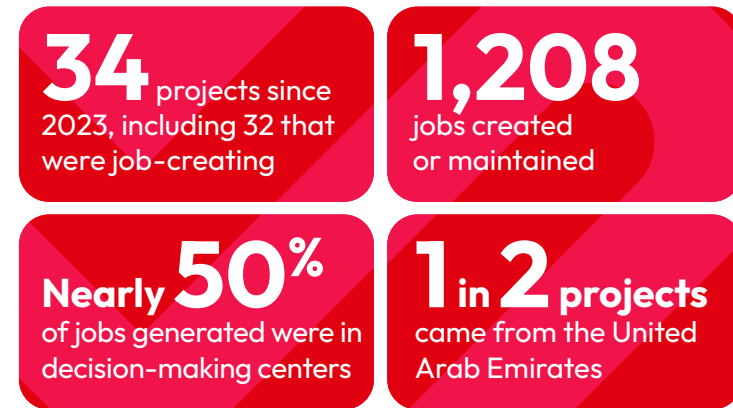


Middle East

Annual Report 2025

There were **34 new investment decisions in France between 2023 and 2025 by businesses from countries in the Middle East, including two decarbonization projects.**¹ The **32 other projects created or maintained 1,208 jobs nationwide.**² Most projects and jobs were in decision-making centers.



They chose France in 2025

MGX: MGX, based in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), along with Bpifrance, Mistral and Nvidia, have announced the development of an open artificial intelligence (AI) campus in the Ile de France/Paris region, combining data centers, high-performance computing, education and research. This campus, serving the entire AI ecosystem, aims for a capacity of 1.4 GW by 2032, with the first phase targeting operational status in 2028, after an investment of €8.5 billion. It is part of a framework agreement between France and the UAE, which anticipates up to €50 billion in investments.

Aramco Ventures (Saudi Arabia): Aramco's venture capital arm has announced that it intends to open an office in Paris (Ile de France region) in 2026. With over US\$7 billion in capital, Aramco Ventures plays a key role in investing in innovative startups and multi-sector technologies. The Paris office will provide access to the French and European innovation ecosystem, renowned for its strengths in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, industrial digitalization and quantum computing. Aramco's investment programs have already led to two acquisitions in France: Pasqal, specializing in quantum computing, and Prophesee, dedicated to neuromorphic vision.

Breakdown by source country

| Source country | Projects | Jobs |
|----------------------|----------|------|
| United Arab Emirates | 16 | 887 |
| Saudi Arabia | 7 | 112 |
| Lebanon | 7 | 111 |
| Qatar | 2 | 90 |
| Jordan | 1 | 5 |
| Kuwait | 1 | 3 |

Middle Eastern investments in France

Between 2023 and 2025, 34 new investment projects originating from the Middle East were recorded in France, of which 32 created or maintained 1,208 jobs in the country. The United Arab Emirates was the source of the largest number of investments, accounting for nearly half of the projects (47%) and nearly three-quarters of the jobs (73%).

Most projects (38%) and jobs (48%) involved decision-making centers, including eight projects that were first-time investments in Europe, illustrating France's attractiveness for Middle Eastern businesses seeking to establish a presence on the continent. Investments in production/manufacturing (21%) and consumer services (15%) followed.

Sector-wise, projects in France were primarily focused in the financial services/insurance and IT services sectors (18% each); the latter accounted for the most jobs, accounting for 46% of the jobs forecast by Middle Eastern businesses.

The vast majority of projects originating from the Middle East were located in Ile de France (Paris region) (59%), followed by Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (21%), then Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (6% each).

Top 5 business sectors by projects

| Business sector | Number | | Share | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------|----------|------|
| | Projects | Jobs | Projects | Jobs |
| IT services | 6 | 550 | 18% | 46% |
| Financial services and insurance | 6 | 98 | 18% | 8% |
| Transport, storage | 3 | 160 | 9% | 13% |
| Pharmaceuticals and biotechnologies | 3 | 75 | 9% | 6% |
| Medical equipment and devices | 3 | 69 | 9% | 6% |

Breakdown of projects by business activity

| Business activity | Number | | Share | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Projects | Jobs | Projects | Jobs |
| Decision-making centers | 13 | 583 | 38% | 48% |
| Logistics | 2 | 150 | 6% | 12% |
| Retail outlets | 2 | 25 | 6% | 2% |
| Production/Manufacturing | 7 | 172 | 21% | 14% |
| R&D, engineering, design | 3 | 59 | 9% | 5% |
| Business services | 2 | 60 | 6% | 5% |
| Consumer services | 5 | 159 | 15% | 13% |
| Total | 34 | 1,208 | 100% | 100% |

Number of projects and jobs by investment type

| Investment type | Projects | Jobs |
|------------------------------|----------|------|
| Creation | 20 | 762 |
| Expansion | 11 | 431 |
| Takeover | 1 | 15 |
| Safeguarding and partnership | 2 | - |

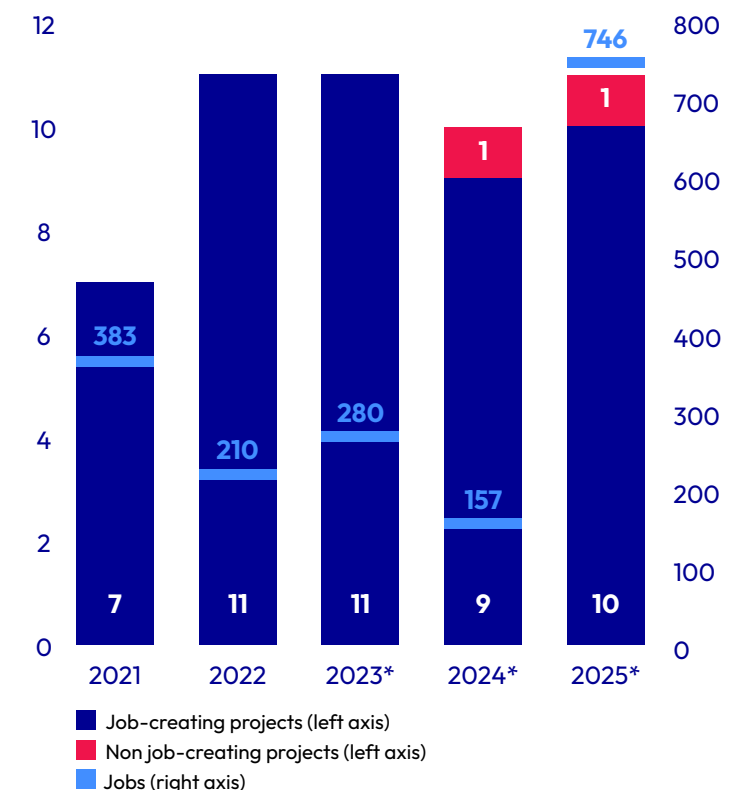
Top 3 business activities

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Decision-making centers | 13 projects |
| Manufacturing | 7 projects |
| Consumer services | 5 projects |

Top 3 host regions

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Ile de France (Paris region) | 20 projects |
| Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur | 7 projects |
| Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes | 2 projects |

Change in projects and jobs since 2021 (excluding retail outlets)



¹ Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

² In 2025, all jobs projected at the time of the investment decision are counted, not just those expected within three years. Furthermore, since 2025, business openings have been counted at the municipal level, rather than the level of *départements*. (See the analysis note in the [Annual Report 2025: Foreign Investment in France](#).)

* Recording of safeguarding and technology partnership projects