

ECONOMIC FABRIC

Along the coast, apart from Monaco, economic activity mainly centres on the “presential economy”, which alone provides 90% of jobs on the French side of the border.⁵⁴ This is due to the particularly marked focus of the region on tourism, and also to the number of retired people settling in the area, who represent 30% of the population aged 15 or over. This is 2 percentage points above the regional average and 6 percentage points higher than in comparable border areas.⁵⁵ On the Italian side, the coastal area is home to an even higher percentage of retired people (almost 32% of the whole Ligurian population⁵⁶). The Ligurian economy is however slightly more industrialised than that of the Alpes-Maritimes Department (19% of jobs compared with 12.5%). The economy is characterised by a strong prevalence of companies specialising in horticulture-floriculture and permanent crops, particularly in the province of Imperia (nearly 7,500 businesses in 2010⁵⁷). Lastly, many Italian craft enterprises operate on the French side of the border

(notably the building and landscaping sectors), in competition with their French counterparts, but meeting deadlines more reliably and offering more competitive rates.

The Principality of Monaco constitutes a very important services centre (with only 6.6% of jobs in industry, representing 6.2% of GDP), including the scientific and technological activities, administrative and support services sector, which employs the largest number of people (21.8%).⁵⁸ As a percentage of GDP, this sector is also the largest (16.7%), along with the financial and insurance sector (also 16.7%); real estate activities come in third position (8.4%), followed by wholesale trade (8.3%).⁵⁹

The remainder of the border is characterised by economic activities typical of a rural mountainous area: tourism (mainly in winter), but also a network of SMEs (agri-food, cosmetics etc.). The maritime border (Corsica and Sardinia) presents economic issues linked to tourism.

⁵⁴ Source: INSEE, “Zone d’emploi Menton-Vallée de la Roya” (“Menton-Roya Valley Employment Area”), No. 40, February 2014.

⁵⁵ Source: INSEE, “Zone d’emploi Menton-Vallée de la Roya”, op. cit.

⁵⁶ Source: ISTAT, 2013.

⁵⁷ Source: ISTAT, 2010.

⁵⁸ Source: IMSEE, 2013

⁵⁹ Source: IMSEE, GDP 2013.