

VORARLBERG

Work & live in one of the most innovative regions of Europe

The background of the entire page is a high-angle aerial photograph of a valley in Vorarlberg, Austria. In the foreground, there are lush green hills with scattered houses and a dense forest of evergreen trees. The middle ground shows a wide valley floor with a small town and a river winding through it. In the background, majestic mountains with snow-capped peaks rise against a hazy sky. Large, semi-transparent geometric shapes, including a large 'V' and 'A' that form the WISTO logo, are overlaid on the image. An orange horizontal bar is positioned across the middle of the image, containing the text "OPPORTUNITY AND QUALITY LIVING".

OPPORTUNITY AND QUALITY LIVING

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Vorarlberg is in the heart of Europe and is very well connected with the most important cities via the Altenrhein, Friedrichshafen, Innsbruck, Memmingen and Zurich airports.



LOCATION

Its location in the four-country corner is what gives the region its openness and provides the local economy with an international focus. Vorarlberg borders Germany (the State of Bavaria), Switzerland (the Cantons of St. Gallen and Grisons) and the Principality of Liechtenstein.

TOPOGRAPHY

The State of Vorarlberg is a combination of impressive high mountain scenery and gently rolling hills with meadows in the Rhine valley that are home to a wide variety of species. This wide variety of scenery in a small space allows the residents of the area to have a noteworthy variety of cultures and landscapes, which also provides excellent opportunities for leisure time and recreational activities.

- › more than 409,000 residents
- › 96 communities
- › 4 districts (Bludenz, Feldkirch, Dornbirn and Bregenz)
- › Vorarlberg has the youngest population in Austria with 21% of the residents under 20 years old.
- › Directly behind Vienna, the Rhine Valley in Vorarlberg is the second-most densely populated region in Austria.

A PIONEER SPIRIT

Vorarlberg, the innovation and export champion

The economy in Vorarlberg is as diverse as its landscape. Its business activity is characterized by a wide variety of industries and regional value chains at an international level.

- › low unemployment rate
- › above-average, strong GDP per capita
- › highest value of exports per capita in Austria
- › among the top 10 most innovative regions worldwide (patents)

INDUSTRIALIZED TOP REGIONS

Vorarlberg's economy has strong industrial companies. These companies along with the manufacturing sector contribute more than one-fourth of the entire economic performance (28%). That is significantly more than in other regions. Their products are...

- › 42% machines and metal products
- › 14% food products and beverages
- › 8% electronics and electronic equipment
- › 7% textiles and clothing
- › 6% paper and paper processing

EXPORT CHAMPION WITH GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Around 80% of goods and services produced in Vorarlberg are sold abroad – this makes Vorarlberg the export champion in Austria. Germany is the main export market followed by Switzerland, Italy, the US and France.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

- › Research in Vorarlberg is market-oriented, efficient, at the international level and mainly takes place at companies. Company research ratios of 20% of sales are common.
- › The industrial research center V-Research collaborates with local companies such as Liebherr, Gebrüder Weiss and Zumtobel to work on tribology-related problems, design automation problems and digital production.
- › The Research Institute for Textile Chemistry and Textile Physics implements innovative, top-level EU projects and includes Vorarlberg's experience with textiles.
- › The Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences performs research and development at five research centers and in a research group on a wide variety of topics.
- › The Digital Factory is a joint venture with the largest Austrian research institution, AIT, and this project explores the options of digital change.

RESILIENCE

- › The wide variety of industries in the State of Vorarlberg is impressive in addition to the state's industrial and export strength. Although the textile industry was almost the only driver of economic growth 55 years ago, today Vorarlberg has developed into an economically strong, creative, high-tech region with a wide variety of industries. Hardly any other state has completed a structural change with flying colors like Vorarlberg has.



STATE WITH STRONG BRANDS

Global players from Vorarlberg (sample)*

Vorarlberg offers a concentration of brands known around the world like hardly any other region.

ALPLA GmbH & Co KG www.alpla.com
Globally leading plastics processor; produces bottles and bottle closures for Coca-Cola, P&G and J&J
Employees: 1,200 (in Vorarlberg)/23,000 (other locations)

Bachmann electronic GmbH www.bachmann.info
Global market leader for automation technology with a focus on wind turbines as well as marine and offshore installations
Employees: 340/170

Collini Holding www.collini.eu
Globally leading coating specialist in Europe Employees: 450/1,250

Doppelmayr Seilbahnen GmbH www.doppelmayr.at
Uncontested global market leader in ropeway construction, subsidiary
DCC is globally successful with cable liners
Employees: 1,500/1,700

Erne Group GmbH www.ernefittings.com
Globally leading provider of pipe connections (fittings)
Employees: 300/470

GANTNER Electronic GmbH www.gantner.com
Innovative system solutions for access control, time recording, identification and billing
Employees: 130/370

Gebrüder Weiss GmbH www.gw-world.com
Largest privately owned shipping company in Austria
Employees: 3,000/5,400

Getzner Textil AG www.getzner.at
Leading producer of African damask fabric. Is also one of the most important providers of fashion fabrics including fabric for companies like Hugo Boss and Armani, and is a major producer of technical textiles
Employees: 1,050/520

Getzner Werkstoffe GmbH www.getzner.com
Leading specialist in the area of materials to insulate against vibration such as for railroad tracks
Employees: 360/120

HEAD Sport GmbH www.head.com
Brand manufacturer in the area of rackets and winter sports
Employees: 330/180

Hirschmann Automotive GmbH www.hirschmann-automotive.com
Producer of innovative plug-in connections for premium automotive brands such as Mercedes, BMW and Audi
Employees: 1,300/6,200

IMA Schelling Group GmbH www.imaschelling.com
Global market leader in the area of cutting saws
Employees: 500/1,400

Jäger Bau GmbH www.jaegerbau.com
A company in demand worldwide specializing in underground construction, civil engineering, construction and project development
Employees: 610/60

Blum Gruppe www.blum.com
Globally leading manufacturer of hardware and runner systems, especially for kitchen furniture; customers include IKEA
Employees: 7,000/2,400

KÖNIG GmbH & Co KG www.elko-koenig.com
Supplier of cylinders, pistons and piston rings for global customers such as KTM
Employees: 420/not specified

Künz GmbH www.kuenz.com
Develops container and specialty cranes for customers around the world and trash rack cleaning machines for power plants
Employees: 250/240

Meusburger Georg GmbH & Co KG www.meusburger.com
Producer of highly precise standard components for mold and die making, jigs and fixtures as well as a supplier of workshop equipment
Employees: 1,100/650

OMICRON Holding GmbH www.omicron.at
Global market leader in testing equipment for the energy industry
Employees: 700/400

Rauch Fruchtsäfte GmbH www.rauch.cc
The largest fruit juice and tea drink producer in Austria
Employees: 950/1,200

Rhomberg Bau Gruppe www.rhomberg.com
Internationally successful construction/rail technology company
Employees: 850/2,700

Rudolf Ölz Meisterbäckerei GmbH & Co KG www.oelz.com
Leading producer of baked goods and bread
Employees: 650/400

Wolford AG www.wolford.com
Brand producer of pantyhose and lingerie
Employees: 460/70

Zumtobel Group AG www.zumtobelgroup.com
Global market leader in the areas of electronic lighting technology and professional lighting systems
Employees: 1,600/3,900

*Numbers: Top 100 of Vorarlberg's largest companies (VN; April 2023)

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

Competence centers of international companies (sample)*

A large number of global companies purposely find a location in Vorarlberg and show their commitment to this location and its advantages by making ongoing investments.

Ball Beverage Packaging GmbH www.ball.com/eu
Sole supplier of Red Bull cans
Employees: 200 (in Vorarlberg)/22,500 (other locations)

Carcoustics Austria GmbH www.carcoustics.com
Producer of solutions for total vehicle acoustics in the automotive industry; tech center for aluforming
Employees: 200/2,100

Grass GmbH www.grass.at
Producer of pull-out and runner systems for premium furniture; competence center for the Würth-Gruppe
Employees: 1,050/800

HILTI AG www.hilti.at
Lead plant of the HILTI Group for machining and assembly
Employees: 600/31,900

Hydro Extrusion Nenzing GmbH www.hydro.com
Producer of customer-specific aluminum profiles
Employees: 450/not specified

Liebherr-Werk Nenzing GmbH www.liebherr.com
Development of ship and mobile harbor cranes as well as crawlers
Employees: 1,640/460

Mondelez International, Inc. www.mondelezinternational.com
Production of 70,000 tons of chocolate bars per year for the Milka and Cadbury brands
Employees: not specified /90,000

Red Bull GmbH www.redbull.at
Energy drink production, Ludesch plant
Employees: not specified /15,500

SIKA Österreich GmbH www.sika.com
Worldwide leading producer of chemical construction materials
Employees: 90/180

Spectra-Physics GmbH www.spectra-physics.at
Development of the shortest synchronized laser in the world (femtosecond laser), part of the Newport Corporation (US)
Employees: 100/not specified

INNOVATIVE SMES

Aspiring innovators (sample)

One of the things that makes Vorarlberg so attractive is the lively corporate environment. These companies include the many innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). In their highly specialized niches, they are some of the leading companies in Europe and across the world.

A.M.I. Agency for Medical Innovations GmbH www.ami.at
Development of innovative surgical devices and methods

BAUR GmbH www.baur.at
Expert in high-voltage testing and measurement technology

Dorner Electronic GmbH www.dorner.at
Hardware and software solutions for the construction material industry

faigle Kunststoffe GmbH www.faigle.com
World market leader for rollers for escalators and elevators

Heron Gruppe www.heron.at
Producer of automation components, materials handling technology, machining technology, robotics and transport systems

Identec Solutions AG www.identecolutions.com
Development of wireless sensor networks on RFID technology

Obrist Engineering GmbH www.obrist.at
Development of environmentally friendly CO₂ automotive air conditioners

S.I.E System Industrie Electronic AG www.sie.at
IT solutions for medical, security and industrial companies

SIMMA Electronic GmbH www.simma.co.at
Specialist for control and automation solutions in the construction materials industry

SOLA-Messwerkzeuge GmbH www.sola.at
Producer of high quality measurement tools

THIEN eDrives GmbH www.thien-edrives.com
Development of customer-specific electric drive systems (motor, control) for industrial and automotive applications

WolfVision GmbH www.wolfvision.com
Google, Microsoft, Nike, NASA, various universities and educational institutions worldwide use the innovative Visualizer

ZIMM Group GmbH www.zimm.at
Specialist for drive and automation technology

1zu1 Prototypen GmbH & Co KG www.1zu1prototypen.com
Leading provider of rapid prototyping in Europe

*Numbers: Top 100 of Vorarlberg's largest companies (VN; April 2023)





STUDYING AND LEARNING

The Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences (FHV) offers more than 20 study programs in four departments (business, technology, design, and social service and health). Strong networking with businesses, intense research activity and an international focus are what characterize FHV. The university's excellently equipped learning and research laboratories and in-depth, personal guidance provide optimal conditions. There is no tuition. www.fhv.at

BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AT FHV

- › Electrical Engineering Dual (dual)
- › Health and Nursing Care (full-time)
- › International Business Administration (full-time and part-time)
- › Computer Science – Software and Information Engineering (full-time)
- › Computer Science – Digital Innovation (part-time)
- › InterMedia (full-time)
- › Mechatronics (full-time+ part-time)
- › Mechatronics/Mechanical Engineering (full-time)
- › Social Work (full-time + part-time)
- › Environment and Engineering (full-time)
- › Engineering and Management (part-time)

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS AT FHV

- › Business administration with specializations
 - › Accounting, Controlling & Finance (part-time)
 - › Business Process Management (part-time)
 - › Human Resources and Organization (part-time)
 - › International Marketing & Sales (part-time, English)
- › Computer Science (full-time)
- › Design and Creative Leadership* (part-time)
- › InterMedia (part-time)
- › International Management and Leadership (part-time, English)
- › Mechatronics (career enabling)
- › Sustainable Energy Systems (part-time)
- › Social Work (part-time)
- › Business Informatics – Digital Transformation (part-time)

* subject to accreditation by AQ Austria

Among the educational institutions that offer additional educational options are Schloss Hofen – Wissenschafts- und WeiterbildungsgmbH (university level courses), the Eurostudienzentrum (university level courses from a distance learning university) and the Pädagogische Hochschule (teacher's college). Stella Vorarlberg Privatuniversität für Musik provides the best basis for a music degree. An artistic and an artistic-pedagogical professional study program can be chosen. The pre-college and the music school also allow young people to get in-depth preparation for a music study program.

COURSE OFFERINGS AT SCHLOSS HOFEN (SAMPLE)

- › EUREM – Energy Management Studies
- › Personnel and Organizational Development
- › Basics of the Cable-Car Industry
- › Innovation and Product Management MSc
- › Executive MBA



In the area surrounding Lake Constance in Vorarlberg, there are many other renowned educational institutions. They are united in the Wissenschaftsverbund Vierländerregion Bodensee and can be easily reached from Vorarlberg. www.wissenschaftsverbund.org

UNIVERSITIES IN THE LAKE CONSTANCE AREA (sample)

- › Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences, Dornbirn
- › Schloss Hofen, Lochau
- › University of Liechtenstein, Vaduz
- › OST – Eastern Switzerland University of Applied Sciences, Buchs
- › University of St.Gallen (HSG), St. Gallen
- › ETH Zurich
- › HTWG Konstanz - University of Applied Sciences, Constance
- › Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University, Ravensburg
- › Albstadt-Sigmaringen University, Sigmaringen
- › Zeppelin University, Friedrichshafen



SPORTS AND LEISURE TIME

Everything that you could desire. That is how you can sum up the wide range of leisure activities in Vorarlberg. There is an unlimited number of sports activities year-round because of the wide range of landscapes consisting of mountains, valleys and lakes.

- › The entire southern half of Vorarlberg is basically a skiing area. Around 40 skiing areas offer a wide range of slopes for beginners and experienced skiers.
- › Well-prepared tobogganing runs make tobogganing fun, whether it is during the day, tobogganing at night, on the nature run, on the world's most innovative ice canal or on the Alpine Coaster in the summer.
- › Vorarlberg has approximately 5,700 km of uniformly marked hiking paths and 86 mountain peaks with a height of over 2,500 m.
- › Climbing enthusiasts of any skill level will find suitable climbing slopes, whether they are directly on a mountain, in a climbing park, a high rope course or an indoor climbing gym. Six boulder halls make practicing fun even during bad weather.
- › Mountain bikers enjoy 1,500 kilometers of signposted mountain bike paths with varied mountain routes and fantastic scenery. Four downhill single trails and a bike park will give you an extra thrill.
- › Lake Constance is used for a wide variety of water sports. In addition to sailing, it is also possible to wind and kite surf when the weather is right, and diving in Lake Constance is also regarded as attractive and challenging.

- › NINETY soccer clubs with over 8,000 members practice regularly at 105 high quality soccer fields. A large number of international clubs use the Alpine conditions for training camps.
- › There are even more tennis players than soccer players in the state.
- › Ice hockey and handball are also extremely popular. The handball clubs in Bregenz and Hard lead the Austrian Federal League and play at an international level.
- › Golf is an enjoyable sport. The sometimes high alpine scenery offers wonderful conditions for the six golf courses in the state and meet everyone's needs.
- › At the Hypo-Meeting in Götzis, the global elite in track and field come together once per year to compete in the men's DECATHLON and in the women's HEPTATHLON. It is regarded as the most important and best multisport race event in the world.
- › The Sparkasse 3-Country Marathon along the shore of Lake Constance has turned into the second largest marathon event in Austria and underscores the importance of this popular sport in the region.
- › Paragliders are especially glad when there are ideal thermal conditions in the Montafon Valley and in the Bregenz Forest. The starting points can be conveniently reached by cable car and are among the best in Europe.





CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND LIFE IN VORARLBERG

Vorarlberg is also fulfilling when it comes to cultural activities. A large number of established art and cultural initiatives are known far beyond the region.

FESTIVALS IN BREGENZ

The festivals in Bregenz have the largest lake stage in the world right on or in Lake Constance and enthuse critics with their opera and musical performances. The greatest musical works have already been performed on the lake stage: Wagner's Flying Dutchman, Beethoven's Fidelio, Verdi's Nabucco, Mozart's The Magic Flute and Bizet's Carmen. In 2008, even James Bond allowed himself to be captivated by the lake stage and filmed part of his movie Quantum of Solace there. The performances fascinate classical enthusiasts and a broad audience because of the impressive lake scenery, the grandiose stage scenery and the sophisticated stage equipment. www.bregenzerfestspiele.com



The Bregenz Festival Hall also offers theater, concerts, musicals, ballets and shows year-round. Some of the highlights are the Bregenz Spring Festival, the Master Concert series and the Vorarlberg Symphony Orchestra concerts. www.kongresskultur.com

The Schubertiade in Schwarzenberg and Hohenems has developed into the most important and renowned Schubert Festival worldwide. Among music enthusiasts, the festival is regarded as an overall work of art consisting of the landscape, atmosphere and acoustics with the best musicians in the world. The festival has become established internationally since 1976 with around 70 events and more than 30,000 visitors. www.schubertiade.at

KUNSTHAUS BREGENZ

When it comes to contemporary art, the Kunsthau Bregenz (KUB) offers one of the best exhibit programs in Europe. Even the architecture of the building drafted by Peter Zumthor is worth seeing. Artists such as Roy Lichtenstein, Jeff Koons, Marcel Duchamp, Ai Weiwei and Cindy Sherman have been presented at the KUB. www.kunsthau-bregenz.at

A WORLD OF MUSEUMS

Vorarlberg has an unusual variety of exhibits with more than 60 museums. In Hohenems, the Jewish Museum attracts visitors from all over the world, Austria's first women's museum is in the Bregenz Forest and in Dornbirn you can find the largest Rolls-Royce collection in the world as well as the interactive natural history and technology museum inatura.

CULTURAL FESTIVALS

There are cultural initiatives in almost every community with varying focuses, formats and target groups. A sample:

District Bregenz:

- › :alpenarte
- › Beza Beat
- › Bregenzer Frühling
- › FAQ Bregenzerwald
- › LandStadt
- › Schaffarei Festival

District Dornbirn:

- › Emsiana
- › Origano Festival
- › Szene Open-Air

District Feldkirch:

- › Lichtstadt Feldkirch
- › Montforter Zwischentöne
- › poolbar Festival
- › Rock Tribute OpenAir

District Bludenz:

- › ALPINALE Kurzfilmfestival
- › Lech Classic Festival
- › Philosophicum
- › Walserherbst

INCOMPARABLY DIFFERENT

The Poolbar Festival attracts up to 20,000 alternative and pop-culture fans to Feldkirch in the summer. A former indoor swimming pool serves as a theater and offers a top notch program and world-class bands for five weeks. In addition to the unique atmosphere, the extraordinary quality of the festival is its unusual combinations: international ideas and people blend with the locals, stars meet up-and-coming artists, Indie-Rock meets HipHop and film meets theater. www.poolbar.at



VISION OF VORARLBERG WITH FUTURE POTENTIAL

The plan for Vorarlberg is that it will be the place in 2035 with the most opportunities for children. Since 2018, 405,000 residents of Vorarlberg have been working on this vision. A large number of projects, actions and ideas have already been implemented and are helping families, children and adolescents. The plan is also that everyone in their communities would focus more on childlike values such as curiosity, creativity, courage, openness and helpfulness. www.vorarlberg-chancenreich.at

CHILDCARE SERVICES

- › Childcare facilities (0–6 years)
- › Dayparents (0–14 years)
- › Nursery schools (4–5 years, sometimes at 3 years)
- › Playgroups
- › After-school supervision at school
- › Vacation homes for children (6–12 years)



PRACTICAL AND SUSTAINABLE

ARCHITECTURE

Nowhere else is there such intense construction activity and such a concentration of contemporary architecture at a high level as in Vorarlberg. Countless publications around the globe and the constantly increasing architectural tourism in Vorarlberg are a testimony of an extraordinary building culture with mass appeal.

The French architectural critic Dominique Gauzin-Müller describes Vorarlberg's building culture as a social, economic and cultural model for Europe. *"Simple, clear forms, refined details and precise, perfect craftsmanship are what we associate with architecture in Vorarlberg nowadays."*

Attention was given to sustainability at an early stage, which gives Vorarlberg an enormous advantage when it comes to its developed building culture. The puristic looking style of architecture in Vorarlberg, however, is not only focused on aesthetic principles but also reflects the local mentality. Conscious management of existing resources has been long anchored in the typical house in the Bregenz Forest and still applies today.

There is not only a strong awareness of architecture in the region, but the economic status of Vorarlberg makes it possible to continually advance the innovative construction industry. There has always been strong networking within the construction industry. This pattern of not restricting thought patterns to definitions or boundaries specific to industries ensures the holistic excellence of buildings and also includes items such as optimization of equipment, energy efficiency and illumination.

TRADES

Modern, top-performing trades have developed in the region in close connection with the architecture. The trades in Vorarlberg are known far beyond the state borders because of their combination of tradition, innovation and creativity, their national focus, and not least because of the Werkraum Bregenzerwald Initiative.

The Werkraum serves as a trend setter and platform and is an association of around 100 companies from the Bregenz Forest who work in the trades. Mutual projects, discussions, exhibits and documentation strengthen the brand and communicate the achievements of the members. The Werkraum supports both tradesmen and designers as well as creative young talent. The Werkraum building in Andelsbuch serves as a meeting place for exhibits, interaction and training. www.werkraum.at

Vorarlberg has the highest industrial concentration in Austria. Products from the local industrial companies are known for their combination of functionality and aesthetics. The expertise of the local industrial designers also plays a part in this. An example of this is how industrial designer Dominic Schindler was able to give the rather rugged DMG MORI Aktiengesellschaft cutting machines a surprising lightness and elegance.

GREEN ENERGY

Water is Vorarlberg's greatest resource. Hydropower plants secure the energy supply, and Lake Constance ensures that there is drinking water. The utility company illwerke vkw with its more than 1,400 employees is one of the largest employers in the state. 97% of the electricity produced in Vorarlberg comes from waterpower.

The goal of the Energy Autonomy 2050 Program is to completely cover the state's energy needs using renewable energy. This resolution commits the State of Vorarlberg to careful management of energy and resources. When the program was adopted in 2005, 32% of the energy in Vorarlberg was obtained from renewable sources; in 2018 it was 40.5%.

Lüner Lake, one of the four reservoirs of illwerke vkw, was chosen in 2019 as the most beautiful place in Austria.



