



Motherhood and Family

In Switzerland persons with children receive financial support through child and education benefits. Working mothers are entitled to paid maternity leave of at least 14 weeks.

Maternity Compensation

Generally, working mothers are entitled to a paid maternity leave (Mutterschaftsurlaub | congé maternité) of 14 weeks. During this time they receive at least 80 percent of their wages. Unemployed women or women unable to work should ask the Compensation Office of Canton Bern (Ausgleichskasse des Kantons Bern | caisse de compensation du canton de Berne) whether they also qualify. In this case, special rules apply. Women are not permitted to work during the first eight weeks following childbirth (maternity protection).

Paternity Leave

Fathers are entitled to two weeks of paid paternity leave after the birth of a child. Unlike maternity leave, paternity leave is flexible: one can take it at one time or in individual days. However, only within six months after the birth of the child.

Family Allowances

Persons with children receive financial support through family benefits (Familienzulagen | allocations familiales). These are issued as child support until a child reaches age 16 and as an education allowance for young people until the age of 25. All parents are entitled to these benefits, whether they are employed, self-employed, or unemployed with little means. Employees receive the allowances with their monthly wages. Additional information on family benefits will be provided by employers or community social insurance offices. The amount paid differs according to canton.

Additional information (links, addresses, information sheets, brochures)

www.hallo-bern.ch/en/social-security/motherhood-and-family