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Translated by Viviane

The capital of France, Paris, has soared 23 places to the world's 19th most liveable city, according to an annual report published by The Economist. With a population of nearly 67 million, the average population density of France is 122 people per square kilometer. 62 cities have more than 100,000 inhabitants, and Paris is the most populous one. Charles de Gaulle is the leading cargo hub and the second busiest international airport by passenger traffic in Europe.

Paris is Europe's leader in venture capital with an average of €4.5 billion raised, creating almost 600,000 jobs in local finance. Four French banks are among the 30 largest establishments in the world. It is also the top issuer in the European corporate bond market. French authorities have stepped up efforts to attract British businesses and financiers to France after Brexit by pledging to slash the tax rate and relax its financial regulations. Much has been achieved so far.

Statistics show that its economy is recovering after years of downturn. Rental rates for offices and houses vary depending on the location, age, and community facilities. Take Paris for example, the office rent averaged €512/sqm/year in downtown, while the 8th arrondissement has the highest average price of €604 compared to €333 in the 19th. In the suburbs of Paris, the average rent ranges from €127 to €311, which is cheaper than in the rest of France. Despite tightening rent controls, falling rents and more, corporate and leisure travel are getting back on track this year, leading to a gradual rental market recovery.

Over the past two decades, many Taiwanese companies have expanded their businesses in France. Computer companies account for the majority, such as Acer, ASUS, GIGABYTE, Morex, Advantech, MSI, BTC, and KINYO, followed by trade, gifts, travel, food, tools, and machines. Also, there are service industries, including Mega Bank Paris Branch, China Airlines, Evergreen Marine, Chung Hwa Travel Service, and Evergreen Hotels. And the machinery manufacturers, VICTOR TAICHUNG, Tongtai, Jinpao, AWEA, etc. In conclusion, the French business environment and real estate market deserve our attention.