

3.04 OASI benefits



## Flexible retirement

Position as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024



## A brief overview

You are entitled to an old-age pension when you reach the 'reference age' (previously 'normal retirement age'). For men, it is 65. For women, it is currently 64, but from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, it will rise by three-month increments every year. During the transition phase, the following reference ages will apply to women born between 1960 and 1964:

Year	Reference age	Year of birth
2024	64 years (unchanged)	1960
2025	64 years + 3 months	1961
2026	64 years + 6 months	1962
2027	64 years + 9 months	1963
2028	65 years	1964

From 2028, the reference age will be 65 for both women and men.

Women born between 1961 and 1969 are entitled to measures that compensate for the increase in the reference age from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, provided that they start to draw their pension at the reference age or later. However, they are not entitled to these measures if they take their old-age pension early.

Under flexible retirement age rules, you can take your old-age pension

- early: from the age of 63 (or from the age of 62 for women born between 1961 and 1969) and by individual months or years;
- late: by between one and five years after reaching reference age (you may cancel the deferral of your old-age pension on a monthly basis before the maximum deferral period has expired).

It is also possible to withdraw or defer all or part of your old-age pension. The portion can be claimed in francs or whole percentages and must be between 20 % and a maximum of 80 % of the retirement pension to which you are entitled.

If you take your old-age pension early, you will receive a reduced old-age pension for the full duration of your retirement. The reduction will be calculated on the basis of actuarial principles and, like the pension itself, will be periodically adjusted to changes in salaries and prices. Under certain conditions, you have the option of cancelling the early withdrawal of your old-age pension if you are awarded a disability pension.

Women in the transitional generation (born 1961–1969) can still draw their old-age pension early from the age of 62. As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, they will benefit from more favourable reduction rates see <https://www.bsv.admin.ch/bsv/de/home/sozialversicherungen/ahv/reformen-revisionen/ahv-21.html> (in German, French and Italian only).

If you defer your old-age pension wholly or in part, you will receive an increased old-age pension for the full duration of your retirement. The increase will be calculated on the basis of actuarial principles and, like the pension itself, will be periodically adjusted to changes in salaries and prices.

You also have the option of taking part of your pension early and deferring the other part until after the reference age.

You can also increase the pension amount you take early or lower the amount you defer. However, you cannot increase the pension amount you defer or reduce the pension amount you take early.

If you are married, you will have the option of taking your old-age pension early or late independently of your spouse. This means that it is possible for you to take your old-age pension early, while your spouse defers his or her old-age pension.

How much will my old-age pension be?

The Swiss Compensation Office's online calculator ESCAL provides an immediate, non-binding estimate based on your details:

<https://www.ahv-iv.ch/en/Leaflets-forms/Online-pension-estimate-ESCAL>

In just a few minutes, the *explanatory video* will show you the most important things about the flexible withdrawing of the retirement pension.

## Taking your pension early

### 1 From what point in time can I take my old-age pension early?

Women and men can draw their old-age pension no earlier than the first day of the month after reaching the age of 63. Women born between 1961 and 1969 can continue to draw their old-age pension early from the age of 62. Special transitional regulations apply to them. Please contact your compensation office for more details.

## **2 How much of my old-age pension can I take early?**

It is also possible to withdraw or defer all or part of your old-age pension. The portion can be claimed in francs or whole percentages and must be between 20 % and a maximum of 80 % of the retirement pension to which you are entitled. You also have the option during the early payments period to apply for a one-time increase in the pension amount you are drawing early. However, you may not switch from a full old-age pension to a partial or lower pension amount during the early payment period.

## **3 Am I am entitled to claim other pensions while I am drawing my old-age pension early?**

Children's pensions are not paid while you are drawing your old-age pension early. As regards an existing disability or survivors' pension, your entitlement ends if you take your old-age pension early.

Widows', widowers' and orphans' pensions that replace an early old-age pension will not be reduced.

## **Calculating the reduction for pensions taken early**

### **4 If I take my old-age pension early, how much will it be reduced by during that period?**

First of all, your early old-age payments will be calculated on same basis as if it had been taken at reference age. Individuals who opt draw their old-age pension early tend to receive a partial pension because they typically have an incomplete contribution record. The pension amount is reduced by an actuarial percentage until you reach the reference age. The duration of the early payments period determines the applicable reduction rate. If you draw only a part of your old-age pension early, the reduction rate will be applied solely to that share. The reduction rate is lower for the share of the pension that is drawn later during the early payment period. No reductions are applied to the share of the old-age pension which is not taken early.

The following reduction rates apply:

Percentage reduction on early pension payments and months												
Years	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
0	-	0,6	1,1	1,7	2,3	2,8	3,4	4,0	4,5	5,1	5,7	6,2
1	6,8	7,4	7,9	8,5	9,1	9,6	10,2	10,8	11,3	11,9	12,5	13,0
2	13,6											

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025, women in the transitional generation (born 1961–1969) will benefit from special and more favourable reduction rates. These are determined by the average annual income during the period when the pension is taken early and can be claimed on an individual basis: [www.bsv.admin.ch/sozialversicherungen/ahv/reformen-revisionen/ahv-21](http://www.bsv.admin.ch/sozialversicherungen/ahv/reformen-revisionen/ahv-21) (in German, French and Italian only).

## 5 How much will my old-age pension be reduced by once I have reached the reference age?

Your old-age pension is definitively calculated when you reach the reference age. The calculation takes into account the insurance periods you have acquired during the early payments period in order to fill any gaps in your contribution record. If you have a complete contribution record when you reach the reference age, you will be entitled to a full pension. The pension calculation that is performed when you reach the reference age also takes into account any OASI contributions you have paid during the early payments period.

If you opt to take your pension early, you should be treated in exactly the same way as those who take their old-age pension at the reference age. The amount by which your pension is reduced is therefore revised once the early-payment period has come to an end. The key factor in calculating the amount of the reduction will be the total of all early full-pension payments, the duration of the early payments and the corresponding percentage reduction. The reduction takes into account the old-age pension payments you received prior to reaching the reference age.

## Applying to take your pension early

### 6 When do I need to apply to take my pension early?

You should submit an application to take your old-age pension early around three to four months before the date when you wish to start drawing your old-age pension early. Pension payments will begin no earlier than the month following the submission of your application. A retroactive application is not possible. Your application must be submitted by the last day of the month preceding the date on which you wish to start drawing your old-age pension early, either in full or in part. You must be able to prove that you have submitted your application for early old-age pension withdrawal on time.

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

If you live abroad, 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 I am taking my old-age pension early and would like to increase the share I receive. What do I need to do?

If you have already drawn a part of your old-age pension early and would like to increase the share you receive, you need to fill out and submit the appropriate form to the compensation office as early as possible. You can only apply for an increase once and you will receive the adjusted pension no earlier than the month following the submission of your application. The share of the old-age pension that is paid out early should not exceed 80 %. If this share is higher than 80 %, it must be equal to the full pension. You can obtain and submit form *318.381 – Application for increase in early old-age pension payments* to any compensation office and their branches, or online at [www.ahv-iv.ch](http://www.ahv-iv.ch).

## Obligation to pay contributions when taking your old-age pension early

### 8 If I take my pension early, do I still have to pay contributions during that period?

If you take your old-age pension early, you will still be required to pay OASI contributions. If you are no longer employed, you may have to pay contributions as a non-employed person. The calculation of your pension when you reach the reference age will take into account all non-employed contributions paid by you during the early payments period. For further details, we refer you to leaflet *2.03 – OASI, DI and IC Contributions of Non-Employed Persons*.

If you live abroad, you are not subject to compulsory insurance and there is also no possibility of paying contributions (except for joining voluntary insurance, cf. leaflet *10.02 – The voluntary old-age, survivors' and disability insurance scheme*).

### 9 Are those who take their pension early entitled to a personal allowance during that period?

Individuals who continue to work beyond the reference age are normally entitled to a personal allowance which is exempt from the obligation to pay contributions. However, those who take their old-age pension early are not entitled to this personal allowance during that period.

## Entitlement to supplementary benefits when taking your old-age pension early

### 10 If I take my pension early, will I be entitled to supplementary benefits during that period?

If you take your old-age pension early and are living in modest financial circumstances, you will, under certain conditions, be entitled to supplementary benefits. It is important to remember that if you choose to draw your old-age pension early, your entire reduced pension will be counted as income when calculating the annual supplementary benefits to which you are entitled.

We also refer you to leaflet *5.01 – Ergänzungsleistungen zur AHV und IV (Benefits to supplement the OASI and DI schemes)* and leaflet *5.02 – Ihr Recht auf Ergänzungsleistungen zur AHV und IV (Your right to benefits to supplement the OASI and DI schemes)*.

You are not entitled to supplementary benefits if you live abroad.

## Deferring your old-age pension

### 11 When can I defer my old-age pension?

If you have reached the reference age, you can defer your old-age pension by a minimum of one year and a maximum of five years. This will have the effect of increasing your pension by a monthly increment. You can also cancel the deferral of your old-age pension and start claiming your deferred pension either in full or in part at the beginning of any month. In other words, you do not need to commit yourself to a fixed deferral period in advance. You must register for deferral within one year of becoming eligible for your ordinary pension.

### 12 What part of my old-age pension can I defer?

You can either defer old-age pension in full or opt to draw only a part of it. The deferred share can be expressed in francs or as a whole percentage but it must be at least 20 % and no more than 80 % of the pension. During the deferral period, you can also reduce the share of pension you wish to defer. In other words, you can draw one part of your old-age pension and defer the other part. However, you can apply only once for a reduction and you cannot switch from a partial pension deferral to a full pension deferral.

If you draw a part of your old-age pension early and wish to postpone the payment of part of your pension when you reach the reference age, you can only defer the part of your old-age pension which has not already been paid out.

However, if you have opted for a combination of early withdrawal and deferral, you can apply once to change the percentage of the old-age pension that you draw between the age of 63 (or 62 for women born in 1961–1969) and the age of 70 (or the applicable reference age plus five years for women born in 1961–1963).

If you draw a full disability pension up to the reference age, you cannot defer the old-age pension which replaces the DI pension. If you only draw a percentage of the DI pension up to the reference age, you can choose to defer the share of the old-age pension that is not equivalent to the disability pension it replaces.

### 13 If I defer my pension, will I be entitled to any other pensions during the deferral period?

Deferring your old-age pension will also result in the deferral of any child pensions. During the deferral period it will not be possible to pay any widow's or widower's pension.

If you defer your old-age pension, it may be necessary to recalculate and cap the old-age or invalidity pension paid to your spouse.

For further details, we refer you to Information Sheet 3.01 – *OASI Old-Age Pensions and Helplessness Allowances*; see Section 20 for the provisions regarding caps.

### 14 How much does my old-age pension increase by if I defer it?

The monthly increase depends on how long you defer for. It is set as a percentage of the average deferred pension (cf. Section 14). The percentage increase is calculated as follows:

years	Monthly increas after a deferral period of and months			
	0-2	3-5	6-8	9-11
1	5,2	6,6	8,0	9,4
2	10,8	12,3	13,9	15,5
3	17,1	18,8	20,5	22,2
4	24,0	25,8	27,7	29,6
5	31,5			

### 15 Can I revoke the deferral?

Once the minimum deferral period of one year has elapsed, you will no longer be able to revoke your deferral. This also means you will no longer be able to opt for back-payment of your deferred pension payments accumulated during this period. If you do revoke the deferral before the expiry of the minimum period, you will be back-paid your accumulated pension instalments retrospectively to the start of your entitlement without any supplement or interest.

## **16 Will I also receive an increase on survivors' pensions?**

If you deferred your pension, the increase resulting from the deferral will not be carried over to any survivors' pension in the event of your death. The same applies to any widow's, widower's and orphan pensions that follow the deferred old-age pension.

## **Calculating the increase when a person defers their pension**

### **17 How is the increase calculated when a person defers their pension?**

A deferred old-age pension consists of the base pension amount and the increase, which is a fixed amount in francs equivalent to a percentage of the average deferred pension payments (cf. Section 14). The increase is therefore determined on the basis of the total of the monthly pension instalments that are actually deferred; for married individuals, the instalment amount might be capped. The increase calculated in this way is added to the base pension amount at the time when the pension is claimed.

## **Deferral declaration**

### **18 How do I need to register the deferral?**

To register the deferral, you need to complete and submit the form *318.370 – Old-age pension application*. To do so, you must tick the 'deferral declaration' box in form 318.370. The compensation office will send you confirmation that it has taken note that you wish to defer your old-age.

### **19 When do I need to register for deferral of my old-age pension?**

You need to register your deferral at the latest one year after reaching the reference age. You must be able to prove that you have submitted your deferral declaration on time. If you register any later than this, or if you fail to tick the 'deferral declaration' box in the application form (*318.370 – Old-age pension application*), your old-age pension will be set and paid out according to the general provisions, i.e. without any increase.

## **20 When is pension deferral no longer possible?**

Once you have been awarded your old-age pension on a legally binding basis, or have taken receipt of pension payments without raising objections, you will no longer be eligible to defer your old-age pension.

## **Claiming your old-age pension after deferral**

### **21 How can I claim my old-age pension?**

In order to start drawing your old-age pension after a deferral, you need to submit a pension claim. You can either draw a percentage of your deferred pension or claim the pension in full. You can obtain and submit the necessary form *318.386 – Application for partial or full payment of a deferred old-age pension* for this to the compensation offices or their branches, or online at [www.ahv-iv.ch](http://www.ahv-iv.ch). Unless you explicitly request a later payment date, your deferred full or partial old-age pension will be paid out no earlier than one month after you have submitted your claim.

### **22 When is an old-age pension regarded as having been claimed?**

An old-age pension is regarded as having been claimed,

- as soon as a helplessness allowance has been paid,
- as soon as the maximum deferral period of five years has elapsed (although the entitled person still has to apply for actual payment of the pension by submitting a written claim),
- as soon as the entitled person dies.

### **23 If I continue working beyond the reference age, is my pension recalculated when I start drawing my deferred pension?**

If you are still in gainful employment after you reach the reference age and you have deferred your old-age pension, your pension is not automatically recalculated when you start drawing your deferred pension. The recalculation can be performed at any time after you have reached the reference age, regardless of whether you have chosen to claim your deferred pension or not (see leaflet *3.08 – Recalculation of the retirement pension after the reference age*). If you would like to have your pension recalculated when you start drawing your deferred pension, you must complete and submit

form 318.386 – Application for partial or full payment of a deferred old-age pension, as well as form 318.383 – Application for a recalculation of the retirement pension after the reference age.

## Factors ruling out pension deferral

### 24 When is it not possible to defer my pension?

You cannot defer your old-age pension if

- you were drawing a full disability pension immediately beforehand, or,
- you have been awarded a helplessness allowance.

## Sample calculations

### 25 Calculating the reduction rate when the claimant takes their old-age pension early

A married man draws 60 % of his old-age pension one year and three months early, beginning in June 2024. At the time of the early withdrawal period, he is entitled to an old-age pension of 2 394 francs (partial pension scale 43). The 60 % share of the pension he takes early amounts to 1 436 francs. An early payment reduction rate of 8.5 % is deducted from this amount (= 122 francs), which results in a final pension of 1 314 francs.

His wife reaches the reference age ten months later. The man's pension is not recalculated but simply capped.

During the last five months, the insured person is therefore entitled to a capped pension of 1 358 francs. After deducting the early withdrawal reduction of 8.5 % (= 115 francs), 1 243 francs is paid out.

### 26 Calculating the definitive reduction rate when the claimant who has taken their old-age pension early reaches the reference age

In August 2025 the man reaches the reference age. At this point, his final pension and the applicable early payment reduction is calculated. As his wife has already reached the reference age, the income is split between the spouses.

The calculation takes into account the contribution periods acquired and the contributions paid during the early withdrawal period. As a result, the man has a full contribution record and is entitled to a full pension (pension scale 44). The pension is capped at 1 838 francs.

The final early payment reduction is calculated on the basis of the duration of the early payments period (here 15 months) and as follows:

10-month early withdrawal: 1 436 francs

5-month early withdrawal: 1 358 francs

Reduction =  $[(1\ 436 \times 10) + (1\ 358 \times 5)] \times 8.5\% \div 15 = 120$  francs

This amount (120 francs) is deducted from the capped pension of 1 838 francs. As a result, the man receives a pension of 1 718 when he reaches the reference age.

## **27 Calculating the supplement due where an old-age pension has been deferred**

A married woman deferred her old-age pension for three years starting in March 2021. At the time of the deferral, she is entitled to a maximum old-age pension. After two years, i.e. February 2023, her husband reached the reference age. Her old-age pension therefore has to be recalculated and becomes subject to a cap. During the third year, i.e. from March 2023, the deferral only relates to the capped pension of 1 838 francs.

From March 2023, her husband, who took his old-age pension when he reached the reference age, was only entitled to a capped old-age pension of 1 838 francs (see Section 13 above).

When the woman claims her old-age pension, in this example after three years, the deferral supplement as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 is calculated as follows:

2021: 10-month deferral at 2 390 francs

2022: 12-month deferral at 2 390 francs

2023: 2-month deferral at 2 450 francs

2023: 10-month deferral at 1 838 francs

2024: 2-month deferral at 1 838 francs

Deferral supplement for three years = 17,1 %:

$[(2\ 390 \times 22) + (2\ 450 \times 2) + (1\ 838 \times 12)] \times 17,1\% \div 36 = 378$  francs

The increase calculated in this way is added to the base pension amount when the person concerned claims their pension entitlement. This results in an old-age pension of 2 216 francs (1 838 francs + 378 francs).

## 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

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