

Middle East

There were **34** new investment decisions in France between 2022 and 2024 by businesses from countries in the Middle East, including one decarbonization project.¹ The 33 other projects created or maintained 672 jobs nationwide. The majority of projects and jobs were in decision-making centers.

34

projects in 2024, including 33 that were job-creating

672

jobs created or maintained

1 in 2

projects involved decision-making centers

1 in 5 jobs were in hospitality, tourism and restaurants

Number of projects and jobs by investment type

Projects	Investment type	Jobs
22	Creation	368
10	Expansion	289
1	Takeover	15

+ 1 safeguarding and technology partnership project

They chose France in 2024

Hotpack: Founded in the Gulf region, Hotpack is a leading business in the manufacturing and supply of environmentally friendly and biodegradable food packaging products for the food industry and households. The firm operates in 16 countries, employing more than 4,000 people and offering more than 4,000 products to its customers. The group operates a network of approximately 20 production facilities and exports to over 106 countries. The business has recently opened a base in Paris (Ile de France region). This move marks the first phase of the group's expansion in France, with plans to establish a logistics hub and, potentially, a food packaging production facility in the country.

Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence: MBZUAI, the world's first artificial intelligence university and a key driver of the United Arab Emirates' AI strategy, has opened its "France Lab" in Paris. This center focuses on advancing AI research across several areas, including Large Language Models and other foundation models. Collaborating with leading French businesses and institutions, the "France Lab" aims to

develop innovative AI and education programs, and fast-track adoption. It is bringing MBZUAI faculty-founded startups, such as Genbio AI, into France and creating new opportunities for engineers and researchers in France.

Breakdown by source country

Source country	Projects	Jobs
United Arab Emirates	15	307
Lebanon	10	170
Saudi Arabia	4	65
Qatar	2	85
Egypt	1	30
Bahrain	1	10
Jordan	1	5

Middle Eastern investments in France

The FDI stock² of businesses from the Middle East in France was around €10.7 billion in 2024. Between 2022 and 2024, there were 34 new job-creating investment projects from Middle Eastern countries in France, including 33 that created or maintained 672 jobs nationwide. The United Arab Emirates and Lebanon were the source of the largest number of investments, with 44% and 29%, respectively, of all projects coming from the area.

The majority of projects (47%) and jobs (33%) concerned decision-making centers, including six projects corresponding to first-time investments in Europe, illustrating France's economic attractiveness

for Middle Eastern business wishing to establish themselves in Europe. Investments in production/manufacturing and consumer services each accounted for 15% of the projects. The podium of business sectors concerned by investments was made up of IT services (18%), financial services and insurance (12%) and hospitality, tourism and restaurants (12%). The most jobs created or maintained was in this last sector, with 19% of all jobs coming from Middle Eastern countries. The vast majority of projects coming from the Middle East were located in Ile de France (Paris region) (62%), followed by Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (21%) and Normandie (6%).

² Source: Banque de France, 2024; FDI stock in France (ultimate investor) as of December 31, 2023, excluding confidential data.

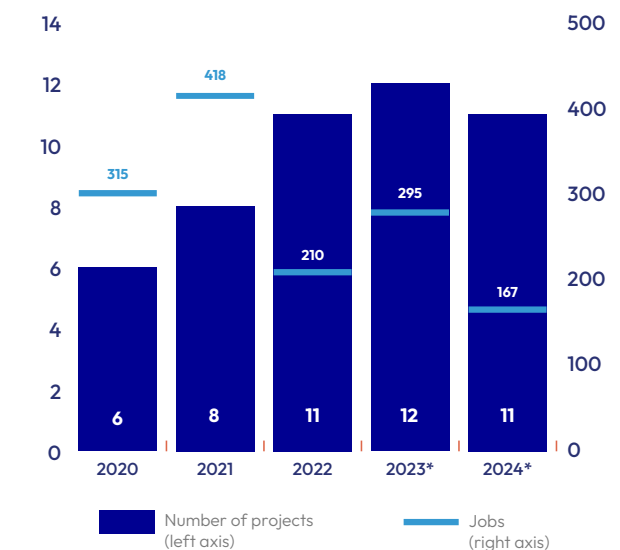
Breakdown of projects by business activity

Business activity	Number		Share	
	Projects	Jobs	Projects	Jobs
Decision-making centers	16	224	47%	33%
Retail outlets	2	25	6%	4%
Production/Manufacturing	5	135	15%	20%
R&D, engineering, design	4	79	12%	12%
Business services	2	55	6%	8%
Consumer services	5	154	15%	23%
Total	34	672	100%	100%

Top 5 business sectors by projects

Business sector	Number		Share	
	Projects	Jobs	Projects	Jobs
IT services	6	110	18%	16%
Financial services and insurance	4	63	12%	9%
Hospitality, tourism and restaurants	4	125	12%	19%
Pharmaceuticals and biotechnologies	3	75	9%	11%
Medical equipment and devices	3	69	9%	10%

Change in projects and jobs since 2020



* Recording of safeguarding and technology partnership projects

Top 3 host regions since 2022

Ile de France (Paris region) **21** projects
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur **7** projects
Normandie **2** projects