

THE FRANCE

1. Employment

1.1 The Work Force

Work force: 24,400,000 people (1991)

Men 13,717,000

Women 10,652,000

The percentage of French women holding a job is 44% of the work force giving France the highest female work force of any other country in the European Community. In fact, French women occupy more than half of all the white collar jobs in the country.

Unemployment as of February 1993: 3,024,000 people; the unemployment rate of women is twice that of men.

Salaries:

Average monthly salary by professional category and gender, April 1992 (\$)

Professional Category	Men	Women	Total
Blue-collar workers	1,579.00	1,295.00	1,511.00
White-collar workers	1,726.00	1,295.00	1,625.00
Supervisors, technicians, draftsmen	2,286.00	2,051.00	2,222.00
Executive management	4,256.00	3,376.00	4,083.00
Total	2,173.00	1,695.00	2,013.00

On average, men earn 28.2 percent more than women; executive management earns 2.7 times the salary of blue-collar workers. The French work force can be broken down into the following sectors (1990):

- Agriculture 6.8%
- Industry 22.6%
- Construction 7.2%
- Services 63.4%

1.2 The State as an Employer

Almost 3 million people are employed by the state. Of this figure, the National Education Ministry employs over 1,000,000 civil servants while the Post and Telecommunications Ministry represents almost 500,000.

1.3 Immigration

While the percentage of immigrant workers employed in the French work force has decreased from the 1985 level of 8.4%, they still represent approximately 6.6%, or a total 1,557,000 of the working population. Approximately 58% of this number are employed in blue collar industries.

The heaviest concentrations of immigrant populations are in the Ile-de-France (Paris region) and Rh"ne-Alpes (south-east) regions.

1.4 Social Calender

1884 Waldeck-Rousseau Law, according the freedom to create trade unions

1936 Law granting the right of all workers to paid vacation

1938 Creation of a general social security plan

1945-46 Nationalizations under de Gaulle

May 1968 Student demonstrations demanding university reform. Sit-down strikes by industrial workers demanding reduced hours of work, wage increases and a voice in management.

1975 Legalization of abortion

1981 Decentralization of local government, nationalization of banks and major corporations. "Auroux Laws" establishing the representation of unions within corporations. Abolition of the death penalty.

2. Education

In 1991, the French Government budget for education was \$43.9 billion (247.8 billion FF).

Enrollment in France (excluding the French overseas territories):

- 6,610,046 elementary school students (1993)
- 3,336,599 secondary school students (1993)
- 2,230,512 high school students (1993)
- 1,756,918 university students (1991)
- 3,719 Americans studied at French universities in 1991.

3. Taxes

In 1993, for every 100 francs that a French person pays in taxes, the breakdown is as follows:

- education & culture \$4.62 (25.5 FF)
- social services \$3.35 (18.5 FF)
- defense \$3.26 (18.0 FF)
- economy \$2.08 (11.5 FF)
- general services \$4.80 (26.5 FF)

4. Economy

4.1 French Trends

Gross Domestic Product, 1992 = FF 7,240 billion (\$1,369 billion)

(Real annual percentage changes)

What/Year	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993*	1994*
Gross Domestic Product	4.3	2.5	0.7	1.3	-0.7	1.5
Private consumption	3.1	2.9	1.4	1.7	0.7	1.6
Retail sales	1.6	0.5	-0.4	-0.7	--	--
Total investment (Fixed Capital Formation)	7.9	2.9	-1.5	-2.3	-3.3	0.7
Exports of goods and services	10.2	5.3	3.9	6.5	0.6	4.1
Imports of goods and services	8.1	6.3	2.9	3.0	1.3	4.2
Consumer price inflation	3.4	2.9	3.0	2.4	2.4	2.0
Unemployment (% of labor force)	9.4	8.9	9.4	10.2	11.2	12.1
Gov't borrowing (% of GDP)	1.3	1.5	2.1	3.9	5.7	5.8
Balance on current account (billion FF)	-35.9	-75.0	-34.5	19.3	--	--
Current account balance (% of GDP)	-0.6	-1.3	-0.5	0.2	0.1	-0.1
Exchange rate (FF per US \$)	6.38	5.45	5.65	5.29	--	--
Short-term interest rate	9.4	10.3	9.6	10.4	8.0	4.7
Long-term interest rate (public sector bonds)	--	10.4	9.5	9.0	7.1	6.4

* Forecasts: OECD July 1993

4.2 France's Main Trading Partners (1992)

Imports by France

Rank	Country	Millions of FF	% of Total	Cumulative % total
	Global Imports by France	1263935		100.0
1	Germany	236072	18.7	18.7
2	Italy	134478	10.6	29.3
3	Belgium & Luxembourg	108909	8.6	37.9
4	United States of America	106422	8.4	46.4
5	United Kingdom	97416	7.7	54.1
6	Spain	68253	5.4	59.5
7	Netherlands	64176	5.1	64.6
8	Japan	51700	4.1	68.6
9	Switzerland	28516	2.3	70.9
10	Sweden	18751	1.5	72.4
11	China	18535	1.5	73.9
12	Former Soviet Union	18444	1.5	75.3
13	Norway	16321	1.3	76.6
14	Saudi Arabia	14801	1.2	77.8
15	Portugal	14261	1.1	78.9

Exports by France

Rank	Country	Millions of FF	% of Total	Cumulative % of total
	Global Exports by France	1227516		100.0

1	Germany	215519	17.6	17.6
2	Italy	133837	10.9	28.5
3	United Kingdom	113201	9.2	37.7
4	Belgium & Luxembourg	112923	9.2	46.9
5	Spain	87910	7.2	54.0
6	United States of America	79986	6.5	60.6
7	Netherlands	59857	4.9	65.4
8	Switzerland	42734	3.5	68.9
9	Japan	22136	1.8	70.7
10	Portugal	20397	1.7	72.4
11	Sweden	12417	1.0	73.4
12	Canada	11879	1.0	74.4
13	Algeria	11774	1.0	75.3
14	Austria	11315	0.9	76.2
15	Morocco	11275	0.9	77.2

4.3 Bilateral Relations

4.3.1 Trade

4.3.1.1 Results 1992

- Exports by France to the US: \$15.1 bn FF 80 bn
- Imports by France to the US: \$20.1 bn FF 106 bn

4.3.1.2 France's Trade Balance with the US

- 1992 (-) \$4.9 bn (-) FF 26 bn
- 1991 (-) \$6.7 bn (-) FF 37.9 bn

(billion FF)

Year	French Exports	French Imports	Balance	\$/FF
1980	20.8	45.4	-24.6	4.23
1981	30.4	53.3	-22.9	5.43
1982	34.3	59.7	-25.4	6.57
1983	43.8	61.8	-18	7.62
1984	65.9	70.0	-4.1	8.74
1985	75.3	73.2	2.1	8.99
1986	61.1	67.0	-5.9	6.93
1987	62.5	67.6	-5.1	6.01
1988	70.7	81.5	-10.9	5.96
1989	72.4	93.7	-21.3	6.38
1990	69.6	103.3	-33.7	5.45
1991	76.6	114.5	-37.9	5.65
1992	80.0	106.4	-26.4	5.29

4.3.1.3 Main products exported by France to the United States

1992 - FAB value in millions of dollars

Product	\$ Millions	% of Total
Engines, motors and parts	2,304	15.2
Aircraft, spacecrafts	1,863	12.6
Alcoholic beverages	923	6.2
Motor vehicle parts & accessories	629	4.2
Perfumery, cosmetics, excluding soaps	546	3.6
Works of art, antiques	356	2.4
Measuring, analysis equipment	260	1.7
Oil (not crude)	236	1.6
Thermionic, cold cathode, photo, valves	185	1.2
Radioactive & associated materials	184	1.2

4.3.1.4 Main products exported by the United States to France

1992 - CAF value in millions of dollars

Product	\$ Millions	% of Total
Engines, motors, non-electrical parts	2,242	15.4

Aircraft, spacecraft	1,667	11.4
Automatic data processing, (ADP)machines	857	5.9
Parts for office and ADP machines	625	4.3
Measuring & analysis equipment	574	3.9
Gold	354	2.4
Coal	335	2.3
Thermionic, cold cathode, photo, valves	320	2.2
Medicinal products except medication	317	2.2
Medical, dental instruments and appliances	250	1.7

4.3.2 Direct Investment

4.3.2.1 French Direct Investment in the US (\$ billions)

Year	1991 r	1992 p
Capital inflows	4.5	-0.5
Position	24.2	23.8

r revised

p provisional

4.3.2.2 American Direct Investment in France (\$ billions)

Year	1991 r	1992 p
Capital inflows	2.1	2.8
Position	20.8	23.3

r revised

p provisional

4.4 Agriculture

Over 60% of French soil is used for agriculture, a figure representing a total of 31,588,000 hectares. 25% is used for forestry. As of 1991, almost 7% (2,000,000) of the working population was involved in agriculture or related industries as compared with 20% in 1968.

It is important to note that while the actual active labor force involved in agriculture has declined in France, agricultural production has tripled in volume since 1950.

4.4.1 Agricultural Exports

Internationally, France is the 2nd exporter of agricultural and food products and the 7th importer. It is the world's leading exporter of on-the-hoof cattle, poultry, meat, cheese and wine. It is ranked number two for cereals and sugar, and the third exporter of beef, veal, milk and butter.

In 1991, agricultural and processed food products exports amounted to \$32.3 billion (186 billion FF) while imports reached \$23.1 billion (142 billion FF).

4.4.2 Viticulture

Wine : France produced 249 million gallons of wine in 1992 and in 1990 was ranked first in world production of wine.

Cognac : over 150 million bottles of cognac were exported in 1991; almost 30 million (27%) of these were sold on the American market. Europe is the largest cognac market with 43% of total sales.

4.4.3 Beef Farming

France was the 2nd highest EC producer of beef in 1991 and represented 30.5% of EC consumption.

4.4.4 Milk Production

With a production of 5.8 billion gallons, France was ranked third in the world in 1991. In 1992, France ranked 1st in EC milk production supplying 24.4% of EC consumption.

4.4.5 Cereals and Grains

In 1991, France was the highest EC producer of cereals and grains and supplied 44.8% of EC consumption.

5. Transportation

5.1 Rail

In 1992, the SNCF (Société Nationale des Chemins de Fer) carried over 840 million passengers and 145 million tons of freight. There are presently 36,680 km of railroad track in France.

5.2 TGV

The TGV (Train à Grande Vitesse) allows for travel by rail to compete with the comfort and efficiency of the airline industry. For instance, the 262 mile (423 km) distance between Paris and Lyon can be reached in two hours at an average speed of 168 MPH (the TGV Atlantique averages 186 MPH).

The TGV set another world speed record on May 18, 1990 with a registered speed of 320.2 MPH.

5.3 Air Transport

The Air France Group consists of the country's three major airlines, namely Air France, UTA and Air Inter. This group manages a fleet of more than 318 aircraft, servicing Europe, North America, Central and South America, West and East Africa, Madagascar, the Near, Middle and Far East. There are local networks in the West Indies and Central America. The Air France Group also has special agreements with the Czech airline CSA and the Belgian airline Sabena.

5.4 Highway

France maintains an important road and motorway network. Her 1.5 million kilometers of paved roads are travelled by some 26 million automobiles each year.

6. Culture

6.1 "Francophonie"

Of the 44 French-speaking countries, there are approximately 450 million people who speak French daily. These Francophones represent 8% of the global population, 12% of the world GDP and 20% of world trade.

63,500,000 of the world's Francophones live in Europe in the countries of France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Monaco.

6.2 Cultural Statistics

Museums: France boasts some 5,000 museums

Cinema:

- 1992 : 116.4 million spectators
- 1991 : 117.5 million spectators
- 1990 : 122.0 million spectators
- 1989 : 118.8 million spectators

Publishing: Some 37,860 novels were published in 1987.

6.3 Sports

Some 38% of the French population participate in one or more sports (21,000,000 people in 1988). The most popular sports are soccer, tennis, rugby, sailing, cycling and golfing.