

RELOCATING TO SWITZERLAND



Features

- ▶ Political and economic stability
- ▶ Multicultural environment
- ▶ First-class healthcare system
- ▶ Excellent education
- ▶ Highly developed infrastructures
- ▶ Sophisticated financial system
- ▶ Competitive tax rates
- ▶ Privacy protection

Switzerland

Located at the heart of Europe, Switzerland is a federal state divided into 26 cantons which differ one from the other for their culture, landscapes and languages. Ranking among the world's top countries for its high quality of life, it manages to attract expats from all over the world, also thanks to its dynamic economic system and business-friendly environment..

Languages: German, Italian, French
English is widely spoken

Currency: CHF

Population: 8.5 million
25% of which is foreign

Residence Permit

The condition for a foreigner to relocate to Switzerland is obtaining a residence permit.

EU/EFTA citizens wishing to settle in the Swiss Confederation without a job contract or a profitable employment must prove that they have sufficient financial means for themselves and their families, have an health insurance and adequate accomodation in the territory.

If students, they must attend a Swiss educational institution.

Third-country citizens (non EU/EFTA) must instead prove before entry that they are able to obtain a job in Switzerland.

The application is usually made at the Swiss embassy/consulate in the country of residence or directly by the prospective employer to the cantonal migration authorities.

If retired, they must have sufficient economic resources. HNW individuals can obtain a residence permit from the individual canton. In both cases, the center of interests must be moved to Switzerland.

Types of Permits

- ▶ Permit L: Short-term residents
- ▶ Permit B: Resident foreign nationals
- ▶ Permit C: Settled foreign nationals
- ▶ Permit G: Cross-border commuters
- ▶ Permit Ci: Residence with gainful employment (non Ue/Efta citizens)
- ▶ Permit F: Provisionally admitted
- ▶ Permit N: Permit for asylum-seekers
- ▶ Permit S: People in need of protection



Taxation

After obtaining a residence permit, foreign citizens will have to choose between the:

1. Ordinary tax regime

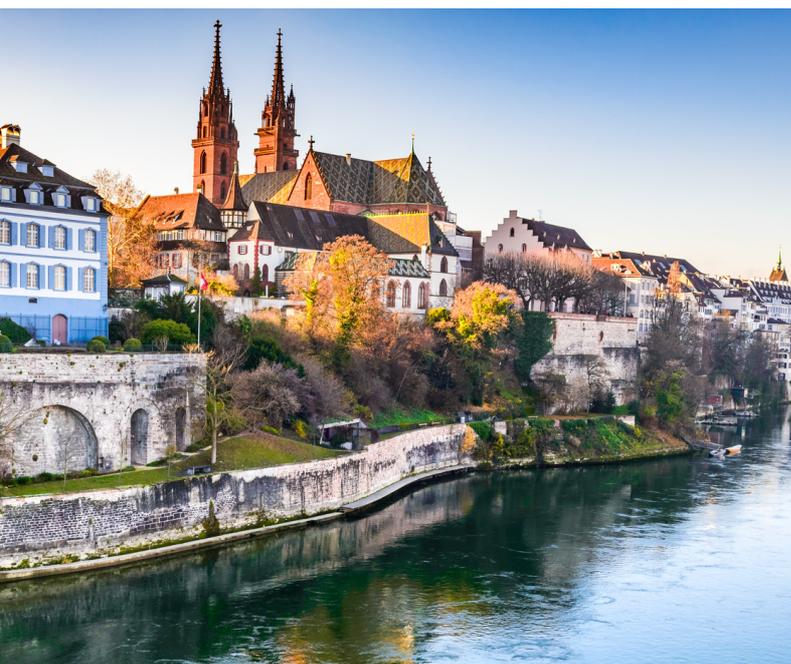
Under this system, tax residents of Switzerland pay taxes on their proven worldwide income and wealth.

2. Lump-sum taxation

It's available to non-Swiss nationals who take up residence in Switzerland for the first time or after an absence of ten years, and will not work in Switzerland. It uses the taxpayer's and his family's lifestyle expense as a tax base, which then is subject to ordinary tax rates. The minimum requirements for calculating income tax based on expenses are:

- ▶ for taxpayers with their own household, the equivalent of seven times the annual rental expense or rental value of their principal residence in Switzerland;
- ▶ for all other taxpayers, the equivalent of three times the cost for lodging and food;

The minimum tax base is set at CHF 400'000 (for Non EU/EFTA citizens is CHF 750'000). As a consequence, the minimal tax burden that collectively the tax payer and his close family members have to face is as little as around CHF 127'000.



The System

Income tax is levied at 3 levels – federal, cantonal and municipal – and tax rates are progressive.

Overall tax rates do not exceed 40 percent and vary according to place of residence.

Wealth tax is only levied at the cantonal and municipal level and ranges from 0.1% to 1%. Spouses and direct descendants are exempt from inheritance and gift tax in most cantons, and certain cantons have no inheritance nor gift tax at all.



How can we assist?

In addition to accounting, payroll and tax consulting services,, Metrika provides a series of complimentary tax, legal, and administrative services, supporting its clients in the following activities:

- ▶ application for residence permits in Switzerland;
- ▶ negotiations of the lump-sum taxation agreement with the authorities;
- ▶ advice in the selection of the domicile;
- ▶ assistance in import formalities regarding personal;
- ▶ filing of other administrative forms and tax returns;
- ▶ set-up of of pre-immigration trusts to achieve tax optimization and wealth protection.

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Metrika is a Swiss independent company specialized in corporate services and business consultancy, with offices in Zürich, Altdorf and Lugano. Its team of highly skilled professionals, which includes both lawyers and certified accountants, has a consolidated expertise in corporate consulting, accounting, payroll management and tax advisory for both individuals and firms. Metrika's approach towards problem solving is based on knowledge and experiences well-grounded on the Swiss territory, strengthened by a global understanding of economic outcomes and international regulatory frameworks.

The close contact the firm has developed with institutions, as well as its integrity, professionalism and high level of confidentiality, make Metrika the ideal partner to develop dynamic and tailor-made solutions for both corporate and private needs.