

# 10 things to consider when moving to Switzerland

Private Clients



Whether you want to launch a new business in the innovation capital or simply enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world, Switzerland offers many attractive opportunities. And the country even makes it easy for you to settle in and feel at home. However, there are a few things you should consider before taking up residence.



## Where to live

Whether you prefer the buzzing city life of Zurich or are looking for a more rural setting, think about what you want from the location rather than being swayed by tax rates. Whilst rates differ significantly from canton to canton, you will find an attractive tax climate everywhere in Switzerland.



## Immigration [\(Find out more\)](#)

If you are an EU or EFTA citizen, and are financially independent, you can simply come to Switzerland and apply for a residency permit. If you are a non-EU/EFTA citizen, however, you may be granted a permit based on your job, the amount of taxes you pay, or if you can prove you have close ties to Switzerland.



## Acquisition of real estate

It might take a while to find your perfect abode, but as an EU/EFTA citizen, you can opt to rent, or even to buy, a property, including a holiday home in the mountains. As a non-EU/EFTA citizen however, you may only buy a property if you intend to use it as your primary residence.



## Lump sum vs. ordinary taxation [\(Find out more\)](#)

If you are neither a Swiss citizen nor intending to work in Switzerland, and are taking up residence here for the first time (or after an absence of 10 years), you can opt for the lump-sum taxation. Under this regime, your annual living expenses are used as the basis for your taxation and not your effective income/wealth. However, ordinary taxation is also very attractive, with cantons with maximum income tax rates of around 21%.



## Establishing your own business

Switzerland is a highly attractive business location and regularly tops international innovation rankings, so why not set up your own business in Switzerland? This can generally be done through a corporation or limited liability company, which can be established in little more than a week.



### Medical insurance

The Swiss enjoy an excellent healthcare system, which has you well covered for all eventualities through the mandatory Swiss medical insurance system. Nevertheless, you may want to opt for supplementary medical insurance to have even better coverage. Should you already have foreign private medical insurance, you may choose to keep this insurance, subject to some conditions.



### Customs duties

Aside from filling out the necessary paperwork, you don't have to worry about customs duties when moving to Switzerland. You can bring all your belongings, household goods including your cars and artworks duty-free as 'moving goods' and set up your new home comfortably.



### Schooling

The Swiss public school system rightly enjoys an excellent reputation. With its flexible approach, every child can follow the path that suits their strengths – and the options are extremely varied. There is also a wide range of private and international schools on offer. It is safe to say that your child will enjoy very high educational standards in Switzerland whatever you choose.



### Tax ruling

Like most people, you probably don't like uncertainties, especially when it comes to your taxes. Switzerland is known for its tax rulings, which give you clarity about the taxation of your income and wealth in Switzerland – before you even move here.



### Exit taxes

Although we are confident that you will love living in Switzerland, there might be reasons to leave the country at some point, depending on your career or family choices. At least from a Swiss tax point of view, there is nothing to worry about. Switzerland does not apply any exit taxes.

## Who we are

KPMG's Private Client team in Switzerland consists of around 40 lawyers, tax advisors and financial experts who can support you regarding all aspect in the context of moving to Switzerland, including obtaining the residence permit, reviewing contracts, updating your last will and obtaining tax rulings. To do this holistically and with your specific situation in mind, we call on KPMG's private client advisors in 154 jurisdictions and coordinate seamlessly with a large pool of selected local and international partners.

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## Contacts

### Hugues Salomé

Partner  
Head Private Clients  
Tax & Legal  
+41 58 249 37 75  
hsalome@kpmg.com

### Philipp Zünd

Director  
Private Clients  
Tax & Legal  
+41 58 249 59 76  
pzuend@kpmg.com

### Rinaldo Neff

Director  
Private Clients  
Tax & Legal  
+41 58 249 50 24  
rneff@kpmg.com

### Simone Leonardi

Senior Manager  
International Corporate Tax  
Zurich and Lugano  
+41 58 249 32 49  
sleonardi@kpmg.com

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