

New Analysis

Guaranteed Benefits for Cantonal Banks



A majority of cantonal banks benefit from extensive state privileges: first, explicit state guarantees; second, tax exemptions. As a result, the federal government loses considerable tax revenues, and the national fiscal equalization is distorted, as Senior Fellow Lukas Schmid shows in his latest analysis. [Read now.](#)

The Figure



The Swiss Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the increase in prices of goods and services for a household. Health expenses account for 15 percent of the typical basket. This value has remained fairly stable over the last ten years, which puts the alarmist talk of an explosion in premiums into perspective. (Sonia Estevez, Jérôme Cosandey)

Source: [Federal Statistical Office](#)

Business Location Rankings

Many Podium Finishes for Switzerland – Except in Artificial Intelligence

Switzerland regularly ranks among the best

For years Switzerland has performed well in international rankings. A general downward spiral is not identifiable.

Ranking	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Competitiveness																									
Global Competitiveness Report (WEF)	5	5	7	4	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
World Competitiveness Yearbook (IMD)	7	8	5	14	8	1	6	4	4	3	2	2	4	2	3	4	3	1	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
World Digital Competitiveness Ranking (IMD)																									
Resilience Index (ETH Zurich)																									
KOF-Stabilitätsindex (ETH Zurich)	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Innovation																									
European Innovation Scoreboard (EU)																									
Innovationsindikator (BDI)																									
Global Innovation Index (WIPO)																									
Economic Freedom																									
Index of Economic Freedom (Heritage/WESL)	8	19	8	6	6	6	10	9	9	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Economic Freedom Ranking (Fraser)	2	2	2	4	5	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Doing Business (Worldbank)																									
Corruption Perceptions Index (Transparency Int.)	11	12	12	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Attractiveness for qualified personnel																									
Global Talent Competitiveness Index (INSEAD)																									
World Talent Ranking (IMD)																									

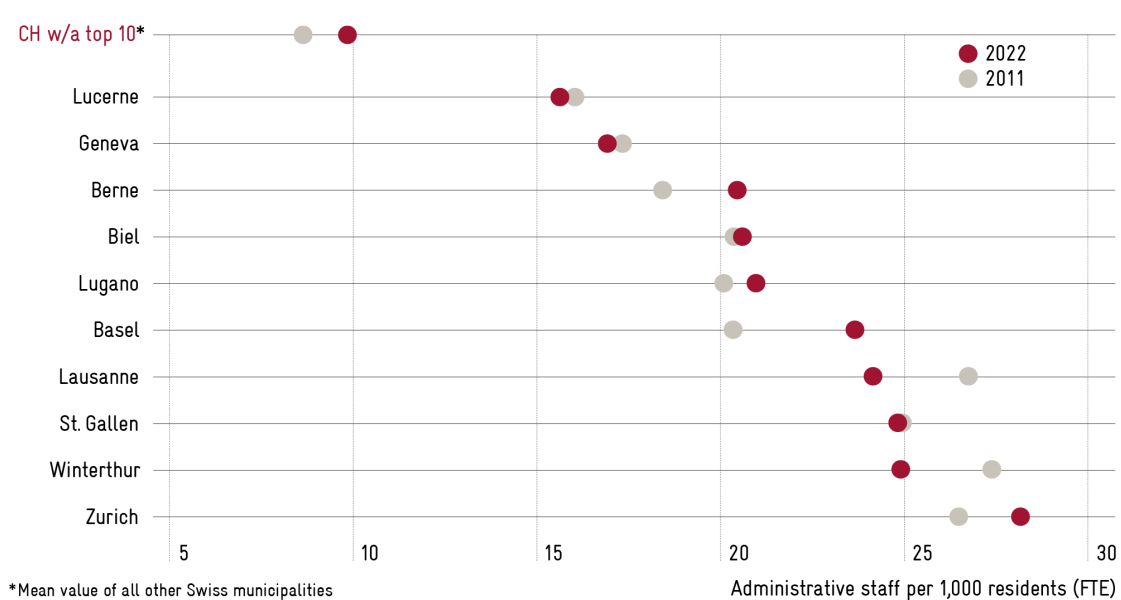
Switzerland has ranked among the world's most competitive countries for years. It remains unrivaled, particularly in innovation and talent attractiveness. Yet, in the crucial field of artificial intelligence (AI), it is losing ground. How does that add up? Patrick Leisibach and Agustina Rodríguez Widmer take a closer look at the latest location rankings. [Learn more about the topic here.](#)

A Comparison of Swiss Cities

Unchecked Growth in Public Administration?

Berne, Basel and Zurich with strong growth in municipal administration

Public administrations of Switzerland's ten largest cities are disproportionately big compared to the municipal administrations of the other Swiss municipalities. In five cities, the administration has grown more than the population since 2011, in four cities less.

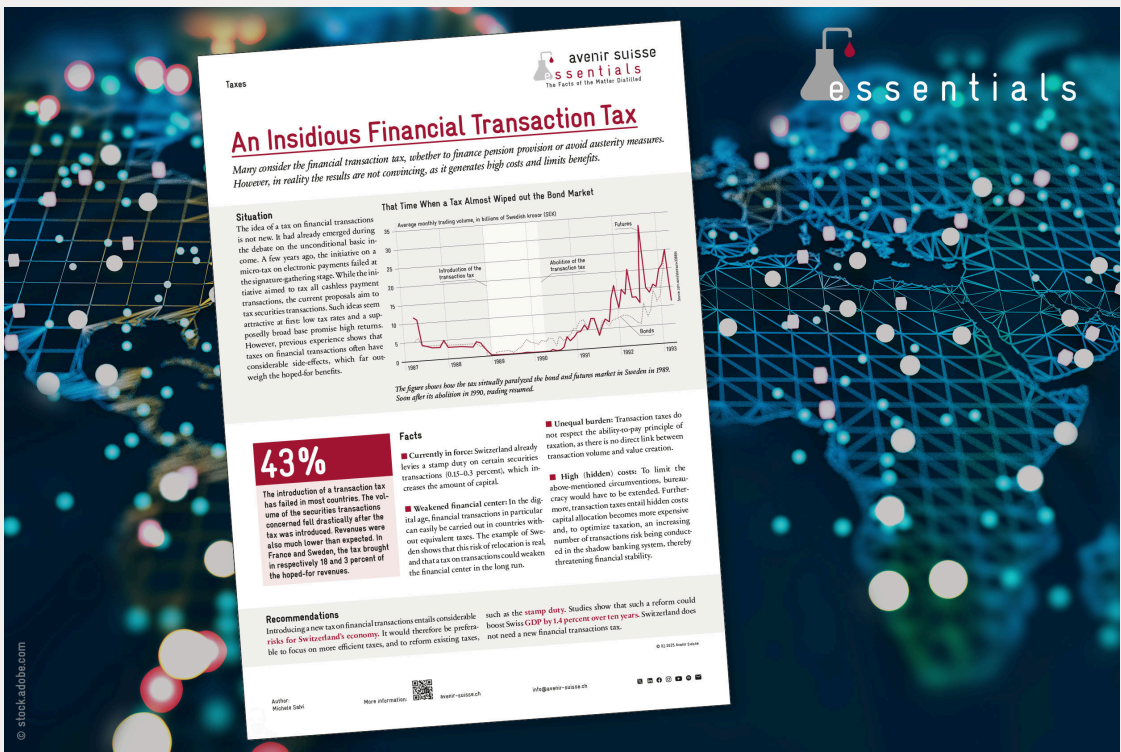


Source: Federal Statistical Office, statistics of the company structure (Statistik) Figure Avenir Suisse

A new analysis by Lukas Rühli and Livia Hollenstein shows that in Basel, Bern, and Zurich, municipal administration has grown significantly faster than the population over the past ten years. Other cities prove that this does not have to be the case: Lausanne managed to slightly reduce the number of municipal employees from 2011 to 2022, and in Winterthur, the growth of municipal staff was slower than the population increase. [Learn here why the disproportionately high growth of administration is problematic.](#)

New Essential

A Tax That Overpromises



The financial transaction tax is a perennial political issue. As Senior Fellow Michele Salvi points out, one key aspect is often overlooked: Switzerland already levies such a tax – the stamp duty. This tax has problematic effects, and international experience shows that transaction taxes generally fall short of expectations. [Find an overview of the key facts in our latest Essential.](#)

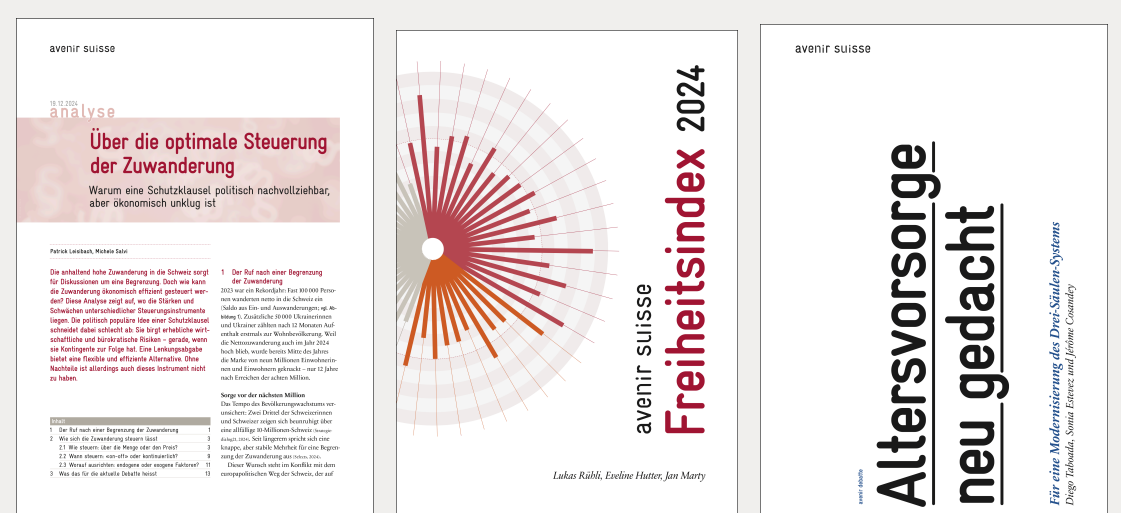
On Our Own Behalf

Jérôme Cosandey Moves to Seco



After more than 13 years at Avenir Suisse, Jérôme Cosandey will assume the role of Head of the Directorate for Labor at the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Seco) in mid-May 2025. As Directeur romand, he has played a pivotal role in shaping our think tank's presence in French-speaking Switzerland, representing us both with expertise and personable demeanor. Jérôme is also a highly respected authority on healthcare and social policy on the other side of the Röstigraben – something that has not gone unnoticed by Seco. While we are sorry to see Jérôme go, we are truly happy for him and wish him all the best in this exciting new professional chapter. The search for his successor is already underway.

Our Latest Publications



[On the Optimal Management of Immigration](#) [Avenir Suisse Freedom Index 2024](#) [Rethinking the Pension System](#)

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