

Commissioners of justice

As of July 2022, **commissioners of justice** will be the public and ministerial officers who replace court bailiffs and judicial auctioneers. They will exercise the competences formerly entrusted to these two professions within the jurisdiction of the court of appeal of the headquarters of their office.

Ordinance No. 2016-728 of 2 June 2016 operates a progressive merger of the professions of judicial auctioneer and court bailiff. This new profession can be practised as of 1 July 2022 and will be exclusive as of 1 July 2026.

Evolution of the number of professionals

Period	Court bailiffs	Judicial auctioneers		
End of 2015	3,102	391		

Recommendations
2018-2020

+202

+42

Period	Court bailiffs	Judicial auctioneers		
Recommendations 2021-2023	+50	0		

Opinions on freedom of (business) establishment and maps

In accordance with the Law of 6 August 2015, amended by the Ordinance of 2 June 2016 as mentioned above, the *Autorité* issues an opinion to the Minister of Justice on the freedom of (business) establishment of commissioners of justice every two years. This opinion is accompanied by a map that identifies those areas where the establishment of offices appears beneficial to strengthen proximity or the offer of services. The proposed map is then validated by a joint decree of the Ministers of Justice and Economy.

Prior to the entry into force of the status of commissioner of justice, the *Autorité* drew up separate maps for court bailiffs and judicial auctioneers until their merger in 2022. Since then, it has been developing a single map for commissioners of justice.

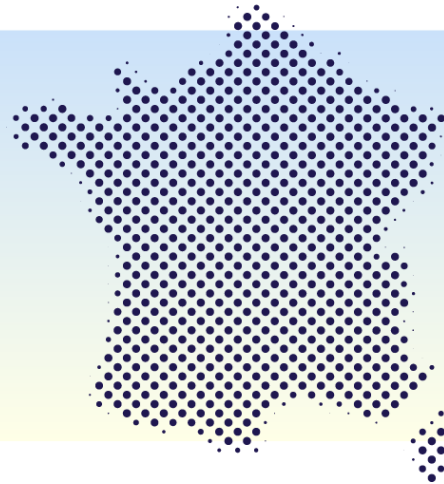
Commissioners of justice

The first map (2023-2025)

In its [Opinion No. 23-A-09](#) of 7 July 2023, the *Autorité* assessed the creation of the new profession of commissioner of justice and recommended the establishment of 33 new commissioners of justice by 2025.

Liberté d'installation des commissaires de justice

Consulter la carte →



- Scale of the establishment area: *département*
- Number of free establishment areas: 13
- Number of controlled establishment areas: 86
- Number of new professionals to be established: 33

For more information, please refer to:

- [Opinion 23-A-9 of 7 July 2023](#)
- [Press release of 7 July 2023](#)
- Decree of 26 December 2023

Judicial auctioneers

The first map (2018-2020)

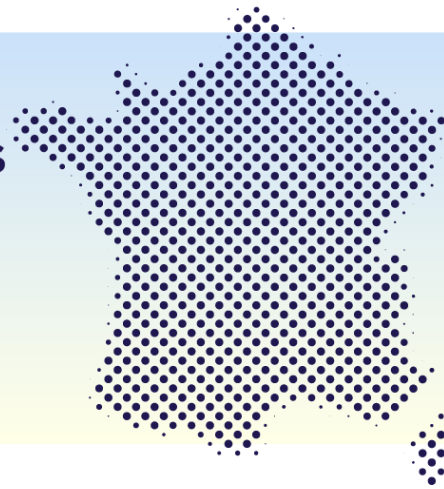
In its Opinion No. 16-A-26 of 20 December 2016, the *Autorité* identified 36 free establishment areas in which it recommended the establishment of 41 professionals in two years.

It also made a number of recommendations designed to promote access to offices.

The Decree of 28 December 2017 issued pursuant to Article 52 of the Law of 6 August 2015 validated the map proposed by the *Autorité*.

Liberté d'installation des commissaires-priseurs judiciaires

Consulter la carte →



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- Scale of the establishment area: département
 - Free establishment areas: 36
 - Controlled establishment areas: 63
 - Number of new professionals to be established: 42

The zone by zone recommendations can be consulted in the table of recommendations with figures for judicial auctioneers.

The *Autorité* received eight applications for the creation of offices in five controlled establishment areas. In accordance with Framework Opinion No. 18-CP-001 of 18 June 2018, it responded unfavourably to these requests on the grounds that the creation of additional offices in the areas concerned would be likely to affect the continuity of operations of existing offices and compromise the quality of service provided.

Consult the opinions submitted by the *Autorité* de la concurrence to the Minister of Justice on the requests for the establishment of judicial auctioneers in the "orange" zones, in application of the first map.

For more information, please refer to:

- Opinion No. 16-A-26 of 20 December 2016
- press release of 20 December 2016
- the Decree of 28 December 2017 issued pursuant to Article 52 of Law No. 2015990 of 6 August 2015 for Growth, Activity and Equal Economic Opportunities for the profession of judicial auctioneers

COVID-19 context: new map proposal requested by the Government

On 2 December 2019, the *Autorité* adopted an opinion on the freedom of (business) establishment of judicial auctioneers and a proposal for a revised map of establishment areas, with recommendations on the rate of creation of new judicial auctioneers' offices (Opinion No. 19-A-17).

- Press release of 2 December 2019

In a letter dated 22 July 2020, the Government asked the *Autorité* to develop a new map proposal to take into account the exceptional context created by the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the economic activity of this profession.

As the *Autorité's* previous map proposal, prepared in December 2019, predated the outbreak of the health emergency in our country in March 2020, it was unable to take into account the effects of this crisis on the economy of this profession.

- Press release of 29 July 2020

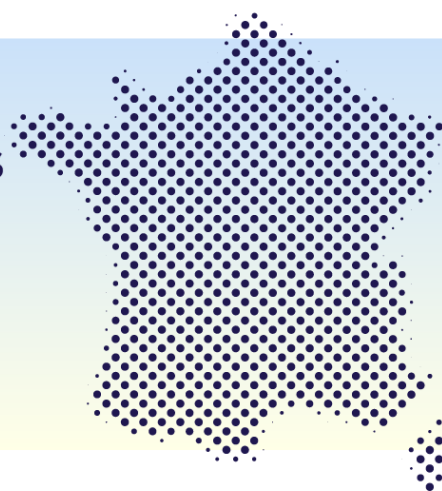
The second map (2021-2023)

At the request of the Government, which asked it to prepare a new map proposal to take into account the exceptional context and assess the impact of the health emergency on the economic activity of the profession of judicial auctioneer, the *Autorité* adopted deliberation No. 2021/02 of 28 April 2021, attached to Opinion No. 19-A-17 of 2 December 2019, in which it recommended that no additional offices be created.

The Decree of 20 July 2021 issued pursuant to Article 52 of the Law of 6 August 2015 validated the map proposed by the *Autorité*.

Liberté d'installation des commissaires-priseurs judiciaires

Consulter la carte →



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- Scale of the establishment area: département
 - Number of controlled establishment areas: 99
 - Number of free establishment areas: 0

For more information, please refer to:

- Deliberation No. 2021/02 of 28 April 2021
- Press release of 28 April 2021
- Decree of 20 July 2021

Court bailiffs

The first map (2018-2020)

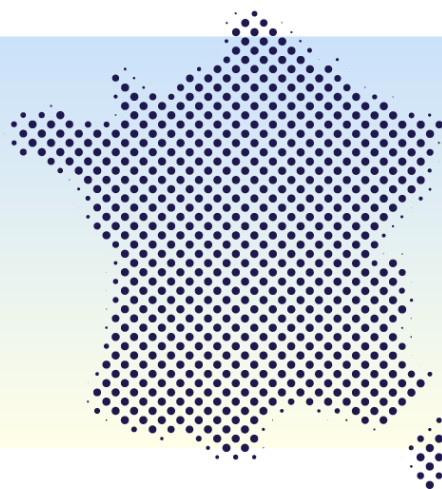
In its Opinion No. 16-A-25 of 20 December 2016, the *Autorité* identified 35 free establishment areas in which it recommended the establishment of 202 professionals in two years.

It also made a number of recommendations designed to promote access to offices.

The Decree of 28 December 2017 issued pursuant to Article 52 of the Law of 6 August 2015 validated the map proposed by the *Autorité*.

**Liberté d'installation
des huissiers
de justice**

Consulter la carte →



- Scale of the establishment area: département
- Free establishment areas: 35
- Controlled establishment areas: 64
- Number of new professionals to be established: 202

The recommendations zone by zone can be consulted in the table of recommendations with figures for court bailiffs.

The *Autorité* received 29 applications for the creation of offices in controlled establishment areas. In accordance with framework Opinion 18-AH-001 of 18 June 2018, in five opinions, concerning three zones, it considered that it was possible to respond positively to a request for the creation of an office and allow the free establishment of a new court bailiff.

Consult the opinions submitted by the *Autorité de la concurrence* to the Minister of Justice on the requests for the establishment of court bailiffs in the "orange" zones, in application of the first map.

For more information, please refer to:

- Opinion No. 16-A-25 of 20 December 2016
- Press release of 20 December 2016
- the Decree of 28 December 2017 issued pursuant to Article 52 of Law No. 2015-990 of 6 August 2015 for Growth, Activity and Equal Economic Opportunities for the profession of court bailiff

COVID-19 context: new map proposal requested by the Government

On 2 December 2019, the *Autorité* adopted an opinion on the freedom of (business) establishment of court bailiffs and a proposal for a revised map of establishment areas, with recommendations on the rate of creation of new court bailiffs' offices (Opinion No. 19-A-16).

- Press release of 2 December 2019

In a letter dated 22 July 2020, the Government asked the *Autorité* to develop a new map proposal to take into account the exceptional context created by the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the economic activity of this profession.

As the *Autorité*'s previous map proposal, prepared in December 2019, predated the outbreak of the health emergency in our country in March 2020, it was unable to take into account the effects of this crisis on the economy of this profession.

- Press release of 29 July 2020

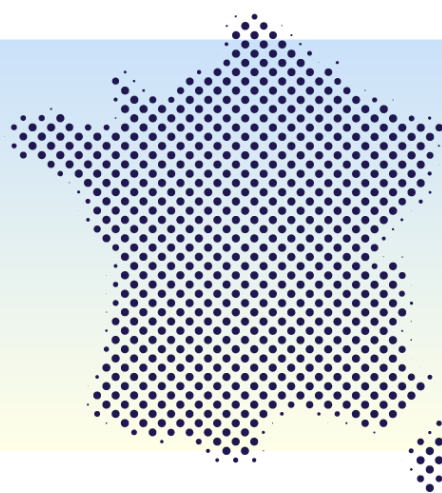
The second map (2021-2023)

At the request of the Government, which asked it to prepare a new map proposal to take into account the exceptional context and assess the impact of the health emergency on the economic activity of the profession of court bailiff, the *Autorité* adopted deliberation No. 2021/01 of 28 April 2021, attached to Opinion No. 19-A-16 of 2 December 2019, in which it recommended the establishment of 50 new professionals in 22 areas of the country by 2023.

The Decree of 20 July 2021 issued pursuant to Article 52 of the Law of 6 August 2015 validated the map proposed by the *Autorité*.

Liberté d'installation des huissiers de justice

Consulter la carte →



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- Scale of the establishment area: département
 - Number of free establishment areas: 22

- Number of controlled establishment areas: 77
- Number of new professionals to be established: 50

The number of establishments zone by zone can be consulted in the table of recommendations with figures for court bailiffs.

For more information, please refer to:

- Deliberation No. 2021/01 of 28 April 2021
- Press release of 28 April 2021
- Decree of 20 July 2021