

## France: Fact Sheets

### General

Capital	Paris
Area	549,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Population	56 million
Currency	French franc (\$1 = 5.18FF)
Language	French
National holiday	July 14

### Political

Type of state	Republic
Type of government	Parliamentary democracy, bicameral
Head of state	President François Mitterrand (PS, re-elected in 1988 for seven years)
Head of government	Prime Minister Edith Cresson (PS, since 1991)
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Roland Dumas (PS, since 1988)
Main political parties	Socialist (PS); Rassemblement pour la République (RPR); Union pour la Démocratie française (UDF); Union du centre (UDC); Communist Party (PCF)
National Assembly	577 members elected for five years by universal suffrage.
Distribution of seats (June 1988)	PS and affiliates, 275; RPR and affiliates, 132; UDF and affiliates, 90; UDC and affiliates, 40; PCF and affiliates, 25; others, 15
Senate	321 members elected by indirect vote for nine years with one third of seats renewable every three years.
Distribution of seats (1989)	RPR, 91; Union centriste des démocrates du progrès, 68; PS, 66; Union des républicains et des indépendants, 52; Gauche démocratique, 23; PCF, 16; others, 5
Next elections	Senatorial in 1992, legislative in 1993 and presidential in 1995