

Press release of 26 August 2025

To save their occupational pension benefits (LPP/BVG), the Swiss would be prepared to raise the retirement age.

Given a choice, the Swiss would rather raise the retirement age than reduce their pension benefits. This surprising result is the main finding of an MIS Trend survey conducted in July on behalf of Groupe Mutuel and Le Temps, as part of the 6th Forum Prévoyance to be held on 9 September 2025.

Martigny, 26 August 2025. A surprising result. Swiss people would rather raise the retirement age than reduce their pension benefits. These are the findings of a recent exclusive survey conducted by MIS Trend on behalf of Groupe Mutuel and Le Temps, as part of the 6th Forum Prévoyance to be held in Lausanne on 9 September 2025 and Focus Day in Zurich on 28 August 2025.

Although the question of raising the retirement age has long been considered taboo, it seems to be gradually gaining ground among the Swiss population. When asked whether in the future they would have to choose between raising the retirement age or reducing benefits to fund the pension system, the Swiss clearly favour raising the retirement age (61% versus 39%). Men in particular (74%) and the 45-65 age group (68%) are in favour of this measure. It is also surprising to note that the differences between left, right and centre political parties are minimal. Switzerland, which has long lagged behind its neighbours on the issue of retirement age, seems at last to be realising that if measures need to be taken, raising the retirement age seems an effective solution. This would guarantee decent pensions in the long term in the face of increasing life expectancy. At the same time, and not surprisingly following the lost vote on the reform of the LPP/BVG in September 2024, the Swiss do not want to hear about a reduction in the conversion rate.

The Swiss pension system is not easy to reform. The recent defeat of the latest reform project in September 2024 served as a reminder of this. At present, the only reform that the Swiss are in favour of is the proposal to start contributing to pensions from the age of 18 instead of the current 25. 77% of those surveyed are very or fairly in favour of such an initiative. This is a simple reform that could clearly be implemented quickly.

Confidence in the Swiss pension system remains intact and has remained very stable over the last five years. Still according to the data collected by MIS Trend, the Swiss have greater confidence in the 2nd pillar than in the 1st pillar (AVS/AHV). However, the 3rd pillar comes out on top when it comes to consolidating retirement savings. The Swiss are very much in favour of this option, which could be further strengthened if the taxes on the 3rd pillar were made even more attractive, rather than lowered as some would like.

The survey revealed a fairly sharp drop in concern about retirement income. There is also little difference between the choice of capital income and pension, but withdrawing the capital income is gaining ground

over the years. On the other hand, early retirement seems to be less of an option. Finally, it is pleasing to note that knowledge of the pension system has increased slightly according to this latest survey. People are more interested in the health of their pension funds, which is probably a result of the geopolitical situation.

Finally, we also took advantage of this survey to ask a question about the funding of the 13th AVS/AHV pension. How the 13th pension will be funded has not yet been decided. Two projects are under discussion. When asked to choose between the two options currently on the table, the Swiss have no clear preference if they were to vote at this time, although mixed funding (increased social security contributions + VAT) appears to have a slight lead.



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