



CAMERA DI COMMERCIO
COMO-LECCO
insieme per lo sviluppo



ECONOMIC OVERVIEW OF LAKE COMO'S AREA

Data processed by Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce's Research Department
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Lake Como's Greater area is constituted by the provinces of Como and Lecco, located in the foothills of Lombardy Region. The area is marked by a wide variety of geographical and landscape features, with considerable differences among its different parts in terms of population and industrial density, as it stretches between the Alps, whose highest peaks in this area exceed 2,500 metres in altitude, and the wide Po Valley in the southern part (Brianza).

Lake Como deeply characterises the landscape, the "spirit of the place" and the economy of this area, constituting its common heritage, its main reference point and a constant source of inspiration. Lake Como itself, the smaller lakes, the river Adda and the other waterways contributed greatly to shape local economy since the dawn of industrialisation: water was used as a means of transport, as a raw material in mulberry cultivation (hence the large-scale production of silk), as a source of energy for factories specialising in metalworking and textile spinning.

Lake Como's area is still characterised by **different and complementary economic sectors and vocations**. **Como** has a solid specialisation in tourism since the 17th century when it became a destination for the Grand Tour of European aristocracy, and an ancient silk textile district producing clothing that is still extremely significant (as confirmed by the recent recognition as a UNESCO "Creative City" by virtue of its artisanal expertise in this sector). **Cantù**'s area is characterised by a district making furniture and design, exporting its products all over the world. **Lecco** has a strong concentration of metalworking and mechanical engineering companies, with an integrated, firmly interconnected supply chain that has excellent performances in world markets. In Lecco's part of **Brianza** there is a small export-oriented furniture textile district. These manufacturing excellences, deeply rooted in the "know-how" of companies around Lake Como thanks to the presence of highly qualified human resources, have been able to **renew and evolve over time**, meeting the challenges of globalisation, technological progress, synergy between different sectors and sustainable development, while preserving a landscape heritage that is as striking as fragile.

In the Greater area, there are several **research, training and technological cooperation centres** of the highest level, from Politecnico di Milano's Departments to seven Institutes of CNR (National Research Council) located in Lecco's *Campus*, from ComoNExT-Innovation Hub to Como's seat of University of Insubria, to laboratories of prestigious scientific and healthcare Institutions, to the Cluster Foundation of Technologies for Living Environments. Not to mention the wide and qualified range of educational Institutions that, together with the aforementioned universities, provide **solid technical, economic and cultural foundations** for entrepreneurs and workers of the future. The presence and international connections of these bodies of excellence are fundamental in terms of competitiveness and attractiveness, thanks to the continuous production and dissemination of innovation.

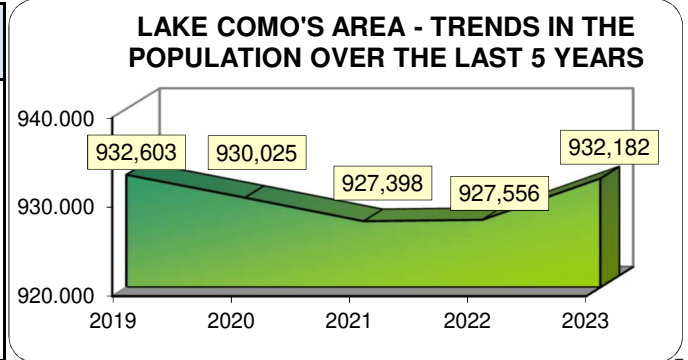
Integrated production platforms and supply chains can count on medium-sized companies that are leaders in world markets and on a dense network of small, hyper-specialised subcontracting companies which connects local economy. **A mix of "tailor-made" products and services**, combining Beautiful with Functional, flexibility with intrinsic quality, tradition with innovation. Entrepreneurial tenacity and forward-looking vision, proximity to Milan's metropolitan area, firm connections with other foothill provinces (from Varese to Bergamo, Brescia and beyond) and, at the same time, privileged relations with Switzerland and Europe. The economy of Lake Como's area is all this and much more.

The **Chamber of Commerce of Como-Lecco** is the Institution committed **to linking together and enhancing the economic features of the various territories** that make up its Greater area by fostering synergies, integrated supply chains, wide networks and aggregations in the direction of sustainable development and attractiveness. The Chamber, in its support of MSMEs, can count on history, heritage of experiences, skills and values of local economic system. The objective is to enhance the entire area, supporting innovation, digitalisation, internationalisation, promotion, skills' development and the establishment of new businesses.

RESIDENT POPULATION

The **population of Lake Como's area** amounts to about 932,000 inhabitants at the end of 2023: 599,000 in the province of Como and 333,000 in the province of Lecco. 84,000 and 47,000 people live in the two provincial capitals respectively. Out of 231 municipalities in the Greater area (147 in the province of Como and 84 in the one of Lecco), 11 have more than 10,000 inhabitants (6 in Como's province and 5 in Lecco's), while as many as 134 have less than 3,000 (86 and 48 respectively): thus almost 6 municipalities out of 10.

Data as of 31.12.2023	Surface area km ²	Population	Density (km ²)
Province of Como	1,279	598,604	465.60
Province of Lecco	806	333,578	411.96
Lake Como 's area	2,085	932,182	444.87



Source: ISTAT (2023 provisional data)

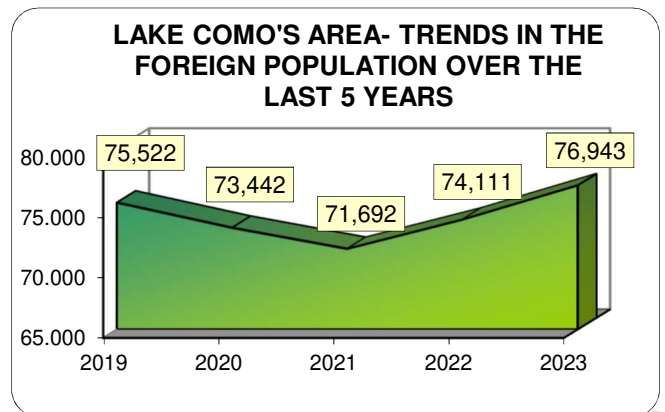
The **geographical extension** is almost 2,100 square kilometres (1,300 and 800 km² respectively). **Population density** is very high (double than that of Italy and higher than that of the region), especially given the presence of vast, sparsely populated mountain areas (occupying almost a quarter of the total surface).

LAKE COMO'S AREA: CONTEXT DATA - YEAR 2023					
Number of municipalities	Como 147	More than 10,000 inhabitants:	Less than 3,000 inhabitants:		
	Lecco 84			Como 6 (4.1%)	Como 86 (58.5%)
	Total 231	Lecco 5 (5.9%)	Lecco 48 (57.1%)		
Surface area (km²)	<i>Mountains</i>	483 (23.2%)	41 municipalities (CO 25; LC 16)	density 71 in./Km ²	
	<i>Plains</i>	1,519 (72.9%)	188 municipalities (CO 121; LC 67)	density 328 in./Km ²	
	<i>Prov. capitals</i>	83 (3.9%)	2 municipalities (Como and Lecco)	density 1,591 in./Km ²	
	Total	2,085 (100%)		average density 447 in./Km²	

Sources: ISTAT and www.tuttitalia.it

At the end of 2023, almost 77,000 **foreign citizens reside in Lake Como's area**; compared to total population, the share is 9%, and there are no significant differences between the two provinces. The percentage is lower than Italy's (10%), and even lower than our region's (14%).

Data as of 31.12.2023	Italians	Foreign citizens	%	Variation 2022/23
Como	549,378	49,226	9.0	4.4
Lecco	305,861	27,717	9.1	2.8
Lake Como's area	855,239	76,943	9.0	3.8
Lombardy	8,803,622	1,216,906	13.8	3.5
Italy	53,682,151	5,307,598	9.9	3.2



Source: ISTAT (2023 provisional data)

ENTREPRENEURIAL FABRIC

71,800 **businesses** are registered in Lake Como's area (47,300 of which in the province of Como, and 24,500 in that of Lecco). Considering all business local units, the number is close to 93,400. There is one company every 8 inhabitants. Greater Area's companies have more than 315,000 **employees**. Over 90% of local businesses (and of Italy as a whole) have less than 10 employees.

Economic activities recorded as of 31/12/2023	Business sites	Branch Offices	Employees Localisation	Businesses/ 100 in.
Province of Como	47,287	61,097	200,580	7.9
Province of Lecco	24,542	32,269	114,747	7.4
Lake Como's area	71,829	93,366	315,327	7.7

Source: Stockview Infocamere database

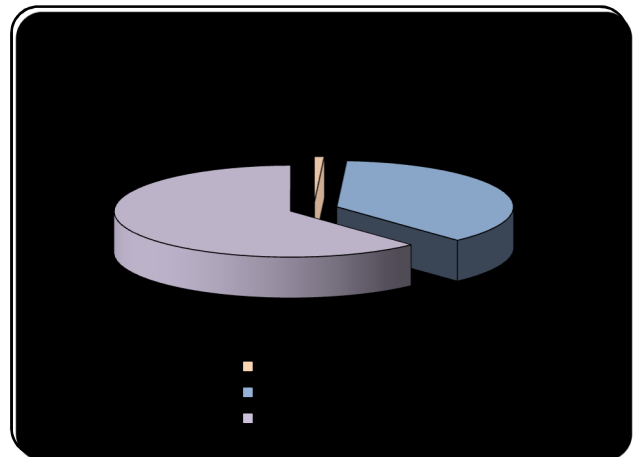
SECTORS (ATECO 2007)	Companies: absolute values as of 31/12/2023	Companies: %	Employees: absolute values as of 31/12/2023	Employees: %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,069	4.3	4,415	1.4
Manufacturing	9,504	13.2	100,715	31.9
Construction	11,905	16.6	27,114	8.6
Trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	15,001	20.9	49,757	15.8
Accommodation and catering services	5,528	7.7	32,784	10.4
Real estate activities	6,005	8.4	4,258	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3,407	4.7	8,311	2.6
Rental, travel agencies, support services for businesses	3,475	4.8	25,521	8.1
Other service activities	3,576	5.0	14,454	4.6
Other (mining, utilities, public services, real estate, communication)	10,359	14.4	47,998	15.2
TOTAL	71,829	100.0	315,327	100.0

As for the number of companies, the **most represented sectors** are: commerce (with 21% of all Lake Como's businesses); construction (17%); "other" (14%). As regards **employees**, the highest percentages concern manufacturing (32% of the total); commerce (16%); "other" (15%).

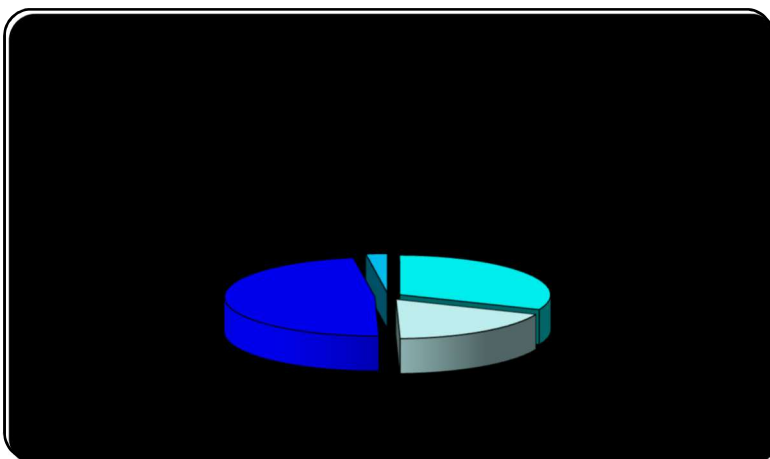
Source: Stockview Infocamere database

Differences among leading sectors in Lake Como's area and in the 2 provinces that constitute it are discussed in more detail in the chapter: "Productive sectors of excellence".

37% of total **added value** produced in the Greater area is made by industry, 6% of which by construction (regional averages 28% and 5%); 62% by tertiary sector (Lombardy 70%). The weight of the agricultural sector is less significant (1%).



Source: G. Tagliacarne Institute

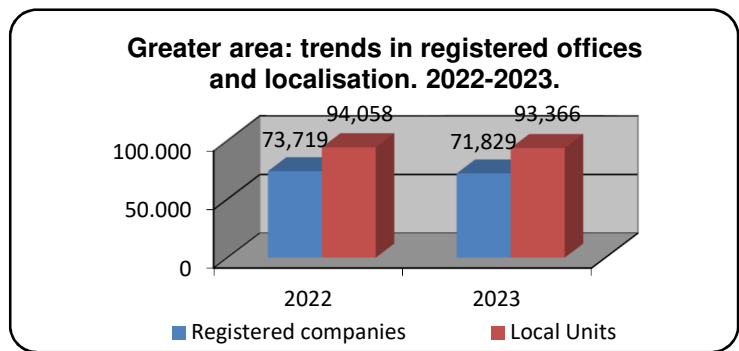


Source: Stockview Infocamere database

Almost half of the companies in the Greater area operate in the **form** of sole proprietorships. Joint-stock companies account for 3 out of 10: the only form that has grown steadily in recent years. Partnerships account for one-fifth of the total number, and other forms (primarily cooperatives and consortia) have a low weight (2%).

In 2023:

✓ Lake Como's **businesses** and **localisations** have decreased due to cancellation of units that had been no longer operative for years: about 1.000 companies less than the previous year (-1%) and about 700 local units (-1%). Excluding these "administrative clearings", businesses were almost 300 more than a year earlier.



Source: Stockview Infocamere database

✓ Focusing on economic performances, there was a slowdown in **all sectors** compared to the previous year, in both provinces (especially as regards the industrial sector, showing decreases of production and orders both in Como and Lecco). Nevertheless, all values regarding crafts, trade and services remain positive.

GREATER AREA'S ECONOMY: CHANGES IN % 2023 COMPARED TO 2022		
Variable	Como	Lecco
Industry production	-1.2	-2.1
Industry revenue	+0.3	-3.5
Industry orders	-0.6	-2.5
Craft production	+1.0	+1.9
Craft revenue	+1.6	+2.3
Craft orders	+0.2	+1.3
Trade turnover	+3.0	+2.5
Employment in trade	+1.7	+5.5
Services turnover	+6.0	+5.9
Employment in services	+1.4	+1.9

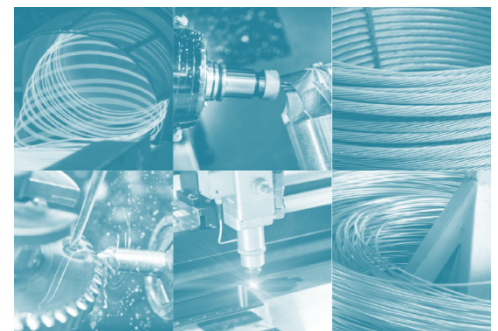
Source: Unioncamere Lombardia

MANUFACTURING SECTORS OF EXCELLENCE

In the Greater area, at the end of 2023, there are about 9,500 companies registered in **manufacturing**. The main sub-sector is "mechatronics" with 45% of the total, followed by "fashion system" (15%) and "furniture manufacturing" (11%).

Mechatronics:

There are more than 4,000 metalworking **companies** in the area at the end of 2023: 6% of the total (Lombardy average 5%; Italian average 4%). Those in Como are more than 2,000 (5% of all the businesses in that province); those in Lecco are the same number (9%): thanks to this share, Lecco ranks in the first place in Lombardy and in Italy for "relative weight" of the sector.



There are almost 51,000 **employees** in Lake Como's metalworking businesses: the share is 17% (Lombardy average value is 13%; Italian average is 10%). In Como the sector employs almost 18,700 people (10%); in Lecco more than 32,000 (29%). Also with reference to the "weight" of employees in the sector, Lecco ranks first both regionally and nationally.

Lecco's Metalworking District, recognised by Lombardy Region, includes 28 municipalities in the province of Lecco, 7 in the province of Como, 4 in Monza Brianza and one in Bergamo.

The District focuses on production and processing of metals and their alloys, manufacture and processing of metal products. There are also companies within the district producing machines, plants, components and automations functional to the production process.

The District is characterised by the presence of a widespread network of highly specialised small and medium-sized businesses, with a strong ability to respond to market needs and changes (customer service and product quality are the main competitive factors), open to the challenge of international markets and focusing on constant innovation of production processes (for further details, see Lecco Metalworking District's website: www.leccomech.com).

The Greater area's **metalworking and mechanical engineering exports** in 2023 were more than 6 billion Euros: 53% of the total, though decreasing by 2% compared to the previous year (-117 million). Como's exports in the sector account for 34% of the provincial total (-1%, equal to -18 million); Lecco's ones are as high as 75% (-2%, equal to -99 million).

The main mechanical **products** exported by Lake Como's companies are "machinery" (31% of the sector's total), followed by "metal products" and "metallurgy" (both 22%), "electronics, medical equipment" (15%) and "means of transport" (10%).

Exports of Lake Como's metalworking industries. Absolute values (in millions of Euros), year 2023 and % changes over 2022		
Sub-sectors	2023	Var. % 2022/ 2023
Metallurgy	1,455.1	-8.7
Metal products	1,475.9	-4.7
Electronics, medical and measuring equipment	1,015.4	-14.8
Machinery	2,013.1	12.3
Means of transport	660.3	8.0
TOTAL	6.619,8	-1.7

Source: data processed by Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce's Research and Statistics Department on ISTAT data (2023 provisional data)

Textiles:

There are almost 1,300 textile **companies** in the Greater area at the end of 2023: 2% of the total (Lombardy and Italian average: 1.4%). Como, with 1,050 companies (3% of provincial companies) occupies the 1st place in Lombardy and the 11th in Italy; Lecco has about 200 companies, equal to 1%.



Lake Como's textile companies **employ** over 15,000 people: the sector's weight is 5% (Lombardy and Italy 2%). In Como the sector employs more than 12,500 people (7% of total employees); in Lecco 2,800 (3%). From this point of view, Como is the 1st province in Lombardy and the 11th in Italy.

Among **industrial districts** recognised by Lombardy Region, there are "**Como Silk District**" and "**Lecco Textile District**". The former includes 88 municipalities, all of which located in the province of Como; the latter covers 9 municipalities (7 in the province of Lecco and 2 in the province of Como).

The *core* activity of companies in the "**Como Silk District**" is the weaving of silk yarn, together with finishing and manufacture of clothing and textile accessories. There is also the preparation and spinning of different textile fibres (for further details, see the Observatory of Como Silk District: www.textilecomo.com).

Within "**Lecco's Textile District**" companies produce furnishing fabrics (*jacquards*, velvets, etc.). They are highly specialised and flexible, and they have conquered markets all over the world, making a name for themselves for their high-quality *standards*, innovation propensity, network ability.

Lake Como's **textile exports** in 2023 were 2 billion Euros: 14% of the total (-29 million compared to 2022: -2%). Only Como's province experienced a decrease (-2%; Lecco +1%), but the "weight" of the textile sector on total exports of Como is significantly higher than that of Lecco: 22% against 6%. The main goods exported by Lake Como companies are "textiles" (60% of the sector's total), "articles of clothing in leather and fur" (30%) and "leather articles (excluding clothing) and the like" (10%).

Exports of Lake Como's textile industries. Absolute values (in millions of Euros), year 2023 and % change over 2022		
Sub-sectors	2023	Var. % 2022/2023
Textiles	1,064.4	-7.7
Articles of clothing (also in leather and fur)	522.7	9.4
Leather goods (except clothing) and the like	171.6	9.3
TOTAL	1.758,7	-1.6

Source: data processed by Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce Research and Statistics' Department on ISTAT data (2023 provisional values)

Furniture and design:

At the end of 2023, in the Greater area, there are almost 1,000 **companies** in the furniture sector (860 in Como and 110 in Lecco) and they account for 1.5% of the total number of local companies (over 2% of Como's ones, and 0.5% of Lecco's; Lombardy 0.5%; Italy 0.4%). Como is in the 2st place in the regional and national rankings for the share of companies in the furniture sector compared to all companies of the province.



Lake Como's furniture sector **employs** 7,800 people, equal to 3% of the total workforce employed locally. Those employed in Como's companies are over 7,100 (4% of the provincial total); those in Lecco are over 600 (0.6%). Como is 1st in Lombardy and 4th in Italy in terms of share of workers in the furniture sector, in relation to the total number of workers in all companies.

"Brianza Furniture" industrial district, recognised by Lombardy Region, includes 36 municipalities, 16 of which are in the province of Como (in Cantù's area) and 20 in that of Monza Brianza (near Lissone).

The *core* activity of the district's companies is the manufacture and sale of wooden furniture and objects, metal furniture and furnishing accessories. The district handles several manufacturing stages: furniture assembly, carving, inlaying, polishing, lacquering, gilding, glass, metal, plastic and upholstery processing, etc. District companies benefit from the presence of firms in the same area manufacturing machinery for their processes, as well as of design studios and of schools that provide students with training tailored to their needs.

The district's products are distinguished by quality of materials and finishing, design and style.

Lake Como's wood-furniture **exports** in 2023 are 7% of the total (840 million Euros, -10 million compared to 2022: -1%). Como's export in this sector is 12% of the provincial total (-1%: -19 million); Lecco's is 1% (+23%: +9 million).

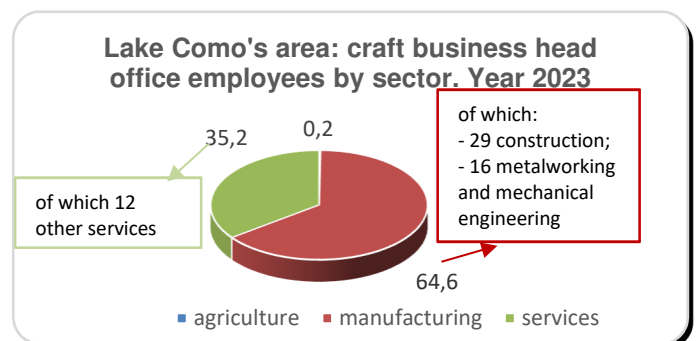
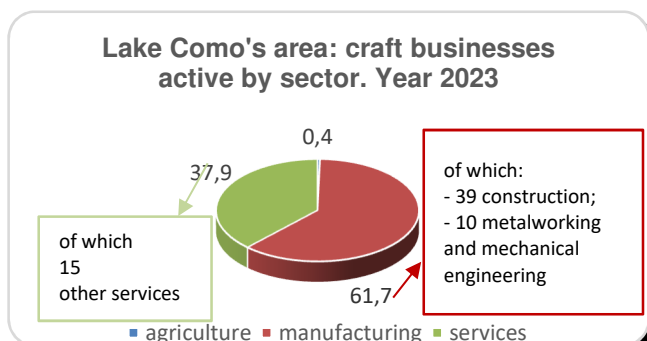
Craft businesses:

There are about 22,900 **craft businesses** in the Greater area, at the end of 2023: 35% of all businesses (Lombardy average 29%; Italian average 25%). Lecco, with almost 8,200 companies (36%) is 1st in Lombardy and 2nd in Italy for share of craft businesses; Como, with almost 15,000 (35%) is 2nd in Lombardy and 6th in Italy.



At the end of 2023 there are almost 54,200 **people employed** in Lake Como's craft businesses (21% of the total; regional average 11%; national average 15%). In Como's province they are more than 34,000 (20%); in Lecco's they are about 20,000 (22%). As regards the percentage, Lecco is 1st in Lombardy and 23st in Italy.

39% of craft businesses in Lake Como's area and 29% of their employees work in "construction"; 10% of businesses and 16% of employees work in "metalworking and mechanical engineering"; 15% and 12% in "other services".



Source: Stockview Infocamere database

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

In 2023 the Greater area **exported** goods worth more than 12 billion Euros (-1% compared to 2022). **Imports** were over 7 billion (-10%). The **trade balance** continues to be positive: +5.1 billion (and it's increasing compared to 2022: +16%), while the regional balance is negative, though improving (-11 billion: -53%).

In Lecco, exports have decreased by 1%; imports by 13%; trade surplus has risen by 24%. In Como, exports have diminished by 1%; imports by 7%, and trade surplus has improved by 9%.



Source: data processed by Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce Research and Statistics' Department on ISTAT data

In 2023, the **main sectors of Lake Como's exports** are "other industry"¹ (34% of the total), metal products (24%); textiles (14%) and chemicals-rubber (12%). Compared to 2022, among the main sectors only "other industry" increases (+35 million: +1%); the most significant shrinkages concern metal products (-210 million: -7%) and textiles (-29 million: -2%).

For **the Greater area's imports**, the main sectors are "other industry" (28%), metalworking and mechanical engineering (23%) and chemicals-rubber (17%). Compared to 2022, they all decrease; the most significant variations are in metalworking and chemicals-rubber (-431 million and -175 million: -21% and -12%).

The **continental market of reference** for local economy is Europe, with 73% of exports and 76% of imports, even though there were decreases compared to 2022 (-0,5% and -5,6% respectively). Asia is the 2nd market (13% of exports and 18% of imports), also shrinking (-1% and -23% respectively). Lake Como's area exports 11% of the total to America (-3% compared to 2022) and imports account for 3% (-19%); exports to Africa are worth 2% (+1%) and imports amount to 2% (-6%); the shares with Oceania are very low.

The main destination Countries for Lake Como's **exports** continue to be Germany, France and United States, with 16%, 12% and 7% of the total respectively. As for **imports**, after Germany (23%) comes China with 11%, followed by France with 8%.

The sum of trade surpluses with France, the United States, Switzerland and Germany accounts for almost half of the entire trade surplus in 2023.

¹Includes "coke, refined petroleum products", "computers, electronic and optical equipment", "electrical equipment", "machinery and apparatus not otherwise classified", "electrical, electronic and optical equipment", "products of other manufacturing activities".

TRADE IN 2023: MAIN COUNTRIES (millions of €)					
COUNTRY	Lake Como area's export ranking	Lake Como area's import ranking	Lake Como area's trade balance	Como's trade balance	Lecco's trade balance
France	2	3	840.1	474.9	365.2
U.S.A.	3	>10	794.1	408.6	385.5
Switzerland	4	6	587.1	416.8	170.3
Poland	6	>10	298.8	109.1	189.7
Germany	1	1	321.9	197.7	124.2
Spain	5	5	154.6	187.9	-33.2
United Kingdom	7	>10	344.4	221.3	123.1
Netherlands	8	4	-85.0	-27.9	-57.1
China	9	2	-492.5	-365.4	-127.1

Source: data processed by the Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce Research and Statistics Department on ISTAT data

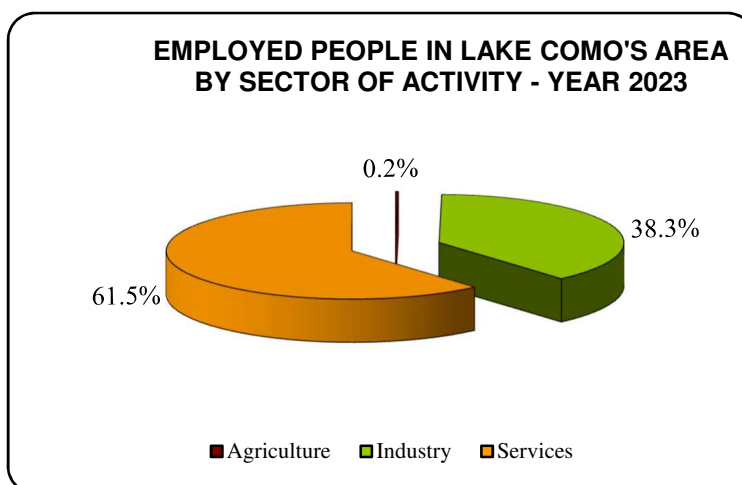
HUMAN CAPITAL

At the end of 2023, there were 411,000 **employed people** residing in the Greater area. 38% worked in industry (compared to 31% in the region) and 61% in services (68% in Lombardy).

Compared to 2022, in both provinces there have been decreases in agriculture (Como -1,000: -62%; Lecco -100: -23%) and, vice versa, increases in industry (Como +2,200: +2%; Lecco +2,000: +3%); Como shows an increase in services as well (+6,100: +4%; Lecco +200: +0,2%).

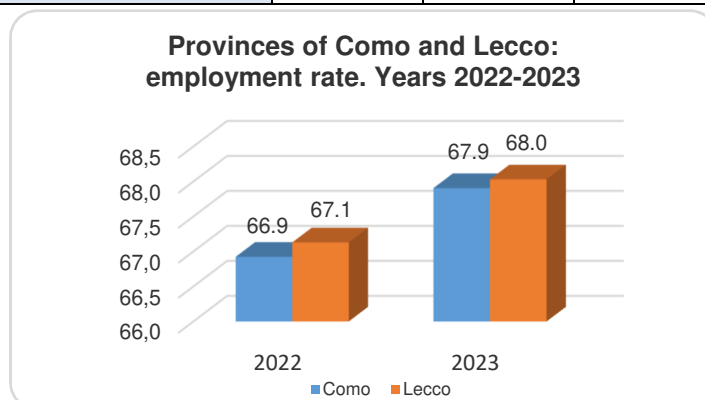
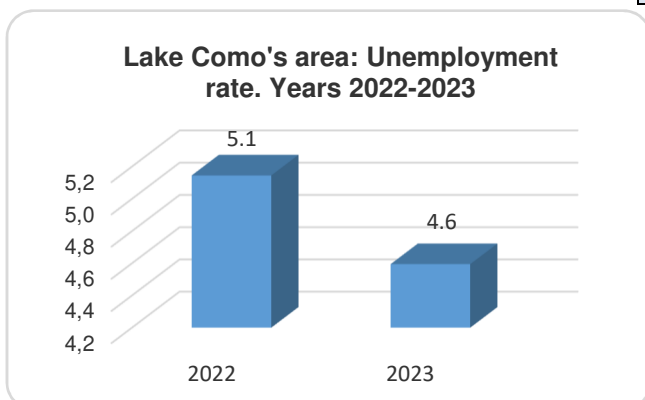
In both provinces the employment rate² rises from 67% to 68%.

Greater area's unemployment rate³ is stable, at 5% (Como marks a decrease from 6% to 5%; Lecco remains steady at 3%).



Employment variations by sector (2023 compared to 2022, % values)

SECTOR OF ACTIVITY	COMO	LECCO	LAKE COMO'S AREA
Agriculture	-62.2	-23.2	-53.5
Industry	2.4	3.4	2.8
Services	3.7	0.2	2.5
TOTAL	2.8	1.5	2.4



² It's the ratio between the number of employed people and the population aged between 15 and 64.

Source: ISTAT

³ It's the ratio between job seekers and labour force.

In the **2nd quarter of 2024**, companies in the Greater area are expecting to make a total of **20,300 new recruitments** (+1,5% compared to the 2nd quarter of 2023: +300 recruitments).

Comparison: expected recruitments in the 2nd quarter of 2023 and 2024

Territory	Expected recruitments Q2 2024	Expected recruitments Q2 2023	Var. % Q2 2023/ Q2 2022
Como	13,660	13,130	4.0
Lecco	6,650	6,880	-3.3
Lake Como's area	20,310	20,010	1.5

Source: Unincamere – Ministero del Lavoro e delle Politiche Sociali, Excelsior Information System

TOURISM AND CULTURE

Lake Como's area has always attracted a high number of tourists. Year 2019 was a record year; in 2020, due to Covid-19 pandemic, there was a considerable drop; yet, as soon as the emergency finished, absolute values gradually returned to very significant levels.

In 2023 the recovery of tourist flows (which had begun in 2021 and continued in 2022) was further consolidated: arrivals grew by 11.7% compared to the previous year, exceeding 1.36 million visitors, and presences by 5.6%, almost reaching 3.32 million nights. The increase affected only foreigners (number of visitors: +15.8%; presences +10.6%), while arrivals of Italian citizens remained stable and presences decreased (-17 units and -10.2%).

Thus, tourist flows were higher than in 2019 (+7.7% and +4.9% respectively). Only the nights spent in province of Como decreased by 0.1% (Lecco +30.9%); arrivals increased by 4% in Como's area, and by 26.5% in Lecco's.

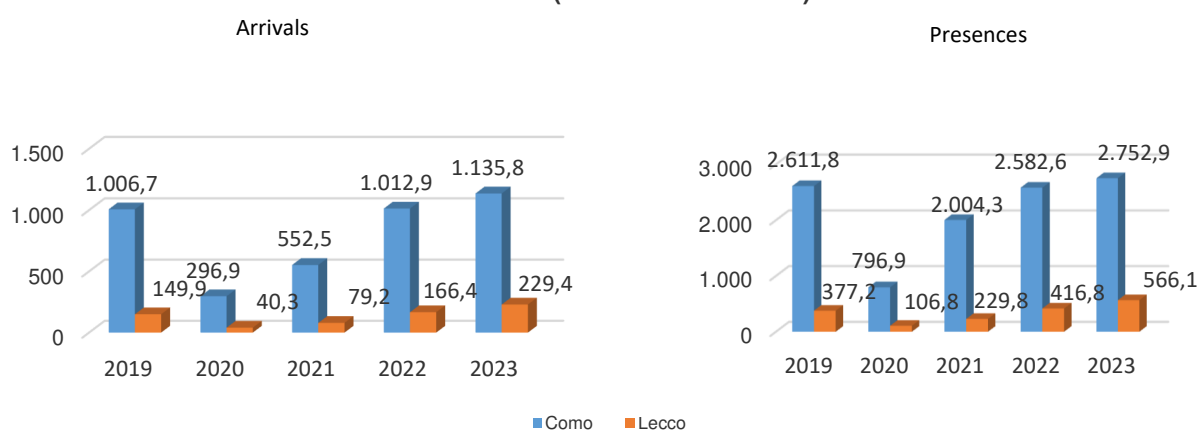
Compared to 2019, in 2023 the **average stay** didn't change: 2.4 days; that of Italians rose from 2 to 2.1 days, and that of foreign citizens decreased from 2.6 to 2.4 days.

Lake Como's area: changes in arrivals by type of accommodation facility and origin of guests. Years 2019-2023.

TYPE OF THE FACILITY/ ORIGIN	2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023	
	Arrivals	Presences	Arrivals	Arrivals	Presences	Arrivals	Arrivals	Presences
Hotels	-67.3	-69.4	65.4	174.6	66.0	7.3	8,6	5.8
Non hotels	-56	-46.3	72.0	98.1	52.6	9.6	18.4	5.3
Foreign citizens	-70.8	-69.8	87.3	147.2	86.7	34.3	15.8	10.7
Italians	-49.2	-36.4	40.9	124.1	16.6	-32.5	0.0	-10,2
TOTAL	-64.4	-61.4	67.5	137.7	61.6	8.2	61.6	8.2

Source: Istat

Provinces of Como and Lecco: tourist arrivals and presences of foreign citizens. Years 2019-2023 (value in thousands).



Source: ISTAT N.B. Figures do not include tourism flows of non-entrepreneurially managed accommodation

"Lake Como's tourist district" - At the end of 2023, there are over 7,600 tourist **local units**: 9% of Greater area's total (Como 9%; Lecco 9%; Lombardy average 8%; Italian average 9%). At the beginning of 2016, Lake Como's share was less than 8%: in 8 years the weight has increased considerably.

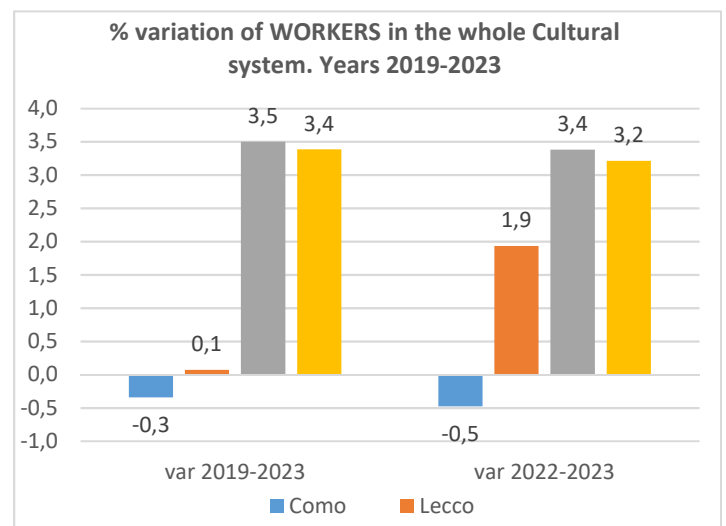
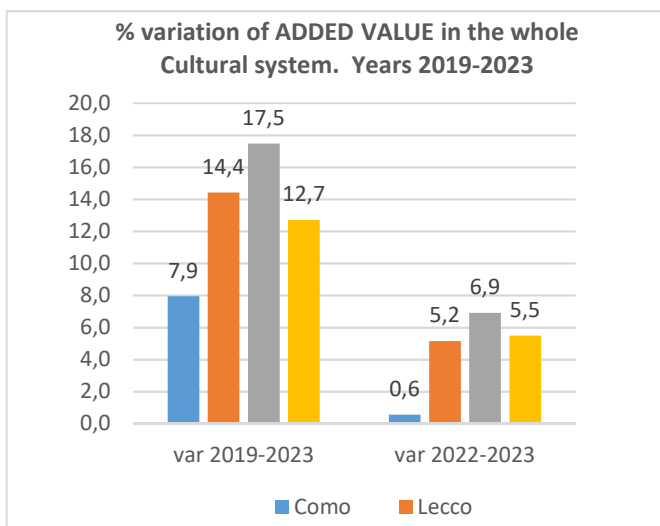
At the end of 2023, in the area there are more than 31,300 **people employed** in the sector: 11% of total workforce (Como 12%; Lecco 9%; Lombardy 8%; Italy 10%). Compared to the beginning of 2016, the number of tourism workers has grown by 48% (over 10,000 more).

Considering the **types of tourist local units** in the area, almost half of them are restaurants; one third are bars; over a sixth are accommodation structures, while travel agencies and tour operators account for 4%. Over the last eight years, there has been a decline in bars (-13%), while accommodations (+93%), restaurants (+22%), travel agencies and tour operators (+14%) have increased.

According to the Report "Io sono cultura 2024" ("I am culture 2023"), published by Unioncamere and Symbola Foundation, in Lake Como's area the **added value produced in 2023 by the "cultural and creative production system"**⁴ was equal to 1.43 billion Euros (5% of the total of the two provinces). Compared to 2022, there was an increase of over 30 million Euros (+2%). The level of 2019 has been fully recovered (+133 million: +10%). Considering the share of added value produced by cultural economy, in 2023 Como is 3rd in Lombardy and 29th in Italy; Lecco is 8th in Lombardy and 41st in Italy.

The sector employs about 22,300 **people**, equal to 6% of the Greater area's total workforce. Employment increased by more than 70 workers compared to 2022 (+0.3%). Yet, in comparison with 2019, there has been a drop by over 40 workers (-0.2%). Concerning the share of employees in the cultural economic system, Como is 3rd in Lombardy and 20th in Italy; Lecco is 8th and 43rd.

4,400 cultural businesses⁵ operate in Lake Como's area out of more than 73,000 in the Registry of Como-Lecco's Chamber of Commerce (+3% compared to 2022 and +2% compared to 2019); at the end of 2023, Lecco was 5th in Italy, preceded only by key areas like Milan, Florence, Rome and Trieste; Como was 8th, preceded even by Monza and Bologna, and ahead of Turin and Venice (both Como and Lecco provinces have shares close to 6% of the total number of companies).



Source: Data processed by Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce's Research and Statistics Office based on data by Unioncamere-Symbola Foundation

⁴The analysis takes into account both the "core" sectors, i.e. those closely related to the cultural sphere (architecture and design; communication; audio-visual and music; videogames and software; publishing and printing; performing and visual arts; historical and artistic heritage) and those which, although not directly related to the sector, structurally employ cultural and creative professions (the so-called "creative driven" sectors).

⁵ The figure only refers to "core" cultural businesses.

CONNECTIONS

Three of Italy's main **airports** are located in the immediate vicinity of Lake Como's area (51,5 million passengers and over 700,000 tons of goods in 2023), with different and complementary characteristics:

- ✓ Malpensa (50 km from Como and 70 from Lecco), specialised in long haul, *cargo* and *low-cost* flights;
- ✓ Linate (55 km from both Como and Lecco), Milan's *city airport*, with domestic and European routes;
- ✓ Orio al Serio (70 km from Como and 40 from Lecco), is among the best *low-cost* airports in the world.



Road connections in north-south directions are very important; in particular:

- Autostrada dei Laghi (Toll-way A9) connects Milan with Como and Switzerland, has considerable car traffic, and is a privileged route for transport of goods by road from Italy to northern Europe and vice versa;
- Superstrada del Lago di Como e dello Spluga (Highway SS36) starts in Milan, passes through Lecco and is the main access route to Valtellina, Valchiavenna and Valle Engadina in Switzerland. It is one of the busiest roads in northern Italy and will be of crucial importance during the 2026 Winter Olympics, providing accessibility to competition's venues (mostly located in Milan and in the province of Sondrio);
- Strada Statale Regina (Road SS 340), which runs up the western side of Lake Como, is the subject of a recent restoration aimed at speeding up the route and increasing traffic volumes while improving residents' quality of life;
- In March 2024, work began on the construction of the 4th bridge between the cities of Lecco and Pescate. The works are expected to be completed by January 2026.



Other fundamental **connections**, in many cases to be implemented, are the **foothills roads** (especially the east-west route from Varese to Brescia), **railways** (including major infrastructures for goods' transport to/from across the border), **rail-road interchange**,

lake transport (particularly important for Lake Como's area, crossed longitudinally by the lake), "**slow tourism**" **infrastructures** (cycle paths, mountain trails, trekking routes, etc.). As regards non-material infrastructures, work is underway to equip a large portion of the territory with **ultra-wideband**, which is indispensable in terms of competitiveness, access to information/services, territorial promotion, and so on.



Como-Lecco's Chamber of Commerce coordinates the Competitiveness Tables, where Institutions, trade associations and other entities in the Greater area share priorities, actions and requests which are subsequently brought to the Central Government. The issue of infrastructures is carefully monitored and given high priority; ongoing actions and discussions on further necessary assets are the result of this full synergy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

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Statistics (CG/DR)
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