

Swiss pension, US passport.

US citizens and green card holders are taxed by the US wherever they live. That makes Swiss pension savings more complicated. Here are the four points to know.

01

Pension fund: covered, but reportable

The US and Switzerland have agreed that Swiss pension funds fall under the tax treaty. You still have to report your balance to the US authorities every year.

02

Pillar 3a: careful with funds

Whether Pillar 3a is covered by the treaty is disputed. Swiss investment funds count as PFICs in the US and are taxed harshly. Many banks do not offer 3a securities solutions to US persons at all. A 3a savings account is usually the simpler choice.

03

Reporting duties

Swiss accounts and pension savings must be reported once certain thresholds are reached. Late or missing reports can trigger high penalties. Missed filings can often be corrected, so act early.

04

AHV: your years count in both countries

Switzerland and the US have a social security agreement. Contribution years in both countries are not lost, and the AHV pension can be paid to you in the US.

GET US TAX ADVICE

This flyer is a warning list, not tax advice. Before buying into your pension fund, opening a 3a solution or withdrawing capital, talk to a **US tax specialist**.

Plan the payout before you move.

Lump sum when moving to the US

A lump sum from your pension fund or Pillar 3a is often taxable in the US, even if Switzerland has already withheld tax. Under the treaty, the Swiss withholding tax can often be reclaimed.

Pension or lump sum at retirement

A lifelong pension is paid to the US as well. For US persons it is often simpler to report and plan than a large one-off payment.

Timing matters

Whether you withdraw before or after the move, and in which year, can change the tax bill on both sides. Plan the order with your adviser before you hand in your notice.

Buy-ins

A buy-in saves Swiss tax, but the US may treat it differently. Check the US side before you pay in a large amount.

DO THIS NOW

- ☐ List all Swiss accounts and pension savings
- ☐ Hold Pillar 3a in a savings account, not funds
- ☐ Ask a US tax specialist before buy-ins
- ☐ Check that your US reports are complete
- ☐ Order your AHV account statement
- ☐ Plan withdrawals before any move

KEY THRESHOLDS

USD 10,000

Total of all foreign accounts at any time in the year: FBAR report required

USD 200,000

Single filer living abroad, at year end (USD 300,000 at any time): Form 8938

CHF 7,373

Maximum Pillar 3a contribution per year with a pension fund (2027)