

The Associazione Bancaria Ticinese

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The ABT was founded in 1920 to extend cooperation among the banks of the canton and to regulate their activities.¹ It is a private association of banks, whose stated mission is to safeguard and defend the image of the Ticino financial centre and the interests and rights of its members at cantonal level. Its tasks include promoting the financial centre, facilitating relations among members, coordinating activities of common interest, managing professional training through the Centro Studi Villa Negroni and taking part in the cantonal legislative process. The general assembly of members meets annually and elects the president, the executive committee, the members of the CSVN council, the committee of the association's family allowance fund (CAFABT) and the auditors.² The administration of a family allowance fund for bank employees is a less visible but practical task that links the association to the social security system of the canton.

The association's list of members shows the history of the market in compressed form. The three founding members of 1920, UBS (through its predecessor), the Banca dello Stato and the Società Bancaria Ticinese, are still members. Julius Baer joined in 1947, Cornèr Banca in 1960, Banca del Sempione in 1969, BNP Paribas (Suisse) in 1975, PKB in 1977 and Banca del Ceresio in 1988. Raiffeisen followed in 1995 and BPS (Suisse) in 1999. The most recent members are PostFinance (2023), BG Suisse Private Bank (2024) and Swissquote (2024).³ The association is led by a president elected from among the member banks, in 2025 Alberto Petruzzella, and by a director, Franco Citterio, who has represented the financial centre in public debate for many years.⁴ The ABT works with the Swiss Bankers Association at national level. The election of EFG's chief executive Giorgio Pradelli, who has strong ties to the Italian-speaking market, as president of the Swiss Bankers Association in May 2026 has given the Ticino financial centre an unusually direct voice in the national association.⁵

In figures. About 43 per cent of bank employees in Ticino are older than fifty.⁶ The share of cross-border commuters in financial and insurance activities rose from 6.4 per cent in 2008 to 12.3 per cent in 2019.⁷ In 2022 the median gross monthly salary was CHF 5,301 in Ticino and CHF 6,510 in Switzerland.⁸ The ABT, founded in 1920, lists 31 member banks on its website, and its training centre at Villa Negroni, created in 1989, had about 4,000 participants a year in the mid-2000s.⁹

1 Notes

1. Associazione Bancaria Ticinese, "Cenni storici" (above). ↩
2. Associazione Bancaria Ticinese, "Organizzazione", <https://www.abti.ch/associazione/organizzazione/>. ↩
3. Associazione Bancaria Ticinese, "Membri" (above). ↩
4. finews.ch (June 2025, above); Associazione Bancaria Ticinese, homepage, <https://www.abti.ch> (news of 8 September 2026 on the director Franco Citterio). ↩
5. laRegione (20 May 2026, above). ↩
6. USTAT, 12 Denaro e banche (March 2026, above). ↩
7. USTAT, "Il mercato del lavoro transfrontaliero" (12 October 2021, above). ↩
8. USTAT, Il Ticino in cifre 2025 (above). ↩
9. Associazione Bancaria Ticinese, "Membri" (above); Chopard (2006, above). The page states 31 members; the list as consulted shows 28 named institutions, and the difference has not been resolved. ↩

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