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FRANCE IN THE PITTSBURGH REGION

Business

- France is the fifth largest foreign investor in the Pittsburgh region; 25 French-owned companies operate some 50 establishments that employ 3,300+ people.
- Several French companies have North American or U.S. headquarters in the region, including Adonix, Converteam, Saint Gobain Ceramics, Transcom and Groupe SEB, manufacturer of All Clad Cookware.
- Other major French companies with a presence here include Alcatel Lucent, Areva, AXA, Eramet and LaFarge.
- Nonstop Delta air service from Pittsburgh International Airport to Paris's Charles de Gaulle (CDG) Airport began in 2009. This flight, and the many connecting flights from CDG in cooperation with Air France, provide an enormous convenience for business travelers on both sides of the Atlantic, while enhancing ties with France and other international partners.
- France is also an important market for Pittsburgh businesses. Nearly 25 major regional companies operate more than 60 facilities in France. These companies range from advanced manufacturing (Alcoa, Allegheny Technologies, H.J. Heinz, Kennametal and PPG Industries) to information technology (Ansys and Black Box) to life sciences (Philips Respironics).
- Most recently, Veolia Transportation purchased Pittsburgh's largest privately owned taxi operator, Pittsburgh Transportation Group, which operates Yellow Cab, Super Shuttle and six other related companies.

Culture

- Pittsburgh's history is rich in French culture. In 1754 the French constructed the *Fort Duquesne de la Sainte Vierge* (Fort Duquesne of the Holy Virgin), which was later renamed "Fort Pitt" after its fall to the English. The fort eventually became Pittsburgh. Today, many French names (Duquesne, Ligonier, Marchand, Charleroi, North Versailles, Fayette) are reminders of the historic French presence throughout the region.
- There are strong French ancestral ties in the region; approximately 48,300 people claim French ancestry.
- The French program at the University of Pittsburgh enjoys an important cultural partnership with the Pittsburgh chapter of the Alliance Française, a cultural center for the region's French community in Pittsburgh with more than 400 members. French is one of the 26 cultures represented in the Nationality Rooms at the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning.
- France is represented among 14 other countries in Pittsburgh with honorary consuls (private, volunteer citizens who support the activities of the foreign governments they represent in major cities lacking a formal Consulate General). The current French honorary consul in Pittsburgh is M. Jean-Dominique Le Garrec.



- The Pittsburgh region is filled with French flavor, with restaurants and bakeries including Chez Gerard, Crepes Parisiennes, Jean-Marc Chatellier's French Bakery, Le Pommier, and Paris 66.

information provided by:

pittsburgh regional alliance

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