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## Unhappy brewers, happy revenue officers

# 7680

Cook, bake, eat – put on weight. People in Switzerland have been eating more during the pandemic. The average Swiss household spent 7,680 francs on food and drink in 2020 – more than ever before and 11.3 per cent more than in 2019.

# 34 000 000

Beer consumption also increased, right? Wrong. It fell significantly, because no one could visit their local pub for months. The shortfall equates to 34 million fewer glasses of beer served compared to the previous year.

# 10

From civil servants to police officers to teachers – Switzerland's "bloated" public services are one of the things that pub regulars love to grumble about over a beer or three. Let's do a fact check. Ten per cent of employed people work in the public sector. The figure is 14 in Italy, 16 in the UK, 22 in France and as high as 29 in Sweden.

# 56

Sweden? Switzerland? People often confuse the two countries. Are our public-sector workers less happy in their jobs than Sweden's considerable contingent? Not at all. Only 21 per cent would like to change jobs. On the other hand, 56 per cent of Switzerland's private-sector workforce are unhappy in their current job.

# 7160 000 000

Revenue officers also belong to the public sector. Tax exiles certainly do not. Swiss companies and individuals have plenty of wealth squirrelled away abroad – amounting to 5.68 billion francs in lost tax revenue. Foreign tax exiles in Switzerland, on the other hand, provide our country with 12.84 billion francs in additional tax income. This gives a net profit of 7.16 billion francs.

## What about military service if I return to Switzerland?

I am a 19-year-old Swiss citizen who has grown up in Brazil. I am now thinking of doing a bachelor's degree in Switzerland after I leave school. But what about Swiss military service?

Essentially, every Swiss male aged 18 or over must do military service or, alternatively, civilian service until the end of the year in which he reaches the age of 36. If you return to Switzerland, you will therefore be required to fulfil your military service obligation – assuming that you are deemed fit for military service. You are liable for conscription until the end of the year in which you reach the age of 24. You must complete basic military training by the end of the following year, i.e. the year in which you turn 25.

If you wish to study in Switzerland and therefore intend to stay in Switzerland for a period of more than three months, you will be obliged to report to the relevant cantonal district command within 14 days of your arrival for the purpose of carrying out military service. If you come to Switzerland to study after you have turned 25, you will be exempt from military service due to your age. Hence, you will not have to complete basic military training, but you will have to pay military service exemption tax.

Some exceptions apply to dual nationals. If you hold dual nationality and have already carried out military service or civilian service in the other country of which you are a citizen, you no longer have to do military service in Switzerland. However, this does not release you from the obligation to provide notification of your arrival to the district command and pay the military service exemption tax. Only if you have done military service in Germany, France, Austria or Italy will you be exempt from paying the military service exemption tax, owing to agreements that Switzerland has concluded with these countries.

Incidentally, Swiss Abroad can also volunteer to do basic military training in Switzerland. Requests in such cases should be addressed to:

Kommando Ausbildung  
Personelles der Armee  
Steuerung und Vorgaben,  
Rodtmattstrasse 110  
3003 Berne  
tel.: +41 58 464 20 63  
fax: +41 58 464 32 70  
email: [personelles.persa@vtg.admin.ch](mailto:personelles.persa@vtg.admin.ch)  
website: [www.vtg.admin.ch](http://www.vtg.admin.ch)

# In Switzerland for education or training

Information on education in Switzerland specifically for young Swiss Abroad

A good education provides an excellent foundation for a person's professional future. Switzerland is known worldwide for its excellent education system. But the past year, characterised by the Covid-19 pandemic, posed a great challenge to Swiss educational and training institutions and their students and trainees. Universities and universities of applied sciences had to switch to online teaching at very short notice. Apprentices in dual vocational training had to adapt to new rules in their training companies and could sometimes only attend vocational schools virtually. Much social exchange was lost, but the most important thing remained: teaching and training continued without interruption at all levels. Wherever possible, a return to face-to-face teaching is taking place.

Young Swiss people abroad also have the opportunity to come to Switzerland for vocational training or university studies.

Educationsuisse offers information, advice and support free of charge:



- **Information** relating to different educational options such as university studies or vocational training
- **Information relating to specific questions** regarding admission requirements, required language skills, deadlines, accommodation, insurances, etc.
- **Individual counselling** on the topic of education in Switzerland
- **Vocational and study counselling** in cooperation with a professional career counselling provider (fee-based)
- **Assistance** in applying for cantonal scholarships and administrative support
- **Student grants** from educationsuisse and private foundations

The educationsuisse staff speak German, French, Italian, Spanish and English. They will be glad to help and answer questions about education in Switzerland via email, telephone, Skype or on-site in Bern.

## Information and contact

The Swiss education system is illustrated and outlined in an easy-to-follow diagram on [www.educationsuisse.ch](http://www.educationsuisse.ch). The website also contains a lot more information on education in Switzerland. For specific questions, contact [info@educationsuisse.ch](mailto:info@educationsuisse.ch) or phone +41 31 356 61 04.

Educationsuisse  
Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Bern  
Switzerland  
[www.educationsuisse.ch](http://www.educationsuisse.ch)

The ETH professor Thomas Ihn and assistant Philip Verwegen give their lecture in an empty lecture theatre. Such images have characterised everyday life at Swiss universities in recent months.  
Photo: Keystone

## New digital offers for young Swiss Abroad

The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad (OSA) is developing its digital presence and now has an online offer for young Swiss Abroad entitled "Switzerland".

March saw the successful launch of the OSA's first-ever digital offer. Ten participants from around the globe went online. Their objective? To acquaint themselves with one of Switzerland's national languages or improve their existing language skills, making use of a high-quality teaching package in the process. It was an encouraging experience, which is why the offer will be repeated in July and August 2021. Further information as well as application forms are available on our website.

Young Swiss Abroad are also due to hold a congress of their own for the first time ever. It will take place online on 15 and 16 July 2021 in conjunction with the Youth Parliament of the Swiss Abroad (YPSA). Topics of interest such as direct democracy and education in Switzerland will feature on what will be a varied agenda. The virtual meeting will also include lighter cultural elements. The complete schedule and application form are also available on our website.

These new online offers are a way for the OSA to stay in touch with and offer a "piece of Switzerland" to young Swiss Abroad around the world, wherever they live.

### Our website:

[> Youth offers](http://www.swisscommunity.org/en)

Organisation of the Swiss Abroad,  
Youth Service,  
Alpenstrasse 26,  
3006 Berne,  
Switzerland;  
tel.: +41 31 356 61 24;  
email: [youth@swisscommunity.org](mailto:youth@swisscommunity.org)

# Fun in the snow with 600 Swiss teenagers

With a little luck, your children could be enjoying winter sports with teenagers from Switzerland in January 2022. The names of 25 young Swiss Abroad aged 13 to 14 will be pulled out in our draw.



The next youth ski camp (JUSKILA) is scheduled for 2 to 8 January 2022 in Lenk in the Bernese Oberland. Some 600 teenagers aged 13 to 14 will take part, again including 25 teenagers from the "Fifth Switzerland".

Those wishing to attend JUSKILA must be able to speak at least one of Switzerland's three national languages – German, French or Italian. Lots will be drawn to allocate places at the prices shown below, which cover costs including winter sports coaching, food, and accommodation. Parents are responsible for organising and paying for their children's outward and return journey. Children born in 2007 and 2008 are eligible to take part in the draw. We will announce who has won a place on the camp at the end of September.

### Costs

Train tickets for travel within Switzerland, food, accommodation, ski pass, winter sports coaching

**CHF 120.–**

Hire of winter sports gear (skis, poles and ski boots, or snowboard and snowboard boots)

**CHF 50.–**

LOÏC ROTH

### Information:

Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA)  
tel. +41 31 356 61 16, fax +41 31 356 61 01  
email: [info@sjas.ch](mailto:info@sjas.ch), [www.sjas.ch](http://www.sjas.ch)

## Registration form for the draw – JUSKILA Lenk (2 to 8 January 2022)

Please complete in legible block letters.

Girl  Boy

First name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode, City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's language:  German  French  Italian

Type of sport  Alpine skiing  Snowboarding

Tick one box only! After the draw, it will no longer be possible to change sport.

Legal guardian's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality of origin in Switzerland (See passport/ID): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send in the registration form with a copy of the Swiss passport of one parent or of the child by 15 September 2021 (date of receipt) to: Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA), Alpenstrasse 26, 3006 Berne, SWITZERLAND

**PS: The Foundation for Young Swiss Abroad (FYSA) will start hosting winter camps again in the 2022–23 winter season. For scheduling reasons, there will be no FYSA winter camps in the 2021–22 winter season. The timing of the next winter holidays is unfavourable and would result in the winter camp being shorter than usual.**