

Ireland investment in France



Over the past several years France has become a leading destination for Irish companies investing in Europe.

The data used in the present document in terms of the number of projects and jobs created, comes from reports on international investment in France edited by the IFA since 1993.

Irish companies based in France

General characteristics

Irish companies have been present in France for some time, with several major groups such as Jefferson Smurfit (which became SmurfitKappa in 2006), Kerry Group or CRH. Over the past fifteen years, following the boom in the Irish economy, several new Irish investors have expanded their activities in France by means of takeover or growth operations, for example IAWS, Experian and Ryanair.

In 2007, a large percentage of Irish investment in France was concentrated in industry (particularly the agro-food industry), despite consistent growth in the service industry over the past several years (Ryanair, Experian...)

Statistics 2007

Stocks :

- > Number of companies based in France: approximately 30
- > Number of employees: 10,000
- > FDI stocks in France as at 31/12/2005¹ : €10.7 billion

Flows :

- > Number of projects concerned: 4
- > Number of jobs concerned: 120

Sectors

Over the 2000-2006 period, four sectors in particular generated employment: “glass, wood, paper, printing, minerals, ceramics” (28.7%); “agro-food, agriculture and fishing” (25%); “other commercial and financial services” (15%); “consulting, engineering and business services” (7.1%).

The leading sectors in 2007 were (in order): metals, metalworking and recycling (73.3% of jobs created); other commercial and financial services (16.7%); electric, electronic, IT and medical equipment (10%).

Type of investment

Over the 2000-2006 period, Irish investment projects were concentrated in business creations and extensions. No takeovers of ailing sites were recorded.

In 2007, out of the four projects recorded, three were business creations.

Over the 2000-2006 period, jobs created as a result of Irish investment were mainly concentrated in production/manufacturing/assembly (67%) and service providers (15.4%).

1- Bank of France – Irish FDI stocks in France are given here according to the country of origin of FDI flows into France.

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Regional investment locations

Over the 2000-2006 period, four regions attracted roughly 74% of jobs created as a result of Irish investment: Nord-Pas-de-Calais (25.5%), Bourgogne (18%), Aquitaine (16%) and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (14.3%). Over the same period, the Ile-de-France region attracted 7 projects out of 17, leading to 107 jobs being created or maintained.

The distribution of Irish investment projects in France in 2007 shows particular diversity.

Irish investment flows since 2000

From 2000 to 2007

Since 2000, some 21 Irish investment projects have led to 1,062 jobs being created or maintained in France.

In 2007

Irish investment generated approximately 120 jobs and 4 investment projects.

Major Irish investments in France between 2000 and 2007 include:

- > 2001:
Moy Park - industrial manufacture of poultry based products - production - 100 jobs - Henin Beaumont, Pas-de-Calais
- > 2004:
Quinn Plastics - manufacture of transparent sheets of plastic and logistics platform - 150 jobs - Le Creusot, Saône-et-Loire
- > 2006:
Ryanair - launch of a new hub - transport - 120 jobs - Marseille, Bouches-du-Rhône
SmurfitKappa - manufacture of paper and cardboard - production - 150 jobs - Biganos, Gironde