

Opening Hours / Holidays

Most shops are closed on Sundays in Switzerland with the exception of shops in railway stations. Official holidays are defined by the cantons.

Holidays

Public holidays are regulated by the Labour Law and are legally equivalent to Sundays. August 1st (National Day) is a statutory public holiday throughout Switzerland. Additionally, each canton can establish additional official holidays.

- New Year's Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Monday
- Ascension Day
- Whit Monday
- Swiss National Day
- Christmas Day
- St. Stephen's Day (St. Stephen's Day is not celebrated if Christmas Day falls on a Monday or Friday.)

Shop Hours

Appenzell Ausserrhoden: Longer shopping only in Herisau

In the canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden, the municipalities decide on possible extended store opening hours. This has so far only been introduced in the main town of Herisau. There, large retailers like Migros and Coop keep their stores open longer. Migros is open every day from 7 AM to 8 PM, and on Saturdays from 7 AM to 6 PM. Coop participates in the Friday evening sales.

Smaller businesses usually close at 6:30 PM. On Sundays, stores must generally remain closed, with a maximum of four Sunday sales allowed per year.

However, municipalities can issue exceptions for Sunday sales if "circumstances justify it." These criteria can include, for example, flower shops, gas station shops, bakeries, or kiosks, according to the canton on request.

Office Hours for Public Services

The cantonal public services are, in general, open Mondays through Fridays from 7.30 to 12.00 and from 13.30 to 17.00. Office hours for community public services vary greatly. Particularly small communities may have limited opening hours. Finding out in advance what the opening hours are, by telephone or internet, is recommended.

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

www.hallo-ar.ch/en/good-to-know/opening-hours-holidays