

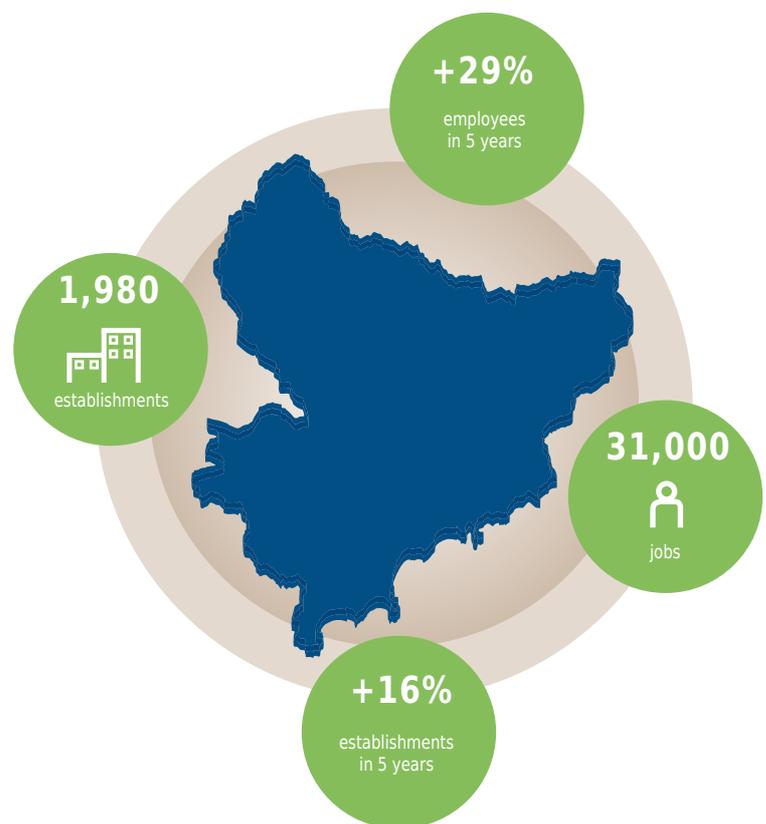
# Foreign Capital Companies in the French Riviera

2014



CCINICE CÔTE D'AZUR  
Observatoire économique Sirius

## Key figures



**Foreign Capital Companies: these are businesses that are resident in France and under foreign control.**

This control takes the form of a majority stake in the business coming either from direct foreign investment, or from investment from one or more companies with Foreign Capital. Participation in the business may be exercised either directly (a foreign company investing in France) or indirectly (a French company belonging to a foreign group or a group whose major shareholder is foreign). Among these new Foreign Capital Companies, buyouts form the largest part as opposed to new company creations. In this report, the term Foreign Capital Company (or FCC for short) is used to refer to all types of business (head offices, branch and so on).

## Introduction and key figures

The number of companies with foreign capital (FCC) located in the French Riviera has been on the rise since the early 2000s. Some 1,980 FCC were present in 2014, representing an increase of 200 companies compared to last year. These FCC employ a workforce of around 31,000 with an average of more than 15 employees per establishment which is well above the average number of employees for companies in the French Riviera.

In total, 68 nationalities from every continent are represented, but FCC controlled by European capital account for three quarters of these companies and jobs.

The vast majority of FCC are involved in retail business and the service sector, due, in particular to the presence of a number of large chains. However, the IT sector is by far the most important economic sector within the FCC present in the area, representing in terms of workforce over 7,300 jobs mostly high-skilled.

More than one third of FCC, representing around 25% of the workforce, is concentrated within the Nice economic area. While Sophia Antipolis science park plays host to 10% of the FCC though totaling nearly 30% of the workforce.

**1,980**  
establishments

- representing **1,247 companies**
- employing a workforce of **30,885**
- 3/4 of these establishments** under European control

**68**  
countries  
represented

- Countries with the largest representation:  
**Great Britain:** 375 establishments - 3,217 jobs  
**USA:** 273 establishments - 6,123 jobs

**90%**  
commercial or  
service  
activities

- Main activities:  
**ICT:** 114 establishments - 7,363 jobs  
**Hotels/restaurants:** 77 establishments - 3,694 jobs  
**Life Sciences:** 68 establishments - 2,728 jobs  
**Personal goods :** 308 establishments - 2,259 jobs

Location  
of FCC in the  
French Riviera

- 35%** of establishments are located in Nice
- 30%** of jobs are located in Sophia-Antipolis

**FCC per continent of origin**

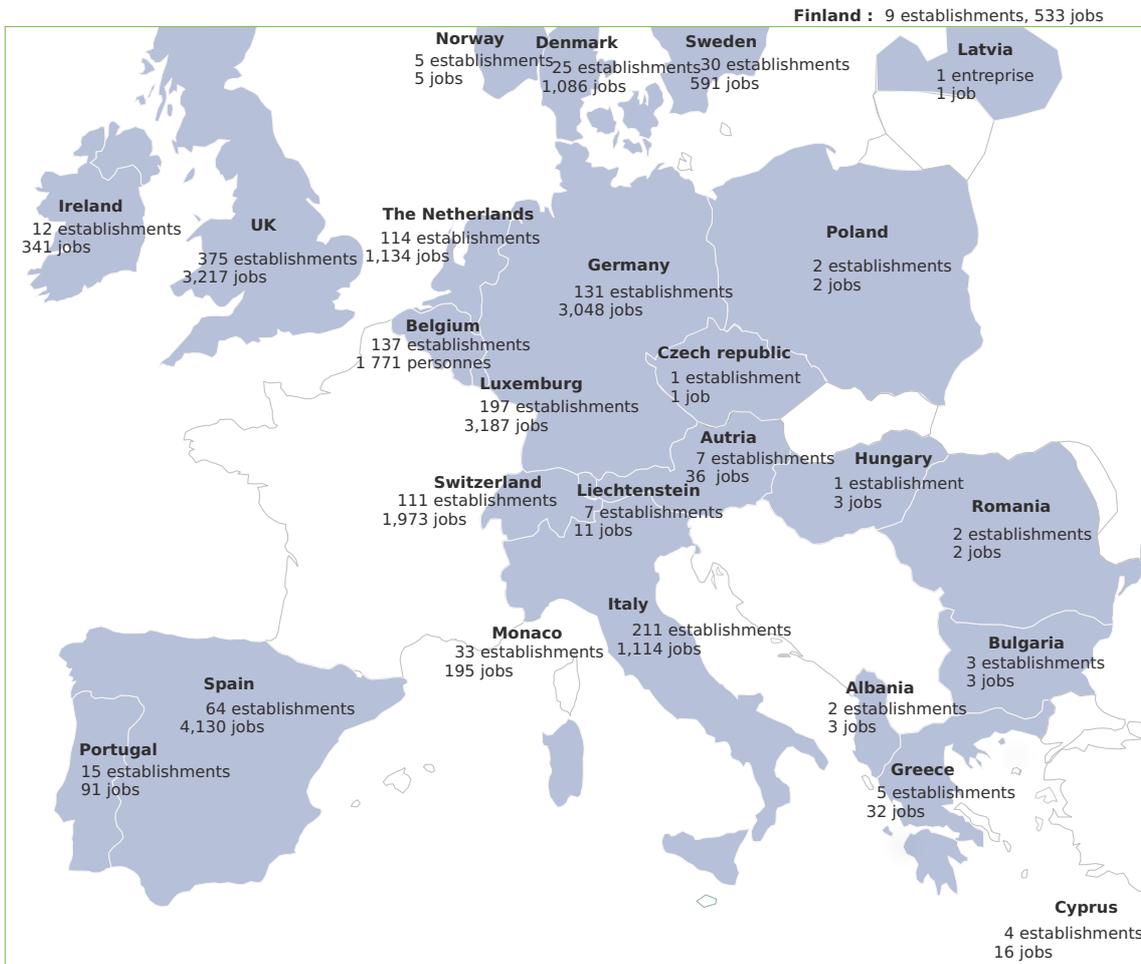
**200 new FCC implanted in one year**

**34% FCC in business for less than 5 years**

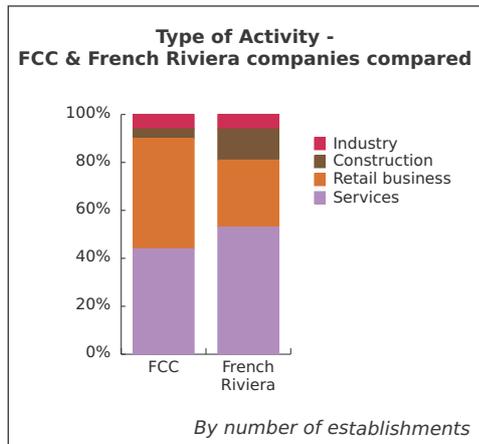
**Increase of 29% in number of jobs in 5 years**



**FCC from the European continent**



## Activity Sector



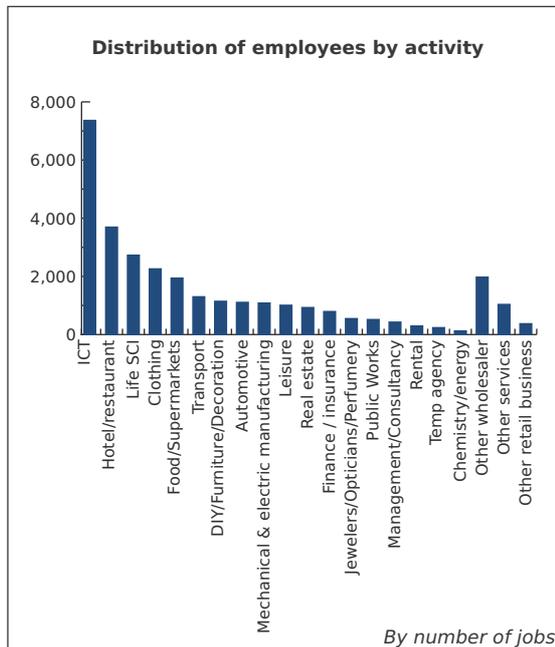
Two activity sectors are represented in particular in FCC: retail business and services.

Retail business accounts for the activity of 45% of FCC, a considerably higher proportion than for companies in general in the French Riviera.

The service sector totaling 44% of FCC, is not as important in terms of the number of companies but represents by far the most significant employing sector, totaling over 17,300 jobs.

The clothing sector is the most highly represented among FCC due largely to the presence of a number of chains of clothing stores and shoe stores located throughout the French Riviera.

Other sectors represented by FCC are real estate, food and ICT.



The ICT cluster, which has a strong presence in the French Riviera, is made up of a large number of FCC some of which are major employers. These FCC employ a total of 7,363 workers, in other words nearly one quarter of the total number of FCC jobs.

FCC in the hotel/restaurant sector employ around 3,700 workers while Life Science companies account for 2,730 jobs.

Despite the high number of FCC in the clothing sector, they provide only for 2,260 jobs.

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