



Canton of Basel-Stadt

Basel is situated at the border triangle where Switzerland, France and Germany meet. Since the Middle Ages, Basel has been an important transport hub on the river Rhine in the heart of Europe. Even today it is difficult to get around the city, since this is the point where the train and motorway networks of France, Germany and Switzerland intersect. The binational EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg and the Swiss Rhine ports link Basel with the rest of the world. Basel owes its status as an industrial, trading and trade fair centre to the river Rhine. The Canton of Basel-Stadt comprises the city itself as well as the rural communities of Riehen and Bettingen in the north. Riehen is a small town that has managed to preserve its village character. It is also the first European city to receive an award for its progressive energy policy and is generally considered to offer the highest quality of life in Switzerland.

Covering a mere 37 square kilometres, the Canton of Basel-Stadt is home to a population of around 200,000 people from 160 different nations. Situated at the heart of Switzerland's most dynamic economic region, the canton is also one of the most innovative and productive regions worldwide. The working population is highly qualified and multinational. Around 70,000 commuters from Germany and France cross the border every day to work here and 40,000 expats have made the Basel region their home. Basel's success is primarily attributable to the output of knowledge-based industries, not least among them the chemical-pharmaceutical industry. Thanks to its central location, international companies benefit from Basel's excellent transport connections which comprise air travel, railroads, motorways and, particularly important for the logistics industry, waterways. Every year, international trade fairs – first and foremost among them the Baselworld watch and jewellery show and the Art Basel fair – as well as the city's renowned architecture attract hundreds of thousands of visitors from all over the world. On top of this, the Canton of Basel-Stadt offers a comprehensive and affordable public transport network.

As the city of Humanism and the oldest university town in Switzerland, Basel has a long-standing tradition as a centre of education. The range of training and education available in Basel is extremely extensive and varied. This includes public school, universities of applied sciences, the University, private colleges and numerous other institutions. It is the diversity of around 40 museums, such as for example the world-renowned Fondation Beyeler in Riehen, and a dozen theatres, in particular the Theatre Basel, as well as cinemas, concert halls, Switzerland's most modern Musical Theatre and a variety of open air concerts which lend the cultural city of Basel its particular charm. Basel is also Switzerland's sporting centre, with the football club FC Basel and the Swiss Indoors, one of the most important indoor tennis competitions in the world. The famous Basel Fasnacht (or carnival) and the Herbstmesse (autumn funfair) attract a great many visitors to the city from other parts of Switzerland and abroad. Family-friendly policies are supported, and families benefit from the Basel's family pass (which is unique in Switzerland) as well as the museum pass, which is also valid in neighbouring countries, and provides access to a wide variety of special offers in the fields of culture and sport. The weather is another factor that contributes to the high quality of life in Basel. Thanks to its favourable location in the Rhine lowland, Basel enjoys more sunshine hours on average than the Swiss midlands.

Taxes ...

The Swiss tax system reflects the state's federal structure. In Switzerland, taxes are imposed by the federal government, the 26 cantons as well as the approx. 2,800 municipalities. This means each canton has its own tax laws and levies different levels of tax on income, assets and inheritance, capital gains and real estate capital gains as well as other tax objects. The federal government's tax harmonisation legislation limits the disparities between the cantons. This establishes basic principles pertaining to tax liability, the object and periodic assessment of the taxes, procedural rules and criminal tax law. Tax rates and personal tax allowances are not affected by the harmonisation. For taxpayers, the taxes imposed by the cantons and municipalities are much more significant than those levied by the federal government.

The Canton of Basel-Stadt imposes taxes on natural persons and legal entities, as well as on real estate property and motor vehicles. Private persons domiciled in the Canton of Basel-Stadt are liable for tax from the age of 18 onwards. In addition, self-employed persons, members of partnerships and real estate owners in the Canton of Basel-Stadt are also liable for tax. Companies are liable for tax if their registered domicile or actual management is located in the Canton of Basel-Stadt. They are also liable for tax if they are part-owners of business enterprises in the Canton of Basel-Stadt, maintain permanent establishments or are owners or usufructuaries of real estate.

The inhabitants of the City of Basel pay only cantonal income tax and cantonal asset tax. The City of Basel does not impose any municipal taxes. By contrast, the inhabitants of the municipalities of Bettingen and Riehen also pay municipal taxes in addition to the cantonal taxes. The





Further information

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cantonal share amounts to 50% of the full income tax and asset tax. This means the residential municipalities have the opportunity to set independent tax multiples – both in respect of income tax, as well as in respect of asset tax – within the framework of the municipal tax share of 50%.

Real estate capital gains tax as well as gift and inheritance tax are levied by the canton irrespective of the particular municipality in which the taxpayer is domiciled. Profit tax and capital tax imposed on legal entities are also levied by the canton, whereby tax shares are earmarked for the rural municipalities. Real estate capital gains tax, real estate transfer tax and value added duty are likewise collected by the canton.

Natural persons who are domiciled in the Canton of Basel-Stadt are taxable and are taxed within the framework of the ordinary tax assessment procedure. These individuals must in each case submit a tax return during the calendar year following the respective tax period. Income and asset taxes are payable on 31 May of the calendar year which follows the tax period.

Foreign workers who do not have permanent residency status, but who are domiciled in the Canton of Basel-Stadt, are taxed at source for income derived from non-self-employed work. These withholding tax rates correspond to the cantonal tax and direct federal tax tariffs which are imposed within the framework of the ordinary tax procedure. It is essentially the case that persons whose income is taxed at source are not obliged to submit tax returns such as is required by the ordinary tax procedure. However, a retrospective ordinary tax assessment will be conducted inter alia if the income which has been taxed at source of a person domiciled within the Canton exceeds CHF 120,000.00 in a calendar year.

Income tax

A tariff and deduction system came into force in the Canton of Basel-Stadt which had the result of reducing income tax while simultaneously excluding the minimum subsistence level of income from taxation. In the case of persons domiciled in the City of Basel, once the standard deductions have been taken into account (occupational expenses flat-rate, insurance deduction, social insurance deductions), the following cantonal income tax rates will be imposed from the 2019 tax period onwards (not including direct federal tax).

Individual person, without children, gainfully employed

Net salary of	CHF	50,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	5,459.00
Net salary of	CHF	75,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	10,897.00
Net salary of	CHF	100,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	16,334.00
Net salary of	CHF	150,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	27,207.00
Net salary of	CHF	250,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	50,434.00

Married couple, without children, both spouses gainfully employed at a ratio of 70% to 30%

Net salary of	CHF	50,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	22.00
Net salary of	CHF	75,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	5,459.00
Net salary of	CHF	100,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	10,897.00
Net salary of	CHF	150,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	21,772.00
Net salary of	CHF	250,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	43,522.00

Married couple, two children, both spouses gainfully employed at a ratio of 70% to 30%

Net salary of	CHF	50,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	0.00
Net salary of	CHF	75,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	2,023.00
Net salary of	CHF	100,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	7,460.00
Net salary of	CHF	150,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	18,335.00
Net salary of	CHF	250,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	40,085.00

Single person, two children, gainfully employed

Net salary of	CHF	50,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	0.00
Net salary of	CHF	75,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	4,829.00
Net salary of	CHF	100,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	10,266.00
Net salary of	CHF	150,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	21,141.00
Net salary of	CHF	250,000.00	tax burden of	CHF	42,891.00

Tax calculations
www.steuerverwaltung.bs.ch/steuerechner

The income tax burden in the residential municipalities of Bettingen and Riehen may be around 10 per cent lower than in the City of Basel.

Asset tax

The following personal allowances apply to asset tax: CHF 150,000.00 for married persons and for single persons with children, and CHF 75,000.00 for all other taxable persons. Household effects and personal items including motor vehicles for daily use are not taxed. The tax burden is lessened by assets and securities if the generated income is low relative to their market value. In other respects, tax is reduced in the case of assets which generate modest returns.