



**TUNNEL OBSERVATORY**

# 2026 status report on tunnels in operation in France

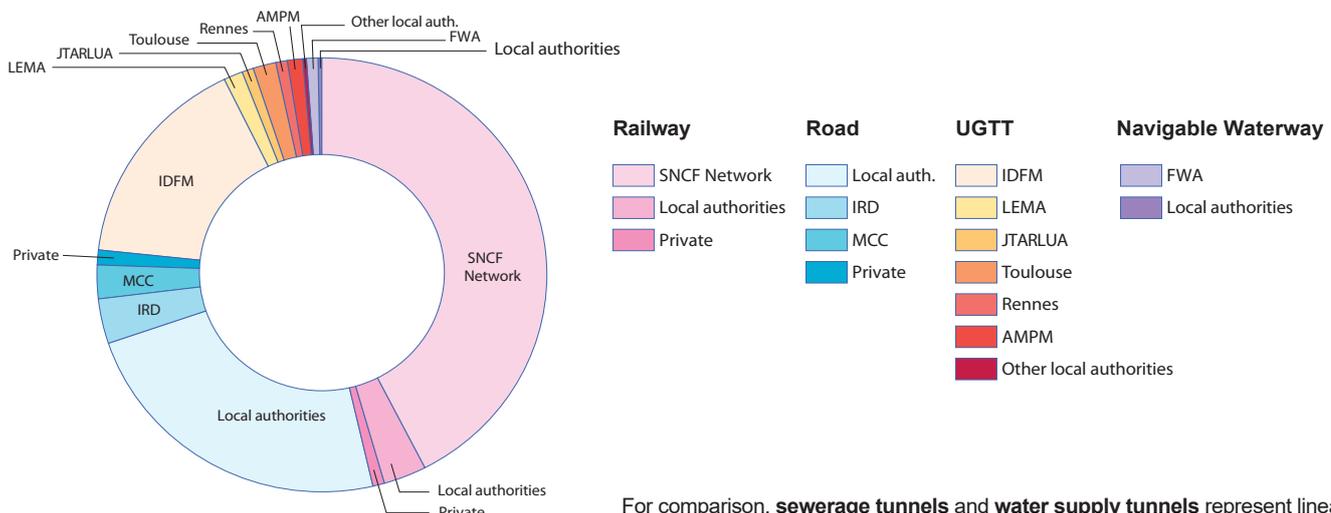
## BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBER OF TUNNELS BY TRANSPORT MODE\*

|                                       | OPERATOR  | Number       | Cumulative length (km) |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|------------------------|
| Railway Tunnels                       | SNCF Network  | 1 418        | 634                    |
|                                       | Local authorities   | 105          | 30                     |
|                                       | Private   | 27           | 109                    |
|                                       | <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>1 550</b> | <b>773</b>             |
| Road Tunnels                          | Local authorities   | 806          | 167                    |
|                                       | Interdepartmental Roads Directorate (IRD)                             | 111          | 85                     |
|                                       | Motorway Concession Company (MCC)                                     | 86           | 165                    |
|                                       | Private   | 35           | 8                      |
|                                       | <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>1 038</b> | <b>425</b>             |
| Urban Guided Transport Tunnels (UGTT) | Île-de-France Mobility (IDFM)   | 575          | 310                    |
|                                       | Joint Transport Authority for the Rhône and Lyon Urban Area (JTARLUA) | 45           | 30                     |
|                                       | Aix-Marseille-Provence Metropolitan Authority (AMPM)                  | 29           | 15                     |
|                                       | Lille European Metropolitan Authority (LEMA)                          | 60           | 37                     |
|                                       | Rennes Metropolitan Authority   | 24           | 16                     |
|                                       | Toulouse Metropolitan Authority                                       | 34           | 23                     |
|                                       | Other local authorities   | 12           | 6                      |
|                                       | <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>779**</b> | <b>437</b>             |
| Navigable Waterway Tunnels            | French Waterways Authority (FWA)                                      | 25           | 38                     |
|                                       | Local authorities   | 8            | 4                      |
|                                       | <b>Subtotal</b>   | <b>33</b>    | <b>42</b>              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                          |   | <b>3 400</b> | <b>1 677</b>           |

\*Tunnels for active modes will be added soon.

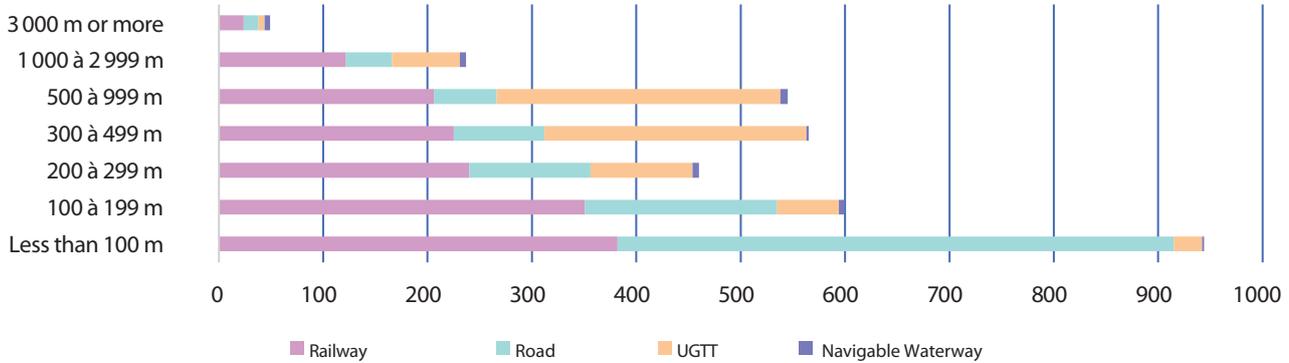
\*\*In this table, UG transport tunnels (UGTT) are defined as the sections between two stations or between a station and a depot.

## NUMBER OF TUNNELS BY TRANSPORT MODE



For comparison, **sewerage tunnels** and **water supply tunnels** represent linear lengths of **425 000 km** and **910 000 km**, respectively.

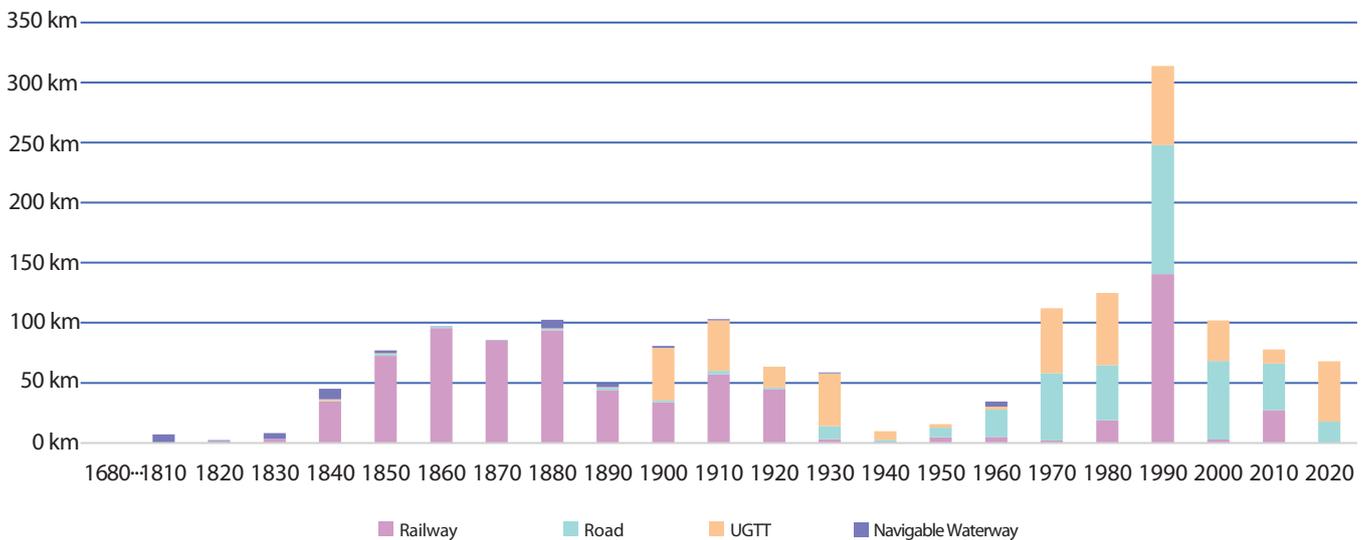
## BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBER OF TUNNELS BY LENGTH



## THE LONGEST FRENCH OR CROSS-BORDER TUNNELS FOR EACH TRANSPORT MODE

| Transport Mode                        | Name                   | Year of commissioning | Length underground (km) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>RAILWAY</b>                        | Channel Tunnel (Fr/En) | 1994                  | 50,5                    |
| <b>ROAD</b>                           | Fréjus Tunnel (Fr/It)  | 1980                  | 12,9                    |
| <b>URBAN GUIDED TRANSPORT TUNNELS</b> | Line 14 (Paris)        | 2024                  | 27,8                    |
| <b>NAVIGABLE WATERWAY</b>             | Riqueval Tunnel        | 1810                  | 5,7                     |

## LINEAR KILOMETRES OF TUNNELS COMMISSIONED PER DECADE



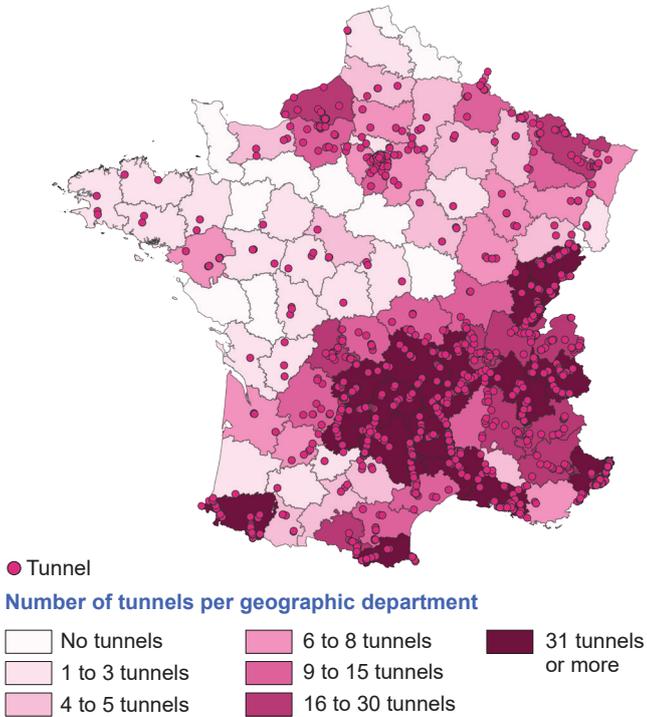
## THE OLDEST FRENCH TUNNELS FOR EACH TRANSPORT MODE

| Transport mode                        | Name                  | Year of commissioning | Length underground (km) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>RAILWAY</b>                        | Terrenoire            | 1829                  | 1,298                   |
| <b>ROAD</b>                           | Echelles Tunnel       | 1820                  | 0,294                   |
| <b>URBAN GUIDED TRANSPORT TUNNELS</b> | Lines 1 and 2 (Paris) | 1900                  | 16 et 12                |
| <b>NAVIGABLE WATERWAY</b>             | Malpas Tunnel         | 1680                  | 0,173                   |

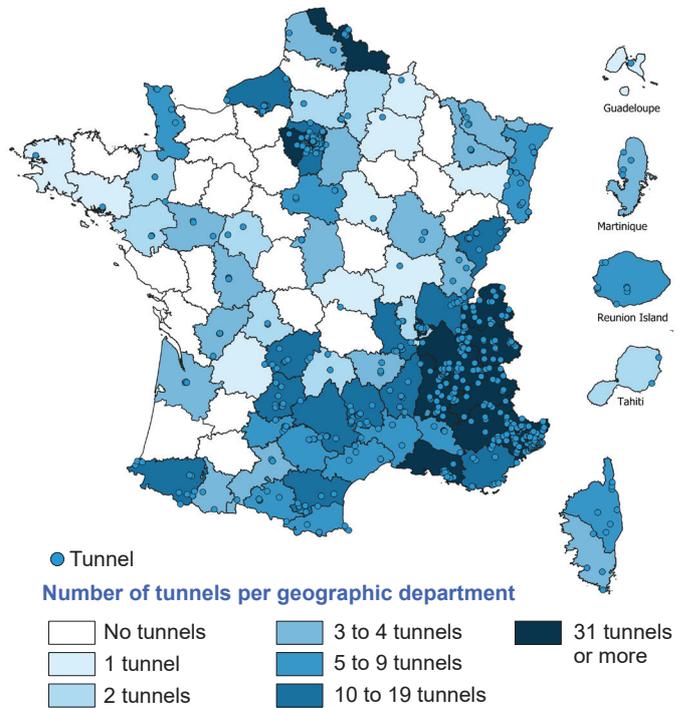


## GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN OF TUNNELS IN FRANCE

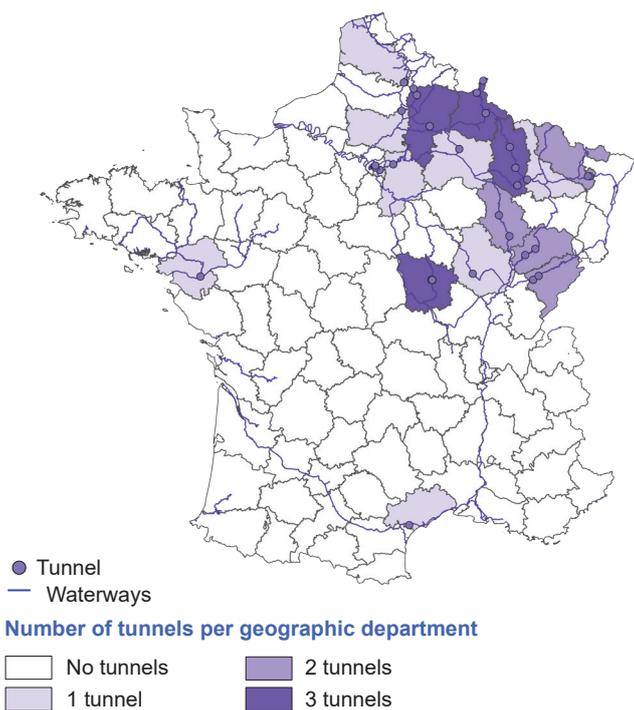
### RAILWAY TUNNELS



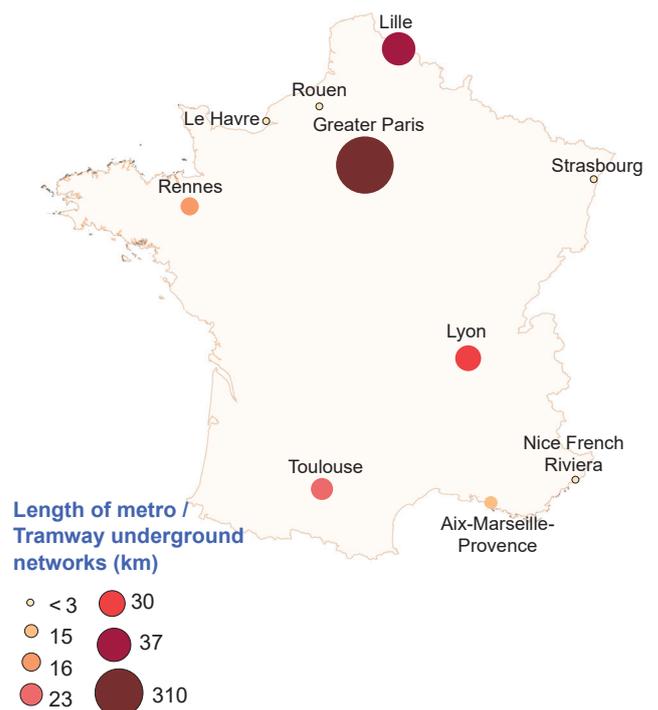
### ROAD TUNNELS



### NAVIGABLE WATERWAY TUNNELS



### URBAN GUIDED TRANSPORT TUNNELS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS





## SOME ONGOING PROJECTS

### LYON-TURIN RAIL LINK

271 km of new lines

**Cross-border section** : 57.5 km base tunnel requiring a total of 163 km of tunnels, of which 47.1 km have already been completed (02-2026, tel.eu)

**7 tunnel boring machines launched by 2027**

**French section:** 1st quarter of 2025

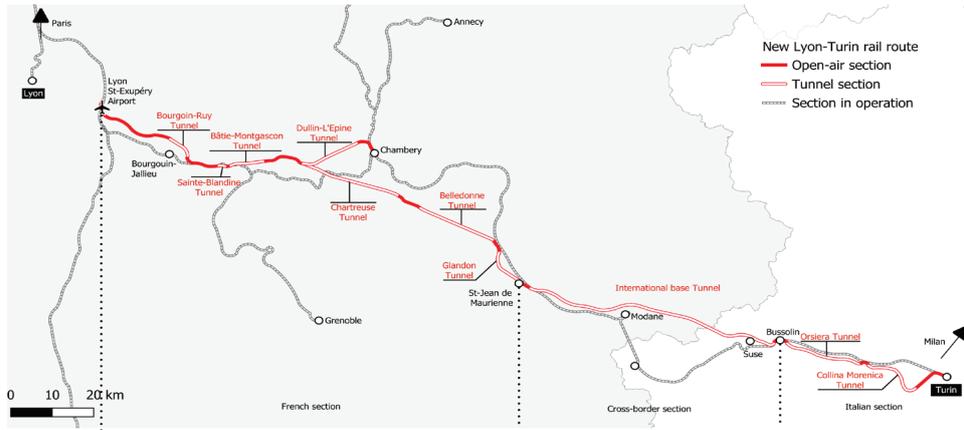
start of studies for the «wide gauge» route adding 70 km of tunnels

Total target cost :

**26 Bn €<sub>2012</sub> VAT**  
(Auditor General 2012)

including the cost of the base tunnel :

**11,1 Bn €<sub>2012</sub> VAT**



Map : CETU

### GREATER PARIS EXPRESS



Map : CETU

200 kilometres of lines, 90% of which are underground

4 new lines and 2 extensions

**In January 2026** : 117 km of tunnels excavated by 33 tunnel boring machines

Total target cost :

**35 Bn €<sub>2012</sub> VAT**  
Auditor General 04/2024

### EXTENSION OF THE TOULOUSE METRO NETWORK



Map : CETU

**Line C**: 27 kilometres and 21 stations

**Between 2024 and 2027** : 5 tunnel boring machines will excavate 21 km

**As of March 2026** : 12 km of tunnels have been excavated

Total target cost :

**3,15 Bn €<sub>2017</sub> VAT**  
Metropolitan area of Toulouse 02/2023

### Sources used for this entire document – Acknowledgements :

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