

MERKBLATT

Enrolment in BVK

This information sheet explains the conditions for enrolment in BVK and the contributions that must be made.

Can I voluntarily purchase additional benefits?

Once the termination benefits from your previous pension plan have been transferred to BVK, we can determine whether there is a pension gap. You can close any gaps by making voluntary purchases. You can find more information in the «Purchase/Persönlicher Einkauf» information sheet or at www.mybvk.ch.

What happens to the termination benefits from previous pension plans?

Upon enrolment in BVK, you are required to transfer all termination benefits from previous pension plans and vested benefit schemes. This will increase the savings used to calculate your retirement pension.

How can I change my savings contribution option?

You can change your savings contribution option every six months, as of 1 January or 1 July. In order for changes to be effective as of 1 July, you must notify us of them by 31 May, while the deadline for changes as of 1 January is 30 November. Your chosen savings contribution option will apply until you make a different choice. The savings contribution option can always be changed as of the next possible date. The easiest way to change the option is in the insured persons' portal, [myBVK](#), where you can also see what effect it will have on your savings. Find out more about the choice of contributions [here](#).

Flexible savings contributions

Insured persons have a say in how much they save in retirement capital.

There are three contribution options:

- a) «Basic» option (-2%)
- b) «Standard» option
- c) «Top» option (+2%)

With the «Basic» option, you pay two percentage points less than you would with the «Standard» option. With the «Top» option, you pay two percentage points more than you would with the «Standard» option. By default, all insured persons are assigned to the «Standard» option.

Employees' savings contributions

Age	«Basic» option	«Standard» option	«Top» option
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21 – 23	2.0%	4.0%	6.0%
24 – 27	3.2%	5.2%	7.2%
28 – 32	4.4%	6.4%	8.4%
33 – 37	5.6%	7.6%	9.6%
38 – 42	6.8%	8.8%	10.8%
43 – 47	8.0%	10.0%	12.0%
48 – 52	8.8%	10.8%	12.8%
53 – 65	9.6%	11.6%	13.6%
66 – 70	4.0%	6.0%	8.0%

The employer always pays its savings contribution in accordance with the «Standard» option.

You can find further information in our «Save flexibly with different contribution options» information sheet or at www.mybvk.ch.

What are the contributions that must be paid?

The contributions are comprised of savings contributions for the retirement pension and risk contributions for disability and life insurance.

Employee's contributions/«Standard» savings contributions

(as a percentage of the insured salary)

Age	Savings contribution	Risk contribution	Total contribution per year
18 – 20	0.0%	0.8%	0.8%
21 – 23	4.0%	0.8%	4.8%
24 – 27	5.2%	0.8%	6.0%
28 – 32	6.4%	0.8%	7.2%
33 – 37	7.6%	0.8%	8.4%
38 – 42	8.8%	0.8%	9.6%
43 – 47	10.0%	0.8%	10.8%
48 – 52	10.8%	0.8%	11.6%
53 – 65	11.6%	0.8%	12.4%
66 – 70	6.0%	0.0%	6.0%

Employer contributions

(as a percentage of the insured salary)

Age	Savings contribution	Risk contribution	Total contribution per year
18 – 20	0.0%	1.2%	1.2%

21 – 23	6.0%	1.2%	7.2%
24 – 27	7.8%	1.2%	9.0%
28 – 32	9.6%	1.2%	10.8%
33 – 37	11.4%	1.2%	12.6%
38 – 42	13.2%	1.2%	14.4%
43 – 47	15.0%	1.2%	16.2%
48 – 52	16.2%	1.2%	17.4%
53 – 65	17.4%	1.2%	18.6%
66 – 70	9.0%	0.0%	18.6%

How are the pension benefits financed?

The benefits are financed through the employee contributions, the employer contributions and the returns on the assets (interest). The employer usually pays 60% of the contributions and the employee 40%. The contributions are deducted directly from the employee's salary each month and transferred to BVK together with the employer contributions.

How much is the coordination deduction?

For a level of employment of 100%, the coordination deduction is CHF 25,725 (as of 2023). For part-time employment, the coordination deduction is adjusted on the basis of the level of employment.

Example

	100%	70%	50%
Qualifying annual salary	CHF 80,000	CHF 56,000	CHF 40,000
- coordination deduction	CHF 25,725	CHF 18,007.50	CHF 12,862.50
= insured salary	CHF 54,275	CHF 37,992.50	CHF 27,137.50

What does «insured salary» include?

The insured salary is the qualifying annual salary reported by the employer (income subject to AHV), less the AHV coordination deduction. As a result, AHV/IV and BVK do not insure the same salary components. On the one hand, the insured salary is the basis for calculating the employee and employer contributions to BVK, and on the other hand it is the basis for calculating disability and death benefits.

At what age can an employee enrol in BVK?

The earliest one can be insured against the risks of death and disability is at age 18. The savings process for the retirement pension provision begins on 1 January of the year in which the insured person turns 21.

What do those who are self-employed who have a secondary position that is registered with BVK need to keep in mind?

Those who are self-employed who have not previously been registered with a pension fund are able to contribute up to CHF 35,280 (as of 2023) or a maximum of 20% of their employment income to Pillar 3a tax-free each year. After enrolling in BVK, the maximum amount is CHF 7,056 (as of 2023). To compensate this difference, the self-employed generally have the option of making tax-privileged BVK buy-ins.

How is qualifying income calculated?

The salary reported by the employer is authoritative. This includes the annual salary and regular allowances. This salary may deviate from the actual gross salary on the salary statement.

The following are not considered regular allowances

Service awards, compensation for overtime, cash payments of holiday, oneoff allowances, rewards from company suggestion schemes, attendance fees, honorariums and severance payments.

Compensation for authorities

This is generally comprised of basic compensation (flat fee), attendance fees and expenses. Only the basic compensation is considered qualifying salary.

In what cases will I not be insured?

Even if your income reaches the entry threshold, you will not be enrolled in the following cases:

- Your position is not permanent and lasted less than three months.
- You are engaged in secondary employment and you are compulsorily insured through your main occupation.
- You are engaged in secondary employment and in your main occupation you are self-employed («Declaration of secondary employment/main occupation» form).
- You are at least 70% disabled under federal disability insurance (IV).

Under what conditions will I, as an employee, be enrolled?

You will be enrolled in BVK if you begin a permanent employment relationship and receive an annual salary of more than CHF 22,050 (as of 1 January 2023). For positions that last less than a year, the salary will be extrapolated to one year.

Example

During a four-month appointment, you earn CHF 20,000. You will be enrolled in BVK because the annual entry threshold of CHF 22,050 is converted for four months. It is thus only CHF 7,350 (CHF 22,050 / 12 months x 4 months).

Government and court interpreters

Government and court interpreters are considered employees. They will be enrolled if they meet the financial entry threshold.

Members of authorities, e.g. municipal councillors, school board members

Members of authorities will be enrolled if their fixed basic compensation reaches the entry threshold.

Which employers can be affiliated with BVK?

BVK is a pension scheme for employees in the canton of Zurich. Many political municipalities, school communities and parishes as well as public-law bodies and institutions associated with the canton can also be affiliated with BVK.

Kontakt

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Rechtlicher Hinweis

Das Merkblatt soll einen vereinfachten Überblick über das Thema verschaffen. Es können keine Ansprüche daraus abgeleitet werden. Rechtlich verbindlich sind ausschliesslich das Vorsorgereglement sowie die einschlägigen Rechtsgrundlagen.