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Does psychological profile have something to do with satisfaction? A French retailing franchisees study

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Abstract: The main purpose of this study is to analyse the relationship between franchisee's personality and franchisee's satisfaction. A sample of 400 French franchisees concerning different sectors is analysed in detail. In the first part of the article, the methodology is presented. Then, theoretical framework concerning satisfaction and personality is developed. Different hypotheses are justified crossing the MSQ scale and the big four model. Conscientiousness seems to be the most predictive factor for satisfaction and results show that the other Big-Five traits are specific in several sectors.

Keywords: franchisees; psychological profile; personality; satisfaction.

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1 Introduction

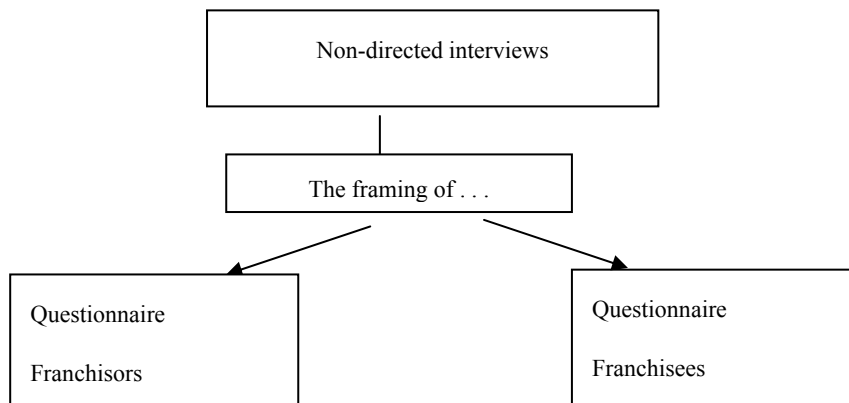
Franchising is a major component of the French distribution system. French franchise system holds the leader position in Europe in terms of sales (<http://www.franchise-fff.com/>).

Numerous magazines explain to a wide audience, franchise opportunities, but the academic community seems to be lacking of theoretical frames. Many handbooks show the important role of the franchisee concerning the success of a franchise network, but paradoxically few empirical researches have tried to understand the psychological antecedents (personality) of satisfaction (except Morrison, 1997; Schell and McGillis, 1990; Tuunanen, 1999). Study of the scientific literature, in addition to examining our own exploratory interviews, has persuaded us to retain the variable 'psychological profile of franchisees' to explain satisfaction. The main purpose of this study is to analyse the relationship between franchisee's personality and franchisee's satisfaction. A sample of 400 French franchisees concerning different sectors is analysed in detail. In the first part of the article the methodology is presented. Then theoretical framework concerning satisfaction and personality is developed. Different hypotheses are justified crossing the MSQ scale and the big four model. Results of the empirical study are then detailed. Directions for future research are outlined.

2 Methodology: sample and sectors

This research was funded by the French Franchise Federation. Several stages must be identified in our research. The diagram below synthesises the various phases involved in collecting data.

Figure 1 The collection of data



A guide was developed to interviewing technique, in order to establish qualitatively franchisees' motivations, their reasons for satisfaction and their selection processes (approached through accounts of their own experience). Twenty one in-depth interviews were carried out with franchisees. Industrial sectors were as follows: property, fast food, optics, food distribution, automobiles, clothing textiles, hairdressing, wines and spirits, soft furnishings and shoes.

By the end of this first stage, two questionnaires were framed:

- questionnaire for franchisors: questions dealing with their perception of the reasons for selecting applicants for franchising
- questionnaire for franchisees: identity, *psychological profile*, type of relationship with franchisors and satisfaction.

Table 1 Questioning methodology

<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Survey of potential franchisees</i> <i>Preliminary survey of franchisees</i>	<i>Survey of franchisors</i>	<i>Survey of franchisees</i>
Target	Franchisees (qualitative method)	Franchisors	Franchisees
• Means of collection	Face to face interviews In-depth interviews	Face to face interviews and questioning by post	Telephone interviews carried out by GFK
• Overall population	21 interviews were conducted in four different regions of France	List of franchisors in the Franchise Yearbook (240)	List of 4,659 franchisees
• Size of sample	21 franchisees	88 questionnaires	400 questionnaires

In this paper, we focus on the franchisee population.

The aim was to acquire a representative sample of franchisees. Defining the research quotas was achieved in four phases:

- Calculating with the help of the Franchise Yearbook the percentages of franchises in each sector.

Table 2 The overall population

	<i>Number of franchisors</i>	<i>Number of franchisees</i>	<i>% franchisors</i>	<i>% franchisees</i>
1 Specialised food trade	30	982	8.26%	3.98%
2 Non-specialised food trade	8	2,873	2.20%	11.63%
3 Personal equipment	71	4,396	19.56%	17.80%
4 Household equipment	47	2,410	12.95%	9.76%
5 Other non-food specialised businesses	48	2,878	13.22%	11.65%
6 Services	101	8,619	27.82%	34.90%
7 Hotels and restaurants	46	2,198	12.67%	8.90%
8 Building	12	342	3.31%	1.38%
Total	363	24,698	100.00%	100.00%

- Requesting 240 franchisors to supply a list of their franchisees. A mailing has been done with French Franchise Federation headed notepaper.
- Receiving 40 lists comprising 4,659 franchisees.

Table 3 The answers obtained from the franchisors

	<i>Number of franchisors</i>	<i>Number of franchisees</i>	<i>% franchisors</i>	<i>% franchisees</i>
1 Specialised food trade	5	270	12.50%	5.80%
2 Non-specialised food trade	3	1,491	7.50%	32.00%
3 Personal equipment	7	358	17.50%	7.68%
4 Household equipment	3	299	7.50%	6.42%
5 Other specialised non-food businesses	7	535	17.50%	11.48%
6 Services	11	1,364	27.50%	29.28%
7 Hotels and restaurants	3	332	7.50%	7.13%
8 Building	1	10	2.50%	0.21%
Total	40	4,659 ¹	100.00%	100.00%

Note: ¹That is, 18.86% of the base population.

- Calculating the quotas of franchisees to question, bearing in mind that our aim is to collect 400 valid questionnaires. This number has been chosen in partnership with GFK and the French Franchise Federation.

Table 4 The makeup of research quotas

	<i>Number of franchisees to be questioned¹</i>	<i>Name of franchisors</i>	<i>Number of franchisees interviewed</i>
1 Specialised food trade	16	Point chaud	1
		Comtesse du Barry	9
		Deneuveville	6
2 Non-specialised food trade	47	Casino	15
		Huit à Huit	18
		Champion	14
3 Personal equipment	71	Rodier	14
		La compagnie des petits	23
		Phildar	30
		Petit Boy	2
		Descamps	2
4 Household equipment	39	Catena	16
		Maison de la Literie	21
		Cuisines Plus/Bains plus	2

Note: ¹The number of franchisees in each sector is calculated by multiplying the total number of the sample by the percentage of franchisees in the sector in question in the base population. For example, in the specialised food trade, the statistics of the base population show that the franchisees of that sector represent 3.98% of all French franchisees. Thus, in our survey we must question 3.98% of 400, that is, 16 franchisees.

Table 4 The makeup of research quotas (continued)

		<i>Number of franchisees to be questioned¹</i>	<i>Name of franchisors</i>	<i>Number of franchisees interviewed</i>
5	Other specialised non-food businesses	47	La Trocante	17
			Bazar Land	10
			Magasin Gamm Vert	11
			Troc De L'île	1
			Distri Club Medical	8
6	Services	140	Mister Mint	15
			Jack Hiolt Quick Service	19
			L'onglerie	20
			Speedy	11
			L'age D'or Services	12
			Feu Vert	5
			Mod'hair	5
			Unicis	6
			Etape Auto	7
			Century 21	42
7	Hotels and restaurants	36	Comfort, Quality Hotels	11
			Café Leffe	17
			Quick	8
8	Building	0		
	Total	400		

Note: ¹The number of franchisees in each sector is calculated by multiplying the total number of the sample by the percentage of franchisees in the sector in question in the base population. For example, in the specialised food trade, the statistics of the base population show that the franchisees of that sector represent 3.98% of all French franchisees. Thus, in our survey we must question 3.98% of 400, that is, 16 franchisees.

Questioning was carried out on the telephone by GFK¹. Four hundred valid franchisees' questionnaires were obtained and used in order to test our model for researching the level of satisfaction among franchisees.

3 Concepts of personality and satisfaction

We now present the variable 'psychological profile' from a conceptual point of view, going on to investigate the connections between franchisees' profiles and satisfaction.

3.1 Personality

There are many current theories on personality. We look at the main ones, before explaining which of them we selected as appropriate to our study.

3.1.1 The different approaches

According to Cattell, the history of personality theories can be divided into three periods. The first was literary, philosophical and intuitive (Hippocrates). In the second, an extensive process of theorisation took place (psycho-analytical theory, Freud, Jung and so on). The third was quantitative and operational, and the notion of distinctive traits came to the fore (Murray, Gordon and others). Writers sought to isolate useful and accurate dimensions to define individuals. No longer is it our aim to discover the unconscious reasons that underlie individual behaviour: it is rather to identify individual differences that are sufficiently *stable* for us to denominate them as traits of the personality. To establish these differences, we start by making inventories of the personality made up of several hundred questions. The replies enable us to define the individual in relation to personality traits such as aggression, the need for change, dependence, autonomy, exhibitionism and so on. The trait point view assumes that people possess predisposition, called personality traits which refer to patterns in the way individuals behave, feel and think. This approach is based on a nomothetic focus (which studies what the humans have in common and tries to draw general laws) opposed to idiographic process (which favours case studies). Besides, traits approaches to personality emphasises the human's internal working rather than the characteristics of the situation.

The best known quantitative model is a model based on five dimensions, the so-called Big-Five, which are said to compose the main aspects of personality (Pervin and John, 2001). The Big-Five are now considered indispensable to researchers in management or psychology who may be working on problems of personality.

3.1.2 Conception

Using Big-Five analysis, there are two types of methods for defining personality: the lexical approach (using simple adjectives) and the classical questionnaire (in the form of sentences).

The material used as a corpus is based on *lexical analysis* of those terms most commonly used in the natural languages to describe the personalities of individual people. Character traits are revealed in ordinary social interaction and are expressed in everyday language (John et al., 1988). The psychologist seeking to paint a panoramic view of personality traits needs only to consult a dictionary. Peabody (1987) and Peabody and Goldberg (1989) both show that personalities can be assessed with the help of simple adjectives.

The approach through a classical *questionnaire* depends on using whole sentences. One can offer the example of Costa and McCrae (1988) who base their questions on the Big-Five.

3.1.3 The scale

We explain which structural model of personality we chose for our research, and more particularly why we opted for the lexical method. We shall present the questionnaire we used.

Choosing the Big-Five model

We stayed with the Big-Five to define franchisees' personalities. The choice was made for several reasons: the model is recognised by the scientific community having been tested in many countries; numerous studies relate the Big-Five to performance (Robertson et al., 1999) and our theme falls within the framework of industrial marketing with a managerial perspective.

Choosing the lexical method

From the various models we have selected the lexical method. Indeed, using the telephone to conduct our questionnaire dictated the need for a brief form of words.

In the study by Borkenau and Ostendorf (1998): the number of items is small (30); the adjectives are familiar and easily understood; the list has already been tested in a European context. The following table sets out the various adjectives applying to each of the super-factors. Each dimension is evaluated in the left-hand column, with the help of three positive adjectives and three opposed ones. Each dimension is tied with six items.

Table 5 Borkenau and Ostendorf's items

<i>Speaking for yourself, and completely frankly, are you?:</i>	
	<i>Intellect (+/-)</i>
Witty, quick-minded	(-) Easily beaten, easily lost, out of one's depth
Well informed, well documented, expert	(-) Unaware, rash
Cautious	(-) Unimaginative
	<i>Conscientiousness (+/-)</i>
Hard working	(-) Nonchalant
Persistent	(-) Imprudent, unthinking
Serious, responsible	(-) Instable
	<i>Extraversion (+/-)</i>
Dynamic	(-) Timid
Sociable	(-) Silent, taciturn
Full of drive	(-) Reserved
	<i>Agreeableness (+/-)</i>
Easy to get on with	(-) Selfish
Obliging	(-) Authoritarian
Thoughtful, considerate	(-) Obstinate
	<i>Neuroticism (+/-)</i>
Irritable	(-) Emotionally stable
Ill-natured	(-) Calm
Vulnerable	(-) Tough

In our questionnaire, we placed items in alphabetical order, to maintain strict objectivity. We asked people to respond spontaneously to each item via note from 0 to 10 points. The Big-Five approach is based on factor analysis. Several factors analysis has been done to have a good quality of representation. Only nine items have been selected representing the four factors of the Big-Five.

Table 6 Quality de representation

<i>Speaking for yourself, and completely frankly</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Extraction</i>
you are imprudent; unthinking	1,000	,679
you are...irritable	1,000	,783
you are reserved	1,000	,722
you are tough	1,000	,638
you are serious responsible	1,000	,614
you are silent, taciturn	1,000	,642
you are witty, quick-minded	1,000	,891
you are persistent	1,000	,609
you are hard working	1,000	,649

Table 7 Factor analysis after rotation (varimax)

<i>Speaking for yourself, and completely frankly,</i>		<i>Factors</i>			
		<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Conscientiousness	you are tough	,791			
	you are hard working	,753			-,208
	you are persistent	,742			,222
	you are serious responsible	,730			,238
Extraversion (-)	you are reserved		,842		
Introversion (+)	you are silent taciturn		,771		
Neuroticism	you are...irritable			,866	
	you are imprudent; unthinking	-,228		,742	
Intellect	you are witty, quick-minded				,936

The total percentage of the variance accounted for by these four factors is 69,181%. (factor 1 – 26,337%; factor 2 – 15,373%, factor 3 – 15,309%, factor 4 – 12,162%). The Big-Five are represented with conscientiousness; extraversion (-)/introversion (+); neuroticism; intellect.

3.2 *Satisfaction among franchisees*

Before setting out the approach we favoured in the context of this research, we shall describe the approaches that were used in previous studies where the problems of franchising were specifically targeted.

3.2.1 *Approaches used in the specialised literature*

Channel satisfaction and job satisfaction will be reviewed.

Channel satisfaction

In studies on the satisfaction of franchisees, channel satisfaction is generally conceptualised as a response of individual channel members towards salient aspects of the channel organisation. For Schul et al. (1985), a franchisee's overall satisfaction with the channel arrangement is based on his specific feelings regarding the quality of: franchise administration, service support, rewards and franchise fee policies. For Lewis and Lambert (1991), satisfaction is tied with three concepts: satisfaction with multiple dimensions of role performance, overall satisfaction with role performance and satisfaction with business decision. Role performance was evaluated by using 117 items distributed among eight business functions (product, physical distribution/customer service, operations, promotion, real estate and construction, pricing, personnel, training). Overall satisfaction was measured by a continuum from 'poor' to 'excellent'. Finally, a single item measure was used to assess how satisfied franchisees were with their initial decision to join the franchise system. Hing's (1995, 1997) approach proposes a model for the determining factors of franchisees' satisfaction. Inspired by models of consumers' behaviour, she measures satisfaction against a series of items characterising the activity of the franchise.

Job satisfaction

The global or faceted approaches can be utilised to measure the satisfaction of franchisees at work. The global approach is used in Brayfield and Rothe (1951). The item was 'I am really very satisfied with my work' or 'I take a real pleasure in my work'. In the faceted approaches, the identification of the multi-facets of job has done a lot of publications (Heneman et al., 1989). The scale that is utilised to measure job satisfaction is for example: the Minnesota satisfaction questionnaire (MSQ) (Weiss et al., 1967).

3.2.2 The scale

The approach that we have preferred in the present study takes several considerations into account. Firstly, in conformity with earlier theoretical developments, job satisfaction is measured through facets. Speaking generally, the MSQ is one of the most widely used studies and was also used in Morrison's research. Moreover, in the French context, a reliable translation of this scale is available. Secondly, nevertheless, it seemed to us after our exploratory interviews that the items in the short version (20 items) were not all applicable in the context of franchising. Accordingly, our team selected and adapted items to suit the aims and the context of our research. The resulting scale for the franchisee's job satisfaction comprises nine items. Moreover, as regards remuneration, we thought it important to distinguish several levels: remuneration as payment for the work done, which is an integral part of the MSQ and thus of job satisfaction; remuneration arising from the efficient running of the franchised outlet, with two distinctions: the volume of turnover and the profitability of the franchised outlet.

It also became clear in the course of our exploratory interviews that some dimensions could be linked, such as satisfaction as to the location of the franchised outlet.

In total, the items we have used are as follows with a note from 0 to 10:

Table 8 Items selected for measuring the satisfaction of franchisees

<i>Wording of the items</i>	<i>Origin</i>
In your present franchise, are you satisfied:	
1 With the working conditions?	MSQ
2 With the social status that your work gives you?	MSQ
3 With the security of your job?	MSQ
4 That you can use your personal qualities?	MSQ
5 That you can take decisions on your own initiative?	MSQ
6 With your occupation during the working day?	MSQ
7 That you can put into practice your own methods of working?	MSQ
8 With the feeling of achievement that your work offers you?	MSQ
9 With your income in relation to the work you do?	MSQ
10 With the annual turnover you have achieved over the past three years?	HING
11 With the profitability you have achieved over the past three years?	HING
12 All things considered, do you intend to remain in your present network?	HING
13 All things considered, would you recommend the franchise to a friend?	Our own measure

During the *Salon de la Franchise*, a pre-test for this scale was carried out with franchisees.

The calculation of the alpha for the reliability of the scale for franchisees' job satisfaction as applied to the pre-test sample gives a good result. This was confirmed against the definitive national sample.

Table 9 Reliability study for job satisfaction applied to franchisees

<i>Items MSQ</i>	<i>Scale without item pre-test N = 21</i>	<i>Scale without item N = 401</i>
Are you satisfied:		
1 With your working conditions?	.8622	.8634
2 With the social status that your work gives you?	.8680	.8594
3 With the security of your job?	.8808	.8601
4 That you can use your personal qualities?	.8799	.8618
5 That you can take decisions on your own initiative?	.8721	.8629
6 With your occupation during the working day?	.8864	.8672
7 That you can put into practice your own working methods?	.8756	.8755
8 With the feeling of achievement that your work offers you?	.8786	.8550
9 With your income in relation to the work you do?	.9255	.8793
Number of items = 9	Alpha = .8939	Alpha = .8782

We may note that transposing the MSQ to the context of franchising retains the reliability qualities of the measuring scale. Over the definitive survey, the good internal consistence of the scale is amply confirmed; this enables us, firstly, to use the sum of the nine items to evaluate job satisfaction. This procedure is also legitimised by a factorial analysis that extracts a single factor according to the criterion of proper value (% of variance explained: ~52%, KMO: .885).

4 Satisfaction and psychological profile

Support for the relationship between Big-Five personality traits and job performance or job behaviour predictors can be attributed to several meta-analyses. Two of the earliest meta-analyses are those of Barrick and Mount (1991) and Tett et al. (1991). Many different academic authors have reported a relationship between the Big-Five Model and job performance/success or career satisfaction.

Intellect: sometimes called openness to experience, comprises the capacity for knowledge and analytical thinking. DeNeve and Cooper (1998) noted that 'openness to experience is a 'double-edged sword' that predisposes individuals to feel both the good and the bad more deeply' (p.199), rendering its directional influence on job satisfaction unclear.

H1 Intellect is negatively connected to satisfaction

Conscientiousness: Organ and Lingl (1995), Barrick and Mount (1991) and Judge et al. (2002) showed that Conscientiousness should be related to work satisfaction because it means a job involvement tendency which leads to a greater likelihood of obtaining satisfying work rewards.

H2 Conscientiousness is positively connected to satisfaction

Extraversion: extraverts are predisposed to experience positive emotions (Costa and McCrae, 1992) and positive emotionality likely generalises to job satisfaction (Connolly and Viswesvaran, 2000; White et al., 2004). Extraverts have more friends than introverts and, because of their social facility, are likely to find interpersonal interactions more rewarding (Watson and Clark, 1992).

H3 Extraversion is positively connected to satisfaction

Agreeableness: McCrae and Costa (1991) and White et al. (2004) argued that Agreeableness should be related to happiness because it leads to greater motivation to achieve interpersonal intimacy and greater levels of well-being. Mount et al. (1998) demonstrated that agreeableness is a good predictor in jobs where interpersonal interaction and teamwork are important.

H4 Agreeableness is positively connected to satisfaction

Neuroticism: Because of their essentially negative nature, neurotic individuals experience more negative life events than other individuals (Magnus et al., 1993). They select themselves into situations that foster negative effect (Emmons et al., 1985).

H5 Neuroticism is negatively connected to satisfaction

5 Results of the empirical study

Five hypotheses are proposed: H1 – Intellect is negatively connected to satisfaction; H2 – Conscientiousness is positively connected to satisfaction; H3 – Extraversion is positively connected to satisfaction; H4 – Agreeableness is positively connected to satisfaction and H5 – Neuroticism is negatively connected to satisfaction.

Starting from our index of 400 representative franchisees, we investigated the different research hypotheses relating franchisees' personalities to their level of satisfaction.

Table 10 Pearson correlations

		Conscientiousness	Introversion	Neuroticism	Intellectual
MSQ	Corr Pearson	.399(**)	-.061	.000	.042
	Sig. (bilateral)	.000	.226	.997	.401
<i>In your present franchise, are you satisfied with the annual turnover you have achieved over the past three years</i>	Corr	.226(**)	.013	-.003	-.045
	Sig.	.000	.788	.952	.373
<i>In your present franchise, are you satisfied with the profitability you have achieved over the past three years?</i>	Corr	.217(**)	.087	.012	-.028
	Sig.	.000	.082	.808	.577
<i>All things considered, do you intend to remain in your present network?</i>	Corr	.311(**)	-.034	.018	-.038
	Sig.	.000	.495	.723	.446
<i>All things considered, would you recommend the franchise to a friend?</i>	Corr	.274(**)	-.028	-.020	-.079
	Sig.	.000	.574	.689	.114

The results of the MSQ scale are only tied with one psychological profile. One factor of the Big-Five, conscientiousness correlates with satisfaction at work.

To validate this result, partial correlations has been done for MSQ variables selecting two control items [In your present franchise, are you satisfied with the annual turnover you have achieved over the past three years? (0 to 10) and in your present franchise, are you satisfied with the profitability you have achieved over the past three years? (0 to 10)].

The results are significant except for the MSQ9 item. It confirms the fact that Conscientiousness is tied with satisfaction and it is consistent with literature.

Conscientiousness embodies characteristics such as responsibility, dependability and reliability, all of which are generally perceived as important characteristics for success in most jobs (Barrick and Mount, 1991; Murphy and Lee, 1994; Salgado, 1997).

Cook (2006) writes in his dissertation ‘Conscientiousness could be called the ‘GMA’ (General Mental Ability) of personality testing, in that it is a ‘universal’ predictor, predicting performance for all jobs in all contexts.’

Table 11 Links between MSQ scale and conscientiousness trait

		<i>Conscientiousness</i>
Are you satisfied:		
MSQ1	With your working conditions?	0.2912 (397) P = 0.000
MSQ2	With the social status that your work gives you?	0.2000 (397) P = 0.000
MSQ3	With the security of your job?	0.1712 (397) P = 0.000
MSQ4	That you can use your personal qualities?	0.3564 (397) P = 0.000
MSQ5	That you can take decisions on your own initiative?	0.2079 (397) P = 0.000
MSQ6	With your occupation during the working day?	0.1993 (397) P = 0.000
MSQ7	That you can put into practice your own working methods?	0.2367 (397) P = 0.000
MSQ8	With the feeling of achievement that your work offers you?	0.2369 (397) P = 0.000
MSQ9	With your income in relation to the work you do?	-.239 (397) P = 0.634

Despite the fact that Conscientiousness seems to be the most predictive factor, it is generally agreed that the others also contribute unique information since the Big-Five traits seem to be only minimally correlated. The other four personality dimensions have also been shown to be good predictors of job outcomes in certain contexts and for certain performance criteria (Barrick and Mount, 1991). In particular, Extroversion emerges as other strong predictors of many job criteria in a variety of job contexts (Murphy and Lee, 1994; Barrick and Mount, 1991). For example, Stewart and Carson (1995) found that, Extroversion was a valid predictor of overall performance for service workers. Salgado (1997) found Agreeableness to be a valid predictor for professionals, skilled labour and managers.

In order to deeper our research, potential links between different variables (sector and satisfaction; sector and psychological profile) have been analysed.

The table presents the results of one way ANOVA procedure for satisfaction and different sectors. Are there specific sectors where satisfaction at work is higher than elsewhere?

The results show that sectors present differences among the means concerning the MSQ (satisfaction at work). Household equipment has the higher mean, followed by non-specialised food trade.

In our sample, household equipment sector is represented by signs like Catena; Maison de la Literie; Cuisines Plus; non-specialised food trade sectors are associated with Casino, Huit à Huit and Champion. This kind of franchise represents large volume distribution and is a speciality of French retail. Besides in this kind of shop, the number of employees is bigger than in the others. Professionalisation, formalisation, work specialisation, structures of these franchise networks and perhaps less competitive environment could explain the results.

Table 12 ANOVA: MSQ scale and sectors

		<i>Sum of squares</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Mean square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sign</i>
MSQ * sector	Between groups	3,166.736	6	527,789	3.530	.002
	Within groups	58,913.828	394	149,527		
	Total	62,080.564	400			
<i>In your present franchise, are you satisfied with the annual turnover you have achieved over the past three years? *</i> Sector	Between groups	27.576	6	4,596	.987	.433
	Within groups	1,833.860	394	4,654		
	Total	1,861.436	400			
<i>In your present franchise, are you satisfied with the profitability you have achieved over the past three years? *</i> Sector	Between groups	28.550	6	4,758	1.066	.382
	Within groups	1,758.074	394	4,462		
	Total	1,786.623	400			

Table 13 Mean for MSQ by sectors

<i>Sector</i>	<i>MSQ mean</i>	<i>Std. dev</i>
Specialised food trade	66.7647	14.94795
Non-specialised food trade	72.3542	10.74361
Personal equipment	66.8750	13.64328
Household equipment	74.6667	8.32034
Other specialised non-food businesses	70.1915	11.49790
Services	71.0141	13.10026
Hotels and restaurants	64.6667	10.40330

The table presents the results of one way ANOVA procedure for psychological profile and different sectors. Are there specific sectors where specific Big-Five dimensions are more present than elsewhere?

The results show that sectors present difference among the means concerning introversion and neuroticism. Franchisees in the personal equipment sector are more extroverted and less neurotic. This is the same things for the 'Other non-food specialised business' sector.

The personal equipment sector is represented by shops of clothing Rodier, La Compagnie des Petits, Phildar and Petit Boy. Other non-food specialised business sector is also represented by small shops and require intensive for the franchisees work in the store. Franchisees spend a lot of time in social situations (customer services, empathy, advices, interactions...). Extravert personality is welcome for front office work.

Surprisingly, many franchisees are introverted and more neurotic. This does not mean that they are inevitably unsatisfied. Introversion could be compatible with back office positions (for example book keeping, procurement, stock management) or supra management when they are multi-unit-franchisees.

Table 14 ANOVA big four and sectors

		<i>Sum of squares</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>Mean square</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Sign</i>
Conscientiousness * sector	Between groups	7.668	6	1.278	1.283	.264
	Within groups	392.332	394	.996		
	Total	400.000	400			
Introversion *	Between groups	13.695	6	2.282	2.328	.032
	Within groups	386.305	394	.980		
	Total	400.000	400			
Neuroticism *	Between groups	23.348	6	3.891	4.071	.001
	Within groups	376.652	394	.956		
	Total	400.000	400			
Intellect * sector	Between groups	8.255	6	1.376	1.384	.220
	Within groups	391.745	394	.994		
	Total	400.000	400			

Table 15 Mean of introversion and neuroticism by sectors

<i>Sector</i>		<i>Introversion</i>	<i>Neuroticism</i>
Specialised food trade	Mean	.2918675	-.2990319
	Std. dev	1.1118841	.7711232
Non-specialised food trade	Mean	.1840618	.0412803
	Std. dev	1.0725109	.9890077
Personal equipment	Mean	-.2480941	-.4619866
	Std. dev	.9328070	.9537355
Household equipment	Mean	.0755007	.1584567
	Std. dev	.8682368	.8101825
Other non-food specialised business	Mean	-.1939205	-.0164430
	Std. dev	.9805601	.9413035
Services	Mean	-.0142045	.1760272
	Std. dev	1.0183331	1.0326850
Hotels and restaurants	Mean	.3403567	.1656184
	Std. dev	.9500437	1.0758851

6 Directions for future research

In summary, results of the current quantitative research among 400 franchisees indicate that conscientiousness is relevant to predict job satisfaction. The relations between satisfaction (MSQ) and the other factors of the Big-Five (introversion, neuroticism, intellectual) are not significant. Despite the fact that Conscientiousness seems to be the most predictive factor for satisfaction, results show that the other Big-Five traits are

specific in several sectors. The type of franchisees activity is a contextual variable. For example, extraversion characterises the personality of franchisees working in the personal equipment sector. This specific trait does not explain franchisee's satisfaction but is certainly essential to reach customer's satisfaction.

Literature shows that Big-Five personality dimensions, not just Conscientiousness, have value as predictors of job performance. If this study proves that franchisees' satisfaction is tied with Conscientiousness, future research concerning the Big-Five and franchisee's different job criteria or job performance (commitment to the organisation, workplace stress, job strain, market oriented organisation, customer orientation, leadership, supervision, motivation in the workplace, interpersonal communication etc...) should be developed in future research.

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Notes

- 1 Europe's leading market research institute (<http://www.gfk.fr/>).