

The blue economy in Geneva, Switzerland

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)



FACTS AND FIGURES

Fact box

- **Population:** 517 802 [1]
- **GDP:** CHF 56 342 [1]
- **Area:** 282.48 km² [2]

Drivers for the blue economy



Conserve biodiversity, including ecosystems



Adapt to climate change



International initiatives

Blue economy sectors

Geneva, a lacustrine city in Switzerland by Lake Geneva, is home to most blue economy sectors below except shipping.



Seafood



Water-based renewable energy



Shipping



Port activities



Shipbuilding and repair



Water passenger transport and related services



Water-related tourism



Blue bioeconomy, biotechnology and research and education

BLUE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

The main environmental impacts of blue economy sectors in Geneva relate to biodiversity loss and disturbance of natural habitats. Water pollution, depletion of freshwater resources due to freshwater abstraction, pollution from plastics, and waste generation are other moderate impacts.

Top 3 climate threats to the blue economy in Geneva



Changing precipitation patterns and/or hydrological availability



Water stress



Temperature-related hazards (e.g. heat or cold waves, wildfires)

[1] Federal Statistical Office (n.d.) www.bfs.admin.ch/. Data from 2022 for population and from 2023 for GDP

[2] Territorial Information System in Geneva (SITG) (n.d.) <https://ge.ch/sitg>

The blue economy in Geneva, Switzerland

Source: OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)

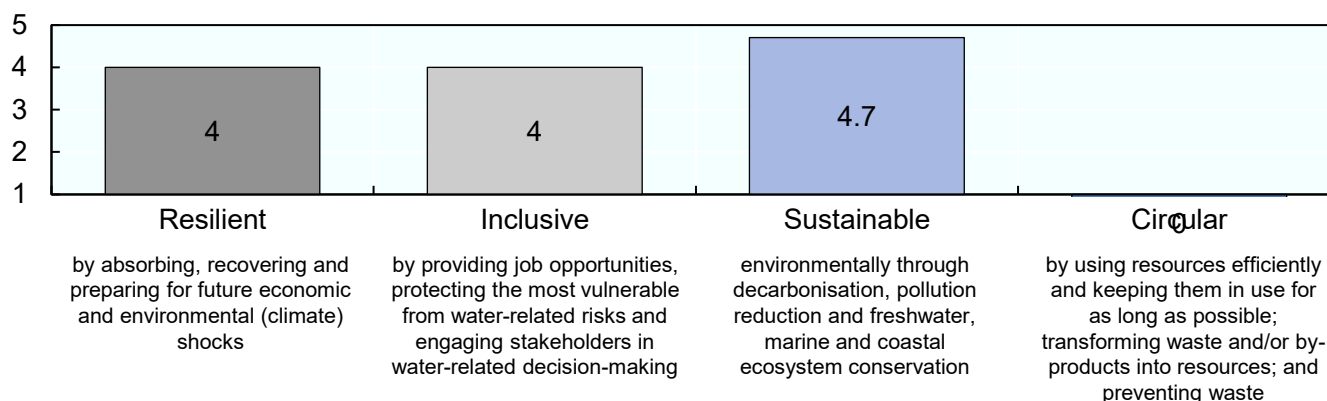


GOVERNANCE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY

Geneva has implemented three key initiatives related to the blue economy. First, the [OH MON EAU!](#) awareness programme, implemented in 2021 by the Cantonal Water Office (*Office cantonal de l'eau, OCEau*), emphasises the importance of water resources, encouraging daily habits that conserve water and reduce pollution. Second, the "[Dans ma nature](#)" awareness programme, set up by OCEau in 2014, focuses on urban nature preservation, highlighting its importance for well-being and environmental health, particularly in relation to water resources. Third, the "[éco21](#)" incentive programme, implemented by the Industrial Services of Geneva (*Services Industriels de Genève, SIG*) in collaboration with OCEau in 2024, aims to promote water efficiency and saving alongside energy consumption reduction, aligning with the Swiss Energy Strategy 2050 and furthering efforts towards preserving water resources and enhancing environmental sustainability.

THE RISC-PROOF BLUE ECONOMY

(*)



Survey respondents were invited to define their level of agreement (with 5 "Agree" and 1 "Disagree") for statements for each of the RISC dimensions (from question 2.1.1 to 2.1.4 of the OECD Global Survey on Localising the Blue Economy (2022)).

TOP CHALLENGES

- Technological challenges
- Lack of a clear and holistic strategy
- Lack of planning and decision-making at the adequate scale
- Lack of engagement with private sector and civil society
- Insufficient data collection and information sharing

FUTURE PRIORITIES

- Promote material efficiency and circularity
- Tackle pollution of water bodies
- Boost technology use and uptake
- Create new jobs and business opportunities
- Improve data collection on the blue economy