

Notice concerning purchases

Purchasing a contribution year enables you to improve your benefits and provides a tax advantage.

This document will answer your key questions.

Why make a purchase?

- To fill any gaps in coverage that may result from:
 - a payment made in connection with divorce
 - a late start to the savings process
 - arrival from abroad
 - a salary increase
 - a change of pension plan or selected savings category
- To increase your normal retirement benefits
- To prefinance early retirement
- To increase your benefits in case of disability or death (unless they are calculated on the basis of salary)
- Tax deductibility (to be checked individually with your tax authority)

How do I know if I am eligible to make a purchase?

You will find an overview of the target purchase amount in section 8 of your pension certificate.

This amount is indicative only. <https://copre.ch/en/documents/#formulaires>

In order to determine the definitive amount, you must complete the form “Request for calculation of maximum purchase” which is available on our website at:

Once completed, this form must be given to your Pension Fund Support Employee, who will confirm the maximum purchase possible for you and provide you with a purchase simulation that will show you the figures (retirement savings capital, pension benefits, risk benefit) before and after the voluntary contribution. You can also perform simulations to show the impact of a purchase via the individual webportal that is available for you.

It is important to answer all of the questions and to provide the requested supporting documents. Otherwise, it will not be possible to perform the calculation.

How is the maximum purchase value determined on the calculation date?

If you have any missing contribution years, there may be a purchase gap of up to the maximum amount of the contributions provided for in your pension plan (Article 79b(1) Federal Law on Occupational Retirement, Survivors’ and Disability Pension Plans (BVG/LPP)).

Therefore, based on your current situation (age, salary, level of employment, etc.) and the pension plan to which you are subject, Copré will calculate the maximum target amount that you could have accumulated from the reference age at which the savings process started until the purchase calculation date.

The calculation must take into account all assets accumulated with other pension funds (e.g., vested benefits foundation, etc.) (whether transferred or not). These are deducted from the purchase options.

If you have been self-employed during your professional career, the pension fund will check that any 3rd pillar assets you hold do not exceed the limits based on the purchase table drawn up by the Federal Social Insurance Office (FSIO) (Article 60a(2) of the Ordinance on Occupational Old Age, Survivors’ and Invalidity Pension Provision (OPO 2)). If those limits are exceeded, the excess portion will be deducted from the purchasable amount.

If you have moved to Switzerland from abroad within the last 5 years and have never been affiliated to a Swiss pension fund, the purchase is limited to 20% of the insured savings salary (Article 60b(1) of the OPO 2).

This notice is for information purposes only. Our pension regulation (<https://copre.ch/en/documents/#reglements>) and the statutory provisions shall remain applicable at all times.

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Purchases to prefinance early retirement

If you wish to retire before the statutory retirement age, the conversion rate will be lower and your retirement pension will be reduced as a result. In this case, you may make additional purchases to fully or partially compensate for the reduction in your retirement benefits. Please note that purchases that are intended to finance early retirement are only permitted if the normal purchase options have been exhausted.

In order to assess your ability to effect purchases that will enable early retirement, you will need to indicate the date of your desired early retirement in order to obtain a precise calculation from our teams. The retirement date for which you made a purchase has to be respected.

Are purchases subject to any restrictions?

- No lump-sum capital payments for 3 years
 - During the 3 years following the purchase, no lump-sum capital payments (including interest) may be made, whether in the event of retirement, the start of self-employment, an EPL (encouragement of home ownership) withdrawal or a definitive departure from Switzerland. If, however, an insured person requests a lump-sum capital payment (purchase amounts remain blocked), the tax authorities will reconsider the tax deduction applied at the time in question.
- Payment of a retirement pension
 - If you actually retire during the 3-year blocking period, the retirement benefits will be paid out exclusively in the form of a pension.
- No purchases if an EPL withdrawal is pending
 - If you have made an early withdrawal under the encouragement of home ownership scheme (EPL) that you have not yet repaid, you cannot make a purchase. In order to make a purchase, the EPL withdrawal must first be repaid in full.
- Early retirement
 - It is important that your retirement benefits do not exceed your pension plan target by more than 5% (Article 1b(2) of the OPO 2). This may happen if you do not want to retire at the age for which you effected the purchases. In such an eventuality, the foundation will make a reduction in accordance with the provisions of the pension regulation.

When can I effect my purchases?

Once you have received confirmation of the maximum purchase amount, you can proceed with the payment for your purchase.

The purchase may be made throughout the year but must be recorded in the foundation account no later than the last business day of the year (for tax treatment in the current year).

A purchase is possible up to the date of actual retirement or departure of the insured person (exception under Article 47a of the BVG/LPP).

What else should I pay attention to?

The foundation does not guarantee the tax deductibility of purchases. It is the responsibility of the insured person to obtain information from the competent tax authority. The payment must come from an account held in your name.

Do you still have any questions?

Get in touch with us:

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