

## REGION LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON



Languedoc-Roussillon is one of the 27 [regions of France](#). It comprises five [departments](#),

- HERAULT : Montpellier
- GARD : Nîmes



- LOZERE : Mende
- PYRENEES-ORIENTALES : Perpignan

- AUDE : Carcassonne

...and borders the other French regions of [Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur](#), [Rhône-Alpes](#), [Auvergne](#), [Midi-Pyrénées](#) on the one side, and [Spain](#), [Andorra](#) and the [Mediterranean Sea](#) on the other side.

## LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON IN FIGURES

Population	2.6 millions (4.1 % of country population)
Area	27 376 km <sup>2</sup>
Major economic centre	Montpellier
GDP	€ 60 billions
EU's commitment for 2007-2013	€ 900 millions
Annual State budget	€ 13 billion
Annual Regional Council's budget	€ 1,1 billion
Unemployment rate	12.7 %
SME's	127 570

## GENERAL ECONOMIC SITUATION

In terms of size and strength, Languedoc-Roussillon is an average economy with a relatively stable position in relation to other french regions. Languedoc-Roussillon boasts high levels of economic activity with a big number of SMEs per one thousand population. The majority of SMEs are in the Agglomération Area. The economy of the region, both in terms of employment and value created, has a service orientation.

The region's major industries include electrical engineering, food and tourism industry. The seaside location creates a number of economic opportunities for the region involving the use of marine resources.

- Strong public research
  - Health & Biotech
  - Agronomy
  - Energy (nuclear, solar)
- Tourism: 15% of GNP, mostly in summer
- Weak economy
  - Highest unemployment rate in France (12,7%)
  - Industry: only 8% of local GNP

- Demographic situation of the region is challenging as its population increases at an accelerating rate.
- Languedoc-Roussillon belongs to 2 or 3 poorest regions in France. GDP per capita amounts to € 16 102 , whereas the country average is € 34 000

## **ENTERPRISES**

- Registered businesses : 127 570
- Industry : 12 264
- Construction : 17 849
- Trade and repairs : 36 313
- Services : 61 144

There are about 127 thousand businesses operating in Languedoc-Roussillon (status as of January 2002). The most numerous groups of businesses come from the following sectors: services 61.1 thousand, trade and repairs of automobile vehicles 36.3 thousand, construction 17.8 thousand and industry 12.2 thousand.

Micro and small enterprises represented about 97% of the overall number, and mid-size and large enterprises about 3% and less than 0.9%, respectively. Among small enterprises, trade and vehicle repairs category was the most numerous, whereas among large enterprises manufacturing was at the lead.<sup>1</sup>

## **UNIVERSITIES AND R&D**

**Languedoc-Roussillon hosts five public universities**

	%	National rank
93 100 students 2009/2010 (bachelor to PhD)	4.1	9
13 740 employees in the public research institutions	3.6	6
7 520 researchers en 2008	3.3	6
- 3 630 public research	5.7	5
- 2 060 private research	1.6	13
4 100 master degrees delivered	4.1	8
580 PhD delivered	5	5

- 71% students are registered in one of the 5 public universities (others in public and private school). Montpellier University 2 is ranked between 201 to 300 in the international Shanghai ranking.
- 13,6% of the scientific publications are in Applied Biology in 2008 (2<sup>nd</sup> rank in France).
- 3,5% of the French production of technologies in Drug and Biotech in 2008 (6th rank in France)
- 3rd rank for Innovative Entrepreneurship in France from 2004.

## **A STRATEGIC LOCATION**

- Access to over 260 millions consumers
- At the heart of Southern Europe, gateway to the Mediterranean markets
- Dense, efficient and interconnected transport infrastructures

## **A FAVORABLE ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

- entrepreneurial energy
- competitiveness clusters
- a dynamic region strongly oriented towards innovation
- targeted industrial opportunities, strong and promising sectors

## **WEAKNESSES**

- A region characterised by sharp contrasts
- One of the poorest regions (GDP/capita) with a very high unemployment rate
- Weak industrial sector and companies lacking in innovation
- Weakness of private R&D
- Few exchanges between the academic milieu and regional companies
- The SME innovation support system focuses too much on technology, lacks visibility and fails to reach the traditional sectors of the regional economy
- Fragmented territory : no shared strategies or practices (one metropolitan area – Montpellier-Nîmes)
- Stakeholders insufficiently open to the outside

## **STRENGTHS**

- very attractive region (quality of life)
- one of the highest job creation rate
- the average added value per company is higher than the national average
- core of innovative SMEs in the ICT and services or health sectors
- significant public research (200 laboratories and 5 500 researchers)
- innovation system : excellent support scheme for the creation of innovative companies

## **CHALLENGES**

- stimulate the growth of micro business through innovation
- build closer links between Higher education, public research and the regional economy
- make the region part of the world innovation networks
- Helping all SMEs grow (Includes financing SME's development)
- Accelerating technology transfer
- Connecting our Region to international networks
- Connecting our innovative sectors together