

Bank of France governor expects 2013 growth below 1 pct

PARIS, Sept. 17 (Xinhua) -- France's economic growth will be below 1 percent in 2013, Bank of France Governor Christian Noyer said on Monday.

Speaking in an interview with the business daily Les Echos, Noyer said this year's expected limp growth would add more pressure to the Socialists to balance their finances and create more wealth.

"We can reasonably expect a gradual recovery of growth in 2013, with an average that should significantly remain below 1 percent due to the lack of growth at the end 2012," he said.

In a recent TV interview, French President Francois Hollande cut growth forecast for next year to 0.8 percent from an initial target of 1.2 percent.

For 2012, he expected zero growth against earlier estimation of 0.3 percent, making it hard for the eurozone's second largest economy to recover with unemployment exceeding 10 percent.