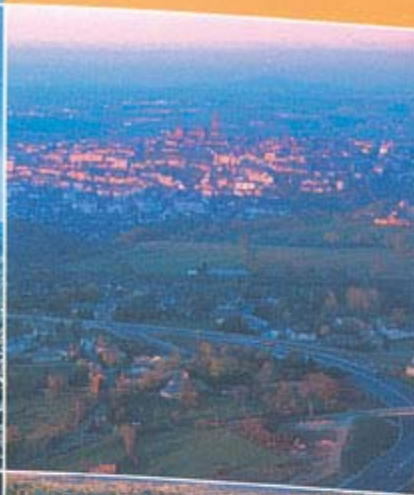


SETTING UP IN AVEYRON



Enterprise and Initiative
without hassle



Aveyron
La vitalité

L'AVEYRON Midi-Pyrénées region

Préfecture : **Rodez**

Sous-préfectures : **Millau**

and **Villefranche de Rouergue**



Set up

& go

263,808 inhabitants in 1999

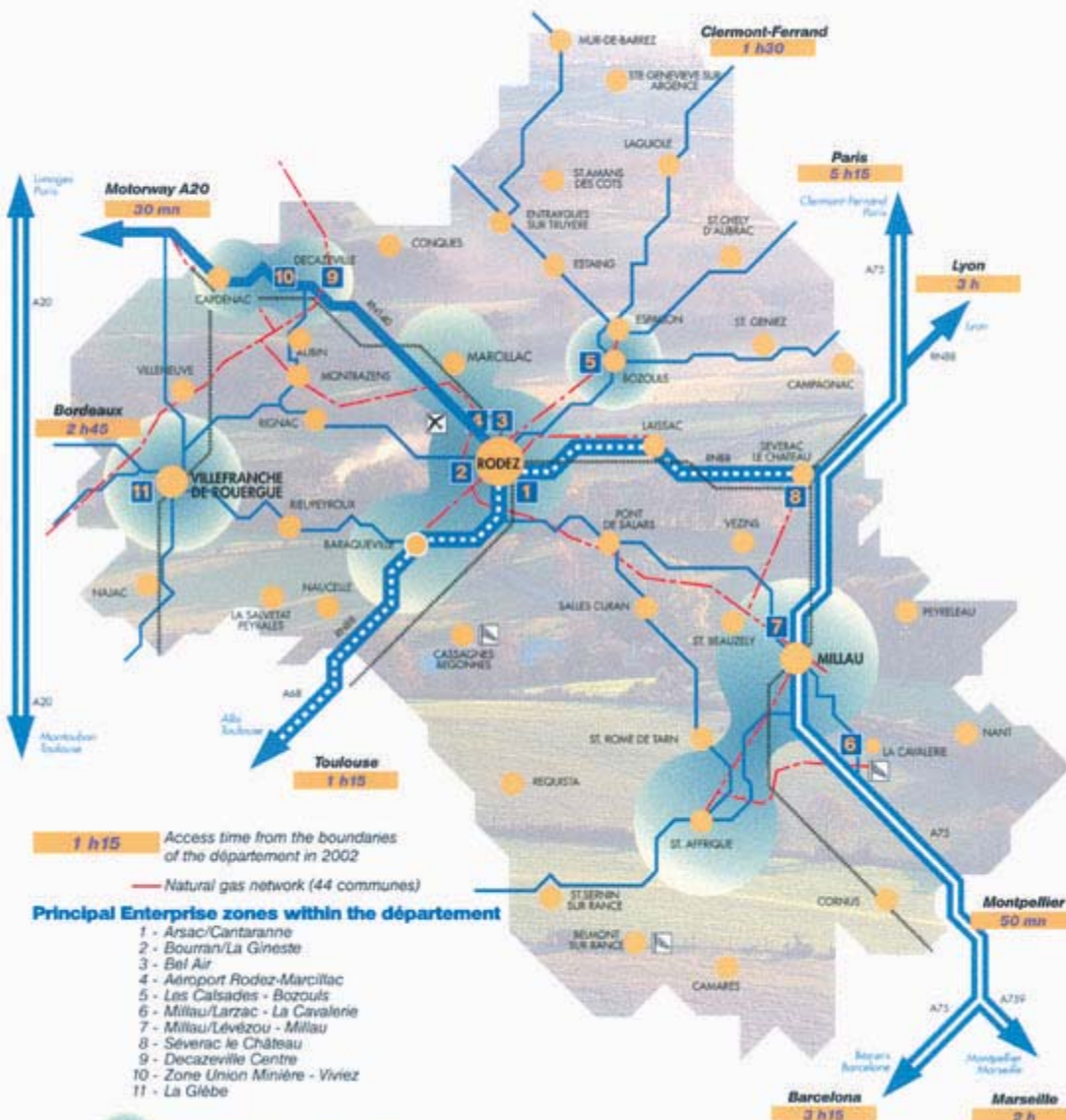
Main urban centres within the département

Rodez : 65,267

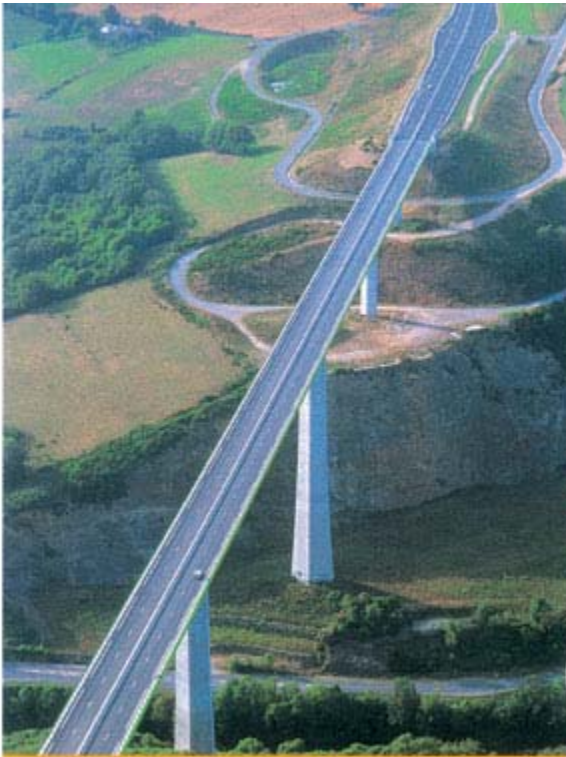
Millau : 28,005

Decazeville : 19,657

Villefranche de Rouergue : 16,553



ACCESSIBILITY TRANSFORMED BRINGING MARKETS MUCH CLOSER



Communicate

& make it happen



By road:

4 major arterial routes on offer

- **A 75** (toll free):

Clermont-Ferrand/Millau/Montpellier/Béziers.

The shortest, cheapest and least congested route from Paris to the Mediterranean.

- **A20**: Paris/Brive/Toulouse.

- **RN 88/A68**: express way Toulouse / Rodez / Lyon.

- **RN 140**: link between the A75 and the A20.

By plane:

Rodez – Marcillac airport (three Air France return flights to Paris Orly daily plus two return flights to Lyon – St. Exupéry).

Major national airports close-by: Toulouse-Blagnac and Montpellier-Méditerranée.

By Train

Daytime and nighttime direct trains to Paris, plus links to elsewhere via Toulouse.

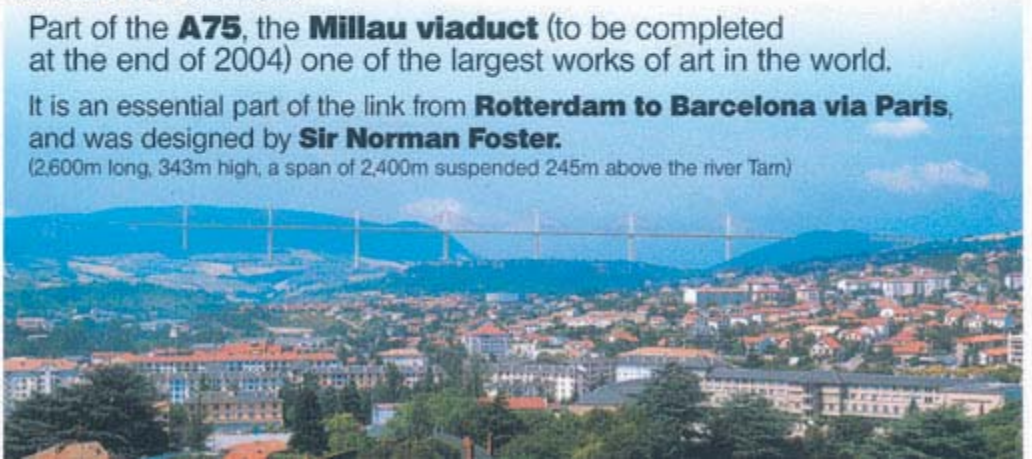
Telecommunications:

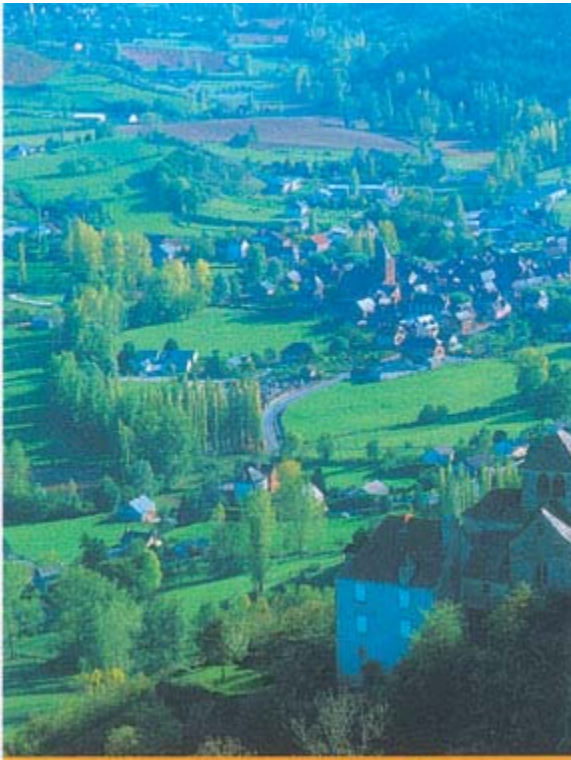
All the towns and major zones of activity are covered by the mobile phone networks and landlines.

Part of the **A75**, the **Millau viaduct** (to be completed at the end of 2004) one of the largest works of art in the world.

It is an essential part of the link from **Rotterdam to Barcelona via Paris**, and was designed by **Sir Norman Foster**.

(2,600m long, 343m high, a span of 2,400m suspended 245m above the river Tarn)





QUALITY OF LIFE, AUTHENTICITY, CALM

- Aveyron, in **7th place** in **2002**, as in **2000**, in the survey conducted by l'Express magazine entitled "Vivre heureux en France".
- **A quality of life which is widely recognised.**



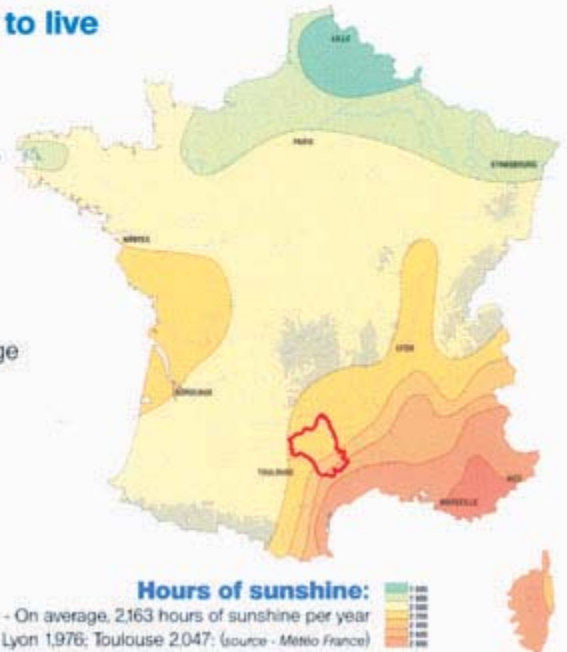
Living



discovering

An exceptional place to live and work, offering:

- towns in the countryside, human in scale and close to the rural environment,
- short journey times from home to work,
- quality real estate at affordable prices ;
- the largest number of holiday homes in the Midi-Pyrénées,
- life expectancy above the national average (men and women)
- close to the mountains and the sea,
- ranked in 7th place in terms of safe departments in which to live.



The works of Toulouse-Lautrec at the Château de Bort



Conques, the abbey and the windows designed by Boullée



The university

Aveyron

SPORT AND LEISURE: an ideal region for outdoor sports. Nearly 7,000km of rivers plus 40 lakes. Some 700 caves and potholes, of which 200 can be explored extensively. More than 2,200km of footpaths, including the pilgrim way to Santiago de Compostella.

NATURE: the "Parc Naturel des Grands Causses", 50% of the entire species of French flora.

HERITAGE AND HISTORY: Conques, classified as a world heritage site by UNESCO. 508 classified historic monuments, 88 classified historic sites. Nine members of the "Plus beaux villages de France" (more than any other département!), the largest number of standing stones in France.

ART DE VIVRE: rich and varied gastronomic heritage, from simple country inns to the finest restaurants. An AOC wine and 5 AOC cheeses, including the famous Roquefort. A crossroads between the Massif Central, the Midi Toulousain and the Mediterranean.

Excellent educational opportunities

- Regularly one of the highest success rates at the Baccalauréat in France **84.5% in 2000 (Midi-Pyrénées 82.6%, France 79.5%)**.
- At present, nearly 3,000 students and new opportunities opening up with the creation of the **university** antenna in the north of the Midi-Pyrénées region.

A DYNAMIC ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

- An economically active population of some 105,000 people. (+4.3% in 10 years)
- 13,656 companies in 2002.
- A level of industrialisation above the regional average and on a par with the national average.



Initiative

expansion

An economic and technological dynamism

The leading département in the south of France for livestock and the food industry. Among the leading centres in the south of France for **mechanical engineering for the automobile and aeronautical industries**. Ranked third nationally for **furniture manufacturing**.

One of only two 'CRITT Bois de France' – a Technical Centre for meat production – two technological hubs: one for industrial design and the other for the food industry.

- Aveyron is always ranked in the top five départements in terms of company solvency in France.
- An exemplary survival rate for companies in business 63.6% (Midi-Pyrénées 58.7%, France 57.5%).

Already present in Aveyron

RAGT : among the leading seed producers in Europe

LACTALIS (VALMONT, ROQUEFORT),

RAYNAL ET ROQUELAURE, leader in the pre-cooked sector.

The largest plant in France of the company **ROBERT BOSCH**.

BLANC AERO INDUSTRIES (groupe GR Industries) No. 2 world wide in the sector of screws, nuts and bolts for the aeronautical industry.

S.A.M. TECHNOLOGIES (groupe Arche) (high pressure aluminium and magnesium foundry)

FOREST-LINE, one of the leading companies in Europe for heavy machine tooling.

DUMESTE (Steiner furniture, Espalux kitchens).

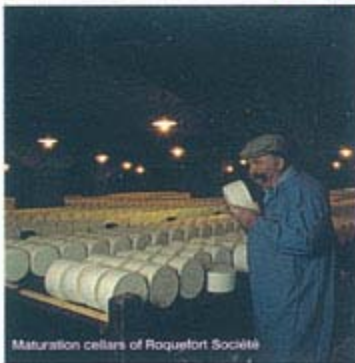
DRIMMER (leader in France for decorative lighting).

INFORSUD, leading IT company in the south of France

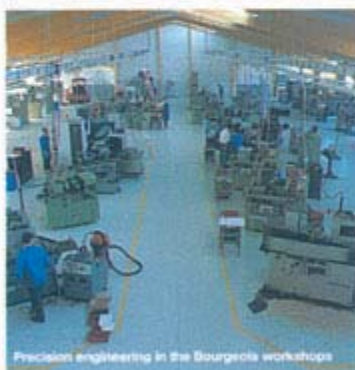
SODIELEC : one of the specialists in Europe for long distance hertzian communication

SYNELEC TELECOM MULTIMEDIA, world leader in high definition mural images

NOT FORGETTING... the leader in France for solid wood furniture the leader in construction of chalets the leader in the field of para-medical software the third largest continuous printing operation in France...



Maturation cellars of Roquefort Société



Precision engineering in the Bourgeois workshops



A favourable social environment

- From its agricultural roots, the département retains a workforce which is hard working, conscientious, and entrepreneurial...
- A high quality social environment with a low rate of absenteeism.
- A rate of unemployment below the regional and national averages.

ATTRACTIVE CONDITIONS FOR SETTING UP AND DEVELOPMENT



Invest



succeed



Two 50 hectare industrial zones adjacent to the A75 motorway as well as several other industrial parks situated near major arterial roads, all with space available. They all offer:

- exoneration from the 'taxe professionnelle' for the first 5 years
- links to the natural gas network
- fibre optic links.

Average price in the département: € 6/m², and possibility of modification to suit requirements.

Finance

- 8 local initiative hubs offering loans
- a local venture capital source (Midi-Pyrénées Création)
- two regional risk capital organisations (TOFINSO, IRDI)
- a reconversion organisation (SORID)
- EDF-GDF Service Aveyron (participative loans)

Fiscality

As well as the exoneration from the 'taxe professionnelle', the département enjoys a number of other fiscal advantages related to the creation of employment in rural areas (TRDP, ZRR)

Premises

- favourable building conditions and reductions for leasing or sale of appropriate buildings within designated zones..
- three business 'hothouses'
- existence of specific space available
- partnerships established with leasing companies.

Additional aid

Various subsidies and other forms of aid are available, depending on the specific nature and the location of the project:

- Prime Aménagement du Territoire - FDPMI
- Prime d'Orientation Agricole (investissement matériel dans l'agro-alimentaire)
- Aide au conseil (FRAC) et création de fonction nouvelle

Others

- ADEFPAT (Association pour le Développement par la Formation)
- Fonds d'industrialisation des Bassins Miniers (FIBM)

A complete package to help companies set up and flourish co-ordinated by the various organisations within the département involved in economic development, backed by the département, the Midi-Pyrénées region and the French government.



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