

## Tunisia: Foreign Direct Investments soar by 6.2%

Tunisia—According to the latest statistics recently released by the Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (FIPA), the flow of Tunisia's foreign direct investment (FDI) during the first four months of 2010 reached 569, 3 million dinars including 24, 7 million dinars of portfolio flow against 542 million dinars during the same period of 2009, totaling a growth rate of 6, 2%.

These investments generated 4,626 new jobs, 3,700 of which in the manufacturing industry sector, achieved 94 extension operations of foreign enterprises which provide the main FDIs (504, 7 million dinars) and helped 67 new enterprises of foreign participation to start their operations in the country.

The sectoral distribution of these investments shows strong concentration in the energy and manufacturing industries sectors, which attracted FDI respectively 320 million dinars (a 7 % decline compared with the same period in 2009) and 133, 5 million dinars (a 1, 1% rise compared with the first four months of 2009).

FDI's are also oriented towards industry (133, 5 million dinars), services and other sectors (59 million dinars) as well as tourism and real estate (56 million dinars).

The most important investments were achieved as part of two projects: the first one regards the launch on the Tunisian market of the 3rd telephone operator, "Orange Divona", for FDI amounting to 17, 6 million dinars out of the overall investment of the project accounting for 35, 3 million dinars.

The second achievement is the golf course of the Emirian Abou Khater project which reached an investment cost of 17 million dinars.

Insofar as the industrial sector is concerned, electrical and electronic industries attracted the highest amount of foreign investments (over 27 million dinars) which helped finance 19 projects.

Mechanical industries, benefited most of the FDI flow with 22, 7 million dinars involving 27 projects, and the textile-clothing sector also recorded the impressive amount of 20, 27 million dinars involving 44 projects.

Source : Tunisia on line