

# OASI Old-age Pensions and Helplessness Allowances

Position as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023



## A brief overview

You are entitled to an old-age pension when you reach normal retirement age. Normal retirement age is 65 for men and 64 for women.

To be entitled to an old-age pension, you need to have a minimum of one full year of contribution credits.

One full year of contributions will be credited to you if

- you have paid contributions for one year in total, or
- your working spouse has paid twice the minimum contribution for at least one year, or
- you are entitled to parental or care credits.

This short video explains how OASI old-age pensions are calculated:  
[www.ahv-iv.ch/it/calculatingpension](http://www.ahv-iv.ch/it/calculatingpension)

## Beginning and end of entitlement

### 1 At what point do I become entitled to an old-age pension?

Entitlement to an old-age pension begins on the first day of the month after you reach normal retirement age.

### 2 When does my entitlement to an old-age pension end?

Entitlement to an old-age pension ends at the end of the month in which the recipient dies.

## Child pensions

### 3 When am I entitled to child pensions?

If you are entitled to a pension, you will also be entitled to child pensions for your children

- until they turn 18, or
- until they have completed their education or training, provided they are still under 25.

Drawing an old-age pension early rules out entitlement to a child pension.

### 4 Will I also be entitled to a child pension for foster children?

You are also entitled to a child pension for foster children provided that you are not receiving remuneration for providing foster care. No child pension is paid for children fostered after the foster parent became entitled to an old-age or disability pension. An exception is made for children of your spouse.

## Flexible pension payment

### 5 Is it possible to bring forward or defer my old-age pension?

Flexible pension payment rules mean you can begin drawing your old-age pension

- early by one or two years (but not by individual months) or
- late by between one and a maximum of five years.

For further information, we refer you to leaflet *3.04 – Flexible retirement*.

This short video explains the flexible retirement rules:

[www.ahv-iv.ch/r/flexiblepension](http://www.ahv-iv.ch/r/flexiblepension)

## Applying to draw a pension

### 6 When do I need to apply for my old-age pension?

You should submit your application roughly three to four months before reaching retirement age as it may take the compensation office some time to obtain the necessary documents and calculate the amount of your pension.

You can obtain an application form *318.370 – Old-age pension application* from the OASI compensation offices and their branches or from the OASI website at [www.ahv-iv.ch](http://www.ahv-iv.ch).

This short video explains how you can apply for an OASI old-age pension: [www.ahv-iv.ch/r/pensionapplication](http://www.ahv-iv.ch/r/pensionapplication)

If you are not resident in Switzerland, please consult the page entitled «Request for an old-age pension» on the Swiss Compensation Office SCO website: [www.zas.admin.ch](http://www.zas.admin.ch)

### 7 Where should I submit my application for an old-age pension?

- As an employee, or as a self-employed or non-employed person, you need to apply to the compensation office that was receiving your contributions before you became entitled to a pension. Your employer will be able to give you their address.
- If you are married and your spouse is already entitled to a pension you will need to apply to the compensation office that is paying your spouse's pension.
- If you have not paid any contributions, you will need to apply to the cantonal compensation office in the canton where you live or to its local branch office.
- If your contribution record includes periods of insurance cover in Switzerland and in one or more EU or EFTA countries, a single application for benefits in your country of residence will trigger the application procedure in all the countries involved.
- If you are not resident in Switzerland, please consult the page entitled «Request for an old-age pension» on the Swiss Compensation Office SCO website: [www.zas.admin.ch](http://www.zas.admin.ch)

## Calculating old-age pensions

### **8 When can my old-age pension be calculated?**

In general, it will not be possible to arrive at a binding calculation of your old-age pension until you reach retirement age. Only then will the various factors involved in the calculations be known.

### **9 What are the factors involved in the calculations?**

The factors involved in calculating your pension entitlement are:

- your qualifying years of contributions, and
- your income from gainful employment and
- your entitlement to parental credits and care credits.

### **10 Under what circumstances will I receive a full pension?**

You will receive a full pension (pension scale 44) if you have paid contributions continuously from 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year after you reached 20 years of age until the end of the calendar year before you reached normal retirement age.

### **11 Under what circumstances will I receive a partial pension?**

Your contribution record will be incomplete if you do not have the same number of years of contributions as others born in the same year as you. In this case, you will receive a partial pension (pension scale 1-43). One missing contribution year will normally result in a reduction of at least 1/44 in your pension.

### **12 Is a woman's contribution record credited for the years of her marriage or widowhood in which she did not pay any contributions?**

When calculating a woman's contribution record, she will be credited for the years of her marriage or widowhood prior to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1996 during which she was insured, but did not pay any contributions.

### 13 What are youth years?

Youth years are contribution periods between the ages of 18 and 20. Any contributions you pay before the age of 20 can be used to fill subsequent gaps in your contribution record. However, this is possible only if the contributions for the gaps in question can no longer be claimed owing to the statute of limitations (five years).

### 14 What are additional months?

If prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 1979 you have gaps in your contribution record, or were insured or could have been insured, you will be credited with additional months:

Where the insured person has a full contribution record from		Eligible for additional credits for up to
	until	
20	26	12 months
27	33	24 months
34 and over		36 months

### 15 What does a person's average annual income consist of?

A person's average annual income consists of:

- average earnings,
- average parental credits, and
- average care credits.

## Average earnings

### 16 How are a person's average earnings calculated?

To calculate a person's average earnings, all earnings up to 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year preceding the entitlement to a pension are added together. Income earned during a person's youth will be taken into account only if it can be used to fill subsequent gaps in the contribution record.

Each person's earnings are recorded in his or her "individual account" (IA).

Earnings may date from years when salary levels were lower. A person's total income is therefore revalued in line with the average salary and price trends (see Flate-rate revaluation factors, p. 15). The total income revalued in this way is divided by the number of years and months, which can be credited. The result is the person's average earnings.

## 17 What is meant by division of income?

Division of income is also referred to as “splitting”. Income earned by spouses during the calendar years of their marriage is split, with 50 % of each spouse’s income being credited to the other.

In the case of a married couple, if one spouse is entitled to a pension, but the other spouse is not yet entitled to a pension, their incomes will be credited without being split. As soon as the other spouse also becomes entitled to a pension, both pensions will be recalculated on the basis of their income before their marriage, which will not be split, and their income during their marriage which will be split. Income arising during the period when only one of the spouses was entitled to an old-age pension will not be split.

Division of income takes place under the following circumstances:

- when a marriage is dissolved following divorce;
- if both spouses are entitled to an OASI or DI pension;
- if a widow or a widower is entitled to an old-age pension;

## Average parental credits and care credits

### 18 What are parental credits?

You may be awarded parental credits for the years when you had children under the age of 16. The level of the parental credit corresponds to three times the minimum annual pension. In the case of married couples, the credit is divided equally between the two spouses during the calendar years of their marriage. The average amount of parental credits is calculated by dividing the total amount credited by the total duration of the contributions.

In the case of divorced parents and parents who are not married to each other, but who exercise joint parental responsibility, either the whole parental credit will be awarded to one parent or half will be awarded to each parent, depending on the care given. For further information, we refer you to leaflet *1.07 – Erziehungsgutschriften (Parental credits)*.

## 19 What are care credits?

You may be awarded care credits for years that you spent looking after relatives requiring care who live within easy reach of you and are entitled to a helplessness allowance. Cohabiting partners who have shared a household for at least five years are treated the same as relatives. There is no entitlement to care credits for years in which parental credits can be awarded. The level of the care credit corresponds to three times the minimum annual pension. In the case of married couples, the credit is divided equally between the two spouses during the calendar years of their marriage. The average amount of care credits is calculated by dividing the total amount credited by the total duration of the contributions. For further information, we refer you to leaflet 1.03 – *Betreuungsgutschriften (Care credits)*.

## Pension rates

### 20 What are the current pension rates?

For those with full contribution records, the amount of the ordinary full pension is as follows, depending on their average income:

	Minimum CHF/month	Maximum CHF/month
Old-age pension	1 225.–	2 450.–
Child pension	490.–	980.–

### 21 Why is there a cap on the pensions of married couples?

The sum of the two individual pensions received by a married couple must not exceed 150 % of the maximum pension. If this maximum amount is exceeded, the two individual pensions are reduced accordingly. If one spouse is not entitled to a full pension due to gaps in their contribution record, the relevant maximum pension amount and the pension cap will be lower. A pension cap does not apply if the couple's joint household has been dissolved by a court decision or if one spouse draws an old-age pension and the other spouse has a degree of invalidity that is less than 50%.

The caps for complete pensions amount to:

	CHF/month
Married couples	3 675.–
Child pension	1 470.–



## **22 Is there also a cap on child pensions?**

The child pensions accompanying the spouses' individual pensions are also capped. This also applies if both a child pension and an orphan's pension are being paid in respect of a child.

## **Widowed recipients of old-age pensions**

### **23 Does the amount of the pension change after the death of the spouse?**

After the death of the spouse entitled to a pension, the amount of the pension changes for the following reasons: the cap imposed while the deceased spouse was alive ceases to apply. In addition, a 20 % widow(er)'s supplement is added to the resulting pension. However, this supplement is only paid up to the amount of the maximum old-age pension.

### **24 What pension do I receive as a widow or widower?**

If widows or widowers also qualify for a survivor's pension, they will receive the latter if it amounts to more than the old-age pension.

## **Supplementary benefits**

### **25 When am I entitled to supplementary benefits?**

If you are receiving an old-age pension and are living in modest financial circumstances, you will, under certain conditions, be entitled to supplementary benefits.

For more on this topic, we refer you to leaflet *5.01 – Ergänzungsleistungen zur AHV und IV ((OASI and DI supplementary benefits)* and *5.02 – Ihr Recht auf Ergänzungsleistungen zur AHV und IV (Entitlement to OASI and IV supplementary benefits)*.

If you are not resident in Switzerland, you are not entitled to supplementary benefits.

## **Helplessness allowance**

### **26 When am I entitled to an OASI helplessness allowance?**

If you are receiving an old-age pension or supplementary benefits and live in Switzerland, you will be able to claim an OASI helplessness allowance if:

- you are slightly, moderately or severely incapacitated,

- your incapacitation has lasted for at least one year without interruption,
- you do not qualify for a helplessness allowance from the compulsory accident insurance or military insurance schemes.

A person is considered to be incapacitated if he or she continuously has to rely on the help of others to perform everyday tasks (getting dressed, personal hygiene, eating, etc.) or is in need of constant care or personal supervision.

The following allowances are paid depending on the degree of incapacitation:

- Slight            245 francs
- Moderate       613 francs
- Severe           980 francs

You are entitled to an OASI helplessness allowance (slight degree) only if you live at home.

The helplessness allowance is not linked to income or assets.

If you have already been receiving a DI helplessness allowance before reaching retirement age, you will receive an OASI helplessness allowance equal to the same amount.

If you are not resident in Switzerland, you are not entitled to a helplessness allowance.

## **OASI personal assistance allowance**

### **27 When am I entitled to an OASI personal assistance allowance?**

You cannot gain entitlement to an OASI personal assistance allowance in conjunction with your entitlement to an old-age pension.

However, if you were already drawing a DI personal assistance allowance before reaching retirement age or before taking early retirement, you will be granted an OASI personal assistance allowance. Please note that in such instances the amount may not exceed the amount you were receiving previously.

If you are not resident in Switzerland, you are not entitled to an OASI personal assistance allowance.

## Sample calculations

### 28 One spouse is entitled to a pension

A woman born on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1959 is entitled to take her old-age pension as from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023. The woman has been married to the same husband since 1982. Since her husband is not yet entitled to a pension, her pension will initially be calculated on the basis of her own income which will not be split. The couple have two children (born in 1983 and 1985). The woman is therefore entitled to 18 years of parental credits. For the period of their marriage these credits are split between the two spouses.

The woman paid OASI contributions without interruption from 1980 until the start of her pension entitlement and therefore has a full contribution record of 43 years. She is therefore entitled to a full pension (pension scale 44).

#### The average earnings are determined on the basis of the individual accounts and are calculated as follows:

Total income from 43 contribution years from 1980 up to and including 2022	CHF	1 090 000.–
The enhancement performed by applying the relevant factor of 1.047 (first IA entry in 1980) results in an enhanced total income of	CHF	1 141 230.–
This enhanced total income is divided by the total contribution period (43 years) to obtain the average earnings which amount to	CHF	26 540.–

#### The average for the parental credits is calculated as follows:

Number of years x triple annual minimum pension divided by the contribution period split between two		
$18 \times 44\ 100 \text{ francs} \div 43 \text{ years} \div 2$	CHF	9 230.–

#### The average annual income and the pension are calculated as follows:

Average earnings	CHF	26 540.–
Average parental credits	CHF	9 230.–
Average annual income (rounded up to table value, see p. 14) of	CHF	36 750.–
As of 1 <sup>st</sup> Mai 2023, the woman's monthly old-age pension amounts to	CHF	1 703.–

## 29 Both spouses are entitled to a pension

The starting position is the same as in the previous example. However, the husband, who was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1958, is also entitled to an old-age pension from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023. The two old-age pensions are now recalculated applying the division of income. The husband also paid OASI contributions without interruption from 1979 until the start of his pension entitlement and therefore has a full contribution record of 44 years. He is therefore entitled to a full pension (pension scale 44).

**The average earnings are determined on the basis of the individual accounts and are calculated as follows:**

	Wife		Husband	
Earnings before split (1980 to 1982)	CHF	25 000.–		
(1979 to 1982)			CHF	120 000.–
Split earnings for the period of the couple's marriage (1983 to 2022)				
Wife's income	CHF	532 500.–	CHF	532 500.–
Husband's income	CHF	920 000.–	CHF	920 000.–
Total income from 43 contribu- tion years from 1980 to 2022	CHF	1 477 500.–		
Total income from 44 contribu- tion years from 1979 to 2022			CHF	1 572 500.–
The enhancement performed by applying the relevant factor of 1.047 for the wife (first IA entry in 1980), and 1.059 for the husband (first IA entry in 1979) results in an enhanced total income of	CHF	1 546 943.–	CHF	1 665 278.–
This updated total income is divided by the relevant contribu- tion period (43 years for the wife and 44 years for the husband) to obtain the average earnings which amount to	CHF	35 975.–	CHF	37 847.–

**The average for the parental credits is calculated as follows:**

	Wife	Husband
Number of years x triple minimum pension divided by the annual contribution period split between two		
18 x 44 100 francs ÷ 43 years ÷ 2	CHF 9 230.–	
18 x 44 100 francs ÷ 44 years ÷ 2		CHF 9 020.–

**The average annual income and the pension are calculated as follows:**

	Wife	Husband
Average earnings	CHF 35 975.–	CHF 37 847.–
Average parental credits	CHF 9 230.–	CHF 9 020.–
Average annual income (rounded up to table value) of	CHF 45 570.–	CHF 47 040.–
As the table in the Appendix shows, the (full) old-age pension amounts to	CHF 1 882.–	CHF 1 901.–

**Because of the pension cap, the resulting pensions are as follows (from 1 September 2023):**

Cap formula	Wife	Husband
Wife's pension x 150 % of maximum amount	CHF 1 828.–	
CHF 1 882.– x CHF 3 675.–		
Wife's pension + husband's pension		
CHF 1 882.– + CHF 1 901.–		
Husband's pension x 150 % of maximum amount		CHF 1 847.–
CHF 1 901.– x CHF 3 675.–		
Husband's pension + wife's pension		
CHF 1 901.– + CHF 1 882.–		

## Appendix

- Table of full pensions (scale 44)
- Table of enhancement factors

## Scale 44: Full monthly pensions

Amounts in francs

Parameter	Old-age and disability pension	Old-age and disability pension for widows/ widowers	Survivors' pensions and benefits for dependants			
			Widows/ widowers	Supplementary pension	Orphans' and child pension	Orphans' pension 60 %*
Up to 14 700	1 225	1 470	980	368	490	735
16 170	1 257	1 508	1 005	377	503	754
17 640	1 289	1 546	1 031	387	515	773
19 110	1 321	1 585	1 056	396	528	792
20 580	1 352	1 623	1 082	406	541	811
22 050	1 384	1 661	1 107	415	554	831
23 520	1 416	1 699	1 133	425	566	850
24 990	1 448	1 737	1 158	434	579	869
26 460	1 480	1 776	1 184	444	592	888
27 930	1 512	1 814	1 209	453	605	907
29 400	1 544	1 852	1 235	463	617	926
30 870	1 575	1 890	1 260	473	630	945
32 340	1 607	1 929	1 286	482	643	964
33 810	1 639	1 967	1 311	492	656	983
35 280	1 671	2 005	1 337	501	668	1 003
36 750	1 703	2 043	1 362	511	681	1 022
38 220	1 735	2 082	1 388	520	694	1 041
39 690	1 766	2 120	1 413	530	707	1 060
41 160	1 798	2 158	1 439	539	719	1 079
42 630	1 830	2 196	1 464	549	732	1 098
44 100	1 862	2 234	1 490	559	745	1 117
45 570	1 882	2 258	1 505	564	753	1 129
47 040	1 901	2 281	1 521	570	760	1 141
48 510	1 921	2 305	1 537	576	768	1 152
49 980	1 940	2 328	1 552	582	776	1 164
51 450	1 960	2 352	1 568	588	784	1 176
52 920	1 980	2 376	1 584	594	792	1 188
54 390	1 999	2 399	1 599	600	800	1 200
55 860	2 019	2 423	1 615	606	808	1 211
57 330	2 038	2 446	1 631	612	815	1 223
58 800	2 058	2 450	1 646	617	823	1 235
60 270	2 078	2 450	1 662	623	831	1 247
61 740	2 097	2 450	1 678	629	839	1 258
63 210	2 117	2 450	1 693	635	847	1 270
64 680	2 136	2 450	1 709	641	855	1 282
66 150	2 156	2 450	1 725	647	862	1 294
67 620	2 176	2 450	1 740	653	870	1 305
69 090	2 195	2 450	1 756	659	878	1 317
70 560	2 215	2 450	1 772	664	886	1 329
72 030	2 234	2 450	1 788	670	894	1 341
73 500	2 254	2 450	1 803	676	902	1 352
74 970	2 274	2 450	1 819	682	909	1 364
76 440	2 293	2 450	1 835	688	917	1 376
77 910	2 313	2 450	1 850	694	925	1 388
79 380	2 332	2 450	1 866	700	933	1 399
80 850	2 352	2 450	1 882	706	941	1 411
82 320	2 372	2 450	1 897	711	949	1 423
83 790	2 391	2 450	1 913	717	956	1 435
85 260	2 411	2 450	1 929	723	964	1 446
86 730	2 430	2 450	1 944	729	972	1 458
88 200 and higher	2 450	2 450	1 960	735	980	1 470

\* Amounts also apply to double orphans' pensions and whole double child pensions.

**Flat-rate enhancement factors dependent on occurrence:  
Occurrence of insured event in 2023**

<b>First IA entry*</b>	<b>Enhancement factor</b>	<b>First IA entry*</b>	<b>Enhancement factor</b>
1974	1,118	1999	1,000
1975	1,106	2000	1,000
1976	1,094	2001	1,000
1977	1,082	2002	1,000
1978	1,071	2003	1,000
1979	1,059	2004	1,000
1980	1,047	2005	1,000
1981	1,036	2006	1,000
1982	1,026	2007	1,000
1983	1,016	2008	1,000
1984	1,006	2009	1,000
1985	1,000	2010	1,000
1986	1,000	2011	1,000
1987	1,000	2012	1,000
1988	1,000	2013	1,000
1989	1,000	2014	1,000
1990	1,000	2015	1,000
1991	1,000	2016	1,000
1992	1,000	2017	1,000
1993	1,000	2018	1,000
1994	1,000	2019	1,000
1995	1,000	2020	1,000
1996	1,000	2021	1,000
1997	1,000	2022	1,000
1998	1,000		

\*The first individual account entry that can be considered as decisive for calculating the pension must not be earlier than in the calendar year when the person turns 21.

## 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](http://www.ahv-iv.ch).

In this leaflet, the terms below describing a person's marital status also have the following meanings:

- marriage: registered partnership
- divorce: legal dissolution of a registered partnership
- widowhood: death of a registered partner

Published by the OASI/DI Information Centre in cooperation with the Federal Social Insurance Office (FSIO).

Edition published in December 2022. Reproduction, including in extract form, is only permitted with the written consent of the OASI/DI Information Centre. This leaflet is available at [www.ahv-iv.ch](http://www.ahv-iv.ch).

3.01-23/01-E