

For purposes of the telephone system, France is divided into two zones: the Paris region (area code 1) and the rest of the country (no area code). The country code for France is 33. A person wishing to make a telephone call from Canada simply dials, for example:

011 - 33 - 1 - 47.23.01.01 (the number of the Embassy in Paris)

011 - 33 - 72.61.15.25 (the number of the Consulate in Lyon, outside the Paris region).

Official holidays: 1 January, Easter Monday, 1 May, 8 May (occasionally), Ascension Day, Whitmonday, 14 July, 15 August, 1 November, 11 November, 25 December. Main summer holiday month: August.

Political system: the Fifth Republic was proclaimed in 1958. Presidential system: the President of the Republic wields extensive executive powers and appoints the Prime Minister.