



VAUD

THE CANTON OF VAUD | 2023

*Overview of the third most populated canton in Switzerland.
Attractive, prosperous and thriving.*

04

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Territory, population, employment.

OVERVIEW

TOURISM

4 With its terraced vineyards, alpine peaks, open spaces in the Jura and the authentic charm of its countryside, lakeshores and historical streets, Vaud offers an impressive variety of sites and scenery. All of Switzerland's beauty can be found in this canton.

This enviable and quite animated art of living boasts a wide range of cultural activities. Tourists and residents alike are charmed by the local or internationally-renowned events organised by the Canton, as well as by its long-standing traditions, open-air sports, regional expertise, typical and top-class gastronomy and outstanding wines.

EDUCATION

The Canton of Vaud is one of Switzerland's most important education centres, home to a famous university and to the country's second institute for science and technology (EPFL).

More than ten higher education institutions (HES) provide professional training and research opportunities in fields as varied as engineering, healthcare, education, design, the arts, as well as hotel management.

Furthermore, the Canton promotes the dual vocational training system that is specific to Switzerland: craftsmen, businesses and the public sector dispense practical training and offer paid employment opportunities for young people in 200 different jobs, while vocational schools deliver the corresponding theoretical teaching.

CULTURE

With its many cultural venues and sites, events and festivals, the Canton attracts a large audience from far beyond its borders. All forms of artistic expression by well-established artists are represented here. Additionally, young designers in Vaud benefit from prestigious training, financial support and many opportunities to present their work.

Moreover, the Canton has over 80 museums devoted to the fine arts, science, history and many other subjects ranging from photography to games and food. The Canton's cultural legacy includes the extraordinary Lavaux vineyards, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

HEALTHCARE

5 The Canton of Vaud boasts an effective healthcare system. The healthcare network brings together doctors, homecare services, medical and social establishments as well as hospitals and other healthcare providers. This network thus offers a comprehensive range of services.

The Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV) is one of the five university hospitals in Switzerland and is known for being among the best hospitals in the world. It plays a leading role in Europe in areas such as medical care, research and training.



AUTHORITIES

THE LEGISLATURE

Legislative power is exercised by the Grand Council, a parliament composed of 150 members elected by proportional representation. The constituencies correspond to the districts, ensuring that all regions of the Canton are represented.

The Grand Council sits every Tuesday except during school holidays. Its sessions are open to the public and broadcasted on the Internet.

GROUPS IN THE GRAND COUNCIL

LIBERAL-RADICAL (PLR)

- 50 members

SOCIALIST (SOC)

- 32 members

GREEN (VER)

- 25 members

SWISS PEOPLE'S PARTY (UDC)

- 23 members

GREEN-LIBERAL (V'L)

- 13 members

ENSEMBLE À GAUCHE

AND SWISS WORKERS PARTY (EP)

- 7 members

THE EXECUTIVE

Executive power is exercised by the Council of State, a government composed of 7 members elected by the people for 5 years. Each Councillor of State heads a department. Three parties are represented in the Council of State: Liberal-Radical (3), Socialist (2), Green (1) and Centre (1).



In the photo, from left to right:
Vassilis Venizelos
Isabelle Moret
Rebecca Ruiz
Christelle Luisier Brodard
Nuria Gorrite
Frédéric Borloz
Valérie Dittli

COUNCIL OF STATE

CHRISTELLE LUISIER BRODARD

• *Liberal-Radical*

PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE

MINISTER OF INSTITUTIONS,
TERRITORY AND SPORT

REBECCA RUIZ

• *Socialist*

MINISTER OF HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

ISABELLE MORET

• *Liberal-Radical*

MINISTER OF ECONOMY,
INNOVATION, EMPLOYMENT
AND HERITAGE

VASSILIS VENIZELOS

• *Green*

MINISTER OF YOUTH,
ENVIRONMENT AND
SECURITY

NURIA GORRITE

• *Socialist*

MINISTER OF CULTURE,
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND HUMAN RESOURCES

FREDERIC BORLOZ

• *Liberal-Radical*

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
AND VOCATIONAL
TRAINING

VALERIE DITTLI

• *Centre*

MINISTER OF FINANCE
AND AGRICULTURE

TODAY

DEPUTATION IN THE FEDERAL CHAMBERS

As the third most populated canton in Switzerland after Zurich and Bern, Vaud has a deputation of 19 seats at the National Council (lower chamber of the Federal Parliament); and, as every canton, Vaud has two seats at the Council of States (upper chamber). Federal elections take place every four years.

THE JUDICIARY

The authorities and offices attached to the Judiciary branch are the Cantonal Court, the District Courts, the Juvenile Court, the Tenancy Court, the Court for Coercive Measures and Enforcement of Sentences, the Justices of the Peace, the Debt Enforcement Office, the Bankruptcy Office and the Cantonal Commercial Registry.

Elected in 2022 following a health crisis that put the institutions and the economy to the test, the Council of State has adopted a legislative programme for the 2022 – 2027 period with an action plan based on three themes.

FREEDOM AND INNOVATION: TRANSFORMING RESOURCES INTO ASSETS

Open to Europe and the world as shown by its population and its competitive economy, the Canton of Vaud has been an attractive and prosperous territory for many years. It aspires to remain so. Such prosperity is linked to several factors which are to be consolidated and developed in the coming years: a strong ability to innovate, the excellence of its higher education institutions, a dense network of vocational training, as well as an economic fabric made up of dynamic and diversified businesses. These are all essential assets in preparing for climate, energy and digital transitions in particular. The unique presence of a global hub for international sport and the richness of the cultural offer complete the overview of a canton where entrepreneurial freedom combines with quality of life. These assets must find support on a dynamic labour market and healthy public finances. Yet, new momentum is needed so that framework conditions enable everyone to succeed. This requires concerted actions and great balance: namely lower taxes for both physical persons and different specific sectors of the economic, competitive infrastructures, housing that meets expectations as well as an education system allowing everyone to develop their potential and move towards promising careers.



SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE: TAKING ACTIONS TO MEET GLOBAL CHALLENGES

The undeniable effect of the global warming, which is currently underway, has direct consequences on the environment, health and the quality of life. Protecting the climate has now become the focus of many actions deployed by public authorities. Energy transition should be part of a global approach taking into consideration financial, legal and personal issues. This approach should aim for a sustainable economy, an efficient and less energy-consuming mobility system, as well as resilient agriculture. Furthermore, it should strive to preserve biodiversity and protect natural environments. So as to achieve this transition it is crucial to develop the skills needed to implement it. In order to keep pace with the significant changes in our society and behaviour, the Government ensures that it sets an example, while it documents the impact of climate change and the effects of the measures implemented.

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BUILDING AN OPEN-MINDED AND UNIFIED SOCIETY: THE ROLE OF THE INSTITUTIONS

At a time when crises tend to accumulate, when uncertainties and even polarisation are increasing within the population, the need to preserve political and democratic institutions catering to the common good deserve to be reasserted. In this respect, the Vaud Council of State intends to continue building an open-minded and unified society. Indeed, cohesion is essential to the quality of life and to the smooth running of a society. It should thus inspire the individuals, generations, regions and different institutional levels of the country and canton. Cohesion is based on a wide range of factors such as health policy, education, support to young people, culture, sports, social benefits, public safety and data protection. In many sectors, it is up to the Government, which is a key player in maintaining cohesion, to monitor working conditions and avoid shortage of staff. In addition to this, public services must be efficient, accessible and evenly spread across the country.

FINANCES

A RESILIENT FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT

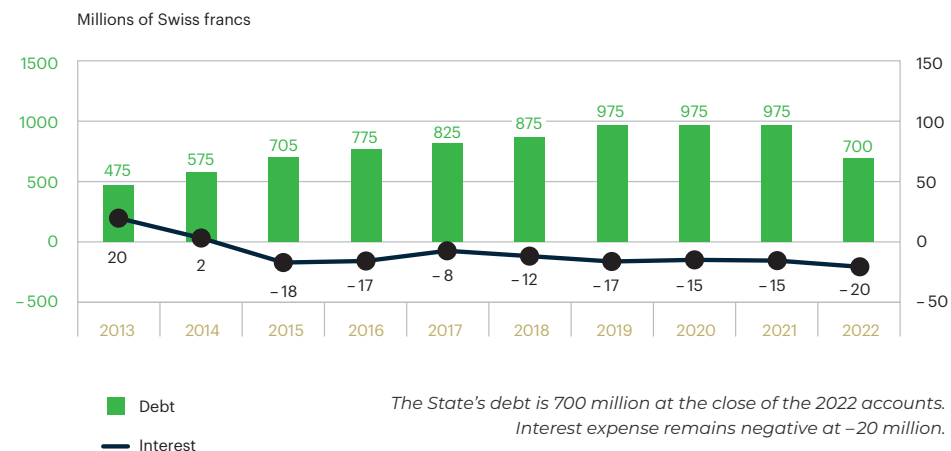
Following a legislative period marked by a series of crises, the Canton of Vaud proved to be resilient thanks to the efforts made by the society, businesses and the public sector. The Government managed to play its role well owing to sound finances. It was able to cushion the negative impact, both economic and social, of the COVID-19 and Ukraine crises. The resources allocated, which were of unprecedented amount but up to scale with the issues at stake, allowed the country to weather these difficult years without experimenting any major economic or social disruption.

During the 2017–2022 legislative period, the finances of the Canton proved to be resilient, with revenues holding firm and annual accounts remaining in surplus. The debt has been reduced to 700 million francs in 2022 and the State did not need to borrow. However, the 2022–2027 period must be seen in a backdrop of very high uncertainty

with economic indicators deteriorating sharply during 2022. Nevertheless, the Council of State is optimistic. In its 2022–2027 legislative programme, it provides for a gradual personal tax reform as of 2023, amounting to 250 million by 2027, as well as another 100 million by 2027 for the other measures of its programme.

COST CONTROL AND RETURN TO A BALANCED BUDGET

In such an uncertain context and rather complex economic environment, costs must be controlled during this legislature in order to maintain sustainable public finances. In its legislative programme, the Council of State foresees a gradual return to a balanced budget. Financial planning will have to be closely monitored within an unstable international economic environment and bleak economic forecasts in several respects, notably persistent inflation, sluggish growth, a historically strong Swiss franc and a risk of energy shortages.



HISTORY

A LAND AND ITS ORIGINS

-45 -35 MILLION YEARS AGO

The enclosing of a sea followed by the collision of two continental plates led to the formation of the Alps. In Vaud, they reach a peak of 3,209 metres at Les Diablerets.

-10 -5 MILLION YEARS AGO

The Jura was the last Alpine mass to be formed. A late geological surge pushed up the limestone rocks that are its main component. The Vaud section is one of the highest, most folded parts of the Jurassic range.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS BEFORE OUR ERA

18,000 BC

The Canton was almost entirely covered by glaciers. They added the final touch to the landscape creating the lakes, shaping the mountains and leaving behind important accumulations of rocks known as «moraine».

13,500 BC

After the glaciers retreated, the region was occupied by Paleolithic hunters. Around 5500 BC, they settled on the shores of the lakes. By around 2000 BC they had mastered some metallurgy and begun to clear certain areas of land.

58 BC

Julius Caesar prevented the Helvetians from migrating towards Gaul and imposed Roman rule. Avenches became the capital of Helvetia and the whole region prospered with new techniques of building in stone. Latin was introduced and trade flourished.

FROM THE FIRST MILLENNIUM TO THE MIDDLE AGES

4TH - 10TH CENTURIES

In the 5th century BC, the region was inhabited by Burgundians who lived in peace with the Helvetians. Then came 500 years of domination by the Kings of the Franks, including 150 years in the Kingdom of Burgundy where it had a good deal of autonomy.

10TH - 16TH CENTURIES

At the start of the second Millennium, the *comitatus waldensis* (county of Vaud) was ceded to the diocese of Lausanne. During the 13th century, the *Patria vuaudi* became a small state with Moudon as its capital. It was ruled by the Counts of Savoy, notably Pierre II de Savoie, «the little Charlemagne», and the Archbishop of Lausanne was excluded.

1536

The Vaudois were on the losing side in the Burgundian wars (1475–1476) and in 1536 were conquered by the Bernese, who governed for them 262 years. Following a theological dispute, the church embraced the Reformation and Berne protected the Vaudois from the wars in Europe.

THE CANTON IS CREATED

REVOLUTION

Major Davel attempted to liberate the region from the Bernese. On March 31 1723, he entered Lausanne with 500–600 soldiers and demanded its independence. He was arrested the next day, condemned to death, and beheaded at Vidy on April 24. January 24 1798, the independence of Vaud was proclaimed in Lausanne. The Bernese withdrew for fear of Napoleon's army that had placed Vaud under its protection. The «Canton du Léman» was then integrated into the short-lived Helvetic Republic.

SOVEREIGNTY

On February 19 1803, Napoleon's Act of Mediation created a Canton of Vaud within the Helvetic Confederation, on an equal footing with other cantons, and gave it a republican constitution. The first session of the Grand Council was held in Lausanne on April 14, which makes this the second most important date for patriotic Vaudois.

THE CONSTITUTION

The first constitution was introduced in 1803 and went through a series of revisions, as in the other cantons. Universal male suffrage was proclaimed in 1831 and Vaud was the first canton to extend it to include women, in 1959. The new constitution dates from 2003.

FOCUS

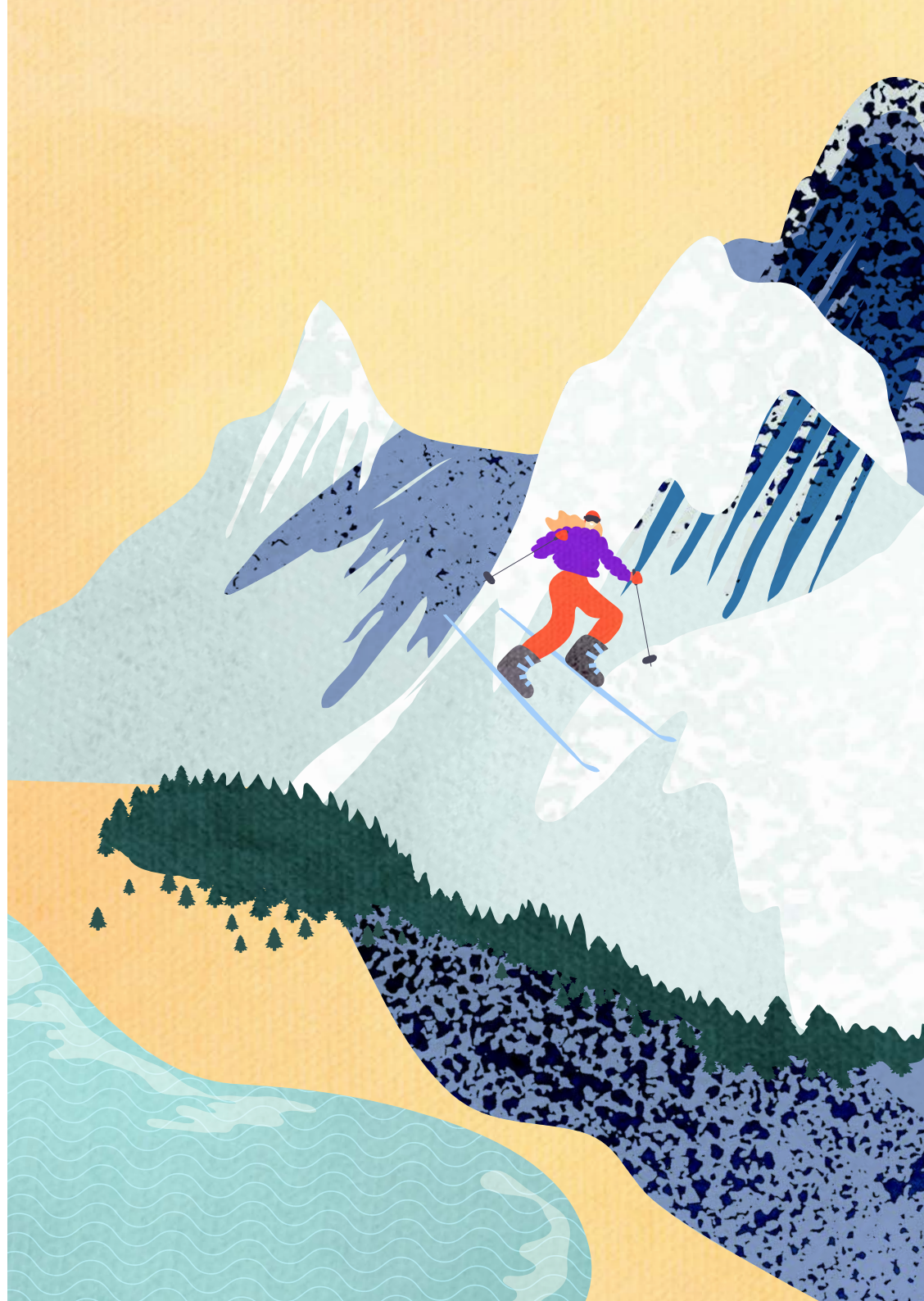
A WELL-COORDINATED ECONOMIC PROMOTION

In 2021 the Canton of Vaud set up a unique multi-sector promotional association called Vaud Promotion. Its mission is to coordinate all the activities of the economic and tourist players of the different regions. Vaud Promotion is subsidised to the tune of over 80% by the Government, while the rest comes from cantonal and extra-cantonal organisations (GastroVaud, Office des vins vaudois). The new entity has an annual budget of 8 million.

With total sales amounting to 4,56 billion and over 22,000 full-time jobs, tourism in the Canton of Vaud contributes 7,2% of GDP and accounts for 8,6% of jobs. As far as businesses are concerned, the Canton of Vaud is known for its expertise in the areas of innovation, in high-added-value sectors, such as life sciences, information and digital technologies, nutrition, precision industries and cleantech.

VAUD+ A REGIONAL BRAND

The desire to build bridges and links between the different areas of activity, has led the Canton of Vaud to develop the VAUD+ brand, designed to label both local produce and businesses that make the region of Vaud so excellent and famous. Vaud+, which brings together a community of players from all sectors, has been entrusted with the following missions: rally the regional players around a common goal, create synergies and promote what characterises the Canton and makes it unique. More than a brand, it is above all an economic promotion tool that brings together the different sectors and economic players in order to advertise the Canton's assets to consumers, tourists, investors and partners from all horizons. It is a label that guarantees know-how and expertise.



THE GROWTH OF WINE TOURISM

In 2018 Lausanne joined Bordeaux, Verona and Napa Valley-San Francisco on a very selective list of eleven capitals, members of the Great Wines Capital network. This global network allows the capital of Vaud to be on the international map of prestigious destinations. The Vaud Œnotourisme association (Vaud Wine tourism) has been created to develop this type of agritourism designed to introduce visitors to the wine-producing regions and their products.

20 The Caves ouvertes vaudoises (open days at Vaud cellars) is a traditional event that has been held every year for over ten years during Whitsunday weekend. It is an opportunity for informed wine lovers or people curious to sample the best vintages in Vaud in situ, in the presence of the winemakers.

CULTURE: ENVIABLE DIVERSITY AND RICHNESS

The beginning of the decade was marked by the opening of Plateforme 10 in Lausanne: on a former railway site, three cantonal museums (Fine Arts, Photography and Design) were brought together in two new buildings of remarkable architecture. The Canton of Vaud is one of the regions with the highest number of museums per capita. The Olympic Museum in Lausanne is among the most visited museums in the Canton. Dance, theatre, operas, concerts and festivals: the reputation of Vaud's cultural scene extends well beyond the Swiss borders, thanks, in particular, to its not-to-be-missed festivals. While Lausanne is exceptionally rich in creative talent (opera, Béjart ballet, Vidy and Arsenic theatres), many other cities have their own stages and seasons.

SPORT: IN THE DNA OF VAUD

The presence of the IOC (International Olympic Committee) headquarters and of some sixty sports federations and other international sports organisations has put the Canton of Vaud and its olympic capital on the world map over the past 49 years. Although this sector has a significant impact on the economy of the Canton, popular sport is very much in the DNA of Vaud. Football, running, gymnastics, volleyball, hockey, rowing and tennis: 180,000 people are members of one or the other of the Canton's 1143 sports clubs. That is without counting those who do sports outside of these associations run by 7,000 volunteers. The Government is working to better integrate popular sport into its public policies. To encourage the next generation of sportswomen and men, the «sports-études» (sports-studies) programme enables promising young athletes to combine education with intensive high-level training.

FIGURES

SIZE

321,224 hectares
4th largest Swiss canton
7,8 % of national territory

SURFACE AREA

Habitat and infrastructure 10,0 %
Agriculture 41,6 %
Woods 32,3 %
Lakes 12,1 %
Unproductive 16,1 %

FRONTIERS

750 kilometres,
including 146 with France

CAPITAL

Lausanne, 4th largest city in Switzerland

COMMUNES

300 on 1 January 2023
including 17 with over 10,000 inhabitants

TOTAL POPULATION

823,881 inhabitants on 31.12.2021
Growth in 2021: 1,1%

FOREIGN POPULATION 33,2%

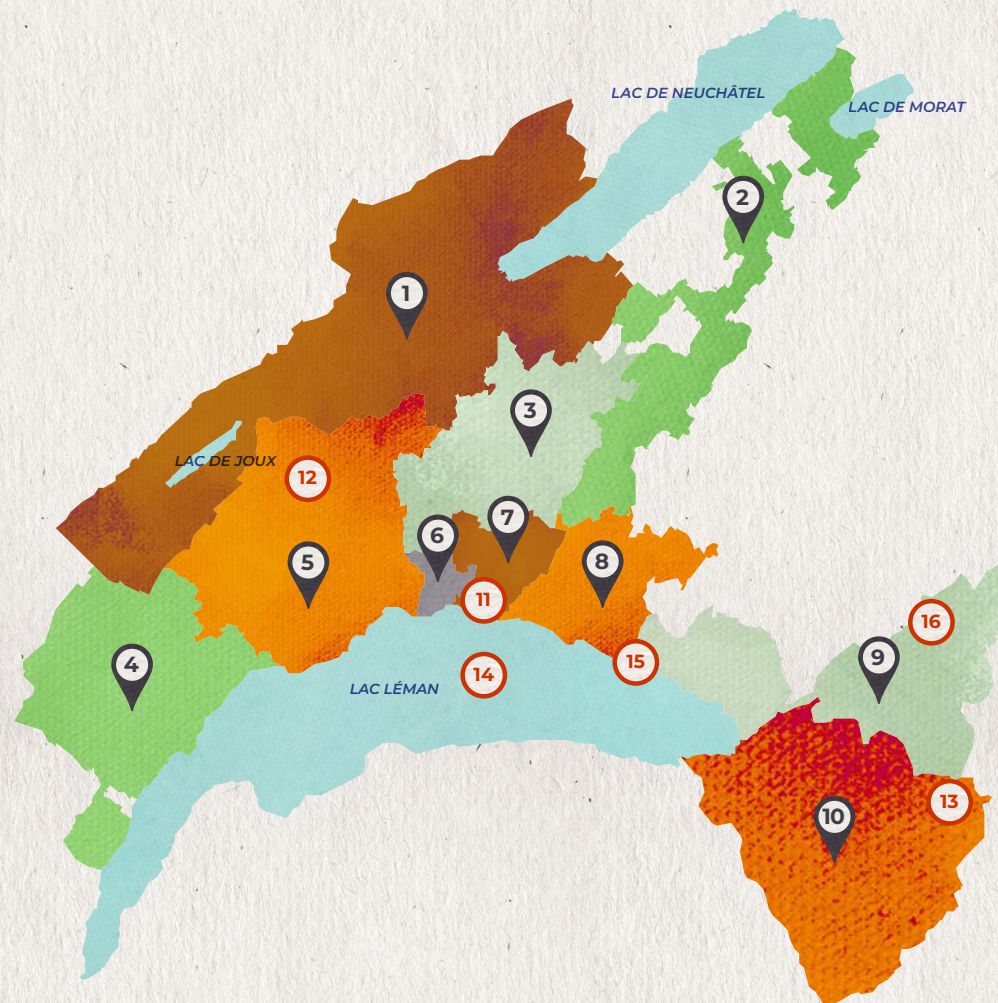
EMPLOYMENT FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (2020)

Jobs 371,486
Primary sector 9,028 (2,4%)
Secondary sector 68,390 (18,4%)
Tertiary sector 294,068 (79,2%)

[STAT.VD.CH](https://www.stat.vd.ch)

Sources:

Swiss Surface Statistics, 2012 – 2014.
OFS, Company structure statistics. 22.08.2019.



DISTRICTS

- 1 Jura-Nord vaudois
- 2 Broye-Vully
- 3 Gros-de-Vaud
- 4 Nyon
- 5 Morges
- 6 Ouest lausannois
- 7 Lausanne
- 8 Lavaux-Oron
- 9 Riviera-Pays-d'Enhaut
- 10 Aigle

- 11 MOST POPULATED COMMUNE**
Lausanne, 141,513 habitants (31.12.22)
- 12 LEAST POPULATED COMMUNE**
Mauraz, 65 inhabitants (31.12.22)
- 13 HIGHEST POINT**
Diablerets, 3,120 metres
- 14 LOWEST POINT**
Lac Léman, 372 metres
- 15 SMALLEST COMMUNE**
Rivaz, 31 hectares
- 16 BIGGEST COMMUNE**
Château-d'Œx, 11,372 hectares

*Canton de Vaud Brochure
July 2024*

*Bureau d'information et de communication (BIC)
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