

South Korea

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24
projects since 2022

385
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1 in 3 jobs were in the agri-food sector

Number of projects and jobs by investment type

Projects	Investment type	Jobs
22	Creation	375
2	Expansion	10

They chose France in 2024

Enchem: This South Korean group has selected the Hauts de France region, a key driver of the Battery Valley, for its European operations and is investing €57 million in Dunkirk to establish an electrolyte production facility. The plant will have an annual capacity of 150,000 tonnes of electrolytes, 40,000 tonnes of recycled N-Methyl-2-Pyrrolidone (NMP) and 4,000 tonnes of cathode slurry recycling, which will result in 10 R&D positions, 60 production roles and 30 office jobs. Enchem also plans to open an office in Lille, which will serve as the group's French headquarters, initially employing 10 people. Their decision to choose Lille is thanks to the quality of the city's workforce and its excellent transport infrastructure, in particular its high-speed rail connections.

South Korean investments in France

The FDI stock¹ of businesses from South Korea in France was around €1.4 billion in 2024.

Between 2022 and 2024, there were 24 new investment decisions in France by businesses from South Korea, creating 385 jobs. Some 92% of projects were creations of new establishments.

One in two projects involved the creation of a decision-making center in France, with these projects also generating more than one-quarter of jobs (26%). R&D activities also stood out, accounting for 25% of projects and 22% of jobs created or maintained.

Sector-wise, the agri-food sector accounted for the most projects (17%) and jobs created (32%), followed by the automotive industry (13% of projects), which also generated nearly one-third of jobs (29%), and the IT services sector (13% of projects).

A large majority of South Korean projects were located in Ile de France (Paris region) (71%). Hauts de France also stood out, with 13% of projects, while four other regions each hosted one project.

¹ Source: Banque de France, 2024; FDI stock in France (ultimate investor) as of December 31, 2023.

Breakdown of projects by business activity

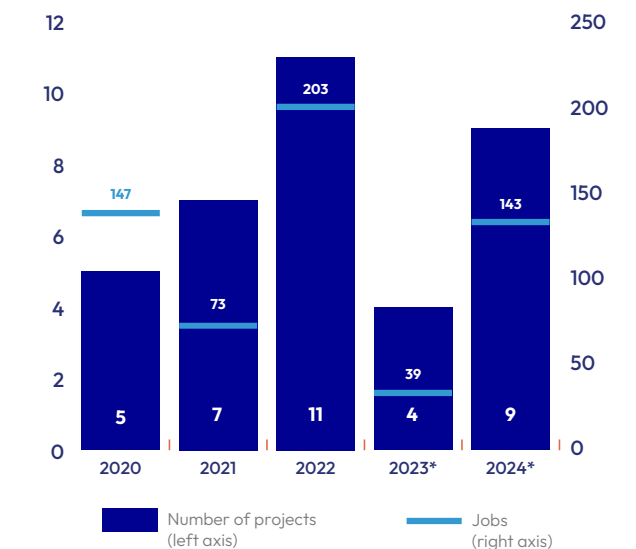
Business activity	Number		Share	
	Projects	Jobs	Projects	Jobs
Decision-making centers	12	99	50%	26%
Logistics	1	38	4%	10%
Retail outlets	2	23	8%	6%
Production/Manufacturing	3	140	13%	36%
R&D, engineering, design	6	85	25%	22%
Total	24	385	100%	100%

Top 5 business sectors by projects

Business sector	Number		Share	
	Projects	Jobs	Projects	Jobs
Agri-food	4	124	17%	32%
Automotive industry	3	110	13%	29%
IT services	3	19	13%	5%
Wholesale and retail	2	41	8%	11%
Energy and recycling	2	20	8%	5%

Source: Business France, Annual Report 2024

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) **17** projects
Hauts de France **3** projects
Grand Est **1** project