



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.

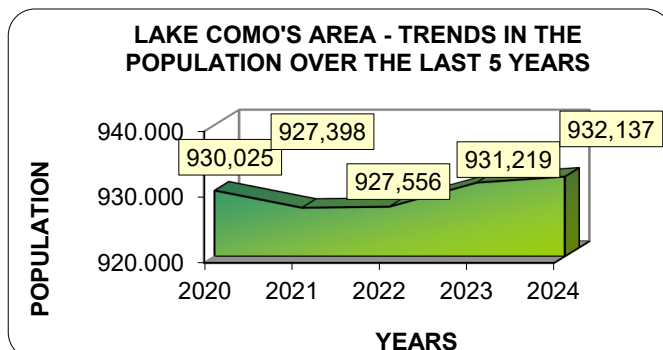
Integrated production platforms and supply chains can count on medium-sized companies that are leaders in world markets and on a dense network of small, hyper-specialised subcontracting companies which connects local economy. **A mix of "tailor-made" products and services**, combining Beautiful with 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 the 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: 598,000 in the province of Como and 334,000 in the province of Lecco. 83,000 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), 12 have more than 10,000 inhabitants (6 in Como's province and 5 in Lecco's), while as many as 133 have less than 3,000 (84 and 49 respectively): thus almost 6 municipalities out of 10.

DATA AS OF 31.12.2024	SURFACE AREA KM ²	POPULATION	DENSITY (KM ²)
Province of Como	1,279	598,333	467.84
Province of Lecco	805	333,804	414.14
Lake Como's area	2,084	932,137	447.22



Source: ISTAT (2024 provisional data)

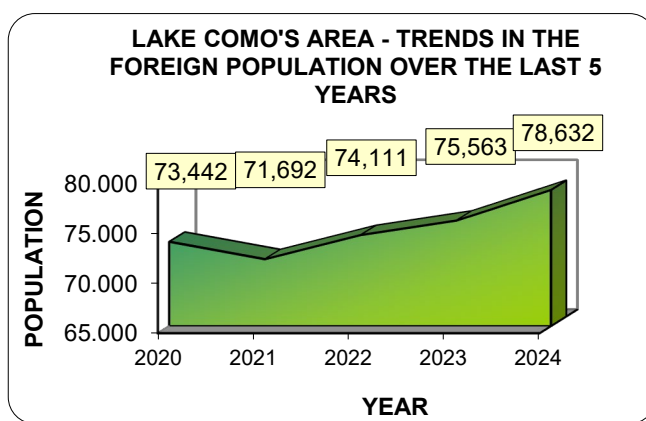
The **geographical extension** is almost 2,100 square kilometres (1,300 and 800 km² respectively). **Population density** is very high (double than that of Italy and higher than that of the region), especially given the presence of vast, sparsely populated mountain areas (occupying almost a quarter of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

LAKE COMO'S AREA: CONTEXT DATA - YEAR 2024				
Number of municipalities	Como 147 Lecco 84 Total 231		More than 10,000 inhabitants: Como 7 (4.8%) Lecco 5 (5.9%)	Less than 3,000 inhabitants: Como 84 (57.5%) Lecco 49 (58.3%)
Surface area (km²)	<i>Mountains</i> 484 (23.2%)	41 municipalities (CO 25; LC 16)	density 71 in./Km ²	
	<i>Plains</i> 1,518 (72.9%)	188 municipalities (CO 121; LC 67)	density 328 in./Km ²	
	<i>Prov. capitals</i> 82 (3.9%)	2 municipalities (Como and Lecco)	density 1,588 in./Km ²	
	Total 2,084 (100%)		average density 447 in./Km²	

Sources: ISTAT and www.tuttitalia.it

At the end of 2024, more than 78,000 **foreign citizens reside in Lake Como's area**; compared to total population, the share is 8%, with no significant differences between the two provinces. The percentage is lower than Italy's (9%), and even lower than our region's (12%).

DATA AS OF 31.12.2024	ITALIANS	FOREIGN CITIZENS	%	VARIATION 2023/24
Como	547,732	50,601	8.5	4.3
Lecco	305,773	28,031	8.4	3.7
Lake Como's area	853,505	78,632	8.4	4.1
Lombardy	8,805,119	1,230,362	12.3	2.3
Italy	53,511,751	5,422,426	9.2	3.2



Source: ISTAT (2024 provisional data)

ENTREPRENEURIAL FABRIC

More than 72,000 **businesses** are registered in Lake Como's area (47,500 of which in the province of Como, and 24,600 in that of Lecco). Considering all business local units, the number is close to 94,000. There is one company every 13 inhabitants. Greater area's companies have more than 318,000 **employees**. Over 90% of local businesses (and of Italy as a whole) have less than 10 employees.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES RECORDED AS OF 31/12/2024	BUSINESS SITES	BRANCH OFFICES	EMPLOYEES LOCALISATION	BUSINESSES/ 100 IN.
Province of Como	47,463	61,489	202,645	7.9
Province of Lecco	24,578	32,495	115,424	7.4
Lake Como's area	72,041	93,984	318,069	7.7

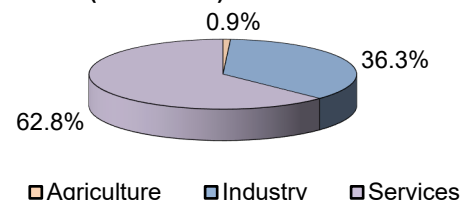
Source: Stockview Infocamere database

SECTORS (ATECO 2007)	COMPANIES: ABSOLUTE VALUES AS OF 31/12/2024	COMPANIES: %	EMPLOYEES: ABSOLUTE VALUES AS OF 31/12/2024	EMPLOYEES: %
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3,037	4.2	4,465	1.4
Manufacturing	9,315	12.9	99,752	31.4
Construction	11,988	16.6	27,221	8.6
Trade, repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	14,776	20.5	49,795	15.7
Accommodation and catering services	5,615	7.8	34,541	10.9
Real estate activities	6,072	8.4	4,491	1.4
Professional, scientific and technical activities	3,500	4.9	8,415	2.6
Rental, travel agencies, support services for businesses	3,604	5.0	32,050	10.1
Other service activities	3,650	5.1	8,063	2.5
Other (mining, utilities, public services, real estate, communication)	10,484	14.6	49,276	15.5
TOTAL	72,041	100.0	318,069	100.0

Source: Stockview Infocamere database

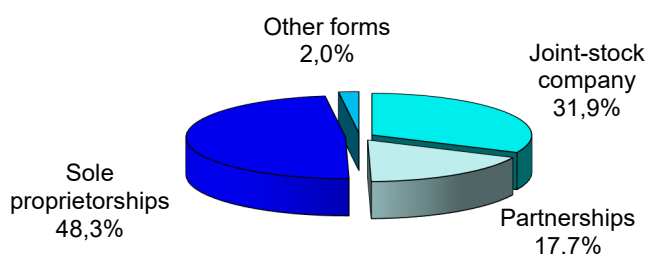
Differences among leading sectors in Lake Como's area and in the 2 provinces that constitute it are discussed in more detail in the chapter: "Productive sectors of excellence". 36% of total **added value** produced in the Greater area is made by industry, 6% of which by construction (regional averages 28% and 5%); 63% by tertiary sector (Lombardy 71%). The weight of the agricultural sector is less significant (1%).

LAKE COMO'S AREA: ADDED VALUE BY SECTOR OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY (Ateco2007). YEAR 2023



Source: data processed by Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce's Research and Statistics Department on G. Tagliacarne Institute

LAKE COMO'S AREA: % HEADQUARTERS OF COMPANIES REGISTERED IN THE BUSINESS REGISTER BY LEGAL FORM AS OF YEAR 2024



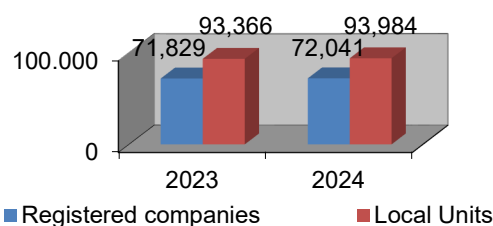
Source: data processed by Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce's Research and Statistics Department on Stockview Infocamere database

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 2024:

- ✓ Compared to the previous year, Lake Como's **businesses** and **localisations** have increased by more than 200 companies (+0.3%) and more than 600 local units (+1%).

GREATER AREA: TRENDS IN REGISTERED COMPANIES AND LOCAL UNITS. YEARS 2023-2024



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 and craft sector in Como, showing decreases of production and orders both in Como and Lecco). Nevertheless, all values regarding trade and services remain positive.

GREATER AREA'S ECONOMY: CHANGES IN % 2024 COMPARED TO 2023

VARIABLE	COMO	LECCO
Industry production	-3.8	+0.2
Industry revenue	-3.2	-0.8
Industry orders	-3.5	-1.0
Craft production	-0.4	+0.4
Craft revenue	-0.1	+0.4
Craft orders	-0.8	-1.0
Trade turnover	+0.5	+0.4
Employment in trade	+2.2	+2.2
Services turnover	+4.0	+1.8
Employment in services	+4.7	+2.6

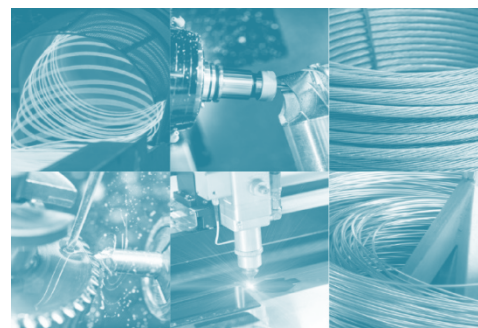
Source: Unioncamere Lombardia

MANUFACTURING SECTORS OF EXCELLENCE

In the Greater area, at the end of 2024, there are about 9,300 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 almost 4,000 metalworking **companies** in the area at the end of 2024: 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 as for "relative weight" of the sector.



There are about 50,400 **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 more than 18,500 people (10%); in Lecco almost 32,000 (28%). 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 2024 were more than 6,5 billion Euros: 52% of the total, though decreasing by 1% compared to the previous year (-63 million). Como's exports in the sector account for 33% of the provincial total (+2%, equal to +44 million); Lecco's ones are as high as 73% (-2%, equal to -107 million).

The main mechanical **products** exported by Lake Como's companies are "machinery" (32% of the sector's total), followed by "metal products" (22%), "metallurgy" (20%), "electronics, medical equipment" (17%) and "means of transport" (9%).

EXPORTS OF LAKE COMO'S METALWORKING INDUSTRIES. ABSOLUTE VALUES (IN MILLIONS OF EUROS), YEAR 2024 AND % CHANGES OVER 2023		
SUB-SECTORS	2024	VAR. % 2023/ 2024
Metallurgy	1,340.6	-7.8
Metal products	1,468.4	-0.9
Electronics, medical and measuring equipment	1,080.8	5.7
Machinery	2,082.5	3.6
Means of transport	594.5	-10.2
TOTAL	6.566,8	-1.0

Source: data processed by Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce's Research and Statistics Department on ISTAT data (2024 provisional data)

Textiles:

There are more than 1,200 textile **companies** in the Greater area at the end of 2024: 2% of the total (Lombardy and Italian average: 1%). Como, with over 1,000 companies (2% of provincial companies) occupies the 1st place in Lombardy and the 12th in Italy; Lecco has about 200 companies, equal to 1%.



Lake Como's textile companies **employ** almost 15,000 people: the sector's weight is 5% (Lombardy and Italy 2%). In Como the sector employs about 12,300 people (6% of total employees); in Lecco 2,700 (2%). 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 2024 were 2 billion Euros: 13% of the total (-85 million compared to 2023: -5%). Decreases were similar in percentage in both provinces, but the "weight" of the textile sector on total exports of Como is significantly higher than that of Lecco: 21% against 5%. 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 MILLION EUROS), YEAR 2024 AND % CHANGES OVER 2023		
SUB-SECTORS	2024	VAR. % 2023/2024
Textiles	1,013.8	-6.3
Articles of clothing (also in leather and fur)	502.7	-2.3
Leather goods (except clothing) and the like	163.9	-2.8
TOTAL	1,680.3	-4,8

Source: data processed by Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce's Research and Statistics Department on ISTAT data (2024 provisional data)

Furniture and design:

At the end of 2024, in the Greater area, there are almost 1,000 **companies** in the furniture sector (more than 800 in Como and more than 100 in Lecco), accounting 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 2nd place both in the regional and national ranking regarding the share of companies in that sector compared to all companies of the province.



Lake Como's furniture sector **employs** 7,400 people, equal to 2% of the total workforce employed locally. Those employed in Como's companies are over 6,900 (4% of the provincial total); those in Lecco are about 600 (0.5%). Como is 1st in Lombardy and 5th 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 2024 are 6% of the total (780 million Euros, -40 million compared to 2023: -1%). Como's export in this sector is 11% of the provincial total (-5%: -40 million); Lecco's is 1% (-7%: -3 million).

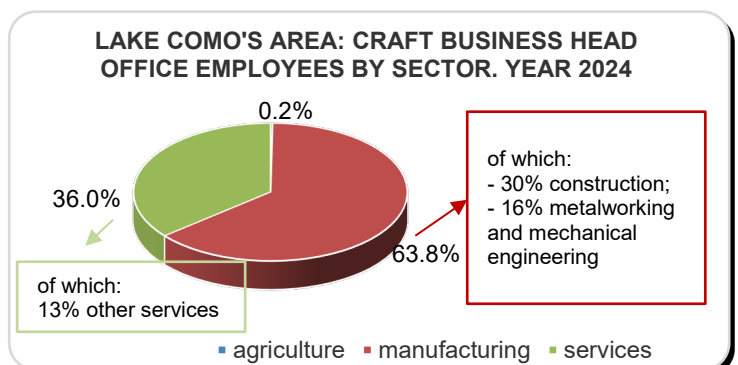
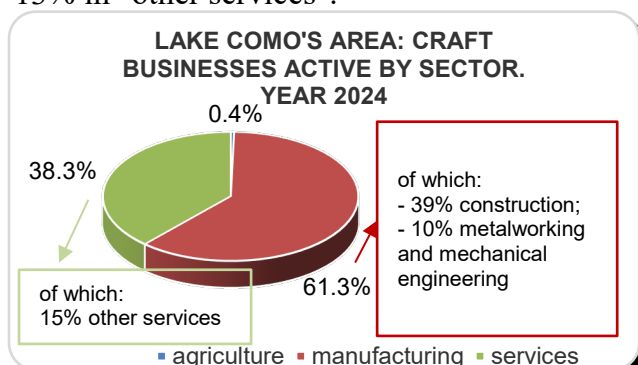
Craft businesses:

There are about 23,000 **craft businesses** in the Greater area, at the end of 2024: 35% of all businesses (Lombardy average 29%; Italian average 25%). Lecco, with almost 8,200 companies (36%) is 1st in Italy for share of craft businesses; Como, with almost 15,000 (35%) is 3rd in Lombardy and 6th in Italy.



At the end of 2023 there are about 53,600 **people employed** in Lake Como's craft businesses (20% of the total; regional average 11%; national average 14%). In Como's province they are more than 34,000 (20%); in Lecco's they are about 19,600 (21%). As regards the percentage, Lecco is 2nd in Lombardy and 25th in Italy.

39% of craft businesses in Lake Como's area and 30% of their employees work in "construction"; 10% of businesses and 16% of employees work in "metalworking and mechanical engineering"; 15% and 13% in "other services".

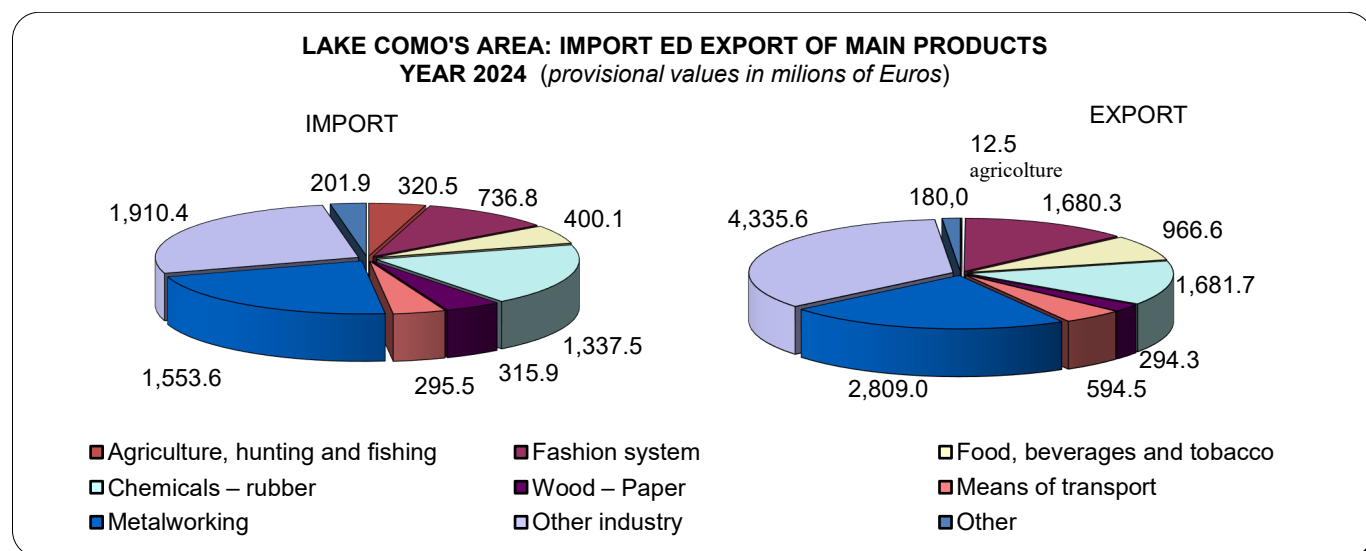


Source: data processed by Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce Research and Statistics' Department on Stockview Infocamere database

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

In 2024 the Greater area **exported** goods worth more than 12.5 billion Euros (+2% compared to 2023). **Imports** were 7.1 billion (+2%). The **trade balance** continues to be positive: +5.5 billion (and it's increasing compared to 2023: +2%), while the regional balance is negative, though improving (-9.9 billion: -4%).

In Lecco, exports have increased by 1%; imports has decreased by 3%; trade surplus has risen by 5%. In Como, exports have increased by 3%, imports by 7%, and trade surplus has decreased by 2%.



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

In 2024, the **main sectors of Lake Como's exports** are "other industry"¹ (35% of the total) and metal products (22%); also important are "chemical-rubber" and textiles (both 13%). Compared to 2023, the most significant growths concern "other industry" (+160 million: +4%), "food beverage and tobacco" (+140 million: +17%) and "chemical-rubber" (+130 million: +9%). Vice versa, the most significant shrinkages concern metal products (-130 million: -4%), textiles (-80 million: -5%), and "means of transport" (-70 million: -10%).

As for **the Greater area's imports**, the main sectors are "other industry" (27%), "metalworking and mechanical engineering" (22%) and chemicals-rubber (19%). Compared to 2023, the latter has increased by 190 million (+16%); vice versa, "metalworking and mechanical engineering" and "other industry" have decreased, by 50 million (-3%) and by 40 million (-2%). Even "means of transport" were reduced (-85 million: -20%).

The **continental market of reference** for local economy is Europe, with 72% of exports and 75% of imports, (both have increased by 1% compared to 2023). Asia is the 2nd market (15% of exports and 18% of imports). Compared to 2023, export has grew by 15%, while import has shrunk by 1%). Lake Como's area exports 10% of the total to America (-5% compared to 2023) and imports account for 4% (+31%); exports to Africa are worth 2% (-4%) and imports amount to 2% (+14%); the shares with Oceania are very low.

The main destination Countries for Lake Como's **exports** continue to be Germany, France and Switzerland, with 15%, 11% and 9% of the total respectively. As for **imports**, after Germany (21%) 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 2024.

¹ Includes "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 2024: 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	844.3	455.3	389.0
Switzerland	3	6	775.2	526.7	248.5
U.S.A.	4	>10	728.1	372.7	355.4
United Kingdom	6	>10	396.2	208.9	187.3
Germany	1	1	378.7	293.3	85.4
Spain	5	5	275.0	263.7	11.3
Poland	7	8	224.4	69.2	155.2
Netherlands	8	4	-193.8	-123.6	-70.0
China	9	2	-496.0	-409.7	-86.3

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

HUMAN CAPITAL

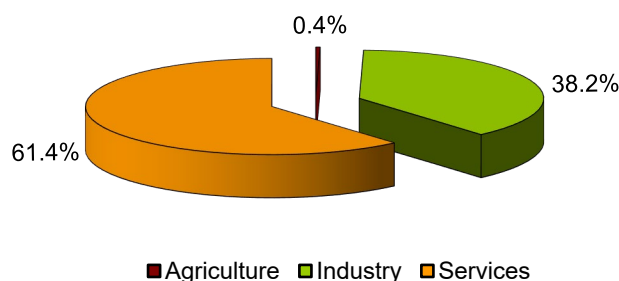
At the end of 2024, there are 407,000 **employed people** residing in the Greater area. 38% work in industry (compared to 31% in the region) and 61% in services (68% in Lombardy).

Compared to 2023, in both provinces there have been increases in agriculture (Como +100: +21%; Lecco +500: +132%) Industry increases only in the province of Lecco (+1,800: +3%; Como -3,700: -4%); vice versa, Como displays an increase in services (+1,200: +1%; Lecco -3,900: -5%).

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

Greater area's unemployment rate³ is stable at 5% (both provinces remain steady: Como at 5%; Lecco at 3%).

EMPLOYED PEOPLE IN LAKE COMO'S AREA BY SECTOR OF ACTIVITY - YEAR 2024

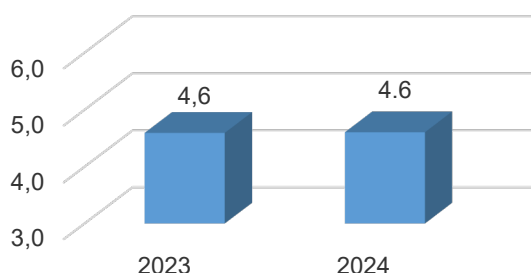


Source: data processed by the Como-Lecco Chamber of Commerce Research and Statistics Department on ISTAT data

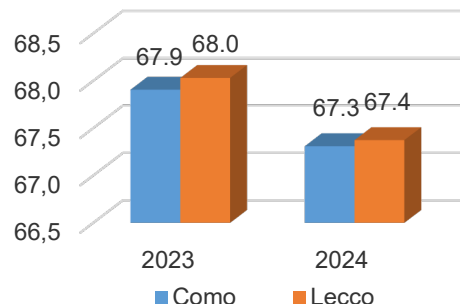
EMPLOYMENT VARIATIONS BY SECTOR (2024 COMPARED TO 2023, % VALUES)

SECTOR OF ACTIVITY	COMO	LECCO	LAKE COMO'S AREA
Agriculture	21.2	-23.2	62.5
Industry	-3.8	2.9	-1.2
Services	0.7	-4.6	-1.1
TOTAL	-0.9	-1.1	-1.0

LAKE COMO'S AREA: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE. YEARS 2023-2024



PROVINCES OF COMO AND LECCO: EMPLOYMENT RATE. YEARS 2023-2024



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

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

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

In the **2nd quarter of 2025**, companies in the Greater area are expecting to make a total of **19,100 new recruitments** (-6% compared to the 2nd quarter of 2024: -1,200 recruitments).

COMPARISON BETWEEN EXPECTED RECRUITMENTS IN THE 2nd QUARTER OF 2025 AND 2024

TERRITORY	EXPECTED RECRUITMENTS Q2 2024	EXPECTED RECRUITMENTS Q2 2025	VAR. % Q2 2025 / Q2 2024
Como	13,660	12,170	-8.0
Lecco	6,650	6,510	-2.1
Lake Como's area	20,310	19,080	-6.1

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. 2019 was a record year; in 2020, due to Covid pandemic, there was a considerable drop; yet, as soon as the emergency finished, absolute values gradually returned to very significant levels.

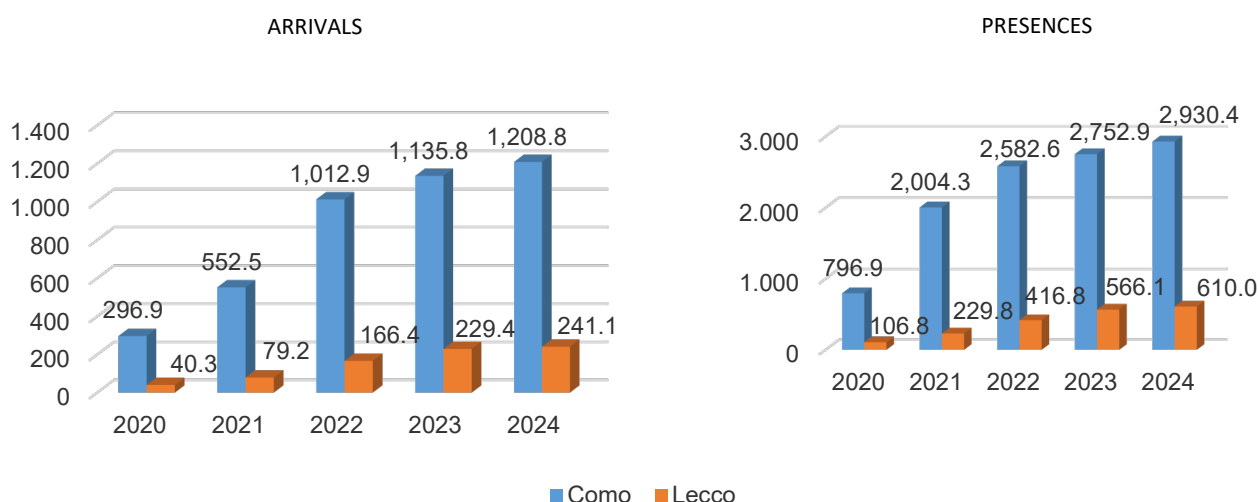
In 2024, continuing with the recovery of tourist flows which had begun in 2021, arrivals and presences have continued to grow, especially for foreigners (whose number of visitors and presences grew by 6% and 7% respectively compared to the previous year). Vice versa, Italians' arrivals and presences decreased by 3% and 5% respectively. The total of visitor of Lake Como's area grew by 4% compared to the previous year and the nights spent on our territory increased by 4%, reaching the figure of 4.4 million. Thus, tourist flows and presences were higher than in 2019 in both provinces (Como +12%; Lecco +9%). The nights spent by tourists in the province of Como increased by 5% (Lecco +34%); arrivals increased by 9% in Como's area, and by 28% in Lecco's.

Compared to 2019, in 2024 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 AND PRESENCES BY TYPE OF ACCOMMODATION FACILITY AND ORIGIN OF GUESTS. YEARS 2020-2024.

TYPE OF THE FACILITY/ORIGIN	2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024	
	ARRIVALS	PRESENCES	ARRIVALS	PRESENCES	ARRIVALS	PRESENCES	ARRIVALS	PRESENCES
Hotels	65.4	174.6	66.0	7.3	8.6	5.8	-0.4	-0.2
Non hotels	72.0	98.1	52.6	9.6	18.4	5.3	13.1	11.1
Foreign citizens	87.3	147.2	86.7	34.3	15.8	10.7	6.2	6.7
Italians	40.9	124.1	16.6	-32.5	0.0	-10.2	-3.2	-.5
TOTAL	67.5	137.7	61.6	8.2	11.7	5.6	4.0	4.4

PROVINCES OF COMO AND LECCO: TURIST ARRIVALS AND PRESENCES OF FOREIGN CITIZENS. YEARS 2020-2024 (VALUES IN THOUSANDS)



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

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

"Lake Como's tourist district" - At the end of 2024, there are almost 8,000 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.

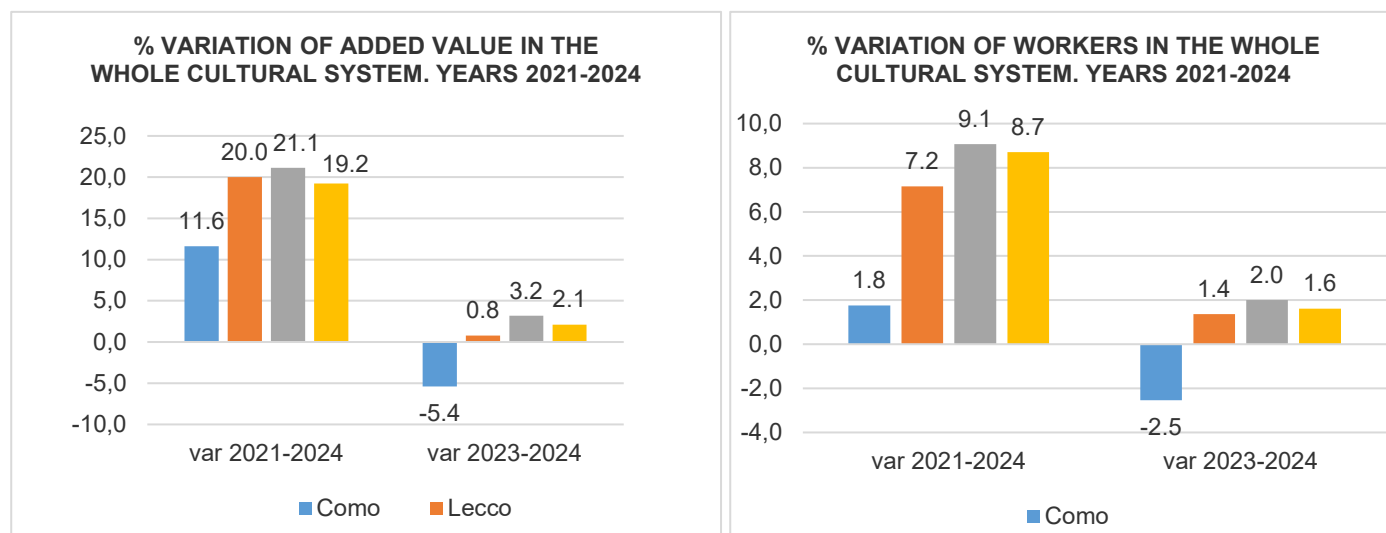
At the end of 2024, in the area there are more than 33,000 **people employed** in the sector: 11% of total workforce (Como 12%; Lecco 9%; Lombardy 8%; Italy 11%). Compared to the beginning of 2016, the number of tourism workers has grown by 56% (almost 12,000 more).

Considering the **types of tourist local units** in the area, almost half of them are restaurants; more than one quarter are bars; over a sixth are accommodation structures, while travel agencies and tour operators account for 4%. Over the last nine years, there has been a decline in bars (-13%), while accommodations (+125%), restaurants (+25%), travel agencies and tour operators (+16%) have increased steadily.

According to the Report *"Io sono cultura 2025"* ("I am culture 2024"), published by Unioncamere and Symbola Foundation, in Lake Como's area the **added value produced in 2024 by the "cultural and creative production system"**⁴ has been equal to 1.4 billion Euros (5% of the total of the two provinces). Compared to 2023, there has been a decrease of over 44 million Euros (-3%), but in comparison with 2021 there has been an increase of about 180 million (+15%). Considering the share of added value produced by cultural economy, in 2024 Lecco ranks 4th in Lombardy and 32nd in Italy; Como is 7th in Lombardy and 43rd in Italy.

The sector employs about 21,800 **people**, equal to 6% of the Greater area's total workforce. In comparison with 2021, the number of workers has increased by about 800 units (+4%); yet, in 2024 workers have decreased by 250 people. Concerning the share of employees in the cultural economic system, Como's ranking is 6rd in Lombardy and 25th in Italy; Lecco is 7th and 26th.

About 4,500 cultural businesses⁵ operate in Lake Como's area out of more than 73,000 firms listed in the Registry of Como-Lecco's Chamber of Commerce (+2% compared to 2023 and +6% compared to 2021); at the end of 2024, Lecco's share was in the 5th position in Italy, preceded only by key areas like Milan, Florence, Rome and Trieste; Como was 9th, after Monza, Bologna and Turin too, yet ahead of 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

4 The 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 "embedded creatives 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 (56.7 million passengers and over 760,000 tons of goods in 2024), 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), among the best low-cost airports in the world.



Road connections in the north-south direction 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 the transport of goods by road from Italy to northern Europe and vice versa;
- Superstrada del Lago di Como e dello Spluga (Highway SS36) departs from 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. In December 2024 the central pylon building was undertaken. Works are expected to be completed by January 2026.



Other fundamental **connections**, in many cases to be implemented, are the **foothills roads** (especially along 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 such full synergy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

www.comolecco.camcom.it/pagina285_informazione-economica.html

www.visitcomo.eu

www.comune.lecco.it/index.php/vivere-lecco

www.lakecomo.is

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Statistics (CG/DR)
September 2025