

Public Holidays

January 1, Easter Monday, May 1, Ascension Thursday, Whit Monday, July 14, August 15, November 1, 11, December 25.

Languages French, Breton, Basque, Alsatian, Occitan.

Measures Metric system.

Currency Franc=100 centimes. Average exchange rates June 1990, Cdn \$1=F4.83.

AGRICULTURE IN FRANCE

The variety of climate permits the production of a wide range of agricultural products and the sector is of substantial importance to the economy. The agricultural sector -- both farming and agro-industry -- accounts for some 7 per cent of GDP output and for the employment of about 9 per cent of the labour force. The export of basic products from the sector accounted for 8.0 per cent of merchandise exports in 1988, while processed agricultural products accounted for a further 8.9 per cent. Imports of basic agricultural products represented 4.6 per cent of merchandise imports, with imports of processed products adding a further 7.5 per cent. The degree of self-sufficiency varies widely. There are, for instance, vast wheat surpluses for export whereas the country is barely self-sufficient in potatoes.

Land use ('000 ha)

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1986</u>
Land area	54,575	54,569	54,563	54,563
Arable land	17,056	17,131	17,241	17,686
Permanent cropland	1,634	1,606	1,387	1,307
Permanent pasture	13,933	13,284	12,773	12,121
Forest and woodland	14,243	14,567	14,594	14,620
Other land	7,709	7,981	8,568	8,829

Source: *FAO, Production Yearbook.*