

FRANCE

Capital: Paris

GEODATA

Area
550,000 km²

Population
58 million

Population growth
0.5%

Major language
French

Major religions
Roman Catholic (90%), Protestant (2%)

POLITICAL DATA

Type of government
Republic

Leaders
President Jacques Chirac

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin

Foreign Affairs Minister
Hubert Védrine

Minister of the Economy, Finance and Industry
Dominique Strauss-Kahn

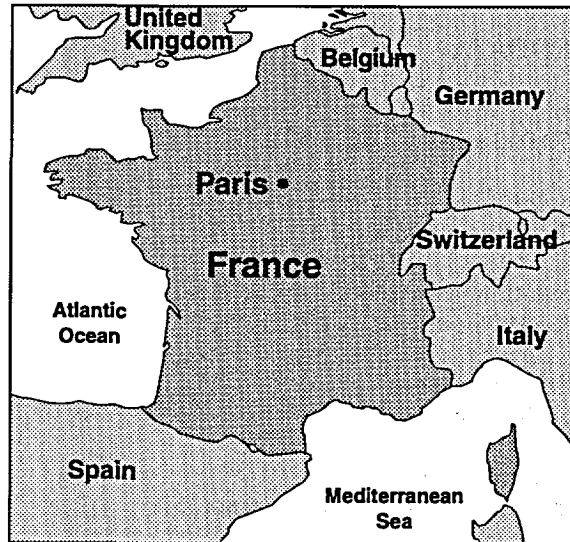
Democratic institutions
Bicameral parliament (Senate, National Assembly)

UN Human Development Index
France ranks 7th among 174 countries

CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE

Ambassador Jacques Roy
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ECONOMIC DATA

Nominal GDP
\$1.55 trillion US (1996)

Real GDP growth rate
1.3% (1996)

GDP per capita on a PPP basis
\$21,289 US (1996)

Inflation rate
2.1% (1996)

Unemployment rate
12.5% (March 1997)

Major exports
Machinery and transportation equipment, chemical products and other manufactured goods

Major imports
Machinery and transportation equipment, chemical and energy products

Major exports to Canada
\$3.39 billion Cdn (1996), including electronic equipment and avionics

Major imports from Canada
\$1.67 billion Cdn (1996), including forestry products and avionics