

6.4. In order to bring together training efforts of research centres and firms, regional economic decision-makers are developing a dozen technopoles or centres for technological innovation. **The Zone for Innovation, Scientific and Technical Research (ZIRST)** of Meylan (near Grenoble), founded in 1972, is a model for other centres.

6.5. The region potential in this area helps to make it an attractive focal point. This is why firms which specialise in computer science, such as **Hewlett Packard, Digital Equipment, Control Data and Schering Plough** (research into immunology) have chosen Rhône-Alpes as a European centre of research for development and production.

The appendix provides a list of the main research centres and of the main technopoles (Technology parks) in Rhône-Alpes. The Consulate has addresses of research centres in your specific field of interest.

7. THE TERTIARY SECTOR **IN RHÔNE ALPES**

7.1. In contrast to the industrial sector, the tertiary Sector has witnessed a **clear increase** in jobs since 1990; with an annual growth of 20,000 jobs, it represents 64% of Rhône-Alpes total employment. Activities contributing to this growth include: **services to firms** (study, management, etc.), **services to individuals** (health care, leisure, private education...), rental, credit and insurance, banking companies, non-trade services, car sales and repairs, hotel/catering industry and transport and tourism.