63 for men. However, taking early retirement will permanently reduce the amount of your pension by either

- 6.8% (if you retire one year early) or
- 13.6% (if you retire two years early).

Early retirement must be taken in full years: it is not possible to claim your old-age pension early under the 1st pillar (LAVS) by six months, for example.



7 Art. 28 para. 1  
RAVS

8 Art. 3 para. 2  
LAVS

9 Art. 3 para. 3  
LAVS

10 Art. 40 LAVS  
- art. 56 para. 2  
RAVS

## b) Bridging pension

When an insured person in Vaud canton is not or no longer entitled to daily unemployment allowances, it is possible, in certain cases, to obtain payment of a so-called bridging pension from the age of 62 for women and 63 for men, to cover the period of time until their old-age pension is paid at their pension age, without having to apply for welfare benefits or be obliged to request early payment of their pension entitlement under the 1st pillar (LAVS).

In some situations, the right to a bridging pension can begin at age 60 for a woman and 61 for a man.

Since the conditions under which a bridging pension is granted are determined on a case-by-case basis, depending on the individual's detailed financial situation, you should contact the regional centre for bridging pension decisions (see chapter 9, p. 46).

## c) Deferred pension

Deferring your old-age pension entitlement under the 1st pillar (LAVS) means “not retiring at pension age” and living off your own assets or remaining in work, as either a self-employed person or employee.

A self-employed person is free to decide whether they wish to continue their professional activities, while an employee can only do so subject to their employer's prior

agreement: there is no right to remain in your job once you reach pension age.

The consequence of not claiming you pension entitlement under the 1st pillar (LAVS) at pension age is that the amount you receive for life, when it is finally paid out, will increase by

- between 5.2% (for a minimum of one year's extension) and
- 31.5% (for a maximum of five years' extension)<sup>11</sup>.

The deferral period ranges from one year (minimum) to five years (maximum) and can be as long as you wish, provided it is longer than 12 months: it is therefore possible to defer for 17 months, for example, unlike taking your pension early, which has to be done a full year at a time<sup>12</sup>.

The usual social-security contributions (AVS-AI-APG) continue to be deducted from your earned income / fees charged but only for amounts in excess of CHF 1,400/month (or CHF 16,800/year)<sup>13</sup>.

Contributions paid in after pension age has been reached do not affect the scale of pension (next chapter).

Deferring their pension is not possible for people who are already receiving a disability pension: in principle, this is converted

11 Art. 55ter RAVS

12 art.40 al.1 LAVS.  
Art. 56 al. 2 RAVS

13 Art. 6quater  
RAVS

into an old-age pension once they reach pension age<sup>14</sup>.

#### d) Scale of pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS)

The amount of old-age pension paid per month under the 1st pillar (LAVS) is governed by three main elements<sup>15</sup>:

1. the number of years of contributions paid in Switzerland: this defines the scale, i.e. the minimum and maximum amount that can be received by an insured person. The scales range from 1 (one year of contributions in Switzerland) to a maximum of 44 (contributions paid from the age of 20 until retirement at pension age)

2. the level of annual earnings (salary / fees for the self-employed): the amount earned throughout the period of work in Switzerland will be used as the basis of calculation for the exact amount that can be paid as an old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS), between the minimum and maximum of the scale calculated previously

3. the insured person's family situation during this period: amounts are added to the individual's actual earnings for **educational**<sup>16</sup> responsibilities or providing **assistance** to a relative in the generation above (their own retired parents) or below (a disabled child who is now an adult) or their brothers and sisters if they are in receipt of benefits under the 1st pillar (disability or

old-age) and receive an allowance for dependency under AI, AVS or compulsory accident insurance<sup>17</sup> because of moderate or high dependency. The supplements for assistance and educational responsibilities cannot be combined<sup>18</sup>.

The pension payable at level 44 (the maximum entitlement) is currently between CHF 1,175/month and CHF 2,350/month.

A person who has earned an average, throughout their entire working life, of less than CHF 14,100/year will receive a monthly pension of CHF 1,175; they would have to have earned an average throughout their working life of CHF 84,600/year to claim a pension of CHF 2,350/month under the 1st pillar (LAVS).

The various "scales" (tables of AVS/AI pensions) can be viewed on the website of the Office fédéral des assurances sociales (OFAS).

Fabiana arrived in Switzerland at the age of eight. She has paid her contributions since the start of her apprenticeship and is taking retirement at pension age.

Her pension is therefore based on scale 44 and will be between CHF 1,175/month if her average annual income over her life time was less than CHF 14,100 and CHF 2,350/month if her average annual income was at least CHF 84,600.



14 Art. 55bis RAVS

15 Art. 29bis LAVS  
16 Art. 29sexties LAVS

17 Art. 29 septies para. 1 LAVS

18 Art. 29septies para. 2 LAVS

Fabrizio found a job as soon as he arrived in Switzerland: he will retire after precisely 35 years of work, so he will be on scale 35 (minimum pension: CHF 935/month, maximum pension CHF 1,870/month).

The exact amount of old-age pension paid to Fabrizio under the 1st pillar (LAVS) is determined by the amount earned during his working life in Switzerland and his family situation (in particular, whether or not he also has children living in Switzerland) but it will be between the two amounts indicated above.

Françoise is 58 years old. As well as being employed 70% of the time as a hotel receptionist, she also looks after her mother, who receives an allowance from the AVS for moderate or severe reduced mobility and lives in the same neighbourhood as her. If she applies for it (a new claim has to be submitted every year to the cantonal compensation fund responsible for the person who receives assistance), the “annual earnings” column will be credited with CHF 42,300 each year for providing assistance to her mother; however this amount will be split if Françoise is married and the other half will be credited to her husband’s account<sup>19</sup>.

A claim for credits for assistance responsibilities must be made within five years of the end of the calendar year during which

the person concerned has provided assistance to a family member<sup>20</sup>.

Fabian has been looking after his 78 year-old mother regularly since 1 January 2009. He has until 31.12.2013 to claim the corresponding credit for providing assistance and have it added to his account with his compensation fund.

### e) Projection

It is possible to get a projection<sup>21</sup> of your pension entitlement at pension age or if you plan to take early retirement from the compensation fund responsible for collecting contributions at the point when you submit the request<sup>22</sup>: the projection will help you understand in advance how much you might receive in old-age pension payments under the 1st pillar (LAVS), which can be useful for

- thinking in practical terms about possible early retirement
- considering whether you might want to defer your pension
- planning your retirement more generally, particularly in terms of your budget.

Requests are free of charge if they are submitted after the age of 40; a new request can be submitted free of charge every five years, or more frequently if there is a specific reason for it (marriage, divorce, birth of a child or unemployment)<sup>23</sup>.

19 Art. 29septies para. 6 LAVS

20 Art. 29septies para 5 LAVS

21 Art. 58 RAVS

22 Art. 59 RAVS

23 Art. 58 para. 3 RAVS

### f) Allowance for children<sup>24</sup>

If, when they retire, an insured person has responsibility for one or more children under the age of 18, or older children who are still in education, they can claim an additional allowance while they are still studying, up to the age of 25<sup>25</sup> maximum.

The amount payable depends on the amount payable to the parent who has reached pension age: it is 40% of the pension received by the retired parent<sup>26</sup>.

Juan is celebrating his 65th birthday on 17 September, with his wife, who is 59, and their two daughters, aged 17 and 22. His older daughter is studying engineering in Yverdon, while her younger sister is in the third year of an apprenticeship as a designer for a business in Lausanne.

Juan receives an old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS) of CHF 1,985/month. The entitlement for allowances for the children, in the amount of CHF 794/month per child, starts on 1 October<sup>27</sup>.

No allowance for children under the 1st pillar (LAVS) is paid during any period of early pension payments<sup>28</sup>, i.e. for one or two years, until the insured person has reached the pension age of 64 (women) or 65 (men) respectively.

There may also be an entitlement for a children's allowance under the 2nd pillar (see

page 24), which the insured person can claim as well.

### g) Couple's allowance

Once two spouses (either a married couple or civil partners) reach retirement age, their combined pensions cannot exceed 150% of the maximum old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS): the maximum pension is CHF 2,350/month, so 150%<sup>29</sup> equates to CHF 3,525/month. The combined pensions of two spouses or civil partners cannot exceed this amount.

A new old-age pension calculation is then done, to arrive at a so-called "couple's" pension rather than the combined total of two single pensions.

Jeannette, 64 and Francesco, 68 have been married for 25 years. They are now both pensioners. The relevant compensation fund has calculated the amount of their individual pension entitlement under the 1st pillar (LAVS):

Jeannette: CHF 2,010/month (at level 44)  
Francesco: CHF 2,200/month (at level 44),  
which represents a total of CHF 4,210.

Jeannette's pension will be  
 $\frac{2,010 \times 3,525}{4,210} = 1,682.85$ , rounded to  
CHF 1,683/month<sup>30</sup>  
Francesco's pension will be  
 $\frac{2,200 \times 3,525}{4,210} = 1,842.04$ , rounded to  
CHF 1,842/month



24 Art. 22ter LAVS

25 Art. 25 para. 5 LAVS

26 Art. 35 para LAVS

27 Art. 25 para. 4 LAVS

28 Art. 40 para. 1 LAVS

29 Art. 35 para. 1 LAVS

30 Art. 53 para. 2 RAVS

### **h) Widow/widower's and old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS)**

If an individual fulfils the criteria for a widow or widower's pension and an old-age pension simultaneously, only the higher amount will be paid<sup>31</sup>.

Antonio dies at the age of 54 in a road accident. He leaves a widow, Jasmine, aged 50, and two children, then aged 15 and 17. Since his death, Jasmine has received a widow's pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS) of CHF 1,762 and two orphan children's allowances of CHF 705/month per child; these allowances will stop being paid once both boys have finished their studies, at the age of 25 at the latest.

If Antonio was an employee, it is possible that Jasmine and her sons might also receive a widow's pension / orphan children's allowance under the 2nd pillar (LPP) and from Antonio's employer's accident insurance provider (LAA) at the time of his death.

Jasmine is now retiring, at the age of 64. The amount of her old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS) would be CHF 1,550/month; she will therefore continue to receive the higher amount, namely CHF 1,762/month as an old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS).

Her widow's pension under the 2nd pillar (LPP) and from the accident insurance

company (LAA) will continue to be paid until her own death<sup>32</sup> or in the event that she remarries.

Tania and Georges are married and both retired. Tania's old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS) is CHF 1,762/month and Georges' is CHF 1,763/month.

Both their pensions have been capped, since the total of two uncapped pensions was more than 150% of the maximum pension.

Georges dies at the age of 69, following a long illness. Tania's pension is therefore uncapped. The amount she receives is now CHF 1,974/month plus an additional widow's allowance, which is 20% of the amount of her pension.

As a result, from the month following Georges' death, the amount paid to Tania will no longer be CHF 1,762 but CHF 2,350/month.

If, in spite of the removal of the cap and adding the widow or widower's allowance, the amount of the pension is lower than the maximum widow(er)'s pension (CHF 1,880), the fund will check whether the conditions for a widow(er)'s pension have been met and will compare the widow(er)'s pension, which in broad terms corresponds to 80% of the deceased spouse's old-age pension, with the survivor's old-age pen-

31 Art. 24b LAVS  
32 Art. 22 para.  
2 LPP



sion plus the additional widow or widower's allowance. The higher of the two amounts will be paid to the surviving spouse.

### i) Dependency allowances

When someone needs long-term assistance from another person or personal supervision to carry out day-to-day activities because of a health problem<sup>33</sup>, they can submit a request either themselves, or through their representative, to the cantonal compensation fund to claim dependency allowances, which are added to their old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS).

People who need help with the following tasks are classed as dependent:

- dressing and undressing
- getting up, sitting down and going to bed
- eating
- personal hygiene
- going to the toilet
- moving around.

When the assistance required relates to two everyday activities, the degree of dependency is classed as low; this increases to moderate if the person needs assistance with at least two activities and permanent personal supervision. Dependency is classed as high if they can only do all these things with assistance and personal supervision<sup>34</sup>.

Their old-age pension entitlement under the 1st pillar (LAVS) will be increased by the amount of CHF 235/month (low dependency), CHF 588/month (moderate dependency) or CHF 940/month (high dependency).

The allowance for low dependency is not paid when the person concerned is staying or lives in a nursing home<sup>35</sup>.

Malik, 79, is no longer able to look after his personal hygiene or get dressed/undressed by himself: he has been receiving low dependency allowances for two years.

He sometimes stays in a nursing home in the area to give the people around him, who provide regular support, some respite. His allowance is not paid during these stays.

### j) Living aids

Someone who is in receipt of an old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS) and who is resident in Switzerland can be provided with living aids to help them

- carry out day-to-day tasks
- move around
- stay in touch with family and friends
- develop their personal independence<sup>36</sup>.

Examples of living aids include wheelchairs, magnifying glasses, hearing aids or orthopaedic shoes, as indicated on a specific list



33 Art. 9 LPGA  
34 Art. 66bis  
RAVS - art. 37 RAI  
35 Art. 43bis para. 1bis LAVS  
36 Art. 2 para. 1 OMAV

(order on the provision of living aids through old-age insurance).

Any entitlement to living aids starts at the earliest on the first day of the month in which an old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS) is paid; living aids are in principle, not fully covered by the insurer, which makes a financial contribution of 75%, regardless of the financial resources (assets and income) available to the retired person.

Living aids must be requested from the cantonal disability insurance office (see list of addresses).

### **k) Previous work in a country outside Switzerland**

Someone who has not spent their full working life in Switzerland is, in principle, entitled to exercise their pension rights in the country or countries where they worked previously as a result of having paid into the social-security system there and can therefore claim certain benefits on the basis of the relevant national legislation.

#### **Citizens**

- from the European Union or the European Free Trade Association (EFTA): the relevant compensation fund at the point of their retirement will take the necessary measures to claim the foreign pension, provided the insured person completes

form E207 (“Information concerning the insured person’s insurance history”), which will be given to them following their claim for entitlement to an old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS),

- of other countries should contact the Swiss Compensation Office (CSC) in Geneva (see chapter 9, p. 46), to determine the procedure to follow, which varies from one country to another.

Pension age is not a consistent concept across the world and can therefore vary between countries. It is therefore possible for someone to be considered “retired” in one country but not yet retired in Switzerland; in this case, the insured person can

1. take so-called early retirement in Switzerland or
2. continue working until pension age or even later, by deferring their pension. It is perfectly legal to receive a partial pension from a foreign country and carry on working in Switzerland.

The foreign pension will be added to the income received in Switzerland and will be taxed as income.

### **l) Social security**

It is advisable to submit a claim for your old-age pension six months before you retire

- to the social insurance office (Service des assurances sociales (SAS) in Lausanne: see chapter 9, p. 46) for your old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS); this can also be done through their final employer for people in salaried employment
- to the pension fund to which your final employer is affiliated for your pension under the second pillar (LPP).

Submitting your claim late does not in any way affect your entitlement but it means there may be a delay between your final salary and your first pension payment under the 1st pillar (LAVS) or 2nd pillar (LPP).

Because of the lead time required, some people may find themselves in financial difficulties when it comes to making their usual payments at the end of the month.

In this case, the person concerned is advised to make contact quickly with the Service Social de Lausanne (SSL, see chapter 9, p. 46) to determine whether they can claim welfare benefits.

Any amounts paid in welfare benefits will have to be repaid when the “late” pension payments are made<sup>37</sup>.



37 Art. 46 para. 1 LASV (RSV 850.051)

# 3.

## The second pillar pension (LPP)



## 1. Principle

Article 113 paragraph 2 of the Swiss Federal Constitution provides that an occupational pension combined with an old-age, survivors' and disability pension should allow the insured person to maintain their previous standard of living appropriately.

This 2nd "pillar" aims to cover the same three risks as the law on old-age and survivors' insurance (LAVS) and the law on disability insurance (LAI), namely

- old age
- loss of support, and
- disability.

Like the 1st pillar, the 2nd pillar is governed by a federal law: this is the Old Age, Survivors' and Disability Occupational Pension Act (LPP).

This act sets out the principles and rules that all pension funds must comply with and apply and describes them in a specific regulation. As a result, the information below simply provides some general indications: it is important to bear in mind that there are currently over 1,500 pension funds in Switzerland, each with its own specific characteristics, which it is beyond the scope of this brochure to cover.

Information about your personal situation can be obtained:

- by phone, from the pension fund to which your employer is affiliated: make sure you have your reference number, which you can find on your annual certificate, to hand;
- on the website of the fund concerned: many pension funds provide useful information in this way;
- by checking the LPP insurance certificate that has to be supplied annually to everyone it insures;
- from your employer's finance, staff administration or human resources department.

Finally, any social insurance provider, under either the 1st or 2nd pillar, has a statutory obligation to provide the people it insures with information on their situation<sup>38</sup>. In reality, this obligation applies to all insurance providers, including organisations that manage supplementary benefits (LPC) and health insurance (LAMal), for example.

## 2. Pension age

In principle, old-age pensions under the 2nd pillar (LPP) are payable at the same time as pensions under the 1st pillar (LAVS), i.e. at the pension age of 64 and 65 respectively<sup>39</sup>.



38 Art. 27 LPGA  
39 Art. 13 para.  
1 LPP

### 3. Early pension - deferred pension

Some pension funds make provision in their regulations for individuals to retire before their pension age, at 58 at the earliest<sup>40</sup>.

If the insured person continues to work, they may defer taking their pension until the age of 70 at the latest<sup>41</sup>.

Insured persons who continue to work once they have reached pension age are no longer obliged to make contributions, however pension funds may make provision in their specific regulations for continuing to pay contributions in order to increase the amount that could be paid once they have retired and the pension is in effect.

### 4. Contributions

Insured persons who are in salaried employment during their working life are obliged to pay into a 2nd pillar (LPP) pension scheme; their employer must pay at least the same amount into the pension fund they have chosen<sup>42</sup>.

The amount of contributions is set in accordance with the specific regulations of the fund to which the employer is affiliated.

However, contributions do not have to be deducted until:

- the annual salary received from one employer reaches at least CHF 21,150<sup>43</sup> per year (CHF 1,762.50/month);
- the employment contract is for a minimum of three months<sup>44</sup>;
- on a salary of between CHF 24,675 (called the coordination deduction) and CHF 84,600/year.

Self-employed persons can opt to enrol in a pension fund; they are not enrolled automatically<sup>45</sup>.

Sven works as a fitter and electrician for a company in Lausanne. He earns an annual salary of CHF 57,350.

His 2nd pillar contribution (LPP) will only be collected on CHF 32,675 (57,350 - 24,675) while Sven's whole salary will be subject to 5.125% AVS-AI-APG (1st pillar) contributions. All of Sven's salary will also be subject to a 1.1% unemployment insurance contribution.

Jorge has two jobs, with two different businesses. His combined salary is CHF 36,000/year; he will not be insured with a pension fund given that he earns CHF 17,000/year and CHF 19,000/year from his two employers.



40 Art. 1i OPP2

41 Art. 33b LPP

42 Art. 113 para. 3 Federal Constitution

43 Art. 7 para. 1 LPP

44 Art. 1j para. 1 lit b OPP2

45 Art. 113 para. 2 lit d Fed. Const.

## 5. Benefits

### a) Pension calculation

The way of calculating the annual pension allocated to the insured person at the point of retirement varies significantly between the 1st (LAVS) pillar and the 2nd (LPP) pillar and is heavily influenced by the specific regulations of each pension fund.

All pension funds are required to maintain an “old age account” for the people they insure. This account is funded by the employer and employee contributions paid into the pension fund and by old-age credits; these are calculated according to a rate determined by the age of the person concerned based on the rule “pensionable salary x rate according to age”, which is 18%<sup>46</sup> for people aged between 55 and 64 (for women) and 65 (for men).

Vladimir is 59 and has a pensionable salary of CHF 38,500/year. His old-age credit will therefore be  $38,500 \times 18\% = 6,930$  for the year concerned.

The old-age pension is calculated by multiplying the insured person’s old-age credit up to retirement (at pension age, early or deferred) by a so-called conversion rate, which is currently 6.8%.

At the age of 65, Gianluca has an old-age credit of CHF 135,000 with his pension fund,

$135,000 \times 6.8\% = 9,180$  year, which represents a monthly pension of CHF 765.

The examples above are based on the statutory provisions of the LPP; the specific rules of the insured person’s pension fund will apply in each case.

### b) Pension or pension/lump sum

While the 1st pillar (LAVS) can only pay out a monthly pension once the “risk” of old age occurs, under the 2nd pillar (LPP) there is the option to:

- claim a monthly pension only, which is paid until the insured person dies
- withdraw part of the amount in the form of a lump sum and receive a lower monthly pension, because of the partial withdrawal in the form of capital.

The rules of each fund determine the conditions under which a lump-sum payment is possible, however the law requires that the insured person must be able to request that a quarter of their old-age credit is paid in the form of capital<sup>47</sup>.

Each insured person must decide whether the payment of part of their credits as a lump sum is appropriate or not: this will mean considering their and their family’s future plans, the amount that would then be available in the form of a pension and any



46 Art. 16 LPP  
47 Art. 37 para. 2 LPP

payment they might receive under the 3rd pillar (see page 31).

While pensions provided under the 1st pillar (LAVS) are calculated on the basis of a married couple's entitlement (see page 15), pensions under the 2nd pillar (LPP) are individual and not affected by the other spouse's entitlement in respect of their own pension fund.

Mercedes and Marius are both retiring in September 2023.

Mercedes receives a pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS) of CHF 1,650/month. Marius receives a pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS) of CHF 1,872/month, which represents a total of CHF 3,522/month.

Since the combined amount does not exceed CHF 3,525/month (150% of the maximum pension of CHF 2,350), neither of their pensions under the 1st pillar will be reduced (LAVS, see page 15).

Mercedes receives a pension under the 2nd pillar (LPP) of CHF 1,822/month.

Marius receives a pension under the 2nd pillar (LPP) of CHF 1,978/month, which represents a total of CHF 3,800/month.

Neither of their pensions will be reduced, regardless of the amount received by each spouse under the 2nd pillar, (LPP), since each of them has their own pension entitlement.

### c) Child allowance<sup>48</sup>

People receiving an old-age pension are entitled to an additional allowance for each child under the age of 18, or 25 if they are still studying.

This is 20%<sup>49</sup> of the amount received by the insured person.

When she retired in November 2017, Elena had an old-age credit with her pension fund (2nd pillar, LPP) of CHF 88,124.35.

She will have a pension of CHF 5,992.45/year, or CHF 499.35/month. This 2nd pillar pension supplements her 1st pillar (LAVS) pension.

Her 23 year-old son is a student at the University of Lausanne, so she will receive an allowance for him of CHF 99.85/month until he reaches the age of 25; payments will then stop, even if he has not yet completed his course.



48 Art. 17 LPP

49 Art. 17 para. 1  
LPP, art. 21 para.  
1 LPP



# The first and second pillars in brief

## 1. Principle

Old-age pensions paid under the 1st (LAVS) and 2nd (LPP) pillars should give the insured person around 60% of the income they had before retirement.

## 2. Timing

Regardless of whether the insured person decides to take their pension early, defer it or retire at pension age, they must contact (through their employer, for an employed person):

- the compensation fund to which the employer is affiliated (old-age pension under the 1st pillar, LAVS)
- the employer's pension fund (old-age pension under the 2nd pillar, LPP).

Neither the insurance provider for the 1st pillar (LAVS) nor the 2nd pillar (LPP) can know when the insured person has chosen to retire and will therefore not make any pension payments unless they have received a request, preferably six months before the person's retirement date.

Employees will complete the formalities related to the 1st (LAVS) and 2nd (LPP) pillars through their employer, while self-employed people and those who are not earning will do so using form 318.370 ("Old-age pension

request") available from the Service des assurances sociales (SAS) in Lausanne (see chapter 9, p. 46).

## 3. Supplementary benefits under the first pillar (LPC to AVS)

If the new income you receive in the form of pensions is not adequate to cover your day-to-day needs in spite of stringent management of your monthly budget, you will need to apply for supplementary benefits (LPC to AVS, see page 27).

## 4. Third pillar (LCA)

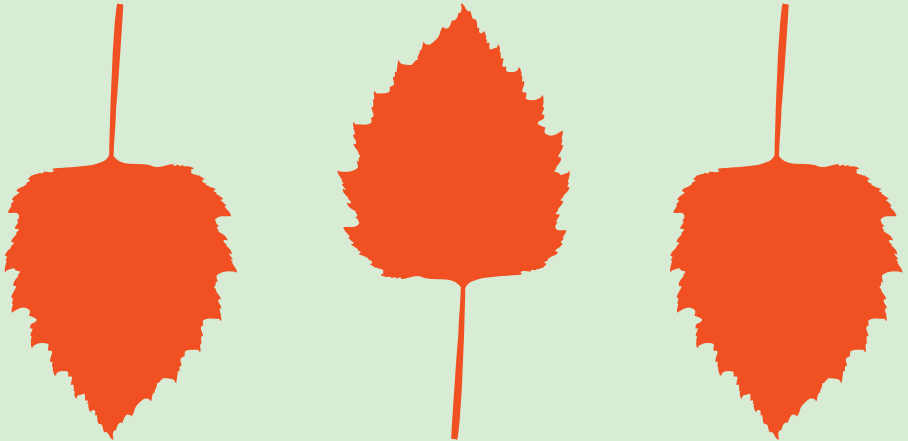
Pensions received under the 1st (LAVS) and 2nd (LPP) therefore do not guarantee the same level of financial resources as when the insured person was earning: the Swiss system therefore provides for private insurance, known as the "3rd pillar" (LCA, see page 31) to be taken out by individuals throughout their life, up to the point at which they retire; unlike the 1st (LAVS) and 2nd (LPP) pillars, this additional insurance is not compulsory and depends on the individual's financial resources over the course of their personal and professional life.



# 4.

## Supplementary benefits under the first pillar

(LPC to AVS)



## 1. Principle

If the income provided by one or more insurers and personal assets are not sufficient to cover basic expenditure (for essential needs), it is possible to request so-called supplementary benefits (LPC) to the old-age, survivors' and disability pension from the social security office where you live: article 12 of the Federal Constitution, indeed, guarantees the fundamental right to the "financial means required for a decent standard of living".

Determining the entitlement to supplementary benefits is based on a comparative calculation: this means establishing the relevant sources of income (pensions, income from assets and rental value) and comparing these with the expenses recognised by the law.

An individual's income consists primarily of

- various pensions
- income from assets and real estate (for example, rental income for property owners)
- a tenth of their net assets in excess of CHF 37,500 for a single person and CHF 60,000 for couples<sup>50</sup>.

Recognised expenses are

- a fixed amount for essential needs, namely CHF 19,290/year for a single person (CHF 1,607.50/month), CHF 28,935/year for a couple (CHF 2,411.25/month), to cover food, clothing, furniture, telephone and taxes
- the gross annual rent for an apartment and associated expenses<sup>51</sup>.

## 2. Conditions

Supplementary benefits are payable on condition that

- the claimant is resident in Switzerland,
- they have been resident for a continuous period of 10 years if they are not of Swiss origin or a citizen of a European Union (EU) or European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member state<sup>52</sup>.

## 3. Allowances

There are two types of supplementary benefits

- **annual supplementary benefit (though it is actually paid monthly<sup>53</sup>)**, for which entitlement starts in principle, on



50 Art. 11 para. 1 lit a to d LPC

51 A maximum amount of CHF 13,200/year is allowed for a single person and CHF 15,000/year for a couple.

52 Art. 5 LPC  
53 Art. 9ss LPC

the first day of the month in which the application is made<sup>54</sup>; if the application is made within six months of admission to a nursing home, entitlement starts on the first day of the month during which the person concerned was admitted.

• **reimbursement of medical and disability expenses**<sup>55</sup>: medical and disability expenses can be reimbursed through supplementary benefits if they are not covered by another form of insurance, notably health insurance (LAMal). Insured persons in receipt of supplementary benefits can claim reimbursements, in particular for the costs of dental care provided it is simple, economic and appropriate, the costs of treatment and assistance at home, the cost of transport to the closest treatment centre, costs for living aids, and the amount of the excess and contributory payment for health insurance (LAMal), up to a maximum of CHF 1,000/year, which includes the minimum excess (CHF 300/year for an adult) and the maximum contributory payment (CHF 700/year).

Medical expenses can thus be reimbursed even if no annual supplementary benefit is paid, if they exceed the surplus income of the person concerned, as determined when calculating their entitlement to supplementary benefits (LPC to AVS). Josée is 79 and has surplus income of CHF 1,200/month based on the calculation used to determine her entitlement to supplementary benefits.

She therefore cannot claim any payment of benefits to supplement her pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS).

In January, she has to go to the dentist for a series of procedures so that she can eat properly again.

The dentist's bill is CHF 2,600; her surplus income of CHF 1,200 is not enough for her to cover the expense herself, so she can claim a reimbursement of 2,600 - 1,200 = CHF 1,400 from the municipal social insurance office (see chapter 9, p. 46).

People who receive benefits to supplement their AVS may be exempt from paying their television and radio licence fee; to find out if this applies, you are advised to submit an exemption request to the body that collects the payment, Billag SA (see chapter 9, p. 46) when you submit your initial claim for supplementary benefits.

Josée is 81; since 1 March, she has been living in a nursing home, as her state of health means she is no longer able to live at home. Her old-age pensions of CHF 2,625 and her other assets are not enough to cover the costs of the place where she now lives.

She can submit a claim for supplementary benefits to the municipal social insurance office as long as she does so by the end of August; if her claim is accepted, the allow-



54 Art. 12 para. 1 LPC

55 Art. 14ss LPC

ances will be paid retrospectively to 1 March.

As people get older, it is relatively common for someone who has retired to reach a point where they need help to carry out day-to-day tasks: they often need support from someone else for managing their personal hygiene, dressing and undressing, moving around and eating. They are then described as dependent.

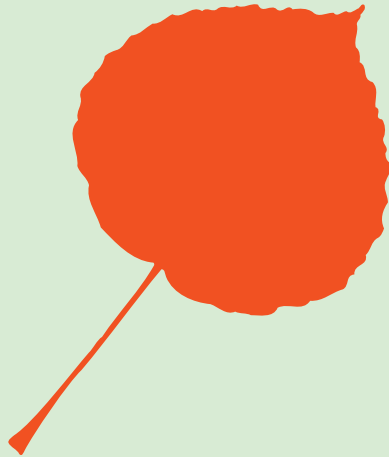
Special rules apply in these cases<sup>56</sup>: detailed information about this can be obtained from the social security department of Pro Senectute (see page 41), whose website also has a calculator you can use to check the likelihood of entitlement to supplementary benefits (LPC).



56 Art. 19b ss OPC

# 5.

## The third pillar pension (LCA)



## 1. Principle

Under article 111 paragraph 5 of the Federal Constitution, individuals should also take out their own old-age, survivors' and disability insurance.

The old-age pension under the 1st pillar (LAVS) aims to provide cover for basic needs, while the 2nd pillar (LPP) is designed to maintain your standard of living before retirement.

The purpose of the 3rd pillar (LCA) is to cover personal needs at retirement age, although this is only possible if and to the extent that the person concerned has had sufficient financial resources to build up savings throughout their life.

## 2. Forms of individual insurance

Individual insurance comes in several forms: savings in a bank or post-office account, stock-market investments or taking out an insurance policy, often known as "life insurance".

This type of insurance is governed by private law and is specific to each insurance company; however, it is important to remember that there are two kinds of insurance:

a) an individual restricted "3rd pillar a" pension plan, which covers the three risks of old age, loss of support (survivors) and disability: the amount of annual contributions is decided by the insured person, based on their financial resources. These payments can be deducted from their taxable income<sup>57</sup> up to the amount of:

- CHF 6,768/year for employees who are also insured through a 2nd pillar (LPP) insurance fund
- 20% of their income for a self-employed person, up to a maximum of CHF 33,840/year<sup>58</sup>

People who are not earning cannot take out cover under 3rd pillar a.

b) an individual unrestricted "3rd pillar b" pension plan: this generally covers the risks of death (loss of support) and disability, however, an "old age" portion can also be included but the premiums cannot be deducted from taxable income. This insurance is available to everyone, whether or not they are earning.



57 Art. 33 para. 1 lit e LIFD, art. 37 para. 1 lit e LI (RSV 642.11)

58 Art. 7 para. 1 lit b OPP3, art. 8 para. 1 LPP

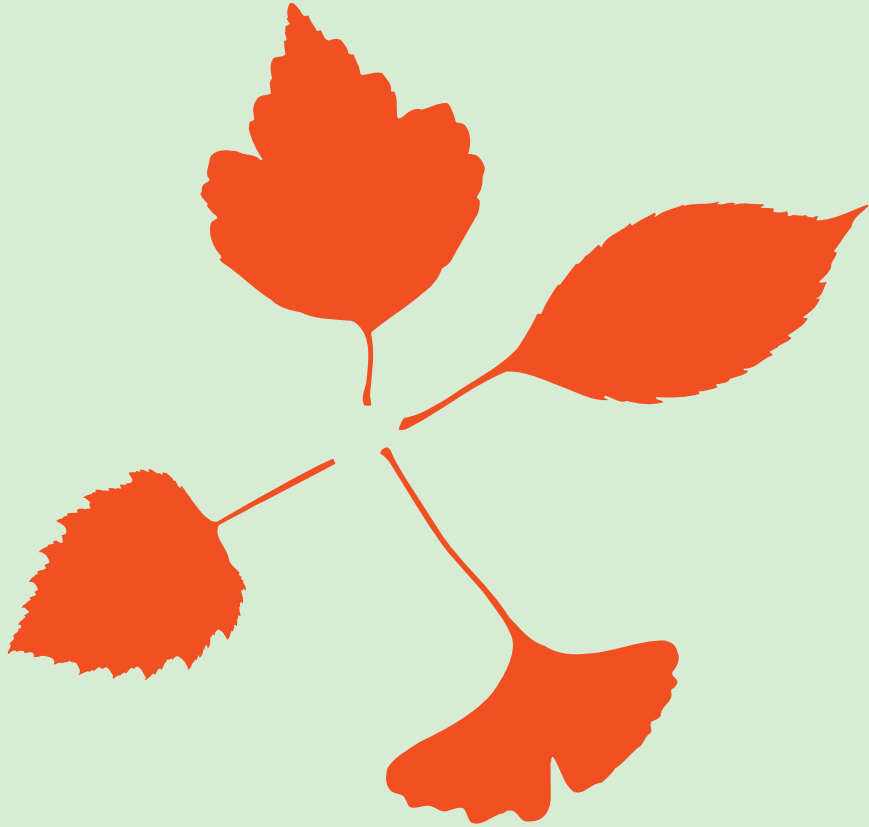
### 3. Allowances

At the age agreed with the insurance company providing their 3rd pillar (LCA) cover, the insured person receives a lump sum payment (it is very rare for a 3rd pillar scheme to be designed to produce a monthly pension), the amount of which is determined by the size of the annual payments made and how long they are made for.

It is important to think carefully about what amount the insured person will want to use every month once they reach retirement age or whether the entire sum will be allocated to a specific project, such as repaying a mortgage or purchasing an apartment.







# 6.

## Tax considerations at retirement age



## 1. Pensions

Pensions paid under the 1st, 2nd and if applicable, 3rd pillar (LAVS, LPP, LCA) must be declared on your annual tax return<sup>59</sup>; the fact that you are retired does not affect your tax obligations<sup>60</sup>.

Pensions are viewed as “income”<sup>61</sup> as defined in both federal and cantonal tax law.

Only supplementary benefits (LPC) are not viewed as income<sup>62</sup>.

## 2. Capital

If the insured person chooses to receive part of their benefit under the 2nd (LPP) and 3rd (LCA) pillars as a lump sum, this will also be subject to a single, one-off tax payment, at a rate and under conditions that are different to those applicable to income.

### 3rd pillar 3a

Baptiste is 65; in addition to the pensions he gets under the 1st (LAVS) and 2nd (LPP) pillars, he receives CHF 100,000 from a 3a restricted pension plan (see page 31) which he took out at the start of his career.

He will need to declare this amount on his tax return and it will be taxed according to a scale determined by the Confederation, canton and commune where he lives; as a guide, the tax authorities are likely to charge a one-off tax of approximately 9%.

### 3rd pillar 3b

An amount received from a 3b pension plan (see page 31) will not be taxed, because the premiums were deductible from income in tax terms and because the capital was taxed as an asset until retirement.

AVIVO is an association which, among other things, provides a social insurance information service and help with completing tax returns (see chapter 9, p. 46).



59 Art. 22 para. 1 LIFD

60 Art. 8 para. 2 LIFD

61 Art. 16 para. 1 LIFD and 23 lit a LIFD

62 Art. 24 lit h LIFD

# 7.

## Leaving Switzerland at retirement age



## 1. Introduction

Once they reach retirement age, many people want to leave Switzerland, generally to return to their country of origin, and in some cases to a country where the cost of living is lower than in Switzerland.

The decision to leave Switzerland for good needs to be thought through carefully, taking into consideration, among other things, your state of health, the living conditions in the destination country, its political stability and whether or not you have a circle of friends there.

## 2. Exporting insurance benefits

This raises the question of the “exportability” of benefits, under either the 1st (LAVS), 2nd (LPP) or 3rd (LCA) pillars. Some benefits governed by Swiss law can be paid abroad, however others are subject to being resident in Switzerland.

### a) First pillar (LAVS)

- **pension:** pension benefits can be exported to EU/EFTA member states and to Australia, San Marino, Canada, Israel, Japan, Turkey, Chile, Macedonia, the United States, Croatia, the Philippines, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Uruguay. Pension benefits cannot, however, be paid to other countries and their

entitlement ends once the insured person stops living in Switzerland.

- **supplementary benefits** to the old-age pension, **dependency allowances** and entitlement to **living aids** depend on where the insured person lives and they will lose their entitlement if they move abroad permanently: benefits can only be retained if they stay abroad for fewer than three months a year.

Vanessa, a 71 year-old retiree, has received supplementary benefits (LPC) since the age of 65. Every year, she spends three weeks in September with her family in Ukraine, on the shores of the Black Sea, and travels to Kiev for the festive season.

These two brief trips do not affect her entitlement to supplementary benefits, since she is only absent from Switzerland for one month a year.

### b) Second pillar (LPP)

An old-age pension under the 2nd pillar (LPP) can be paid in any country in the world; the appropriate formalities must be completed with the relevant pension fund, i.e. the last one with which the retired person was insured.



### **c) Third pillar (LCA)**

Benefits provided under the 3rd pillar can be exported by making contact with the insurer, who will pay the agreed benefits at the appropriate age.

### **d) Impact on Swiss residency**

Leaving Switzerland is therefore a decision that should be carefully considered, since any subsequent return to Vaud canton or another part of Switzerland may involve further formalities to obtain a new residence permit, based on the nationality of the person making the application and how long they have been outside Switzerland. A C (settlement) permit, for example, is no longer valid if the holder leaves Swiss territory for more than four years; the Service du contrôle des habitants in Lausanne (see chapter 9, p. 46) can provide more detailed information on residence permits. Assistance can also be obtained from the Fraternité organisation (see chapter 9, p. 46).



### And in the future?

Switzerland has been trying to find solutions to ensure the long-term viability of its pension system for over a decade. However, any changes in this area submitted to a popular vote have been rejected:

- May 2004: rejection of the 11th revision of AVS, which reduced the level of benefits, and rejection of an increase in VAT to support AVS and AI,
- March 2010: rejection of a reduction in the 2nd pillar 'e' rate (LPP),
- September 2017: rejection of the "old-age pension 2020" project and an increase in VAT to support AVS.

However, for various reasons – including the increase in life expectancy, the ageing population and poor yields on the financial market, which are impacting 2nd pillar assets – changes to the Swiss pension system will be essential over the coming years.

Questions will need to be asked in relation to:

- a) its medium- and long-term funding
- b) the level of pensions and
- c) the age of retirement, with the issue of the disparity between women and men

(64/65) being raised in various political circles.

It is not currently possible to imagine what impacts these changes might have on pensions that are already being paid or those that will be on the point of being paid; you should therefore seek information at the appropriate time from the organisations concerned, particularly the 1st pillar (LAVS) compensation funds and 2nd pillar (LPP) pension funds.



# 8.

## Services for older people in Lausanne and Vaud canton





This section provides an overview of basic services for people who are retired, in a limited range of areas. There is a brief description of the main services available in each area, practical information and a list of addresses where you can contact people who are equipped to provide an explanation and any additional information you may need. The list of services available is not exhaustive and may be subject to change.

## General information - Miscellaneous services

### Pro Senectute

Pro Senectute is a private, charitable association, supported by the public authorities and active all over Switzerland. Its aim is to contribute to the material, physical and psychological well-being of elderly people, and maintain or increase their ability both to lead an independent life and feel part of the wider society.

Services:

- Welfare advice for older people
- Information point for older people
- Leisure and social opportunities for older people
- Sport and well-being for older people
- Volunteering opportunities with older people
- English classes for older people
- Information technology classes for older people

- Retirement preparation classes and advice for older unemployed people

### Pro Senectute Vaud

Rue du Maupas 51

1004 Lausanne

Tel. 021 646 17 21

[info@vd.prosenectute.ch](mailto:info@vd.prosenectute.ch)

[www.vd.prosenectute.ch](http://www.vd.prosenectute.ch)

Opening hours: Mon-Fri, 08:15-12:00, 13:30-16:30

### AVIVO

AVIVO is an association dedicated to protecting the rights of retired people and providing leisure opportunities; it was formed in 1948 and operates in Vaud canton. Its Lausanne section has around 3,000 members.

Services:

- Protecting the rights of retired people, individually and collectively
- Help with completing tax returns
- Welfare services
- Leisure activities

### AVIVO

Place Chauderon 3

1003 Lausanne

Tel. 021 312 06 54

[info@avivolausanne.ch](mailto:info@avivolausanne.ch)

[www.avivo-vaud.ch](http://www.avivo-vaud.ch)

Opening hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 09:00-12:00 and 14:00-17:00



## Information - preparing for retirement

There are various services who can answer your questions, whether you are already retired or want to plan for it.

The Bureau lausannois pour les immigrés offers free retirement preparation workshops for migrants. These sessions provide useful information on the various formalities, legal and administrative issues, and the decisions you need to think about before you retire. Subjects such as AVS, the second pillar, bilateral agreements and tax matters are all covered during the workshops.

An experienced employee at Pro Senectute's welfare services information point for older people deals with all questions relating to retirement and guides older people and their families to the appropriate services.

The AvantAge programme created by Pro Senectute offers expert support to help plan and prepare for retirement as effectively as possible, as well as supporting employability for older people.

### Retirement preparation workshops for migrants

#### Bureau lausannois pour les immigrés - BLI

Place de la Riponne 10 - CP 5032

1002 Lausanne

Tel. 021 315 72 45

bli@lausanne.ch

[www.lausanne.ch/bli](http://www.lausanne.ch/bli)

Opening hours: Mon-Fri, 08:00-12:00, 13:00-17:00

### Point Info-seniors

#### (information point for older people)

Espace Riponne

Place de la Riponne 5

1005 Lausanne

Tel. 021 641 70 70

<https://vd.prosenectute.ch/fr>

> Conseil > Point Info-seniors

Opening hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs 09:00-12:00, 13:30-16:00 or by appointment

### AvantAge programme: planning and preparing for retirement

AvantAge

Rue du Maupas 51

1004 Lausanne

Tel. 021 711 05 24

[info.fr@avantage.ch](mailto:info.fr@avantage.ch)

[www.avantage.ch](http://www.avantage.ch)

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:15-12:00, 13:30-16:30



## Leisure - Education

The Mouvement des aînés Vaud association offers retired people and those who have taken early retirement a wide range of activities, mainly run by volunteers, including meetings, excursions, leisure opportunities, education, well-being, trips and volunteering.

Connaissance 3 is the university for older people in Vaud canton and was created to provide lifelong learning opportunities. Its programme of lectures, classes, seminars, workshops and cultural/academic visits is aimed mainly at older people but it is open to everyone, regardless of age or educational qualifications.

### **Mouvement des aînés Vaud**

Place de la Riponne 5  
1005 Lausanne  
Tel. 021 320 12 62  
[secretariat@mda-vaud.ch](mailto:secretariat@mda-vaud.ch) / [www.mda-vaud.ch](http://www.mda-vaud.ch)  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:00-12:00 and 13:30-17:00

### **Université des seniors / Connaissance 3**

Place de la Riponne 5  
1005 Lausanne  
Tel. 021 311 46 87  
[info@connaissance3.ch](mailto:info@connaissance3.ch)  
[www.connaissance3.ch](http://www.connaissance3.ch)  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri, 08:45-12:00

## Housing - Health

The Service des assurances sociales et de l'hébergement-SASH provides support for older people, disabled people and their families, by developing and implementing individual and collective assistance and support services at home or in institutional settings. It is responsible for promoting and coordinating welfare assistance and support measures to allow older people to stay in their own home.

### **Service des Assurances Sociales et de l'Hébergement - SASH**

Avenue des Casernes 2  
Bâtiment administratif de la Pontaise  
1014 Lausanne  
Tel. 021 316 51 51  
[info.sash@vd.ch](mailto:info.sash@vd.ch)  
[www.vd.ch/vivre-a-domicile](http://www.vd.ch/vivre-a-domicile)  
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:00-12:00, 14:00-17:00



## Disability

Lausanne offers a wide range of welfare, health and medical-social services. A list of official or private services is available at: [www.lausanne.ch/aineshandicapes](http://www.lausanne.ch/aineshandicapes)

In the index under T - Transport, for example, you will find all the assistance available to help people with reduced mobility.

### **Service des assurances sociales**

Place Chauderon 7, 1st floor

1002 Lausanne

Tel. 021 315 11 11

[sas@lausanne.ch](mailto:sas@lausanne.ch)

[www.lausanne.ch/aineshandicapes](http://www.lausanne.ch/aineshandicapes)

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:30-11:45, 13:00-17:00

## Insurance and legal aspects

The Service des assurances sociales, through its social insurance office, provides information and support for the administrative formalities associated with AVS/AI and areas associated with AVS/AI, as well as supplementary benefits to AVS/AI and reimbursements of medical expenses, family allowances and requests for basic medical insurance allowances, supplementary benefits for families and AVS bridging pensions.

The compensation funds, as the implementation bodies for social insurance, are responsible for tasks related to old-age and survivors' insurance.

### **Service des assurances sociales**

Place Chauderon 7, 1st floor

1002 Lausanne

Tel. 021 315 11 11

[sas@lausanne.ch](mailto:sas@lausanne.ch)

[www.lausanne.ch/assurances-sociales](http://www.lausanne.ch/assurances-sociales)

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:30-11:45, 13:00-17:00

### **Caisse cantonale vaudoise de compensation**

Rue des Moulins 3

1800 Vevey

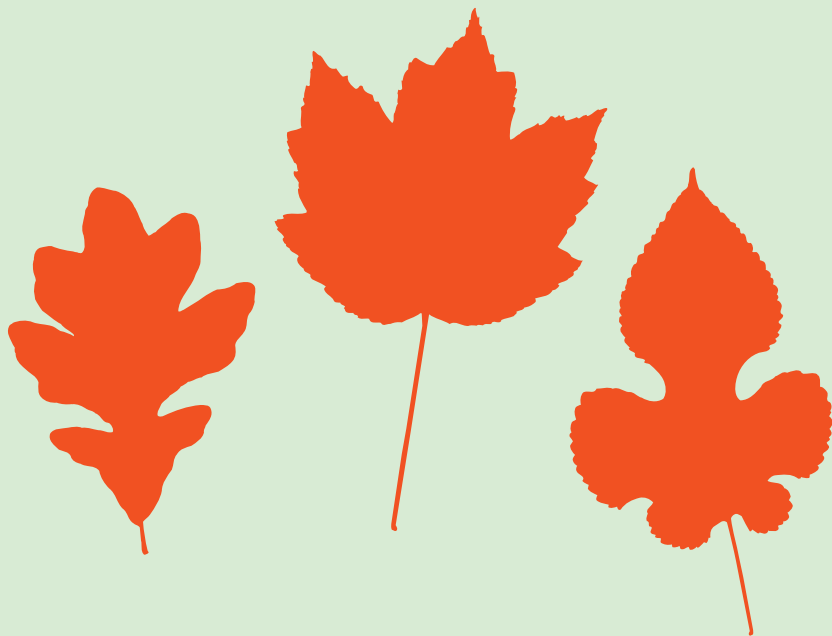
Tel. 021 964 12 11

[avs.vaud@avs22.ch](mailto:avs.vaud@avs22.ch)

[www.caisseavsvaud.ch](http://www.caisseavsvaud.ch)

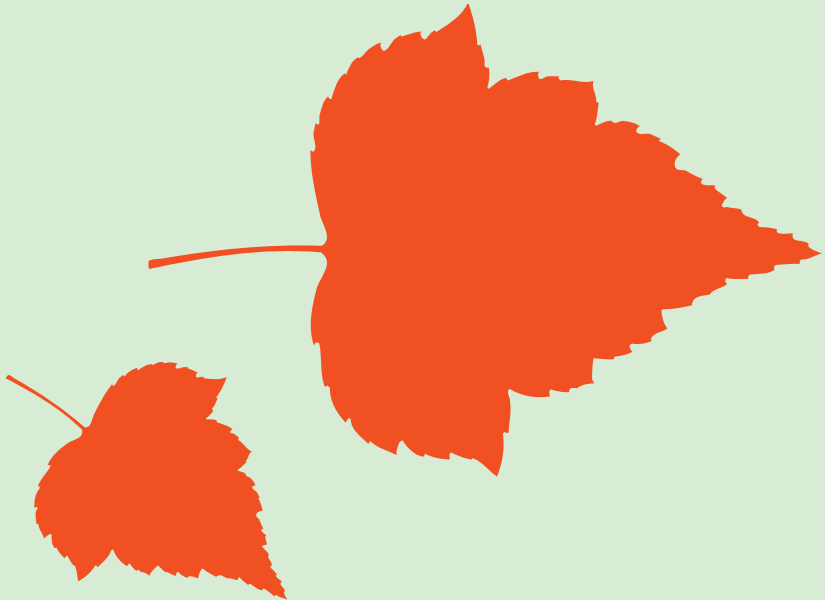
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:00-12:00, 13:30-16:00





# 9.

**Useful addresses  
in alphabetical order**



## A

### **Agence d'assurances sociales, known as "Service des assurances sociales" (SAS)**

Place Chauderon 7  
1002 Lausanne  
tel. 021 315 11 11  
[www.lausanne.ch/assurances-sociales](http://www.lausanne.ch/assurances-sociales)

### **AVIVO**

Place Chauderon 3  
1003 Lausanne  
tel. 021 312 06 54  
[www.avivo-vaud.ch](http://www.avivo-vaud.ch)

## B

### **Billag SA**

Case postale  
1701 Fribourg  
tel. 0844 834 834  
[www.billag.ch](http://www.billag.ch)

### **Bureau lausannois pour les immigrés-BLI**

Place de la Riponne 10  
Case postale 5032  
1002 Lausanne  
tel. 021 315 72 45  
[www.lausanne.ch/bli](http://www.lausanne.ch/bli)

## C

### **Caisse cantonale vaudoise de compensation**

Rue des Moulins 3  
1800 Vevey  
tel. 021 964 12 11  
[www.caisseavsvaud.ch](http://www.caisseavsvaud.ch)

### **Caisse suisse de compensation (CSC)**

Avenue Edmond-Vaucher 18  
case postale 3100  
1211 Genève 2  
tel. 058 461 91 11  
[www.ahv-iv.ch/fr/Contacts/](http://www.ahv-iv.ch/fr/Contacts/)  
ou [www.zas.admin.ch](http://www.zas.admin.ch)

### **Centre régional de décisions rente-pont**

Place Chauderon 7  
1002 Lausanne  
tel. 021 315 11 11  
[www.lausanne.ch/assurances-sociales](http://www.lausanne.ch/assurances-sociales)

### **Contrôle des habitants**

Rue du Port-Franc 18  
Case postale 5354  
1002 Lausanne  
tel. 021 315 31 33  
[www.lausanne.ch/ch](http://www.lausanne.ch/ch)

## F

### **Fraternité (Centre social protestant - CSP)**

Place Arlaud 2  
1003 Lausanne  
tel. 021 213 03 53  
[www.csp.ch](http://www.csp.ch)

## H

### **Handicap, Service des assurances sociales**

Place Chauderon 7  
1002 Lausanne  
tel. 021 315 11 11  
[www.lausanne.ch/assurances-sociales](http://www.lausanne.ch/assurances-sociales)

## M

### **Mouvement des aînés Vaud**

Place de la Riponne 5  
1005 Lausanne  
tel. 021 320 12 62  
[www.mda-vaud.ch](http://www.mda-vaud.ch)



# O

## **Office cantonal de l'assurance-invalidité**

Avenue Général Guisan 8  
1800 Vevey  
tel. 021 925 24 24  
[www.aivd.ch](http://www.aivd.ch)

## **Office vaudois de l'assurance-maladie (OVAM)**

Chemin de Mornex 40  
1014 Lausanne  
tel. 021 557 47 47  
[www.vd.ch/subsidiere-assurance-maladie](http://www.vd.ch/subsidiere-assurance-maladie)

# P

## **Point Info-seniors, Espace Riponne**

Place de la Riponne 5  
1005 Lausanne  
tel. 021 641 70 70  
[www.prosenectute.ch/cours-formation/point-infos-seniors](http://www.prosenectute.ch/cours-formation/point-infos-seniors)

## **Pro Senectute Vaud**

Rue du Maupas 51  
1004 Lausanne  
tel. 021 646 17 21  
[www.prosenectute.ch](http://www.prosenectute.ch)

## **Programme AvantAge**

Rue du Maupas 51  
1004 Lausanne  
tel. 021 711 05 24  
[www.avantage.ch](http://www.avantage.ch)

# S

## **Service des Assurances Sociales et de l'Hébergement – SASH**

Avenue des Casernes 2  
1014 Lausanne  
tel. 021 316 51 51  
[www.vd.ch/vivre-a-domicile](http://www.vd.ch/vivre-a-domicile)

## **Service des assurances sociales de la Ville de Lausanne, voir agence d'assurances sociales Service social de la Ville de Lausanne**

Place Chauderon 4  
case postale 5032  
1002 Lausanne  
tel. 021 315 75 11  
[www.lausanne.ch/csr](http://www.lausanne.ch/csr)

# U

## **Université des seniors Connaissance 3**

Place de la Riponne 5  
1005 Lausanne  
tel. 021 311 46 87  
[www.connaissance3.ch](http://www.connaissance3.ch)





### **Documents available on the internet (via a search engine)**

- Guide 3.01: AVS old-age pensions and dependence allowances (in French)
- Guide 5.01: AVS and AI supplementary benefits (in French)
- Guide 5.02: your right to AVS and AI supplementary benefits (in French)

### **Tables**

For AVS/AI pension tables:

[https://www.bsvlive.admin.ch/vollzug/  
documents/view/365/lang:fre/category:23](https://www.bsvlive.admin.ch/vollzug/documents/view/365/lang:fre/category:23)



# 10.

## Glossary



## **AVIVO**

An association for older people, which campaigns to improve the living conditions of people in retirement.

## **Billag SA**

The organisation responsible for collecting licence fees for the use of a radio and/or television, including via the internet.

## **Civil partnership**

A partnership between two people of the same gender; heterosexual couples cannot enter into a civil partnership in Switzerland.

## **Compensation funds**

Among other things, these institutions are responsible for dealing with day-to-day questions relating to insurance under the 1st pillar (LAVS - LAI); they also manage loss-of-earnings insurance for people on military service or maternity leave (LAPG) and family allowances (LAFam); each employer decides which compensation fund they wish to be affiliated to, which can be either a cantonal or occupational fund.

## **Conversion rate**

This is the percentage used to multiply the old-age credit accrued at retirement age and therefore determines the annual retirement pension payable under the 2nd pillar (LPP); it is currently 6.8%<sup>63</sup> (2017 value).

## **Credit rate**

This is the percentage, based on the age of the insured person, used to multiply their pensionable salary (between CHF 24,675 and CHF 84,600 <sup>64</sup>), which is used to calculate the old-age credit of the person concerned.



<sup>63</sup> Art. 14 al. 2 LPP

<sup>64</sup> Art. 8 al. 1 LPP

## **Dependency**

The need for long-term assistance from another person to carry out day-to-day tasks as a result of physical or mental health issues.

## **EU/EFTA**

The European Union, defined as an association of European states. It has 28 members, as follows (EU-28): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom has taken the decision to leave the EU (“Brexit”) but no precise date has been set.

EFTA is the European Free Trade Association and is made up of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

## **Fraternité**

This is a welfare service that has been active for over 40 years in the field of migration. Welfare advisers provide information and assistance and offer support with completing administrative, social and legal formalities.

## **LAI**

Federal Disability Insurance Act

## **LACI**

Federal Unemployment Insurance Act

## **LAFAm**

Federal Family Allowances Act

**LAPG**

Federal Act on Compensation for Loss of Earnings for Persons on Military Service or Maternity Leave

**LAVS**

Federal Act on Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance

**LAMaI**

Federal Health Insurance Act

**LCA**

Federal Insurance Policies Act: this governs 3rd pillar insurance policies

**LPC**

Federal Act on AVS and AI Supplementary Benefits

**LPP**

Federal Act on Occupational Old-Age, Survivors and Disability Pensions

**Living aids**

"Tools" designed to provide at least partial mitigation of a person's visual or hearing impairment or difficulties in moving around (such as a magnifying glass, hearing aid or walking stick).

**OFAS**

Federal Social Insurance Office



### **Pension**

Amount paid to an individual on a monthly basis, generally by a social insurance organisation, under the 1st (LAVS) or 2nd (LPP) pillar in particular.

### **Pension age**

This is the age stipulated in various pieces of legislation for receiving pension benefits (64 for women and 65 for men respectively); it is possible to retire early or defer your pension payments.

### **Pension offices**

These institutions are responsible for dealing with insured persons' credits deducted from workers' salaries by employers and determine the entitlement of every insured person in respect of the 2nd pillar (LPP) with regard to their old-age, survivors' or disability pension.

### **Taxable income**

The figure used as the basis of calculation for federal, cantonal and municipal taxes.

### **The Swiss Compensation Office (CSC)**

Is primarily responsible for applying international agreements in respect of social security; it works with citizens of other countries (see EU/EFTA) to determine their entitlement to an old-age pension in their country of origin.

### **Third country**

See EU/EFTA

### **VAT**

Value-added tax is an indirect consumer tax and is paid when purchasing goods (clothes, cars, food, etc.) and services (hairdressing, transport, a meal in a restaurant, etc.).



Albanais / Shqip  
**Anglais / English**  
Bosniaque / Bosanski  
Espagnol / Español  
Français  
Italien / Italiano  
Portugais / Português



BUREAU LAUSANNOIS POUR LES IMMIGRÉS  
Place de la Riponne 10 - CP 5032 - CH-1002 Lausanne  
T +41 (0)21 315 72 45  
bli@lausanne.ch - [www.lausanne.ch/bli](http://www.lausanne.ch/bli)

