

Salaries

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Salaries in Ticino are lower than in the rest of Switzerland. In 2022 the median gross monthly salary in Ticino was CHF 5,301, against CHF 6,510 for Switzerland. For men the figures were CHF 5,532 and CHF 6,816 respectively, and for women CHF 4,812 and CHF 6,017.¹ The cantonal statistical yearbook does not publish a separate median for financial services in Ticino, so that the gap within banking cannot be stated precisely from official tables. Financial services are among the best-paid sectors in every Swiss region. Bank salaries in Lugano are generally reported to lie above the cantonal median and below those for comparable positions in Zurich and Geneva.² For banks this is a cost advantage and a recruitment disadvantage. It allows operations centres and back offices to work at lower cost than in the German- and French-speaking centres, but it makes it harder to retain senior specialists who can earn more north of the Gotthard.

1 Training: from the Centro di Studi Bancari to the CSVN

The training institution of the Ticino financial centre is located at Villa Negroni in Vezia, just north of Lugano. In 1989 the ABT created the Centro di Studi Bancari there, which René Chopard directed for many years.³ In 2006 the centre offered fifteen courses with certification lasting from six months to three years, ten intensive courses, thirty seminars, thirty-two basic courses and about twenty tailor-made courses a year, with some 4,000 participants and around 260 instructors. Its programmes covered finance, banking, banking and financial law, financial taxation, management of financial institutions and private and social insurance. The centre also published research volumes and newsletters on tax and compliance matters.⁴ Today the institution operates as the Centro Studi Villa Negroni (CSVN). According to the ABT it was "born in 1990 on the initiative of the ABT and became a foundation in 2009", and it describes itself as the reference institution in Ticino for continuing education in insurance,

Salaries

banking, finance and fiduciary activities.⁵ The two sources differ by one year on the date of foundation, presumably because one counts the decision of the association and the other the start of operations.

On 1 September 2026 the CSVN foundation became associated with the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), after the cantonal government had approved the association on 8 July 2026. The agreement provides for joint development of training programmes, the mutual involvement of teachers and staff and the organization of joint events.⁶ The association brings the professional training of the financial centre closer to the cantonal system of universities of applied sciences. University education in finance is offered above all by the Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) in Lugano and its Institute of Finance, which participates in the Swiss Finance Institute, as described in Chapter I.III.

2 Notes

1. USTAT, Il Ticino in cifre 2025 (above) (gross monthly salaries, median, 2022). ↩
2. Federal Statistical Office, Swiss Earnings Structure Survey (LSE), regional results by economic section. ↩
3. Chopard, "Centro di Studi Bancari" (2006, above) ("Nel 1989 l'Associazione Bancaria Ticinese ... ha creato il Centro di Studi Bancari"); Chopard is described as director of the Centro di Studi Bancari in the Dati articles cited above. ↩
4. Chopard (2006, above). ↩
5. Associazione Bancaria Ticinese, "La Fondazione CSVN si associa alla SUPSI" (21 August 2026), <https://www.abti.ch/la-fondazione-csvn-si-associa-alla-supsi/> ("Nato nel 1990 su impulso dell'Associazione Bancaria Ticinese e costituitosi Fondazione nel 2009"). ↩
6. Associazione Bancaria Ticinese (21 August 2026, above) ("dal 1° settembre 2026 la Fondazione CSVN sarà associata alla SUPSI, a seguito dell'approvazione del Consiglio di Stato dello scorso 8 luglio"). ↩

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