



COUNTRY REPORT

French Economy

France is the 2nd European economy, and 6th worldwide. It is a vast & large market with sophisticated customers.

Home of some of the largest companies, worldwide leaders in their field ¹, it offers unique opportunities for refined consumer goods.

In addition, France innovates and has strong industrial base. Mechanics, energy & environment, transport (automotive, shipyards, train, aerospace), biotech & health, chemistry, services etc..., France provides suppliers and customers for your know-how and products.

France is the 5th country for spending in R&D with more 47 billion dollars. Many innovations come from France such as the smart cards, high speed train, and airplanes.

Well engaged in globalization (6th largest exporter and importer worldwide), French companies are eager to develop links with foreign partners.

¹ AXA is the world's largest insurance company; Air France is the world's largest airline company; L'Oreal is the world's biggest cosmetic company; LVMH and PPR are the world's 1st and 2nd largest luxury companies; GDF-Suez is the world's largest energy company; EDF is the world's largest utility company; Areva is the world's nuclear-energy leader; Veolia Environnement is the world's largest environmental services and water management company; VINCI, Bouygues and Eiffage are respectively world's 1st, 2nd and 4th building and public work companies; Michelin is the world's pneumatic leader; Lafarge is the world's largest cement company; JCDecaux is the world's largest outdoor advertising corporation; EADS is the world's second aerospace company; BNP Paribas, Credit Agricole and Societe Generale are respectively the world's 1st, 6th and 8th biggest banks in assets in 2019¹⁰; Total is the world's fourth largest private oil company; Danone is the world's fifth largest food company and the world's largest mineral water provider; Sanofi Aventis is the world's fifth largest pharmaceutical company; Publicis is the world's third largest advertising company...

Paris is at the crossroad of Europe, ideally located between London and Milan, Amsterdam and Madrid, Frankfurt and Dublin. At the center of one of the largest market of 250 millions inhabitants reachable in less than 3 hours, developing business with France will help you growing and achieving success.

Economy of France	
GDP	\$2.113 trillion nominal : \$2.635 trillion
GDP growth	1.9% (09/10)
GDP per capita	Nominal : \$46,016
GDP by sector	agriculture (2.1%), industry (19%), services (78.9%)
Inflation	1.5%
Labour force	28.21 million
Labour force by occupation	services (71.8%), industry (24.3%), agriculture (3.8%)
Unemployment	9.7% ¹
Main industries	machinery, chemicals, automobiles, metallurgy, aircraft, electronics; textiles, food processing; tourism
External	
Exports	\$508.7 billion
Export goods	machinery and transportation equipment, aircraft, plastics, chemicals, pharmaceutical products, iron and steel, beverages, electronics
Main export partners	Germany 15.88%, Italy 8.16%, Spain 7.8%, Belgium 7.44%, United Kingdom 7.04%, United States 5.65%, Netherlands 3.99%
Imports	\$577.7 billion
Import goods	machinery and equipment, vehicles, crude oil, aircraft, plastics, chemicals
Main import partners	Germany 19.41%, Belgium 11.61%, Italy 7.97%, Netherlands 7.15%, Spain 6.68%, United Kingdom 4.9%, United States 4.72%, China 4.44% (2009)

Market opportunities :

biotechs, renewable energy, consumer goods, chemistry, car parts, environment, support services, R&D activities, agro-food.

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