

# FRANCE, A LEADING ECONOMY

KEY INFO IN

**10**

POINTS

# 1

## ▶ A HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED ECONOMY

For the last 15 years, France has been **Europe's leading destination for foreign investment in industry** (EY, European Attractiveness Survey), attracting 303 industrial investments in 2014. (Business France) Production/manufacturing was the leading contributor to employment (11,601 jobs, or 44% of those created by foreign investors) and projects (30%), up 14% from 2013. (Business France 2014 Annual Report)

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# 2

## ▶ A LAND OF ENTREPRENEURS

**Mohed Altrad**, CEO of scaffolding manufacturer Altrad, and President of Montpellier Hérault rugby club, was recently named **EY World Entrepreneur of the Year 2015**. Altrad represented France among the 64 shortlisted candidates from 53 countries.

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# 3

## ▶ LEADING LUXURY INDUSTRY

The luxury industry is among France's most strategic. **France is the global leader in this sector**, with high growth rates, a very large balance of payments surplus, and sizeable growth prospects both at home and abroad. Among the world's 270 leading prestige brands, 130 are French. (FSI)

# 4

## ▶ PRO-INNOVATION TAX SYSTEM

Thanks to its research tax credit and 'new innovative company' status, **France offers the best tax treatment in Europe** of corporate R&D operations.

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# 5

## ▶ THE MOST HIGH-FLYING TECH FIRMS IN THE EMEA

**With 86 companies in the 2014 Deloitte Technology Fast 500 EMEA, France outstripped all its European counterparts.**

The top 10 French companies were: Weezevent, Visiomed, Energie Perspective, Alter CE, Lucibel, Webinterpret, Lekiosque.fr, Web Rivage, Openstudio, Optireno.

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# 6

## ▶ AN INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

**INSERM is Europe's leading biomedical research institute**, as well as France and Europe's leading academic body for filing biotech patents at the European Patent Office. (Facts & Figures 2014, France Biotech)

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# 7

## ▶ FIRST-CLASS TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

**Paris-Le Bourget is Europe's leading business airport**, while Paris-Charles de Gaulle is ranked second in Europe by passenger numbers and for cargo after London Heathrow.

# 8

## ▶ THE WORLD'S LEADING FOREIGN TOURIST DESTINATION

With 84.7 million international visitors in 2014, **France was the world's leading destination for foreign tourists**, ahead of the United States and Spain. Tourism accounted for 7.4% of French GDP in 2013.

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# 9

## ▶ HOME TO GREAT WRITERS


**France has seen more Nobel Literature prize-winners – 15 – than any other country**, the most recent being Patrick Modiano (2014), Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio (2008), Gao Xingjian (2000), Claude Simon (1985) and Jean-Paul Sartre (1964).

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# 10

## ▶ A BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ECONOMY

**France was ranked first in the world in a 2014 United Nations survey of e-government services**, leading the way in Europe on three criteria: the Telecommunication Infrastructure Index, the Human Capital Index, and the Online Service Index (through the French government's service-public.fr website).



For further information, please visit:  
**[www.businessfrance.fr](http://www.businessfrance.fr)**





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**#1**

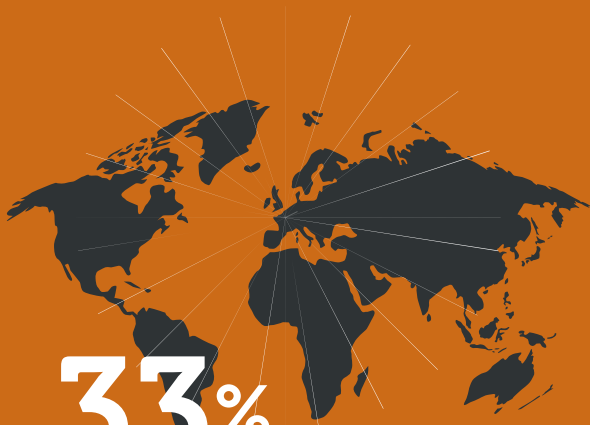
**LUXURY INDUSTRY  
IN THE WORLD**



**FOREIGN  
INVESTMENT  
DECISIONS  
PER WEEK**



ACCESS TO A MARKET OF  
**65**  
  
MILLION CONSUMERS  
AND GATEWAY TO THE EMEA



**33%**

**OF FRENCH EXPORTS  
ARE GENERATED BY  
FOREIGN COMPANIES**