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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	83.guide . . . . .	1
1.2	83.guide/French Polynesia . . . . .	1
1.3	83.guide/Header (French Polynesia) . . . . .	2
1.4	83.guide/Geography (French Polynesia) . . . . .	2
1.5	83.guide/People (French Polynesia) . . . . .	3
1.6	83.guide/Government (French Polynesia) . . . . .	4
1.7	83.guide/Government (French Polynesia 2. usage) . . . . .	5
1.8	83.guide/Economy (French Polynesia) . . . . .	6
1.9	83.guide/Communications (French Polynesia) . . . . .	7
1.10	83.guide/Defense Forces (French Polynesia) . . . . .	7

# Chapter 1

## 83

### 1.1 83.guide

Texified version of data for French Polynesia.

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French Polynesia

### 1.2 83.guide/French Polynesia

French Polynesia

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Header (French Polynesia)  
Geography (French Polynesia)  
People (French Polynesia)  
Government (French Polynesia)  
Government (French Polynesia 2. usage)  
Economy (French Polynesia)  
Communications (French Polynesia)  
Defense Forces (French Polynesia)

### 1.3 83.guide/Header (French Polynesia)

Header (French Polynesia)  
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Affiliation:  
    (overseas territory of France)

### 1.4 83.guide/Geography (French Polynesia)

Geography (French Polynesia)  
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Location:  
    Oceania, halfway between Australia and South America  
Map references:  
    Oceania  
Area:  
    total area:  
        3,941 km2  
    land area:  
        3,660 km2  
    comparative area:  
        slightly less than one-third the size of Connecticut  
Land boundaries:  
    0 km  
Coastline:  
    2,525 km  
Maritime claims:  
    exclusive economic zone:  
        200 nm  
    territorial sea:  
        12 nm  
International disputes:  
    none  
Climate:  
    tropical, but moderate

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Terrain:  
 mixture of rugged high islands and low islands with reefs

Natural resources:  
 timber, fish, cobalt

Land use:  
 arable land:  
   1%  
 permanent crops:  
   19%  
 meadows and pastures:  
   5%  
 forest and woodland:   31%  
 other:  
   44%

Irrigated land:  
 NA km2

Environment:  
 occasional cyclonic storm in January; includes five archipelagoes

Note:  
 Makatea in French Polynesia is one of the three great phosphate rock islands ↔  
 in the Pacific Ocean - the others are Banaba (Ocean Island) in Kiribati and Nauru

## 1.5 83.guide/People (French Polynesia)

People (French Polynesia)  
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Population:  
 210,333 (July 1993 est.)

Population growth rate:  
 2.26% (1993 est.)

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

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

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

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

Life expectancy at birth:  
 total population:  
   70.33 years  
 male:  
   67.95 years  
 female:  
   72.84 years (1993 est.)

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

Nationality:  
 noun:  
   French Polynesian(s)

adjective:  
 French Polynesian  
 Ethnic divisions:  
 Polynesian 78%, Chinese 12%, local French 6%, metropolitan French 4%  
 Religions:  
 Protestant 54%, Roman Catholic 30%, other 16%  
 Languages:  
 French (official), Tahitian (official)  
 Literacy:  
 age 14 and over but definition of literacy not available (1977)  
 total population:  
 98%  
 male:  
 98%  
 female:  
 98%  
 Labor force:  
 76,630 employed (1988)

## 1.6 83.guide/Government (French Polynesia)

Government (French Polynesia)

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Names:  
 conventional long form:  
 Territory of French Polynesia  
 conventional short form:  
 French Polynesia  
 local long form:  
 Territoire de la Polynesie Francaise  
 local short form:  
 Polynesie Francaise  
 Digraph:  
 FP  
 Type:  
 overseas territory of France since 1946  
 Capital:  
 Papeete  
 Administrative divisions:  
 none (overseas territory of France); there are no first-order administrative divisions as defined by the US Government, but there are 5 archipelagic divisions named Archipel des Marquises, Archipel des Tuamotu, Archipel des Tubuai, Iles du Vent, and Iles Sous-le-Vent  
 note:  
 Clipperton Island is administered by France from French Polynesia  
 Independence:  
 none (overseas territory of France)  
 Constitution:  
 28 September 1958 (French Constitution)  
 Legal system:  
 based on French system

National holiday:

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

Political parties and leaders:

People's Rally (Tahoeraa Huiraatira; Gaullist), Gaston FLOSSE; Polynesian Union Party (Te Tiarama; centrist), Alexandre LEONTIEFF; New Fatherland Party (Ai'a Api), Emile VERNAUDON; Polynesian Liberation Front (Tavini Huiraatira), Oscar TEMARU; other small parties

Suffrage:

18 years of age; universal

Elections:

French National Assembly:

last held 5 and 12 June 1988 (next to be held 21 and 28 March 1993); ←  
results

- percent of vote by party NA; seats - (2 total) People's Rally (Gaullist) 1, New Fatherland Party 1

French Senate:

last held 24 September 1989 (next to be held September 1998); results -  
percent of vote by party NA; seats - (1 total) party NA

Territorial Assembly:

last held 17 March 1991 (next to be held March 1996); results - percent of  
vote by party NA; seats - (41 total) People's Rally (Gaullist) 18,  
Polynesian Union Party 14, New Fatherland Party 5, other 4

Executive branch:

French president, high commissioner of the republic, president of the  
Council of Ministers, vice president of the Council of Ministers, Council ←  
of  
Ministers

Legislative branch:

unicameral Territorial Assembly

Judicial branch:

Court of Appeal, Court of the First Instance, Court of Administrative Law

## 1.7 83.guide/Government (French Polynesia 2. usage)

Government (French Polynesia 2. usage)

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Leaders:

Chief of State:

President Francois MITTERRAND (since 21 May 1981); High Commissioner of the  
Republic Michel JAU (since NA 1992)

Head of Government:

President of the Council of Ministers Gaston FLOSSE (since 10 May 1991);  
Vice President of the Council of Ministers Joel BUIILLARD (since 12 ←  
September  
1991)

Member of:

ESCAP (associate), FZ, ICFTU, SPC, WMO

Diplomatic representation in US:

as an overseas territory of France, French Polynesian interests are  
represented in the US by France

US diplomatic representation:

none (overseas territory of France)



Flag:  
the flag of France is used

## 1.8 83.guide/Economy (French Polynesia)

Economy (French Polynesia)  
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### Overview:

Since 1962, when France stationed military personnel in the region, French Polynesia has changed from a subsistence economy to one in which a high proportion of the work force is either employed by the military or supports the tourist industry. Tourism accounts for about 20% of GDP and is a primary source of hard currency earnings.

### National product:

GDP - exchange rate conversion - \$1.2 billion (1991 est.)

### National product real growth rate:

NA%

### National product per capita:

\$6,000 (1991 est.)

### Inflation rate (consumer prices):

2.9% (1989)

### Unemployment rate:

14.9% (1988 est.)

### Budget:

revenues \$614 million; expenditures \$957 million, including capital expenditures of \$NA (1988)

### Exports:

\$88.9 million (f.o.b., 1989)

#### commodities:

coconut products 79%, mother-of-pearl 14%, vanilla, shark meat

#### partners:

France 54%, US 17%, Japan 17%

### Imports:

\$765 million (c.i.f., 1989)

#### commodities:

fuels, foodstuffs, equipment

#### partners:

France 53%, US 11%, Australia 6%, NZ 5%

### External debt:

\$NA

### Industrial production:

growth rate NA%

### Electricity:

75,000 kW capacity; 275 million kWh produced, 1,330 kWh per capita (1992)

### Industries:

tourism, pearls, agricultural processing, handicrafts

### Agriculture:

coconut and vanilla plantations; vegetables and fruit; poultry, beef, dairy products

### Economic aid:

Western (non-US) countries, ODA and OOF bilateral commitments (1970-88),

\$3.95 billion  
 Currency:  
   1 CFP franc (CFPF) = 100 centimes  
 Exchange rates:  
   Comptoirs Francais du Pacifique francs (CFPF) per US\$1 - 99.65 (January 1993), 96.24 (1992), 102.57 (1991), 99.00 (1990), 115.99 (1989), 108.30 (1988); note - linked at the rate of 18.18 to the French franc  
 Fiscal year:  
   calendar year

## 1.9 83.guide/Communications (French Polynesia)

Communications (French Polynesia)  
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Highways:  
   600 km (1982)  
 Ports:  
   Papeete, Bora-bora  
 Merchant marine:  
   3 ships (1,000 GRT or over) totaling 4,127 GRT/6,710 DWT; includes 2  
   passenger-cargo, 1 refrigerated cargo; note - a captive subset of the  
   French register  
 Airports:  
   total:  
     43  
   usable:  
     41  
   with permanent-surface runways:  
     23  
   with runways over 3,659 m:  
     0  
   with runways 2,440-3,659 m:  
     2 with runways 1,220-2,439 m:  
     12  
 Telecommunications:  
   33,200 telephones; 84,000 radio receivers; 26,400 TV sets; broadcast  
   stations - 5 AM, 2 FM, 6 TV; 1 Pacific Ocean INTELSAT earth station

## 1.10 83.guide/Defense Forces (French Polynesia)

Defense Forces (French Polynesia)  
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Branches:  
   French forces (including Army, Navy, Air Force), Gendarmerie  
 Note:

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defense is responsibility of France