

The Canton of Solothurn –  
Your ideal business location  
in Switzerland.

 CANTON **solothurn**

*economic development agency*



# Putting you at the forefront.



Sarah Koch

Head of Business Development  
Solothurn Economic Development Agency

Canton Solothurn is Switzerland's medtech hotspot and home to its orthopedic technology industry. The canton accounts for almost 12 percent of all medical technology jobs in the country. We have a powerful cluster of manufacturers, suppliers, and ICT service providers – and there's still a huge amount of potential.

The dynamism of the medtech sector has paved the way for an increasingly vibrant life science industry. Biogen is a prime example. The US biotech group has decided to set up here because we can provide an outstanding pool of highly qualified people – something that benefits companies in all sectors of our industrial canton's economy. You'll find more detailed information on the advantages of doing business in Canton Solothurn in this brochure.

Solothurn's Economic Development Agency is at the forefront of efforts to make the canton an even better location for your business. We provide guidance and support to help you set up, and ensure you have the contacts and information you need to make the most of your opportunities for innovation. If you have questions on new working arrangements, recruiting specialist staff, or work and family matters, we can put you in touch with the right people.

"Can do" is our motto. Whatever your concerns, the team at the Economic Development Agency will respond rapidly and professionally, drawing on their wide-ranging knowledge of the canton and its economy, to find the right solution for you. We're the first point of contact for companies doing business in Solothurn and those that intend to.

We look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SK' with a flourish.

Sarah Koch



### Facts and figures: Canton Solothurn

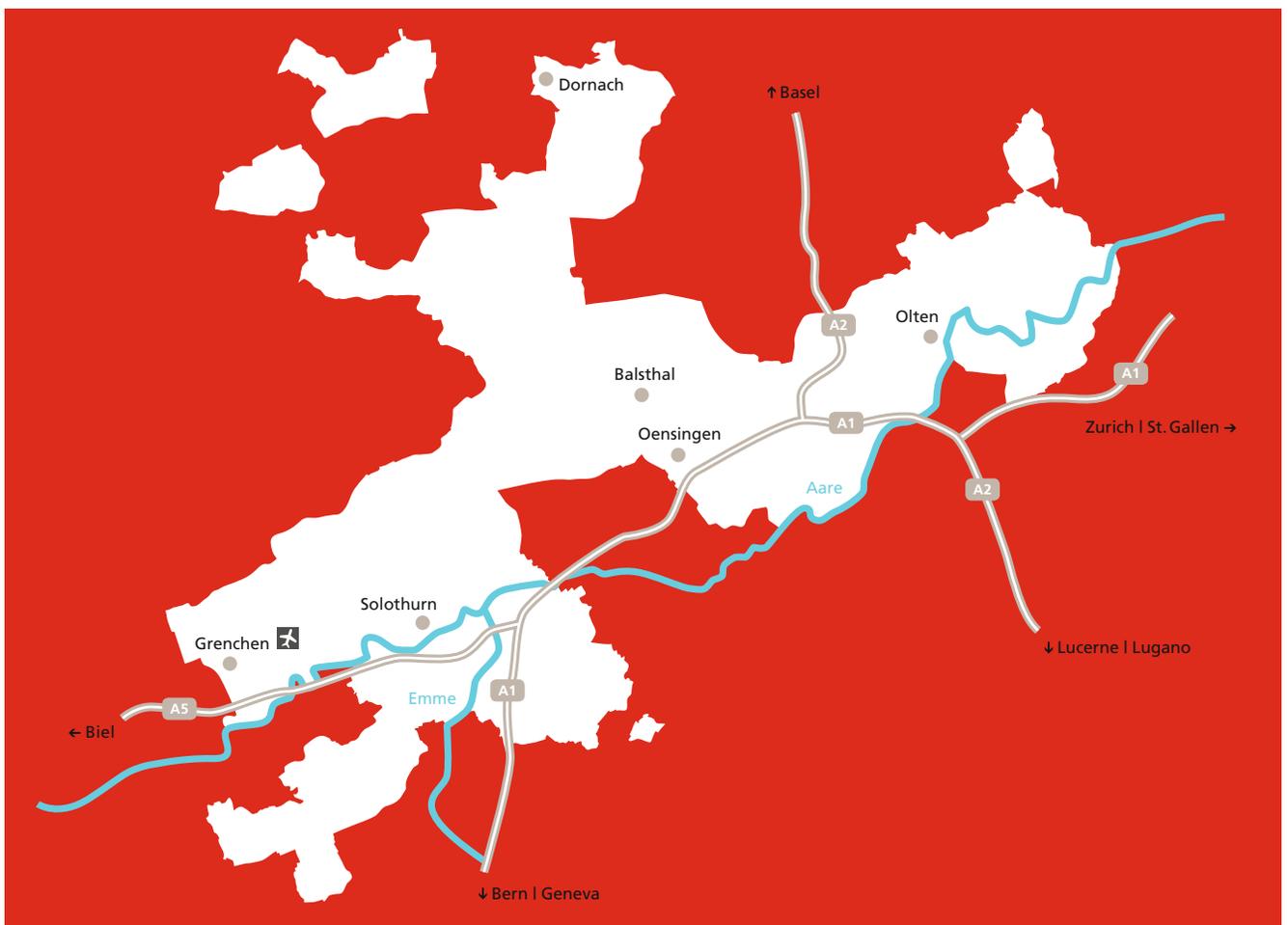
Population: 267 836

Area: 791 km<sup>2</sup>

Companies: 15 000

Jobs: 106 000





### Travel times

International	Train*	Plane	
Munich	5 h 28 min	50 min	from Zurich
Frankfurt	3 h 20 min	1 h 05 min	from Basel or Zurich
Berlin	7 h 24 min	1 h 20 min	from Zurich
Paris	3 h 32 min	1 h 08 min	from Basel
Lyon	3 h 51 min	53 min	from Basel
Milan	3 h 36 min	50 min	from Zurich
Rome	6 h 51 min	1 h 24 min	from Basel or Zurich
Vienna	8 h 25 min	1 h 15 min	from Zurich
London	7 h 30 min	1 h 40 min	from Basel or Zurich
Amsterdam	7 h 24 min	1 h 30 min	from Basel

Switzerland	Train*	Car*
Zurich	31 min	44 min
Basel	24 min	34 min
Bern	27 min	40 min

\* from Olten



Canton Solothurn: room to move within easy reach of urban centers.

- 1 | Grenchen Airport
- 2 | A1 Zurich – Geneva highway
- 3 | A2 Basel – Lugano highway
- 4 | High-speed train

Easily accessible from everywhere

# The real center of Switzerland.

The Canton of Solothurn is extremely accessible. The main A1 and A2 highways run through it, and with a business airport in Grenchen and three other airports close by, travel to and from abroad is quick and easy.

## **Highly qualified workforce**

Canton Solothurn has an abundance of highly qualified people to draw on. Small and medium-sized enterprises in the canton make particular use of this potential, collaborating on research and development with institutions such as the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) and the Innocampus in Biel.



## Canton Solothurn: quality of life at affordable prices.

- 1 | Solothurn
- 2 | Dornach
- 3 | Grenchen
- 4 | Olten

Reasonable prices, fair tax climate

# Keep more of what you earn.

Here you get to enjoy all the benefits of Switzerland's main urban centers at lower cost. You'll find your money goes further in Canton Solothurn.

## **Business-friendly taxation**

In Canton Solothurn you'll benefit from our business-friendly taxation:

- › Fair tax climate
- › Generous deduction policy and practice
- › Tax-free provisions for R&D and corporate restructuring
- › Tax-neutral corporate reorganization
- › Tax-free replacement investments
- › Deductibility of taxes
- › Real estate income and profits as part of corporate assets
- › Special tax rulings available for holding, domicile, and mixed domicile companies

## **Competitive taxes on assets and lump-sum settlements**

Taxes on assets and lump-sum settlements are incomparably low for individuals.

## **Low real estate prices**

Here you pay considerably less than the Swiss average for industrial land and office rental. With the A1 and A2 highways providing easy access to major urban centers, this adds up to a very attractive package at a remarkably low price.



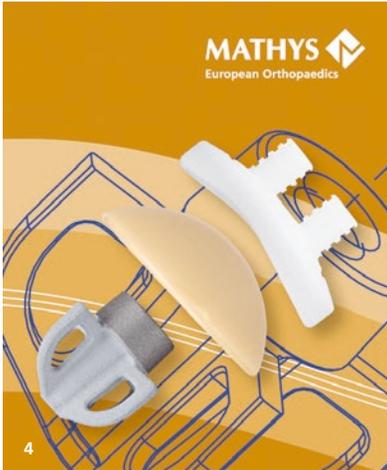
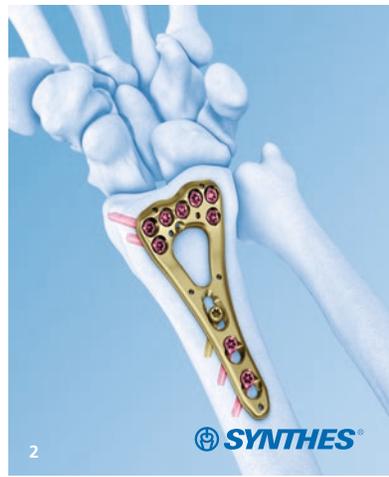
In our canton high tech has a great past and a great future.

- 1 | Jura, Niederbuchsiten
- 2 | BMC, Grenchen
- 3 | Stryker, Selzach
- 4 | Galderma Spirig, Egerkingen
- 5 | Leoni, Däniken

Life sciences, medtech, and watchmaking

# Fertile ground for industry.

Solothurn is an industrial canton and a medtech hotspot. A third of our labor force works in manufacturing, compared with only a quarter on average across Switzerland. The canton's machine industry, and its precision watchmaking and electronics, have a long tradition. This has played an important role in the emergence of our medtech cluster. Our orthopedic technology firms have written business history. We're proud to have global industry leaders manufacturing, researching, and developing their products in Canton Solothurn.



Our workforce takes pride in its precision skills.

- 1 | Eterna, Grenchen
- 2 | Synthes, Zuchwil
- 3 | Titoni, Grenchen
- 4 | Mathys, Bettlach
- 5 | Breitling, Grenchen
- 6 | Stryker, Selzach

Perfect down to the finest detail

# Precision workmanship in our genes.

Our expertise in watchmaking also benefits other industries, including medtech and life sciences in general. This is one of the reasons the global biotech group Biogen has chosen to set up operations in Canton Solothurn: "In areas such as plant maintenance and logistics we need well-trained people who work reliably and accurately. With its history of precision engineering, Solothurn is well placed to provide them," explains Natascha Schill, Managing Director of Biogen Switzerland.



The Canton of Solothurn has a rich and varied cultural scene.

- 1 | Solothurn Literature Festival
- 2 | Solothurn Film Festival
- 3 | Triennial in Grenchen
- 4 | Carnival
- 5 | Oltner Kabaretttage
- 6 | Kofmehl in Solothurn

Film, literature, arts, and music

# A living, vibrant culture.

In Canton Solothurn you can enjoy a rich variety of arts and culture:

- › Movies: Solothurn Film Festival
- › Literature: Solothurn Literature Festival
- › Comedy: Oltner Kabaretttage
- › Graphic design: Triennial in Grenchen
- › Colorful masks: Carnival
- › Music: Kofmehl in Solothurn

Canton Solothurn is a beautiful place to live, full of contrasts. Enjoy the Mediterranean ambiance of the baroque city of Solothurn, the idyllic countryside along the banks of the Aare river, the green surroundings of industrial Grenchen, the Thal Nature Park, the rocky heights of the Jura, the charming old city of Olten, and the hilly enclave of the Schwarzbubenland.



Easygoing, direct, and  
approachable: typical Solothurn.

- 1 | Market, Grenchen
- 2 | Aare riverside, Olten
- 3 | Thal Nature Park
- 4 | Summer evening, Solothurn
- 5 | Schwarzbubenland

Less red tape, more support

# Where doing business is easy.

Here in Solothurn, we're known for being uncomplicated. This is also reflected in our approach to business. Our cantonal administration is straightforward, and the government is pragmatic. Our political decisionmakers are accessible and sympathetic to the concerns of business. This saves you precious time. You'll be amazed at how quickly we can help you find solutions.



Connected with the whole world

# SO international.

## **Grenchen Business Airport**

From Grenchen it's a one-hour flight to Paris, and 90 minutes to Berlin. You can fly to hundreds of airports in Europe and North Africa direct. There are a number of corporate jet and private charter companies located at the airport in Grenchen.

[www.airport-grenchen.ch](http://www.airport-grenchen.ch)

## **International schools**

There are two international schools in Canton Solothurn. As an alternative to the Swiss public schools, they offer an outstanding English-speaking education, allowing a smooth transition to other international schools all over the world: the International School of Solothurn (ISSO) in Solothurn, and the Swiss International School (SIS) in Schönenwerd, close to the city of Olten.

[www.is-so.ch](http://www.is-so.ch)

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





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