

FISCAL 2020

ACTING FOR THE FUTURE – SUPPORTING THROUGH DIGITAL – PROVIDING INDIVIDUAL ADVICE

Annual report 2020
www.bdo.ch/ar2020



In 2020, economies and societies around the world were heavily impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Thanks to our positive market position, flexible people and long-term investments in digitalisation, BDO can look back on a solid financial year, despite the tough environment.

The coronavirus pandemic placed great demands on BDO across the board. Our company's resilience - our ability to overcome a crisis - was put to the test. BDO responded by developing various scenarios and appropriate measures to navigate the crisis successfully. The investments we had already made in digital infrastructure enabled to switch abruptly to working from home. BDO has

long been a proponent of flexible working and therefore already has a secure and stable IT infrastructure. This strong foundation made it possible for us to provide the majority of our services digitally.

Our expertise enabled us to support clients during the crisis, whatever their individual situation. We put our clients at the heart of everything we do. In this context, the concept of 'proximity' is decisive. The pandemic confirmed that proximity is not defined purely by geographical distance, i.e. physical proximity. In our digital age, it's much more about the way we interact and collaborate.

Being an agile, sustainable company puts us in a good position. BDO is well structured, enjoys considerable market recognition, embraces digital exchange - and is ready for the future.

Thomas Studhalter, CEO of BDO Switzerland

FACTS AND FIGURES 2020

Clients

24,507 **+4.8%**

People

1,461 **+10.6%**

Average age (Years)

37.1 **+0.4%**

Proportion of women
Percent

49.0 **+/-0%**

Part-time employees
Percent

30.1 **-1.2%**

4.6%

Percentage of revenue spent on
employee training and development

Trainees

85 **+4.9%**

Audit engagements

7,299 **+1.7%**

Greenhouse gas emissions (t CO₂e)

3,037 **-12.4%**

As part of our active commitment to sustainability and climate protection, BDO has been offsetting CO₂ emissions with myclimate certificates since 2016 and is thus recognised as a climate-neutral company.

BDO ENJOYS SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

BDO closes the past financial year with revenue growth. Revenue increased by 5.3 percent on the prior year to CHF 233 million in 2020.

AUDIT

 + 3.3%
CHF 76.8 million

The pandemic plus ongoing price pressure made for a tough market environment in Audit. The service line nevertheless generated revenue of CHF 76.8 million in 2020, an increase of 3.3 percent. Additional demand for audit and advisory services arose as a result of government measures to cushion the financial impact of the pandemic on the economy. Thanks to innovative solutions and flexible services, BDO was well placed to respond to changing market needs.

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

 + 3.6%
CHF 73.8 million

The extraordinary year 2020 triggered a veritable digitalisation drive. Business Solutions was among the winners of this development, reporting an increase in revenue to CHF 73.8 million in 2020. This represents growth of 3.6 percent. SMEs face increasingly complex requirements, meaning that the advisory competence of fiduciary professionals will become increasingly important. As a central provider of services, their expertise covers not only traditional areas but also solutions in outsourcing, digitalisation, process optimisation or succession planning.

TAX & LEGAL

 + 2.8%
CHF 28.5 million

Tax & Legal recorded a 2.8 percent increase in revenue to CHF 28.5 million in 2020. In the past financial year, many companies were once again affected by changes in legislation, including the Federal Act on Tax Reform and AHV Financing (TRAF), which entered into force on 1 January 2020. BDO has been supporting clients with implementation from the outset. Two further important bills to receive parliamentary approval in the past year were Switzerland's Corporate Law Reform and the revised Federal Act on Data Protection.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

 + 3.3%
CHF 17.6 million

The environment remains difficult for the financial sector, which faces challenges such as negative interest rates and rising material expenses as digitalisation advances. Against this background, Financial Services performed well, with revenue up 3.3 percent to CHF 17.6 million.

OTHER SERVICES

 + 16.9%
CHF 36.3 Mio.

Abacus also continued its positive development in what was a challenging environment and increased revenue from services year on year. The volume of advisory services increased in the lively Mergers & Acquisitions market. Real Estate was not quite able to match its prior-year performance.

INCOME FROM SERVICES AND FEES

