



Employment Market in Canton Aargau

Fundamentally, Swiss labor law is comprised of considerably fewer regulations than the legal system of EU states. Hence freedom from regulation is substantially greater. Further, jurisdiction is rather liberal. In Swiss industrial law mainly the following stimulants apply:

- Swiss code of Obligations
- Participatory law
- Equality law
- Labor Act

Normal working hours in Switzerland are between 40 and 44 hours a week.

Generally, costs of labor in Aargau are 10% lower than in Zurich or Basel. Aargau has great potential in terms of the prospect of a well-educated workforce. Not least of all thanks to a superb educational system hosting Northwest Switzerland's Technical College of Higher Education, which continually trains highly qualified workers. Aargau also lies in the catchment area of the great universities of Zurich, Basel and Bern. Besides this, Aargau's asset of being a border canton enables a rich possibility of employing cross-border commuters. Aargau is a popular canton of residence with a high standard of living and 70,000 commuters – not mentioning the corresponding potential workforce.

The following overview shows the current minimum wage average in Canton Aargau for various professions with different educational levels:

| Profession | Education | Minimum wage average <i>(monthly) starting at 20 years of age until retirement</i> |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| <i>Computer scientist</i> | Professional apprenticeship | CHF 5'500 |
| | Secondary school diploma | CHF 7'200 |
| | Diploma from Institute of Higher Education (for example: Economic Computer scientist) | CHF 7'700 |
| <i>Salesperson</i> | Professional apprenticeship | CHF 5'000 |
| | Diploma from Institute of Higher Education | CHF 7'400 |
| <i>Mechanical Engineer</i> | Professional apprenticeship | CHF 5'000 |
| | Operating Management with Secondary school diploma | CHF 6'300 |
| <i>Chemist</i> | Operating Management with Diploma from Institute of Higher Education | CHF 7'200 |
| | Professional apprenticeship (Laboratory assistant) | CHF 4'800 |
| | Diploma from Institute of Higher Education | CHF 7'000 |

Unemployment 2005:

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|--------------------|------|
| Canton Aargau | 2.9% |
| All of Switzerland | 3.3% |

Further information regarding this subject can be found at:

www.ag.ch/awa