



THE CANTON OF VAUD | 2020

Vaud has the 3rd largest population among Swiss cantons and is ideally positioned at the intersection of Europe's major communications routes. It offers all of Switzerland's principal advantages: strong academic institutions, a rich and diversified economy, political stability and a much-envied quality of life.

04

STRENGTHS

*Tourism, healthcare, mobility, sport, education, culture...
key areas that contribute to the canton's influence
and prosperity.*

09

AUTHORITIES

*The three branches of government: Legislative (Grand Council),
Executive (State Council) and the Judiciary
(Authorities and Offices of the Cantonal Court).*

12

PRIORITIES

*At mid-term, intensified efforts to ensure a lasting,
shared prosperity.*

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HISTORY

*The canton was shaped by geological forces
and has been inhabited since prehistoric times.
It achieved independence in 1798.*

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TODAY

*Growing population, boom in public transport,
climate plan: current public policy.*

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INNOVATION

*Internationally-recognised universities, start-up
companies and a stimulating R&D environment make
the canton a leading centre of innovation.*

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FINANCES

2020 impacted by the pandemic.

26

NUMBERS

STRENGTHS

TOURISM

The Canton de Vaud is an ideal place for a vacation. It is easy to reach and offers a full range of accommodation, from five-star luxury hotels to charming bed & breakfasts. In Vaud you can sample all the beauty of Switzerland: explore the high Alps, the great spaces of the Jura and the authentic charm of the countryside, stroll along its lake shores and through the winding streets of its towns steeped in history.

The Canton's particular attraction is its art of living: local and international festivals, open-air sports, typical regional cuisine and top-level gastronomy, outstanding wines and old traditions are just some of the elements that delight visitors to this land of discoveries.

[REGION-DU-LEMAN.CH](https://www.region-du-lemman.ch)

HEALTHCARE

Lausanne's University Hospital (CHUV) has European status and develops research partnerships with biomedical companies which stimulate the economy.

The canton also benefits from a dense network of medical-social establishments (EMS) and regional hospitals. These are complemented by an excellent home-care system and numerous private clinics.

[VD.CH/SOINS](https://www.vd.ch/soins)

[CHUV.CH](https://www.chuv.ch)



SPORT

Lausanne has been the home of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since 1915, and was officially named the Olympic capital in 1994. Also located in the canton are the Olympic Museum, 36 federations and 19 sports-related international organisations.

[VD.CH/SPORT-INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC.ORG](https://vd.ch/sport-international-olympic.org)

MOBILITY

To support economic growth while preserving the quality of life, all the regions in the canton need to be linked to an efficient, comprehensive transport network open to the surrounding areas. To achieve this and address the traffic saturation on some routes, the canton ensures that the different ways of moving around complement each other.

The focus is on road and railway projects that will improve the entire travel system. The upgrading of public transport ties in with the modernisation of the road network and the growth of non-motorised travel ("Soft mobility").

[VD.CH/MOBILITE](https://vd.ch/mobilite)

EDUCATION

Vaud is one of Switzerland's most important educational areas. In addition to its famous university dating back to 1537, it has one of the two federal universities of science and technology (EPFL), and more than a dozen schools of advanced studies (HES) in fields as varied as engineering, health, education, design, the arts, and hotel management.

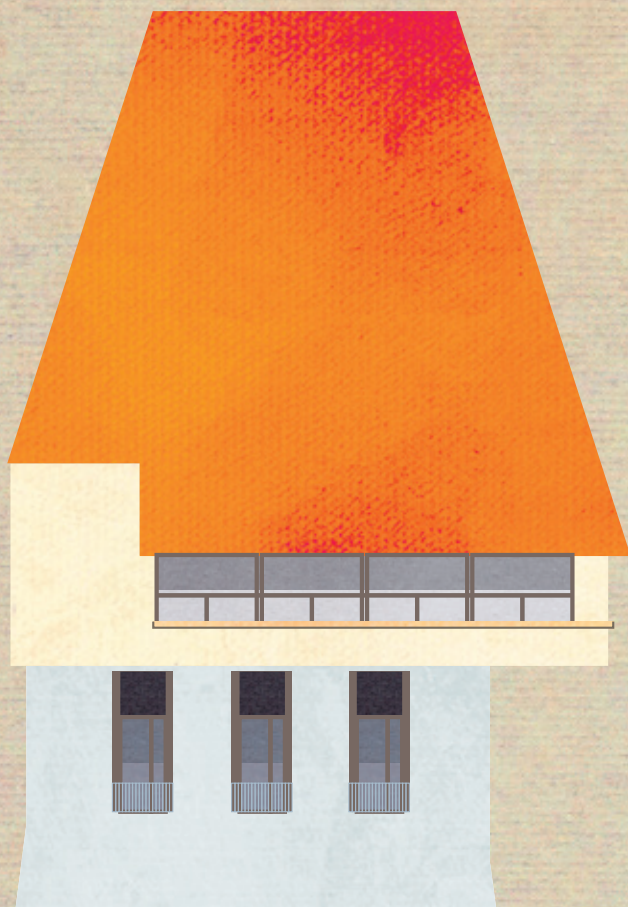
[UNIL.CH](https://unil.ch)
[EPFL.CH](https://epfl.ch)
[VD.CH/ENSEIGNEMENT-SUPERIEUR](https://vd.ch/enseignement-superieur)
[VD.CH/APPRENTISSAGE](https://vd.ch/apprentissage)

CULTURE

With its numerous cultural sites, buildings, activities and festivals, the canton draws a large audience from far beyond its borders. All forms of cultural expression by well established artists take place here. There is also a focus on young creative talents who benefit from prestigious training, financial assistance and multiple opportunities for presenting their work.

The canton offers more than 80 museums devoted to fine arts, science, history and many other subjects ranging from sport and games to photography and food. Adding another dimension to its rich cultural legacy are the spectacular vineyards of Lavaux, classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

[VD.CH/CULTURE](https://vd.ch/culture)
[MUSEES.VD.CH](https://musees.vd.ch)
[VD.CH/VAUD-2020](https://vd.ch/vaud-2020)



AUTHORITIES

THE LEGISLATURE

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

From 1946, political power in the canton was shared by a centre-right majority and a left-wing minority associated with the government. However, the 2012 elections changed the political landscape: the centre-right retained its majority in the Grand Council but is now a minority in the State Council. The Grand Council sits every Tuesday except during school holidays. Its sessions are open to the public and can be followed on the Internet.

VD.CH/GC

GROUPS IN THE GRAND COUNCIL

LIBERAL-RADICAL (PLR)

• 49 members

SOCIALIST (SOC)

• 36 members

CENTRAL DEMOCRATIC UNION (UDC)

• 25 members

GREENS (VER)

• 22 members

GREEN-LIBERAL (V'L)

• 9 members

PDC – FREE VAUD

• 4 members

TOGETHER LEFT

• 5 members

THE EXECUTIVE

Executive authority is exercised by the State Council, a government of seven members elected directly by the people. Each State Councillor also heads a Department. Three parties are represented: Socialist (3) Liberal Radical (3) and Green (1). Since the cantonal elections in 2012, the State Council has a majority of women for the first time in its history: five women and two men.

VD.CH/AUTORITES
VD.CH/CE

THE JUDICIARY

The judicial authorities and offices attached to the cantonal court are: the cantonal tribunal, the urban courts, the juvenile court, the bail court, the tribunal of constraints and sentencing, justices of the peace, the claims offices, the bankruptcy offices and the cantonal commercial registry.

VD.CH/OJV
VD.CH/JUSTICE

THE STATE COUNCILLORS



NURIA GORRITE

- *socialist*

PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL,
 MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE
 AND HUMAN RESOURCES

BÉATRICE MÉTRAUX

- *greens*

MINISTER OF THE
 ENVIRONMENT AND SECURITY

CHRISTELLE LUISIER

- *liberal-radical*

MINISTER OF INSTITUTIONS
 AND TERRITORY

PASCAL BROULIS

- *liberal-radical*

MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
 EXTERNAL RELATIONS

REBECCA RUIZ

- *socialist*

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND
 SOCIAL SERVICES

PHILIPPE LEUBA

- *liberal-radical*

MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY,
 INNOVATION AND SPORT

CESLA AMARELLE

- *socialist*

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
 YOUTH AND CULTURE

In the photo, from left to right:

Rebecca Ruiz, Cesla Amarelle, Nuria Gorrite, Philippe Leuba, Pascal Broulis, Béatrice Métraux, Vincent Grandjean (State Chancellor), Christelle Luisier.

THE PRIORITIES

AT MID-TERM, STEPPING UP EFFORTS TO ENSURE A LASTING, SHARED PROSPERITY

In November 2017, the State Council published its legislative programme for 2017–2022 based on a single underlying idea: the need for lasting, widely shared prosperity. Halfway through the legislative term the principal observations and projections made in 2017 remain valid: a positive but fragile growth rate; continuing risks of social exclusion and upheaval, and increasing damage to the environment.

Responding to the concerns expressed by the people, the government will become even more active in protecting against climate change; fostering innovation and a sustainable economy; promoting “living together” and ensuring that our institutions function correctly.

A COHESIVE, DIGITAL SOCIETY

The legislative programme is based on an in-depth analysis of the economic, social and environmental challenges the Canton faces in achieving sustainable development.

Transforming the economy and adopting digitalisation have real potential for creating new jobs but they also risk excluding part of the population from the labour market. Although the authorities need to maintain a favourable business climate and stimulate innovation, they must recognise that entry into the work force is one of the basic elements of social cohesion. They also have to face up to the resurgence of radical and extremist opinions that could harm our country.



GENERATIONAL QUESTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

Promoting social cohesion also means helping different generations to live in harmony. Integrating the new generation is just as important as providing medical and social services for the elderly. Changing demographics and the growing percentage of seniors in the population will increase the need for public services and infrastructure. Like the important questions surrounding energy, the environment and climate, they will have a significant impact on public policy.

AN EVOLUTION IN THE ENTIRE PUBLIC SECTOR

To face these challenges, the State Council has prioritised 30 measures across the whole spectrum of its activities. These include: supporting innovation; increasing help to participate in the job market; developing digital teaching; strengthening professional training; encouraging efforts to find a work-life balance; adapting the healthcare system; drawing up a cantonal climate plan and an integrated policy for managing natural resources; optimising mobility; energising the agricultural sector; continuing with major building and infrastructure projects; reducing overcrowding in prisons, and resisting radicalisation.

CONTROL OF RISING COSTS 2021–2024

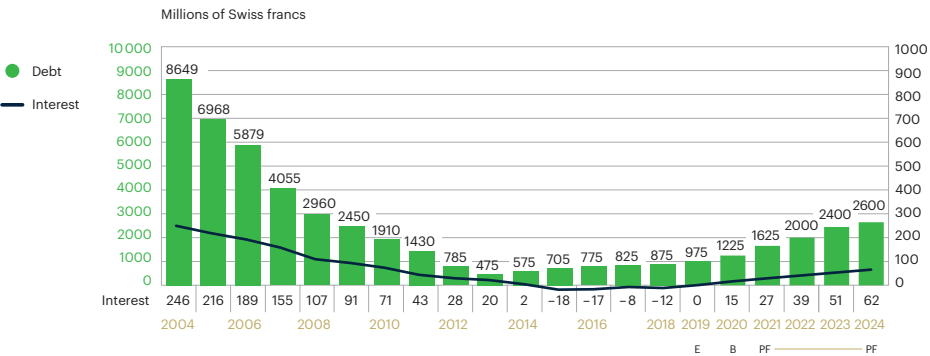
The legislative programme, and the State budget, are subject to an annually reviewed financial plan that sets forecast expenditure for the following four years. The plan is based on assumptions about changes in income and spending due to economic trends, while demonstrating the State Council’s intention to control rising costs. For the period 2021–2024, revenues were expected to rise by 0.7–1.7% per year while annual spending was planned to rise by some 1.9%. This took into account the increased resources devoted to education, health and social care etc., including commitments already made. Total costs were forecast to exceed revenue by 130–290 million francs per year. However, due to the pandemic these elements will be reviewed at year-end.

INVESTING ALMOST 4 BILLION FRANCS BY 2024

Cantonal spending is not only concerned with the current legislative session; each year the Canton sets its targets for tomorrow’s spending on infrastructure and equipment. In 2020 the budget forecasts gross investment by the Canton and its partners of some 477 million francs. When new loans and guarantees are included, the total investment should reach 773 million francs this year. For the 2020–2024 period 3.9 billion francs is planned to be invested directly or indirectly in the economy, which represents an average of 777 million francs per year.

Maintaining this level of investment will depend on the financial health of the Canton and its ability to absorb the costs involved in major public works, as well as the effect of the COVID-19 emergency.

Cantonal debt, which fell in 2004–2013, began to rise again in 2014 and reached 1.23 billion francs in the 2020 budget. Taking account of the forecast improvements in efficiency and the financial requirements of planned investments, this upward trend is likely to continue in the next few years. Interest charges have risen from 27 million to 62 million francs in the period 2021–2024, an increase of approximately 12 million francs per year.



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.

[CHRONIQUE DU CANTON DE VAUD](#)
[VD.CH/VAUD-2020](#)

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 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.

TODAY

POPULATION HAS PASSED THE 800,000 MARK

At the end of 2019 the number of residents in Vaud reached 806,088, comprised of 537,661 Swiss citizens and 268,427 foreign nationals.

Over time, the population has become more urban, more multicultural, and the average age has risen. The one-millionth resident is expected in 2040–2042 and the challenge is now to maintain the balance of factors that has led to this expansion. The authorities are implementing policies to adapt the infrastructure, reinforce training and innovation, develop integration and maintain social cohesion.

2019: A BOOM YEAR IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Since December 2019, Regional Express trains have been running between Annemasse (Fr) and Saint-Maurice in the Valais, bringing improved rail service in the Chablais and the Riviera. In addition, over 30 bus schedules have been revised, particularly with more frequent service at weekends.

Altogether, investment in railway infrastructure since 2008 has amounted to 862 million francs, and this effort will continue: the Vaud RER will be extended to Aigle, and later to the Vallée de Joux, with increased service at peak times between Lausanne and Vallorbe.

The Lausanne metros are also being developed. The m2 and the m3 (scheduled for 2026) will carry double the number of passengers between the station and Flon. The new m2 line passing under Lausanne station is planned to come into service at the same time as the rebuilt Lausanne rail hub (Leman 2030 project) in 2025.



GEOHERMAL ENERGY: A MAJOR POTENTIAL RESOURCE

The sub-soil of the Canton may have a great potential to provide renewable, local energy in the form of geothermal heat. A deep survey has identified more than 40 sites that are suitable for the continuous production of this energy which produces zero CO₂ emissions. As a result, the government is planning to create 20 geothermal centres by 2050.

Using the heat in natural underground water systems could become one of the pillars of the Canton's energy policy. The potential has been estimated at 350 GWh per year—enough to provide heat for 20,000 households in Vaud—and it has the great advantage of being continuous.

Two projects are being developed: one at Vinzel where a bore-hole of 2,200m is planned to create a remote heating supply, and one at Lavey where a geothermal centre with a 2,300m–3,000m bore-hole will produce more than 4 GWh per year of electricity and over 15 GWh per year of heating for Les Bains de Lavey.

CLIMATE PLAN: AN AMBITIOUS STRATEGY WITH MEASURES TO MATCH

In response to the pressures of climate change, the government of Vaud has launched a long-term strategy that aims to achieve a reduction of 50%–60% in the emission of greenhouse gases in the Canton by 2030 and reach carbon neutrality by 2050. This initial action plan will rapidly implement measures drawn up by all departments: an increase in public transport services; the renovation of government buildings; public protection against natural dangers and health risks; support for climate-change policies in the communes and for agricultural practices that increase carbon capture; reinforcing training programmes as a driver of change; adapting the management of woodland, etc.

In addition to those policies already being implemented, the State Council is planning an initial investment of 173 million francs from 2021. When this is added to the amounts already allocated, and taking account of the multiplier effect on the economy, the total Cantonal commitment to tackling climate change totals more than 1.13 billion francs.

INNOVATION

THE VAUD+ BRAND: THE START OF UNLIMITED INNOVATION

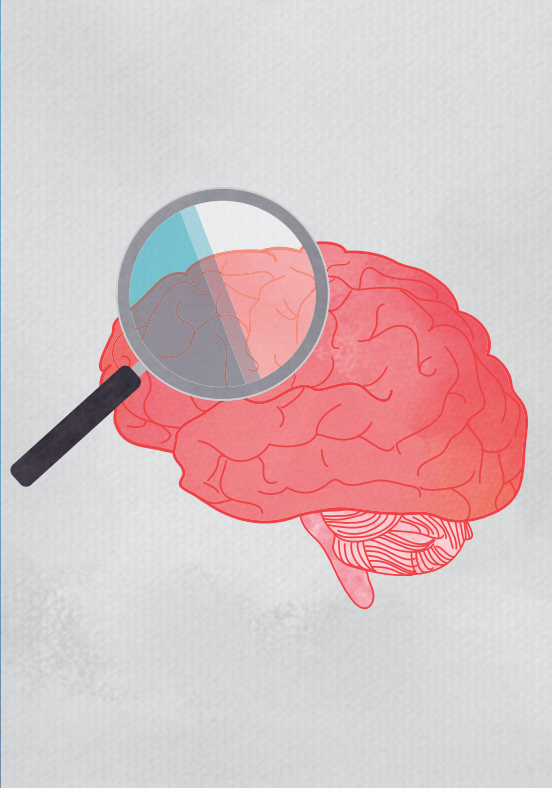
To bring the Canton's best ambassadors together under one banner, a new brand has been launched: VAUD+. Gastronomy, wine, tourism, the economy and culture... this label goes beyond simple synergies. The idea is to coordinate highly specialised supply chains in order to promote overall economic growth because the diversity and quality of what the Canton has to offer has not been sufficiently emphasised.

To develop the Vaud economy, its network of competences needs to come closer together. The VAUD+ community will provide extra encouragement for new entrepreneurs and companies to develop their projects in collaboration with the Canton's schools of advanced studies, research centres, SMEs and start-ups.

The new label underlines the features that characterise the Canton and make it stand apart from other areas of the country. It creates a common identity shared by different participants in the economy, automatically associating them with product quality, precision, competitiveness and productivity. This group of ambassadors will reflect the excellence that Vaud has to offer, encapsulated in the VAUD+ brand.

The next step is to create a promotional organisation for the brand.

[VAUD.CH](https://www.vaud.ch)



THE SPORTS TRADITION

A unique alliance of expertise developed by these companies and scientific discoveries made in our research centres has fostered some fifteen specific areas of innovation:

- Neurotech
- Immunology
- Oncology
- Labtech
- Cybersecurity
- Drones
- Agritech
- Digital healthcare
- Digital technologies
- Sports technology
- Edtech
- Aeronautics
- Materials and metrology
- Robotics
- Energy efficiency

There is a long history of sport in Vaud and it has become an essential part of the social framework. Major examples are the Olympic headquarters and the presence of numerous international sports federations. But it is important not to overlook the sports clubs, big and small, with thousands of members, coaches, referees, and equipment staff that enable the young and the not-so-young to enjoy their favourite activity virtually everywhere and often in excellent conditions.

These thousands of generally anonymous members also create a fertile environment for sport at the highest level. For the Canton, this is a permanent strength without which little else would be possible.

The Corona virus crisis has deprived Vaud of several world championships (ice hockey, pétanque, World Road Cycling). These were scheduled for 2020 to follow on from the Youth Winter Olympics which were held in January with events in Lausanne, Les Diablerets, and La Vallée de Joux, as well as in the Valais, the Grisons and in France.

FINANCES

CYBER ADMINISTRATION

24 Accessing all government services via the internet, in total security, instead of handling a mountain of documents: that's what cyber administration makes possible. It has become essential in today's hyper-connected society and the Canton of Vaud is not being left behind. The Information Systems and Digitalisation department is progressively offering services on line and this effort is at the heart of the government's legislative programme.

Several important projects have already been implemented including the complete revision of the Cantonal website, www.vd.ch, which will provide improved access to the canton's administrative services. After rebuilding the portal to the communes, new secure access will be made available for companies and individuals.

But before cyber administration can be fully introduced, its legal framework must be adapted, and this important work is in progress.

VD.CH

2020 IMPACTED BY THE PANDEMIC

The Canton of Vaud is spending a total of 10.12 billion francs on its public commitments in 2020, an increase of 352 million over 2019. This is the 14th consecutive annual budget to report a surplus and reflects an increase of 2.43% in current spending. However, the exceptional and unpredictable pandemic will cause a number of elements to be revised.

Among its basic objectives, the 2020 budget forecasts a gross cost increase of 113 million francs in health services due principally to taking back the financing of domestic care, AVASAD (+ 77 million francs). It also allows for extra resources for social action (+ 77 million), education and youth (+ 72 million) which are linked to demographic pressure and an ageing population.

Before the crisis arrived, forecast revenue for 2020 is almost identical to planned expenditure: a total of 10.12 billion francs which is 352 million francs

(3.6%) more than in 2019. This increase is largely made up of short-term income such as Federal compensation for RFFA (+ 103 million) or fluctuating income such as Federal subsidies for the integration of refugees (CSIR) and revenue from participations (+ 69 million francs). Fiscal income is expected to rise by 1.5% compared to 2019.

EXPENDITURE PERCENTAGES

Education and training	29.81
Social security	29.01
Healthcare	14.69
Public safety	7.42
Public economic affairs	4.36
Finance and taxes	4.28
General administration	4.22
Traffic	3.37
Culture, leisure, sport, churches	1.60
Environmental protection and land management	1.24

NUMBERS

SIZE

321,224 hectares
4th largest Swiss canton
7.8 % of national territory

SURFACE AREA

Habitat and infrastructure 10 %
Agriculture 41.6 %
Woods 32.3 %
Lakes 12.1 %
Non-productive area 16.1 %

FRONTIERS

750 km,
(146 with France)

CAPITAL

Lausanne, 4th largest Swiss city

COMMUNES

309 on 1 January 2020,
12 with more than 10,000 inhabitants

TOTAL POPULATION

806,088 inhabitants on 31.12.2019
Growth in 2019: 0.7 %

FOREIGN POPULATION 33.3 %

EMPLOYMENT

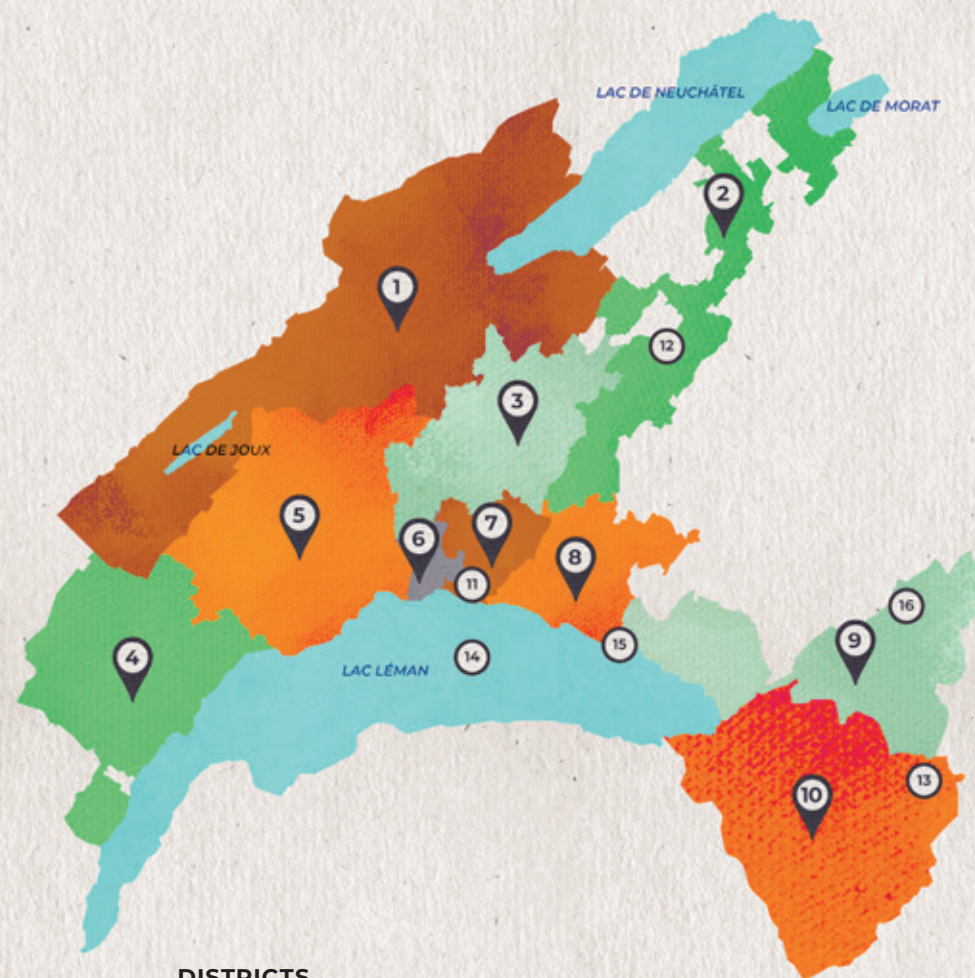
Equivalent full-time jobs 357,762
Primary sector 9,370 (2.6 %)
Secondary sector 67,565 (18.9 %)
Tertiary sector 280,827 (78.5 %)

[STAT.VD.CH](https://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, 139,726 inhabitants

12 LEAST POPULATED COMMUNE

Mauraz, 57 inhabitants

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

