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Press conference *“France and its territories”*

Speakers

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New release in the Insee Références collection

France and its territories

The publication of "France and its territories" provides INSEE with the perfect opportunity **to present data on the new regions for the first time** with analyses of population, employment, living conditions and enterprises.

The dossiers and the files presented here also give **a detailed view of lifestyles, the labour market, and demographic changes at different territorial levels**, as well as a new approach to **thinly and densely populated areas**.

NEW REGIONS: DIFFERENCES ARE LESS MARKED

Similar demographic characteristics

The new mainland regions all have **more than 2 million inhabitants**. The **largest regions are Île-de-France (11.9 million inhabitants in 2011) and Rhône-Alpes merged with Auvergne (7.6 million)**, and after this come **2 similar groups in terms of population**:

- **five regions of intermediate size**, each with **five to six million inhabitants**: Nord-Pas-de-Calais Picardie, Aquitaine Limousin Poitou-Charentes, Languedoc-Roussillon Midi-Pyrénées and the major region in the East, Alsace Champagne-Ardenne Lorraine, which has slightly more inhabitants than the Provence - Alpes-Côte d'Azur region.
- **five regions, each with two to four million inhabitants**: Bretagne, Pays de la Loire, Normandie, also Centre-Val de Loire and the Bourgogne Franche-Comté grouping.

There is less differentiation in demographic characteristics between the new regions: population density, distribution by age, are now more similar from one region to another.

Economically, the new regions now resemble one another a little more

The new map of the regions reduces the dispersal of GDP per capita: excluding Île-de-France and Corsica, the interval about the mean previously ranged from +15.6% to -13.9% but is now only +11.7% to -8.4% (2012 figures).

Auvergne Rhône-Alpes becomes the 2nd region in France in terms of GDP (11.4% of national GDP). Next come **five new regions each of which represents about 7% of the GDP of France**: Aquitaine Limousin Poitou-Charentes, Nord-Pas-de-Calais Picardie, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Languedoc-Roussillon Midi Pyrénées and Alsace Champagne-Ardenne Lorraine. **The GDP of these six large regions (including Auvergne Rhône-Alpes) represents almost half of national GDP (47.7%).**

THE HIERARCHY OF CITIES IN METROPOLITAN FRANCE OVER THIRTY YEARS

Between 1982 and 2011 population growth in cities in Metropolitan France was 23%, the equivalent of 8.9 million extra inhabitants. The majority of this growth (60%, or 5,395,000 inhabitants) was due to the geographic extension of urban space. The rest was the result of growth in population density in the cities. **In 2011 almost 8 out of 10 inhabitants lived in the urban space.**

Population growth in cities has been approximately proportional to their size, therefore the hierarchy of cities by size has remained the same. However, **the demographic supremacy of Paris declined slightly, to the benefit of the 15 cities with over 400,000 inhabitants.**

In addition to this relative stability overall, **the distribution of cities that have “gained” or “lost” inhabitants matches the geography of growth across France fairly well** (Atlantic arc, southern-Mediterranean, Rhône valley, Île-de-France) and similarly for areas of France that have problems inherited from the decline of former industries (North, East, Centre).

The dynamics of employment in the cities is the main factor to account for their population growth. Toulouse and Montpellier are the most dynamic, both in terms of population (+47% and +45% respectively) and in terms of jobs (+87% and +93%) between 1982 and 2011.

LIFESTYLES IN EUROPEAN CITIES

With a median age of 38, French cities are fairly young, compared with all the European cities studied (904 cities studied in EU28 plus Norway, Switzerland and Turkey).

In France and Germany, the average living space per person is the largest in Europe, at 42 m², compared with 36 m² in European cities in general.

The car is still the mode of transport used by a majority of European city dwellers to get to work: 60% of journeys to and from work are made by car or by powered two-wheel vehicles, 20% by public transport and 20% by bicycle or on foot.

With an average homicide rate of 0.13 per 10,000 inhabitants, the French cities that were studied are on average safer from this point of view than European cities in general (0.18). The highest rates (higher than 1 per 10,000) are found in cities in Germany (Bayreuth, Hildesheim, Rosenheim) and Belgium (Charleroi, Gand).

CONCENTRATION OF PROFESSIONS BY EMPLOYMENT ZONE TENDING TO STRENGTHEN

The presence of different professions varies considerably in the different territories. The map of employment zones reveals **a clear contrast between,**

- **very urban areas in the south, with a high concentration of managers and intellectual professions:** intermediary professions in the tertiary sector predominate in 1/4 of the 321 employment zones in France (excluding Mayotte) and the very highly qualified jobs are concentrated in the metropolitan areas, which account for 36 employment zones.
- **and in the north, other areas are more agricultural, more industrial, more blue-collar:** the employment zones that still have a large proportion of blue-collar workers, representing 39% of the total and 7 employment zones, have an overrepresentation of agricultural professions.

In addition, the jobs offered in a territory are not necessarily held by workers who live in that territory. This results in a marked imbalance between labour supply and demand, mainly in densely urban areas: **half of jobs are concentrated in only 30 employment zones.** Between 1999 and 2011, the growth in employment in the 14 largest employment zones was on average 0.86% per year compared with 0.65% at national level, **which accentuates the concentration of employment in France.**

A NEW APPROACH TO THINLY AND DENSELY POPULATED AREAS

Municipalities in France can be classified according to density and population criteria, and divided into **4 categories:**

- **Densely populated municipalities represent less than 2%** of all municipalities and 35% of the population. They are to be found in the centres of large urban areas.
- **A little over 8% of municipalities are of intermediate density** and include almost 30% of the population. 60% are located in the centres of large urban areas.
- **More than half of all municipalities are thinly populated.** They contain a little under 1/3 of the population. The majority (60%) are situated in the peripheries and the multicentric space in large urban areas.
- **One third of municipalities are very thinly populated;** they contain 4% of the population. Very thinly populated municipalities are often far from the cities: almost three-quarters of them

are in a “residual” space in relation to zoning into urban areas. However, one quarter are situated at the peripheral fringes of the large urban centres.

Accessibility to facilities and services varies considerably according to the type of municipality: for example, **median access time to the closest Accident and Emergency Department** is 52 minutes from a very thinly populated municipality compared with 14 minutes from a densely populated municipality.



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New regions: differences are less marked

Luc Brière, Heïdi Koumarianos

The territorial reform reduces the number of regions from 27 to 18 (including Overseas departments (DOM)). The country has been divided in such a way that the new regions are now similar in terms of population, Gross Domestic Product and distribution of economic activity. In addition, the new regions now have larger populations, making them comparable with their European neighbours.

The new groupings have similar demographic characteristics

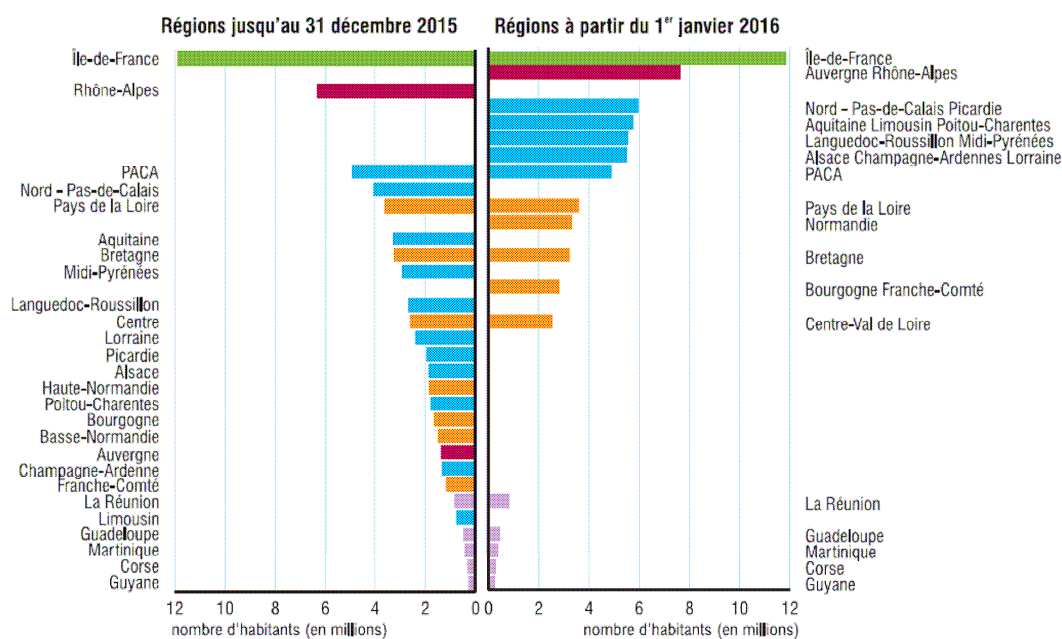
The new mainland regions will all have more than 2 million inhabitants. The largest regions are Île-de-France (11.9 million inhabitants in 2011) and Rhône-Alpes merged with Auvergne (7.6 million); next there are 2 distinct groups with very similar populations:

- **five regions of intermediate size**, each with five to six million inhabitants: Nord-Pas-de-Calais Picardie, Aquitaine Limousin Poitou-Charentes, Languedoc-Roussillon Midi-Pyrénées and the major region in the East, Alsace Champagne-Ardenne Lorraine, with a slightly higher population than the Provence - Alpes-Côte d'Azur region.

- **five regions each with between two and four million inhabitants**: Bretagne, Pays de la Loire, Normandie, also Centre-Val de Loire and the Bourgogne Franche-Comté grouping.

Before the reform, the differences were much greater, ranging from 0.7 million inhabitants in Limousin to 11.9 million for Île-de-France and 6.4 million for Rhône-Alpes. Corsica, the only non-continental region, had only 314,000 inhabitants in 2011.

Population of regions before and after the regional reform (2011 figures)



Champ : France, hors Mayotte.

Source : Insee, recensement de la population 2011.

The fusion of regions tends to reduce differences through an averaging effect. Thus the densely populated regions are merging with those that are much less densely populated: this is the case for Nord-Pas-de-Calais merging with Picardie, Alsace with Lorraine and Champagne-Ardenne, and Rhône-Alpes with Auvergne. Regions with the oldest populations are merging with regions where ageing is less marked: Limousin and Poitou-Charentes with Aquitaine, Auvergne with Rhône-Alpes.

Nevertheless, some disparities remain, and there are still some great contrasts geographically. The populations of the northern and eastern regions are increasing less than the French average and they remain younger. Conversely, the populations of the southern and western regions are increasing and they are ageing more rapidly.

A more dynamic natural increase in Nord-Pas-de-Calais Picardie and a higher migration balance in Languedoc-Roussillon Midi-Pyrénées

Globally, the regions in the North and the East owe their demographic growth to the surplus of births over deaths, while the migration balance (persons entering – leaving the territory) is negative. This is the case for Nord-Pas-de-Calais Picardie and Alsace Champagne-Ardenne Lorraine.

On the other hand, the regions around the Mediterranean and the West of France are particularly attractive and have gained more inhabitants as a result of the migration balance. This is the case for the new Languedoc-Roussillon Midi-Pyrénées region, where the apparent balance of those entering and leaving is the most dynamic in Metropolitan France. It is also high in Aquitaine Limousin Poitou-Charentes.

Outside Île-de-France (29.8% of national GDP), almost half of national GDP (including Overseas departments) is concentrated in six new regions

According to 2012 figures, GDP for the combined Auvergne Rhône-Alpes region represents 11.4% of national GDP, whereas at present Rhône-Alpes alone already represents 9.7%.

Next come **five new regions which each represent about 7% of French GDP**: Aquitaine Limousin Poitou-Charentes, Nord-Pas-de-Calais Picardie, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur, Languedoc-Roussillon Midi Pyrénées and Alsace Champagne-Ardenne Lorraine. As the map of the regions stands at the moment, this is the case only for Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur. The GDP of these six large regions (also including Auvergne Rhône-Alpes) accounts for almost half of national GDP (47.7%).

GDP per capita and structures per activity are more similar in the new regions

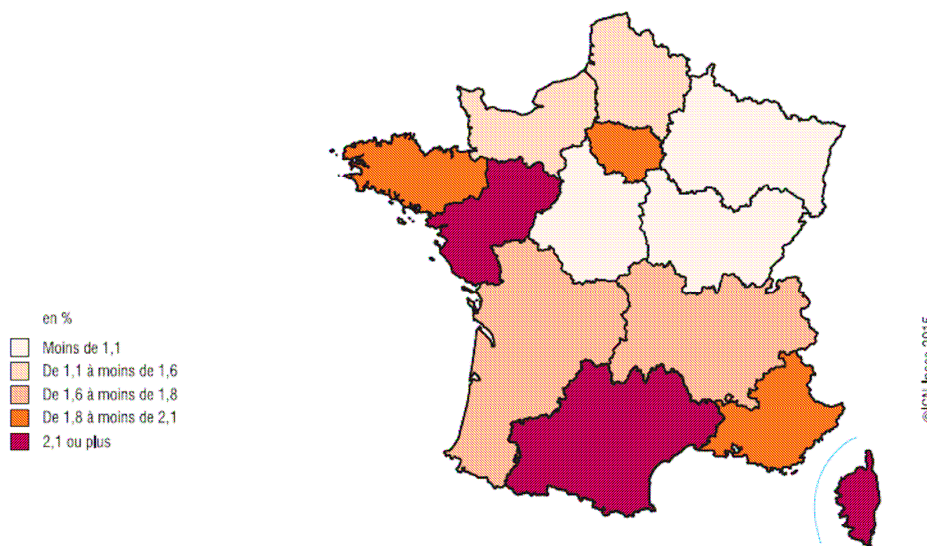
Regions where GDP per capita is higher than average¹ are grouped together with regions where GDP per capita is below average. This is the case, for example, with Rhône-Alpes (+15.6% compared with the average in 2012) and Auvergne (-6.3%). The same is true for Alsace and Champagne-Ardenne (+6.6% and +0.5% compared with the average), which by combining with Lorraine (-13.0%), now have a GDP per capita of 3.2% below average. **Thus the new map of the regions reduces the dispersal of GDP per capita: excluding Île-de-France and Corsica, the interval about the mean previously ranged from +15.6% to -13.9% but is now only +11.7% to -8.4%.**

At the same time, the new groupings tend to reduce the distribution of value added per sector for the new regions. **Whatever sector is considered, the gap between the regions with the extreme values for economic weight in this sector is reduced.** For example, whereas previously the agricultural sector carried the most weight in Champagne-Ardenne with 8.7% of the region’s value added in 2012, the weight of agriculture in the new Alsace Champagne-Ardenne Lorraine region is now only 3.5%. On the new regional map, the weight of the agricultural sector is greatest in Aquitaine Limousin Poitou-Charentes with 4.1%.

GDP growth over 20 years: contrasting situations

The increase in volume in regional GDP over the period 1990-2012 divides the new regions into five groups (See map). In the regions in the South and West, GDP grew more strongly, while the regions in the East and the North did quite well during the same period.

Taux de croissance annuel moyen du PIB en volume entre 1990 et 2012



¹ The average used here takes as its reference Metropolitan France excluding Île-de-France.

**The hierarchy of cities in Metropolitan France over thirty years:
overall stability and reclassifications**

Joël Creusat and Henri Morel-Chevillet

Between 1982 and 2011, urban growth in Metropolitan France, measured as the increase in the population of urban units, was 23%, or 8.9 million extra inhabitants. This phenomenon was due to an extension to the surface area of cities combined with growth in population density. This considerable increase did not make any great change to the ranking of cities in the urban hierarchy, which remained stable overall.

The general distribution of cities that have “gained” or “lost” inhabitants matches the geography of growth across France fairly well (Atlantic arc, southern-Mediterranean, Rhône valley, Île-de-France) and similarly for areas of France that have problems inherited from the decline of former industries (North, East, Centre). An additional explanation lies in the dynamics of employment available in the cities, which is the main factor to account for their population increase. Another favourable factor for a city is to be located in the periphery of the large urban area centre and to derive benefit from knock-on effects.

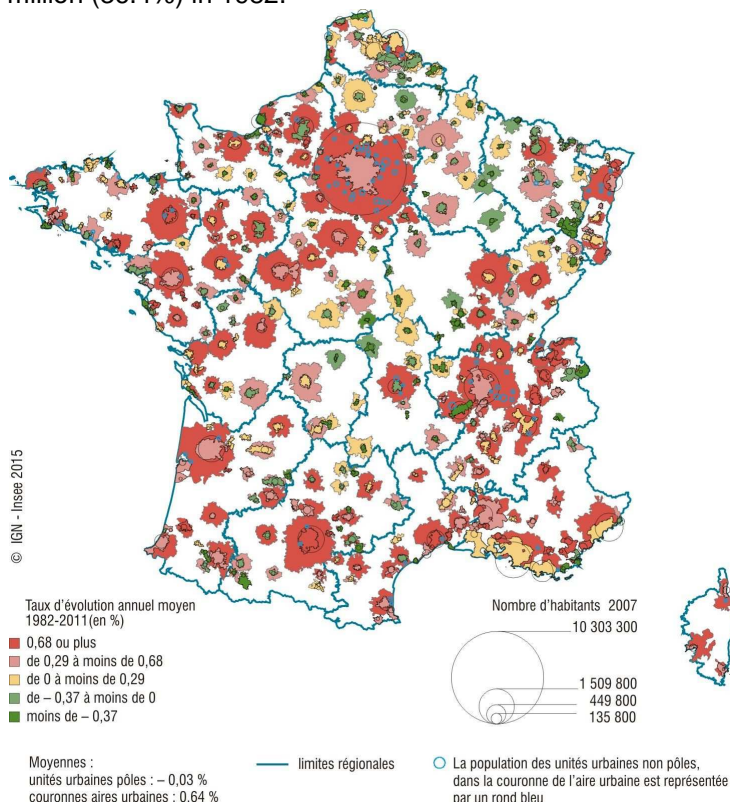
- In 2011, in Metropolitan France, almost eight out of ten inhabitants lived in urban space

In thirty years (1982-2011), the urban population increased by 23%, or 8,961,000 extra inhabitants. **The majority of this growth (60%, or 5,395,000 inhabitants) was due to the geographic extension of urban space.** In 2011, agglomerations covered an area of 118,700 km², or 42% more than in 1982, and almost eight out of ten inhabitants lived in these areas. **These 3,566,000 extra inhabitants represent population density growth in the cities.**

- Urban growth is driven by cities of 400,000 or more inhabitants

In the course of the last thirty years, almost 80% of the increase in urban population concerns agglomerations of 400,000 inhabitants or more, and 20% of this was in Paris. **The attractiveness of large cities reinforces an urban system dominated primarily by Paris, and second by a group of 14 urban units with populations of 400,000 or more, located on the coast, along the rivers and close to international borders.**

In 2011, the 15 largest cities had a total of 21.3 million inhabitants, or 43.8% of the urban total, compared with 14.4 million (36.4%) in 1982.



- **Less dynamism in agglomerations of 100,000 to 400,000 inhabitants**

If we consider all urban units of 10,000 inhabitants or more, **the proportion with between 100,000 and 400,000 inhabitants has decreased (from 28.0% in 1982 to 19.3% in 2011) in favour of large metropolitan areas.** In fact, the majority of population increase overall is linked with extension around the perimeters of urban units; those with between 100,000 and 400,000 inhabitants have increased their surface areas to a moderate degree (+11.8%) whereas those with 400,000 inhabitants or more (excluding Paris) occupy a space that has more than doubled in thirty years.

- **Urban hierarchy is stable overall**

In thirty years, the ranking of the most populated cities in the urban hierarchy has remained stable overall. Any absolute variation in city populations has been in proportion to their size, therefore the hierarchy has remained the same as before. **Any changes in position are more significant for the smaller cities and happen less often for the largest cities:** only 7 of the 53 urban units with 100,000 inhabitants or more (excluding Paris) went up more than three places: Genève-Annemasse (+13), Montpellier (+6), Poitiers (+5), Annecy (+5), Bayonne (+5), Chambéry (+4), Rennes (+4). However, **the demographic supremacy of Paris declined slightly, to the benefit of the 15 cities with over 400,000 inhabitants.**

- **Spatial concentration increases with city size**

Measuring spatial concentration, i.e. population and employment numbers related to surface area, shows that the concentration of employment at the place of work is higher than population density, both in 1982 and 2011. **Over the last thirty years, population density has increased (strong population growth in Paris and the large metropolitan areas) whereas that of employment has decreased (in the large metropolitan areas, growth in employment is greater than in Paris).** Closures of industrial establishments in Paris proper and the remoteness of activity outside the city account for this lower employment density.

11. Contrastes d'évolutions de population et d'emploi selon des profils de centralité d'unités urbaines

Unités urbaines de 10 000 habitants ou plus	Nombre d'unités urbaines	Taux de croissance annuel moyen (en %)					
		Population			Emploi		
		1 ^{er} quartile	Moyenne	3 ^e quartile	1 ^{er} quartile	Moyenne	3 ^e quartile
Pôles d'aires urbaines	350	-0,41	-0,03	0,28	0,15	0,62	1,10
Pôles de grandes aires urbaines	229	-0,28	0,06	0,34	0,31	0,69	1,00
Pôles de grandes aires urbaines avec unités urbaines en couronne	28	-0,07	0,28	0,45	0,48	0,89	1,23
Unités urbaines en couronne de grandes aires urbaines	85	0,50	1,00	1,26	0,66	1,59	2,00

Champ : France métropolitaine, unités urbaines de 10 000 habitants ou plus (délimitations 2010 des unités et aires urbaines).

Lecture : les caractéristiques de centralité (pôle, non-pôle) des villes des grandes aires urbaines ont été associées, sur la période 1982-2011, au dynamisme des villes, aussi bien du côté de l'emploi que de la population. Un quart des unités urbaines pôles de grandes aires urbaines ont connu une croissance de l'emploi inférieure à 0,31 % sur la période 1982-2011 (1^{er} quartile) et un quart une croissance supérieure à 1,00 % (3^e quartile).

Source : Insee, recensements de la population 1982 et 2011.

- **Employment in the major cities attracts new inhabitants**

Urban areas are zones of intensive exchanges between areas where people live and where they work. They consist of a city, bringing together a large number of jobs, and the surrounding municipalities that are under the influence of this urban centre.

In these urban areas, **population growth is linked with growth in employment, as populations tend to follow economic activity and even potential economic development.**

These positive changes concern the main areas of growth (Atlantic arc, South-West, southern Mediterranean, Rhône valley, Ile de France), and also the urban areas of Dijon, Limoges, Strasbourg, Besançon, Reims. The major urban centres, the regional prefectures, have seen the greatest increase in employment. With the exception of Rouen, Clermont-Ferrand, Amiens and Châlons-en-Champagne, three in four of urban centres, the administrative capitals, form part of a dynamic of demographic growth between 1982 and 2011.

Lifestyles in European cities

Brigitte Baccaïni, Chun Ngo, Chrystel Scribe

The study covered 904 European cities, including 114 in France, selected according to density criteria and continuity of habitat. Cities also had to have some political function, a local governance role. Data are taken from the Urban Audit (Eurostat).

Note: INSEE also publishes regional studies (See Urban Audit file)

French cities, when compared with European cities in general (EU28 plus Norway and Switzerland), are fairly young, with a median age of 38. Dwellings are slightly larger, per person, than the European average. “Soft” methods of transport are used relatively little. Finally, with an average homicide rate of 0.13 per 10,000 inhabitants, the French cities that were studied are from this point of view safer, on average, than European cities.

French cities are relatively young

In the 904 European cities studied, half of the inhabitants are aged 40 or over (median age). In France, Norway, the United Kingdom and Ireland, the proportion of young people aged under 20 is particularly high in the cities, whereas in Italy, Germany and Slovenia there are relatively large numbers of people aged 65 or over. French cities are fairly young, with a median age of 38.

1. Répartition des « villes » européennes et âge médian par classe de taille

	Nombre de villes		Part de villes (en %)		Âge médian	
	Europe	France	Europe	France	Europe	France
Moins de 100 000 habitants	308	40	34,1	35,1	40	38
De 100 000 à moins de 250 000 habitants	409	51	45,2	44,7	40	39
De 250 000 à moins de 500 000 habitants	122	15	13,5	13,2	40	38
De 500 000 à moins de 1 000 000 habitants	44	4	4,9	3,5	40	37
1 000 000 habitants ou plus	21	4	2,3	3,5	40	36
Ensemble	904	114	100,0	100,0	40	38

Source : Eurostat, audit urbain, 2007-2012.

European cities tend to be populated by one-person households and households without children

In European cities, the average household is made up of 2.3 people. In virtually all countries, urban households are relatively small in size compared with the rest of the country, with in particular an overrepresentation of people living alone. **It is in the smaller cities that more families are to be found.**

Among the French cities, Paris stands out as its households are small in size (1.9 people on average), with more than one in two households consisting of only one person.

Majority of collective accommodation

A little over half the dwellings across all European cities consist of collective accommodation. The more densely populated the cities, the greater the proportion of collective accommodation.

In France, the share of collective accommodation in the cities participating in the study was 56%, considerably higher than for France as a whole (43%) and slightly higher than the rate for European cities overall (51%). Lille stands out by being the only French city of over 1 million inhabitants where more than half of the accommodation consists of individual dwellings.

Indicateurs sur le logement dans les villes européennes

en %

	Part de logements collectifs	Part de ménages d'une personne	Part de propriétaires	Part de locataires du secteur social
Allemagne	73	46	29	5
Autriche (ville de Vienne)	...	47	20	42
Belgique	38	43	...	...
Bulgarie	33	30	76	0
Espagne	...	16	...	3
Estonie	90	39	74	2
Finlande	78	45	51	19
France	56	36	51	21
Grèce	66	27	62	...
Hongrie	69	35	87	3
Irlande	25	28	55	13
Italie	...	37	...	...
Lettonie	94	...	90	4
Lituanie	86	33	83	3
Malte (ville de Valletta)	...	21	70	...
Norvège	...	44	...	...
Pays-Bas	...	40	43	...
Pologne	...	28	...	...
Portugal	20	21	69	3
République tchèque	80	36	40	7
Royaume-Uni	27	37	83	23
Slovaquie	79	...	...	...
Slovénie	71	40	62	7
Suède	69	...	...	...
Suisse	94	...	...	...
Ensemble	51	34	55	12

Source : Eurostat, audit urbain, 2007-2012

Majority of homeowners

On average, **55% of urban households in European cities are owner-occupiers**. In France, this figure is only 51%. In a large majority of cities in Europe the share of homeowners is lower than in the country as a whole and even more so when the city is a large one.

Social housing very developed in the United Kingdom

On average, 30% of urban households live in private rented housing and 12% in social housing. The United Kingdom is an exception, with tenants in the social sector considerably outnumbering those in the private sector.

Social housing is also well represented in cities in France and Finland (20% approx.), a particular feature being that the private and social rented accommodation sectors are more or less equal.

Dwellings with large areas of living space in France and Germany

The average living space is 36 m² per inhabitant in European cities. In general, this space is smaller in the cities than in the country as a whole. In France and Germany, it is 42 m² per inhabitant, the largest in Europe.

The car, mode of transport most used by inhabitants of European cities for journeys to and from work

On average, 60% of journeys to and from work by populations living in the cities studied were made by car or by powered two-wheel vehicles, 20% by public transport and 20% by bicycle or on foot. **Notably, capitals have a higher use of public transport, especially Bratislava (87%), Paris (68%) and Berne (59%).** In large cities, a high population density and generally better developed public transport systems increase the use of public transport.

Murder rate and violent deaths fairly low in French cities

On average, the rate of murders and violent deaths per year in European cities is 0.18 per 10,000 inhabitants. In France, it is lower (0.13 per 10,000 inhabitants). The highest rates (higher than 1 per 10,000) are found in cities in Germany (Bayreuth, Hildesheim, Rosenheim) and Belgium (Charleroi, Gand).

Quality of life in European cities Regional studies published by INSEE

The Urban Audit is a statistical operation to **collect data on a large number of variables relating to quality of life in European cities**, via a vast range of topics: demography, social issues, the economy, education and training, the environment, transport, culture and tourism.

Data were collected for **904 European cities** (EU28 + Norway, Switzerland and Turkey), including **114 in France**. Cities were selected according to population density criteria and continuity of habitat. They also had to have some political function, a local governance role.

The article “Lifestyles in European cities” taken from “France and its territories - edition 2015” is based on Urban Audit data.

There have also been regional studies based on these data in 9 regions:

(Studies available on the INSEE website when the embargo is lifted, by region)

- **Alsace** Region
Embargo until 15 April 2015 at 00:00
Press contact: Véronique Heili
Tel: 03 88 52 40 77
- **Auvergne** Region
Embargo until 15 April 2015 at 00:00
Press contact: Sandra Bouvet, Patrick Jabot -+
Tel: 04 73 19 78 65 - 04 73 19 78 71
- **Bretagne** Region
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Press contact: Clémence Culy
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- **Poitou-Charentes** Region
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Press contact: Hélène Pigassou
Tel: 05 49 30 00 30

Concentration of professions by employment zone tending to strengthen

Vivien Roussez, Jonathan Bougard and Benoît Roumier

The presence of different professions varies considerably in the different territories. The map of employment zones reveals a fairly clear contrast between the very urban areas in the south, with a high concentration of managers and intellectual professions, and other more agricultural, more industrial, and more blue-collar professions in the north. This specialisation has tended to strengthen over time.

In addition, the jobs offered in a territory are not necessarily held by workers who live in that territory. This imbalance between labour supply and demand is sometimes marked, especially in densely urban areas. However, there is no link between this mismatch and the distribution of jobseekers in the territory.

Blue-collar work is overrepresented in the northern half of the country, and employment associated with services in the southern half.

The local labour markets (which correspond approximately to the 321 employment zones) represent a common core of what are known as "face to face" activities (services to the public, retailing, etc.), aimed at satisfying the needs of the local population and tourists. A quarter of employment zones, corresponding to the employment zones in intermediate-sized towns, have a general profile, which is representative of the employment structure nationally and with the same annual increase over the period 1999-2011 (with an average annual increase in employment of +0.65% over the period in question).

However, there are some jobs which are overrepresented in a few territories, reflecting their area of specialisation.

Regions in the north-eastern quarter, especially when they are border regions, and the industrial basins are the only ones to still retain **a large proportion of blue-collar workers** (industry, artisanal, etc.). These employment zones (39% of the total) are experiencing a very low average annual growth in employment (less than +0.2%).

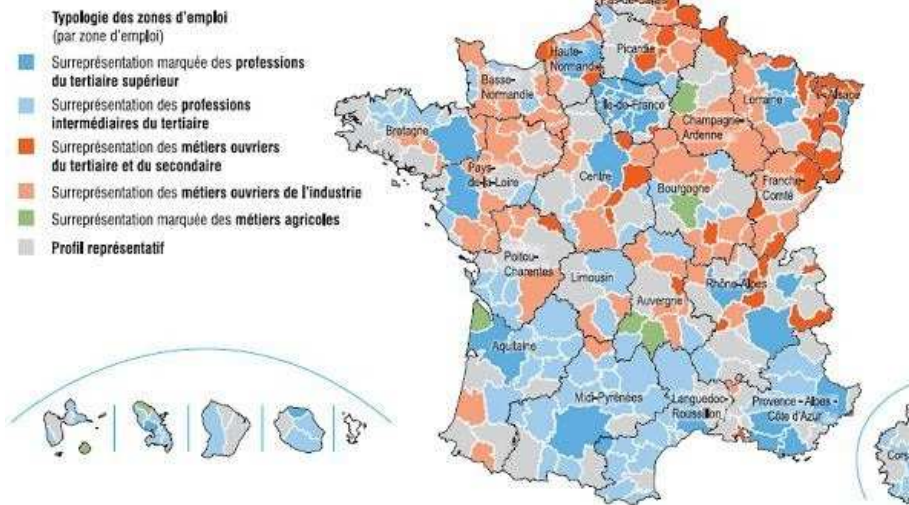
Intermediate professions in the tertiary sector dominate in the south of the country and in the Overseas departments (DOM). They are typical of territories that are geared towards a face-to-face economy as they cater for retired people, people with second homes and tourists. A quarter of employment zones have this profile, and here employment is increasing annually at a pace that is slightly higher than the national average (+0.66% approx.).

Highly qualified jobs (design, research, etc.) are concentrated in the metropolitan areas (36 employment zones). It is in these territories that the annual increase in employment is greatest (+0.8%).

Only 7 employment zones show an overrepresentation of **agricultural jobs**. These are the only ones to have lost jobs over the period in question (-0.1% per year).

Spécialisation professionnelle des zones d'emploi

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Source: Insee, population census 2010

The high geographical concentration of employment results in imbalances in urban labour markets

Half of jobs are concentrated in 30 of the 321 employment zones in France (excluding Mayotte). From 1999 to 2011, the growth in employment in the 14 largest employment zones was on average 0.86% per year compared with 0.65% nationally, which accentuates the concentration of employment in France. In parallel with their increase in demographic growth, the major agglomerations in the South and the West recorded the largest number of job creations, especially Montpellier, Toulouse and Nantes.

As jobs were more concentrated than population, workers in areas with the most urban characteristics often lived outside the employment zone where they worked. This means that in these labour markets there is a **mismatch between posts and the professions of the residents, mainly in the very urban areas.**

These imbalances do not mean a stronger presence of jobseekers in urban zones

The proportion of jobseekers at the end of the month (in categories A, B, C) in the labour force varies greatly from one employment zone to another (from 8.1% to 26.6% in Metropolitan France). There is **little correlation between the rural or urban nature of the zones and their share of jobseekers:** among the zones with the smallest share (less than 12.8%), there are both highly urbanised territories (such as Saclay or Créteil in Île-de-France) and others with a low density (like Lozère), which are more dispersed geographically.

However, large urban areas are generally in a better position and this is true even after the crisis. The 29 least affected employment zones are located mainly in Île-de-France, close to the borders with Germany and Switzerland, in Corsica, in the south of the Massif Central (where the Auvergne, Midi-Pyrénées and Languedoc-Roussillon regions meet) and in Basse-Normandie.

The zones that are most in difficulty are relatively closely concentrated. Most are located to the north and south of metropolitan areas in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Picardie and Languedoc-Roussillon regions (where the proportion of jobseekers often exceeds 22%).

The scale of disparities in the proportion of jobseekers is as great in 2013 as in 2003

Between 2003 and 2013 in Metropolitan France there has been a **large increase in jobseekers (greater than 5.5 points) in 45 employment zones**, especially after the 2008 crisis. These zones are located for the most part in regions in the south and the north-east quarter of France (including the

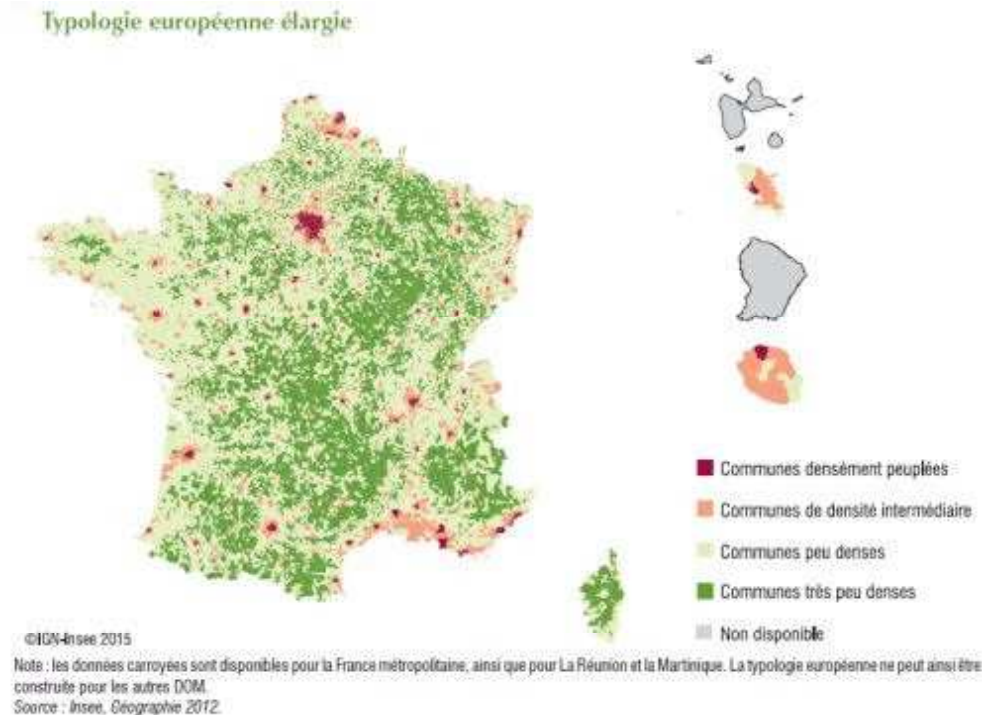
south of the Paris basin), and also in industrial areas undergoing restructuring (Champagne-Ardenne, Vallée de l'Arve, Le Mans or Belfort).

Conversely, **the rise is more moderate (less than 2 points) in 37 employment zones**, including those that correspond to the major urban areas and others in the Basque Country, the Alps, the Brittany and Normandy coasts and part of the Mediterranean coast.

A new approach to thinly and densely populated areas

Christel Aliaga, Pascal Eusebio, David Levy

In order to look beyond the usual approaches, the country can be analysed using a new grid which differentiates thinly and densely populated areas in a more continuous way. It is based on the degree of population density within territories. Defined in this way, municipalities are also positioned differently according to their situation in the context of urban areas, their rate of population change and access time to facilities.



10% of municipalities are densely or moderately populated.

One out of ten municipalities appears as densely populated or of intermediate population density. These areas contain 65% of the population.

Densely populated municipalities represent fewer than 2% of all municipalities and 35% of the population. The average density of these areas is almost 3,000 inhabitants/km². These municipalities are located in the centres of large urban areas and more than 70% of them have more than 10,000 inhabitants. In general, these spaces can be characterised as being significantly man-made and having a higher net taxable income per tax household (25,155 euros on average in 2009) and a low rate of population change between 2006 and 2011 (+1.2%).

Thinly populated municipalities: especially in the periphery of large urban centres

More than half the municipalities appear in the thinly populated category. They account for a little under one third of the population. The majority (60%) are located in the periphery and the multicentric space of large urban areas.

In general, the share of urbanised and man-made zones is much less than in the intermediate density municipalities (4% of surface area against 21%). On the other hand, the share of agricultural areas is the highest of the four categories at almost two-thirds of the surface area. **Overall, these thinly populated areas had the highest population growth rate between 2006 and 2011 (+5.2%).**

The question of **accessibility to facilities and services** is an important one for these areas: access times to services and facilities, although less than those for very thinly populated municipalities, are much higher than for intermediate density municipalities.

Temps d'accès aux services et aux équipements

en minutes

	Catégories de communes			
	Communes densément peuplées	Communes de densité intermédiaire	Communes peu denses	Communes très peu denses
Temps médian d'accès aux équipements de la gamme de proximité les plus proches	5	5	8	13
Temps médian d'accès au médecin omnipraticien le plus proche	4	4	10	16
Temps médian d'accès à la pharmacie la plus proche	4	4	10	18
Temps médian d'accès aux urgences les plus proches	14	26	40	52
Temps médian d'accès à l'école élémentaire la plus proche	4	4	4	10
Temps médian d'accès au collège le plus proche	6	8	16	24
Temps médian d'accès au lycée général le plus proche	8	16	32	46

Champ : France métropolitaine, La Réunion et la Martinique.

Note : il s'agit du temps médian d'accès en minutes, en automobile, en heure creuse, du chef-lieu de la commune de résidence au chef-lieu de la commune d'implantation du service le plus proche. Pour l'infracommunal, les calculs se font entre les carreaux de 200 mètres : la médiane représente le temps d'accès de chaque carreau de 200 mètres à l'équipement le plus proche. Les distances sont calculées avec le distancier Metric de l'Insee.

Source : Insee, base permanente des équipements.

For very thinly populated municipalities, this low density is not synonymous with depopulation

One third of municipalities are very thinly populated; they include **4% of the population**. Defining very thinly populated areas means identifying areas where inhabitants are more "isolated" from their neighbours. Very thinly populated municipalities are **often a long way from the influence of the cities**: almost three-quarters are in a "residual" space in relation to zoning into urban areas. The remaining quarter is located mainly at the peripheral fringes of the large urban centres and slightly overlapping the multicentric space.

However, thinly populated is not always synonymous with depopulation. **The population of very thinly populated municipalities increased overall by 3.3% between 2006 and 2011**, less than the thinly populated municipalities, but a little more than for densely populated or intermediate density municipalities. Facilities and services are less accessible in these thinly populated areas, with a longer journey time than for the other categories. So for example, three quarters of very thinly populated municipalities are more than 10 minutes from everyday services, compared with only one fifth of thinly populated municipalities.

Extending the European degree of urbanisation typology

This study presents a new approach, based on the European classification which uses density and population calculations applying a principle of aggregating 1 km² grid cells; rural grid cells correspond to the most thinly populated areas, according to thresholds determined at European level. Using this method, the vast majority of municipalities (90%) in France are considered as thinly populated, a country where population density is fairly low almost everywhere. We were therefore inclined to define this vast rural space in more detail. Using the same method as that used for the European classification, a fourth category was added by identifying "very thinly populated areas". Municipalities could then be divided into four categories:

- 1- densely populated municipalities (1.7% of municipalities and 35.3% of the population)
- 2- intermediate density municipalities (8.2% of municipalities and 29.9% of the population)
- 3- thinly populated municipalities (54.5% of municipalities and 30.7% of the population)
- 4- very thinly populated municipalities (35.6% of municipalities and 4.1% of the population)