

FRANCE

Capital: Paris

GEODATA

Area

550,000 km²

Population

58.6 million (1997)

Population growth rate

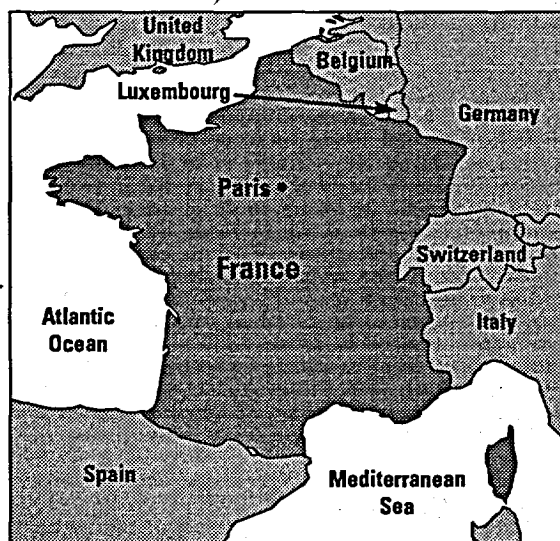
0.4% (1997)

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 (1998)

France ranks 2nd among 174 countries

ECONOMIC DATA

Nominal GDP

\$1.39 trillion US (1997)

Real GDP growth rate

3.1% (1998)

GDP per capita

\$23,758 US (1997)

Inflation rate

0.7% (1998)

Unemployment rate

11.5% (March 1999)

Main exports

Machinery and transportation equipment, chemical products, other manufactured goods

Main imports

Machinery and transportation equipment, chemical and energy products

Main exports to Canada

\$4.9 billion (1998), including electronic equipment, avionics

Main imports from Canada

\$1.6 billion (1998), including avionics, machinery, forestry products

CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE

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