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Chapter 1

81

1.1 81.guide

Texified version of data for France.

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France

1.2 81.guide/France

France

Geography (France)
 People (France)
 Government (France)
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 Government (France 3. usage)
 Economy (France)
 Economy (France 2. usage)
 Communications (France)
 Defense Forces (France)

1.3 81.guide/Geography (France)

Geography (France)

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Location:

Western Europe, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean between Spain and Germany ↔

Map references:

Europe, Standard Time Zones of the World

Area:

total area:

547,030 km²

land area:

545,630 km²

comparative area:

slightly more than twice the size of Colorado

note:

includes Corsica and the rest of metropolitan France, but excludes the overseas administrative divisions

Land boundaries:

total 2,892.4 km, Andorra 60 km, Belgium 620 km, Germany 451 km, Italy 488 km, Luxembourg 73 km, Monaco 4.4 km, Spain 623 km, Switzerland 573 km

Coastline:

3,427 km (mainland 2,783 km, Corsica 644 km)

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone:

12-24 nm

exclusive economic zone:

200 nm

territorial sea:

12 nm

International disputes:

Madagascar claims Bassas da India, Europa Island, Glorioso Islands, Juan de Nova Island, and Tromelin Island; Comoros claims Mayotte; Mauritius claims Tromelin Island; Seychelles claims Tromelin Island; Suriname claims part of French Guiana; Mexico claims Clipperton Island; territorial claim in Antarctica (Adelie Land); Saint Pierre and Miquelon is focus of maritime boundary dispute between Canada and France

Climate:

generally cool winters and mild summers, but mild winters and hot summers

along the Mediterranean

Terrain:
 mostly flat plains or gently rolling hills in north and west; remainder is mountainous, especially Pyrenees in south, Alps in east

Natural resources:
 coal, iron ore, bauxite, fish, timber, zinc, potash

Land use:
 arable land:
 32%
 permanent crops:
 2%
 meadows and pastures:
 23%
 forest and woodland:
 27%
 other:
 16%

Irrigated land: 11,600 km² (1989 est.)

Environment:
 most of large urban areas and industrial centers in Rhone, Garonne, Seine, or Loire River basins; occasional warm tropical wind known as mistral

Note:
 largest West European nation

1.4 81.guide/People (France)

People (France)
 =====

Population:
 57,566,091 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:
 0.48% (1993 est.)

Birth rate:
 13.24 births/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Death rate:
 9.3 deaths/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Net migration rate:
 0.87 migrant(s)/1,000 population (1993 est.)

Infant mortality rate:
 6.8 deaths/1,000 live births (1993 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
 total population:
 78 years
 male:
 74.04 years
 female:
 82.16 years (1993 est.)

Total fertility rate:
 1.8 children born/woman (1993 est.)

Nationality:
 noun:
 Frenchman (men), Frenchwoman (women)

adjective:
 French

Ethnic divisions:
 Celtic and Latin with Teutonic, Slavic, North African, Indochinese, Basque minorities

Religions:
 Roman Catholic 90%, Protestant 2%, Jewish 1%, Muslim (North African workers ←)
 1%, unaffiliated 6%

Languages:
 French 100%, rapidly declining regional dialects and languages (Provençal, Breton, Alsatian, Corsican, Catalan, Basque, Flemish)

Literacy:
 age 15 and over can read and write (1980)
 total population:
 99%

male:
 NA%

female:
 NA%

Labor force:
 24.17 million by occupation:
 services 61.5%, industry 31.3%, agriculture 7.2% (1987)

1.5 81.guide/Government (France)

Government (France)

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Names:
 conventional long form:
 French Republic
 conventional short form:
 France
 local long form:
 Republique Francaise
 local short form:
 France

Digraph:
 FR

Type:
 republic

Capital:
 Paris

Administrative divisions:
 22 regions (regions, singular - region); Alsace, Aquitaine, Auvergne, Basse-Normandie, Bourgogne, Bretagne, Centre, Champagne-Ardenne, Corse, Franche-Comte, Haute-Normandie, Ile-de-France, Languedoc-Roussillon, Limousin, Lorraine, Midi-Pyrenees, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, Pays de la Loire, Picardie, Poitou-Charentes, Provence-Alpes-Cote d'Azur, Rhone-Alpes

note:
 the 22 regions are subdivided into 96 departments; see separate entries for the overseas departments (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Reunion)

and the territorial collectivities (Mayotte, Saint Pierre and Miquelon)

Dependent areas:
 Bassas da India, Clipperton Island, Europa Island, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Lands, Glorioso Islands, Juan de Nova Island, New Caledonia, Tromelin Island, Wallis and Futuna

note:
 the US does not recognize claims to Antarctica

Independence:
 486 (unified by Clovis)

Constitution:
 28 September 1958, amended concerning election of president in 1962, ammended to comply with provisions of EC Maastricht Treaty in 1992

Legal system:
 civil law system with indigenous concepts; review of administrative but not legislative acts

National holiday:
 National Day, Taking of the Bastille, 14 July (1789)

Political parties and leaders:
 Rally for the Republic (RPR), Jacques CHIRAC; Union for French Democracy (UDF, federation of UREI, UC, RDE), Valery Giscard d'ESTAING; Republican Party (PR), Gerard LONGUET; Center for Social Democrats (CDS), Pierre MEHAIGNERIE; Radical (RAD), Yves GALLAND; Socialist Party (PS), Michel ROCARD; Left Radical Movement (MRG), Emile ZUCCARELLI; Communist Party (PCF), Georges MARCHAIS; National Front (FN), Jean-Marie LE PEN; Union of Republican and Independents (UREI); Centrist Union (UC); (RDE)

Other political or pressure groups:
 Communist-controlled labor union (Confederation Generale du Travail) nearly 2.4 million members (claimed); Socialist-leaning labor union (Confederation Francaise Democratique du Travail or CFDT) about 800,000 members est.; independent labor union (Force Ouvriere) 1 million members (est.); independent white-collar union (Confederation Generale des Cadres) 340,000 members (claimed); National Council of French Employers (Conseil National du Patronat Francais - CNPF or Patronat)

Suffrage:
 18 years of age; universal

1.6 81.guide/Government (France 2. usage)

Government (France 2. usage)

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Elections:

President:
 last held 8 May 1988 (next to be held by May 1995); results - Second Ballot Francois MITTERRAND 54%, Jacques CHIRAC 46%

Senate:
 last held NA September 1992 (next to be held September 1995 - nine-year term, elected by thirds every three years); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (321 total; 296 metropolitan France, 13 for overseas departments and territories, and 12 for French nationals abroad) RPR 91, UDF 142 (UREI 51, UC 68, RDE 23), PS 66, PCF 16, independents 2, other 4

National Assembly:

last held 21 and 28 March 1993 (next to be held NA 1998); results - percent of vote by party NA; seats - (577 total) RPR 247, UDF 213, PS 67, PCF 24, independents 26

Executive branch:

president, prime minister, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

Legislative branch:

bicameral Parliament (Parlement) consists of an upper house or Senate (Senat) and a lower house or National Assembly (Assemblée Nationale)

Judicial branch:

Constitutional Court (Cour Constitutionnelle)

Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Francois MITTERRAND (since 21 May 1981)

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Edouard BALLADUR (since 29 March 1993)

Member of:

ACCT, AfDB, AG (observer), AsDB, Australia Group, BDEAC, BIS, CCC, CDB (non-regional), CE, CERN, COCOM, CSCE, EBRD, EC, ECA (associate), ECE, ECLAC, EIB, ESA, ESCAP, FAO, FZ, GATT, G-5, G-7, G-10, IADB, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC, ICFTU, IDA, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, IOM, ISO, ITU, LORCS, MINURSO, MTCR, NACC, NATO, NEA, NSG, OAS (observer), OECD, PCA, SPC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNIDO, UNIFIL, UNIKOM, UNPROFOR, UNRWA, UN Security Council, UNTAC, UN Trusteeship Council ↔

UNTSO, UPU, WCL, WEU, WFTU, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO, ZC

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1.7 81.guide/Government (France 3. usage)

Government (France 3. usage)

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Flag:

three equal vertical bands of blue (hoist side), white, and red; known as the French Tricolore (Tricolor); the design and colors have been the basis for a number of other flags, including those of Belgium, Chad, Ireland, ←
Cote
d'Ivoire, and Luxembourg; the official flag for all French dependent areas

1.8 81.guide/Economy (France)

Economy (France)

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Overview:

One of the world's most developed economies, France has substantial agricultural resources and a highly diversified modern industrial sector. Large tracts of fertile land, the application of modern technology, and subsidies have combined to make it the leading agricultural producer in Western Europe. France is largely self-sufficient in agricultural products and is a major exporter of wheat and dairy products. The industrial sector generates about one-quarter of GDP, and the growing services sector has become crucial to the economy. The French economy is entering its fourth consecutive year of sluggish growth after a strong expansion in the late 1980s. Growth averaged only 1.3% in 1990-92 and is expected to drop to between zero and -0.5% in 1993. The government budget deficit rose to 3.2% of GDP in 1992 and is expected to be far larger than planned in the 1993 budget. Paris remains committed to maintaining the franc-deutsch mark parity, which has kept French interest rates high despite France's low inflation. Although the pace of economic integration within the European Community has slowed down, integration presumably will remain a major force shaping the fortunes of the various economic sectors.

National product:

GDP - purchasing power equivalent - \$1.08 trillion (1992)

National product real growth rate:

1.1% (1992)

National product per capita:

\$18,900 (1992)

Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2.1% (1992 est.)

Unemployment rate:

10.5% (end 1992)

Budget:

revenues \$220.5 billion; expenditures \$249.1 billion, including capital expenditures of \$47 billion (1993 budget)

Exports:

\$212.7 billion (f.o.b., 1991)

commodities:

machinery and transportation equipment, chemicals, foodstuffs, agricultural products, iron and steel products, textiles and clothing

partners:

Germany 18.6%, Italy 11.0%, Spain 11.0%, Belgium-Luxembourg 9.1%, UK 8.8%, Netherlands 7.9%, US 6.4%, Japan 2.0%, former USSR 0.7% (1991 est.)

Imports:

\$230.3 billion (c.i.f., 1991)
 commodities:
 crude oil, machinery and equipment, agricultural products, chemicals, iron and steel products
 partners:
 Germany 17.8%, Italy 10.9%, US 9.5%, Netherlands 8.9%, Spain 8.8%, Belgium-Luxembourg 8.5%, UK 7.5%, Japan 4.1%, former USSR 1.3% (1991 est.)
 External debt:
 \$270 billion (December 1992)
 Industrial production:
 growth rate 0.2% (1992 est.)
 Electricity:
 110,000,000 kW capacity; 426,000 million kWh produced, 7,430 kWh per capita (1992)
 Industries:
 steel, machinery, chemicals, automobiles, metallurgy, aircraft, electronics ↔
 ,
 mining, textiles, food processing, tourism

1.9 81.guide/Economy (France 2. usage)

Economy (France 2. usage)
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Agriculture:
 accounts for 4% of GDP (including fishing and forestry); one of the world's top five wheat producers; other principal products - beef, dairy products, cereals, sugar beets, potatoes, wine grapes; self-sufficient for most temperate-zone foods; shortages include fats and oils and tropical produce, but overall net exporter of farm products; fish catch of 850,000 metric ↔ tons
 ranks among world's top 20 countries and is all used domestically
 Economic aid:
 donor - ODA and OOF commitments (1970-89), \$75.1 billion
 Currency:
 1 French franc (F) = 100 centimes
 Exchange rates:
 French francs (F) per US\$1 - 5.4812 (January 1993), 5.2938 (1992), 5.6421 (1991), 5.4453 (1990), 6.3801 (1989), 5.9569 (1988)
 Fiscal year:
 calendar year

1.10 81.guide/Communications (France)

Communications (France)
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Railroads:

French National Railways (SNCF) operates 34,322 km 1.435-meter standard gauge; 12,434 km electrified, 15,132 km double or multiple track; 99 km of various gauges (1.000-meter), privately owned and operated

Highways:

1,551,400 km total; 33,400 km national highway; 347,000 km departmental highway; 421,000 km community roads; 750,000 km rural roads; 5,401 km of controlled-access divided autoroutes; about 803,000 km paved

Inland waterways:

14,932 km; 6,969 km heavily traveled

Pipelines:

crude oil 3,059 km; petroleum products 4,487 km; natural gas 24,746 km

Ports:

coastal - Bordeaux, Boulogne, Brest, Cherbourg, Dunkerque, Fos-Sur-Mer, Le Havre, Marseille, Nantes, Sete, Toulon; inland - Rouen

Merchant marine:

130 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 3,224,945 GRT/5,067,252 DWT; ← includes

7 short-sea passenger, 10 cargo, 20 container, 1 multifunction large-load carrier, 27 roll-on/roll-off, 36 oil tanker, 11 chemical tanker, 6 ← liquefied

gas, 2 specialized tanker, 10 bulk; note - France also maintains a captive register for French-owned ships in the Kerguelen Islands (French Southern and Antarctic Lands) and French Polynesia

Airports:

total:

471

usable:

461

with permanent-surface runways:

256

with runways over 3,659 m:

3

with runways 2,440-3,659 m:

37

with runways 1,220-2,439 m:

136

Telecommunications:

highly developed; extensive cable and microwave radio relay networks; large-scale introduction of optical-fiber systems; satellite systems for domestic traffic; 39,200,000 telephones; broadcast stations - 41 AM, 800 (mostly repeaters) FM, 846 (mostly repeaters) TV; 24 submarine coaxial cables; 2 INTELSAT earth stations (with total of 5 antennas - 2 for the Indian Ocean INTELSAT and 3 for the Atlantic Ocean INTELSAT); HF radio communications with more than 20 countries; INMARSAT service; EUTELSAT TV service

1.11 81.guide/Defense Forces (France)

Defense Forces (France)

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Branches:

Army, Navy (including Naval Air), Air Force, National Gendarmerie

Manpower availability:

males age 15-49 14,662,761; fit for military service 12,247,950; reach
military age (18) annually 386,504 (1993 est.)

Defense expenditures:

exchange rate conversion - \$36.6 billion, 3.1% of GDP (1993 est.)
