



The Banque de France's cash centre network in 2020

The Banque de France is to close 15 cash centres over the next three years. This constitutes the first phase of its broader restructuring project to be implemented by 2020.

The Banque de France's General Council, meeting on 17 June 2013 under the chairmanship of its Governor Christian Noyer, adopted the network modernisation project. For branches with cash activities, this project establishes both a target of 2020, with a view to providing all players with the maximum amount of visibility, and an initial timetable for closures to be carried out during the 2013-2015 period.

☞ Banque de France Press Release

The Banque de France's medium-term strategy is twofold

Going forward, the Banque de France intends to continue to play a leading role in the cash cycle. To do this, it will retain a significant share of banknote handling and maintain suitable infrastructures. This strategic choice ensures the soundness of the cash cycle and enables the Banque de France to meet, under all circumstances, the requirements of the task entrusted to it by law.

At the same time, the Banque de France continues to promote the development of the external recycling of banknotes. Indeed, handling banknotes as close as possible to the place of transaction is another way to shore up robustness in the event of a crisis and reduce the frequency of cash transportation throughout the cash cycle.

These two strategic choices have led the Bank to reorganise its network of cash centres, reducing it from 71 to 38 units by 2020, while thoroughly modernising it at the same time.

☞ For information: [Map of 71 current cash centres](#)

Towards rational-sized units, with renewed equipment

Around 20 cash centres currently receive deposits of below 50 million banknotes per year. Over the past years, a number of them saw a fall in activity following the closure of the only vault of the cash-in-transit company operating at their counters, or due to changes in the cash circuit.

Moreover, the stock of banknote handling equipment used at the Banque de France must be continually renewed. The current technological state of the art calls for machines with increased sorting capacities (around 100 million banknotes per year), like other central banks already use, and an automation of many

processes. A modernisation of such a magnitude can only be achieved with fewer cash centres.

The volumes handled by the Banque de France are expected to decline

The gradual development of banknote recycling by companies other than the Bank results in a corresponding decline in both the volumes withdrawn and deposited at its counters. Furthermore, the trend towards an average denomination of EUR 50 to the detriment of smaller banknotes automatically leads to a fall in the number of banknotes to be handled for an equivalent value deposited.

Premises must be adapted to the needs of the external partners and the employees

The Banque de France wishes to welcome the cash-in-transit companies that come to its counters in the best possible conditions. The creation of new currency management centres and the work to adapt the remaining cash centres will improve both the services offered to customers and the working conditions of the Bank's staff, who will benefit from more functional equipment.

The project to adapt the network of cash centres has now been defined:

- **Two new currency management centres will be created.** The first, near Lille (in Sainghin-en-Mélantois), will absorb the activities of the centres in Roubaix, Arras and Calais. A second centre in Île-de-France, located in La Courneuve, will absorb the cash activities of Paris (currently at the head office), Marne-la-Vallée, Nanterre, Créteil and Saint-Denis. The cash centre in Évry will be conserved in order to maintain a service in the south of the region.

- **A cash centre will be set up in Chamalières**, which currently conducts back office tasks but does not work directly with cash-in-transit firms. It will absorb the activity of Clermont-Ferrand and, along with the two new currency management centres, will provide support to the other Banque de France cash centres within a national banknote handling framework.
- Despite their low turnover, the cash centres in Gap, Rodez, Ajaccio and Bastia will be kept open to **address local geographical constraints**.
- **The remaining cash centres will be modernised**. Normal service may be disrupted at these centres for the duration of the work.

First phase: 2013-2015

The timetable for closing the first 15 cash centres has now been established. It extends from 2013 to 2015.

Closure timetable: 2013 to 2015

1 October 2013: Brive-la-Gaillarde, Charleville-Mézières, Chartres, Digne-les-Bains.

1 July 2014: Béziers, Épinal, Lons-le-Saunier, Nevers, Périgueux, Troyes and Valence.

1 July 2015: Auxerre, Nîmes, Saint-Lô and Toulon.

Volumes are the lowest at the first cash centres to close, standing at 8% of overall banknote deposits at the Banque de France

The practical arrangements for these closures (end of operation date, contingency sites, etc.) will be specified and communicated locally.

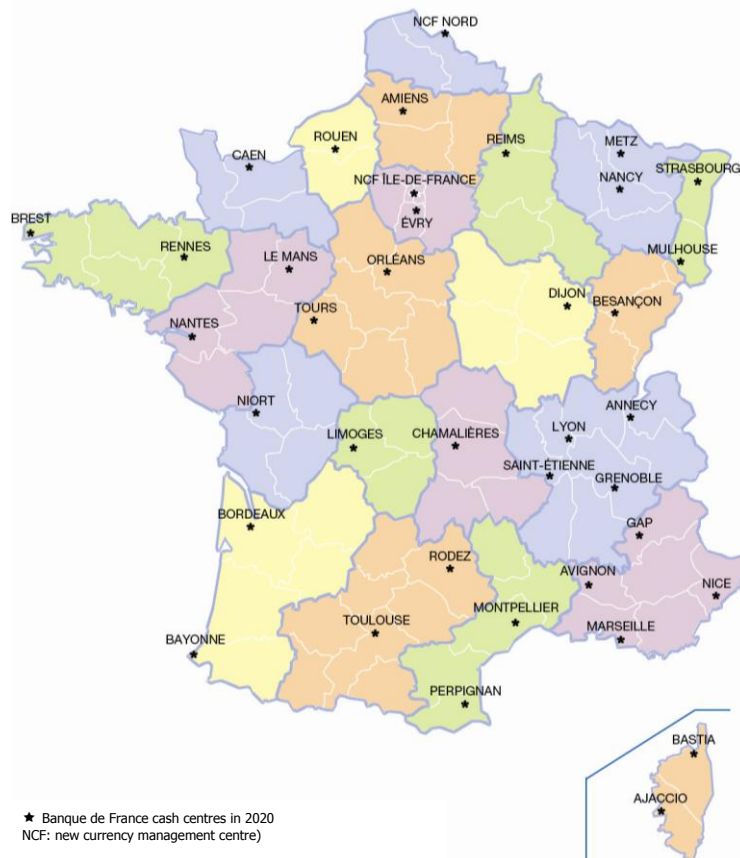
Second phase: 2016-2020

The Banque de France's General Council adopted a target of 38 cash centres in 2020.

21 additional cash centres are set to close in the second phase between 2016 and 2020, during which time the two new currency management centres will open in the Nord and Île-de-France regions and the Chamalières currency management centre will open to cash-in-transit companies.

The timetable for closures between 2016 and 2020 has not been finalised, only a target map has been established.

The network of 38 cash centres in 2020



Cash centres set to close between 2016 and 2020

Angers, Angoulême, Arras, Beauvais, Blois, Bourges, Calais, Chambéry, Clermont-Ferrand, Créteil, Évreux, La Rochelle, Lorient, Mâcon, Marne-la-Vallée, Nanterre, Paris, Roubaix, Saint-Brieuc, Saint-Denis, Tarbes.

The issue of coin processing

In order to streamline the coin processing circuit, and if it proves necessary, the Banque de France has indicated its readiness to study together with its partners (credit institutions, cash-in-transit companies) the creation of additional coin storage centres in areas where the distance from the Banque de France cash centres that carry out such services justifies it.