

UNITED KINGDOM

More than 2,300 British companies are established in France; 53 new projects were recorded in 2008.

KEY FIGURES 2008

Stock:

- British companies in France: **over 2,300**
- Number of employees: **over 263,000**
- Stock of FDI in France as of 12/31/2006: **€92.7bn**

Flow:

- Number of projects: **53**
- Number of jobs: **1,984**

BRITISH COMPANIES IN FRANCE

After two exceptional years, in which British projects accounted for on average 10% of jobs created through foreign investment in France, 2008 was a return to the norm observed between 2000 and 2005, with 53 investment projects enabling nearly 2,000 jobs to be created or maintained.

SECTORS

Between 2000 and 2008, three business sectors in particular were responsible for generating nearly 50% of jobs created through British investment: other commercial and financial services (19.3%), consulting, accounting and business services (17.5%) and electrical, electronic, and IT equipment (11.2%).

For 2008, the sector breakdown was as follows: software and IT services, consulting, accounting and business services (15.8%), electrical, electronic and IT equipment (15.1%) and other commercial and financial services (14.7%).

TYPE OF INVESTMENT

Most major British groups have had a long history in France. Over the last few years, investment has increasingly been focused on takeovers: that of

Unilog by LogicaCMG, CCF by HSBC, Castorama by Kingfisher, etc. In 2008, expansions (and expansions through takeovers) accounted for 55.6% of all British jobs created in France, while creations made up 36.7% and takeovers of ailing businesses 7.7%.

The service sector took precedence over production: in 2008, services accounted for 81.7% of all British jobs created in France. The production, manufacturing and assembly sector accounted for only 18.3% of all jobs created, compared to 22.4% for sales offices and 20.1% for services.

REGIONAL INVESTMENT SITES

British companies are relatively evenly distributed throughout France, though there is a concentration in two major areas: the North and West (Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Haute-Normandie, Ile-de-France, Centre, Pays de la Loire and Bretagne (Brittany)) and the Rhine-Rhône area (Alsace, Bourgogne (Burgundy), Rhône-Alpes and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur).

In 2008, 50.5% of all British jobs created in France were located in Ile-de-France, followed by Midi-Pyrénées (10.1%) and Rhône-Alpes (7.1%).

TRENDS IN BRITISH INVESTMENTS SINCE 2000

Since 2000, 487 British investment projects have enabled 23,019 jobs to be created or maintained in France.

2008

53 British investment projects helped create or maintain close to 2,000 jobs.

SELECTED MAJOR BRITISH INVESTMENT PROJECTS IN FRANCE:

- **Computacenter Plc** – IT services distribution – expansion – 270 jobs - Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle, Ile-de-France
- **New Look Group** – clothing vendors – expansion – 200 jobs – Thiais, Ile-de-France
- Takeover of **Mecaplast** by **Bowden** – manufacture of plastic industrial parts for the automotive industry – 120 jobs maintained
- **Reims, Champagne-Ardenne**
- **The Sage Group** – publishers of management and customer relations software – expansion – 80 jobs – Mérignac, Aquitaine
- **Linklaters** – corporate law firm – expansion – 60 jobs - Paris.