

2.02 Contributions

Self-employed contributions to Old-Age and Survivors' Insurance (OASI), Compensation Insurance (IC) Disability Insurance (DI) and Income

Position as of 1st January 2019



A brief overview

The Old Age and Survivors' Insurance (OASI), Disability Insurance (DI) and Income Compensation (IC) schemes distinguish between employed persons and the self-employed. Anyone who works for an employer and receives a salary is considered to be employed. Generally speaking, this also includes agents and freelance staff.

For the purposes of social insurance law, the self-employed are defined as persons

- who work under their own name and for their own account and
- who operate independently and bear their own economic risk.

Whether an insured person counts as self-employed for the purposes of the OASI scheme is a question which the compensation office assesses on a case-by-case basis in relation to the remuneration paid for a given activity. This means that it is quite possible for someone who has been assessed as self-employed in one occupation to be assessed as having employee status for a different occupation. The compensation office's assessment will be based on the economic facts rather than the individual's contractual status.

This leaflet provides information for the self-employed on contributions to the OASI, DI and IC schemes.

Self-employment

1 Who counts as self-employed?

You are deemed to be self-employed if:

- you present yourself to the outside world under your own company name.
This means, for example, that you have an entry in the companies' register, and in the address and telephone directory, and that you have your own stationery and advertising material or authorisation to practise your profession. You also issue invoices in your own name and you charge VAT.
- you bear your own financial risk.
This means, for example, that you make long-term investments, you pay for your own equipment and you rent your own work premises. You are also free to choose how you organise your operations.
- you have a free choice of how to organize your operations.
In practice, this means that you are free to decide your own working hours, how you organise your work, whether you subcontract the work to third parties. You also are free to choose which jobs you accept. You will generally work in premises outside the home.
- you work for multiple clients.
If you only work for one client you will normally be classed as an employee.

You are also considered self-employed if you employ other people.

2 Do I have to pay contributions to the OASI, DI and IC schemes?

Yes. If you work in Switzerland you are required to pay contributions to the OASI, DI and IC schemes. As a self-employed person, you are not insured against unemployment and are not subject to compulsory accident insurance. Nor are you subject to mandatory occupational pension provision.

Duration of obligation to pay contributions

3 When does my obligation to pay contributions start?

If you are gainfully employed, you are required to pay contributions from 1st January of the year following your 17th birthday.

For example, a self-employed person who turns 17th on 13th July 2019 will be required to pay contributions to the OASI, DI and IC schemes from 1st January 2020.

4 When does my obligation to pay contributions end?

Your obligation to pay contributions as a self-employed person will end when you cease to be gainfully employed. If you carry on working after reaching ordinary retirement age, special rules apply. Ordinary retirement age is 65 for men and 64 for women (see section 16).

Contribution amounts

5 What are the contribution rates?

Contribution rates	
OASI	7.80 %
DI	1.40 %
IC	<u>0.45 %</u>
Total	9.65 %

As a self-employed person you have to pay the full contribution rates yourself.

6 Do the same contribution rates apply regardless of income?

No. If your annual income is less than CHF 56 900, lower OASI, DI and IC contribution rates apply. This is referred to as a degressive contribution scale. In such cases, contributions are calculated on the basis of the following rates:

Annual income in francs		OASI/DI/IC contribution rate as percentage of earnings
of at least	but less than	
9 500	17 300	5.196
17 300	20 900	5.320
20 900	23 300	5.444
23 300	25 700	5.568
25 700	28 100	5.691
28 100	30 500	5.815
30 500	32 900	6.062
32 900	35 300	6.309
35 300	37 700	6.557
37 700	40 100	6.804
40 100	42 500	7.052
42 500	44 900	7.299
44 900	47 300	7.671
47 300	49 700	8.042
49 700	52 100	8.413
52 100	54 500	8.784
54 500	56 900	9.155
56 900		9.650

If your annual income is less than 9 500 francs you will pay a minimum contribution of 482 francs.

If you can show that you have already paid the minimum contribution on your relevant salary for non-self-employed gainful employment during the same year, you can ask for the contributions owed to be collected at the lowest rate of the degressive scale only (5.196 %). However, your income must be less than the lowest value on the degressive contribution scale.

If you are engaged in self-employed work as a secondary occupation and your annual earnings amount to 2 300 francs or less, contributions will only be collected at your request.

The compensation offices also charge contributions toward administration costs amounting to a maximum of 5 % of the contributions paid on income from gainful employment.

How contributions are set and calculated

7 How is the amount of the contributions calculated?

The amount of your contributions to the OASI, DI and IC schemes is calculated on the basis of your current earnings for the contribution year. In calculating your contributions, the compensation offices will deduct a percentage of the equity capital invested in your business from your earnings. The decisive figure here will be the value of the equity capital on 31st December of the contribution year in question (for example, 31st December 2018 for the 2018 contribution year).

The following interest rates will apply:

Year	Interest rate
2010	2.0 %
2011	2.0 %
2012	1.0 %
2013	1.5 %
2014	1.0 %
2015	0.5 %
2016	0.0 %
2017	0.5 %

Contributions on account

8 How are the contributions on account set?

The compensation offices set contributions on account. These are provisional contributions based on your foreseeable income over the current contribution year.

You should provide your compensation office with all the documents needed to enable it to set these contributions on account. You must inform the compensation office as soon as there is any significant change in the amount of your income.

If when you come to draw up your annual financial statement you find that the contributions on account were too low, you must notify the compensation office immediately. Failure to do so will mean that you run the risk of having to pay default interest.

Final contributions

9 How are the final contributions set?

Your final contributions will be set on the basis of your tax assessment. The compensation office will calculate the difference between the contributions on account which have already been paid and the final contributions.

- If the contributions on account amount to more than the final contributions, the compensation office will refund the difference.
- If the contributions on account amount to less than the final contributions, the compensation office will issue an invoice for the difference.

Your personal OASI, DI and IC contributions are once again added to your net income as shown on your tax assessment.

Payment of contributions

10 When do I have to pay my contributions?

Your contributions on account must be paid quarterly. The payment period is three months. Your contributions must be paid within ten days of the end of the payment period. The final payment deadline will always be the tenth day following the end of the quarter.

For example, contributions on account for the first quarter must reach the compensation office by 10th April at the latest.

If the contributions on account amount to less than the final contributions you will receive an invoice which must be paid within 30 days. The time limit is set at 30 days exactly as opposed to one month and cannot be extended. If the last day falls on a Saturday, a Sunday or a public holiday, the time limit will be extended until the next working day. The time limit starts as soon as the compensation office issues the invoice rather than when the invoice reaches you. In the invoice the compensation office will specify the date by which the sum must reach its account.

Contributions will only be deemed to have been paid once the payment has reached the compensation office's account and not when the payment was initiated. If the contributions are not paid on time default interest will be charged at a rate of 5 % p.a.

If you are in financial difficulty, you can submit a payment deferral application to the compensation office. In this case, default interest will still be due.

Default interest

11 When is default interest charged?

Default interest is charged in the event of late settlement or late payment of contributions – regardless of culpability and regardless of whether a reminder has been issued.

Relates to	Payment not received within	Interest accrued from
Contributions on account	30 days of the end of the quarter	1 st day after the end of the quarter
Difference between contributions on account and final contributions	30 days of issuing of invoice	1 st day after issuing of invoice

Where there is a big difference between the contributions on account and the final contributions, and in the event of additional claims, the following default interest will be charged:

Relates to	Interest accrued from
Contributions on account amount to less than 75 % of the final contributions for the contribution year	1 st January one year after the end of the contribution year
Contributions for previous years	1 st January following end of relevant contribution year

Credit interest

12 When will credit interest be paid?

If you have paid contributions that were not due (e.g. if the contributions on account amount to more than the final contributions), the compensation office will pay credit interest. Interest runs from 1st January following the end of the year in which these contributions have been paid.

Interest calculation

13 How is interest calculated?

Interest is calculated on a daily basis, with one month being counted as equivalent to 30 days and one calendar year being counted as equivalent to 360 days. The interest rate is a standard rate of 5 %.

14 Example 1

The contribution on account reaches the compensation office on 31st January instead of 30th January.

- Contribution on account for the 4th quarter of 2018: 8 400 francs
- To reach the compensation office no later than: 10th January 2019
- Payment received by compensation office: 31st January 2019
- Default interest due from 1st January to 31st January (1 month):
 $8\,400 \text{ francs} \times (30 \text{ days} / 360 \text{ days}) \times 5 \% = 35 \text{ francs}$

15 Example 2

The contributions on account amount to less than 75 % of the final contributions.

- Contributions paid on account for 2017: 9 500.40 francs
- Final contribution for 2017: 30 400 francs
- The contributions on account amount to only 31 % of the final contributions: $(9\,500.40 \times 100 \div 30\,400)$
- Invoice issued by compensation office: 4th April 2019
- Payment received by compensation office:
 - a) 30th April 2019
 - b) 17th May 2019
- Default interest at time of invoice:
1st January 2019 (i.e. from 1st January one year after the end of the contribution year) to 4th April 2019 (3 x 30 days plus 4 days):
 $20\,899.60 \text{ francs} \times (94 \text{ days} / 360 \text{ days}) \times 5 \% = 272.85 \text{ francs}$
- Default interest after receipt of payment:
 - a) no further default interest as invoice was paid within 30 days
 - b) 5th April 2019 (date invoice issued plus 1 day) to
17th May 2019 (26 plus 17 days):
 $20\,899.60 \text{ francs} \times (43 \text{ days} / 360 \text{ days}) \times 5 \% = 124.80 \text{ francs}$

Contributions by OASI pensioners

16 I am an OASI pensioner. Do I still have to pay contributions?

If you have reached statutory retirement age but remain gainfully employed, you will still have to pay contributions to the OASI, DI and IC schemes. However, you will benefit from a personal allowance of 1 400 francs per month, or 16 800 francs per year. Contributions are only due on that portion of your income which exceeds this threshold. If your annual income after deduction of your personal allowance amounts to less than 9 500 francs, your contribution will be calculated at the lowest contribution rate (5.196 %).

If you are an old-age pensioner who is engaged in self-employed work and is simultaneously working for an employer, you will be entitled to a personal allowance for each of these activities.

Contributions on IC compensation and on daily allowances paid by DI, UI and military insurance

17 Do I have to pay contributions on IC compensation and daily allowances?

Yes, you also have to pay contributions on income compensation payments for persons performing military or civilian service and persons on maternity leave, as well as on daily allowances paid by the DI, UI and military insurance schemes. These payments are treated in the same way as income from gainful employment.

However, these contributions are collected differently from those due on earned income: the compensation office automatically deducts 5.125 % from the compensation payments.

When you complete your tax return, please bear in mind that income compensation payments for persons performing military or civilian service and persons on maternity leave, as well as daily allowances paid by the DI, UI and military insurance schemes are not included in business income and must be reported separately.

Enquiries and further information



This leaflet merely provides an overview. Individual cases can only be assessed conclusively on the basis of the relevant legislation. The compensation offices and their branches will be pleased to answer any enquiries. A list of all compensation offices can be found at www.ahv-iv.ch.

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