



**FONDATION
POUR GENÈVE**



STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECTOR IN GENEVA

**ECONOMY, SOCIETY, HOUSING,
MOBILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT**



**HOW MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS,
INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, AND
PERMANENT MISSIONS INFLUENCE THE GENEVA
REGION**

CONTEXTUALISATION AND KEY FIGURES



The International Sector in Geneva

Involvement in international endeavours has been an integral aspect of Geneva's identity for many years. While the establishment of the League of Nations, the precursor to the UN, in 1920, is often cited, the city's engagement at an international level actually began long before this milestone. The founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1863 and the inaugural Geneva Convention the following year, along with the earlier reception of Europe's reformists, have laid the groundwork for our canton's pivotal role in global affairs. Today, Geneva is inseparable from its international endeavours, serving not only as a key instrument in our country's foreign policy but also as an indispensable economic asset for the entire region. These endeavours encompass the international business sector, comprising over 2,200 multinational corporations that contribute significantly to Geneva's economic prosperity. As such, with the international sector accounting for over 150,000 direct jobs, it is crucial that the canton maintain its appeal. It is therefore essential to offer favourable conditions for international organisations, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), permanent missions, and multinational corporations.

A Catalyst for Switzerland's Foreign Policy

Switzerland's host-state policy encompasses all non-commercial international activities within our country. Serving as the headquarters for 39 international organisations, 180 United Nations (UN) member states, and 231 INGOs, Geneva is a unique hub of international influence. Every year, countless standards that impact people's daily lives around the world, are deliberated, decided, and regulated in Geneva. This influence spans from the composition of toothpaste to patents protecting cutting-edge inventions and establishing safety standards for child car seats. Whether in public health, trade, human rights, humanitarian efforts, the environment, or telecommunications, international Geneva stands at the forefront of global developments and decision-making.

The presence of these diverse entities on Swiss soil forms a substantial asset for our country. These organisations actively contribute to realising the objectives outlined in Article 54, para. 2, of the Constitution (Cst.), shaping Swiss foreign policy and safeguarding our country's interests while championing our values. They open doors for Swiss authorities to seamlessly access organisations that influence global affairs, including their leaders, officials, experts, and visiting delegates, showcasing Geneva's adeptness in organising and hosting high-profile meetings, exemplified by the notable encounter between Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin in 2021. Through their skilful facilitation of the international community, Switzerland and Geneva are solidifying our reputation as a reliable nation. This infuses Switzerland's international engagements with positive outcomes, extending beyond diplomatic affairs to make a positive impact on the economic and investment sectors as well. Conversely, by providing optimal conditions for international organisations based in its territory, Switzerland makes a substantial contribution to the smooth running of global relations and the resolution of contemporary challenges.

NOTE

Employment statistics are calculated either in FTE (Full-Time Equivalent jobs) or in the number of jobs (employees).

The Significance of the Private Sector

The 2,200-plus multinational corporations situated in Geneva play a pivotal role in driving the economic dynamism of the entire region. In 2019 alone, they directly contributed to 40% of the canton's value added, supported 32% of the local workforce, and generated CHF 2.52 billion in tax revenue from both employee income and VAT. Taking into account direct, indirect, and induced effects, this translated to a substantial CHF 29.8 billion in value added in the Canton of Geneva, in 2019 (equivalent to 56% of the cantonal GDP) and over 160,000 FTE jobs (equivalent to 48% of FTE jobs at the cantonal level). It is clear that multinational corporations are vital job providers and key business partners for thousands of SMEs and independent entrepreneurs. While the tax revenue from multinational corporations could not be estimated due to the unavailability of data, the introduction of the Corporate Tax Reform and Financing of the AHV (RFFA) led to a substantial increase in tax revenue from corporate taxation. Given the significant contribution of multinational corporations to the cantonal value added, they are credited with a considerable portion of this increase. Beyond their economic impact, multinational corporations also play an essential role in research and development (R&D), delivering benefits to the broader society. 89% of R&D expenditures originate from companies with a workforce of at least 50 employees, and 78% of jobs with enterprises of this scale are within multinational corporations in Switzerland. Having these multinational corporations in our country undeniably creates a robust ecosystem that not only benefits our economy but also society at large.

An Economic Asset for the Region

The diverse array of both commercial and non-commercial contributors actively fuels the economic vitality of the region, delivering substantial economic benefits. International endeavours alone account for nearly 150,000 direct jobs, equivalent to 37% of the canton's employment, and directly contributing to almost 50% of the value added. Each job in the international sector creates a ripple effect, leading to additional positions in Geneva (0.5 FTE job for multinational corporations and 0.25 for the public international sector), thereby contributing to the overall economic dynamism throughout society. The international sector generates substantial direct tax revenue from the income tax of its employees and VAT, estimated at CHF 2.64 billion in 2019. The cumulative amount of indirect and induced tax revenue from the income tax of international sector employees and VAT, totals CHF 3.93 billion. The far-reaching economic influence of the international sector is evident at all levels of society. As Geneva's unique ecosystem seamlessly combines public and private international entities, it also cultivates the development of valuable public-private partnerships for addressing global challenges.

Geneva relies on this international sector, which sustains it and gives it a unique role within the Confederation. Switzerland benefits from these international endeavours that solidify its prominent position on the global stage. In a world seeking a secure, stable hub open to dialogue and built on the values of peace, Geneva stands as a vital platform for discussing global issues and working towards solutions. Let's take pride in the international role of our city, advocate for informed dialogue among states and organisations, bridge the gap between private and public sectors, and proudly champion the colours of international cooperation at all levels.

NOTE

Employment statistics are calculated either in FTE (Full-Time Equivalent jobs) or in the number of jobs (employees).

Key figures



STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECTOR IN GENEVA

ECONOMY, SOCIETY, HOUSING, MOBILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The International Sector in Geneva



180

permanent diplomatic missions (PM) at the United Nations in 2024



39

international organisations (IO), with one IO founded in 2024



461

international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), of which 231 had at least one employee in Geneva in 2023



2'237

multinational corporations (MNC) in 2023



28'500

international meetings between high-level representatives between 2010 and 2019



190'000

sessions between 2010 and 2019 within IOs in Geneva

Tax Revenue



2,52 billion

in direct tax revenue from the income tax of employees and VAT of MNCs in the Franco-Valdo-Genevan region in 2019



112,1 million

in direct tax revenue from the income tax of employees and VAT of IO/INGO/PM in the Franco-Valdo-Genevan region in 2019



2,64 billion

in direct tax revenue from the income tax of employees and VAT across IO/INGO/PM/MNC in the Franco-Valdo-Genevan region in 2019



3,6 billion

in direct, indirect, and induced tax revenue from the income tax of employees and VAT of MNCs in the Franco-Valdo-Genevan region in 2019



327,8 million

in direct, indirect, and induced tax revenue from the income tax of employees and VAT of IO/INGO/PM in the Franco-Valdo-Genevan region in 2019



3,93 billion

in direct, indirect, and induced tax revenue from the income tax of employees and VAT across IO/INGO/PM/MNC in the Franco-Valdo-Genevan region in 2019

NOTE

The tax revenue from multinational corporations could not be estimated, but it constitutes a significant portion of the corporate tax revenue in Geneva.

Economic Impact in Geneva



33'822

direct jobs in IO/
INGO/PM in Geneva
in 2019



119'169

direct jobs in MNCs
in Geneva in 2019



152'991

total direct jobs in
Geneva in IO/INGO/
PM/MNC in 2019



37%

of direct jobs in
Geneva in 2019,
including IO/INGO/
PM/MNC



35'839

direct, indirect, and
induced FTE jobs
generated by IO/
INGO/PM in Geneva
in 2019



185'576

direct, indirect, and
induced FTE jobs
generated by MNCs
in Geneva in 2019



221'415

direct, indirect, and
induced FTE jobs
generated by IO/
INGO/PM/MNC in
Geneva in 2019



1,51

job multiplier effect
of MNCs in Geneva
in 2019



1,25

job multiplier effect
of IO/INGO/PM in
Geneva in 2019



0,5

FTE job generated in
the Geneva economy
per FTE job in MNCs
in Geneva in 2019



0,25

FTE job generated in
the Geneva economy
per FTE job in IO/
INGO/PM in Geneva
in 2019



40%

of the value added
in the canton
originated directly
from MNCs in 2019



8,7%

of the value added in
the canton originated
directly from IO/
INGO/PM in 2019



48,7%

of the value added in
the canton originated
directly from the
international sector
in 2019



56%

of the value added
in the canton was
directly or indirectly
contributed to, or
induced by MNCs in
2019



11,4%

of the value added in
the canton was
directly or indirectly
contributed to, or
induced by IO/INGO/
PM in 2019



67,4%

of the value added in
the canton was **directly**
or **indirectly** contributed
to, or **induced** by the
international sector in
2019

Housing and Mobility



6%

of international
sector employees
surveyed have
accommodation
provided by their
employer



5%

of international
sector employees
surveyed have their
rent covered by
their employer



33%

of international sector
employees surveyed
prefer taking their
car, compared to
39% of the workforce
in Geneva



35%

of international sector
employees surveyed
prefer public transport,
compared to 28% of the
workforce in Geneva