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Business France

Key indicators of French economic attractiveness

01

Business environment

02

Labor cost and taxation

03

Research and innovation

04

Business environment Education and human capital

05

Infrastructure

06

Research and innovation Ecological transition and green growth

01

Business environment

France, a business-friendly environment

#2

European country by GDP in 2024
(IMF, 2025)

#1

Country in Europe for foreign investment since 2019
(EY survey, 2025)

#1

European country with the highest growth of manufacturing businesses in 2022
(Eurostat, 2025)

#4

European country for goods exports in 2024
(WTO, 2024)

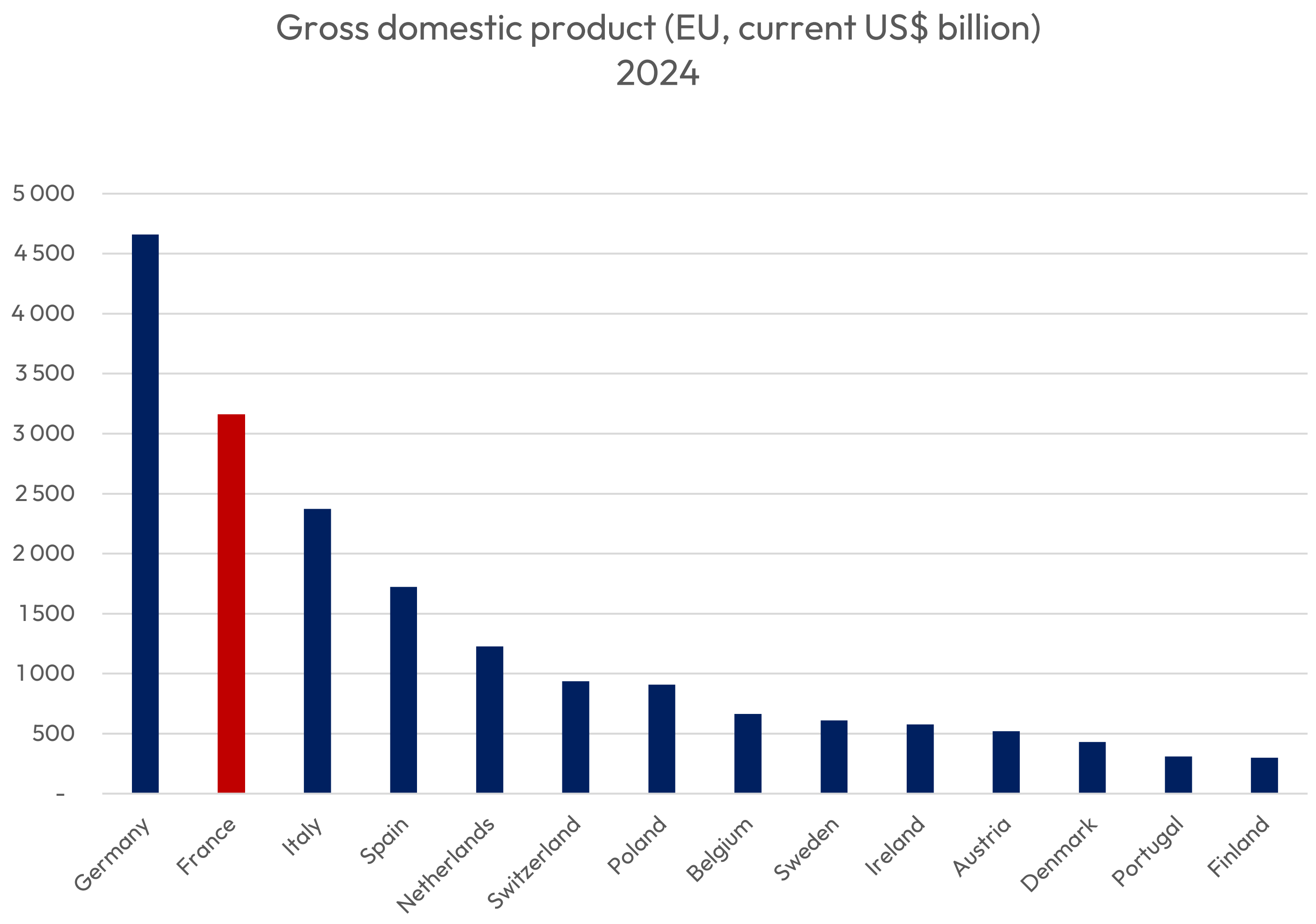
17,800

Businesses benefited from public funding in France in 2022
(Eurostat, 2025)

5

French banks in the European Top 10 in terms of assets in 2024
(S&P Global Market Intelligence, 2025)

France, the second country by GDP in the European Union

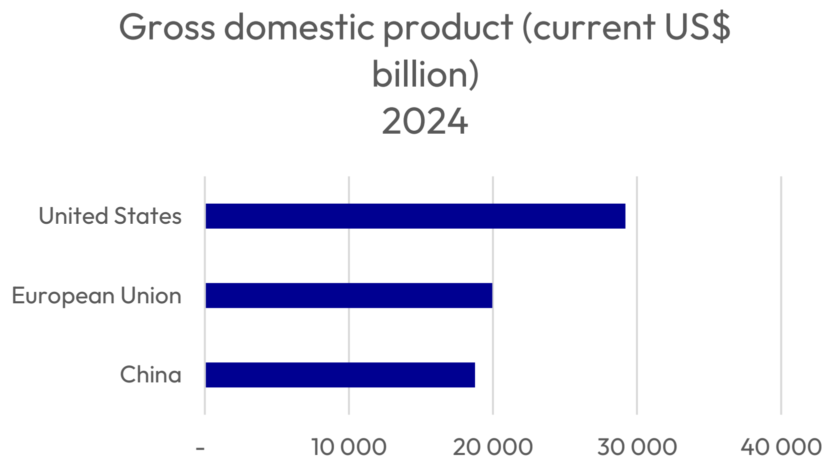


#2

France's place in terms of GDP in the European Union in 2024, according to the IMF.

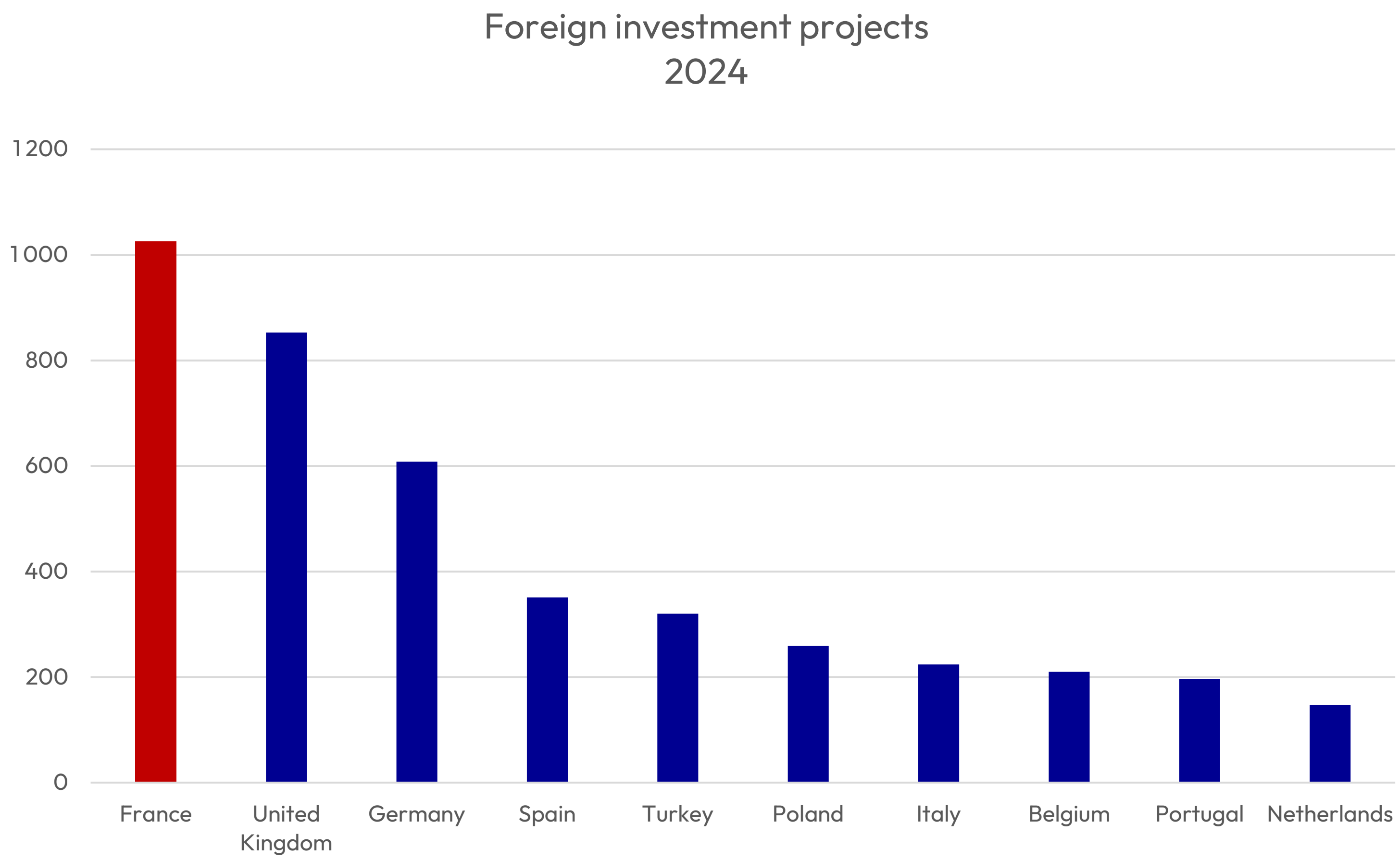
+1.2%

The growth rate of France's GDP in 2024, at a higher level than that of the euro zone (+0.9%).



Source: IMF, April 2025; World Bank, 2025

France, the most attractive country in Europe for foreign investment since 2019



1,025

The number of foreign investment projects identified by EY in France in 2024.

#1

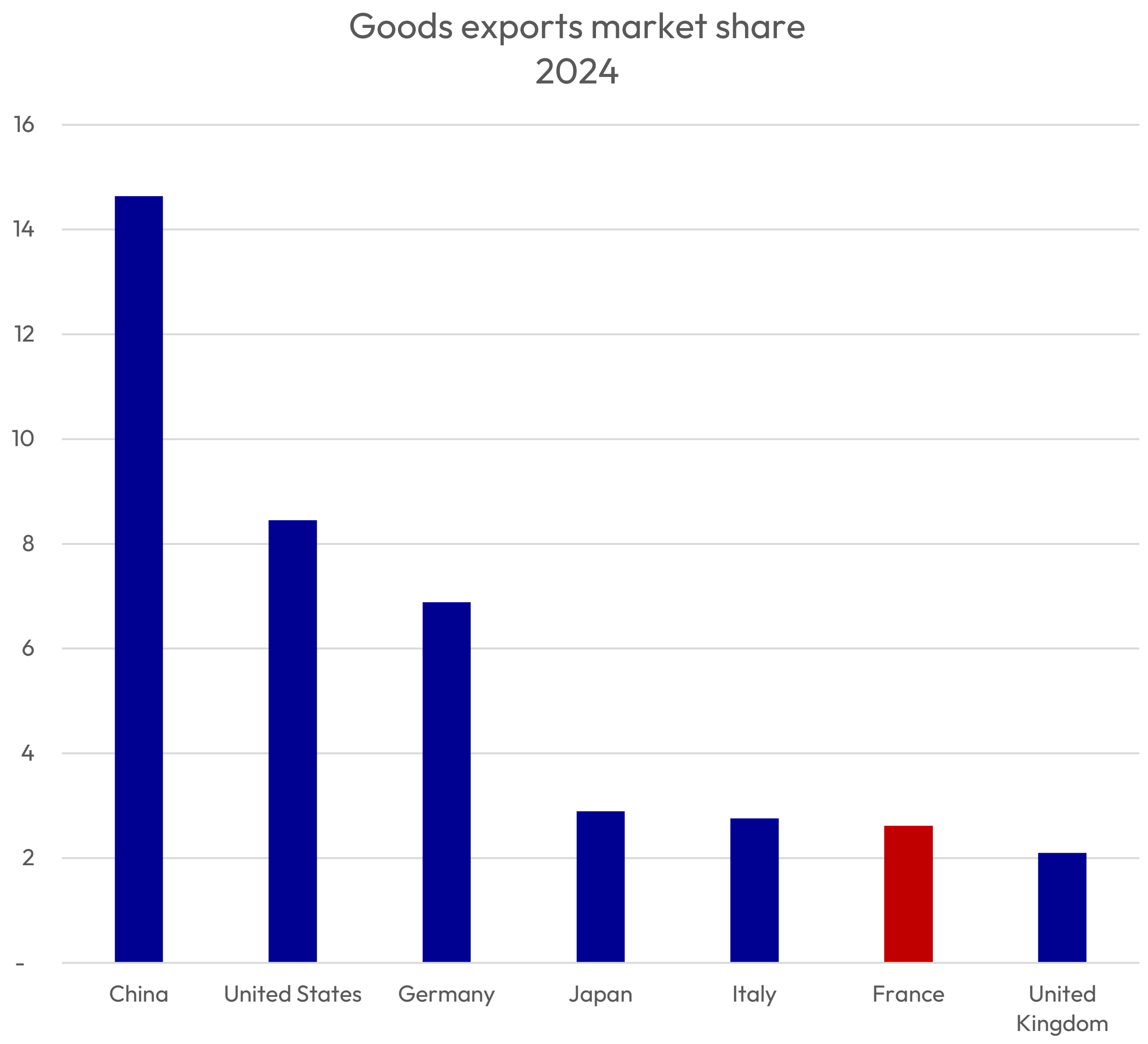
European host country for industrial projects for over 15 years.

#1

European host country for foreign investments linked to artificial intelligence in 2024.

Source: EY European Investment Monitor, 2024

France, a key player in global trade



2.6%

France's market share, as a % of global goods exports, ranking the country third in Europe in 2024.

41%

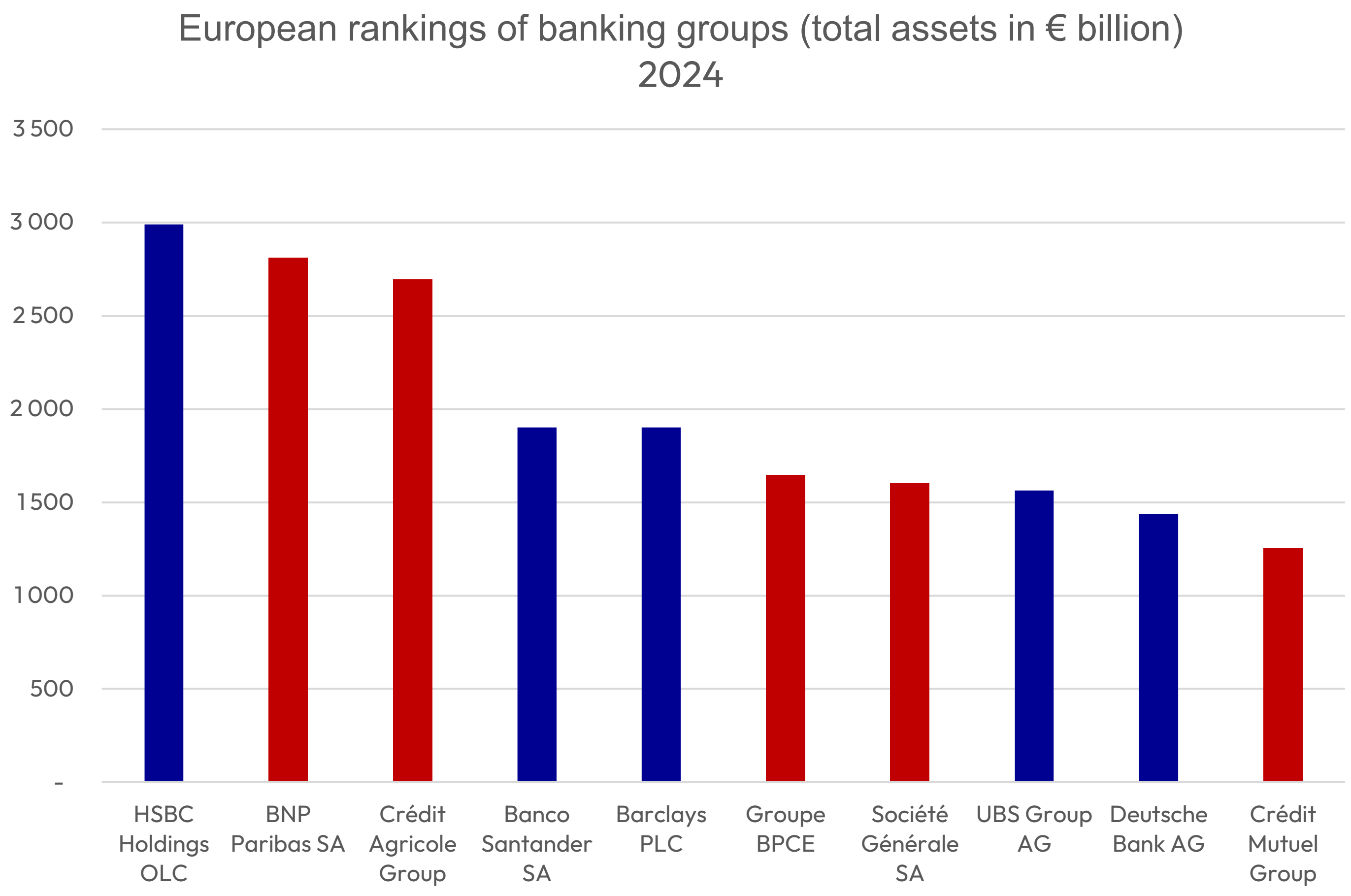
Proportion of French exports originating from foreign-owned businesses.

53.4%

Proportion of French exports that were destined for the European market in 2024.

Source: INSEE, 2025; French Customs Authorities 2024; GTA 2025; Business France calculations

France, a key European financial center



5

The number of French banks in the European Top 10 in terms of assets.

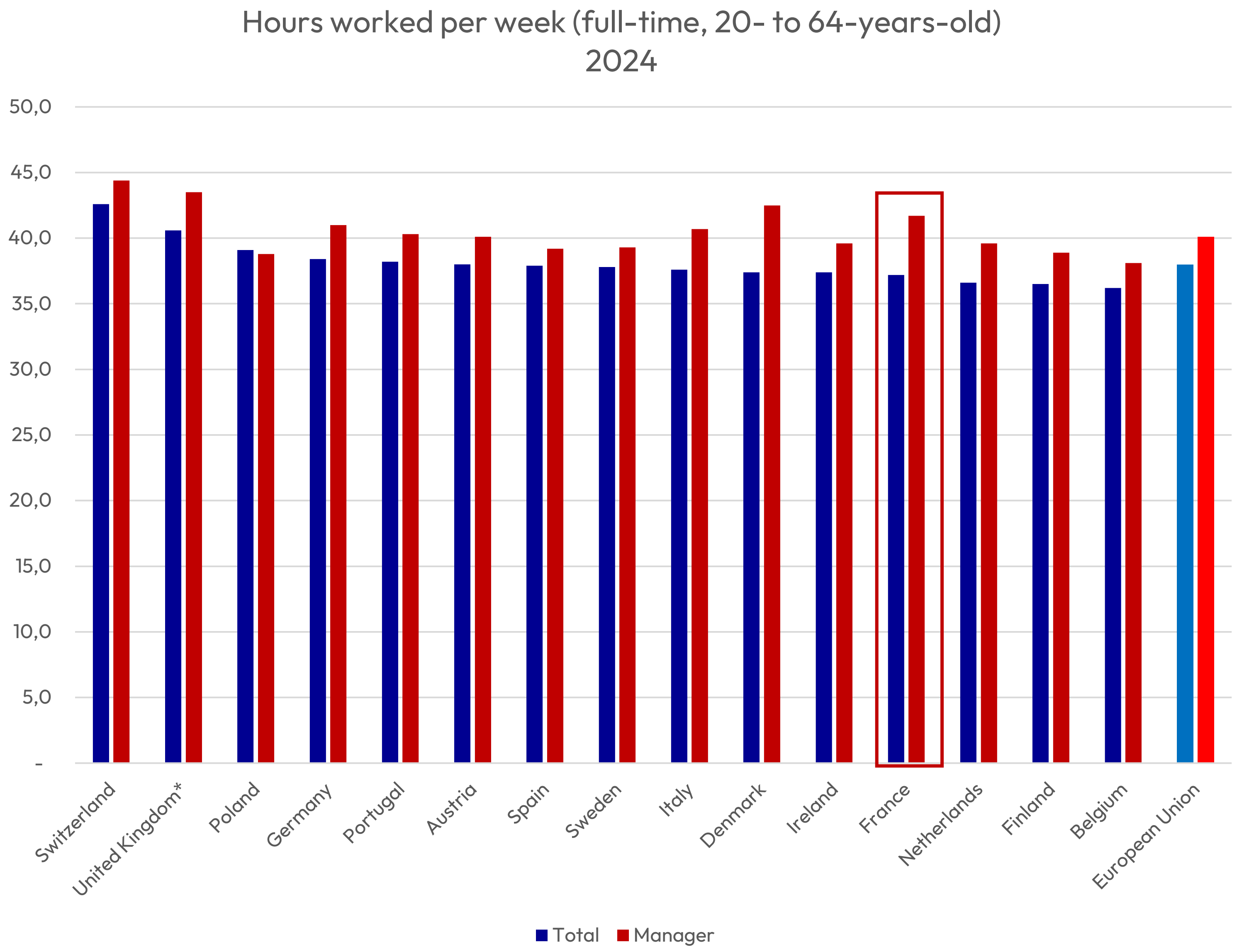
€7.7 billion

Raised in fundraising rounds by French Tech businesses, via 723 operations in 2024.

Key: **"La French Tech"** is a public initiative launched by the French government in 2013 to support and promote the French startup ecosystem, in France and internationally.

Source: S&P Global Market Intelligence, 2025; EY, 2024

Long weekly working hours, especially for managers



37.2 hours

Are carried out on average per week by active people working full-time.

41.7 hours

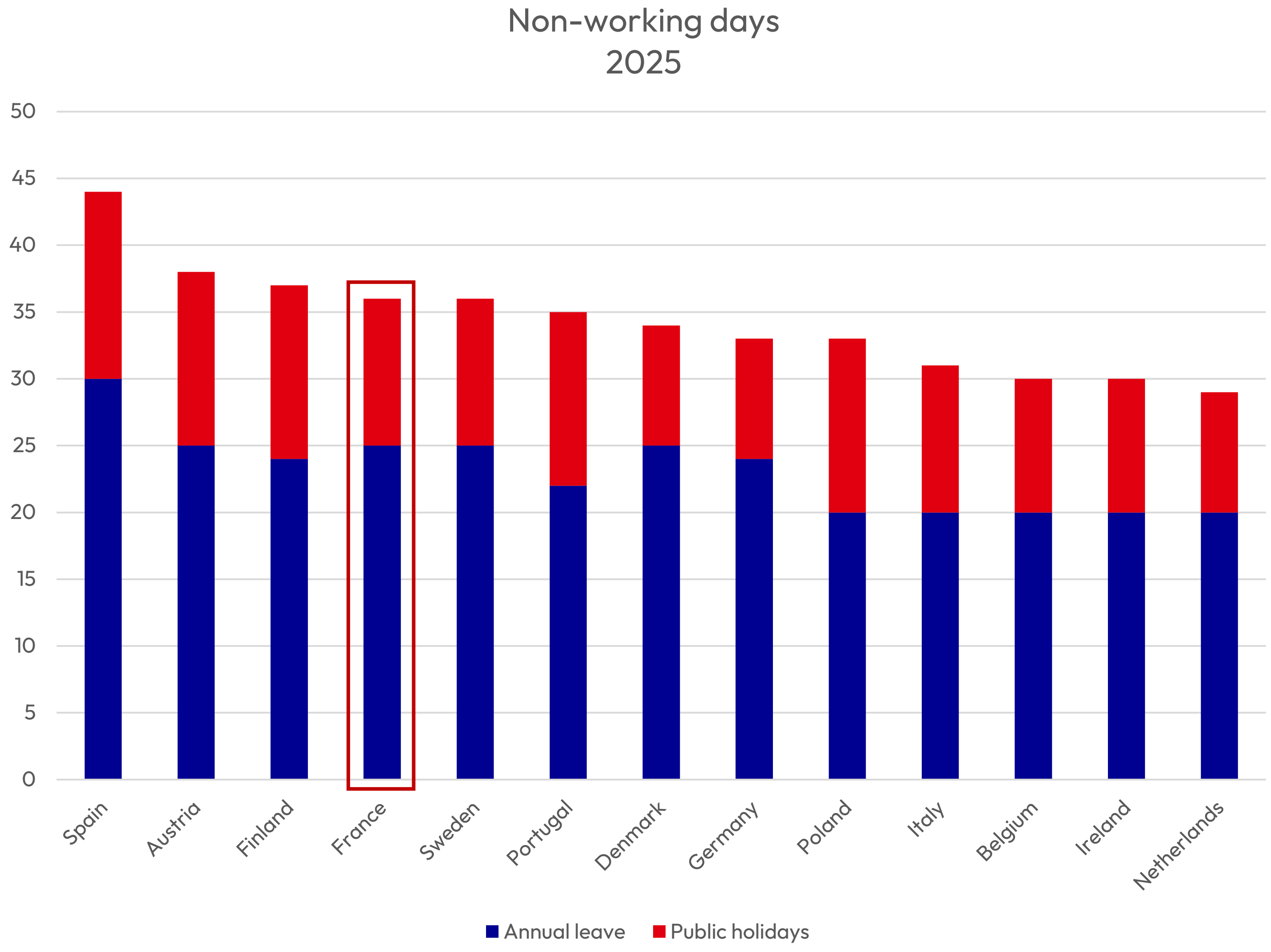
Completed per week by managers, making it the third-leading European country where managers work the most.

46%

The proportion of employees subject to at least one atypical work schedule during the month, i.e. outside the framework of the standard week.

Source: Eurostat, 2025

Annual leave and public holidays in line with the European average



25 days of annual leave

French employees are granted a minimum of 25 days, slightly more than the European average (22).

11 public holidays

Granted to French employees, which is less than the European average (12).

99 days

Not worked due to strikes per 1,000 workers in France in 2023.

Source: EURES, 2025

02

Labor costs and taxation

Labor costs, high productivity and lower taxes

€44

Hourly labor costs in France in 2024

(Eurostat, 2025)

#10

Country in the world in terms of productivity in 2024

(OECD, 2025)

-8 percentage points

For the share of employer social security contributions in the financing of social protection between 2000 and 2019

(Eurostat, 2024)

-21%

Production tax reduction per year between 2019 and 2023, which mainly benefited industry

(Ministry for the Economy, 2025)

24%

Average corporate tax rate in France in 2023

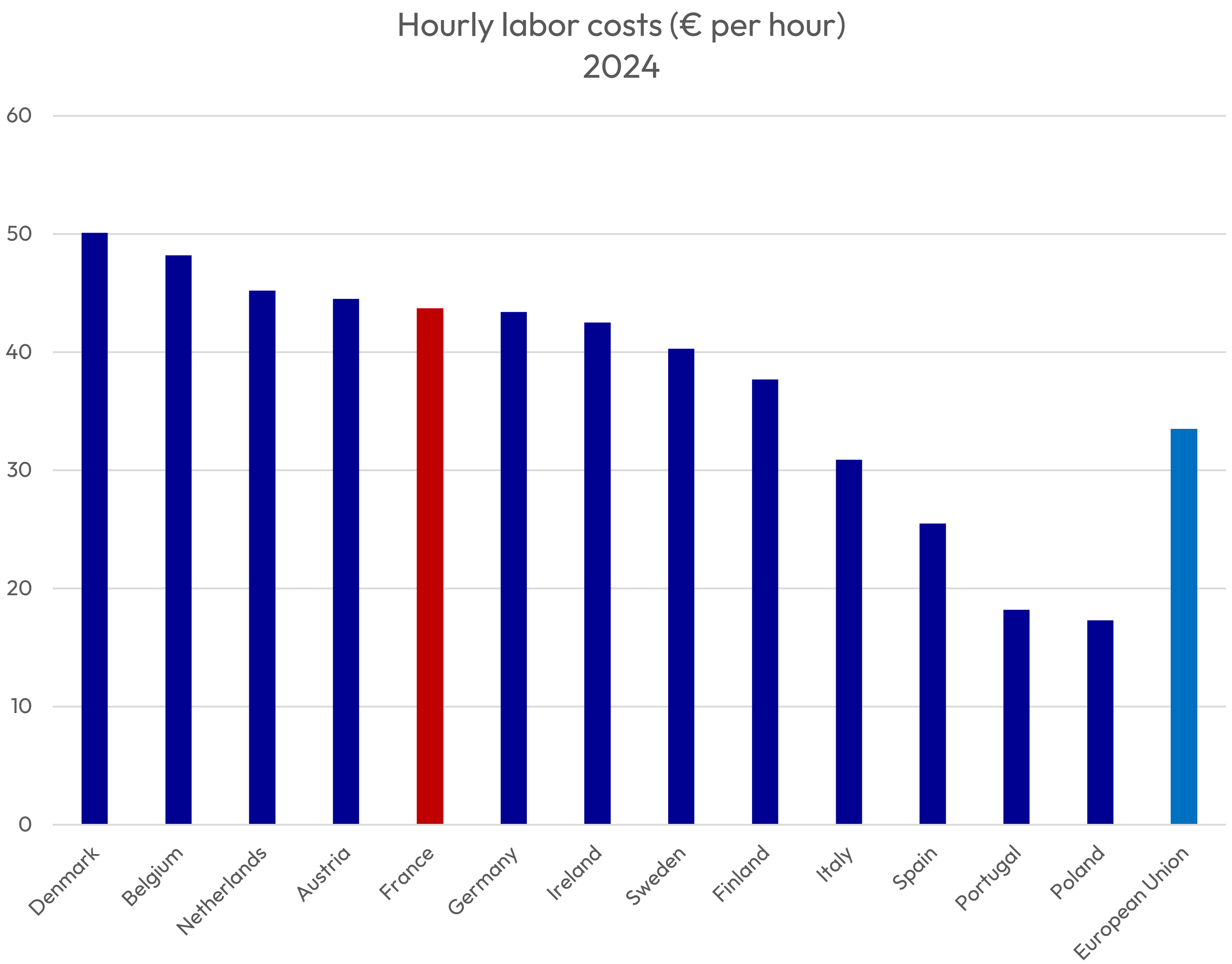
(OECD, 2025)

-8 percentage points

On corporate tax between 2018 and 2023

(OECD, 2025)

Labor costs in line with the major economies



€43.70

Hourly labor costs in France in 2024.

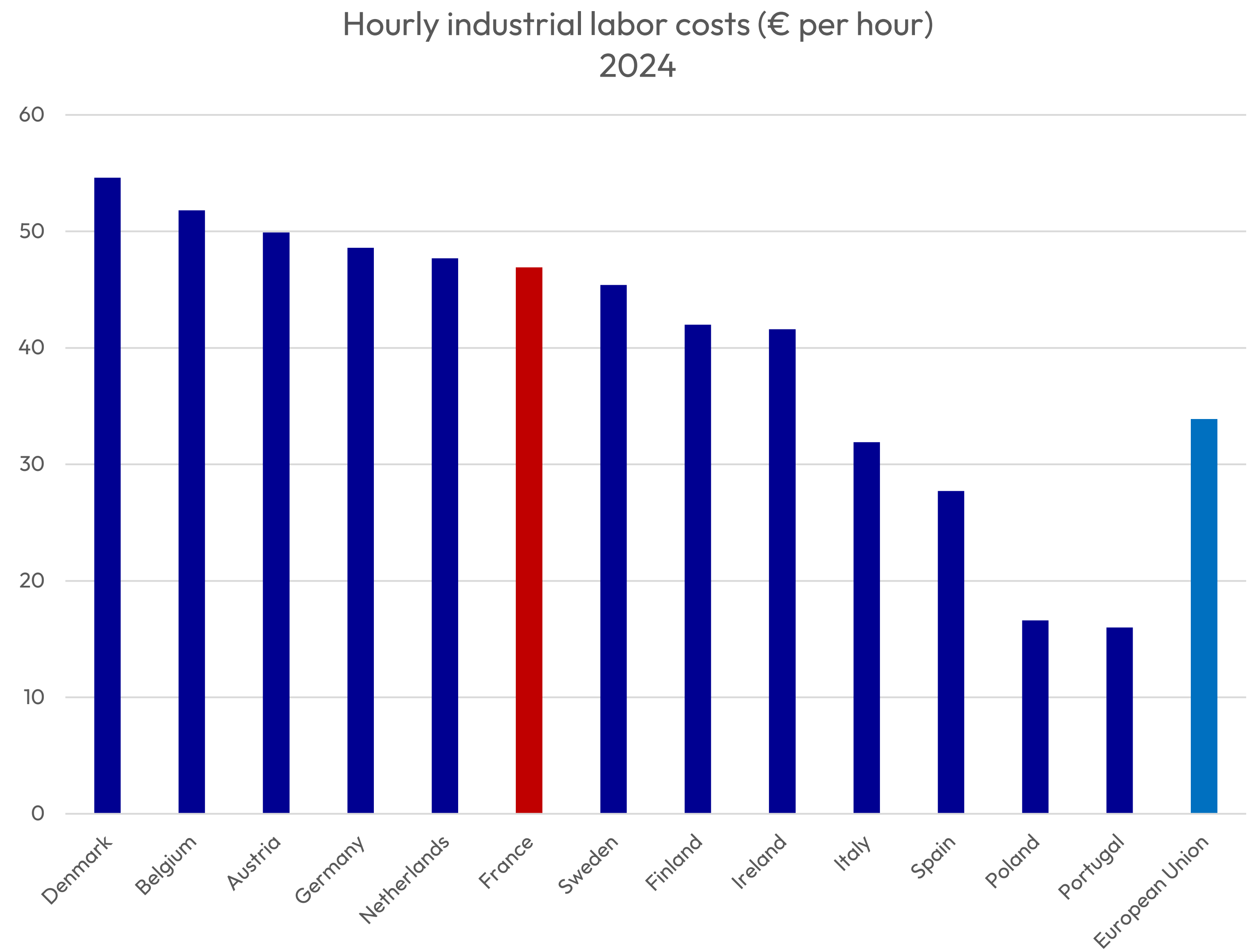
30%

Proportion of the hourly cost that corresponded to employers' contributions in 2023.

French labor costs have increased less in recent years than the European average (+13%, compared with +18% between 2020 and 2024).

Source: Eurostat, 2025; INSEE, 2025

An industrial workforce in line with the major economies



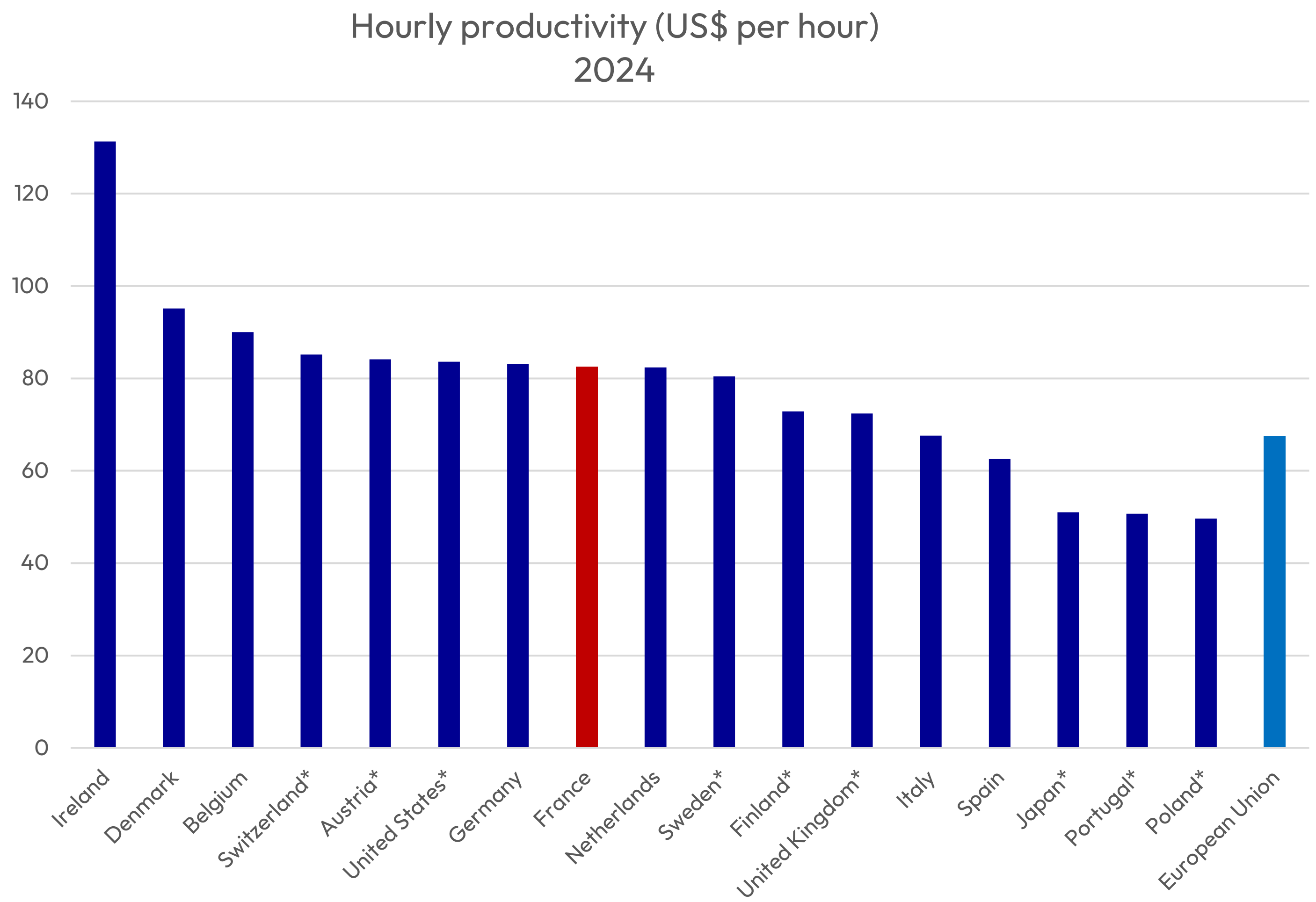
€46.90

Hourly industrial labor costs in France in 2024.

French industrial labor costs have increased less than the European average in recent years (+12%, compared with +18% between 2020 and 2024).

Source: Eurostat, 2025

One of the highest hourly labor productivity rates in the world



US$82.60

Generated per hour by French labor on average.

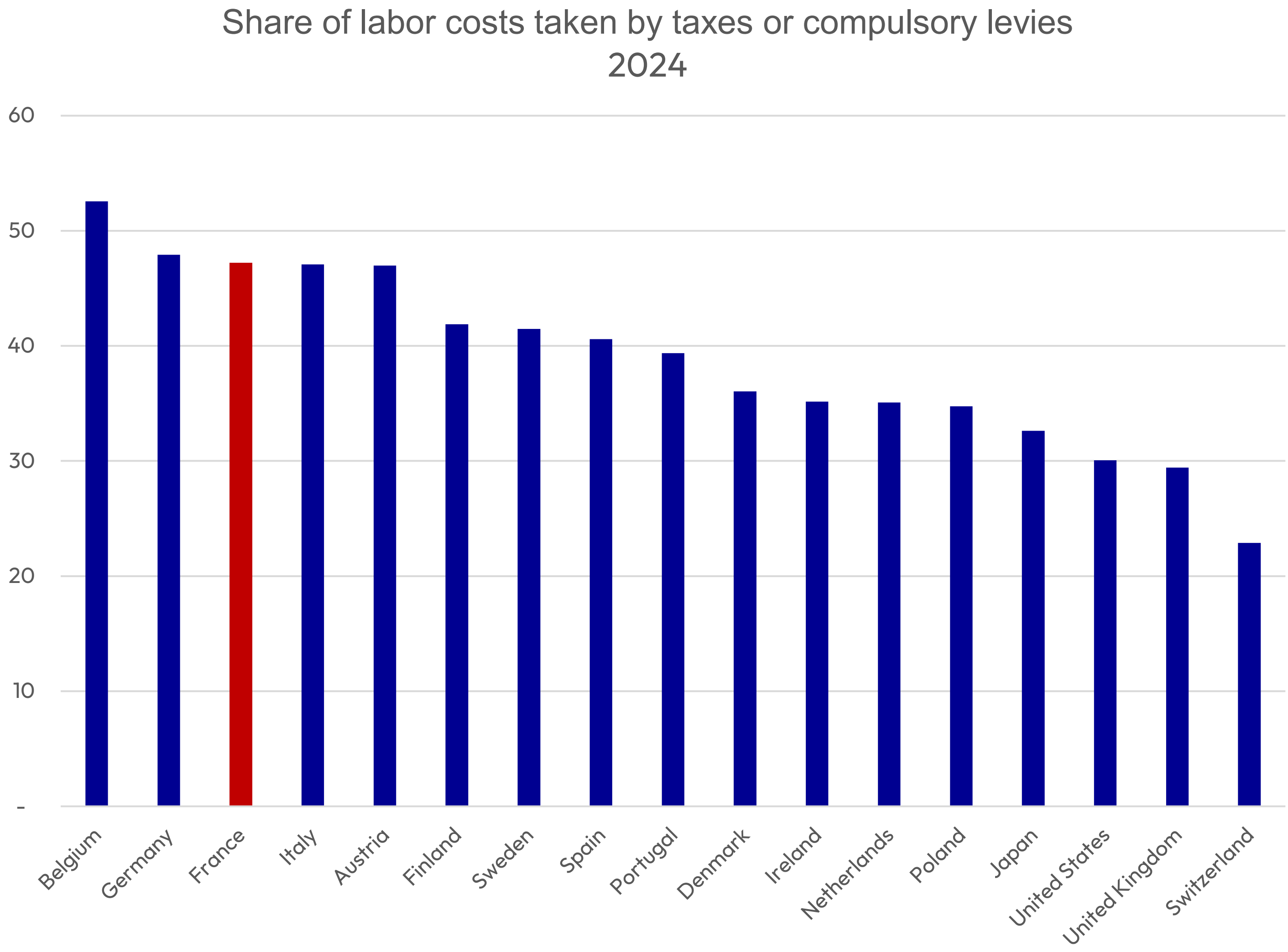
#10

Most productive country in the world.

* 2023

Source: OECD, 2025

A tax wedge financing complete coverage



47%

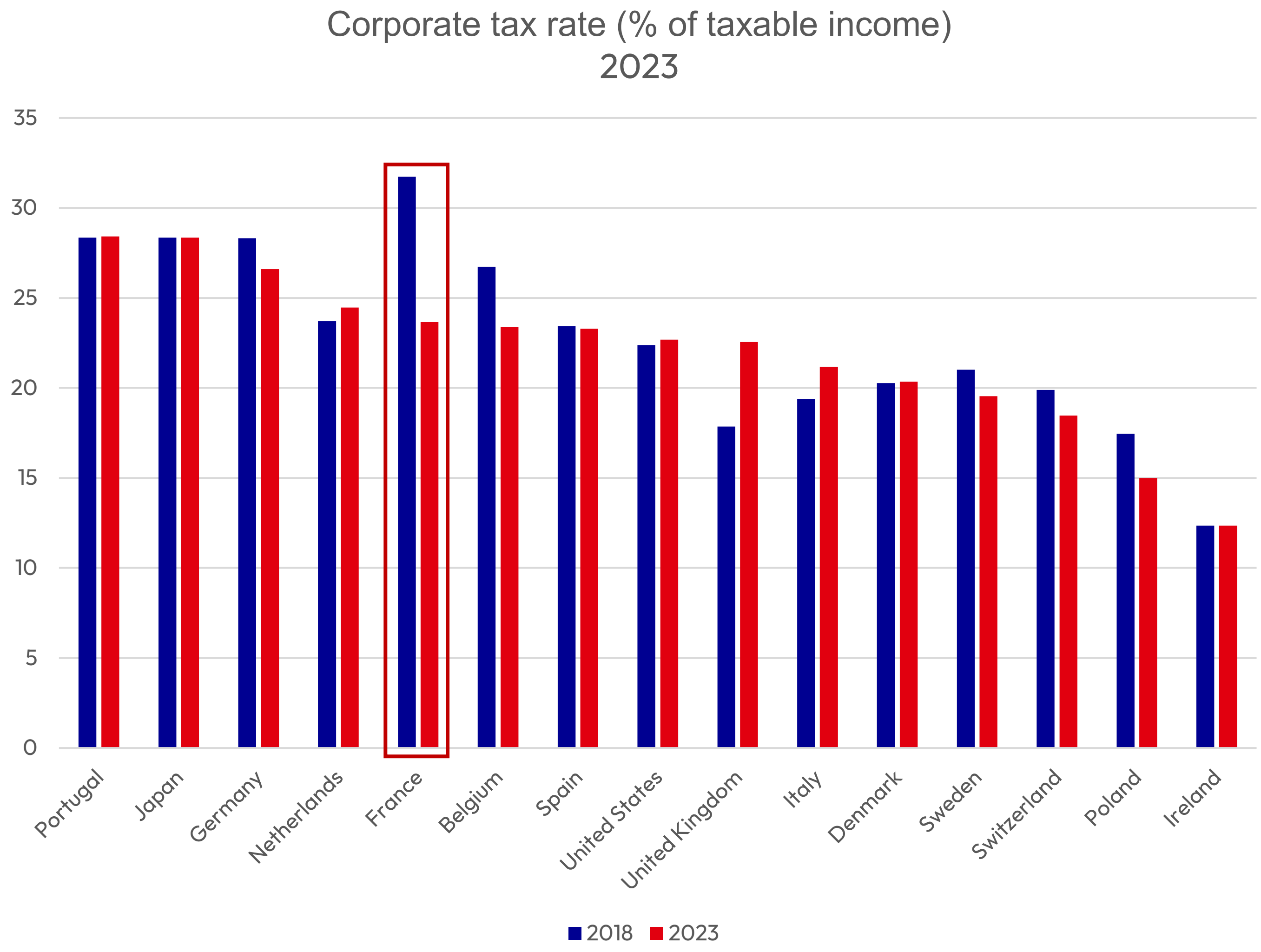
Labor costs in France taken by taxes or compulsory levies in 2024.

-1.2 percentage points

Over the last 10 years, while the OECD average has remained similar (-0.2 p.p.).

Source: OECD, 2025

Sharp fall in corporate taxes



23.7%

The amount of taxable corporate income that was levied by tax in France in 2023 on average.

-8 percentage points

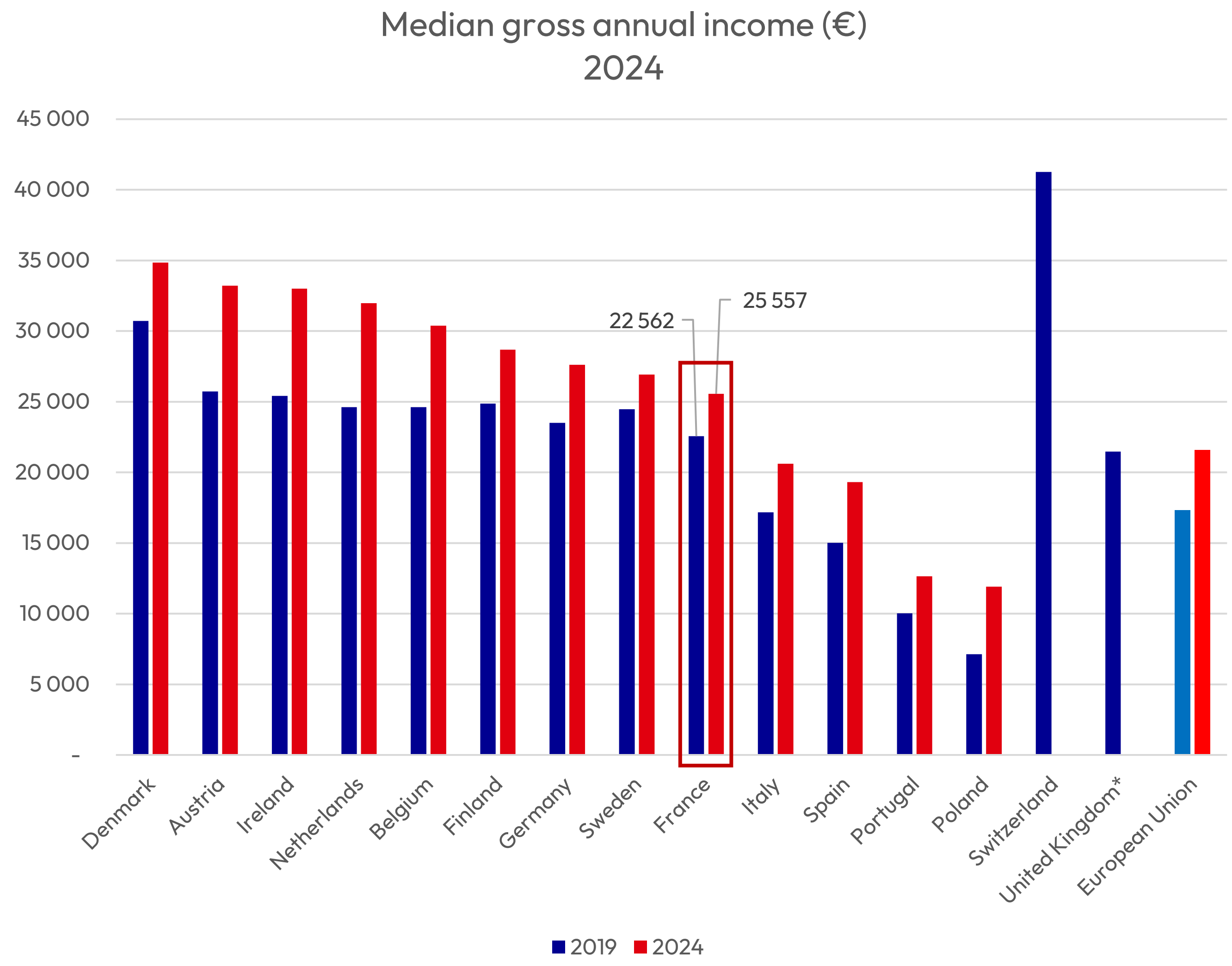
Between 2018 and 2023, thanks to policies adapted to promote the competitiveness of businesses established in France.

10%

This is the reduced tax rate that businesses can benefit from on income from certain intellectual property assets.

Source: OECD, 2025

Income comparable to that in the most productive countries



€25,557

The median gross annual income in France in 2024.

+13%

Between 2019 and 2024, lower than the average growth among EU countries (+25%).

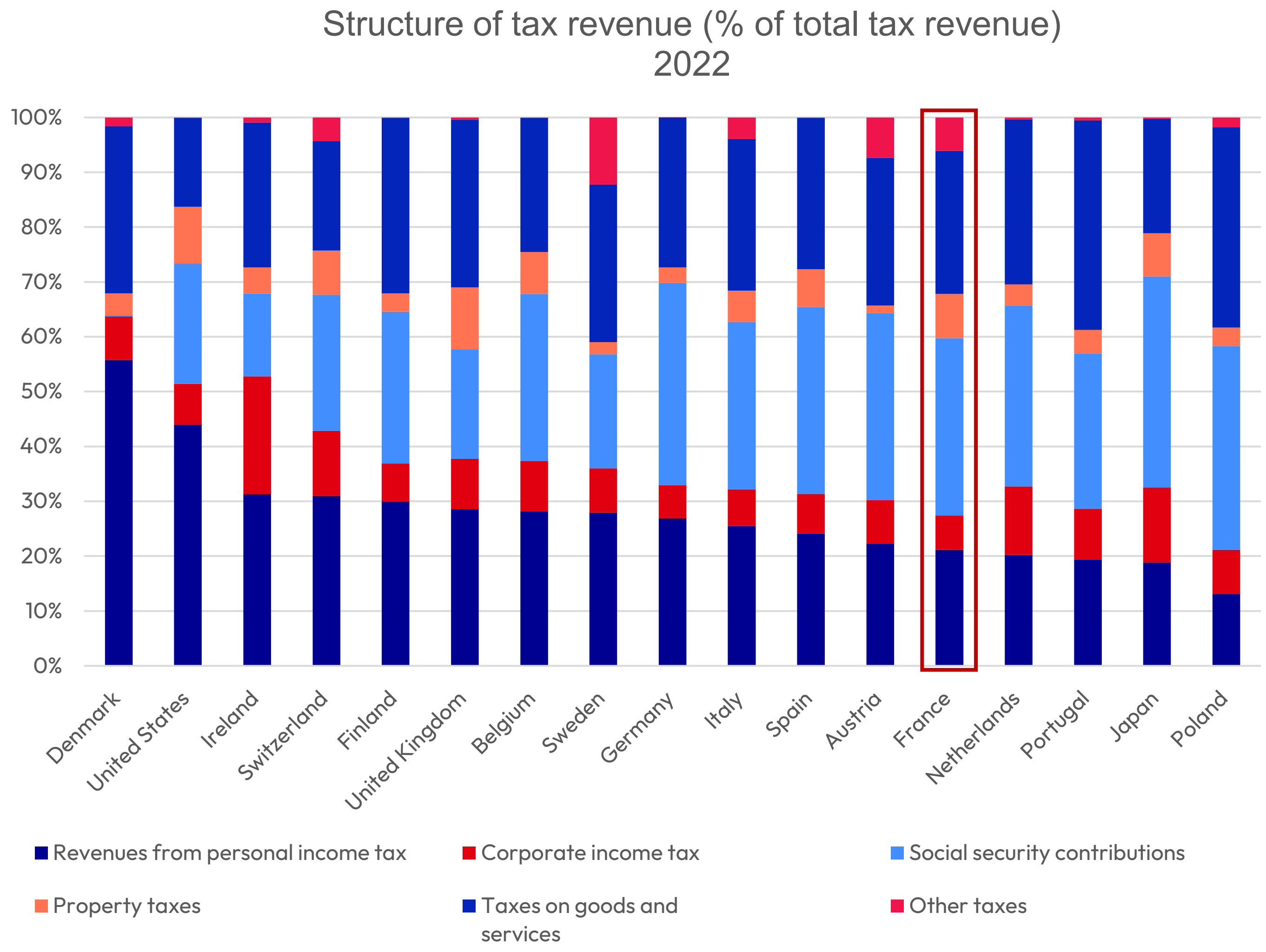
€21,621.60

The annual minimum wage in France in 2024.

* 2023

Source: Eurostat, 2025; Service-Public, 2025

Multiple sources of tax revenue



33%

Tax receipts that come from social security contributions, the largest source of revenue ahead of taxes on goods and services (26%), personal income tax (21%), property taxes (8%), corporate income tax (6%) and other miscellaneous taxes (6%).

Source: OECD, 2025

03 Research and innovation

France, land of innovation

#2

Country in EU for R&D spending

(OECD, 2025)

#2

Country for patent applications filed under the international PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) procedure in 2024

(WIPO, 2025)

#1

European recipient of foreign investments in R&D since 2019

(EY survey, 2025)

58 %

Of the active population with a higher education diploma or in a position with a high level of qualification

(Eurostat, 2025)

30 %

The research tax credit rate for R&D expenditure up to €100 million

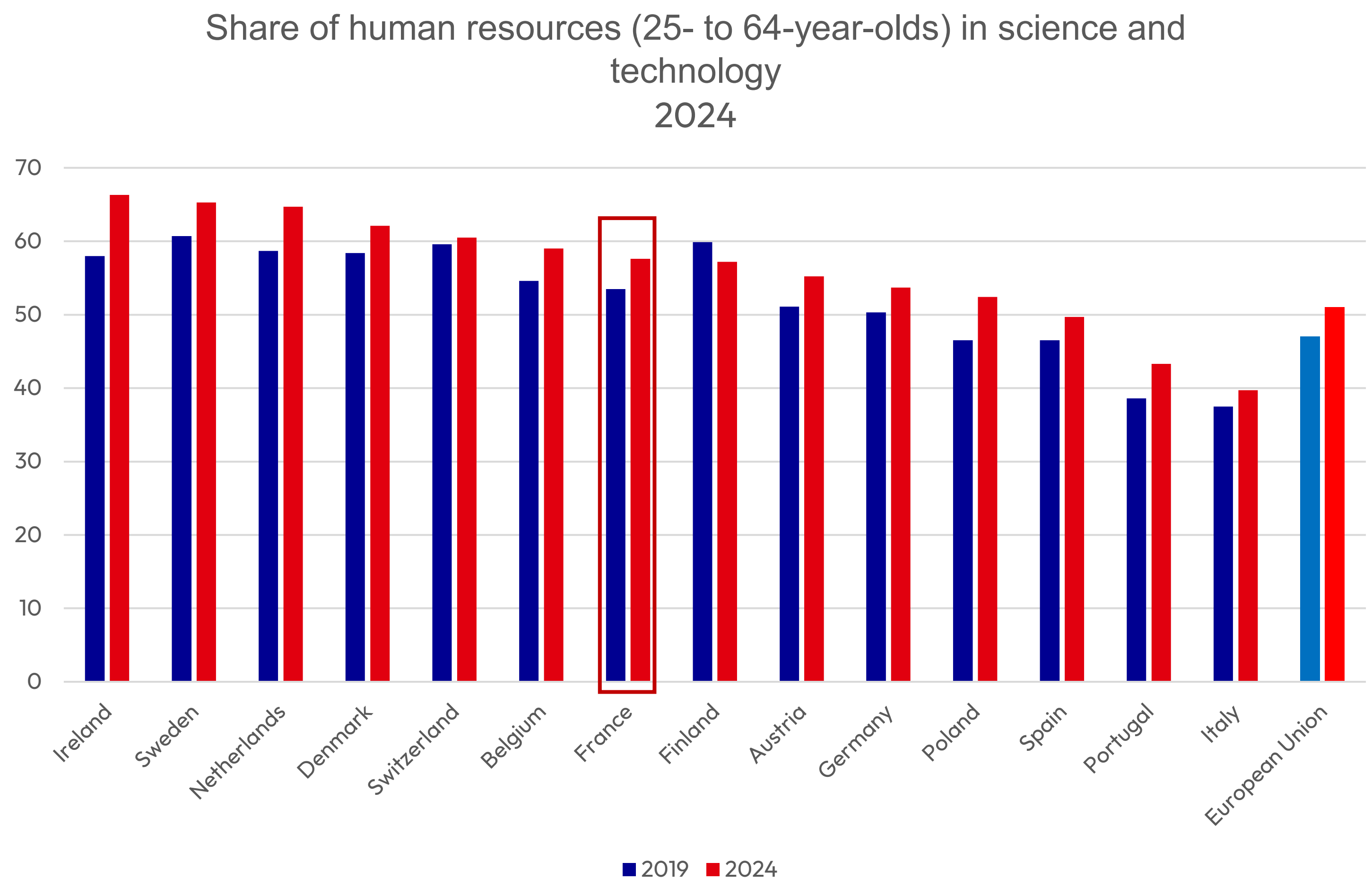
(Ministry for the Economy, Finances and Industrial Sovereignty, 2024)

#7

Country for the number of researchers in 2021

(Campus France, 2025)

France has a well qualified workforce…



58%

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

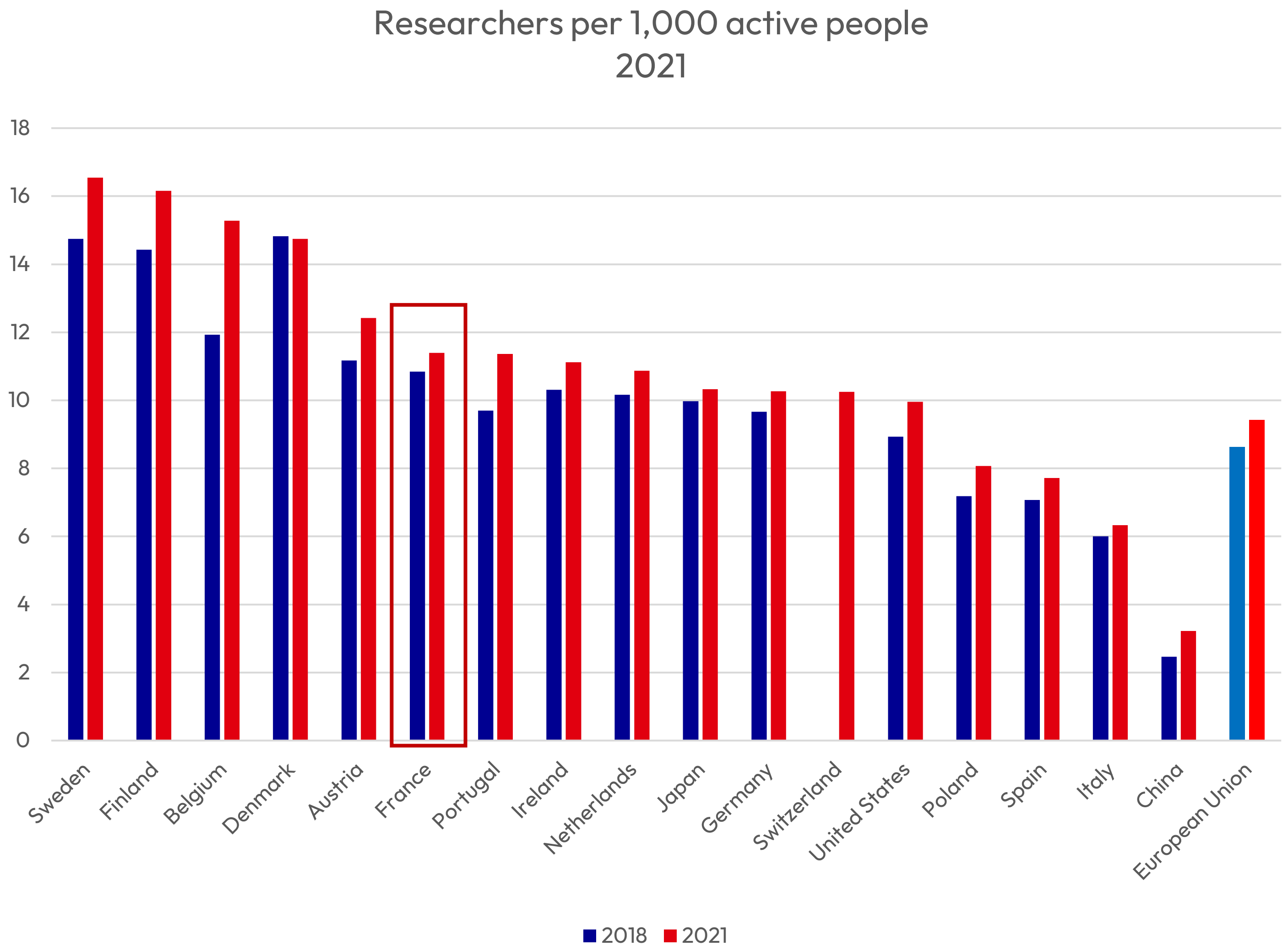
+4.1 percentage points

The increase in the share of human resources in science and technology (HRST) in France, in percentage points, between 2019 and 2024 (+4% 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.

Source: Eurostat, 2025

… and a high number of researchers



11.4 researchers

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

#7

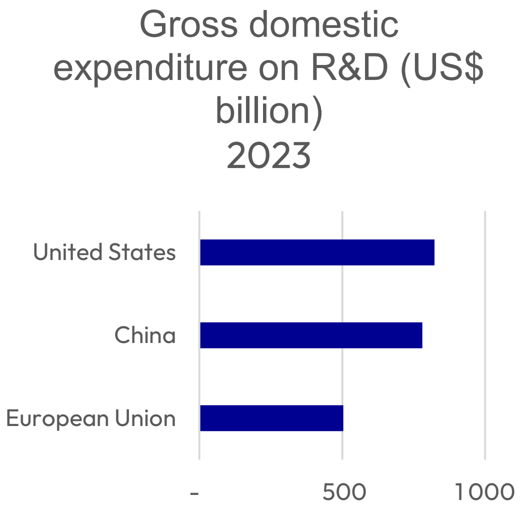
Country in the world with the most researchers: 333,800 in 2021.

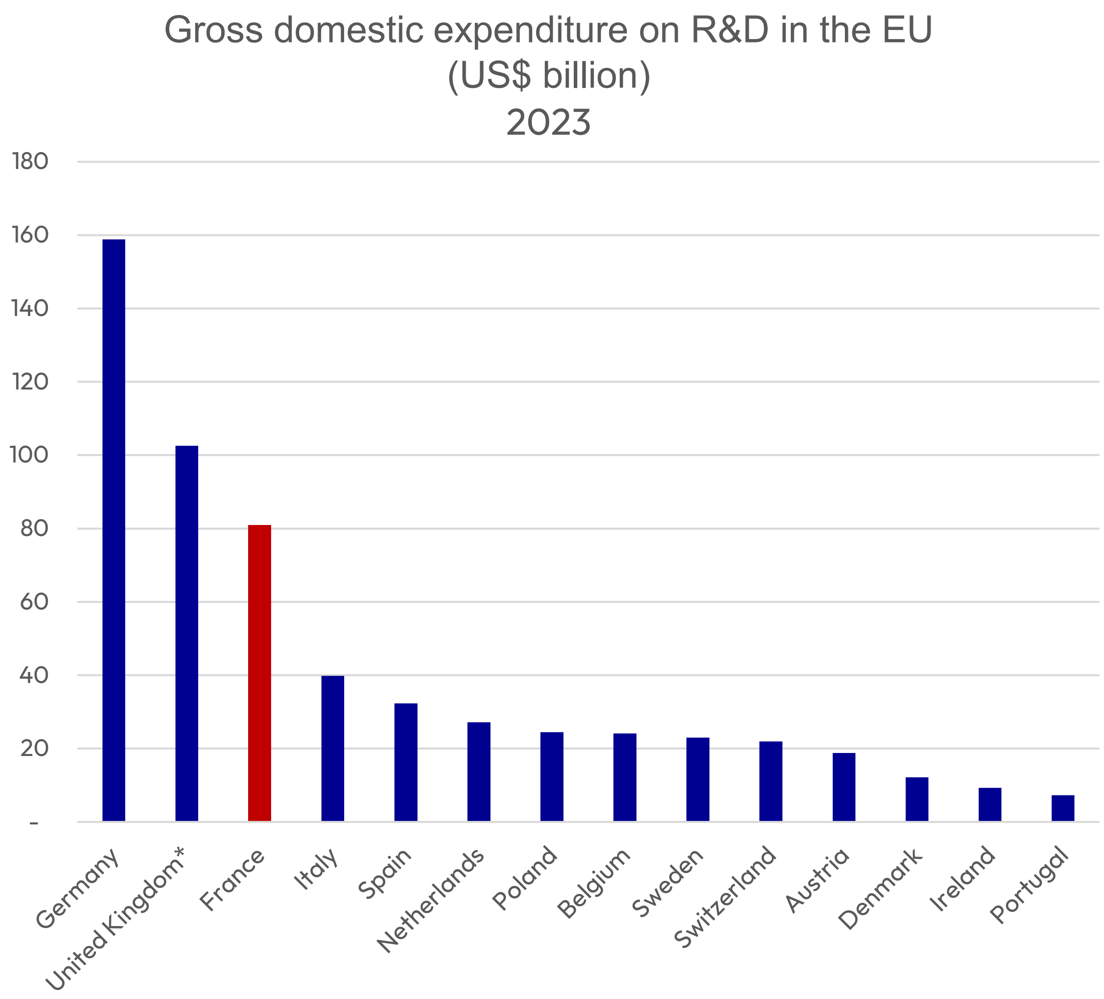
-27%

Decrease in the average cost of a researcher for a business thanks to the research tax credit.

Source: OECD 2025; Campus France, 2025

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





US$504 billion

of domestic R&D expenditure in the EU in 2023

US$81 billion

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

2.19%

GDP spent on R&D activities in 2023, higher than the EU average (2.13%).

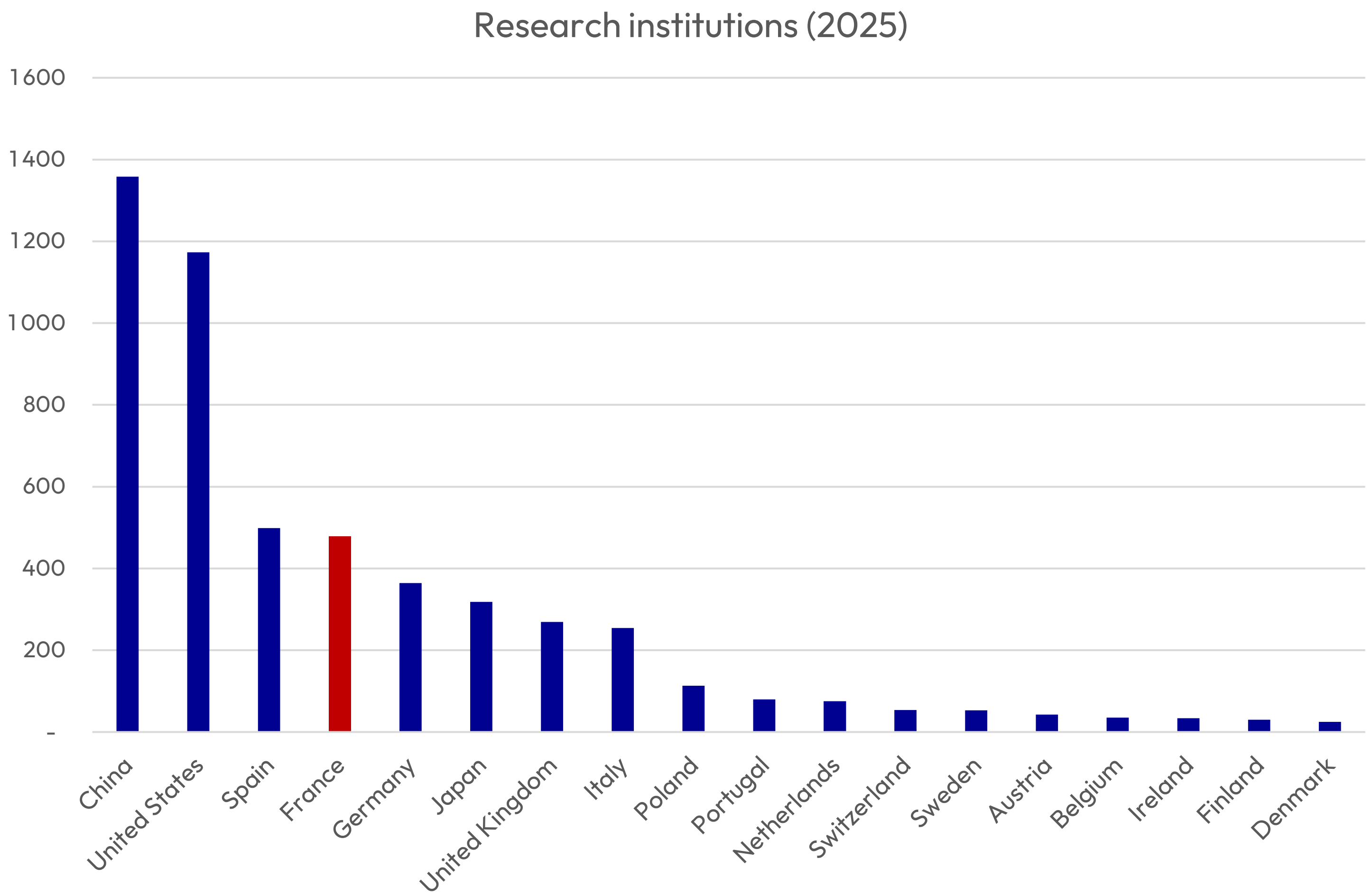
3%

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

* 2022

Source: OECD, 2025; MESR

France boasts numerous leading research institutions



479

Research institutions in France, home to the world's fourth highest number.

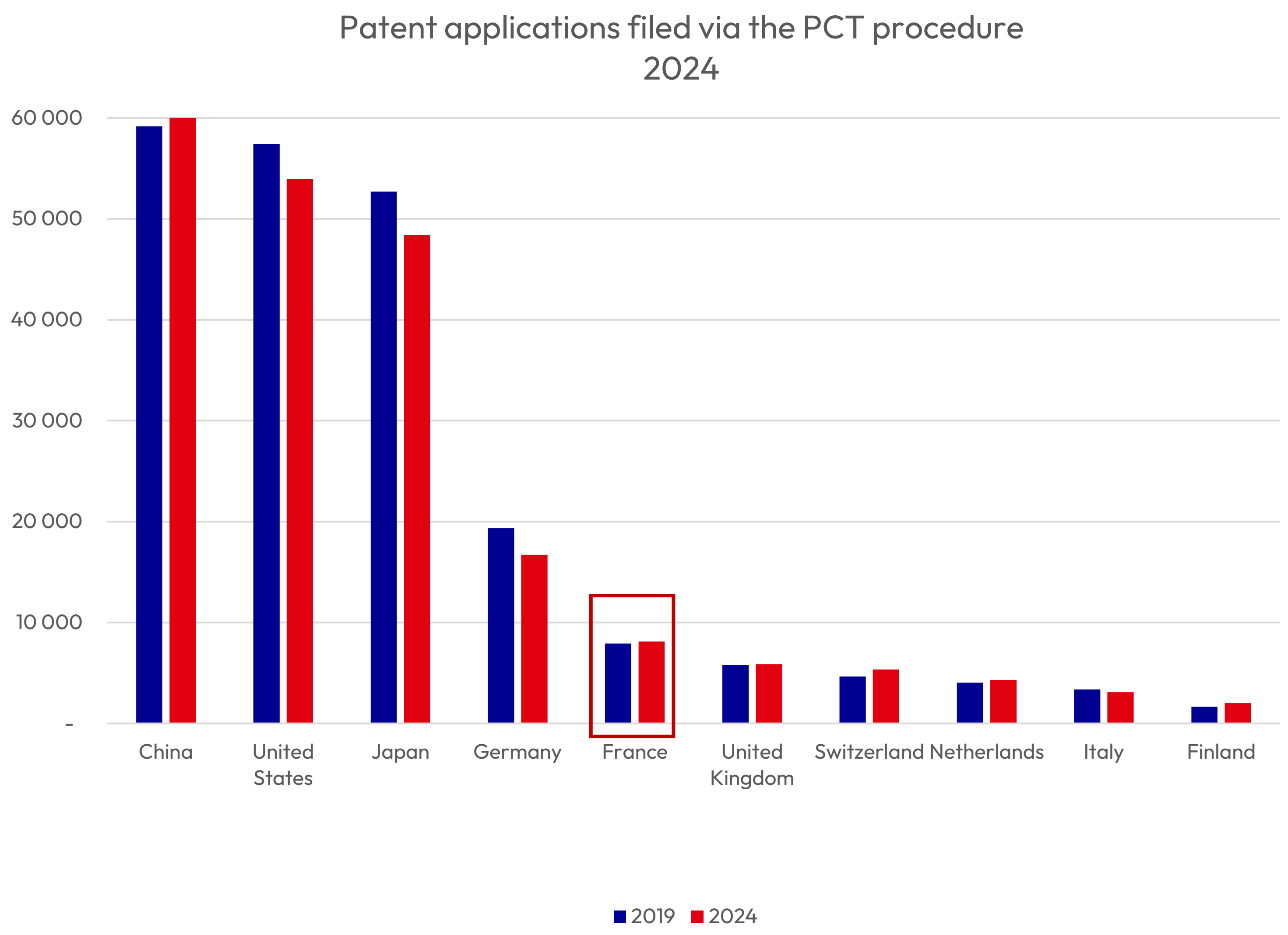
#3

Ranking for the global research institution the CNRS, (first in Europe), after two Chinese institutions.

Key: The **SCImago Institutions Rankings** is a tool for evaluating research and higher education institutions, based on a combination of bibliometric, innovation and societal impact indicators.

Source: SCImago, 2025

Dynamic research on a global scale



#6

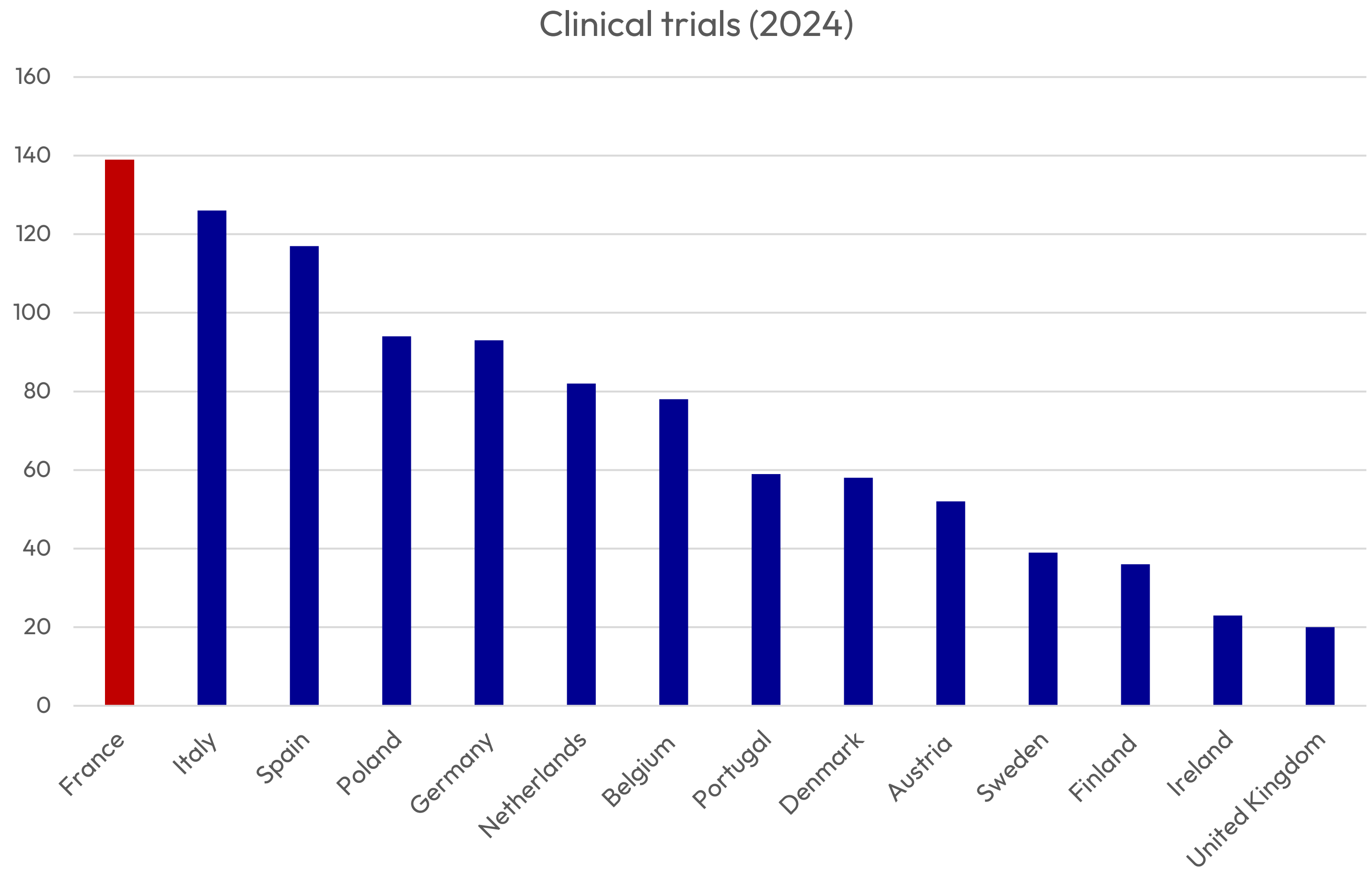
Country for patent applications filed via the PCT procedure in 2024 (7,911 applications).

+2.5%

Patent applications filed between 2019 and 2024.

Source: WIPO, 2025

France, a global leader in the medical field



#1

EU country in terms of the number of clinical trials in 2024, with 139 trials.

€7.5 billion

From the "France 2030" plan dedicated to healthcare, including €1 billion for strengthening biomedical research.

Key: **A clinical trial** is a scientific study conducted on human volunteers to evaluate the efficacy, tolerance and safety of a treatment, drug, medical device, or therapeutic strategy. It follows a rigorous protocol and is often carried out in several phases before possible marketing authorization.

Source: EU Clinical Trials Register, 2025

A country focused on research and the future

€54 billion

Investment in disruptive technologies via the “France 2030” plan.

#1

Country for hosting startups, according to the ESNA 2024 report.

#1

EU country in terms of financial support for R&D projects, according to the European Innovation Scoreboard 2025.

€5.7 billion

R&D expenditure dedicated to the environment.

€1.7 billion

R&D expenditure on Artificial Intelligence.

Source: SPGI, 2025; ESNA, 2024; EIS, 2025; MESRI, 2025

04

Education and human capital

France has an excellent education system

5.3%

Proportion of France's GDP that is invested in education every year

(Eurostat, 2025)

53%

Proportion of 25- to 34-year-olds that had a tertiary education qualification in 2023

(Eurostat, 2025)

14%

Tertiary education graduates that work in engineering

(UNESCO, 2025)

#1

EU country, alongside Germany, in the Shanghai Rankings, with four universities in the top 100

#3

EU country in terms of the number of doctoral level students

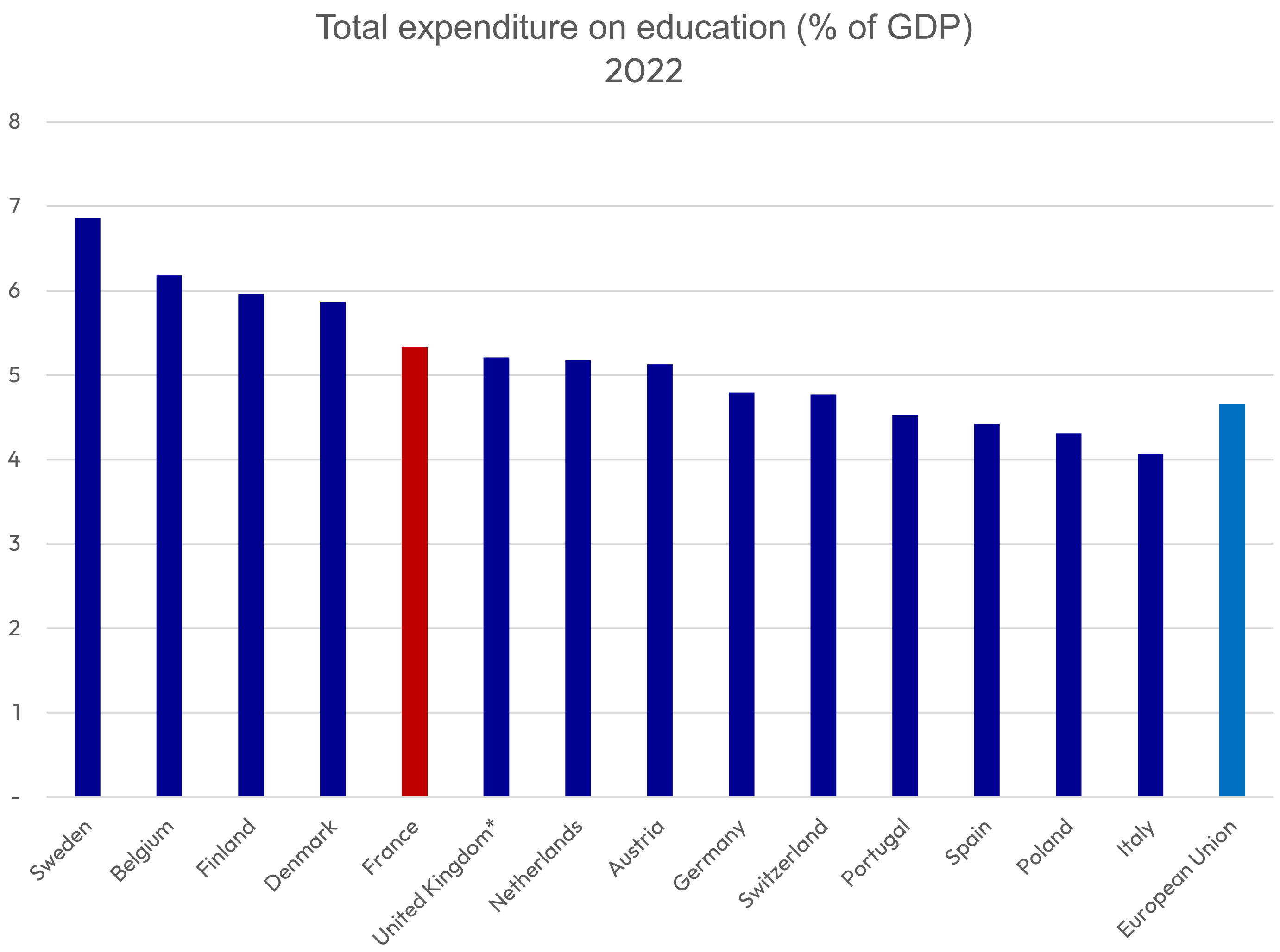
(Eurostat, 2025)

80%

Proportion of foreign graduates in France that choose to pursue their career in France

(Campus France, 2024)

France invests in its education system



5.33%

GDP that was invested in education in 2022.

€141 billion

The amount spent on education in 2022, making it the second leading country in Europe.

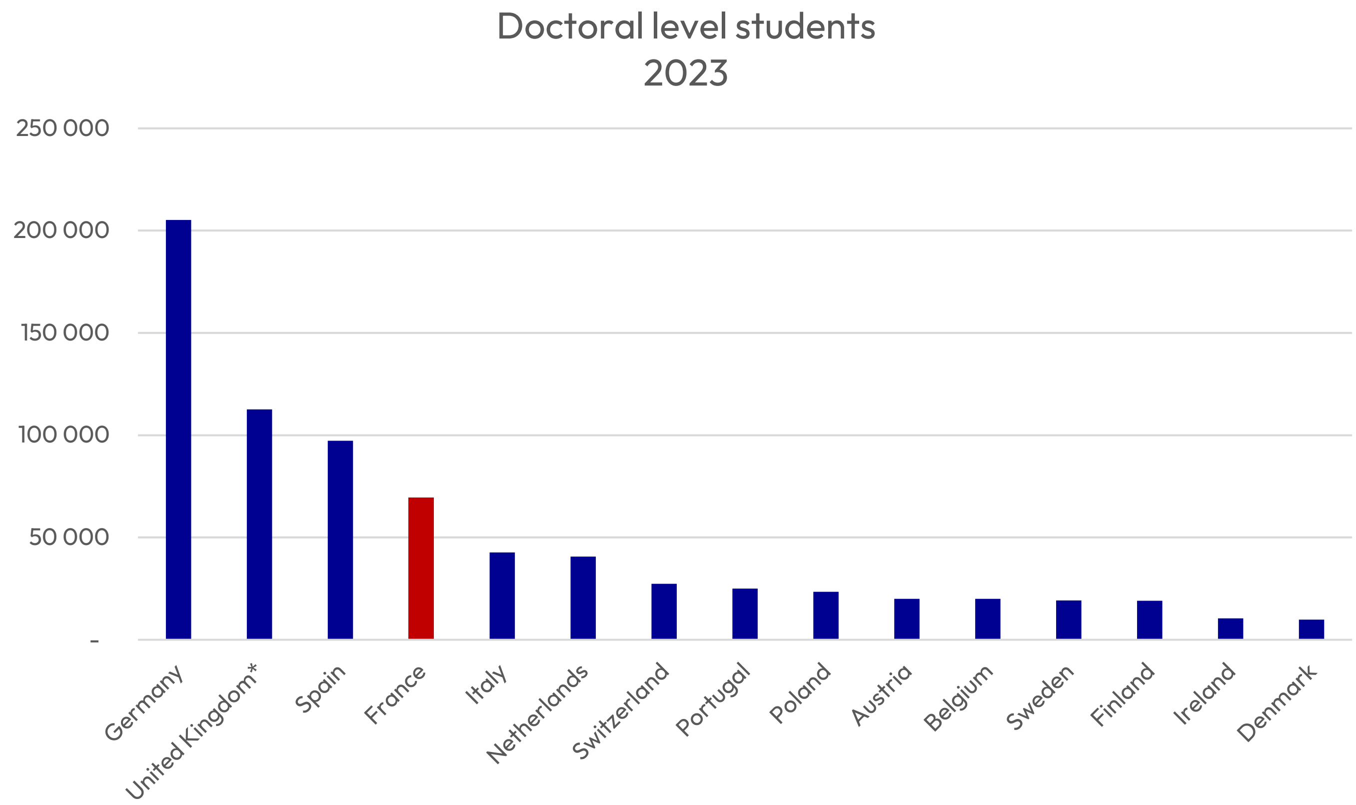
€13,060

Average cost per student in tertiary education.

* 2019

Source: Eurostat, 2025

Human capital that continues to grow



#3

EU country for the number of doctoral level students, with 69,639 registered in 2023.

2,150 CIFRE PhDs

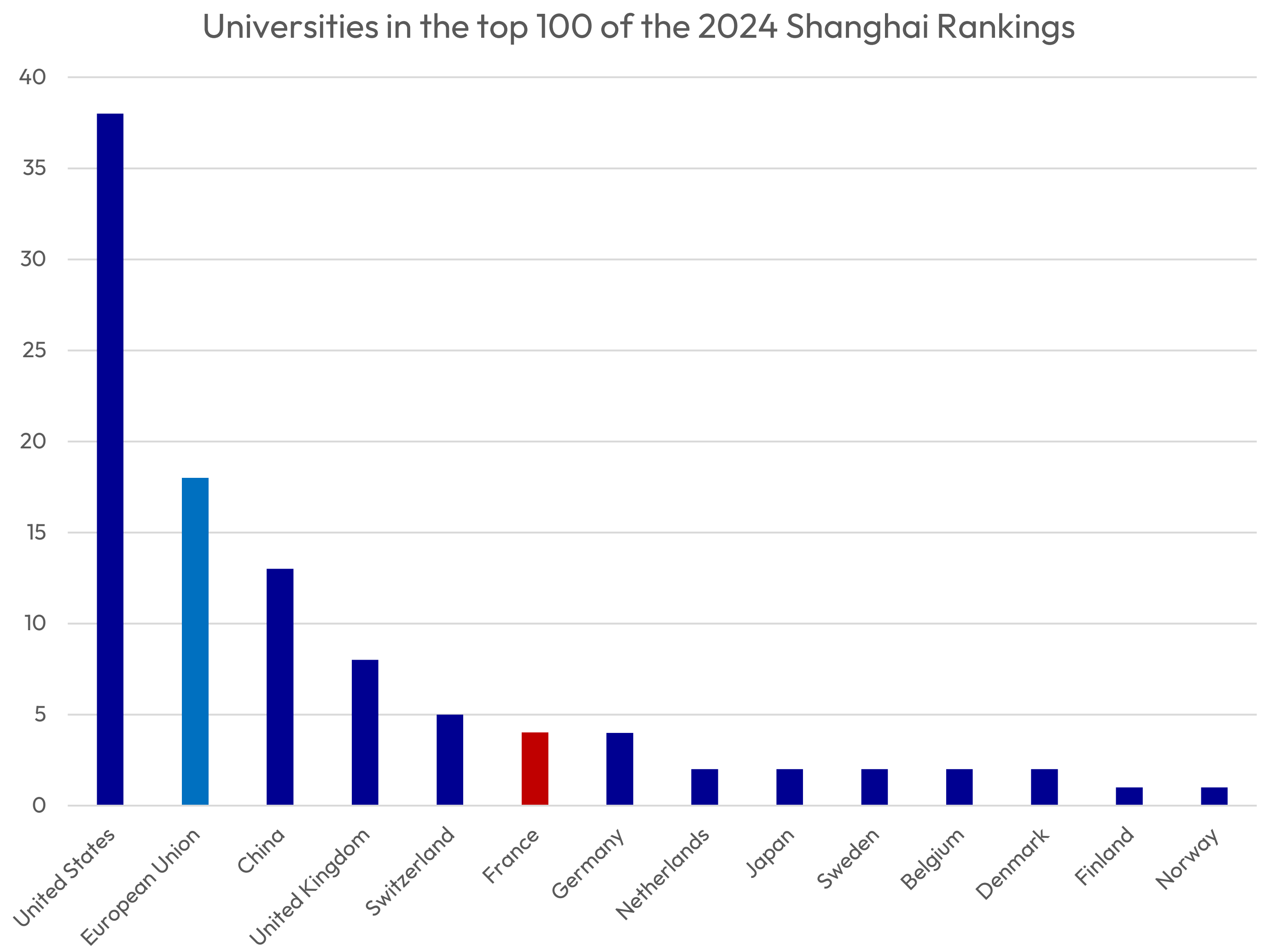
The government's target for the number of CIFRE PhDs per year from 2027.

Key: **The "Industrial Agreements for Training through Research"** (CIFRE) scheme subsidizes any business operating under French law that hires a doctoral level graduate to place them at the heart of a research partnership with a public laboratory.

* 2019

Source: Eurostat, 2025

French universities recognized for their high-quality education



4

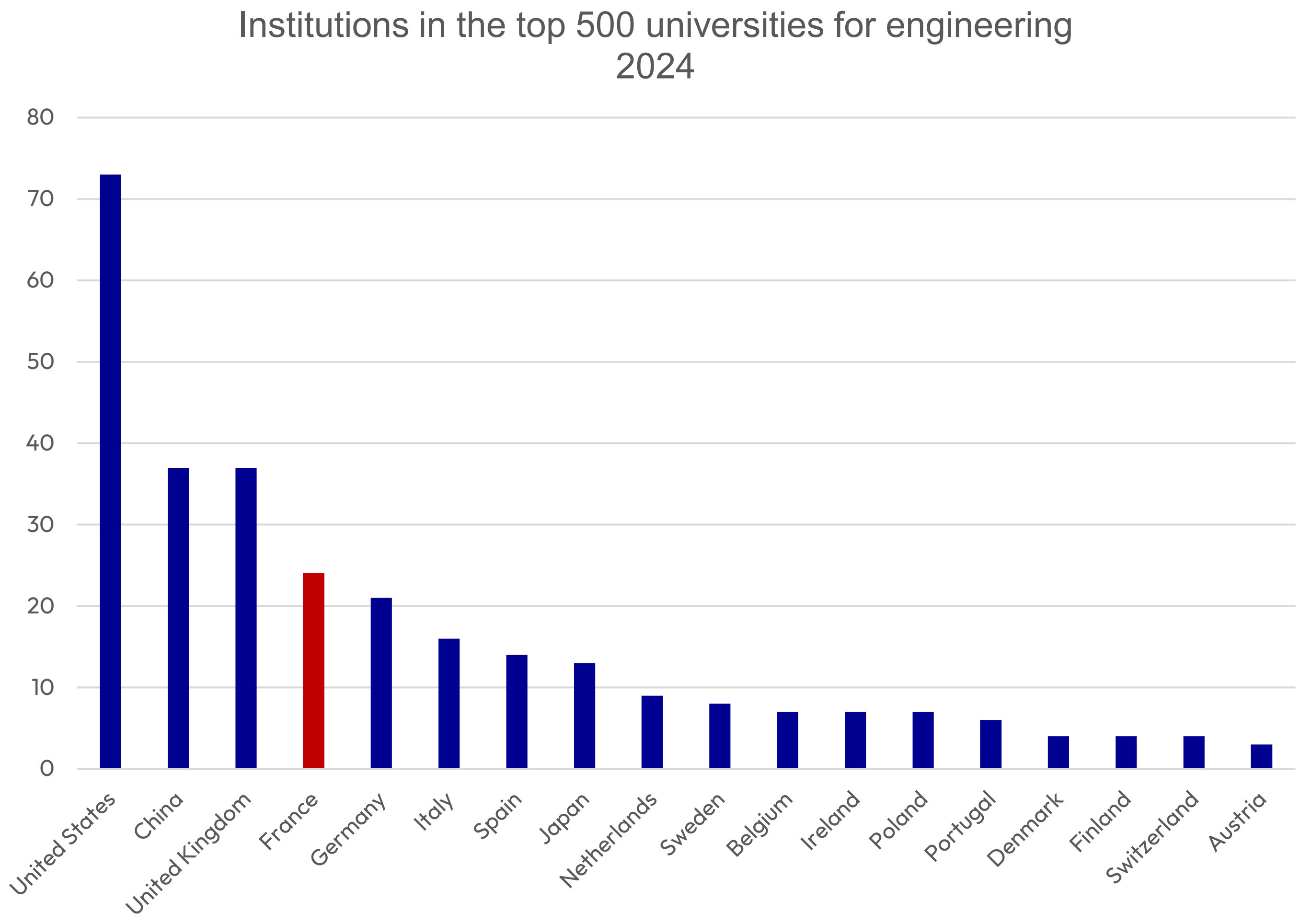
French universities in the top 100 of the 2025 Shanghai Rankings; France is the joint #1 EU country tied with Germany.

#3

Paris-Saclay University's position in Europe, and 12th in the world.

Source: Shanghai Rankings, 2025

French universities also recognized for their high-quality engineering courses

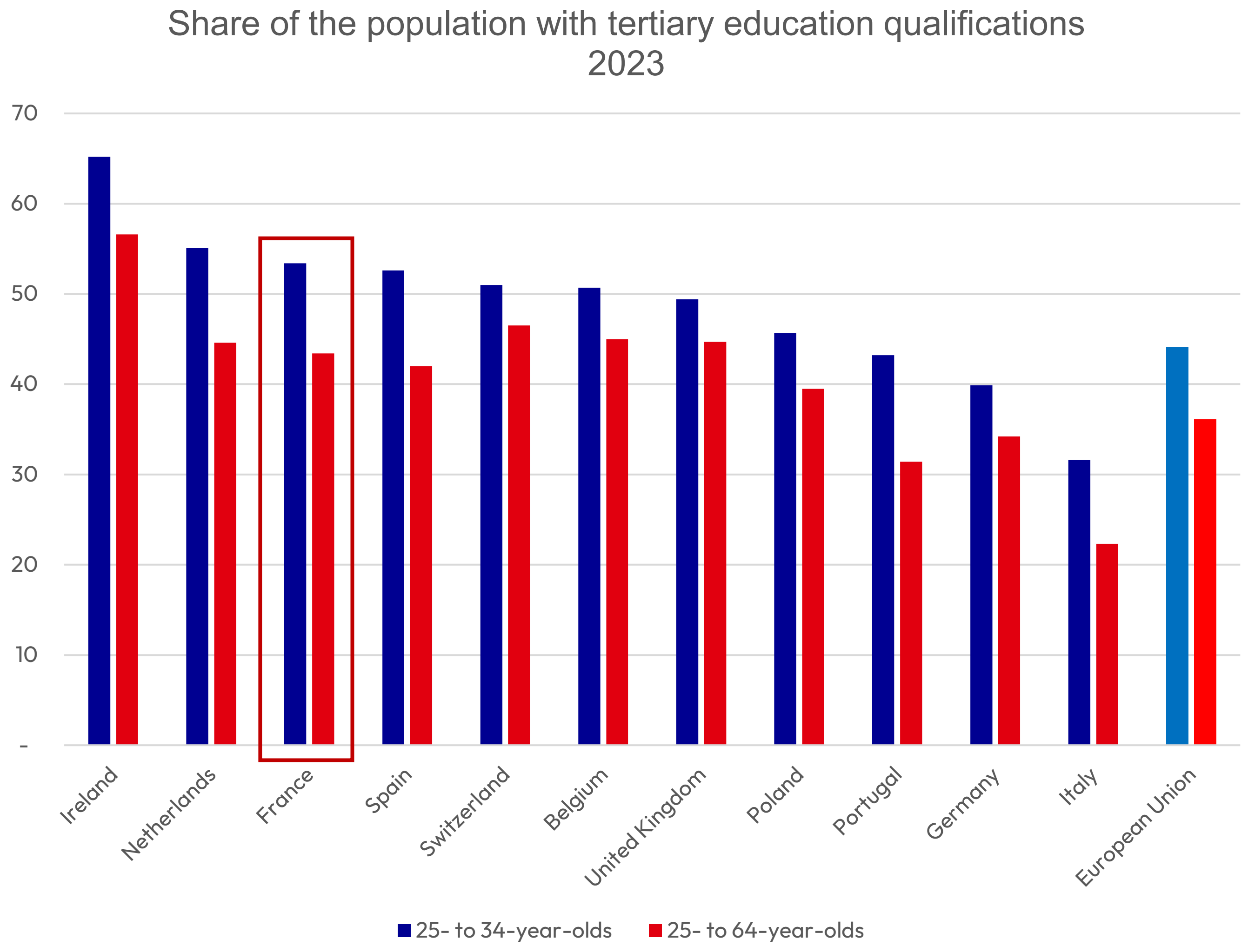


24

24 French institutions in the top 500 universities for engineering in the QS 2025 rankings, with the country number one in the European Union.

Source: QS, 2025

A well-trained workforce, particularly among young people



53%

Proportion of 25- to 34-year-olds with tertiary education qualifications in France (43% of 25- to 64-year-olds).

93%

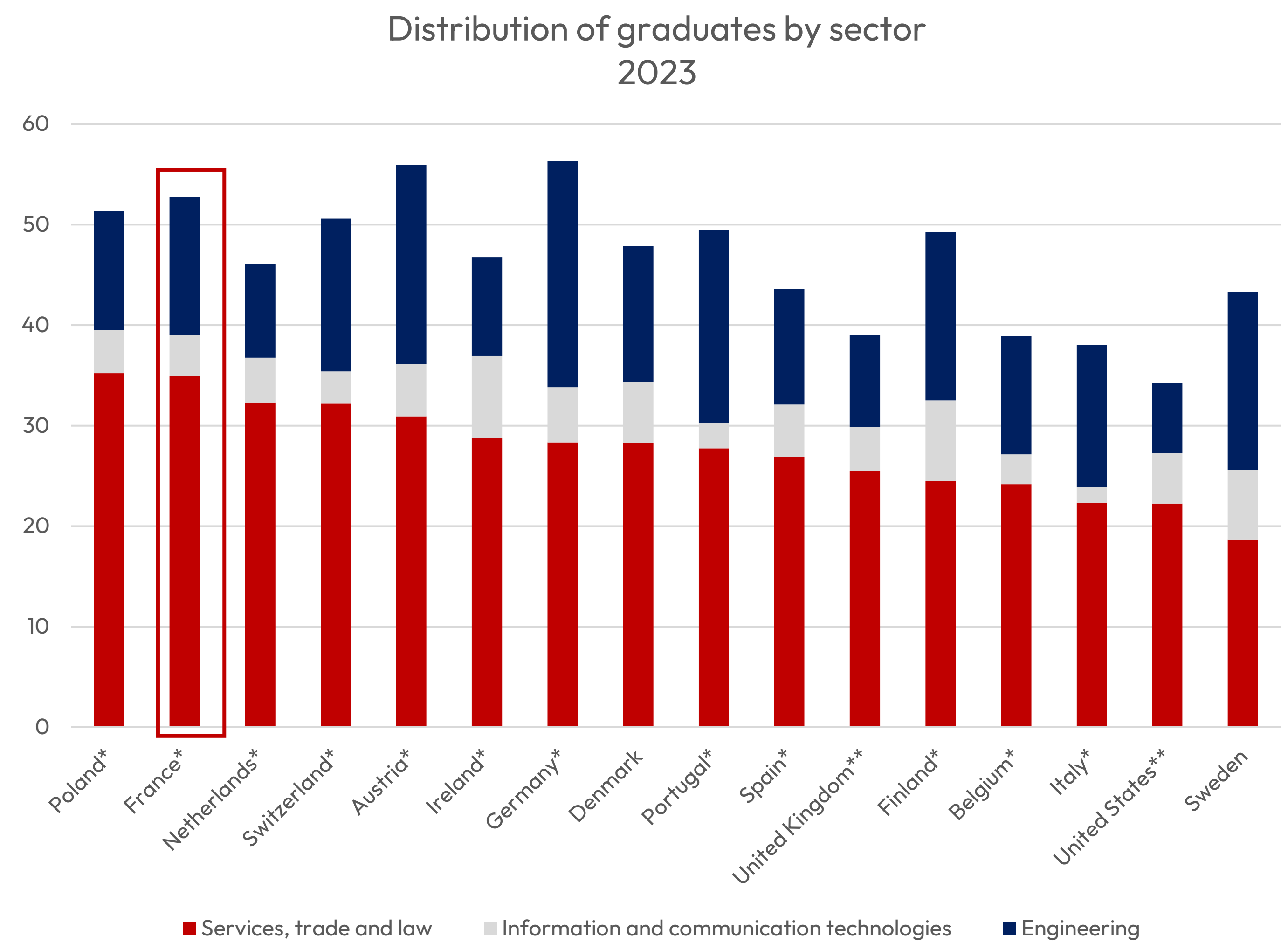
Proportion of Master's graduates that find employment within 18 months of graduation in 2024.

35%

Proportion of 15- to 25-year-olds that are in employment, in line with the European average.

Source: Eurostat, 2025; OECD, 2024

Graduates present in all business sectors



* 2022 ** 2021

35%

Proportion of tertiary education graduates that work in the service, business and law sectors.

4%

Proportion of tertiary education graduates that work in the information and communications technologies sector.

14%

Proportion of tertiary education graduates that work in the engineering sector.

Source: UNESCO, 2025

New areas of teaching

€2.5 billion

The “France 2030” plan will focus on adapting training to the skills requirements of new sectors and professions of the future.

100,000

New training places dedicated to the professions of the future created as part of “France 2030”.

€211 million

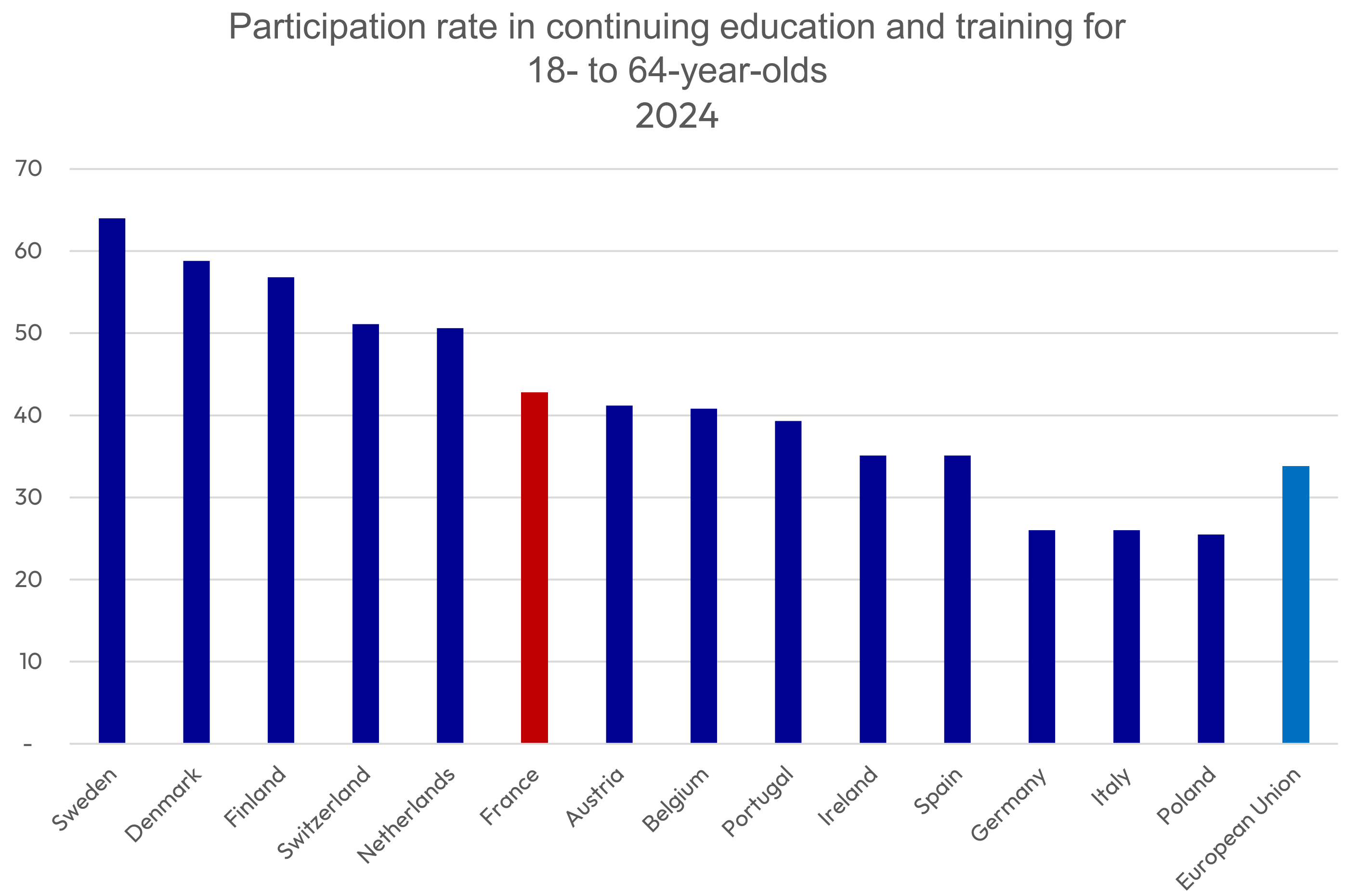
Invested in the field of digital sovereignty, particularly in artificial intelligence through the “Skills and Professions of the Future” call for expressions of interest.

182

Projects already supported by the “Skills and Professions of the Future” call for expressions of interest.

Source: SGPI, 2025; MT, 2025

Human capital that continues to grow



43%

Proportion of 18- to 64-year-olds that were in further education in France in 2024.

€29.5 billion

Amount invested in 2023 for continuing professional development and apprenticeships, representing 16% of expenditure linked to employment policies.

+3.2%

In apprenticeship contracts between 2023 and 2024, with more than one million apprentices in 2024.

Key: **Continuing professional development** refers to training provided to professionals who have already completed their initial training.

Source: Eurostat, 2024; Dares, 2024

05

Infrastructure

France has excellent infrastructure

#1

Airport in the European Union for passengers: Paris-CDG

(Eurostat, 2025)

1,760

Jobs created or maintained by 46 foreign investment projects in the telecommunications sector between 2019 and 2024

(Business France)

#1

European country for average internet speed and second in the world

(IMD, 2024)

#3

European country by volume of road freight transport

(Eurostat, 2025)

#2

European country by length of high-speed rail lines

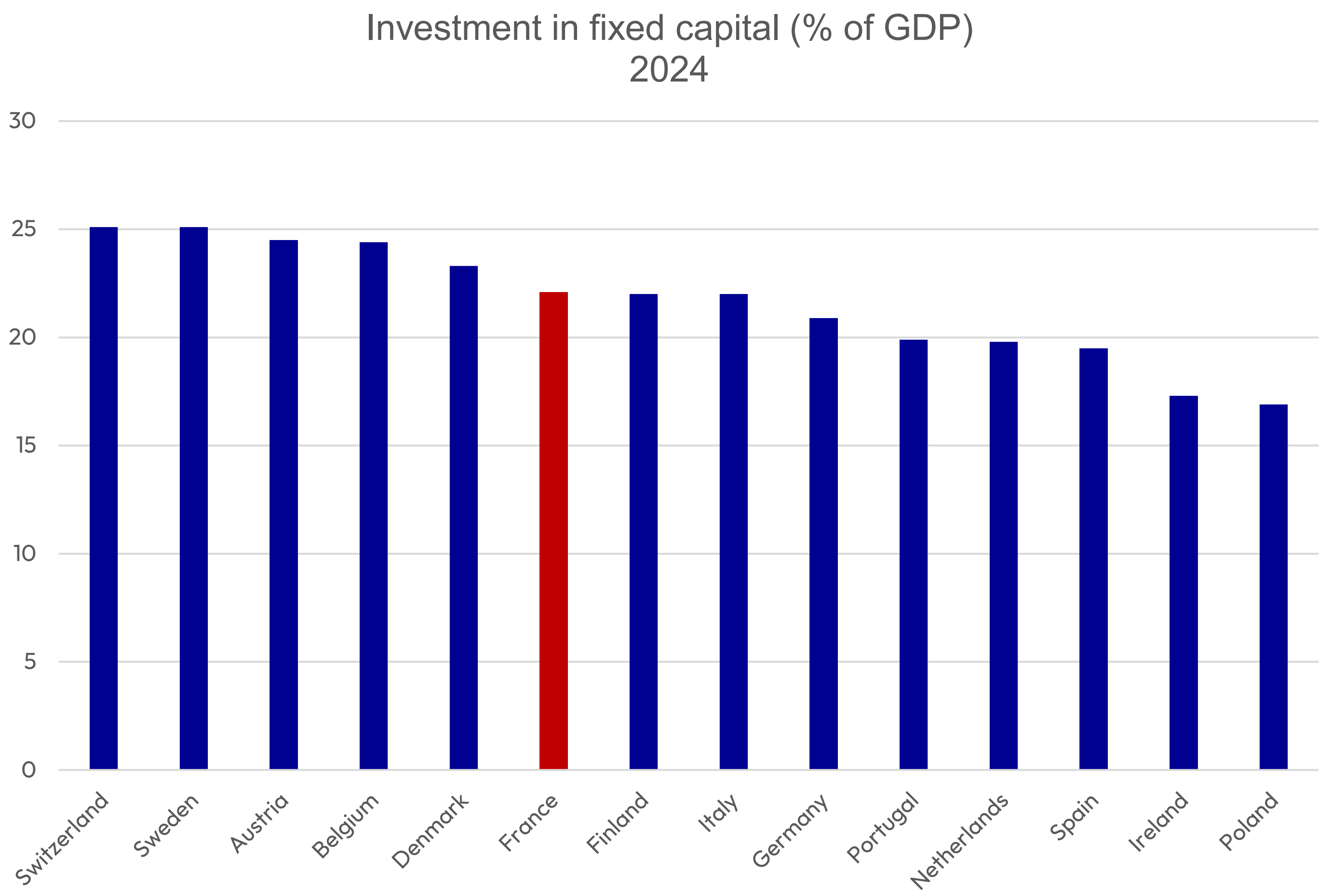
(SNCF, 2023)

#5

European country by volume of river freight transport

(Eurostat, 2025)

Significant French capital investments



22%

Proportion of French GDP invested in fixed capital, such as machinery or infrastructure.

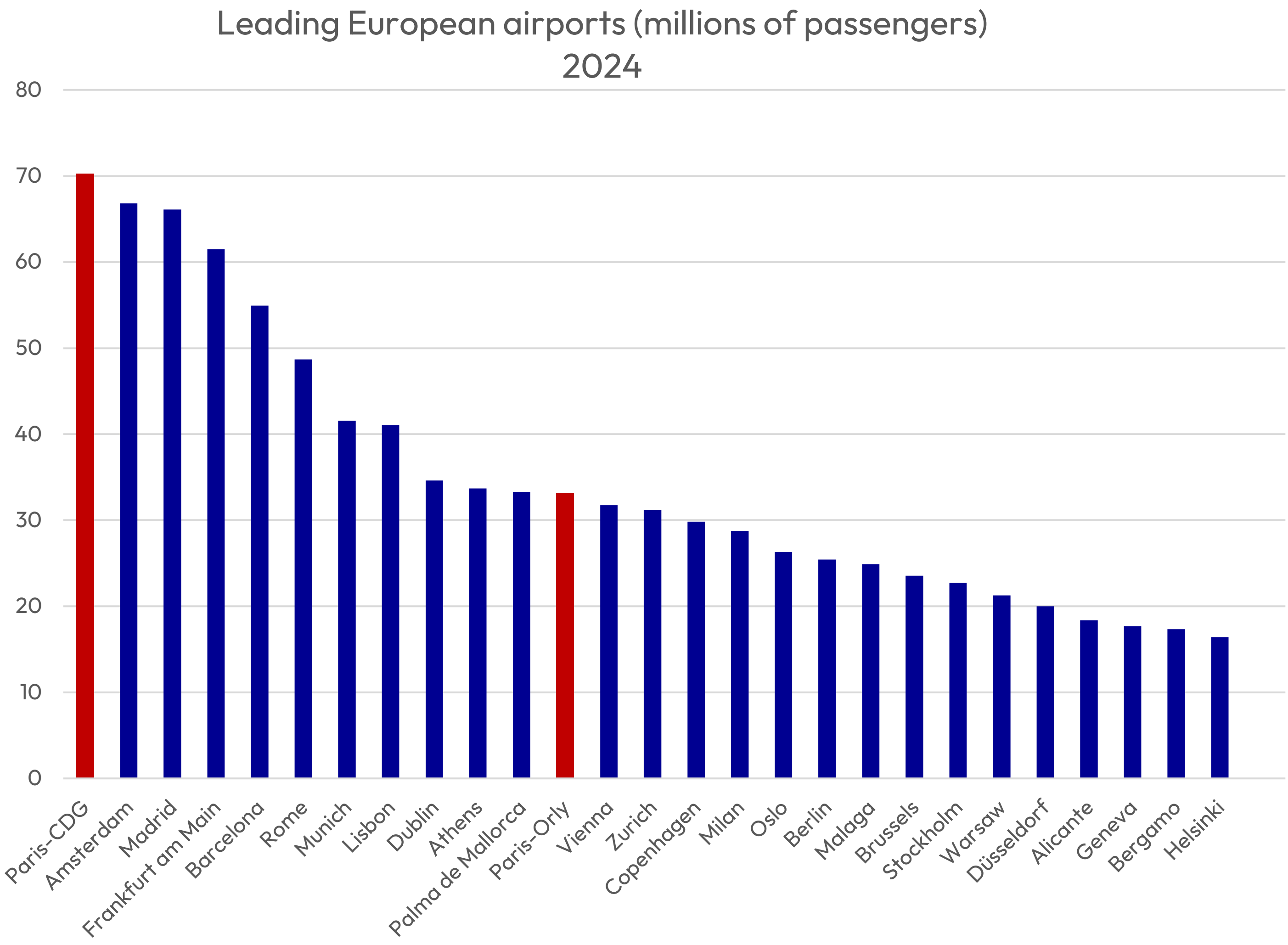
#2

European country for the gross amount of investment in fixed capital (€645 billion).

Key: **Gross fixed capital formation (GFCG)** measures the total investment made by economic agents in long-term production assets, such as infrastructure. A high GFCF is a favorable indicator for future growth.

Source: Eurostat, 2025

#1 airport hub in terms of passengers in the EU



#1

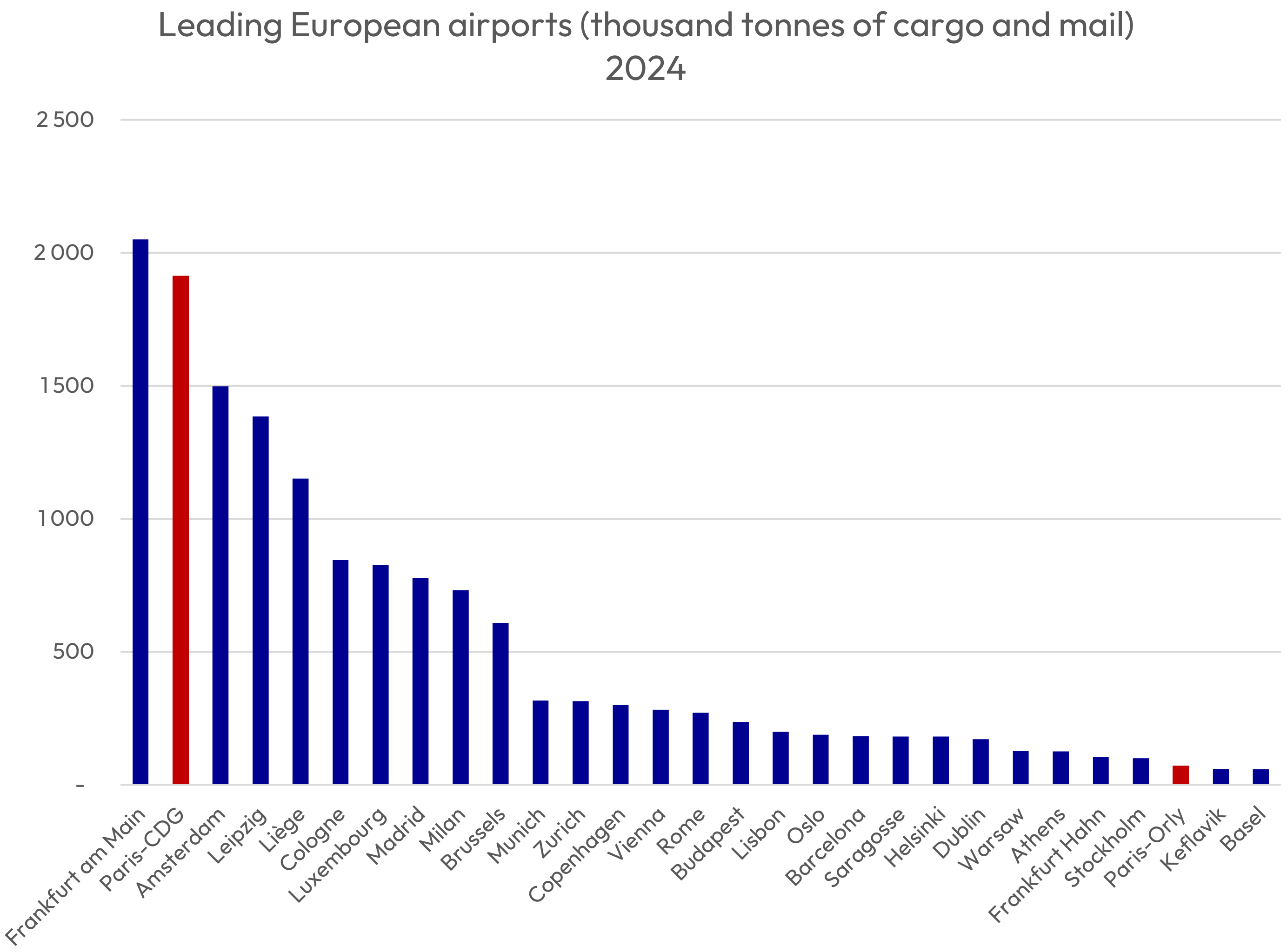
Paris-Charles de Gaulle is the busiest airport for passenger transport in the European Union.

Two flagship airports

For the city of Paris, a unique case in the European Union.

Source: Eurostat, 2025

An airport hub that is also commercial



1.9

Million tonnes of cargo and mail loaded at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport, the second largest airport in the EU in 2024.

€1.2 billion

Dedicated to investing in innovation for a low-carbon aircraft through the "France 2030" plan.

Source: Eurostat, 2025

Multimodal transport infrastructure throughout the country

#1

European country in terms of available river waterways.

#3

Largest European motorway network with 11,751 km (7,300 miles) of motorway and 9,473 km (5,886 miles) of national roads.

#2

European country for the length of high-speed railway lines, with 2,700 km (1,680 miles) for a total of 28,000 km (17,400 miles) of lines in France.

66 commercial ports

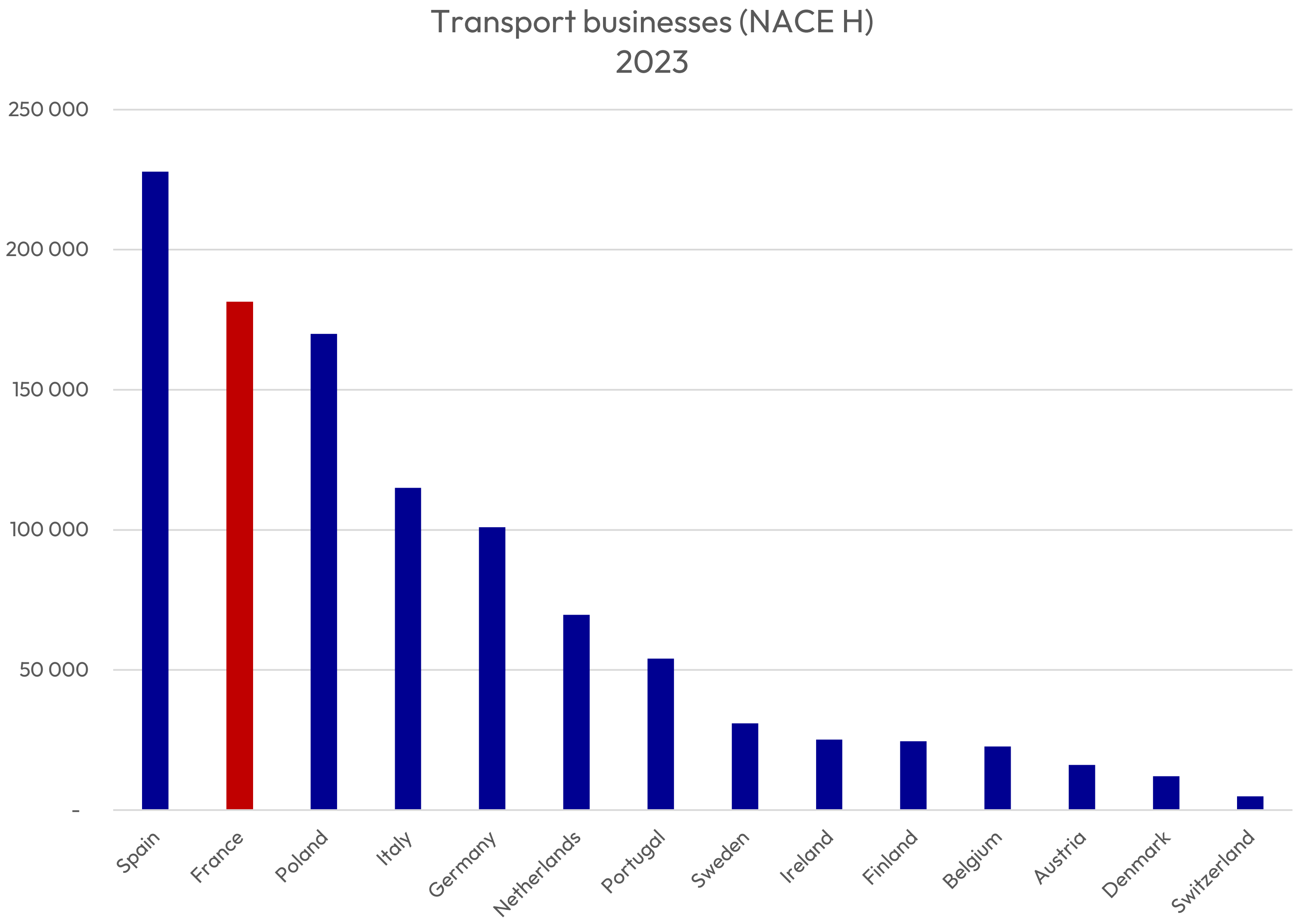
in France, including 11 major state-run seaports that handle 80% of maritime cargo traffic.

€100 billion

Investments to be made by 2040 to modernize and improve the French rail network through the “New Railway Deal” plan.

Source: EY, 2024; SNCF network, 2023; Ministry for Transport, 2024

Strong presence of transport and logistics businesses



#2

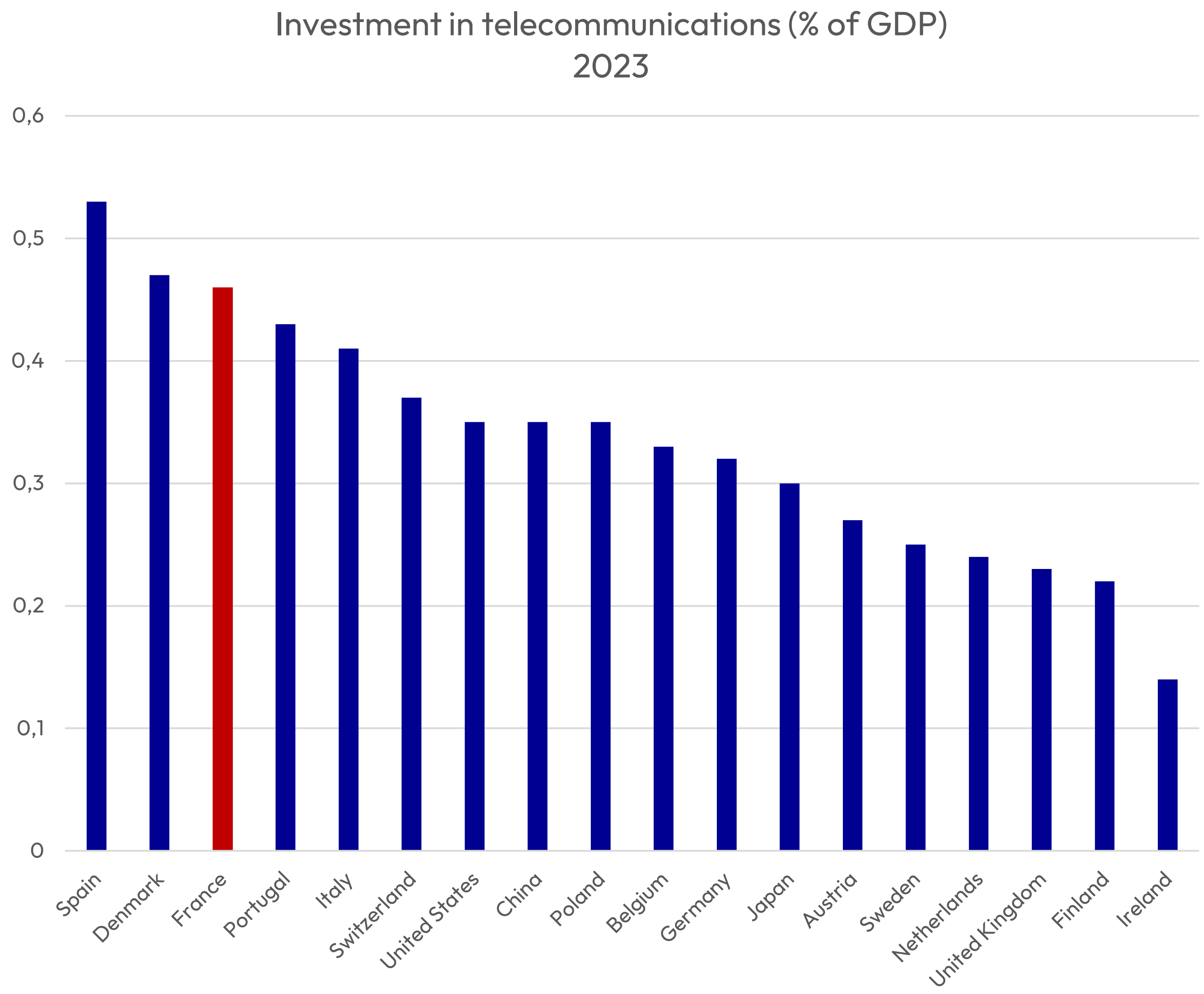
European country with the most transport and logistics businesses.

1.5 million

The number of people who work in the transport and storage sector in France.

Source: Eurostat, 2025

High level of investment in telecommunications



0.46%

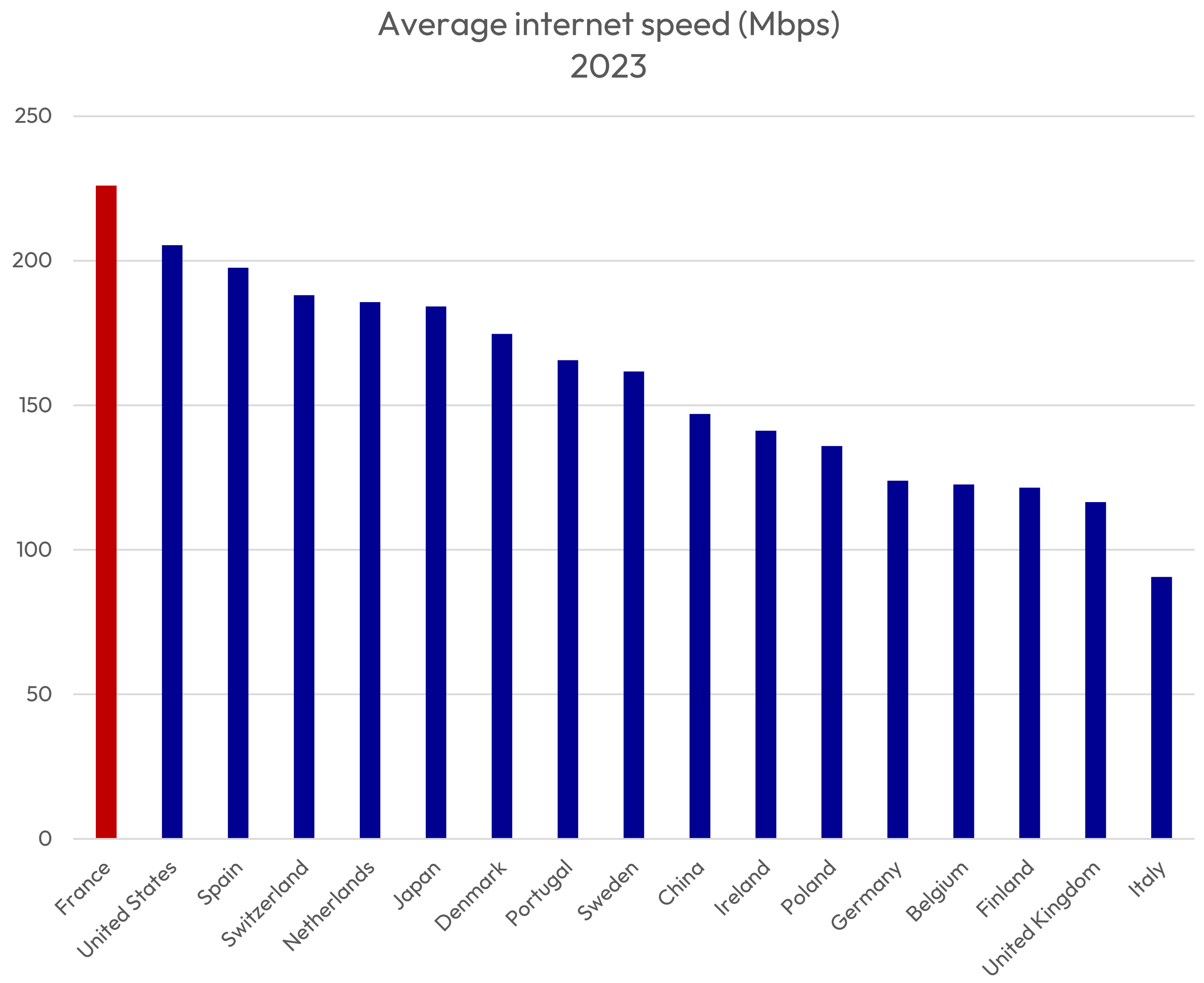
Proportion of GDP that is invested in telecommunications infrastructure.

153,000 people

Work in telecommunications in France, the leading country in the EU.

Source: IMD, 2024 (M-labs / cable.co.uk, Ookla, Bandwidth Place); Eurostat, 2025

Cutting-edge network infrastructure



#1

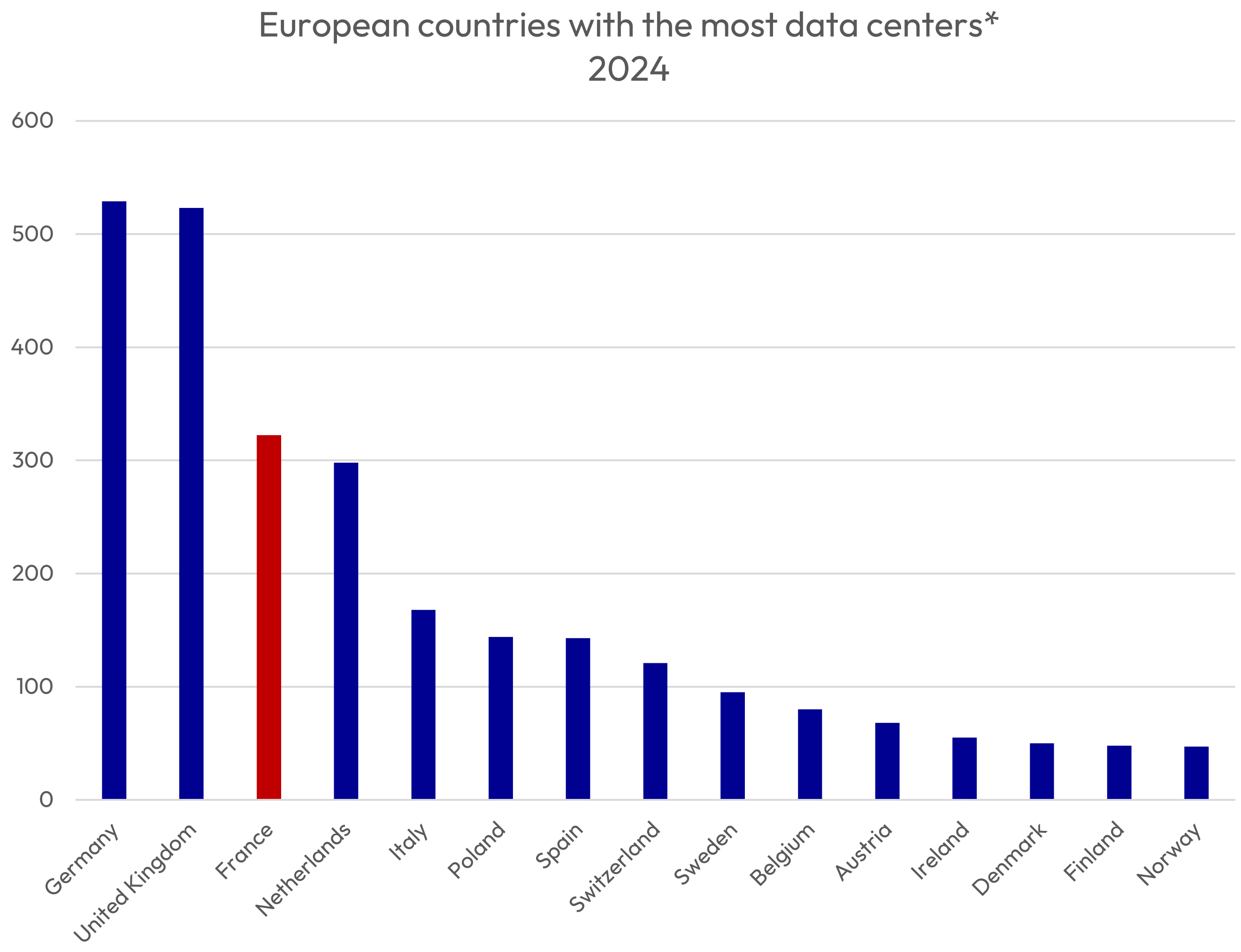
European network in terms of average internet speed and the second in the world after Iceland.

94%

The proportion of premises that are covered by very high-speed services on wired networks (fiber, VDSL2, cable), while 92% are potentially connectable to fiber.

Source: IMD, 2024 (M-labs / cable.co.uk, Ookla, Bandwidth Place); ARCEP, 2025

Data centers available for professionals



322

Data centers will be operational in France in 2024, the third most in Europe and the fifth most in the world.

€3.4 billion

Direct value-added generated by the data center sector in 2023, i.e. +9.3% between 2018 and 2023.

€109 billion

Private investment in artificial intelligence and data centers announced at the AI Summit in February 2025.

* Excluding private data centers

Source: Brightlio 2024; France datacenter/EY, 2024

06

Ecological transition and green growth

France on the path to energy transition

66 %

The share of nuclear energy in French electricity production in 2024

(IEA, 2025)

#1

Nuclear energy producer in Europe

(Connaissance des Énergies, 2024)

#1

European electricity exporter in 2023

(S&P Global Commodity Insights, 2023)

94 %

Electricity generated from decarbonized means of production in 2024

(IEA, 2025)

#4

Country in Europe for employment in the renewable energy sector in 2023

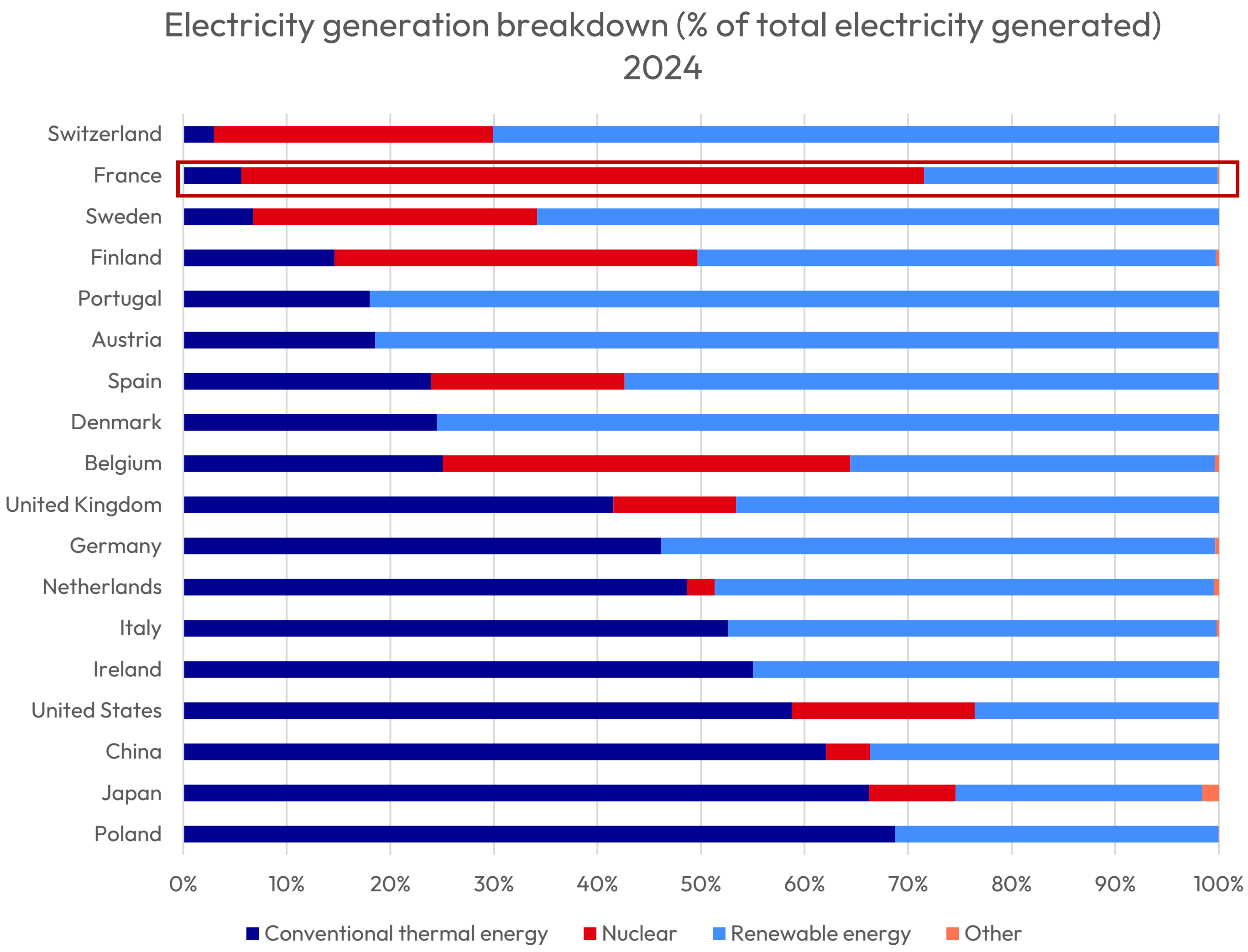
(IRENA, 2025)

#5

Country in terms of performance on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

(SDSN, 2025)

Nuclear power at the heart of French electricity generation



66%

The share of nuclear power in French electricity generation in 2024.

#1

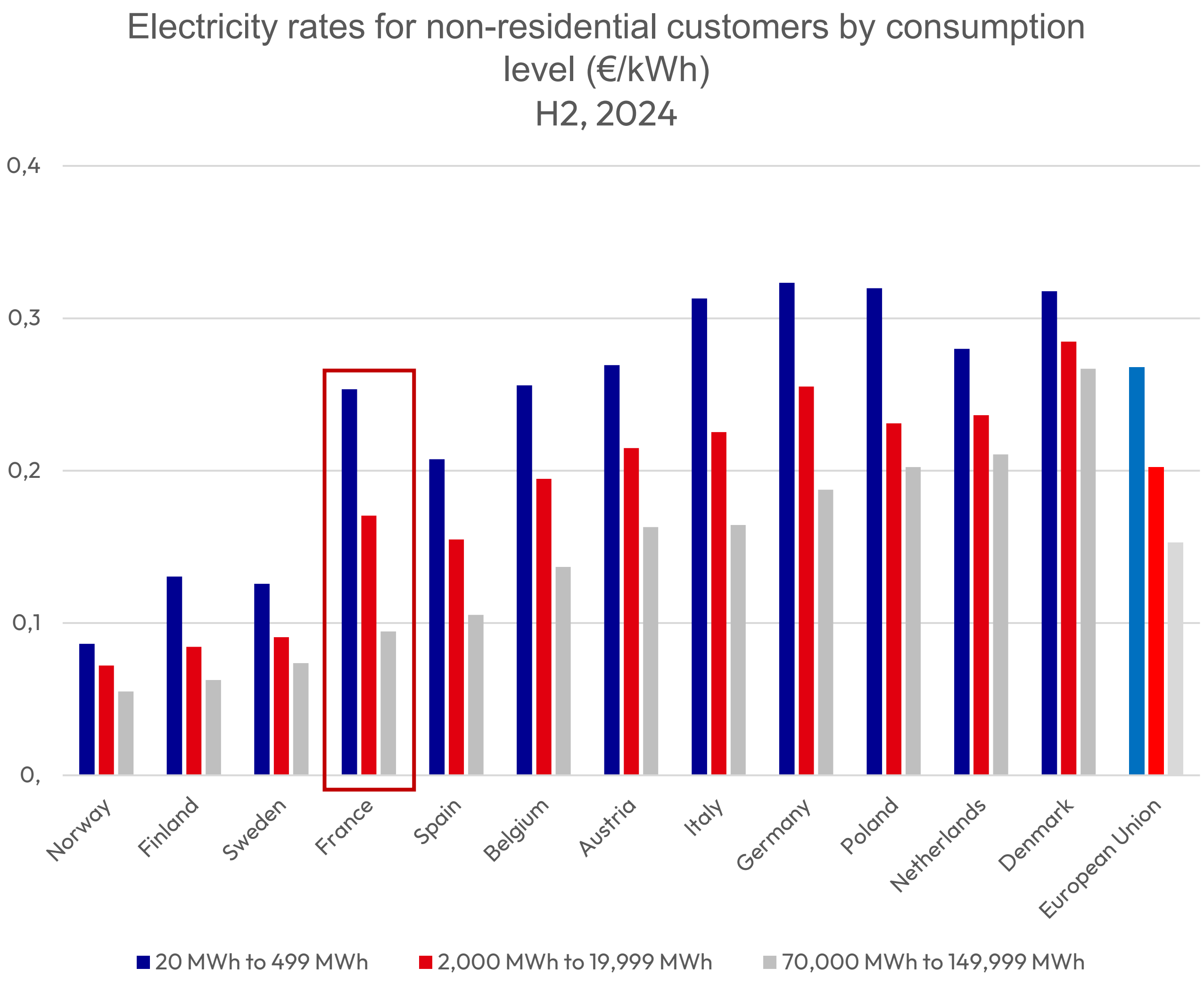
The leading country in Europe for nuclear power and ranked second in the world after the United States.

94%

The amount of electricity generated which came from decarbonized means of production in 2024.

Source: IEA, 2025

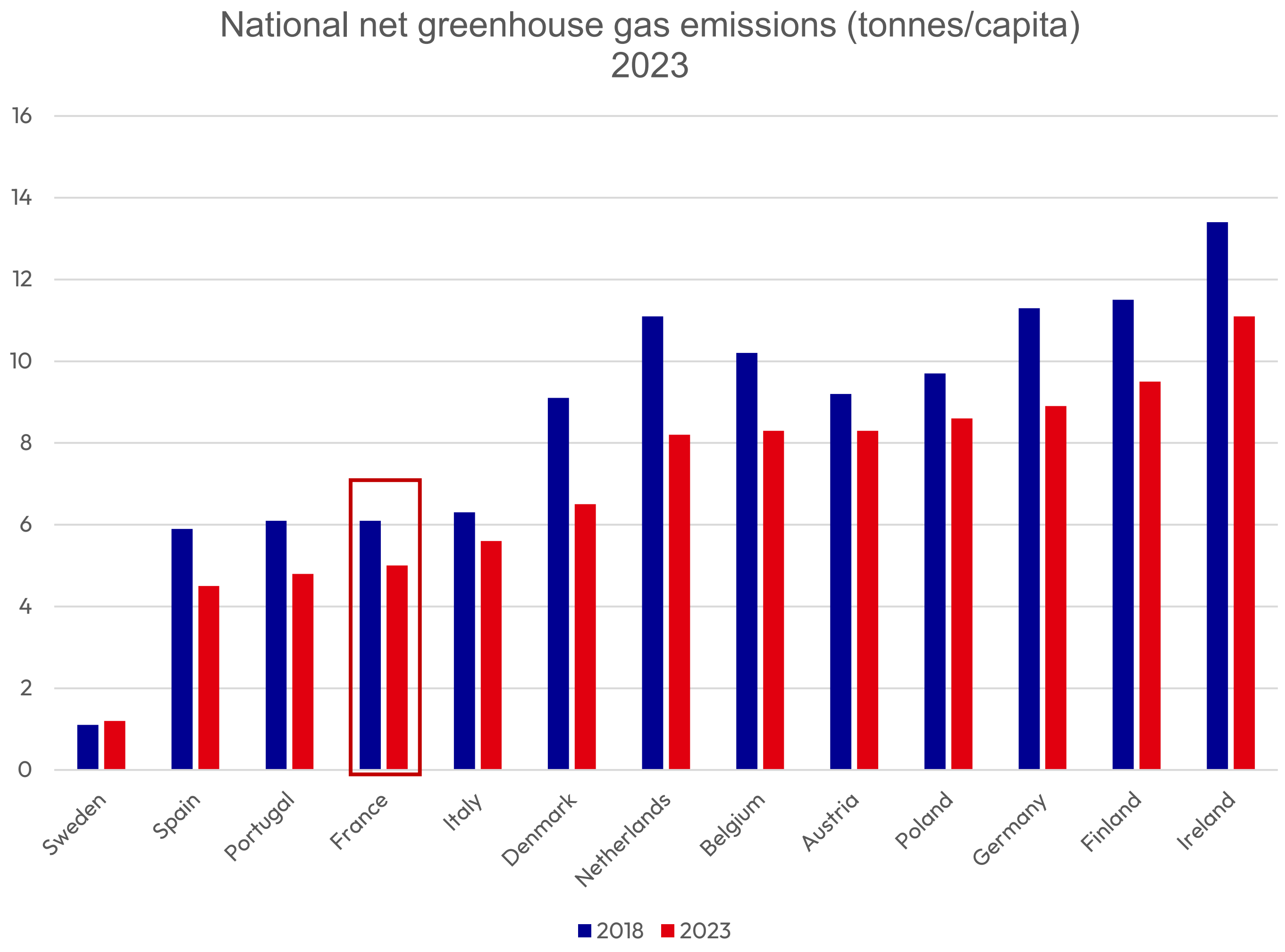
Competitive electricity rates for all consumers



In France, electricity rates for large consumers are lower than the average among European Union countries.

Source: Eurostat, 2025

Environmental costs kept under control



5

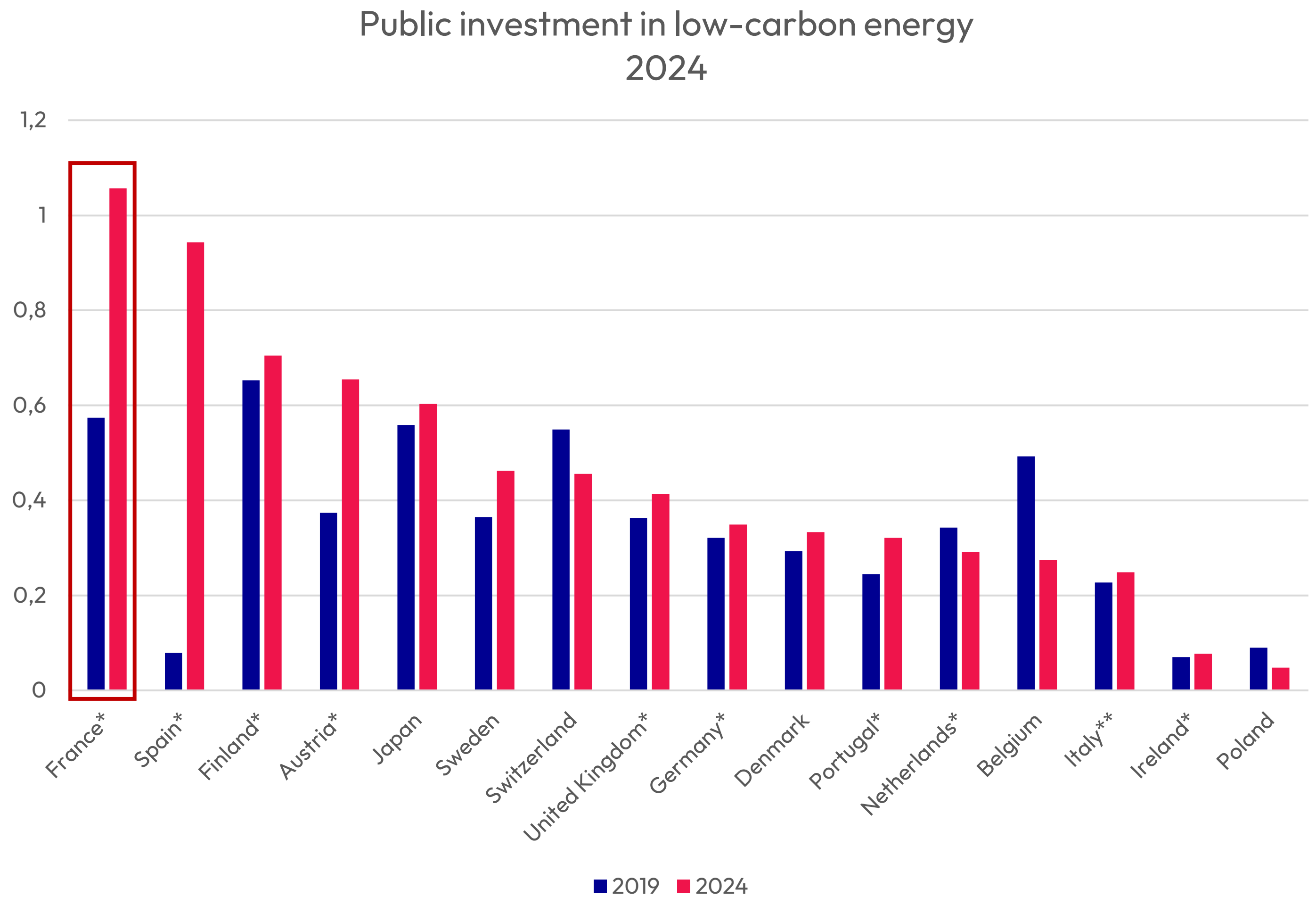
Number of tons of greenhouse gases emitted per capita in 2025 (in millions of PPP). One of the best environmental performances in Europe.

-18%

Change in the level of tonnes of greenhouse gases emitted per capita in France between 2018 and 2023.

Source: Eurostat, 2025

Investments in the decarbonization of its energy mix



1%

The amount of French GDP dedicated to public investment in low-carbon energy.

+0.5 percentage points

In GDP in the last five years.

126

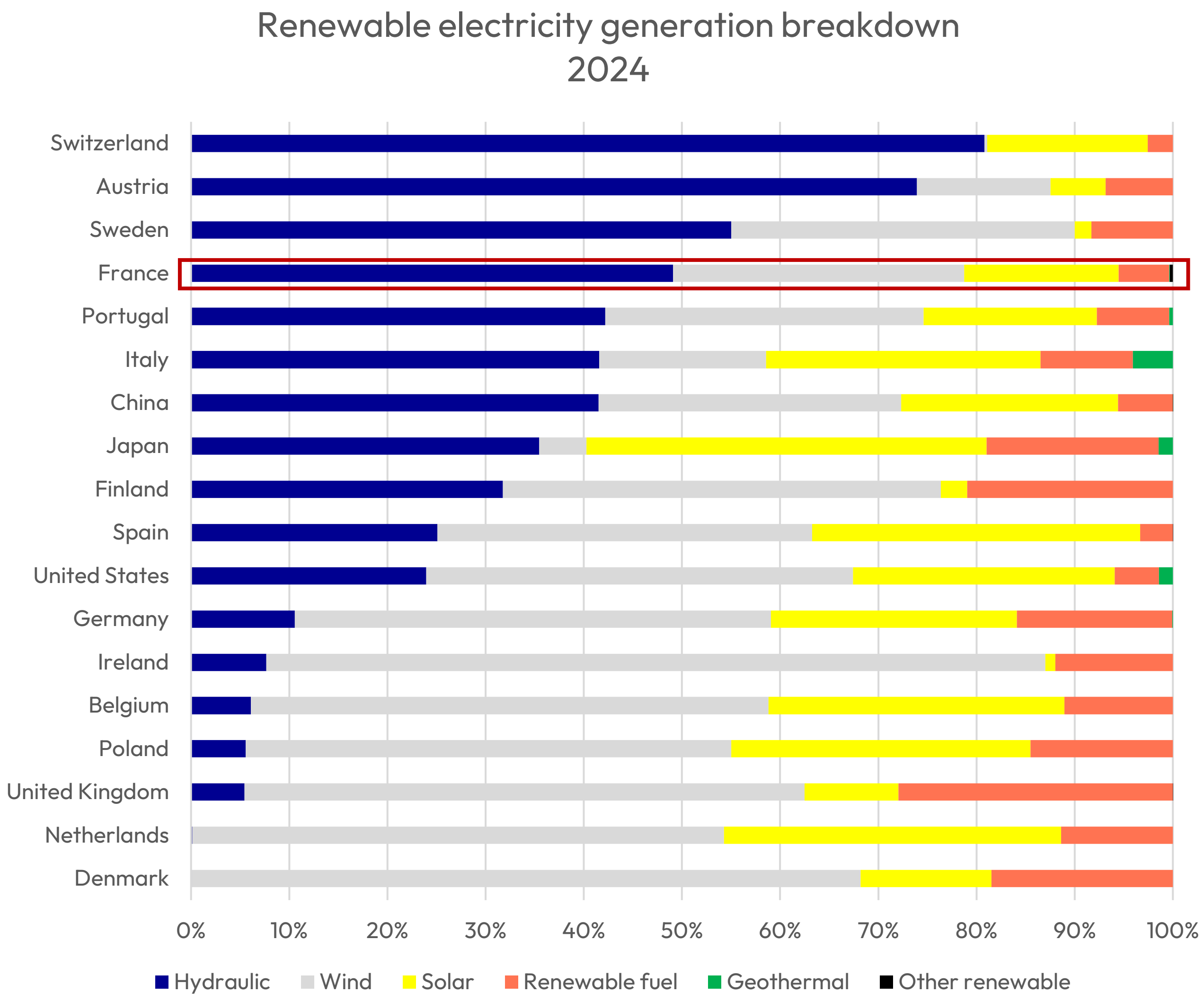
Hydrogen production projects dedicated to renewable energy or the energy transition have been identified in France since 2000, with the country ranked seventh in the world.

* 2023

** 2022

Source: IEA, 2025

Opportunities to seize in solar and wind power



49%

The share of hydraulic power in the generation of electricity from renewable sources in 2024, ahead of wind power (30%) and solar power (16%).

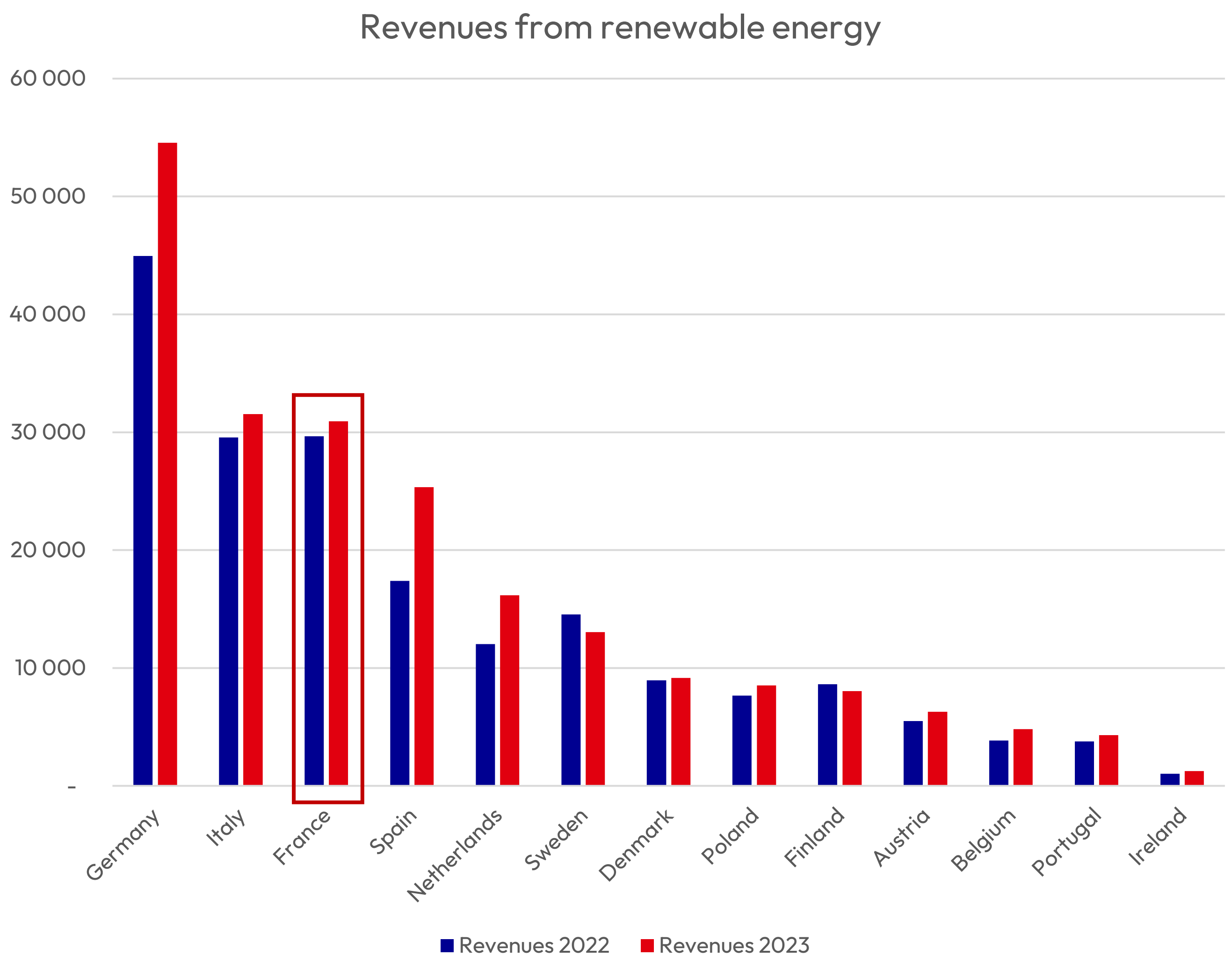
+13 percentage points

and +11 percentage points

The respective growth, in percentage points, of the share of wind and solar power in the renewable energy mix between 2012 and 2024.

Source: IEA, 2025

Green growth, providing opportunities



13%

The share in 2022 of revenues in the European Union from renewable energies generated in France.

#4

France’s position at European level in 2023, in terms of jobs in renewable energies (205,700 jobs).

Source: EurObserv’ER, 2025

Ecology at the heart of the 'France Green Nation' action plan

41 million fewer tonnes of CO_2

By 2030, thanks to the measures put forward by the Green Industry Act.

€54 billion

Investment as part of the "France 2030" plan, 50% of which will be dedicated to decarbonizing the economy.

50%

Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2032 for the 50 most polluting sites, accounting for 55% of industrial emissions.

€8 billion

Aid per year until 2050 for energy-efficient renovations.

€23 billion

Investment generated by the Green Industry Tax Credit.

Source: French government figures; SGPI; CAE; MEFSIN

Methodology and usage

- **Methodology:** The **“Key indicators of French economic attractiveness”** series aims to compare and evaluate the competitiveness of France in Europe and around the world, through a series of targeted thematic indicators.

- **Guide to use: Each slide offers the possibility of customizing the countries highlighted in the charts.** By selecting the chart and clicking on the sort tab on the right (see image), it’s possible to select the countries that you wish to see appear.

- **To go further** : A **table of macroeconomic indicators** is also available on Connect with other complementary data.