



The canton of Vaud in 2010



The fourth-biggest and third most populous canton in Switzerland, Vaud hosts flourishing enterprises and internationally renowned universities which help to enhance the canton's reputation.

with 4 new excursions to discover the canton >

A land and its origins

ALPS

The formation of the Alps was started by the closure of an ocean followed by the collision of continental plates. In Vaud, the Alps reach their peak at Les Diablerets, at 3209 m.

PLATEAU

The materials removed by erosion when the Alps were being formed accumulated in basins in various parts of the massif, eventually filling them. This material, composed of clay, sand and pebbles, is known as *molasse* and is the principal type of rock in the plateau.

JURA

The Jura was the last Alpine massif to be formed. A late geological push raised the limestone rocks that are its main constituents. Vaud contains one of the highest and most folded regions in the Jura range.

45-35m years ago

30-20m years ago

10-5m years ago

The Venoge: “one hundred percent Vaudoise!”

The Venoge rises at the foot of the Jura, and flows through the heart of the Pays du Vaud before flowing into Lake Léman. In his famous poem, Jean Villard-Gilles made the river popular by declaring it “Vaudoise 100%” and suggesting that it represented the temperament of the people.

Like many other rivers and streams, the Venoge has been deeply affected by urbanisation and industrialisation. A large part of its course was turned into a canal in the 19th century to prevent flooding.

In 1990, voters approved an initiative that emphasized this iconic river in the programme to revitalise the waterways of the canton. The re-naturalisation currently under way reflects the determination of the authorities to preserve and even improve the biological diversity of the rivers and lakes.



© Jean-Michel Zellweger, Jurtens

The Venoge, at la Tine de Conflens, near La Sarraz

During the International Year of Biodiversity, ten virtual walks are available that reveal the natural treasures of the canton, including the Venoge.

www.vd.ch/biodiversite-venoge

www.vd.ch/venoge

Principal events before our era

ICE AGE

The canton was covered almost entirely by giant glaciers. They gave the final touch to the land, creating its lakes, shaping its mountain peaks and leaving huge mounds of rocks: the moraine.

18,000 BC

PREHISTORY

When the glaciers retreated, the land was gradually occupied by Palaeolithic hunters. Around 5500 BC, they settled on the shores of the lakes, going on to master the skills of metallurgy around 2000 BC before starting to clear the forests for farming.

13,500 BC

ANTIQUITY

In 58 BC, Julius Caesar prevented the Helvetians from migrating towards Gaul and put them under Roman rule. Avenches became the capital of Helvetia and the region as a whole prospered, with new building techniques (bricklaying), the introduction of Latin and a blossoming of trade.

58 BC

Nyon / Noviodunum: Rome on the banks of Lake Léman

The history of Nyon dates back to 50 BC-44 BC, the time of Julius Caesar. Today, it includes the remains of one of the most important Roman towns in Switzerland, *Noviodunum*, the urban centre of *Colonia Iulia Equestris*, founded in Julius Caesar's lifetime.

The Roman Museum has been created in the foundations of the basilica in the forum of the ancient town. The imposing walls of the administrative building, constructed in the first century AD, make the perfect setting to display a wealth of fascinating details of life on the banks of the lake some 2000 years ago.

In 2009 to celebrate its 30th anniversary, the museum undertook a major renovation. This year, from 29 May to 31 October, it will present the exhibition "What's new, doctor?" devoted to health and medicine in the Roman era.



Bronze statuettes of Venus, Apollo and Hecate

The museum is open from Tuesday to Sunday 10.00-17.00 (April to October) and 14.00-17.00 (November to March). Closed Mondays (except public holidays).

www.mrn.ch

From the first millennium to the Middle Ages

INVASIONS

In the 5th century the region was inhabited by invaders from Burgundy who integrated peacefully with the Helvetians. Then it spent five centuries under the kings of the Franks, including 150 years within the kingdom of Burgundy where it enjoyed a large degree of autonomy.

4th-10th century

MIDDLE AGES

At the turn of the millennium, the *comitatus waldensis* (county of Vaud) was ceded to the Diocese of Lausanne. The *Patria vvaudi* was a mini-state during the 13th century under the aegis of the counts of Savoy, with Moudon as its capital. The Diocese of Lausanne was not included.

10th-16th century

BERNESE RULE

The people of Vaud were on the losing side in the Burgundian Wars (1475-1476). In 1536 they were conquered by the Bernese who imposed the Reformation and ruled them for the next 262 years. The protection of Berne sheltered the area from the European wars of that period.

1536

Romainmôtier 2010: 1100 years of history linked to Cluny

In 2010, the Abbey of Romainmôtier joins the rest of Europe in celebrating the 1100th anniversary of the foundation of the Benedictine Monastery of Cluny, whose influence reached as far as the Canton of Vaud.

Founded in the middle of the 5th century, Romainmôtier is the oldest known abbey in Switzerland. Probably ruined during the invasions at the start of the 7th century, the monastery was restored around 630 with the spread of the Irish monastic movement of St. Columba.

The present abbey was built between 990 and 1028 by Odilon, Abbot of Cluny. It survived the Reformation by serving as a parish church and was later preserved by two restorations. It is a striking combination of gothic elegance and Roman simplicity that reflects more than 1000 years of history.



© Jean-Michel Zellweger, Juriens

Romainmôtier, a magnificent example of cluniac architecture that spread right across Europe

Abbey church open 08.00-18.00. Mass, Sunday 10.15. Services, Tuesday-Saturday 12.00 and 18.30.

www.romainmotier2010.ch

www.musee-vd.ch/romainmotier

The creation of the canton

REVOLUTION

The independence of Vaud was proclaimed in Lausanne on January 24, 1798. The Bernese withdrew for fear of Napoleon's army, which had placed the Land of Vaud under his protection. The "Canton du Léman" was then integrated into the short-lived Helvetic Republic.

1798

SOVEREIGNTY

Napoleon's Act of Mediation issued on February 19, 1803, created a canton of Vaud within the Swiss Confederation giving it equal status with other cantons and a republican constitution. The Grand Council first met in Lausanne on April 14, the second most important date in Vaud history

1803

FIRST CONSTITUTION

The constitution of 1803 underwent a series of revisions in Vaud in line with other cantons. Universal suffrage was introduced in 1831, and in 1959, the people of Vaud became the first in Switzerland to give women the vote at cantonal level.

19th-20th century

Henri Guisan (1874-1960), Swiss general and Vaud farmer

In 2010, the canton of Vaud celebrates the memory of General Henri Guisan on the 50th anniversary of his death. During the second world war, he became the symbol of Swiss determination to resist the threats of Nazi Germany.

Born in Mézières, the son of a doctor, Henri Guisan began working as a farmer. He only became a professional soldier at the age of 53 with the rank of Major General, and this may explain his ability to communicate easily with civilians of all social classes.

Historians have questioned some of his strategic decisions, particularly concerning the National Redoubt, but everyone is agreed about his charisma, his ability to create a consensus, and the confidence he inspired in the army and the Swiss population.



Henri Guisan, Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss army from 1939 to 1945

To read: "Le Général Guisan et l'esprit de résistance" (Cabédita). To visit: Verte-Rive, home of the Guisan family (exhibition open to the public).

<http://www.generalguisan.ch>

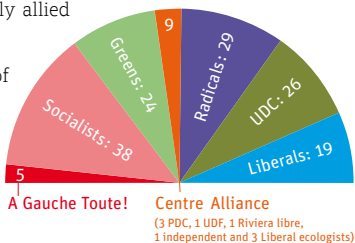
The canton today

The political parties

Since 1946 the Canton's political landscape has remained relatively stable, split between a centre-right majority and a minority on the left linked with the government. The centre right includes the Liberal, Radical and UDC parties, together with four small groups who form the "Alliance of the Centre". The left comprises the Socialist Party and "A Gauche Toute!", generally allied with the Greens

This division is reflected in the composition of the Grand Council (*see chart*).

Elected in the spring of 2007, the current State Council has the same composition as the previous legislature: one Liberal, one UDC, two Radicals, two Socialists and one Green.



The new constitution

A new constitution came into force on April 14, 2003, exactly 200 years after the canton was created. It was produced by a Constituent Assembly that met from 1999 to 2002. The cantonal authorities wanted a complete revision in order to give the canton a clearer, more dynamic fundamental charter.

The new constitution was approved by the people of Vaud on September 22, 2002. While it is not revolutionary, it does contain several original features compared with the old constitution and those of other cantons.

As required by the constitution, the State Council has published a legislative programme and budget for 2007-2012.

NEW FEATURES OF THE 2003 CONSTITUTION

- Number of delegates in the Grand Council reduced to 150, (previously 180)
- Legislative period extended to 5 years, (previously 4)
- President of the State Council elected for the entire legislative period (previously the President changed every year)
- Court of Auditors established, elected by the Grand Council
- Established foreign residents in the canton have the right to vote, and are eligible for election, at communal level
- Number of districts in the canton reduced to 10 (previously 19)
- The Reformed church is a public institution with equal status to the Catholic church (previously it was the established church.)

www.vd.ch/constitution

www.vd.ch/prog-leg

Some of the canton's strengths

EDUCATION

Vaud is one of the most important educational areas in the country. It has a famous university dating back to 1537, one of the two Federal Science and Technology universities (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.

www.unil.ch

www.epfl.ch

www.vd.ch/enseignement-superieur

POPULATION

In 2010, 700,000 residents are registered in Vaud, including 32% of non-Swiss. This is the third highest total among the Swiss cantons (after Berne and Zurich). The population is essentially urban, concentrated in the Lake Léman area and northern Vaud.

www.vd.ch/scris

HEALTH

The canton has a dense network of medico-social establishments (EMS) complemented by an excellent home-care system.

Lausanne has a University Hospital (CHUV) of European standing that develops research partnerships with biomedical companies stimulating the cantonal economy.

www.vd.ch/soins

SPORTS

Home to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) since 1915, Lausanne was officially named the Olympic capital in 1994. The canton also hosts the Olympic Museum, 22 federations and 19 sports-related international organisations.

www.vd.ch/sport-international

www.olympic.org

TOURISM

From the permanent snow of Les Diablerets down to the gentle lake shores, from walking tracks through the forests of the Jura to cycle paths across the plateau, Vaud has probably the widest variety of landscapes of any canton, and a history that stretches back several thousand years.

www.region-du-leman.ch

CULTURE

More than 80 cantonal, communal or private museums are devoted to fine arts, natural sciences, technology, national and regional history, and other subjects as diverse as games or food. Lausanne is home to the Swiss film archive which offers an original programme of cinema masterpieces, the famous Béjart Ballet, and the Prix de Lausanne, the international competition for young dancers.

www.musees-vd.ch

www.cinematheque.ch

www.bejart.ch

Business promotion

A concentration of high technology

With more than 40,000 companies and 340,000 people employed, the economy of Vaud is the largest of any canton in Western Switzerland. It is principally a knowledge-based economy (health, finance, education, research, engineering) making it one of the principal centres for research and innovation in Switzerland. It has the largest university campus in the country (around 25,000 students and researchers) and several institutes with an international reputation.

For more than 10 years, the canton of Vaud has actively pursued a policy of developing the areas that focus on science and technology: life sciences, micro-nanotechnology and precision, information and communication technology, new technologies linked to energy and the environment, and the food-production industry. A major programme of free support and assistance has been introduced to aid the creation and development of companies in these areas: it includes loans guaranteed by the canton, payment of bank interest charges, training subsidies, company development projects and fiscal stimulus packages.

Attracted by the favourable economic environment and the availability of a wide range of advanced skills, a growing number of international companies choose the canton of Vaud to expand their operations. Several of the world's largest groups have been active here for many years.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE CHOSEN THE CANTON OF VAUD



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- Cadbury Schweppes
- Cisco
- Eaton
- General Mills
- Kudelski
- Logitech
- Medtronic
- Merck Serono
- Nestlé / Nespresso
- Nissan
- Nokia Research Center
- Philip Morris
- SC Johnson
- Schott Guinchart
- Siemens
- Solar Impulse
- Yahoo!
- ...

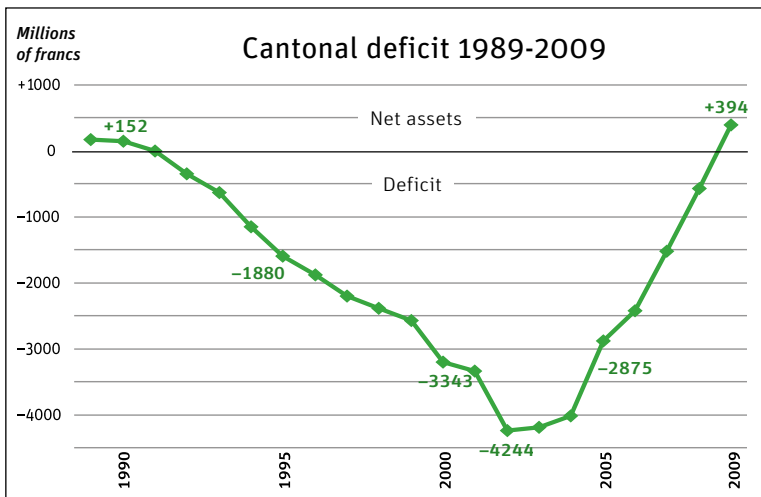
State accounts

A long reform programme produces results

In 2009, while total spending by the Canton de Vaud rose to 7,943.3 million francs, revenue increased to 8,322 million, creating a surplus of 378.7 million. It was the Canton's fifth consecutive year of positive results, confirming a financial turnaround that has removed a budget deficit that has existed for 18 years, exceeding 4 billion francs in 2002 (see diagram).

The Cantonal constitution of 2003 obliged the authorities to operate a balanced budget. They have managed to achieve this since 2005 with a major programme of budgetary reform started by the previous legislature (2002-2007) and continued by the current one (2007- 2012). This programme has focused mainly on controlling costs.

The return to financial health has also been helped by the economy which stood up well to the crisis of 2009. It has given the cantonal authorities a cushion that allows them to finance the projects of the State Council in areas such as social integration, youth policy and sustainable development.



The departments

DSE DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The DSE is responsible for protecting people, property and the environment, as well as promoting equal opportunities. Projects for 2010: police reform; development of renewable energy.

DFJC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AND CULTURE

The DFJC is in charge of educating nearly 130,000 children and adults, and is also responsible for the canton's cultural policy. Projects for 2010: cantonal fine arts museum; legislation on compulsory schooling and music schools; promoting and supporting cultural activities.

DINT DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Principally oversees services dealing with the population, prisons and the communes, as well as the judicial and legislative service. Projects for 2010: continuing judicial reforms (CODEX 2011); commune mergers; management of refugees; commune taxation equality, overcrowding in prisons.

DSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Responsible for health policy and assistance to people in need (social services and welfare). Projects for 2010: continuing the cantonal strategy of combating poverty; removing limits on study grants in harmony with the income-support programme; organizing life sciences and healthcare under the joint control of CHUV and UNIL.

DEC DEPARTMENT OF THE ECONOMY

Responsible for economic policy (promotion, agriculture, wine industry, housing and commerce), and for employment, land use, and sport. Projects for 2010: applying the new law on agriculture; supporting economic recovery notably by continuing measures to combat unemployment.

DINF DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Manages 65% of all cantonal investment: roads, public transport, buildings and IT. Projects for 2010: new parliament building; trans-Chablais route; major road axes in Lausanne-Morges area; development of e-administration.

DFIRE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Headed by the President of the State Council, this interdisciplinary department is in charge of finance, HR, statistics, external affairs and the chancellery. Project for 2010: reinforcing the canton's influence at Federal level.

The Vaud authorities

THE EXECUTIVE



Executive power is exercised by the State Council (Conseil d'Etat), a popularly elected, seven-strong government. Each State Council member also heads a department.

François Marthaler ---> Green ---> head of the Department of Infrastructure

Jean-Claude Mermoud ---> UDC (Swiss People's Party) ---> head of the Department of the Economy

Anne-Catherine Lyon ---> Socialist ---> head of the Department of Education, Youth and Culture

Pascal Broulis ---> Radical ---> President, head of the Department of Finance and External Relations

Jacqueline de Quattro ---> Radical ---> head of the Department of Security and the Environment

Pierre-Yves Maillard ---> Socialist ---> head of the Department of Health and Social Services

Philippe Leuba ---> Liberal ---> head of the Department of the Interior

THE LEGISLATURE

Legislative power is exercised by the Grand Council (Grand Conseil), the parliament comprising 150 deputies elected by proportional representation. The constituencies correspond to the districts, such that all the regions in the canton are represented.

THE JUDICIARY

The judicial authorities and offices attached to the cantonal court are: the cantonal examining magistrate and the examining magistrates; the juvenile court; the office of the sentencing magistrate; the bail court; the urban courts; the justices of the peace; the offices of the judicial authorities; the claims and bankruptcy courts; and the cantonal commercial registry.

Facts and figures

Surface area: 321,205 hectares, 4th biggest canton, 7.8% of national territory

Inhabited and infrastructure area: 9,3%

Farming area: 42.4%

Wooded area: 32.1%

Lake area: 12.1% (Lake Geneva, Lake Neuchâtel, Lake Morat, Lake Joux)

Non-productive area: 4% (other lakes, rivers, glaciers, snow, areas without vegetation or with non-productive vegetation)

Highest point: les Diablerets, 3209 metres

Lowest point: Lake Geneva, 372 metres

Capital: Lausanne, Switzerland's 5th city

Municipalities: 375, 12 of which have more than 10,000 inhabitants

Districts: 10

Frontières: 750 kilometres, of which 146 are with France

Smallest municipality: Rivaz (32 hectares)

Biggest municipality: Château-d'Œx (11376 hectares)

Most populous municipality: Lausanne (125 546 inhabitants)

Least populous municipality: Vaugondry (36 inhabitants)

Population on 8.03.2010: 700,000. 3rd in Switzerland

Growth in 2009: 1,9%

Density: 247 inhabitants per km² (without lakes)

Non-Swiss residents: 30,1%

Jobs in 2008: 340 141

Primary sector: 4,2%

Secondary sector: 19,4%

Tertiary sector: 76,4%

