

# France leads the way in a competitive Europe

  
January 2026

# 01

Choose France,  
Embrace Europe



# The European Union: Direct access to the world's largest single market

A free trade area among Member States

The world's

# #2

economic power,  
generating **18% of global GDP**  
in 2024

United States: 26%

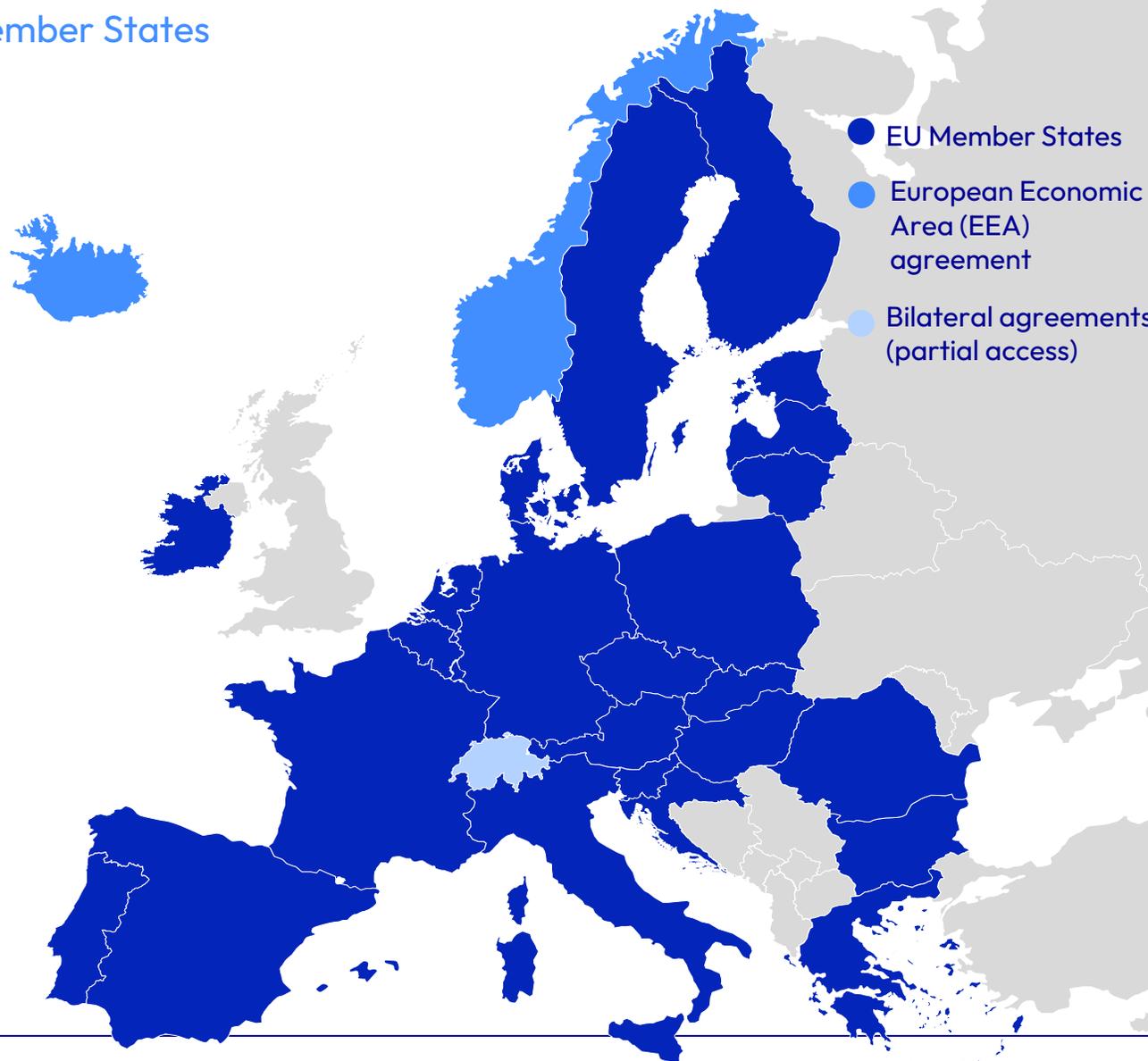
China: 17%  
(IMF, 2024)

# 450 million

consumers  
(Eurostat, 2024)

# €10 trillion

in total savings  
held by European households  
(European Commission)



France, the

# #2

European market, with more  
than **68 million consumers**  
(Eurostat, 2024)

In 2024,

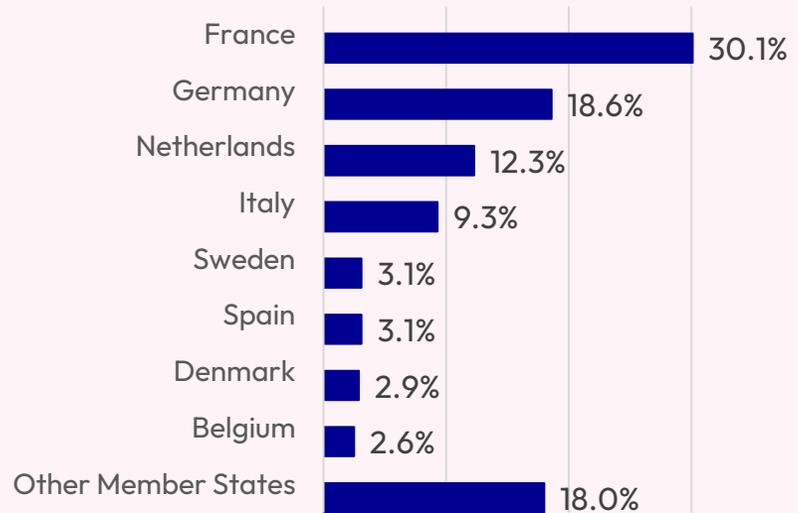
# 54%

of French exports were  
destined for EU countries,  
circulating freely without any  
customs duties  
(French Customs Authorities, 2025)

# The European Single Market: A strong economic base for growth



## Asset Management Market Shares by EU Country (%, data as of end 2023)



30% European market share held by France.  
Three-quarters of investments are directed to the EU.

(AFG, 2025)

The euro's share of global foreign exchange reserves in 2024

20%

The #2 currency in the world  
(ECB, 2025)

### Growth projection

Euro zone

+1,4 %

United States

+2,1%

Impacts of global trade and geopolitical tensions on growth forecasts

Euro zone

+0,4 %

United States

-0,6 %

(IMF, Revision of forecasts between January 2025 and January 2026)

Strong appeal of the Paris Stock Exchange

#1

in the EU  
#4 in the world  
(OFEX, 2025)

Controlled inflation

+1.1%

in France year-on-year by the end of 2025, compared to +2.7% in the United States  
(IMF, 2025)

Unemployment

7.7%

still close to its lowest levels in 40 years  
(INSEE, data for Q3, 2025)



# The European Union at the forefront of climate action: Choosing decarbonization as a pathway to sustainable economic growth

An intermediate target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030



- €260 billion

in energy costs per year by 2040

- › Long-term contracts
- › Speeding up renewable energy procedures



+ €100 billion

in funding through the creation of an Industrial Decarbonization Bank



‘Made in Europe’

encouraged for strategic sectors in public procurement

And through the resilience criterion of the Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA)



Ensure robust measures against carbon leakage

CBAM operational in 2026 (covering steel, cement, aluminium, nitrogen fertilizers, hydrogen, and electricity imports)

France ranks 5th in the Sustainable Development Report, which measures overall progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations.

(Sustainable Development Report, 2025)

Ambitious goals found in the Green Industry Act (2023)

-41 million tonnes

of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent by 2030

(France's carbon footprint = 644 Mt CO<sub>2</sub> (INSEE))

+€23 billion

in investments

+40,000

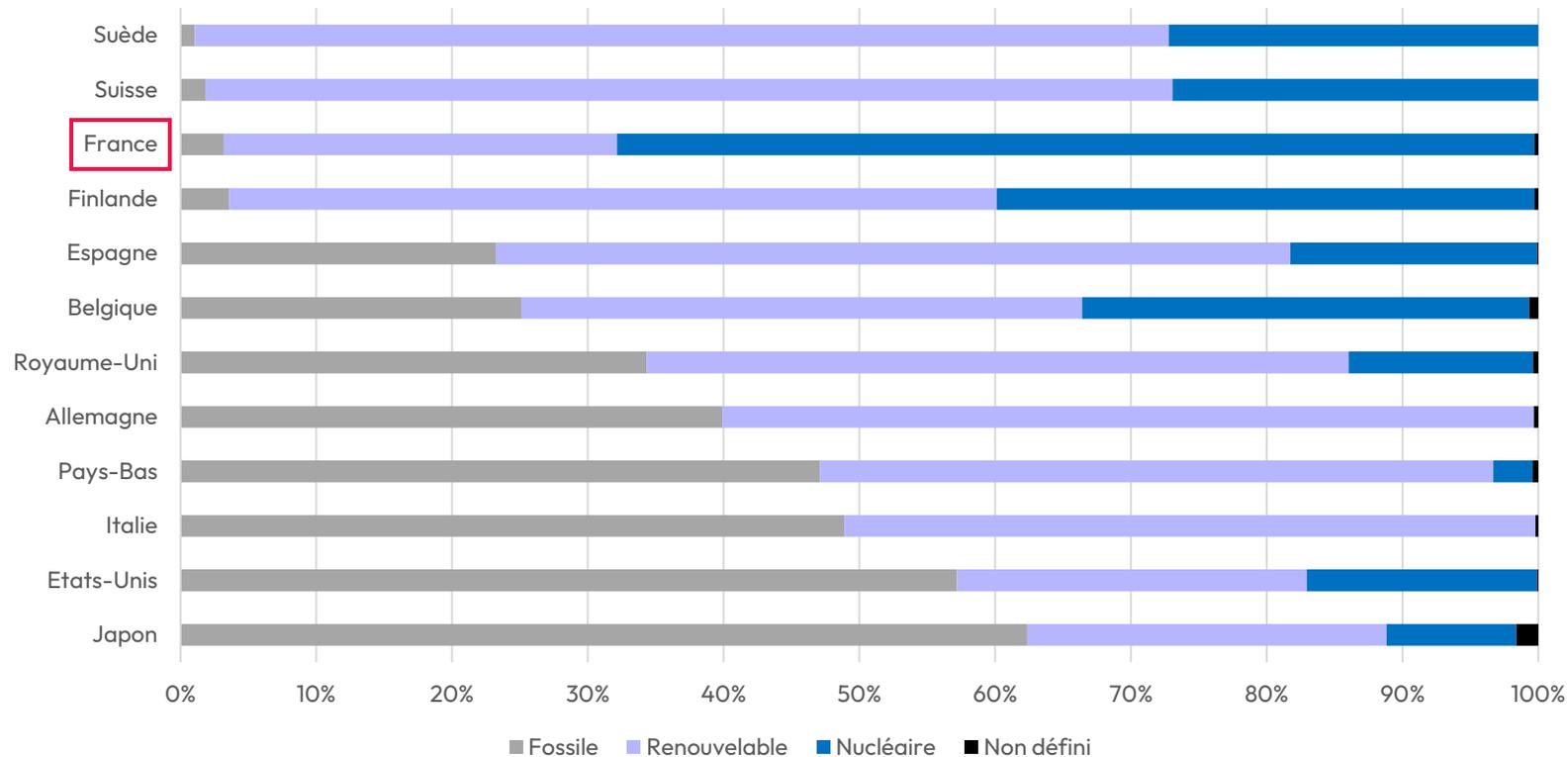
direct jobs

# Europe committed to the transition to decarbonized electricity

The European energy mix, a key differentiator for competitiveness



## Electricity generation structure (January to September 2025)



(International Energy Agency; Business France calculations)

#1

high and extra-high voltage electricity transmission network in Europe

#2

largest nuclear facilities in the world

95%

of the electricity produced in France in 2024 was low-carbon (nuclear energy or renewable energies) (RTE, 2025)

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of electricity generated in France in 2024

21 g CO<sub>2</sub> eq/kWh

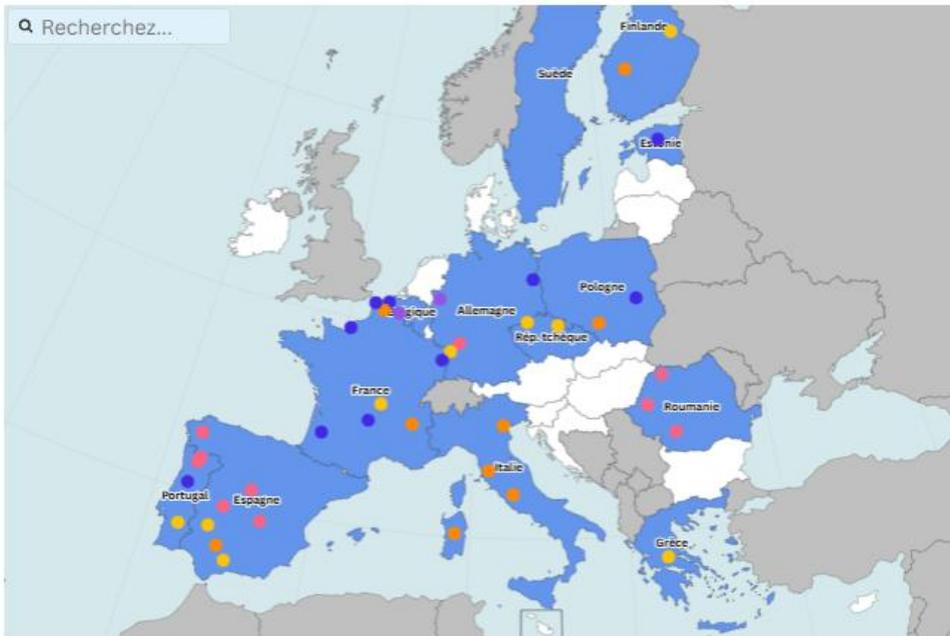
compared with an average of 292 g in the EU (2023) (RTE, 2025)

# European strategic directions

Reduce excessive dependencies, maintain and develop industrial capacity

## Rare earths and critical materials: 47 strategic projects in the EU

■ Processing ■ Substitution ■ Extraction ■ Recycling ■ Extraction and processing



The exact locations of the sites have not been provided by the European Commission. They are regional locations.

(European Commission; Toute l'Europe)

Creating a joint purchasing platform for  
critical raw materials

Trans-Mediterranean intra-European cooperation to boost  
the exchange of  
energy and clean technologies

Action Plans by the European Commission to strengthen  
competitiveness and accelerate decarbonization  
Steel and metals – automotive –  
chemicals – circular economy

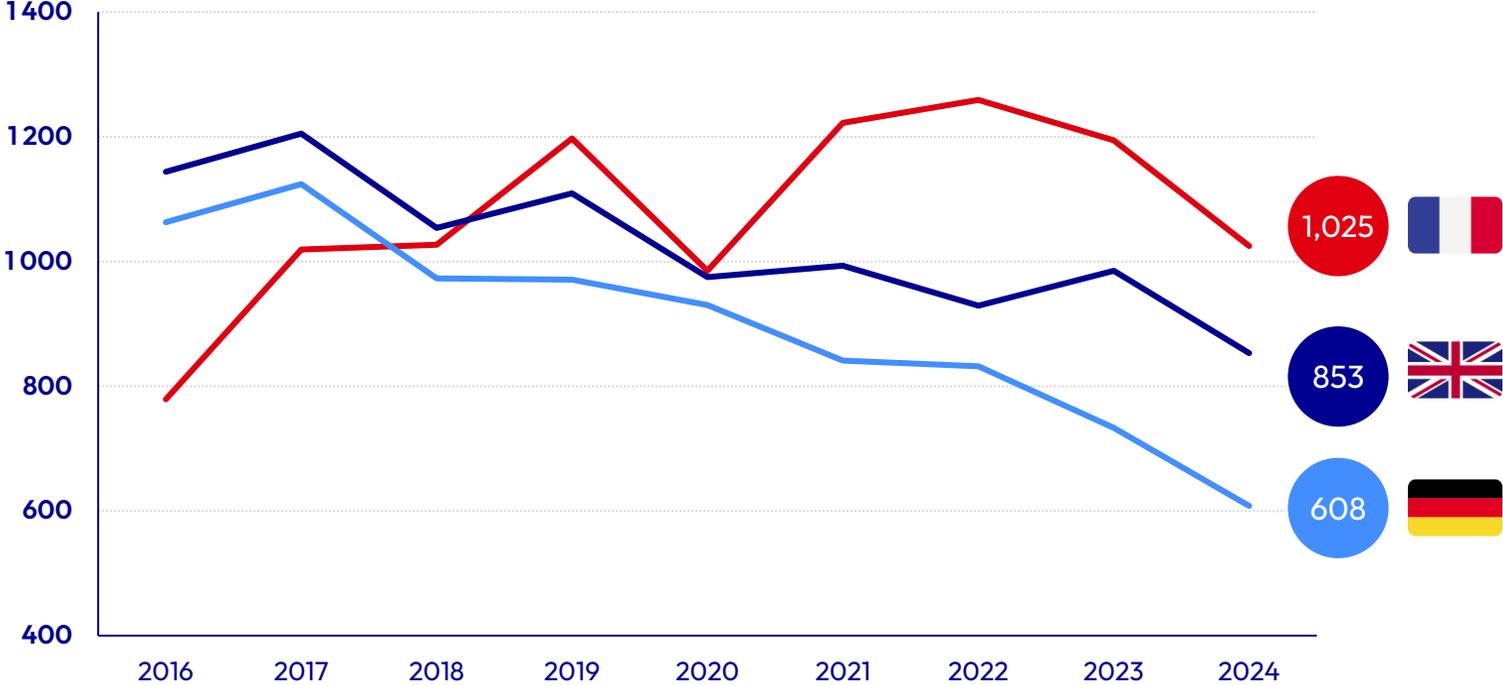
Strengthening pan-European cooperation and  
defense industrial capabilities

# 02

France strengthens its  
economic attractiveness  
in an uncertain global  
context

# France, the leading destination for foreign direct investment projects in Europe since 2019

Annual change in the number of foreign direct investment projects



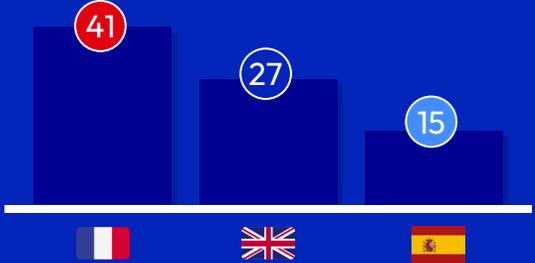
(EY survey, 2025)

#1 

**European destination for industrial investment projects since 2017**

#1 

**European destination for foreign investment in artificial intelligence in 2024**

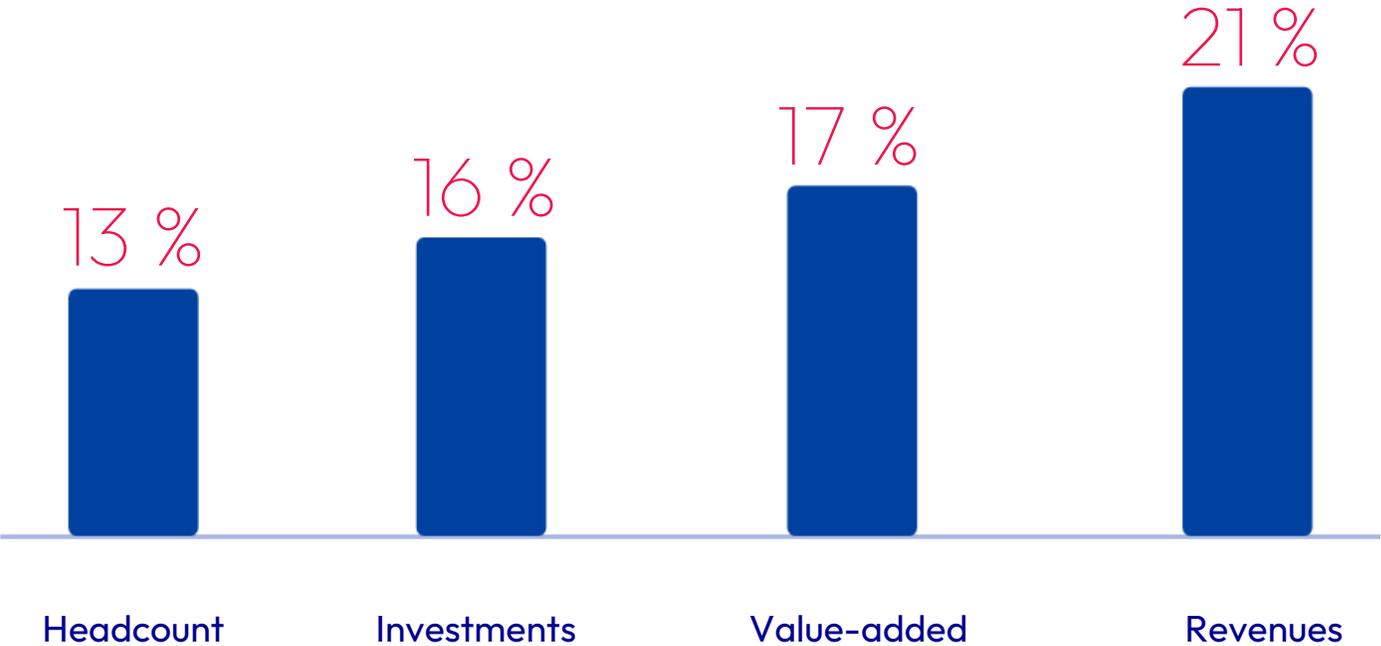


Country	Number of Projects
France	41
UK	27
Spain	15

# Opening up France to foreign investment – A powerful economic lever

## Contribution of foreign-owned businesses to the French economy

(INSEE, Focus no. 368, November 2025)



50%

of the capital of French CAC 40 businesses was held by foreign investors in 2024

(Banque de France, December 2025)

41%

Contribution of foreign-controlled companies to France's goods exports

(French Customs Authorities, April 2025)

# France among Europe's most dynamic innovation ecosystems

#2

country in the EU in terms of R&D spending  
(OECD, 2025)

#2

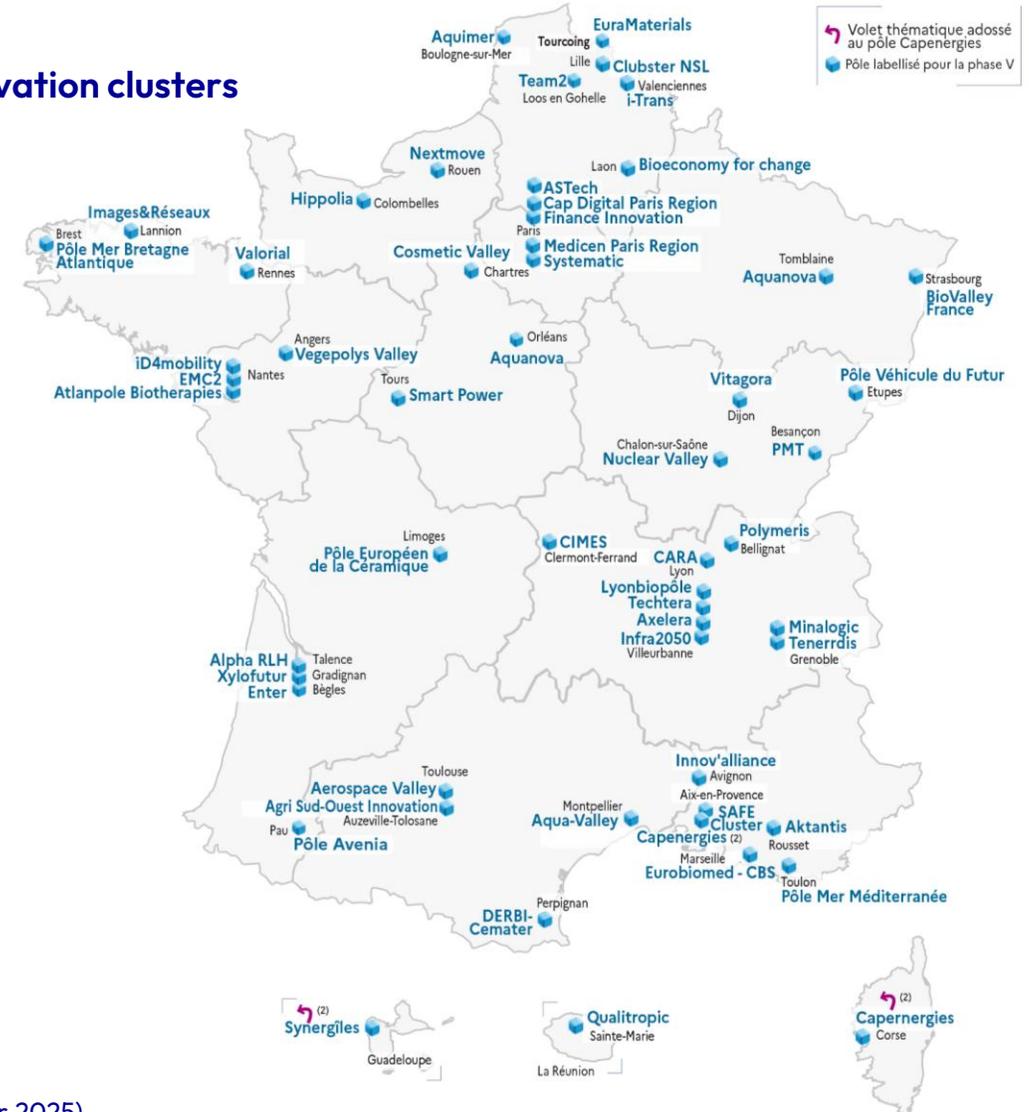
country in Europe by the number of patents filed  
(WIPO, 2023)

Top beneficiary country  
of the European Innovation Fund  
as of November 2025 (14 winning projects)  
(European Commission)

**Opportunities for partnerships** with internationally renowned players in research and innovation, such as:

CNRS, CEA, Ecole Polytechnique, INRIA, Mines-Telecom, Paris Saclay

## Accredited innovation clusters



(ANCT, November 2025)

# A readily available and skilled workforce, prepared for the jobs of the future

#1



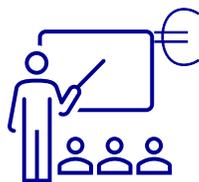
**EU country in the Shanghai Rankings, with four universities in the top 100**  
(Shanghai Ranking, 2025)

+23%



**Engineering graduates in France in five years**  
(French Ministry of National Education, Higher Education and Research, 2024)

5.3%



**The proportion of France's GDP invested in education in 2022**  
(Eurostat, 2025)

58%



**Of the active population with a higher education diploma or in a position with a high level of qualification**  
(Eurostat, 2025)

## Skills and Professions of the Future

- › Aim: To train 400,000 people/year
- › Sectors: digital, decarbonization, biopharmaceuticals, electric vehicles, nuclear, hydrogen, etc.
- › €2.5 billion budget
- › €1.21 billion already invested, including €239 million in digital, particularly in artificial intelligence
- › 194 projects already supported

## 78 production schools

**Training for the jobs of the future**



# Putting labor costs in perspective

## Labor productivity

GDP per person employed  
*(constant 2021 US\$ PPP)*



(World Bank, 2023 data)

## Social protection

Out-of-pocket health expenditure  
*(% of current health spending, based on the international definition, paid by households in 2022)*



(Directorate of Research, Studies, Evaluation and Statistics (DREES), 2024)

## Cost of employing a researcher

The cost of employing a researcher in France after deduction of the research tax credit

*(Index: 100 = researcher cost in France, excluding state aid)*



(French National Research and Technology Association (ANRT); French Ministry for the Economy, 2024)

# A privileged framework to attract international talent to France

Facilitating team mobility and recruiting key talent internationally: strategic advantages for businesses



**Easier mobility**  
**Talent permit**  
Up to four years, renewable  
Allows the spouse to work

**French Tech Visa**  
Dedicated procedures for Tech

**Attractive personal tax regime**  
**Dedicated taxation scheme** for newcomers (maximum duration of eight years)  
**126 bilateral tax treaties** to avoid double taxation

**High quality social security**  
**74 countries (including the 27 EU Member States)** connected to France through international social security agreements

**Booming international education**  
More than 550 international programs  
18 languages taught

Choose France for Science

**Attracting researchers from around the world** to pursue their work in Europe

**Jointly funded by the state, universities, schools and research institutions**

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# France has excellent infrastructure



**Transmission operator in Europe** (size of network, volume of investment, quality of electricity supply)



**Data centers are already operating in France in 2024, the third most in Europe and the fifth most in the world**

(France datacenter/EY, 2024)



**European country by length of high-speed rail lines**

(SNCF, 2023)



**European motorway network with 11,751 km (7,300 miles) of motorway and 9,473 km of national roads**

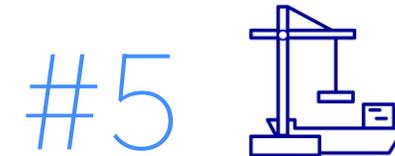
(French Ministry of Transport, 2024)



**European country for average internet speed**

**and second in the world**

(IMD, 2024)



**European country by volume of river freight transport**

(Eurostat, 2025)



# A reformed business environment to foster company growth

Modernization, flexibilization, simplification and cost reductions: Achievements of the reform process since 2017



**Lower corporate tax**  
from 33% to 25%  
since 2022, in line with the European average

**Decrease in production taxes**  
-€10 billion/year  
since 2021



**Time limit for challenging a dismissal is**  
now limited to one year

**Capping of compensation**  
**for unfair dismissal**



**Environmental permit process**  
**for an industrial site divided by two**

**Target: nine months**  
for any industrial project, subject to the  
regulations on regulated facilities for  
environmental protection (ICPE)



**Social security**  
**contribution exemptions**  
**on low wages**

Nominal unit labor cost\*: **+4.3%** between  
2022 and 2023  
vs. **6.9%** in Germany, **6.2%** in Spain  
EU average: **6.7%** (Eurostat, 2025)

\* The ratio of labor costs to labor productivity

# “France 2030”: An unprecedented €54 billion innovation support plan

To boost industrial competitiveness and future technologies throughout the innovation lifecycle

7,500  
projects supported

+6,000  
patent applications



155,000  
direct jobs created

+18 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>  
saved annually thanks to  
the projects undertaken

1 million  
people trained for the  
jobs of the future,  
by 2030

€15 billion  
remaining to be committed



Increased support for projects in:  
artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technologies,  
space, nuclear energy and dual-use technologies  
(civilian and military)

A plan well underway  
to support tangible projects



640,000 electric vehicles  
produced annually in France,  
with a target of two million by  
2030



€3.4 billion from “France  
2030” (around 10%) has been  
invested in projects focused on  
artificial intelligence, or with a  
strong AI component



47 biopharmaceuticals  
produced in France



Four micro-launcher projects

(General Secretariat for Investment, 2025)

# Flagship schemes to foster innovation and finance the green transition

## Research tax credit

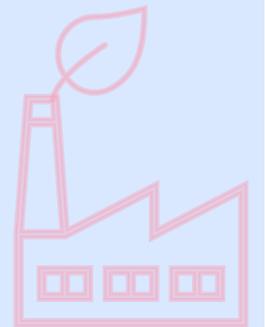
30% of spending on R&D  
up to €100 million  
and 5% above



## Green industry investment tax credit (C3IV)\*

Financing the production of key technologies  
wind/solar panels/batteries/  
heat pumps

Rates between 20% and 40%  
Up to €150-200 million per business



\* Currently being redefined and extended in the 2026 Finance Bill

# Solutions to quickly set up a new plant in France

## 55 “France 2030” ready-to-use sites

- › Strategically prepared sites supported by the State
- › Objectives :
  - › Short-term availability
  - › Complete site inspection
  - › Pre-development
- › Simplified procedures
- › Control over processing times

## Industrial brownfields: a significant reserve of developable land

- › 90,000–150,000 hectares of land reserves

## 63 sites to host data center projects, particularly for artificial intelligence applications

### Interactive data maps

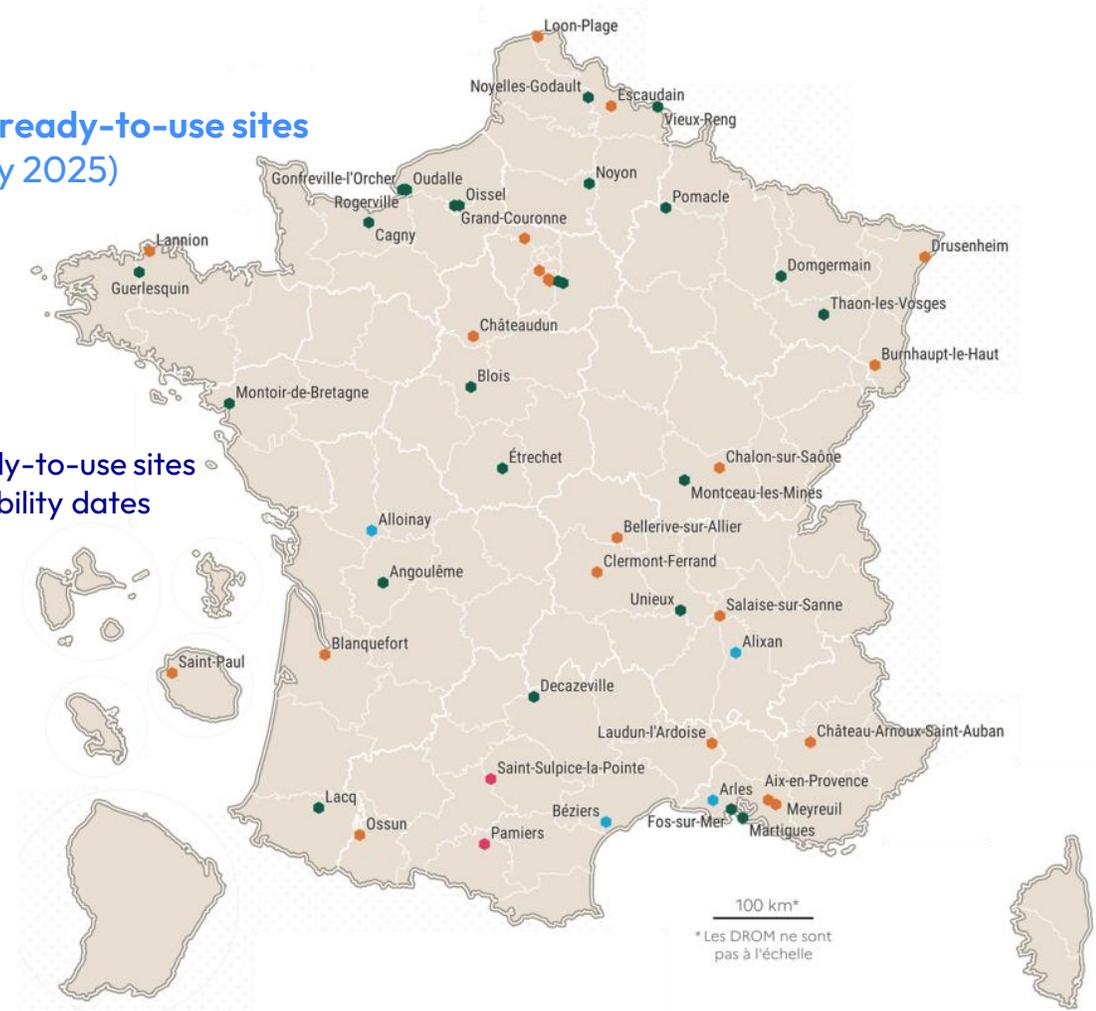
- › [France Foncier +](#): Economic land available
- › [Data Emploi](#): Talent pool
- › [Observatoire du déploiement de la 5G](#)

# 55

“France 2030” ready-to-use sites  
(as of 13 January 2025)

Maturity level of ready-to-use sites  
and estimated availability dates

- 2024
- 2025
- 2026 - 2027
- 2027 - 2030



(ANCT, 2025; Background map: IGN Admin Express 2023)

# “Choose France”: An international summit dedicated to investors

231 projects announced, totaling nearly €88 billion in investments since 2018

## The 2025 edition: a record-breaking summit

- › **53 announcements representing a total amount of €40,8 billion** (including the confirmation of 3 projects announced in February at the AI Summit for an amount of €20.8 billion)
- › **206 foreign CEOs**
- › **400 bilateral meetings** organised between public authorities and business leaders
- › **Two round-table discussions with the President of the Republic** on artificial intelligence and critical minerals
- › **Three thematic workshops** focusing on South Korea, the film industry, and tourism



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# Business France serves the international development of the French economy



## INVEST

4,010

businesses met during in-depth business talks by Business France teams in 2025

1,878

foreign investment projects in 2025 (59% were supported by our teams)

47,734

jobs projected on the ground

## EXPORT

11,120

French SMEs and mid-cap businesses supported in 2025

€1.80 billion

in additional revenues generated by the businesses we supported

31,000

jobs created or planned thanks to the additional revenues

## V.I.E

11,458

VIEs in position in 121 countries

91%

of businesses recommend the VIE program

120,000+

beneficiaries of the VIE program since 2001

- › **Provide support**, in the long term, to the international development of French businesses and those operating in France, particularly mid-size companies and SMEs.
- › **Promote** sectors of French excellence and the sectors of the future, to drive competitiveness and innovation.
- › **Support** the international development of French businesses and youth by developing the VIE International Internship Program.
- › **Court and attract** foreign investments to France that create value and jobs, and welcome and support international talent.
- › **Promote** the business image of France, its firms and its regions.

## In partnership with:



**MINISTÈRE  
DE L'ÉCONOMIE,  
DES FINANCES  
ET DE LA SOUVERAINETÉ  
INDUSTRIELLE, ÉNERGÉTIQUE  
ET NUMÉRIQUE**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

Direction générale  
du Trésor



**MINISTÈRE  
DE L'EUROPE  
ET DES AFFAIRES  
ÉTRANGÈRES**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

Direction générale de la mondialisation

Direction de la diplomatie économique



**Choose  
France<sup>TM</sup>**