

## 2. SOME USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT FRANCE

### Basic data

Population:	56 million inhabitants (1988)
Area:	542 000 km
Population density:	100/km
Main cities:	Paris (10 million) Lyon (1.2 million) Marseille (1.1 million) Lille (1 million)
GNP:	6568.6 billion French francs (1988), i.e. approximately C\$ 1 131 billion.
GNP per capita:	101 276 French francs (1988), i.e. approximately C\$ 20 255
Economy:	Free market economy Many government-funded enterprises, except in the agricultural and food sector
Currency:	French franc (FFr or FF); C\$ 1 is worth approximately 5 francs
Weights and measures:	Metric system compulsory; it is the only system used by the government and in domestic trade
Language:	French English is used very little
Electricity:	220 volts, 50 Hertz
Television standards:	SECAM (incompatible with the North American NTSC system)
Taxes:	VAT (value added tax) of 5.5% on all food products, charged at the retail sale level.