



France



Background France today is one of the most modern countries in the world and is a leader among European nations. It plays an influential global role as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, NATO, the G-7, the G-20, the EU, and other multilateral organizations. France rejoined NATO's integrated military command structure in 2009, reversing then President Charles DE GAULLE's 1966 decision to withdraw French forces from NATO. Since 1958, it has constructed a hybrid presidential-parliamentary governing system resistant to the instabilities experienced in earlier, more purely parliamentary administrations. In recent decades, its reconciliation and cooperation with Germany have proved central to the economic integration of Europe, including the introduction of a common currency, the euro, in January 1999. In the early 21st century, five French overseas entities -- French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, and Réunion -- became French regions and were made part of France proper.

Capital name: Paris

Government type semi-presidential republic

Area total : 643,801 sq km ; 551,500 sq km (metropolitan France)
land: 640,427 sq km ; 549,970 sq km (metropolitan France)
water: 3,374 sq km ; 1,530 sq km (metropolitan France)

Climate metropolitan France: generally cool winters and mild summers, but mild winters and hot summers along the Mediterranean; occasional strong, cold, dry, north-to-northwesterly wind known as the mistral

Natural resources metropolitan France: coal, iron ore, bauxite, zinc, uranium, antimony, arsenic, potash, feldspar, fluorspar, gypsum, timber, arable land, fish; French Guiana: gold deposits, petroleum, kaolin, niobium, tantalum, clay

Population total: 68,374,591 (2024 est.)

Population growth rate 0.2% (2024 est.)

Ethnic groups Celtic and Latin with Teutonic, Slavic, North African (Algerian, Moroccan, Tunisian), Indochinese, Basque minorities

Religions Roman Catholic 47%, Muslim 4%, Protestant 2%, Buddhist 2%, Orthodox 1%, Jewish 1%, other 1%, none 33%, unspecified 9% (2021 est.)

Languages French (official) 100%, declining regional dialects and languages (Provençal, Breton, Alsatian, Corsican, Catalan, Basque, Flemish, Occitan, Picard)

Executive branch chief of state: President Emmanuel MACRON (since 14 May 2017)

head of government: Sébastien LECORNU (since 10 September 2025)

Legislative branch legislature name: Parliament (Parlement)

Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Laurent BILI (since 19 April 2023)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Charles KUSHNER (since 11 July 2025); note - also accredited to Monaco
Economic overview	high-income, advanced EU economy and eurozone member; strong tourism, aircraft manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and industrial sectors; high public debt; ongoing pension reform efforts; transitioning to a green economy via "France 2030" strategy
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$3.732 trillion (2024 est.) \$3.689 trillion (2023 est.) \$3.655 trillion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$54,500 (2024 est.) \$54,000 (2023 est.) \$53,700 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$1.071 trillion (2024 est.) \$1.05 trillion (2023 est.) \$1.021 trillion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	Germany 11%, Italy 9%, USA 8%, Belgium 8%, Spain 7% (2023)
Exports - commodities	aircraft, cars, packaged medicine, gas turbines, vehicle parts/accessories (2023)
Imports	\$1.074 trillion (2024 est.) \$1.094 trillion (2023 est.) \$1.092 trillion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	Germany 15%, Belgium 11%, Netherlands 9%, Spain 8%, Italy 8% (2023)
Imports - commodities	cars, natural gas, crude petroleum, refined petroleum, garments (2023)

Population Pyramid

