



Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is globally recognized as THE leading place for chemicals. The region has managed to attract big names in the sector and to develop an ecosystem focusing on innovation and effective training.

SPECIFIC FEATURES AND STRENGTHS OF THE SECTOR

The story of the chemical industry and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes began back in 1850, in “Chemical Valley” south of Lyon. The discovery of chemical processes (in particular regarding colorants) paved the way for the setting up of many industries.

With **25% of France’s research on chemicals** concentrated in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the sector perpetuates a strong attachment to research.

The big names in chemicals are found in “Chemical Valley” (south of Lyon), on Les Roches-Roussillon chemical platform and in the Grenoble area (Isère).

This concentration is an opportunity for small companies: **88% of businesses in the sector are VSEs/SMEs.**

Every area of chemistry is represented in the region.

Specialty chemicals (plastic), petrochemistry, plant-based green chemistry, environmental chemistry, the fertilizer industry, compressed gas and the manufacture of aromatic products feature among the region’s specialities.

The river means big companies can transport via waterway.

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes’ **network of universities and “grandes écoles”** train engineers who contribute to the booming sector.

With **investments totalling €500 million**, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is a region to be reckoned with.

Innovation is omnipresent and major players get involved in projects of international scope.



KEY FIGURES

FOR THE SECTOR

- **#1 French region for chemical production**
- **800 companies**
- **Over 32,000 employees**
- **#12 billion in turnover**

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MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY IN THE SECTOR

- Plant-based chemistry
- Chemical recycling
- Inorganic chemistry
- Compressed gas
- Fine chemicals and biochemistry
- Fertilizer industry
- Crop protection industries
- Manufacture of aromatic products
- Manufacture of chemicals
- Water treatment and sanitation
- Manufacture of detergents and industrial hygiene products

JOBS AND TRAINING

MORE THAN

100,000

JOBS ARE ECONOMICALLY LINKED TO THE SECTOR.

A network of “grandes écoles” trains engineers in chemistry; these include CPE Lyon, ENS Lyon, INSA de Lyon and Sigma Clermont-Ferrand. The network of universities provides additional training programmes.

THE SECTOR'S ECOSYSTEM



Several centres of excellence and competitiveness clusters foster dynamics in the sector: **Axelera, Polymeris and Techtera**. They contribute to the chemical industry's regional and national reach.



A stronghold for innovation in chemistry, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes also includes cutting-edge **laboratories and research centres** such as **Axel'One, Provademse, ICCF, Arkane, Institut de Chimie of Lyon and more.**



COMPANIES ESTABLISHED

IN AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES



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