

Public research relies on the universities and laboratories annexed to the “**Grandes Ecoles**” in the area. Rhône-Alpes has eight universities and 240 laboratories and research centres (of which many are concentrated around Grenoble, the second largest city in the region).

Industrial research is dominated by large business in **chemistry and pharmacy**, for a total of 3,600 employees. **Chemistry** alone accounts for 18% of the national work force in that sector, **electronics** 3,000 and **mechanical engineering** 1,200, 24% of national capability.

6.2. **The National Centre for Scientific Research (C.N.R.S.)** has 140 laboratories in Rhône-Alpes. **The National Institute of Health and Medical Research** counts 23 laboratories. In Grenoble, there is an important **Centre for Nuclear Studies** at the Board of Atomic Energy (1,900 employees).

There are also large organizations for international research. Rhône-Alpes has 18 technical and professional centres such as the **Textile Institute of France** (Lyons) and the **Leather Institute**. In addition, over a thousand firms are engaged in private research.

6.3. Fields of study are very diversified and available skills are internationally recognized in:

- Solid state physics
- Bio-medical engineering
- Agro-chemistry
- Automation
- Micro-mechanics
- Composite materials
- Nuclear physics and physics of particles
- Magnetism
- Pharmacology
- Instrumentation
- Micro-mechanics
- Signals treatment
- Lasers applications