



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES (FRANCE)

The key sectors of the national economy are: aerospace, automotive, food, pharmaceutical, luxury and fashion industry, micro electrical engineering, logistics, health equipment.

The sectors that represent great investment opportunities are: Biotechnology, telecommunications, business services, information and communication technologies, environment.

The government has not recently announced plans to privatize any of the remaining state-owned enterprises, but has withdrawn its holdings in several companies.

The sectors prohibited or with few opportunities for foreign investment are: The French government still maintains legal monopolies in utility companies: the railway network (SNCF), public transport in Paris (RATP), tobacco production and distribution (Altadis), nuclear power plants (EDF), defense, media, energy, air transport, aerospace.

Investor incentives: support from the French authorities comes in various forms: subsidised or interest-free loans, grants for physical investment and R&D projects, reduction of real estate costs, tax exemptions, exemptions from employers' social security contributions, tax credits, coverage of certain expenses (e.g. training costs for new employees, etc.), state guarantees and equity investments.