

FRANCE

Capital: Paris

GEODATA

Area

550,000 km²

Population

58 million (1996)

Population growth rate

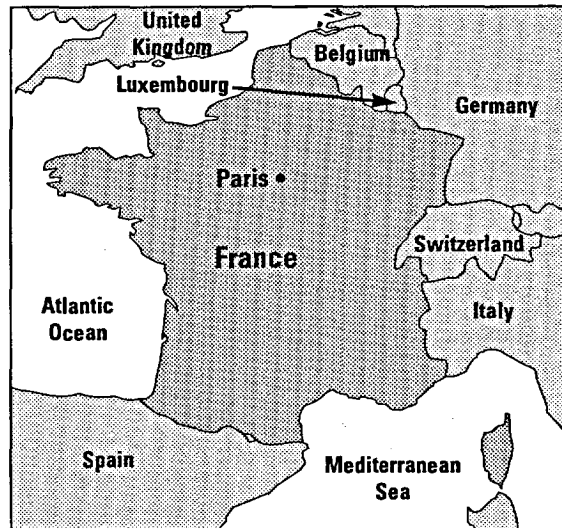
0.5% (1996)

Major language

French

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (90%), Protestant (2%),
Jewish (1%), Muslim (1%)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

Democratic institutions

Bicameral parliament

Leaders

President Jacques Chirac

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hubert Védrine

Minister of the Economy, Finance and Industry

Dominique Strauss-Kahn

UN Human Development Index (1997)

France ranks 2nd among 175 countries

ECONOMIC DATA

Nominal GDP

\$1.39 trillion US (1997)

Real GDP growth rate

2.4% (1997)

Inflation rate

1.2% (1997)

Unemployment rate

12.1% (February 1998)

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

\$5.14 billion (1997), including electronic equipment and avionics

Major imports from Canada

\$1.5 billion (1997), including forestry products and avionics

CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE

Ambassador Jacques Roy

The Canadian Embassy

35, avenue Montaigne

75008 Paris, France

Phone: (011-33-1) 44 43 29 00

Fax: (011-33-1) 44 43 29 99