



TUNNEL OBSERVATORY

# 2026 status report on road tunnels in operation in France

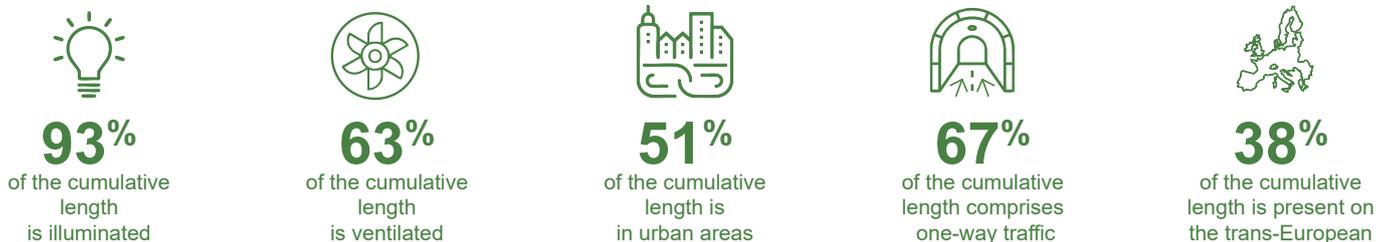
## BREAKDOWN OF THE NUMBER OF TUNNELS BY LENGTH

OPERATOR		All lengths	% of assets	Length > 300 m*	% of assets	Length > 1 000 m	% of assets
Tunnels on the National Road Network (NRN)*	Interdepartmental Directorate of Roads (IDR) outside the Île-de-France region	55	5,3 %	18	8,8 %	7	12,1 %
	IDR Île-de-France	55	5,3 %	25	12,2 %	7	12,1 %
	Motorway Concession Compagny (MCC)	83	8,0 %	49	23,9 %	21	36,2 %
	Cross-border (CB)	4	0,4 %	4	2,0 %	3	5,2 %
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>197</b>		<b>96</b>		<b>38</b>	
Tunnels outside the NRN	Départemental Councils (DC)	467	45,0 %	44	21,5 %	4	6,9 %
	Public Establishment for Intercommunal Cooperation (PEIC)	159	15,4 %	28	13,7 %	10	17,2 %
	Municipality	124	12,0 %	17	8,3 %	1	1,7 %
	Overseas Departmental Councils Or Corsica (ODCOC)	29	2,2 %	5	2,4 %	No	0 %
	Other local authorities	59	6,1 %	12	5,9 %	2	3,4 %
	Cross-border (CB)	3	0,3 %	3	1,5 %	3	5,2 %
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>841</b>		<b>109</b>		<b>20</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1 038</b>		<b>205</b>		<b>58</b>		

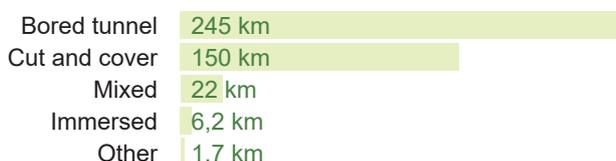


\* The National Road Network is managed by the State  
For tunnels longer than 300 m, special regulations apply (see [CETU-Information note n°21](#)).  
Similarly, for tunnels longer than 500 m, certain tunnels must meet additional European requirements (see TEN p4).

## TUNNEL CHARACTERISTICS CUMULATIVE LENGTH (425 KM OF TUNNELS)



### TYPE OF TUNNEL (CUMULATIVE LENGTH)



### OPERATOR (CUMULATIVE LENGTH)





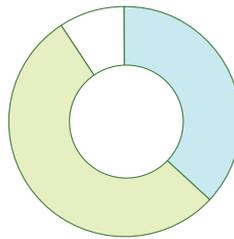
## 5 ROAD TUNNELS OVER 5 KM LONG!

Tunnel name	Length in France (m)	Total length (m)	Owner
FRÉJUS (France / Italy)	6 580	12 875	SFTRF / SITAF
MONT-BLANC (France / Italy)	7 640	11 611	ATMB / SITMB
DUPLEX A86 (Hauts-de-Seine / Yvelines)		10 100	COFIROUTE
SOMPORT (France / Spain)	2 871	8 597	Spanish State
MAURICE LEMAIRE (Vosges / Haut-Rhin)		6 950	APRR

## BREAKDOWN BY TYPE OF AUTHORISED DANGEROUS GOODS



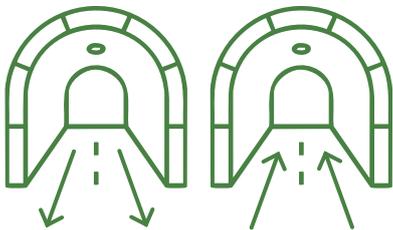
**57%**  
of tunnels  
longer than 300m are  
subject to the strictest  
restrictions (category E\*)



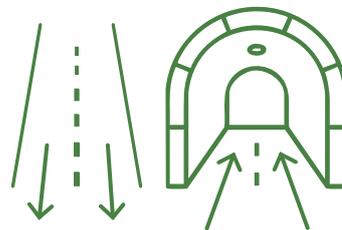
**37%**  
allow  
free transit (categorie A\*)

\* ADR category, see [CETU – Information note n°17](#) for more details

## BREAKDOWN BY TYPE OF TRAFFIC IN THE TUNNEL



UNIDIRECTIONAL TWIN-TUBE



UNIDIRECTIONAL SINGLE-TUBE



BI-DIRECTIONAL SINGLE-TUBE

**18%**  
tunnels are  
**unidirectional  
twin-tube**

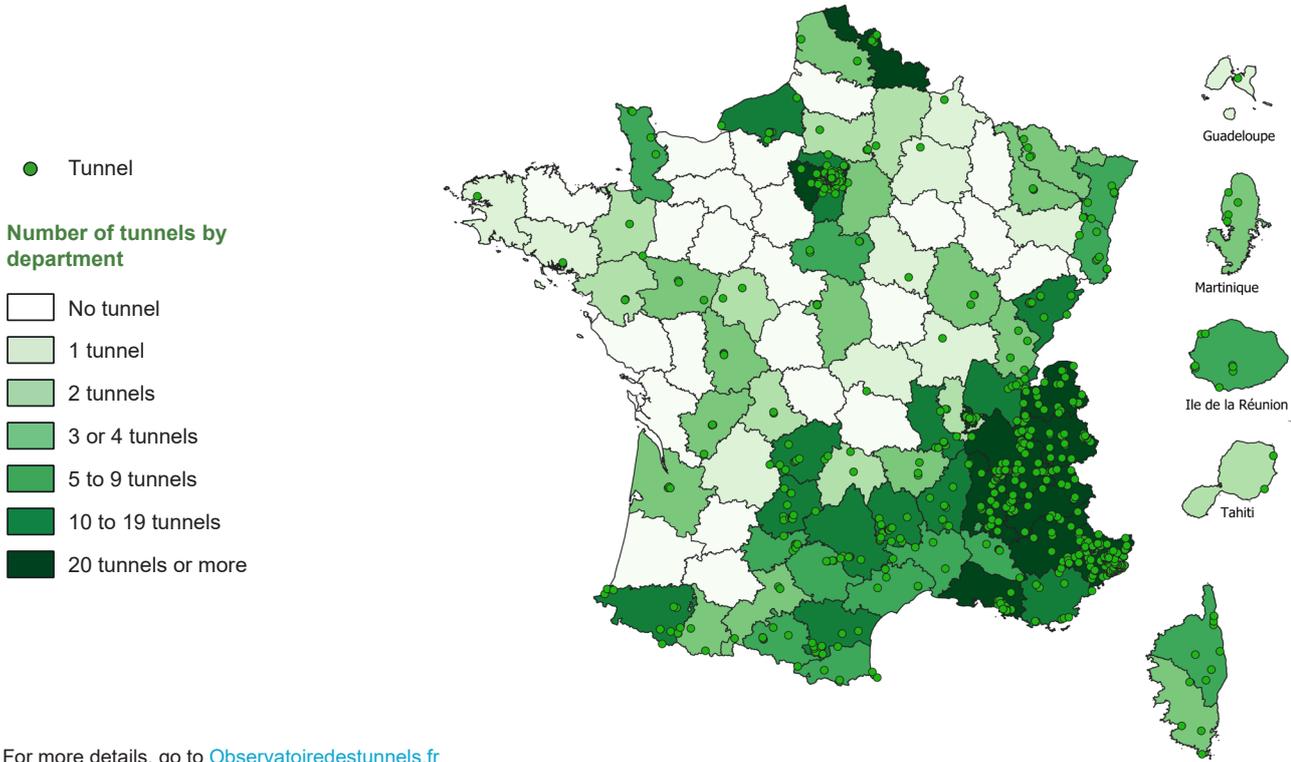
**16%**  
are **unidirectional**, with the second  
direction generally passing in the open  
air (e.g. Ponserand - 73, Borne Romaine  
- 06...)

**66%**  
of tunnels are  
**bi-directional**



## GEOGRAPHICAL BREAKDOWN OF TUNNELS

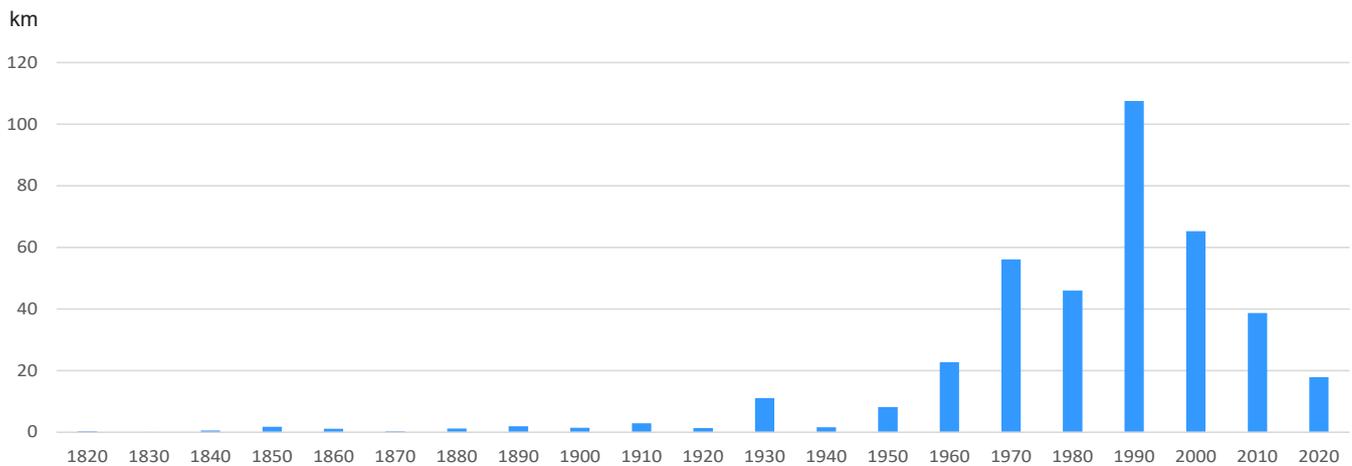
### ROAD TUNNELS BY GEOGRAPHICAL DEPARTMENT IN FRANCE



For more details, go to [Observatoiredestunnels.fr](http://Observatoiredestunnels.fr)

## BREAKDOWN OF TUNNELS BY AGE

The graph only takes into account tunnels for which the age is known, i.e. 91% of the total length of French tunnels.



**1480**

Year in which the oldest tunnel (La Traversette) was excavated. It is now pedestrianised and 75 m long. It lies at an altitude of 2.900 m on the French-Italian border.

**1820**

Year in which the first bored tunnel (Les Échelles) began operation. It is 294 m long and is located in the Savoie department.

**1889**

Year in which the first cut-and-cover tunnel (Saint-Hermentaire) began operation. With a length of 158 m, it is located in the Var department.

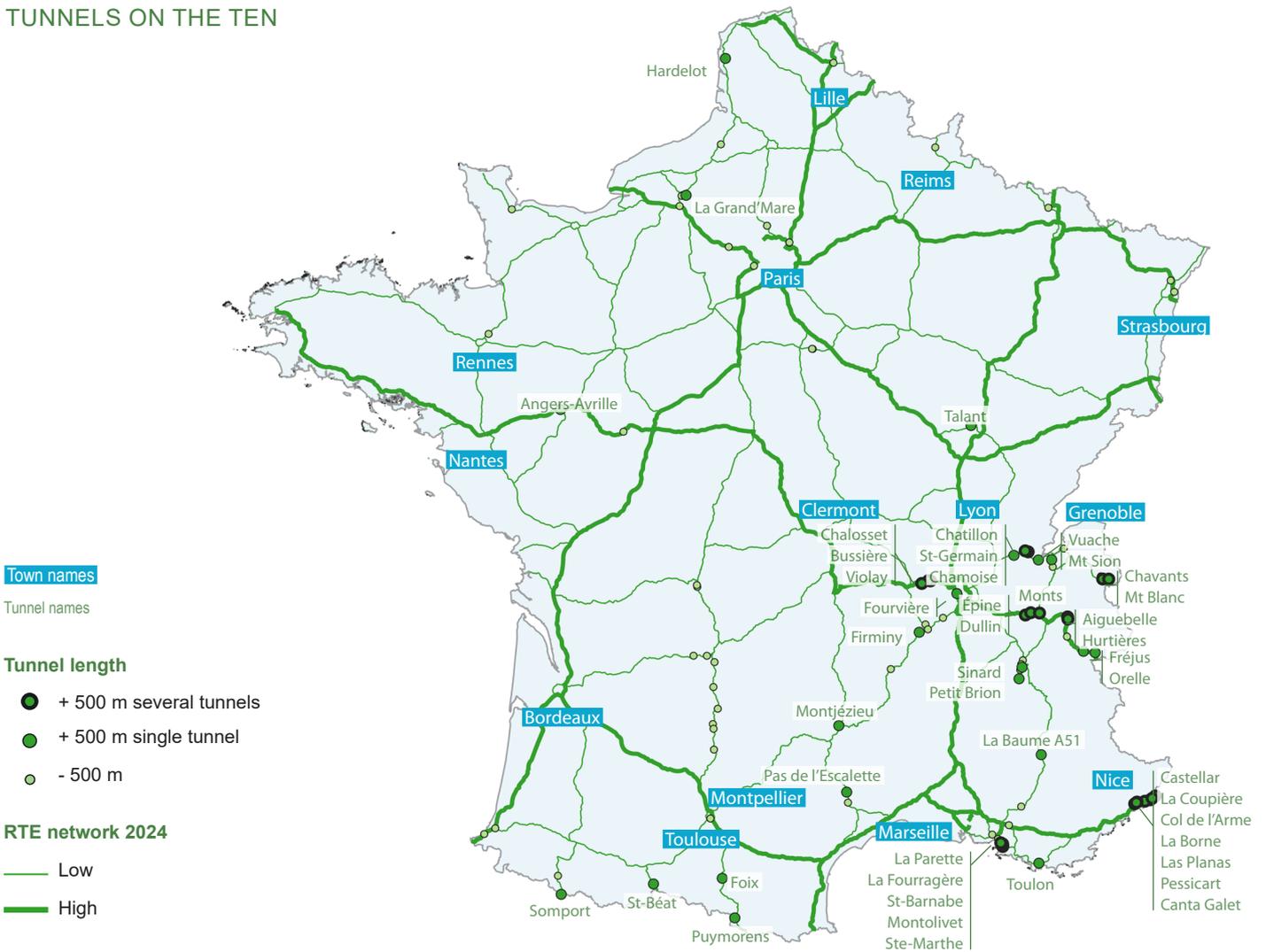


## TUNNELS ON THE TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORK (TEN)

Tunnels longer than 500 m on the TEN are subject to European Directive 2004/54/EC.

This directive notably requires the appointment of a «**safety officer**» for each tunnel and the systematic **transmission of an incident report to the prefectural authorities after each event occurring in a tunnel (additional requirement compared to French regulations).**

### TUNNELS ON THE TEN



The list of the 42 tunnels over 500 m in length on the trans-European road network is given in article R. 118-4-1 of the Highway Code. Cross-border tunnels on the TEN do not appear in this article, but they are subject to the same Directive 2004/54/EC.

#### CONTACT

[observatoiretunnels.cetu@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:observatoiretunnels.cetu@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

Romain MERCIER / Céline GREFFET