

CREDIT OPINION

29 October 2025

Update



RATINGS

Ticino, Republic and Canton of

Domicile	Switzerland
Long Term Rating	Aa2
Туре	LT Issuer Rating - Fgn Curr
Outlook	Stable

Please see the <u>ratings section</u> at the end of this report for more information. The ratings and outlook shown reflect information as of the publication date.

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Republic and Canton of Ticino (Switzerland)

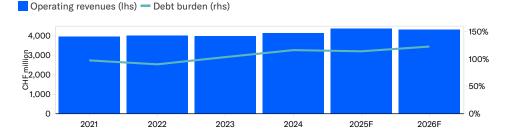
Update following rating affirmation

Summary

The credit profile of the Republic and Canton of Ticino (Ticino or the canton, Aa2 stable) is underpinned by its wealthy economy, very strong governance and high degree of fiscal flexibility, which supports financial results. To rebalance its increasing financial performance with increasing debt burden, the canton is implementing spending and revenue reviews. Ticino's stance towards fiscal consolidation remains strong. The canton's credit profile also reflects its conservative debt management and good access to financial markets, which mitigate risks stemming from its moderate debt burden, high financing needs and large contingent liabilities. The ratings also factor in a moderate likelihood of support from the Government of Switzerland (Aaa stable) if the canton were to face acute liquidity stress.

Exhibit 1

Debt burden is expected to increase before starting a decreasing trend after 2026



The forecasts (F) are our opinion and do not represent the views of the issuer. Source: Moody's Ratings

Credit strengths

- » Strong stance towards fiscal consolidation, driven by a constitutional requirement
- » A high degree of fiscal flexibility, combined with sound management practices
- » A wealthy economy

Credit challenges

- » Increasing debt levels, although manageable
- » Sizeable exposure to contingent liabilities

Rating outlook

The stable outlook reflects Ticino's capacity to rebalance its financial performance over the medium term and keep manageable debt levels. The canton's commitment to financial equilibrium will continue to support financial results, as well as its resilient and wealthy economy.

Factors that could lead to an upgrade

The ratings could be upgraded as a result of one or a combination of the following: a structural improvement of the primary operating balance, and a significant reduction in debt burden.

Factors that could lead to a downgrade

Negative pressure on the ratings could be exerted by one or a combination of the following: a significant deterioration in Ticino's operating performance sustained over time; a substantially higher-than-expected net direct and indirect debt-to-operating revenue ratio; and significant financial pressure arising from contingent liabilities. In addition, although not likely, a sovereign downgrade could also result in a downgrade of Ticino's ratings.

Key indicators

Exhibit 2
Republic and Canton of Ticino
Year ending 31 December

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025F	2026F
Net Direct and Indirect Debt as a % of Operating Revenue	96.8%	89.7%	102.9%	115.6%	113.4%	122.1%
Operating Margin (Primary operating balance as a % Operating Revenue)	1.5%	3.5%	0.4%	1.9%	5.4%	2.3%
Interest burden (Interest payments as a % of Operating Revenue)	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
Intergovernmental revenue as a % of Operating Revenue	32.6%	29.8%	32.5%	32.7%	31.9%	32.7%
Capital expenses as a % of Total Expenses	8.9%	10.3%	10.4%	9.9%	9.5%	9.2%
Eiquidity ratio (Cash and Cash equivalents as % of Operating revenue)	2.8%	1.2%	4.1%	9.4%	-	-
Regional income (Regional GDP per capita in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), in international dollars)	90891.1	99972.3	106347.1	109116.9	-	-

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Profile

The Republic and Canton of Ticino is located in southern Switzerland. The canton benefits from robust revenue-raising autonomy and a well-established equalization system, while its financial strategy emphasizes fiscal consolidation through spending reviews and cost-containment measures. The economy of Ticino is driven by a strong services sector, particularly banking, insurance, and tourism, complemented by manufacturing industries such as textiles, machinery, and food processing. The canton's income streams primarily come from tax revenues (personal and corporate income taxes), federal transfers, and duties related to public services, while its responsibilities include education, healthcare, infrastructure, and social welfare programs.

Detailed credit considerations

On 24th October 2025, we affirmed Ticino's aa2 Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) and its Aa2 rating with stable outlook.

The credit profile of the Republic and Canton of Ticino, as expressed in its Aa2 stable rating, combines a Baseline Credit Assessment (BCA) of aa2 and a moderate likelihood of extraordinary support from the Swiss Confederation (Aaa stable) if the canton were to face acute liquidity stress.

Baseline Credit Assessment

Strong stance towards fiscal consolidation, driven by a constitutional requirement

We expect a gradual improvement of overall financial performance in 2025 and 2026 on the back of Ticino's introduction of gradual spending containment and revenues enhancement measures. Any extra ordinary revenue stream (e.g. Swiss National Bank, SNB CHF

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80 million dividends paid in 2025 on back of 2024 profit) will be beneficial and crucial for the canton's financial results. We expect an operating margin (primary operating balance as percentage of operating revenues) of 5.4% and 2.3% in 2025 and 2026, resulting in improving financial deficits.

Ticino has been demonstrating a strong commitment to financial equilibrium, an objective enshrined in the cantonal constitution. As such, the canton has successfully implemented annual revenue enhancing and expense containment measures in since 2022, and is currently refining its 2026 measures. This review focused primarily on costs, such as personnel spending, cost of goods and services, transfers as well as contained tax and commission increases e.g. for real estate.

Due to operating revenue exceeding expectations and first cost containment measures, the canton registered an improved operating margin in 2024 compared to 2023 (2024: 1.9%; 2023: 0.4%). Operating margin has been volatile, largely attributable to a shortfall or payment in dividend distributions from the SNB. The SNB did not distribute dividends in 2023 and 2024 due to the loss recorded in 2022 and 2023. Rising social spending also contributed, to the deterioration of the operating balance.

A high degree of fiscal flexibility, combined with sound management practices

Ticino benefits from a high degree of fiscal flexibility. The canton, like its national peers, has ample autonomy in setting tax rates, and the cantonal law provides for an adjustment of the fiscal coefficient to meet financial targets, if other measures, such as spending review or other revenue increase, are not sufficient. Ticino also benefits from a robust intercantonal revenue equalisation system, which provides stability to the cantons' finances. Tax receipts account for the highest proportion of operating revenue (typically about 60%), followed by transfers. Moreover, the canton has strong flexibility on the expenditure side, even if social spending is a sizeable and a rigid budget item with cost pressures associated with an ageing population.

Ticino's governance and management practices are strong. Financial planning is robust with in-year monitoring, fiscal targets are defined, and the degree of transparency is high. Debt and investment management are conservative and based on clear guidelines. The debt structure is simple with long-term debt mainly consisting of bonds at fixed rate. Ticino's debt management targets a smooth amortisation profile, avoiding very long tenors, with a cap of CHF250 million per year on long-term debt repayment. Ticino takes a proactive approach to treasury management. Treasury budgets are carefully planned and monitored during the year taking into consideration scheduled liquidity inflows and outflows.

A wealthy economy

Ticino is a medium-sized canton, located in the southern part of Switzerland. It shares its border with the <u>Region of Lombardy (Italy)</u> (Baa2 positive), the wealthiest region in Italy. Ticino benefits from a wealthy and diversified economy, which supports financial results.

We expect a real GDP growth rate of 1.3% in 2025 and 2026 at the national level. The favorable economic prospects support our expectation that tax receipts should again exceed that cantonal prudent forecasts in 2025 and 2026. Unemployment rate will remain very low in 2025 and 2026, and stood at below 3% in the past years, which is though slightly above the Swiss national average.

Accounting for about 4% of the national GDP, the canton's GDP per capita is slightly above the Swiss average, which exceeds the European average. The cantonal economy is mainly driven by the service industry (77% of the cantonal value added), followed by manufacturing. Wholesale, financial activities, information technology and tourism are relevant in the tertiary sector, while electromechanical and pharmaceutical chemical industries have a leading role in the secondary sector. Life science and high tech are increasing in importance. The cantonal economic strategy is focused on promoting innovation and attracting new businesses, and benefits from the presence of important universities and renowned research institutions.

Increasing debt levels, although manageable

We expect debt burden to increase gradually through 2025 and 2026 to 113% and 122% (debt burden asnet direct and indirect debt % of operating revenues) and stagnation debt burden thereafter. This reflects expected financial deficits in these years, financed through new debt though diminishing in light of current consolidation efforts as described above. This forecast is due to the canton's sustained investment plan, its weak operating balance, and a rise in indirect debt. In 2024, Ticino's debt burden stood at 116%, up from 103% in 2023.

We view debt prudently managed, through mainly its local bank partners and respective investor base. The canton's very low interest spending will remain below 1% in the coming years (interest expenses as percentage of operating revenues: 2024 0.9%, 2023 0.7%) and simple debt profile mitigate risks associated with its moderate, but growing, financial debt.

The canton uses short-term debt to manage cash flow imbalances due to mismatches in inflow and outflow, as well as the canton's sustained investment plan. Good access to financial markets and careful cash monitoring support Ticino's cash management, mitigate the refinancing risk that is stemming from its high short-term debt levels. The canton is aiming to reduce short-term funding, and tightened internal procedures, introducing a 20% threshold on short-term direct debt.

Contingent liabilities (not part of debt burden calculations) is largely composed of liabilities tied to the cantonal pension fund, Istituto di Previdenza del Cantone di Ticino (IPCT). Ticino guarantees IPCT's future payments to beneficiaries. Thus, we include in the contingent liabilities our estimate of the additional coverage needed to reach full coverage² We recognise that Ticino's agreed installment plan will diminish contingent liabilities, and increase direct debt likewise. In an effort to reduce the pension fund imbalances, IPCT has decided to gradually lower the conversion rate of retirement savings starting in 2024.

Sizeable exposure to contingent liabilities

Ticino's good access to financial markets and conservative debt management mitigate the risks stemming from large contingent liabilities. Should contingent liabilities expand, the value of cantonal guarantees will grow proportionally, a credit negative.

We expect Ticino's contingent liabilities in 2025 and 2026 to remain in line with past years (about fives times against its operating revenue), primarily due to obligations to the IPCT and from the cantonal bank, BancaStato³. Ticino fully owns BancaStato and guarantees the bank's liabilities, which amounted to about 4.3 times the cantonal operating revenue in 2024. We assess the risks associated with these liabilities to be moderate, reflecting the bank's solid credit profile and close supervision by FINMA (the Swiss Financial Market Supervision Authority).

Ticino's contingent liabilities also include the financial debt of its fully owned electricity wholesaler, Azienda Elettrica Ticinese (AET). AET's liabilities stood at 11% of the cantonal operating revenue in 2024 (2023: 18%). AET's reported a consolidated net income of CHF 45 million at year-end 2024 (2023: CHF 9 million).

While dividend pay-out has been negligible in the past years, from Ticino's shareholdings, in view of the canton's consolidation efforts we expect some gradual and increasing dividend payments from AET and BancoStata in 2025 and 2026.

Extraordinary support considerations

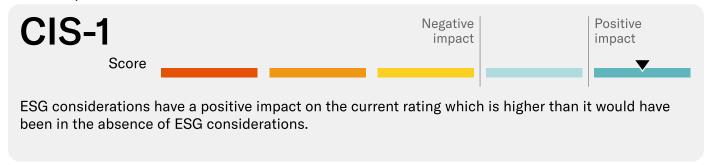
Ticino has a moderate likelihood of receiving extraordinary support from the Swiss Confederation. This reflects Swiss cantons' ample autonomy, and the strongly decentralised relationship between the cantons and the Swiss Confederation.

ESG considerations

Ticino, Republic and Canton of's ESG credit impact score is CIS-1

Exhibit 3

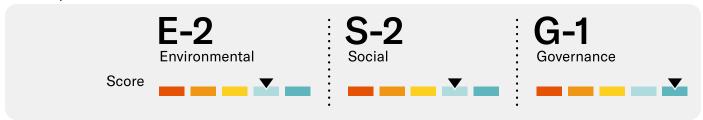
ESG credit impact score



Source: Moody's Ratings

Ticino's ESG Credit Impact Score is **CIS-1**, reflecting a very strong governance profile and muted exposure to environmental and social risks.

Exhibit 4
ESG issuer profile scores



Source: Moody's Ratings

Environmental

Ticino's environmental issuer profile score (**E-2**) factors in a non-material exposure to environmental risks such as carbon transition, water management, natural capital and waste & pollution. Ticino has a moderate exposure to physical climate risks, due to increasingly volatile weather conditions and rising temperatures. Climate change related environmental trends may cause losses in productivity, weigh on investment and put pressure on the cantonal revenue base.

Social

Ticino's social issuer profile (**S-2**) reflects an overall non-material exposure to social considerations. The canton has a high level of education and overall strong levels of public health & safety. Residents benefit of a good access to basic services. Labor & income indicators are favorable, reflecting a relatively diversified service-based economy and a low unemployment rate. Ticino has a moderate credit exposure to demographics challenges, due to population ageing. We foresee a persistently high, although manageable, future demand for healthcare and social services with implications on public spending. High housing costs imply a moderate credit exposure to housing risk.

Governance

Ticino's highly transparent and very strong management and governance practices are captured by a governance issuer profile of **G-1**. Strong stance towards fiscal consolidation, driven by a constitutional requirement in terms of financial equilibrium, will perdure and will contribute to Ticino's ability to meet its fiscal targets. Sound debt management, combined with very good access to financial markets, support liquidity and mitigate risks stemming from its moderate debt levels and contingent liabilities, which will remain manageable.

ESG Issuer Profile Scores and Credit Impact Scores for the rated entity/transaction are available on Moodys.com. In order to view the latest scores, please click here to go to the landing page for the entity/transaction on MDC and view the ESG Scores section.

Rating methodology and scorecard factors

The assigned BCA of aa2 is close to the BCA scorecard-indicated outcome of aa3.

For details about our rating approach, please refer to Rating Methodology: Regional and Local Governments, published on 28 May 2024.

Exhibit 5 Ticino, Republic and Canton of Regional & Local Governments

Baseline Credit Assessment – Scorecard	Score	Value	Sub-factor Weighting	Sub-factor Score	Factor Weighting	Total
Factor 1: Economy					25%	0.68
Regional Income [1]	0.50	109116.86	15%	0.07		
Economic Growth	9.00	baa	5%	0.45		
Economic Diversification	3.00	aa	5%	0.15		
Factor 2: Institutional Framework and						
Governance					30%	0.60
Institutional Framework	1.00	aaa	15%	0.15	·	
Governance	3.00	aa	15%	0.45		
Factor 3: Financial Performance					20%	1.86
Operating Margin [2]	11.67	1.87%	10%	1.17		
Liquidity Ratio [3]	10.84	9.43%	5%	0.54		
Ease of Access to Funding	3.00	aa	5%	0.15		
Factor 4: Leverage					25%	1.41
Debt Burden [4]	7.78	115.60%	15%	1.17		
Interest Burden [5]	2.39	0.94%	10%	0.24		
Preliminary BCA Scorecard-Indicated						
Outcome (SIO)						(4.54) a1
Idiosyncratic Notching						-1.0
Preliminary BCA SIO After Idiosyncratic						
Notching						(5.54) a2
Sovereign Rating Threshold						Aaa
Operating Environment Notching						2.0
BCA Scorecard-Indicated Outcome						(3.54) aa
Assigned BCA						aa2

^[1] Regional GDP per capita in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, in international dollars

^[2] Primary Operating Balance / Operating Revenue [3] Cash and Cash Equivalents / Operating Revenue

^[4] Net Direct and Indirect Debt / Operating Revenue

^[5] Interest Payments/ Operating Revenue Source: Moody's Ratings; Fiscal 2024.

Ratings

Exhibit 6

Category	Moody's Rating
TICINO, REPUBLIC AND CANTON OF	
Outlook	Stable
Baseline Credit Assessment	aa2
Issuer Rating	Aa2
Senior Unsecured -Dom Curr	Aa2
Source: Moody's Ratings	

Endnotes

- 1 Moody's Ratings forecasts
- 2 The 85% minimum coverage ratio is required by the federal law on pension funds for Ticino by 2051.
- 3 BancaStato is an autonomous institution under public law, which aims to promote Ticino's economic development through mortgage lending and asset management. Its activities cover all the operations of a universal bank.

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