

In 2022, French private equity, private debt and infrastructure funds raised €52.8bn (vs. €51bn for the whole of 2021)

In 2023, France Invest published three studies on the activity of the main market segments represented by the association: private equity, private debt and infrastructure funds.

These three studies show that **€52.8 billion was raised in 2022 for these activities to provide equity and debt financing to mainly unlisted companies and infrastructure projects in the next five years.** This amount was up 3.7% compared with 2021 (€50.9 billion).

1. Activity of French private equity and infrastructure players

In 2022, the activity of French private equity and infrastructure funds stays the course despite a slowdown in the second half of the year.

€41.5 billion

in capital raised.
(€41.8 billion in 2021)

€36.3 billion

invested.
(€36.0 billion in 2021)

2,857 business or
infrastructure projects

(2,495 in 2021)

Source: France Invest / Grant Thornton – Study of the activity of non-listed companies in France in 2022 : private equity and infrastructure.

a. Private equity

With €25.5bn raised by private equity funds, activity continued to grow in 2022 (+4% vs 2021), driven by several fundraising over €1bn. Historically higher at H2, capital raising decreased significantly in the second half of the year in an uncertain context. Subscribers are still very diversified and international fundraising remains at a high level of nearly 40%.

€24.7bn was invested in 2,681 businesses, down by 9% compared with 2021. This slight decrease is explained by the reduction in investments larger than €100m. Primary transactions (companies which open their capital to a France Invest member for the first time) represent 46% of the amounts invested in 2022 (in line with the annual average over the last 10 years). Investments in digital sectors (€4.9bn, 20% of amounts invested) confirmed their attractiveness for private equity funds (+10% vs. 2021, +72% vs. 2019).

b. Infrastructure funds

Capital raising of infrastructure funds has been slowing down slightly in 2022 with €16bn raised (-7 % vs 2021). Pension funds remained the main subscribers. 80% of the capital was raised internationally (vs. 69% over the 2017-2021 period).

€11.6bn was invested in 176 infrastructure projects, the majority of which were based in France. The renewable energy sector tops the list with nearly €4bn invested.

2. Activity of private debt funds (corporate and infrastructure) in France

In an uncertain context, the private debt fund market was very dynamic in 2022.

€12.4 billion

in capital raised.
(€10.9bn in 2021)

€19.3 billion

in financing.
(€14.9bn in 2021)

449 deals

in France in 2022.
(304 deals in 2021)

Source : France Invest / Deloitte – Activity of private debt funds in France, 2022

Private debt is provided by investment funds and complements or replaces bank debt. It is used to finance acquisitions with equity players, but also to finance external and internal growth projects.

a. Private corporate debt

In 2022, funds raised reached €10.8bn and will finance private debt enterprises (€9.2bn in 2021). Investments amounted to €18.2bn (€14.5bn in 2021) and were allocated to 413 deals (273 in 2021). The number of investments has risen sharply in transport and retail. 42% of operations have integrated the implementation of ESG indicators with variation in the interest rate.

b. Private infrastructure debt

€1.6bn was raised in 2022 (€1.7bn in 2021) and €1.1bn was provided to 36 infrastructure projects (€0.4bn for 31 projects in 2021).

3. Growth and job creation in the businesses supported

7,601 French businesses supported by French private equity at the end of 2021.

+12.6%
in turnover
in 2021.

83,200 net jobs
created in 2021.

281,700 net jobs
created over 5 years
(2016-2021)

Source: France Invest / EY – Study on growth and job creation in the businesses supported by French private equity players.

At the end of 2021, 7,601 French businesses were supported by French private equity. The data available from 3,800 French businesses, excluding large, listed companies, makes it possible to measure the impact of French private equity:

- **+12.6% in turnover in France and in exports**, an increase upper than that of the French nominal GDP (+8.2%).
- **83,200 net new jobs were created, excluding the effect of disposals and acquisitions**, i.e., growth of +5.8%, compared with +4.6% in the French market sector and +2.3% in the OECD.

Over 5 years (2016-2021), more than 281,700 net new jobs were created in these companies.

For more information on these figures and methodologies: www.franceinvest.eu