

*Press kit*

THURSDAY APRIL 4TH

# Annual Report

—  —  
2018

# Foreign investment in France

# KEY FINDINGS

Amid a global context of commercial tensions and a retreat into protectionism, France confirmed its attractiveness and openness in the world.

INNOVATION  
**ENTREPRENEURSHIP**  
 INDUSTRY **UNITED STATES**  
**GROWTH** EMPLOYMENT  
 RESEARCH  
 RESTORING HOPE  
**DRIVE** ATTRACTIVENESS  
 STARTUPS **TALENT**  
 LOGISTICS **SERVICES**  
 HEADQUARTERS  
**CREATION**  
 NEW OPENINGS

France  
**IN 2018**

**Drive for reform**

◆

**Political desire** to promote the country's key strengths through '**Choose France**'

◆

**Renewed confidence** in France from **international investors**

◆

**Solid rebound in the country's attractiveness** resulting in a record number of **investment decisions**

**1323** **INVESTMENT DECISIONS IN 2018,** compared with 1,298 decisions in 2017, equating to 25 new foreign investment decisions made in France every week on average.

**30 302** **JOBS CREATED OR MAINTAINED,** versus 33,489 in 2017, where the maximum level in 10 years was obtained.

**420** **NEW COMPANIES** new companies decided to expand their business by investing in France in 2018, making up 30% of all investment projects recorded in the Annual Report.

**56%** **OF INVESTMENTS WERE CREATIONS** (741 projects generating 11,447 jobs), up +14% from 2017.

**38%** **OF INVESTMENTS WERE EXPANSIONS** of existing sites (500 projects generating 15,588 jobs), displaying the confidence of investors, up +22% from 2017.

**THE UNITED STATES REMAINED IN #1 PLACE** among source countries of foreign investment in France, with 18% of projects, followed by Germany (14%) and the United Kingdom (9%).

**EUROPE IS THE LEADING SOURCE REGION,** with 61% of projects recorded in the Annual Report.

# 1. 2018 RESULTS UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

## 2018, THE FRENCH NATION'S RENEWED ATTRACTIVENESS

- **1 323** investment decisions were recorded in 2018, up **2%** from 2017 (1,298), creating or maintaining 30,302 jobs. On average, **25 investment decisions** were made in France every week in 2018.
- **The number of jobs created and maintained fell to 30,302 in 2018**, versus 33,489 in 2017, due to the fall in the number of jobs safeguarded (- 4,000 jobs), following a diminution in takeovers of ailing sites (-25%).
- On the other hand, **creations were up 14% in 2018 at 741 decisions**, compared with 651 in 2017. This rise

reflects the French nation's renewed attractiveness.

- **Expansions** are a sign of the renewed confidence that foreign-owned subsidiaries already set up in France have in the country as an investment location: 500 expansion projects created 15,588 jobs in 2018 (or 50% of all jobs created by foreign investors), versus 551 projects and 12,855 jobs in 2017.

## BREAKDOWN OF PROJECTS BY BUSINESS ACTIVITY (2018)

INVESTMENT TYPE	PROJECTS		JOBS		PROJECTS		JOBS	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	SHARE	CHANGE	SHARE	CHANGE
Creation	651	741	12 639	11 447	56%	14%	38%	-9%
Expansion	551	500	12 840	15 588	38%	-9%	51%	21%
Expansion following buyout	33	32	844	474	2%	-3%	2%	-44%
Takeover	56	42	6 846	2 520	3%	-25%	8%	-63%
Expansion following buyout	7	8	305	273	1%	14%	1%	-10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 297</b>	<b>1 323</b>	<b>33 474</b>	<b>30 302</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-9%</b>

- **Foreign multinationals have a significant presence in French industry:** 320 projects with 11,295 jobs created or maintained in production/manufacturing in 2018, or 24% of all foreign investments in France and 37% of total employment. **In 2017**, investments in industrial activities amounted to 343 decisions and 16,123 jobs. In 2018 there was a small decline in the number of manufacturing projects in the automotive and metals/metalworking sectors, due to a fall in the number of takeovers of ailing industrial sites.
- **Investment decisions in R&D, engineering and design activities** are growing constantly at 9% per year on average since 2014. In 2018, 129 investment decisions (versus 125 in 2017) were recorded, generating 2,793 jobs (versus 2,282 in 2017). Note that 58% of R&D investments corresponded to setting up new centers and 38% to expanding existing activities. The leading countries investing in research and development activities in France are the United States (26%), Italy (8%), Germany (8%) and Canada (7%).

## BREAKDOWN OF PROJECTS BY BUSINESS ACTIVITY (2018)

BUSINESS ACTIVITIES	PROJECTS		JOBS		PROJECTS		JOBS	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	SHARE	CHANGE	SHARE	CHANGE
Decision-making centers	360	373	4,165	4,183	28%	4%	14%	0%
<i>First-time investments in Europe</i>	92	88	735	802	7%	-4%	3%	9%
<i>First-time investments in France</i>	202	228	2,374	2,519	17%	13%	8%	6%
<i>Global / European headquarters</i>	29	23	345	271	2%	-21%	1%	-21%
<i>French headquarters</i>	37	34	711	591	3%	-8%	2%	-17%
Logistics	61	41	3,067	2,596	3%	-33%	9%	-15%
Retail outlets	126	118	1,839	1,645	9%	-6%	5%	-11%
Production / Manufacturing	343	320	16,213	11,295	24%	-7%	37%	-30%
R&D, engineering, design	125	129	2,282	2,793	10%	3%	9%	22%
<i>R&amp;D</i>	83	100	1,461	2,231	8%	20%	7%	53%
<i>Engineering</i>	42	29	821	562	2%	-31%	2%	-32%
Business services	251	220	4,893	5,001	17%	-12%	17%	2%
Consumer services	31	122	1,015	2,789	9%	294%	9%	175%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>33,474</b>	<b>30,302</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-9%</b>

**78%** of foreign businesses set up in France draw a positive conclusion of their investment in the country.

### EUROPEAN INVESTMENTS UP IN 2018

- **European investments continued to hold the upper hand:** 61% of job-creating foreign investments in France originated in other European countries, versus 58% in 2017.
- **The leading source countries of businesses investing in France in 2018** were the United States (18%, the same level as in 2017), Germany (14%), and the United Kingdom (9%).
- **The United Kingdom and Switzerland** showed the largest growth in 2018, with Swiss investment growing 22% in 2018, a trend which saw investment decisions in production/manufacturing activities grow by 57%.
- **The United Kingdom** increased its investments by 33%, with a strong contribution from the consulting/engineering, software/IT services and financial services sectors.
- **American firms stood out for their commitment to research and development, accounting for more than one-quarter of all inward R&D investments** and 21% of jobs generated in this area. American investments were also responsible for one-quarter of all foreign investment in logistics, and more than half (58%) of the jobs generated.
- **German firms were among the main contributors to logistics operations,** providing 29% of all foreign investment decisions in this area. They were also responsible for 15% of projects in industrial activities.

## LEADING SOURCE COUNTRIES FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN FRANCE (2018)

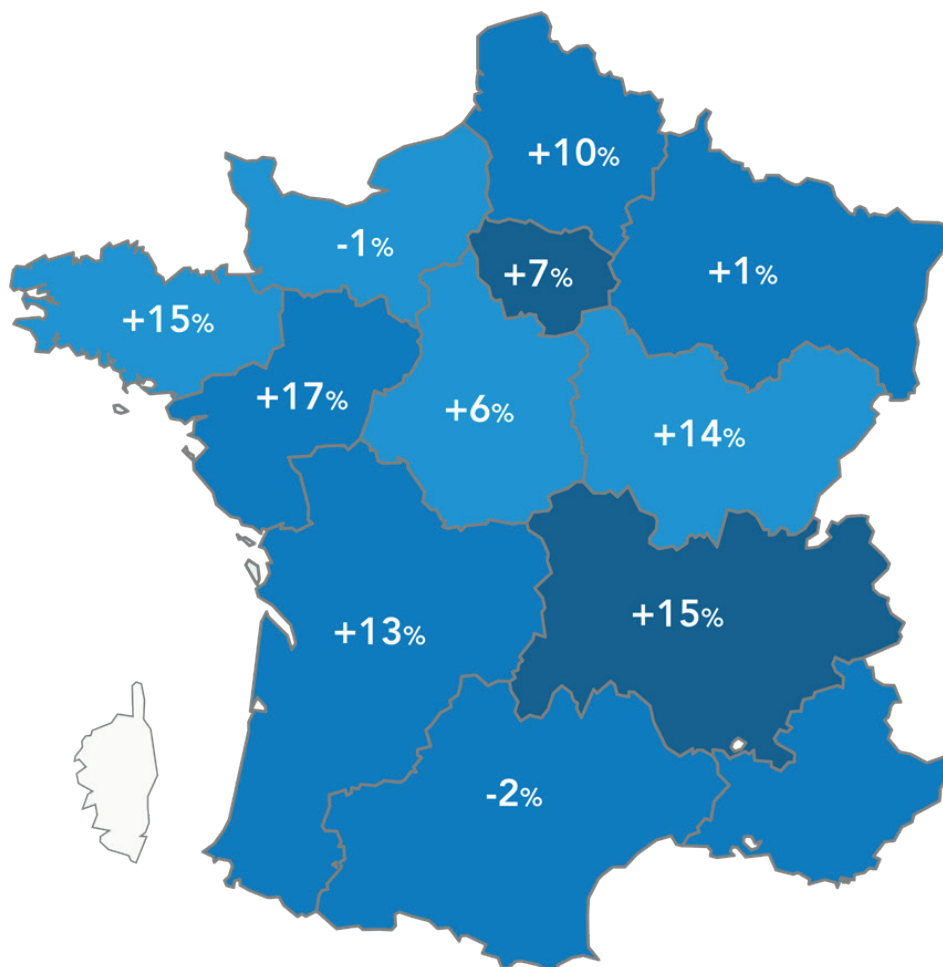
COUNTRY	PROJECTS		JOBS		PROJECTS		JOBS	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	SHARE	CHANGE	SHARE	CHANGE
United States	230	232	7,047	6,274	18%	1%	21%	-11%
Germany	208	180	5,789	3,618	14%	-13%	12%	-38%
United Kingdom	89	118	2,527	2,448	9%	33%	8%	-3%
Netherlands	53	104	1,497	1,431	8%	96%	5%	-4%
Italy	96	94	1,504	1,502	7%	-2%	5%	0%
Switzerland	59	72	1,503	3,359	5%	22%	11%	123%
Belgium	62	65	1,827	1,090	5%	5%	4%	-40%
China	65	57	2,234	1,078	4%	-12%	4%	-52%
<i>including Hong Kong</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>-64%</i>	<i>0%</i>	<i>-87%</i>
Japan	65	53	1,926	1,195	4%	-18%	4%	-38%
Canada	56	48	1,616	1,544	4%	-14%	5%	-4%
Spain	45	45	811	1,052	3%	0%	3%	30%
Sweden	44	31	825	678	2%	-30%	2%	-18%
India	19	17	284	141	1%	-11%	0%	-50%
Austria	20	16	508	295	1%	-20%	1%	-42%
Denmark	15	16	224	214	1%	7%	1%	-4%
Luxembourg	17	15	510	354	1%	-12%	1%	-31%
Ireland	17	13	279	188	1%	-24%	1%	-33%
South Korea	4	13	63	163	1%	225%	1%	159%
Israel	4	11	26	174	1%	175%	1%	569%
Brazil	14	8	79	63	1%	-43%	0%	-20%
Portugal	8	8	118	266	1%	0%	1%	125%
Morocco	6	8	44	145	1%	33%	0%	230%
Tunisia	5	8	98	113	1%	60%	0%	15%
Australia	7	7	62	85	1%	0%	0%	37%
Taiwan	3	7	11	64	1%	133%	0%	482%
Finland	10	6	284	560	0%	-40%	2%	97%
Turkey	7	6	78	47	0%	-14%	0%	-40%
Norway	5	6	93	180	0%	20%	1%	94%
Ivory Coast	4	5	50	45	0%	25%	0%	-10%
Singapore	8	4	122	55	0%	-50%	0%	-55%
<i>Other</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>1,151</i>	<i>1,841</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>60%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,297</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>33,489</b>	<b>30,302</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-10%</b>

Source: Business France, Annual Report

## THE DIVERSITY OF FRANCE'S REGIONS IS A FACTOR IN THEIR ATTRACTIVENESS TO INVESTORS

- **The geographical breakdown of projects reflects the attractions of major cities.** Amid the competition in Europe to attract foreign investment, the thriving economies of France's regions and cities are often a decisive factor. **By project numbers, Ile de France (Paris region), Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Hauts de France, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Occitanie and Grand Est together attracted three-quarters of all investment decisions.** The process whereby economic activity and investment projects tend to be focused in cities is not one unique to France. Indeed, in the United Kingdom, the London region, which accounts alone for nearly one-quarter of British GDP, received more than one-third of investment projects (38%) in 2017, according to data from EY.
- Nevertheless, investment decisions are not concentrated in major cities, and indeed 40% of them are to be found in towns with fewer than 200,000 inhabitants.
- **The economic attractiveness of the Ile de France / Paris region and France's other major cities are not to the detriment of other French regions.** When expressed as a share of regional GDP, the Occitanie and Grand Est regions welcome a much higher number of foreign investment projects than Ile de France (Paris region).

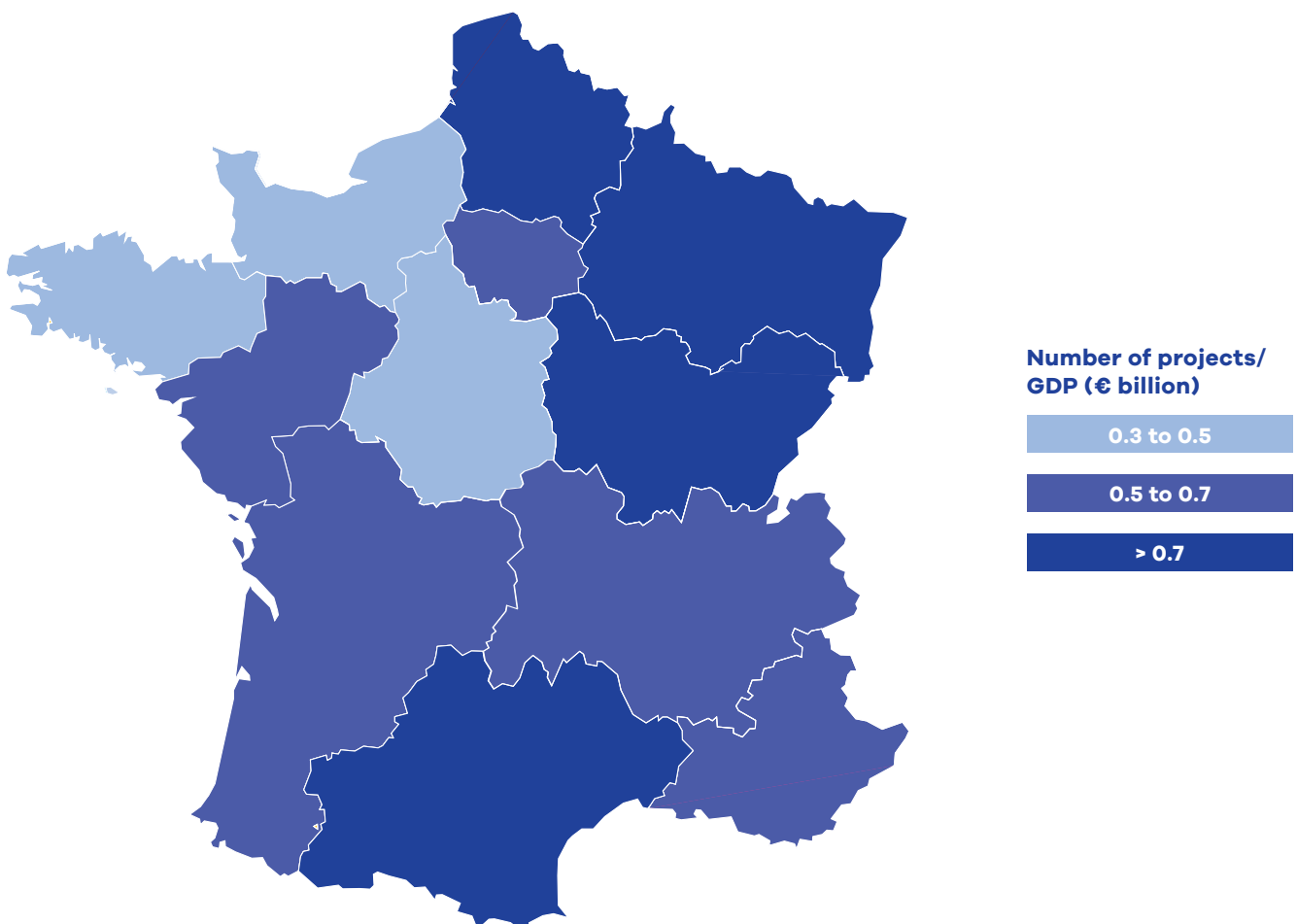
### REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF INVESTMENTS IN 2018 AND CHANGE SINCE 2014



## THE DIVERSITY OF FRANCE'S REGIONS IS A FACTOR IN THEIR ATTRACTIVENESS TO INVESTORS

- The leading host regions by jobs created or maintained were Ile de France (Paris region) (23% of all jobs nationwide), Hauts de France (15%), Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (13%), Occitanie (10%) and Grand Est (also 10%).
- To gauge the extent to which foreign subsidiaries have contributed to jobs and economic activity in France's regions, the number of jobs created or maintained by new foreign investments can be measured as a proportion of those in paid employment in each region. **As such, in the Grand Est region, 2.5 jobs were created in 2018 by foreign investments per 1,000 people employed in the region, which is higher than the nationwide average of 1.1.** The Centre-Val de Loire (1.6), Occitanie (1.2), Pays de la Loire (1.2) and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (1.2) regions all stood out for having a ratio of jobs created or maintained higher than the national average.

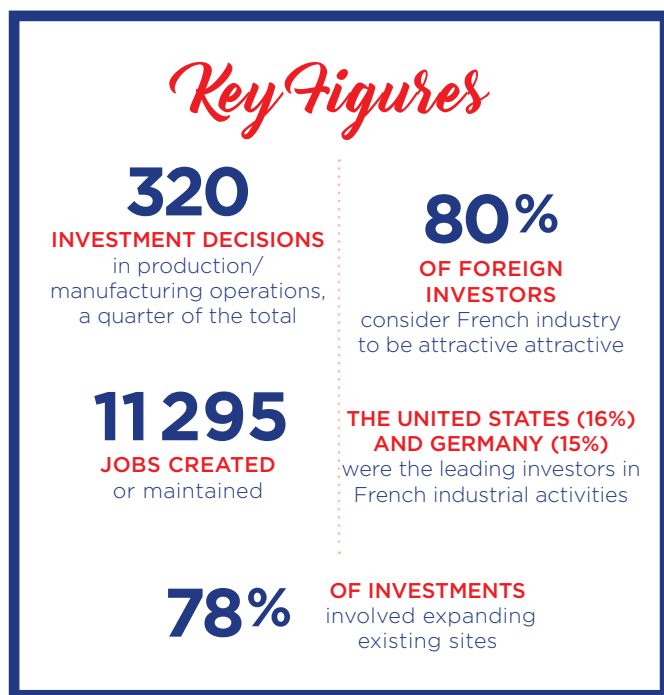
### INTENSITY OF INVESTMENT BY REGION (2018)



Note: The geographical representation of investment projects by region, weighted by market size (regional GDP).

Source: Business France

## 2. FRANCE REMAINS A PREFERRED DESTINATION FOR MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS



Investments in production/manufacturing operations continue to underpin France's attractiveness as an investment location. Despite industry having declined as a share of French GDP, France continues to boast key advantages in manufacturing sectors, including well established supply chains serving major clients, sought-after expertise – particularly in engineering – and effective transport infrastructure.

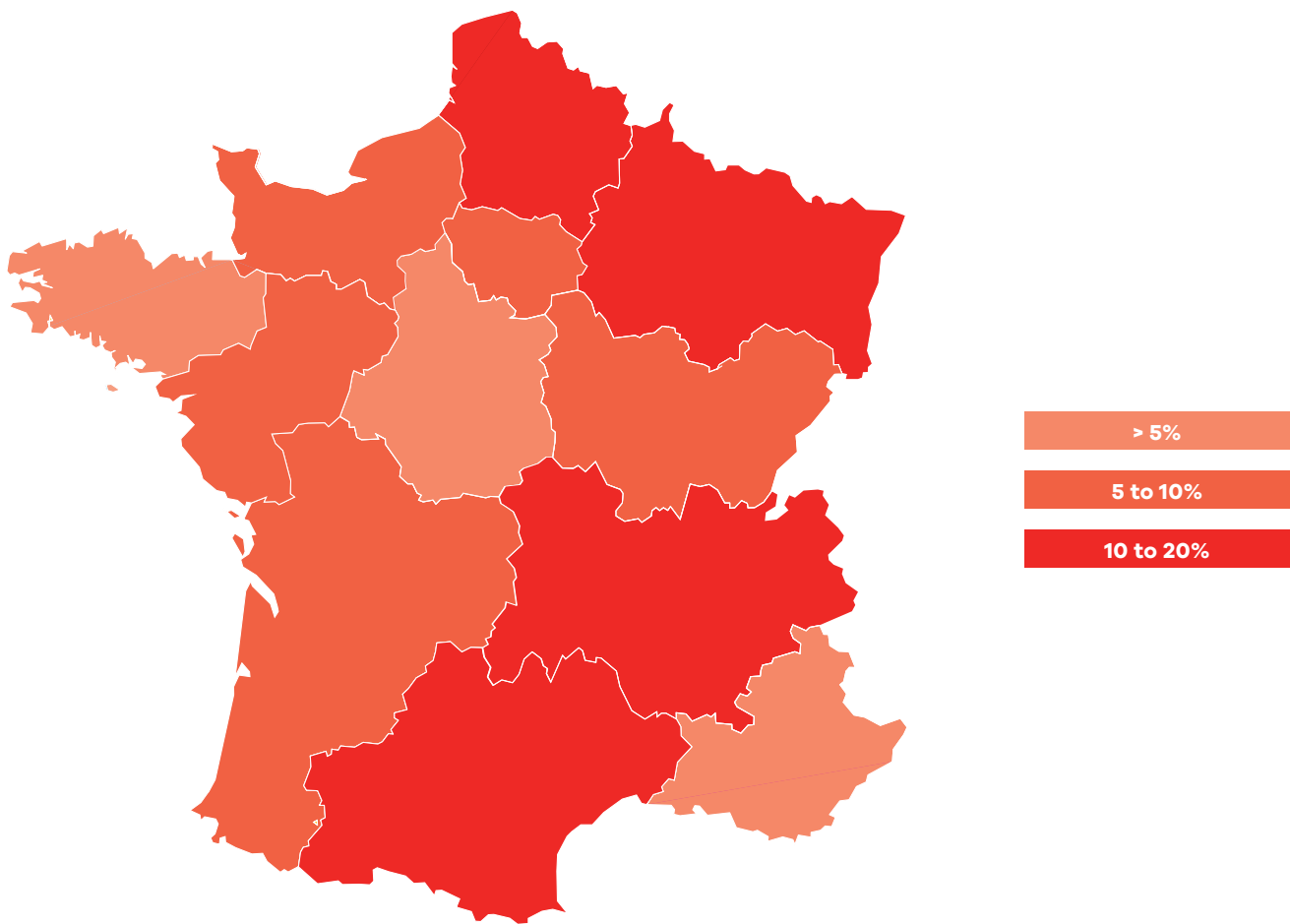
- **Investments in production/manufacturing activities** account for one-quarter of all investments.
- **Production/manufacturing is the leading contributor to the Annual Report in terms of jobs**, with 11,295 jobs created or maintained in 2018, or 37% of total employment.
- **Production/manufacturing investments involved expanding existing production facilities in 78% of cases**, and a further 12% involved new sites. As such, there were 249 expansions of industrial sites in 2018,

and 37 new industrial plants created.

- **The United States was France's leading inward investor in this area:** with 51 projects, it was responsible for 16% of investments and 12% of the jobs they generated. **Germany was the next leading contributor**, responsible for 15% of investment decisions and 15% of jobs. Also of note was the sharp increase in Swiss investment (+63%): **moves to develop production sites belonging to Swiss companies already doing business in France, such as ST Microelectronics, Sophia Genetics Headquarters and Novartis** reflect the confidence that firms such as these have in France's industrial base.
- **Industrial activities** are present throughout France. Hauts de France, Grand Est, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Occitanie are among the leading French regions for new or extended industrial sites delivered by foreign investors in 2018. Production/manufacturing investments increased sharply in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (+12%), Centre-Val de Loire (+90%), and Normandie (+58%) regions.
- New sites and extended production facilities were mainly located in towns and cities with fewer than 200,000 inhabitants.



**GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES (2014-2018)**



Source: Business France

## THEY CHOSE FRANCE IN 2018 FOR MANUFACTURING INVESTMENTS

### US COMPANY POSTPROCESS TECHNOLOGIES CHOOSES SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS FOR ITS FIRST SITE IN EUROPE

PostProcess Technologies is an American company specializing in the post-processing of industrial parts and additive manufacturing, which enables automated production of ready-to-use 3D parts. The Sophia Antipolis technology park, located near Nice in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region, was the preferred location for the company's first site in mainland Europe.

### GARNICA OPENS A NEW PRODUCTION FACILITY IN GRAND EST

Spanish company Garnica, which specializes in the manufacture of plywood panels, decided to open a new 40,000-sq. m. factory near Troyes in the Grand Est region. There will be an initial investment of €40 million, with possible expansion projects in the coming years.

### SWEDISH CAR MANUFACTURER VOLVO EXPANDS ITS NORMANDY SITE

The Swedish company decided to locate the production and marketing of its 100% electric vehicles at its Blainville-sur-Orne site in Normandy, where it has invested in an electric vehicles workshop.

### GERMAN COMPANY MERCK CONTINUES TO GROW IN FRANCE

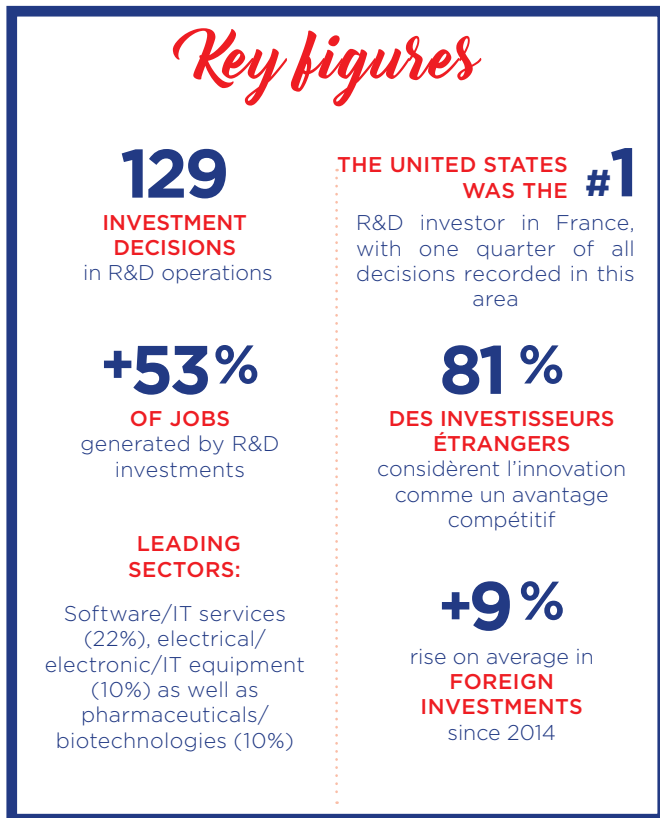
Millipore, which specializes in filtration, purification and microbiological control for the pharmaceutical industry, is based near Strasbourg (Grand Est region). In 2010, Millipore was acquired by German company Merck, which has since pursued an ambitious development policy for the site. In 2018 it announced plans to transfer a cassette production line from its overcrowded Eppenheim site in Germany. This €24 million investment in buildings and equipment will create 130 jobs.

### GERMAN COMPANY KNAUF INSULATION OPENS NEW ROCK WOOL PRODUCTION SITE IN GRAND EST

This German company has chosen Illange in the Grand Est region for its new rock wool production site.

Knauf Insulation will invest €110 million in its new premises, which will extend over 13 hectares, creating 120 jobs on permanent contracts and three to four times as many indirect and induced jobs. The new plant is expected to reach a capacity of 110,000 tonnes of materials, mainly for the French and German markets.

## 3. INNOVATION A DRIVING FORCE BEHIND FRANCE'S ATTRACTIVENESS AS AN INVESTMENT LOCATION



Access industries, French operator Orange, and the private equity fund LBO France.

- Last November, BlaBlaCar raised €101 million as part of a deal which saw SNCF become one of its shareholders.
- Doctolib also benefited from this positive trend by becoming France's fifth unicorn after raising €150 million on March 19, 2019.
- In 2018, investments in R&D grew by 3% to reach 129 investment decisions, accounting for 10% of all investment decisions.
- Research and development activity is responsible for 9% of jobs created in France in 2018. Jobs generated by creations (representing 36% of jobs) and expansions (57% of jobs) of R&D centers grew by 53%.
- Investments in R&D operations involved setting up new R&D and engineering centers (58%) or expanding existing operations (38%).
- Global tech giants have been stepping up their presence in France, confirming how attractive the country is for the digital sector. American network equipment manufacturer Cisco plans to invest €60 million in

Fablabs and incubators are cropping up everywhere in France, encouraging the growth of startups, who can benefit from supervision, tailor-made support and a network of professionals.

**Fundraising in France experienced new growth in 2018, with a 41% increase in the amounts raised,** reaching €3.6 billion, compared with €2.5 billion in 2017. France is now second in Europe in terms of operations after the United Kingdom (703 transactions), and third for the amounts raised after the United Kingdom (€7.4 billion) and Germany (€4.4 billion). (EY)

**The top three transactions in 2018 were as follows:**

- Created in 2013 in Paris, Voodoo, which specializes in the distribution, production and development of mobile video games, raised €169 million last May from Goldman Sachs' private equity fund West Street Capital Partners VII.
- French online music platform Deezer raised €160 million last August from the Saudi sovereign wealth fund KHC,

**73% OF SENIOR EXECUTIVES**

abroad see France as a startup nation and **85%** consider that the French ecosystem encourages innovation.



research and innovation, mainly in the Ile de France / Paris region. Google plans to open a new basic research center dedicated to artificial intelligence in Paris, in partnership with the French scientific community. The center's research programs will focus on health, science, art and the environment. Microsoft is committed to furthering artificial intelligence and has founded the École IA, which is spread across two sites, one in Ile de France / Paris region and another in Occitanie where, in collaboration with French partners, it trains experts in artificial intelligence. The American company has also joined forces with Schneider Electric to co-found the AI Factory at Station F in Paris for the development of artificial intelligence solutions in the energy sector.

## THEY CHOSE FRANCE IN 2018 FOR R&D INVESTMENTS

### UBER CHOOSES PARIS FOR ITS FIRST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT HUB OUTSIDE OF NORTH AMERICA

Uber has created the Advanced Technology Center Paris (ATCP), its first research and development center outside of North America. ATCP will initially focus on artificial intelligence and airspace management systems to support large-scale urban aviation, with research into airspace management, battery life, real-time communication networks, energy storage, charging systems, and improved software security. To meet future energy demands, ATCP will also work with European urban planners and regulators to model electric transport infrastructure needs.

Uber will invest €20 million over the next five years to develop new technologies to shape the future of urban mobility.

### GERMAN COMPANY SAP CHOOSES PARIS FOR ITS FIRST INCUBATOR OUTSIDE OF GERMANY

German software giant SAP announced a €2 billion investment plan for innovation in France over the next five years.

The German company opened an incubator - its second in Europe after Berlin - in October 2018 in Paris's ninth arrondissement to support the growth of many startups. Over the next five years, SAP plans to invest €150 million per year in research and development, with all €750 million going to the three SAP research centers in France. As part

of its expansion in France, SAP has also acquired French startup Recast.AI, which specializes in chatbots.

### BRITISH STARTUP OPEN COSMOS CREATES AN R&D CENTER IN PARIS

Open Cosmos is a British startup specializing in the production of space missions for the earth observation, telecommunications, and civil and military surveillance markets. After establishing an initial commercial presence in France in 2017, Open Cosmos decided in 2018 to create a R&D center specializing in algorithmics. The startup has chosen Centrale Supélec's incubator in Paris to set up its research program, whose partners include Thales Alenia and CNES. The project will create around 10 jobs.

### US PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY ALLERGAN INVESTS €48 MILLION IN ITS PRINGY-ANNECY PRODUCTION FACILITY IN AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES

The US pharmaceutical group Allergan, a specialist in wrinkle-filling products employing more than 500 people in France, announced in January 2018 an investment of €48 million at its Pringy-Annecy site. This investment is expected to increase the production capacity of the site by 40%, which currently produces 12 million hyaluronic gel syringes per year. The site now employs more than 300 people, including some 40 researchers, and generates revenues of around €400 million.

## 4. SELECTED INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN 2018 BY SOURCE COUNTRY



SOUTH AFRICA

### NASPERS LIMITED

Digital platform security specialist Irdeto France decided to expand its French office in 2018. A subsidiary of the South African group Naspers, Irdeto France is set to move to new premises in Ile de France (Paris region), enabling the company to hire 15 new people.

### ASPEN HOLDINGS

South African pharmaceutical company Aspen is expanding its Notre-Dame-de-Bondeville production facility in Normandie with an investment of €100 million in a new production line for sterile injectable drugs. This investment will lead to around a hundred new jobs over the next three years.



GERMANY

### CONTINENTAL

With 244,000 employees and annual revenues of €44 billion, Continental AG is one of the world's leading automotive suppliers. In 2018, the group recruited for a number of roles at its strategic sites, including Toulouse (Occitanie). A total of 161 new jobs were created at this site, the majority in the manufacturing and R&D departments.

### SAUELS FRISCHE WURST GMBH

A family business specializing in the breeding of antibiotic-free pigs, Sauels has experienced strong growth in France and in 2018 created a joint venture with a company specializing in pork meat processing. The two firms will build a 5,000-6,000-sq. m. production plant in Brive-la-Gaillarde (Nouvelle Aquitaine), creating 120 jobs.

### SAP

German software giant SAP announced a €2 billion investment plan for innovation in France over the next five years. The German company opened an incubator in October 2018 in Paris (Ile de France) and plans to invest €150 million per year in research and development over the next five years.

### KNAUF GIPS KG

Knauf invested €110 million in a new rock wool production site in Illange (Grand Est region). The new plant is set to be fully operational by autumn 2019, creating 120 jobs.



AUSTRALIA

### POLYGLOT

Specializing in HR consulting, business setup, payroll management and translation, Polyglot Group has undergone rapid and strong commercial development. It started off in Australia, where it now has five offices, before going international. Polyglot opened its French site in Paris in March 2018 to support French companies, creating around a dozen jobs.

### NUFARM

This Australian manufacturer of agrochemicals is expanding its Gaillon site in Normandie by recruiting dozens of people for manufacturing roles, alongside the 80 existing positions.



AUSTRIA

### WINDKRAFT SIMONSFLED

This Austrian firm, specializing in the design and manufacture of wind turbines and photovoltaic parks in Europe, wanted to open a wholly-owned subsidiary in France, in order to better meet the demands of its customers and respond to calls for tender. The French subsidiary, Enesi Sarl, is based in Châlons-en-Champagne (Grand Est region) and will be responsible for developing and operating small and medium-sized wind farms, creating five jobs.

### FRAUSCHER SENSOR TECHNOLOGIES

The Austrian company offers system integrators and rail operators simplified access to the information needed to operate, monitor, and protect their infrastructure. Following the development of its international activities, the group has decided to open a subsidiary in Alsace (Grand Est region), in order to develop its sales in the French market and build closer ties with major customers in the railway sector. The subsidiary will employ ten people.



BELGIUM

### URBAN FARM COMPANY / PEAS & LOVE

After a year of tests and a successful trial in Brussels, a new shared garden concept was introduced in Paris in 2018. Last May, entrepreneur Jean-Patrick Sheepers opened the first collaborative vegetable garden on the roof of the Yooma Hotel in the city's 15th arrondissement. In addition to making Paris greener, the farm allows residents to invest in the project via a monthly subscription. This garden is maintained by a number of "community farmers". Peas & Love will not stop there: it aims to open between six and seven farms in Paris by 2019, creating around sixty jobs. The startup also plans to open new farms in Lyon (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) and Lille (Hauts de France) in 2019.

### GLUECOM

With a view to continuing to develop internationally, Gluecom acquired the family-owned industrial adhesive manufacturer Labord, based in Ile de France (Paris region), maintaining some thirty employees. This acquisition enables this SME, which has just 90 employees, to expand its product line and to tackle new, higher value-added markets such as the agri-food industry and luxury packaging.



BRAZIL

### MARQ CONSULTORIA

This Brazilian consulting firm specializing in business management and information systems opened its European headquarters in Lyon (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region), creating ten jobs. CSMARQ will be responsible for the expansion of the hotel industry in Europe, which is currently undergoing a digital revolution.

### RISKNOW

The Brazilian Fintech, which offers a credit-related risk management solution for the real estate industry that facilitates stakeholder decision-making, is set to open a European office in Paris. The new site will focus on business activities and R&D in artificial intelligence, creating a total of 15 jobs.



CANADA

**ROBOTIQ**

This Canadian designer and manufacturer of components for collaborative robots decided to set up in the city of Lyon (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), with a view to raising its profile in Europe. The Lyon site will handle distribution, as well as assistance with partners, and will act as a technical training center for the team and European customers. The company has already started recruiting and aims to hire up to 15 people.

**CAMDEN**

Montreal-based advertising agency Camden chose Lyon (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes) for its first European subsidiary. This opening has led to 12 new jobs and the company aims to strengthen its Lyon-based agency's commercial activity in the coming years.



CHINA – HONG KONG

**XIAOMI**

The world's fourth largest smartphone manufacturer entered the French market in 2018 with the opening of a sales office. The company, which already has three shops in Paris, recently opened a flagship store on the Champs-Élysées and aims to follow through with its policy of opening stores in France. This investment has created around thirty jobs so far.

**HANSHOW**

This young, innovative SME specializes in the design, production and marketing of smart, electronic shelf labels. Hanshow chose Ile de France (Paris region) for its European headquarters, with a view to developing partnerships with key players in the distribution industry. This investment will create 15 jobs.



SOUTH KOREA

**SPC GROUP**

South Korea's leading bakery brand chose France for its first frozen pastry production facility in Europe. The company, which already has a purchasing office in Villeneuve d'Ascq (Hauts de France) and two shops under the "PB" brand, chose the village of Saint-James, in Normandie, for its production facility, taking advantage of the region's dairy / butter sector (AOC Isigny) and its logistical strengths (Port of Le Havre). This investment, estimated to be around €20 million, is expected to create some forty jobs by 2020.

**BODYFRIEND**

This specialist in the wellbeing sector and global leader in the sale and rental of massage chairs last year chose France for its European headquarters. The Paris office will manage all commercial activity for the European markets along with the marketing and technical adaptation of their range (R&D, design, health, etc.). Bodyfriend plans to open a 600-sq. m. flagship store in the center of Paris in 2019, creating five jobs.



DENMARK

**VELUX**

This Danish company, a global leader in the roof window market, decided in 2018 to invest €4 million to expand its Feuquières-en-Vimeu logistics center in Picardy (Hauts de France region). The 9,000-sq. m warehouse will be extended to 15,000 sq. m., enabling the company to manage all of its logistics operations for its French customers. This move is expected to create around 25 new jobs.

**SITEIMPROVE**

Founded in 2003, Siteimprove is a software and cloud solutions provider which optimizes websites. The company decided to strengthen its position in France last year by establishing a Paris subsidiary, which is expected to employ around ten people within the next three years.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**EMIRATES DEFENSE INDUSTRIES COMPANY (EDIC)**

In August 2018, EDIC acquired the French SME Manurhin, a manufacturer of cartridge cases, which was on the brink of bankruptcy. EDIC invested €45 million in the recovery, maintaining 104 out of 150 jobs in the Grand Est region.

**RAQAM CONSULTANCY**

This Dubai-based regulatory consulting firm decided to set up a subsidiary in Lyon (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes) to strengthen its position in terms of trade between Europe and the MENA zone. The investment is set to generate 15 jobs.



SPAIN

**GARNICA**

Spanish company Garnica, which specializes in the manufacture of plywood panels, is investing more than €40 million in a new 40,000-sq. m. factory near Troyes, in the Grand Est region. The plant's construction is expected to create 100 jobs over the next three years.

**GRUPO SIFU**

This Spanish company specializes in multi-service outsourcing and promotes the socio-professional integration of its employees who are all people with disabilities. Grupo Sifu chose Guéret (Nouvelle Aquitaine) for its first site outside of Spain and plans to create 30 jobs in the next three years..



UNITED STATES

**WEWORK**

This New York-based company, a specialist in office rental and coworking spaces, is continuing to expand in France. Established in France since 2016, WeWork has since opened five additional coworking spaces in Paris, which will create 85 jobs, including 25 at their Paris Left Bank site. The American company plans to open around a dozen spaces in the French capital.

**PLASMA THERM**

This American company specializing in the manufacture of plasma etching and deposition systems and encapsulation for semiconductors, is consolidating its position in France by setting up its European R&D center in Bernin, near Grenoble (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), creating 30 jobs.

**FLEX-N-GATE**

Following its takeover of Plastic Omnium's sites in 2016, automotive supplier Flex-N-Gate strengthened its Audincourt production facility in Bourgogne-Franche-Comté in 2018 by recruiting 20 people. CEO Shahid Khan, who attended the Choose France Summit in January 2019, wants to continue to develop the company in 2019.

**GOOGLE**

In 2018, California-based Google consolidated its position in France by announcing plans to expand its Paris headquarters to better meet the demands of the local market and to accommodate 200 additional engineers and salespeople in the coming years. In addition, Google opened a new research center for artificial intelligence in Paris, creating 20 new jobs, and launched several "digital workshops" in places such as Rennes (Brittany) and Nancy (Grand Est) for people wishing to train in digital tools.





FINLAND

### ENERSENSE INTERNATIONAL

This Finnish international company specializes in recruitment and resource management for demanding and large-scale industrial projects, particularly in the nuclear field. The group decided last year to set up its French subsidiary in Cherbourg, Normandie, which will create 100 jobs by the end of 2020.

### NOSTO SOLUTIONS

founded in 2011, Nosto Solutions has developed a customizable platform for the e-commerce and retail sectors using artificial intelligence to offer personalized recommendations and content to customers. Nosto, which wants to simplify the online shopping experience, chose France in 2018 as the location for a subsidiary and a marketing/sales hub that will also offer technical support. This new site will lead to the creation of 20 jobs within the next three years.



INDIA

### SAMVARDHANA MOTHERSON GROUP

The Indian automotive equipment giant is continuing its development in France through the acquisition of Reydel Automotive, which is based in the Hauts de France region. The financial investment amounted to €201 million, enabling the group to strengthen its presence in France and internationally, and to develop its technological expertise.

### RAHMAN GROUP

In 2019, Rahman Group decided to continue its investment in France through the construction of its first industry 4.0 production facility in the Grand Est region, creating around a dozen jobs in the local area. After acquiring French safety footwear key player Lemaître Sécurité SAS in 2007, Rahman Group announced plans in 2015 to expand its activities in France with the opening of a warehouse in Val de Moder, in the Grand Est region.



IRELAND

### SMURFIT KAPPA

This leading Irish company specializing in the manufacture of paper-based packaging, strengthened its position in France with the acquisition of several sites specializing in packaging manufacturing, particularly for the luxury goods, packaging, and wines and spirits markets, in Gétigné (Pays de la Loire) and Jarnac (Nouvelle Aquitaine). It also acquired two Brittany-based sites which used to belong to the Europac group, Caradec's Cartonnerie, located in Guégon, and the Rouen Cartonnerie site, located in Saint-Pol-de-Léon. This is the largest external growth operation for the Irish group in France in recent years.

### SKYLADS

This company, which specializes in artificial intelligence technologies, last year opened a research center for machine learning in Paris. This investment is expected to create around fifteen jobs within the next three years.



ISRAEL

### TABOOLA

This Israeli company has developed an online content discovery platform. Taboola, whose headquarters are in New York, and the majority of its management team and R&D operations are in Israel, employs 800 people and is expanding further with the opening in Paris of its first subsidiary in France, which is expected to create 15 jobs within the next three years.

### INSIGHT ACOUSTICS

This company is developing speech and sound capture technology for video surveillance applications. After identifying a French researcher specializing in electronic engineering, the company decided to set up an R&D center in Nantes (Pays de la Loire), creating three jobs.



ITALY

### AFV ACCIAIERIE BELTRAME

This Italian company specializing in commercial laminates and the production of special profiles decided in 2018 to invest €8 million in order to modernize and improve the efficiency of its Trith-Saint-Léger production facility (Hauts de France). This investment will create 17 additional jobs in the manufacture of bars and girders.

### CHIESI FARMACEUTICI

In 2018, the Italian pharmaceutical laboratory acquired the NH.CO Nutrition laboratory, a French SME in Nice (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) specializing in R&D, and the production and distribution of innovative food supplements. In addition, Chiesi Farmaceutici Spa intends to launch a multiyear development plan to benefit its new French subsidiary.



JAPAN

### NIDEC

Specializing in the manufacture of electric motors, this Japanese group is strengthening its presence in France by joining the PSA group and creating the "Nidec-PSA emotors" joint-venture. This will be dedicated to the design, development, manufacture and marketing of electric motors, with both groups planning to invest €220 million. Electric motors will be produced at the Trémery plant (Grand Est region), which will provide employment for around four hundred people..

### SAKATA SEED

The leading Japanese producer of vegetable seeds and flowers is investing in the Pays de la Loire region. Having taken over a former Syngenta site in 2018 on the outskirts of Angers in Pays de la Loire, the company plans to expand and employ 20 staff by 2020 through an investment of up to €5.9 million. It appreciates France's positive R&D measures, in particular its research tax credit, and values its partnerships with French centers of excellence such as INRA.



MOROCCO

### SHARE YOUR DIARY

This Moroccan company wanted to launch a new application or social network for travelers (tourists, students, expatriates, and professionals, etc.) to be able to share their travel experiences. Meetdworld will be incubated at the Creative Valley coworking site in Paris and should help to create 13 jobs within the next three years.

### DIGITAL WORKS

Moroccan company Digital Works decided in 2018 to open a call center in Montpellier (Occitanie), with several dozen people having already been recruited. Specializing in customer relations and employing 1,400 people throughout the world, Digital Works plans to expand further and employ up to 300 people at its Montpellier site.



MEXICO

### GO GABA

The Mexican startup, which developed a drink featuring an aminoacid based supplement that alleviates stress and boosts concentration, opened a subsidiary in Ile de France (Paris region), creating around ten jobs.



NORWAY

### SCHIBSTED

The largest media group in Scandinavia, which owns the French classified advertising site leboncoin.fr, is continuing to expand in France. LeBonCoin opened a new telesales center in Mâcon (Bourgogne-Franche-Comté) last year, which should eventually accommodate 100 employees. What's more, in 2018, the company expanded its R&D activities in Paris, creating 50 new jobs.



NETHERLANDS

**ACTION**

This Dutch company has grown steadily since the early 2000s and is gradually becoming the European leader in the distribution of non-food products. Thanks to its low prices and wide range of products Action is now present in the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Austria, Poland, and as of 2012, France. To serve its network of nearly 300 stores in France, the company has built three logistics centers, including one in Belleville-sur-Saône, near Lyon (Auvergne-Rhône Alpes). This logistics site extends over 70,000 sq. m., of which 2,000 sq. m. is taken up by the administrative offices. This site already employs 250 people via the operator Kühne + Nagel, but Dutch company Action aims to double the number of employees.

**BASIC FIT**

The low-cost gym chain has undergone rapid development in France, with around a hundred new openings in France in 2018, creating more than 800 jobs.



POLOGNE

**WIELTON**

After becoming the majority shareholder of French company Fruehauf in 2015, this Polish manufacturer of trailers and semi-trailers plans to modernize and automate the mechanized welding lines at its Auxerre site, in Bourgogne-Franche-Comté. Wielton, by consolidating its operations at this site, created around twenty jobs in 2018.

**DAMIX**

This Polish company, specializing in the manufacture of equipment for supermarkets, in 2018 became the majority shareholder of Les ateliers réunis - Caddie located in Drusenheim (Grand Est) by purchasing 70% of its capital for €10 million.



PORTUGAL

**GRUPO VISABEIRA**

Through its French subsidiary Constructel, the Portuguese telecommunications and energy group Visabeira, acquired French company Escot located in Aurillac (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes) in 2018, leading to more than 200 jobs being maintained. In addition, the group is further strengthening its position in France by opening a Constructel office in Amiens (Hauts de France), creating ten jobs

**PUREVER**

This Portuguese company, which specializes in modular walls for cold rooms, last year acquired French firm Dagard, located in Boussac (Nouvelle Aquitaine). This acquisition will enable Purever to become one of Portugal's leading employers in France.



UNITED KINGDOM

**GFG ALLIANCE**

After taking over Liberty Aluminium Dunkirk in early 2018, the largest aluminum smelting plant in Europe, located in Hauts de France, GFG Alliance has just completed the takeover of the last French manufacturer of aluminum rims, renamed Liberty Wheels France, in Chateauroux (Centre-Val de Loire). The takeover will lead to 300 direct jobs being maintained, with the company's new offices in central Paris creating another 20 jobs.

**ENTREPRENEUR FIRST**

This British accelerator helps talent specializing in cutting-edge technologies to find a cofounder, generate an idea and launch their startup. The company opened its first French office in Paris in 2018 and will invest €25 million in French startups and hire 30 people over the next three years.



RUSSIA

**RADICO TECHNOLOGIES**

This Russian company, which designs nuclear radiation monitoring and measurement systems, opened its first base in France last year in Aix-en-Provence (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur). The company hopes that this move will enable it to build closer ties with its main partners in the European Union and aims to create around a dozen jobs.



SINGAPORE

**DATHENA**

This innovative Singaporean startup specializing in big data and data governance is rapidly expanding internationally and has decided to open an R&D center in the field of artificial intelligence in Paris (Ile de France / Paris region), creating around twenty jobs.



SWEDEN

**IKEA**

Swedish furniture specialist Ikea is set to open a new logistics center just outside of the city of Paris to support the development of its e-commerce activities. The company chose Gennevilliers in Ile de France (Paris region) for its new distribution center to deliver online orders more quickly to its customers based in Paris and the western side of Ile de France (Paris region). The new center is due to open in 2019 and should lead to 200 new jobs.

**VOLVO**

In 2018, the Swedish company unveiled its first fully electric truck. It will be produced at its Blainville-sur-Orne site in Normandie where the group has invested in an electric vehicles workshop. The first deliveries and vehicle sales are expected in 2019. A hundred jobs were created at the Normandie plant in 2018.



SWITZERLAND

**MULTIWAVE TECHNOLOGIES SA**

Founded in March 2015, this Swiss startup develops and markets advanced technologies using metamaterials. The company has been in France since 2016, with a base in Marseille (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur) and currently employs 25 people.

**GIVAUDAN**

Founded in 1895, this Swiss manufacturer of perfumes and fragrances is very active in the French market, where it has made numerous acquisitions. In 2018, the company acquired French perfumery Albert Vieille, which produces aromatic raw materials and employs 50 people. This acquisition is expected to create around a dozen jobs.



TAIWAN

**INSTO**

Taiwanese startup Insto is a person-to-person payment service available via a mobile application. Insto considers Paris an important financial center and as such has just created a sales and R&D office in Ile de France (Paris region) to coordinate the group's direct commercial deployment in France, a move which is expected to create ten jobs.

**TONGTAI MACHINE & TOOL (TTGROUP)**

This Taiwanese company, which specializes in machine tools, currently employs 140 people in the city of Saint-Étienne (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes). In 2018, it decided to expand its workforce and recruited a dozen new people.



THAILAND

**MUDMAN PCL**

This leading Thai café and restaurant operator is expanding further in France with the opening of a sales office in Paris (Ile de France / Paris region), creating around twenty jobs. The group aims to grow internationally through its own brand (Greyhound Café) but also by acquiring other big names.

**DOUBLE A**

Thailand's leading copy paper brand Double A has just confirmed the construction of a biomass plant to improve the profitability and performance of its Normandie-based paper mill. This investment, estimated at around €20 million, will safeguard the forty or so existing jobs.



TUNISIA

**DABCHY**

This Tunisian startup has joined the Look Forward by Showroomprivé.com incubator, dedicated to the fashion, beauty and retail industries, in order to further its international development. This move will create 18 jobs, including seven in R&D.

**MIRAGE HOLOGRAMS**

Founded in 2015 and specializing in holographic and interactive display solutions, this Tunisian startup decided to set up its European subsidiary in Laval (Pays de la Loire) in 2018. This investment is expected to create around fifteen jobs within the next three years.



TURKEY

**AIRTIES TURKEY**

This Turkish company is a global leader in the wireless home network market. Based in Istanbul, Airties chose Paris for its first European innovation center. They made their decision based on the advantages that France can offer them in terms of R&D, its pool of highly specialized engineers, and its favorable research tax credit. The Paris-based innovation center is home to 12 engineers and salespeople. Airties plans to eventually set up an engineering center in another region of France.

**DOGUS HOLDING**

This multi-sectoral Turkish conglomerate is particularly active in the automotive, agri-food, tourism, and shipbuilding sectors. The group has invested in the acquisition of the shipyard "Composite Works" shipyard in La Ciotat (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur), by way of a 50-50 joint-venture between its Barcelonabased subsidiary MB92 and the German firm Blohm Voss. Dogus Holding company currently employs 121 people, with more than 200 people in indirect jobs.

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