

'Spate of suicides' distorts reality

From Mr Bernard Beauzamy.

Sir, Your expression "the spate of suicides that has rocked France Telecom" is certainly excessive ("France Telecom in long haul to raise morale and margins", October 7). You mention 24 suicides since the beginning of 2008, that is, over a 22-month period, for 100,000 employees. This is a rate of 13 per year.

However, the general rate of suicide in France is, per year, 16 per 100,000, which is higher. The fact is that there are not more suicides at France Telecom than anywhere else, only much more political concern.

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