

Press Release

dated 13th October 2026

The Industrial and Port Activity Complex on the Loire Estuary Represents 30 400 Jobs

The latest study carried out by INSEE, the French National Institute of Economic and Statistical Information, based on data from 2024, confirms the significant economic importance of the industrial and port activity complex located on the Loire Estuary, between Nantes and Saint Nazaire.

The study recently carried out by INSEE analyses data from 2024. It identifies **670 establishments** (industrial firms, service companies and public agencies) and **30 400 jobs** within the Nantes – Saint-Nazaire industrial and port activity complex. This dynamic is driven by the shipbuilding, aeronautical and marine renewable energy sectors, this latter sector having become established in the Regional Community more recently.

Forming the historic heart of the Port, **maritime activities** employ 12 700 people, representing 42 % of the workforce of the industrial and port activity complex. Shipbuilding and ship repair account for more than half of this figure. Activities relating to transport organization, cargo handling and port-based services also make a significant contribution to maritime employment.

Non-maritime activities, meanwhile, employ 17 700 people, representing 58 % of the workforce. Such activities benefit from the proximity of the port facilities and from the industrial dynamism of the Regional Community. The aeronautical sector features prominently amongst these activities. The metalworking, energy, logistics and business services sectors also contribute to the economic vitality of the industrial and port activity complex.

Taken together, these activities account for 3.4 % of the wealth generated in the Pays de la Loire Region, amounting to 2.8 billion euros.

As the leading port on France's Atlantic Seaboard and the fourth largest port nationally, Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port acts both as a catalyst for economic development in Greater Western France and as a bridge between industrial and port-related activities and their urban and natural surroundings. The Port's facilities cover 1 545 hectares along the Loire Estuary. With a total annual traffic volume of between 25 and 30 million tonnes, Nantes – Saint Nazaire Port's influence extends outwards from the Pays de la Loire Region to Brittany, the Central France – Loire Valley Region, and the Nouvelle-Aquitaine Region.

An economic hub combining port-based, industrial and logistics activities around the Loire Estuary, the Nantes – Saint Nazaire industrial and port activity complex is therefore a key infrastructure facility at the heart of the

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economic development, regional planning and sustainable development challenges facing the Pays de la Loire Region.

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