

# Canton Lucerne:

# come grow with us

Residing in Lucerne

**With its balanced package of location-related benefits such as infrastructure, quality of life, low taxes and services, and with the Lucerne brand itself, Lucerne is the region of choice when it comes to living, working and enjoying life.**

### Lucerne – easy to reach

In a few weeks' time, Lucerne will be fully accessible by motorway, thanks to infrastructure upgrades. With the Zurich airport then only 45 minutes away by car, Lucerne as a business and residential location will be even quicker and easier to reach.

Canton Lucerne is committed to consistently investing in its transport infrastructure in the future, too. Indeed, the canton is planning to open two new motorway junctions at Buchrain and Rothen-

burg no later than next year and the year after. In the future, shorter journey times by rail between Lucerne and Zurich will also be available every 15 minutes, with the journey taking no more than 30 minutes. This measure, however, is scheduled for 2022 at the earliest.

### Lucerne – successful on every front

Lucerne is the headquarters of leading companies in the food and beverage industry, health services and mechanical engineering. The IT industry is also rapidly ex-

panding as a local service sector. Lean structures and efficient official procedures make it all the easier for businesses to set up and operate on a daily basis in Lucerne.

The team at Business Development Lucerne assists foreign companies at every step, from the project and planning phase through to the location evaluation, the official opening – and beyond. Companies obtain all the services and information they require from a single source. This saves valuable time, which can be better spent on core activities.

### It pays well to live in Lucerne

In 2008 the permanent resident population in Canton Lucerne rose once again, by 2.4 per cent, to just under 370,000 inhabitants. For the second year in a row more residents from the surrounding cantons moved to Lucerne, rather than left. The very attractive net location costs are one reason. If you compare individual locations in Switzerland based on disposable income\*, Lucerne ranks among the top half nationwide, ahead of Cantons Zurich, Zug, Basel and Geneva.

\***Disposable income** refers to the amount available to households for consumption based on income from gainful employment, assets and annuities as well as any transfer income, and after deduction of all compulsory levies (income and wealth tax, social insurance contributions, company pension plans, health insurance premiums) and fixed costs (living expenses, additional expenses and electricity costs).

### Increasingly cosmopolitan

According to a broad-based survey carried out in August 2009, Lucerne is the fourth most appealing town in Switzerland. That is also one of the reasons why Lucerne's population is steadily increasing. More than 3,500 expatriates have now settled in the Lucerne region, and Lucerne is expanding its local services offer for this important group.

A number of English-language kindergartens, two international schools, a Chinese school, international clubs and most recently the Expat-Expo (see sidebar for details) are just some of the important factors that persuade foreign executives to opt for Lucerne. Business Development Lucerne is busy marketing Lucerne as a business location in markets such as North America, China, Britain and Germany.

### Well on the way to the most attractive tax location in Switzerland

Lucerne believes that companies should be able to use large proportions of their profits for investments and shareholders. In the global landscape, Lucerne competes with major international destinations to attract business. For these reasons Lucerne is continually lowering corporate tax rates.

The cantonal vote on the third amendment to the Tax Act in quick succession occurred on September 27, 2009. Among



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many other relief measures, it proposed halving the cantonal corporate tax, enabling Lucerne to offer what is expected to be the lowest aggregate tax rate for companies in Switzerland as of 2012\*.

### Lucerne cantonal corporate taxes 2008 (in SFr, for a profit of SFr 1 million):

	Year 2008	Year 2010	Year 2012*
Lucerne	140,000	105,000	52,500
Zug	102,233		
Zurich	183,624		
Geneva	198,400		
Basel City	230,000		
Obwalden	60,000		

Source: Canton of Lucerne, Finance Department 2008

\*The definitive decision was settled by the cantonal referendum after Swiss News' press deadline.

### Housing in Lucerne

Canton Lucerne is very much sought after as a place to live and work. Naturally the towns, lake and mountains fascinate all those who are attracted to Switzerland. With crime at very low levels, schools only a short distance away, and breathtaking properties boasting views of the lake and mountains, the worries of everyday life are soon forgotten. And even if demand is set to increase once again following the opening of the continuous stretch of A4 motorway in November 2009, moderate land

For additional information:



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### Helpful links:

Luzern Tourismus AG: [www.luzern.com](http://www.luzern.com)

Expat-Expo: [www.expat-expo.info](http://www.expat-expo.info)

lucerne4you: [www.lucerne4you.ch](http://www.lucerne4you.ch)

International School of Zug and Luzern: [www.iszl.ch](http://www.iszl.ch)

Four-Forest Bilingual International School: [www.four-forestschool.ch](http://www.four-forestschool.ch)

Chinese School: [www.chinesische-schule-luzern.ch](http://www.chinesische-schule-luzern.ch)

Study in Lucerne: [www.studyinlucerne.ch](http://www.studyinlucerne.ch)

## CANTON PROFILE

and property prices are still available, especially in comparison with other towns and cities in Switzerland.

**Prices for single-family homes**  
(in SFr per m<sup>2</sup> of undeveloped but accessible building land)\*:

Lucerne	1,220	Zug	2,230
Zurich	2,680	Geneva	2,780
Basel	1,920		

**Top-end five-room rented apartment prices** (in SFr per month)\*:

Lucerne	2,490	Zug	3,100
Zurich	3,510	Geneva	3,790
Basel	2,470		

**Prices for top-end office space**  
(net, in SFr per m<sup>2</sup> and year)\*:

Lucerne	260	Zug	330
Zurich	490	Geneva	570
Basel	310		

\*Source: Immo-Monitoring Wuest & Partner, 2008

The best idea for you is to come and visit Lucerne for yourself. We look forward to showing you around Lucerne – for both your business and private needs.



Chapel Bridge Lucerne: constructed in the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century

### Meet us:

**November 3-4:** "Coifair" First China Overseas Investment Fair – Beijing, China ([www.coifair.org](http://www.coifair.org))

**November 3:** Business breakfast for Entrepreneurs – Phoenix, U.S.

**November 4:** Business breakfast for Entrepreneurs – San Diego, U.S.

**November 5:** Business breakfast for Entrepreneurs – Seattle, U.S.

**November 15:** Expat-Expo – Lucerne, Switzerland

### Upcoming events in Lucerne:

**October 25:** Lucerne Marathon ([www.lucernemarathon.ch](http://www.lucernemarathon.ch))

**December 17-20:** International Christmas Forum Venite ([www.venite.ch](http://www.venite.ch))



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