Key indicators of French economic attractiveness

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

FRANCE, LAND OF INNOVATION

3rd

country in Europe for R&D spending
(OECD, 2024)

4th

country for patent applications filed under the international PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) procedure in 2023
(WIPO, OECD, 2024)

#1

European recipient of foreign investments in R&D since 2019
(EY survey, 2024)

57%

of the active population with a higher education diploma or in a position with a high level of qualification
(Eurostat, 2024)

30%

The rate of the research tax credit for R&D expenditure up to €100 million
(French Ministry for the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, 2020)
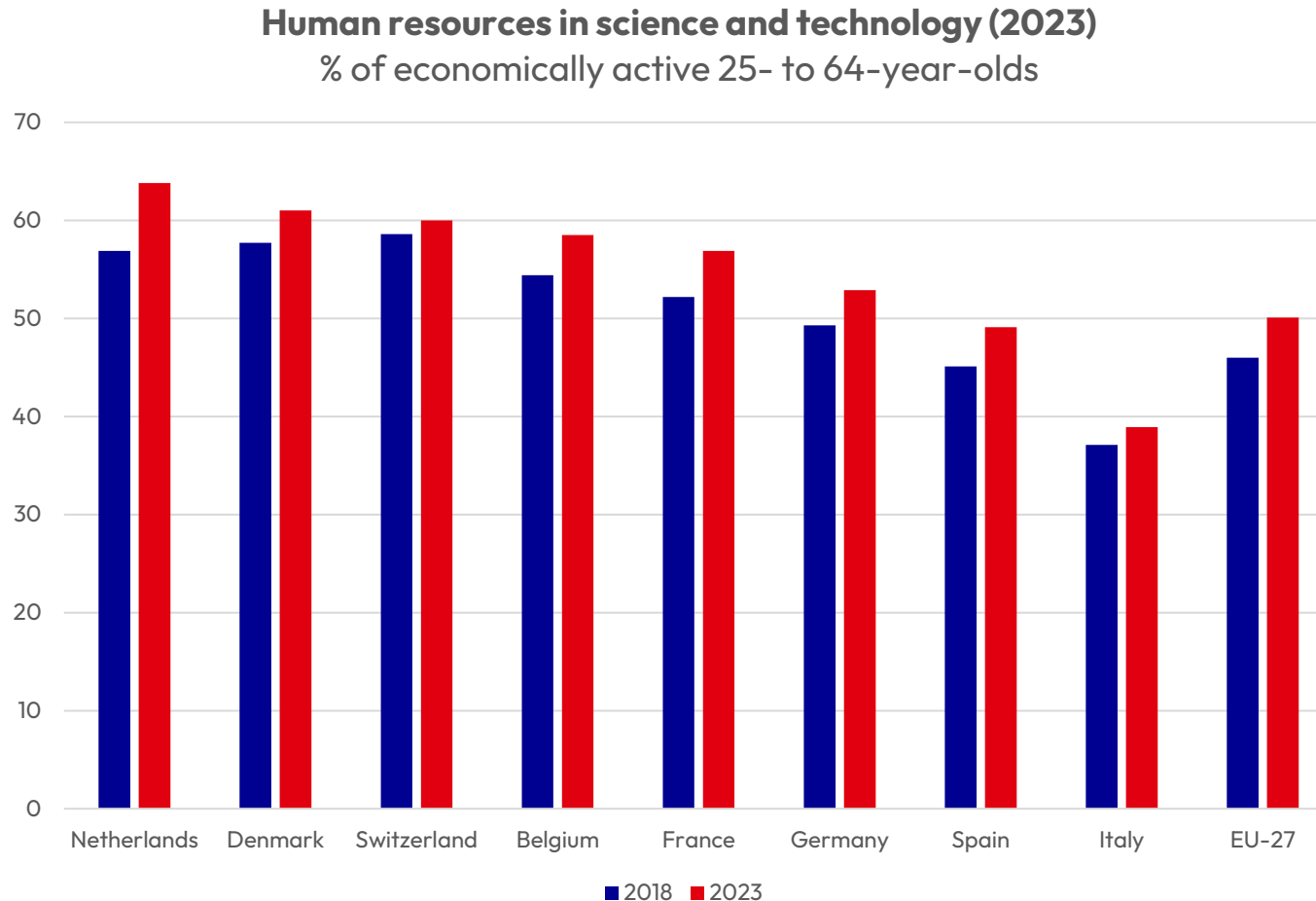
4th

country for the number of researchers in 2021
(OECD, 2024)

France has a well qualified workforce...

Human resources in science and technology (2023)
% of economically active 25- to 64-year-olds

Legend: ■ 2018 ■ 2023

Categories: Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, EU-27
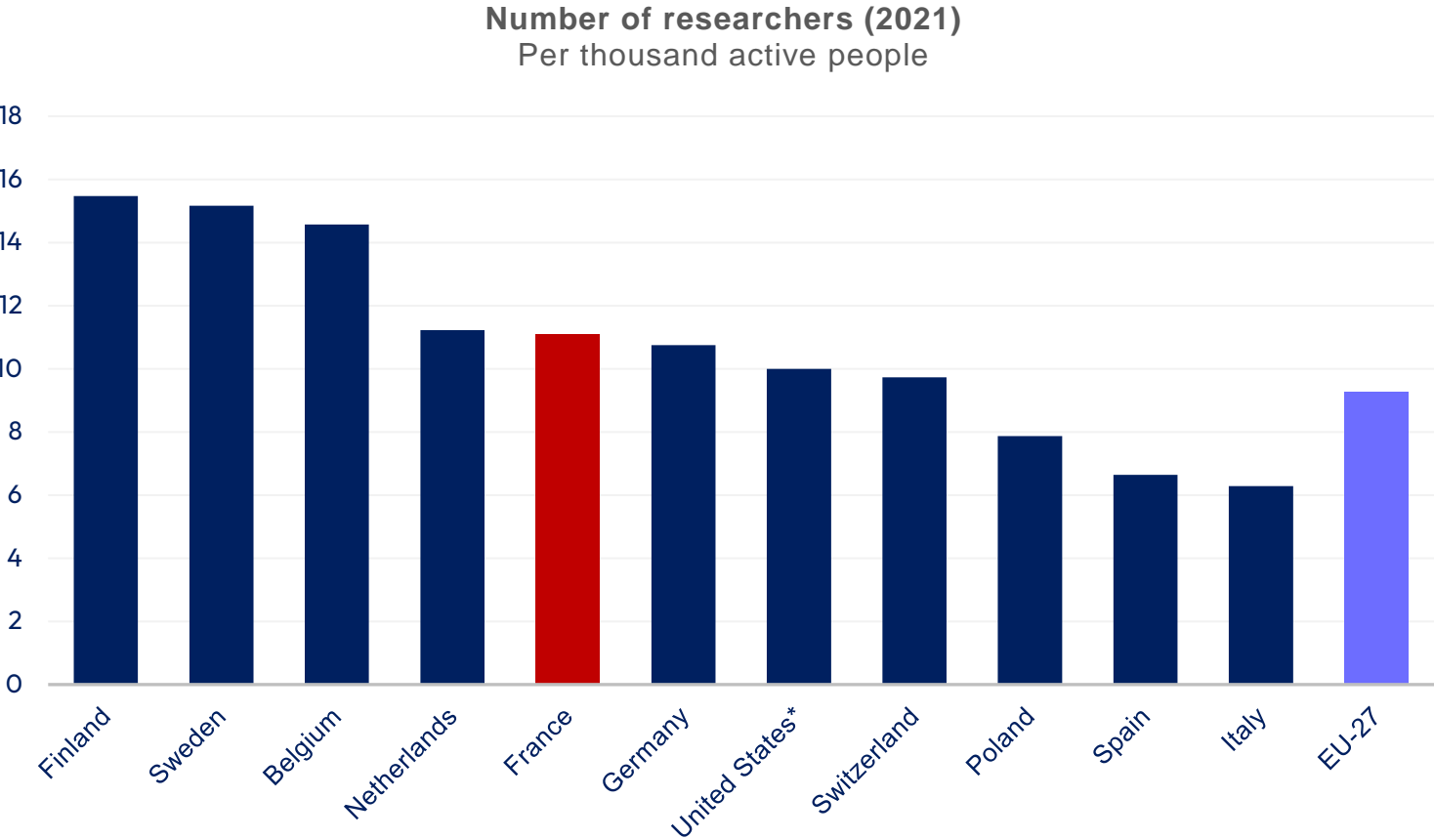
57%

Share of the active population with a higher education degree or employed in a scientific or technological position.

+4.7% points

Increase in the share of human resources in science and technology (HRST) in France, in percentage points, between 2018 and 2023 (+4.1% points in the European Union).

Key: **Human resources in science and technology** (HRST) are one of the main drivers of knowledge-based economies. In addition to higher education graduates, they include people employed in a scientific or technological position for which a high level of qualification is required.

... and a high number of researchers

Number of researchers (2021)
Per thousand active people

* Data for 2020

11.4 researchers

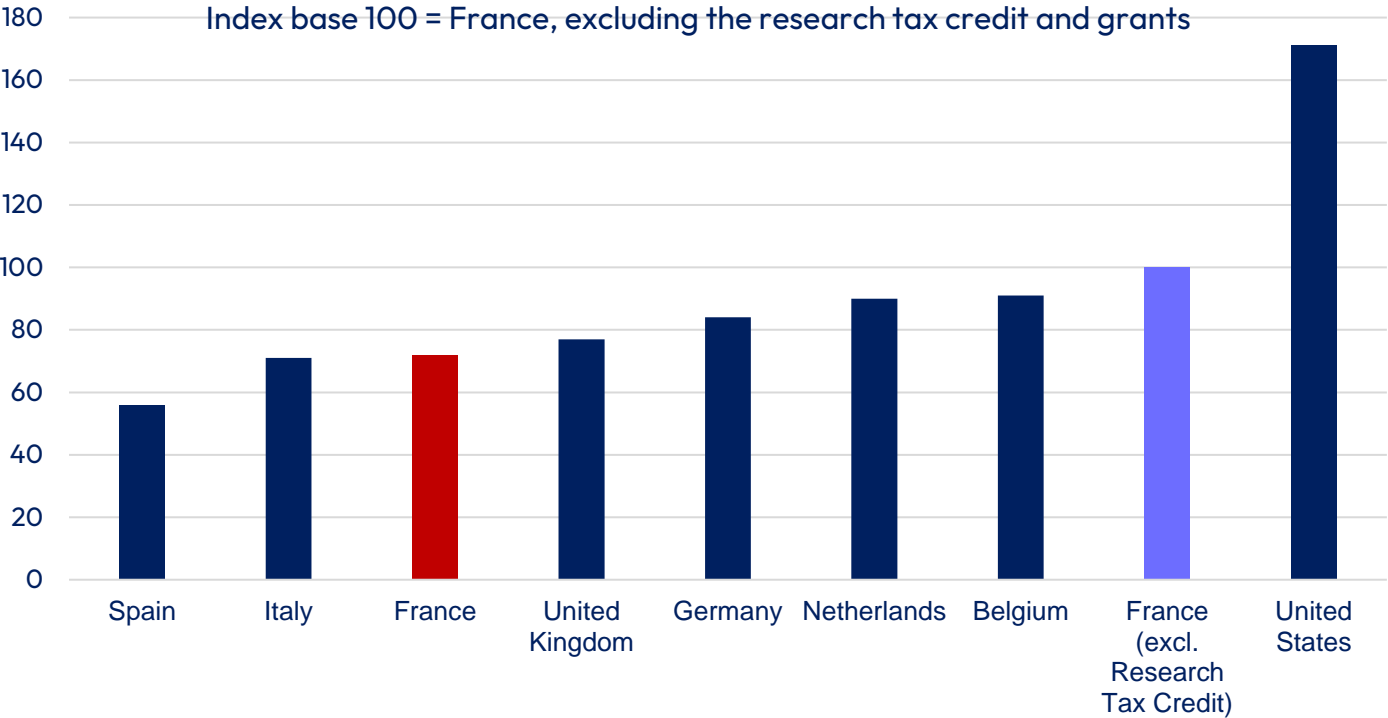per 1,000 active people in France (2021).

4th

country in the world with the most researchers: 467,519 in 2021.

R&D activities encouraged by the research tax credit

Cost of a researcher (2023) (data for 2022)
Index base 100 = France, excluding the research tax credit and grants

30%

The research tax credit rate on R&D expenses up to 100€ million and 5% of expenditure beyond this threshold. The research tax credit is a tax-incentive scheme to support business R&D, open to businesses of any size and from any sector.
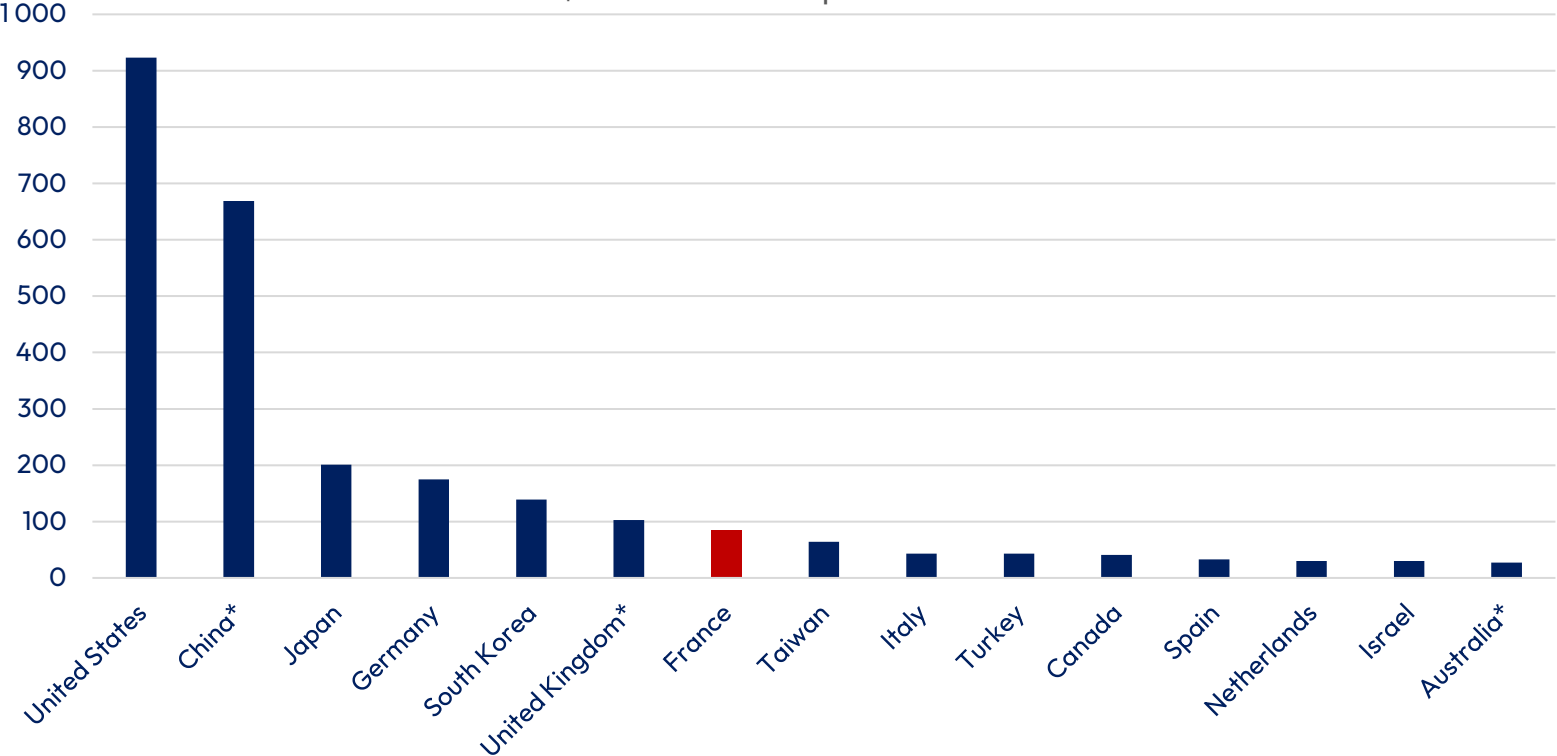
72%

The cost of employing a researcher in France after deduction of the research tax credit, making France less expensive than Germany (84%) or the United Kingdom (77%).

Key: The cost of researchers is an index put together by the National Research and Technology Association (ANRT), which allows for the cost of employing a researcher in their country of location to be calculated, taking into account the support systems available for R&D. The index compares the cost of a researcher in France excluding public support (base=100) with the cost of a researcher employed in the comparison countries with state aid. The cost of a researcher in France, taking into account the research tax credit and state benefits, therefore amounts to 72% of the cost excluding all state aid.

France is the #3 country in Europe for R&D spending

Gross domestic expenditure on R&D (2022)
15 leading global economies
US$ billion at current prices and PPP

* The most recent data for China, the United Kingdom and Australia date from 2021

US$85 billion

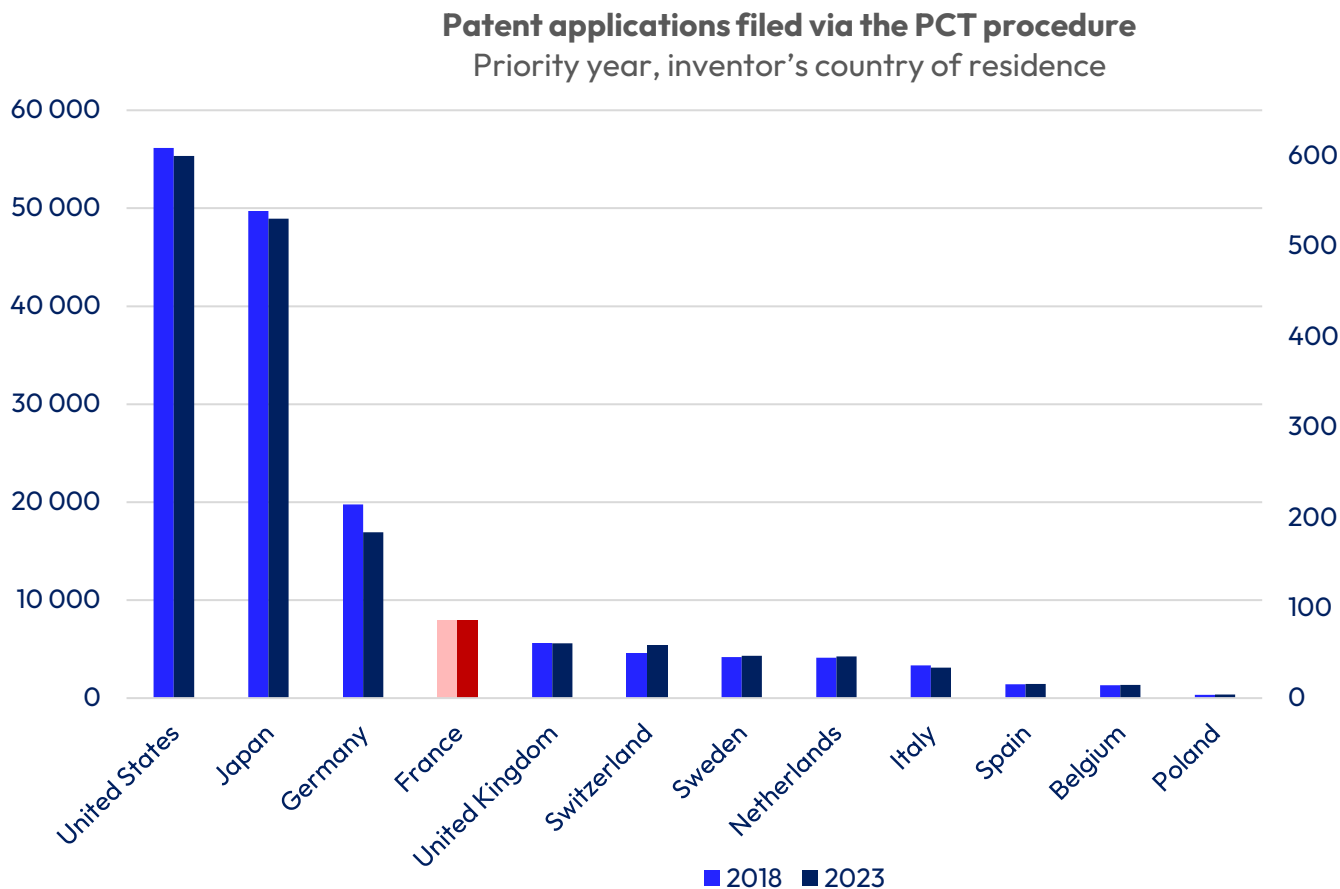Amount of gross domestic expenditure on R&D in France in 2022.

2.18%

of GDP spent on R&D activities in 2022, higher than the EU average (2.11%).

3%

of GDP to be spent on R&D activities by 2030, according to the Research Programming Act.

Dynamic research on a global scale

Patent applications filed via the PCT procedure
Priority year, inventor's country of residence

#4

country for patent applications filed via the PCT procedure in 2023 (7,911 applications).

■ 2018 ■ 2023

METHODOLOGY AND GUIDE TO USE

❖ **Methodology:** The **"Key indicators of French economic attractiveness"** series aims to compare and evaluate how France is ranked in the world and in Europe, through a series of indicators on a targeted theme. This presentation focuses on the theme: **research and innovation.**

❖ **Guide to use: Each slide offers the possibility of customizing the countries highlighted in the charts.** By selecting the **"Chart creation"** tab, then **"Select data",** you will have the ability to include or exclude the countries of your choice, depending on the available data.