
Fact sheets

European Union in brief

Note

This work is the translation of « La France dans l'Union européenne » published in the *INSEE Références* collection in April 2014.

Unless otherwise stated, the data used are taken from the website of Eurostat, the European Union's statistical office. These data are continually updated. The date of acquisition of the figures is therefore generally indicated below the tables and charts. The data mainly concern the countries of the European Union of 28 (EU of 28), as currently defined. However, for some countries (particularly those that have recently joined the EU), certain figures are not yet available. In such cases the perimeter of the EU is indicated.

On 15 May 2014, the INSEE published the national accounts in the 2010 base: these data are compiled in accordance with the new European System of Accounts (ESA 2010). France is one of the first countries to integrate this change, as most other States are not publishing national accounts data in line with ESA 2010 until September 2014. Prior to that date, only data from the 2005 base can be used to make reliable comparisons. It is this base that is therefore used here. It is likely that the change of base will have little effect on the majority of national accounting aggregates (particularly those presented here) and that it will not alter the hierarchies observed between countries.

Symbols used

...	Result unavailable
///	No results due to the nature of things
e	Estimate
p	Provisional result
n.s.	Non-significant result
€	Euro
M	Million
Bn	Billion
Ref.	Reference

1.1 Situation in 2012

The ongoing financial and economic crisis has had major consequences for the **European Union** (EU), with gross domestic product (GDP) shrinking in volume terms between 2011 and 2012. The **unemployment rate** averaged 10.6% of the labour force in 2012. **Government debt** in the EU as defined in the **Maastricht Treaty** now stands at 85.1% of GDP, 2.8 points higher than in 2011. The crisis has thus cast certain weaknesses in the economic governance of the European Union into stark relief, some of which have been remedied by the introduction of stronger budget surveillance measures, along with a new system for tracking macroeconomic imbalances.

This reinforcement of the surveillance to which EU member States are subject includes preventive measures as well as a corrective arm (the excessive deficit procedure). This surveillance system incorporates new criteria which allow the union to check on the direction taken by budgetary policy in the member States (public deficit and government debt), and track developments in government spending. In the event that budgetary policy or government expenditure should deviate from the rules, an enhanced monitoring procedure is put in place, leading almost inevitably to a raft of financial sanctions with a dissuasive impact.

As a corollary to this budgetary monitoring system, the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP) is a scheme founded on a dedicated alert mechanism, allowing the authorities to identify and forestall risks of imbalance in member States. The European Commission, responsible for assessing such risks, can urge recalcitrant nations to undertake structural reforms, or even impose sanctions on members of the Eurozone that fail to meet the standards required by the MIP.

In addition to these surveillance mechanisms, the **Europe 2020** strategy adopted in 2010 in favour of "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth," and the "Euro Plus" pact of March 2011 both aim to reinforce cooperation and coordination between member States in the medium term, in order to stimulate growth, employment and competitiveness. In mid-2012 a further growth and employment pact completed this strategic arsenal.

The Euro is the second most widely-held reserve currency in the world, used daily by 300 million of the EU's 505.7 million citizens (Figures as of 1st January 2013, following the accession of Croatia). Just ten years ago, only twelve member States had adopted the Euro as their official currency: that number now stands at seventeen. ■

Definitions

Europe 2020: ten-year growth strategy of the European Union. It is not limited to resolving the crisis which has continued to affect the economies of numerous European countries; it also aims to address the flaws in our growth model and to establish the conditions for smarter, more sustainable, more inclusive growth. To give tangible form to this goal, the European Union has set itself five key objectives to be achieved by the end of the decade. They relate to employment, education, research and innovation, social inclusion and reduction of poverty, and climate change and energy.

Reported public debt, G20 (group of 20), harmonised consumer price index (HCPI), gross domestic product (GDP), purchasing power standard (PPS), employment rate, unemployment rate, Maastricht Treaty, European Union (EU): see the *Glossary*.

Further Reading

- "EU28 population 505.7 million at 1st January 2013", press release n° 173, Eurostat, November 2013.
- "GDP per capita in the member States ranged from 47% to 271% of the EU27 average in 2012", press release n° 98, Eurostat, June 2013.
- "General report on economic activity in the European Union – 2012", January 2013.
- *Population* n° 2, Ined, 2013.

1. EU member States in 2012

as a %

	Population as of 1 st January 2013p (in millions)	Proportion of population under the age of 15	Proportion of population over the age of 65	Employment rate in the 15-64 age group	Unemployment rate ¹ in the 15-64 age group	GDP per capita ³ (en PPS ²)	Annual variation in consumer prices ⁴
Austria	8.5	14.5	17.8	72.5	4.4	33,600	2.6
Belgium	11.2	17.0	17.3	61.8	7.6	30,500	2.6
Bulgaria	7.3	13.4	18.8	58.8	12.4	12,100	2.4
Croatia	0.9	14.9	17.3	48.7	///	15,600	3.4
Cyprus	4.3	16.5	12.8	64.6	12.1	23,200	3.1
Czech Rep.	10.5	14.7	16.2	66.5	7.0	20,200	3.5
Denmark	5.6	17.7	17.3	72.6	7.7	32,000	2.4
Estonia	1.3	15.5	17.2	67.1	10.4	17,500	4.2
Finland	5.4	16.5	18.1	69.4	7.8	29,400	3.2
France	65.6	18.6	17.1	63.9	9.9	27,500	2.2
Germany	80.5	13.2	20.6	72.8	5.6	31,100	2.1
Greece	11.1	14.4	19.7	51.3	24.5	19,200	1.0
Hungary	9.9	14.5	16.9	57.2	11.0	16,800	5.7
Ireland	4.6	21.6	11.9	58.8	15.0	33,100	1.9
Italy	59.7	14.0	20.6	56.8	10.8	25,200	3.3
Latvia	2.0	14.3	18.6	63.1	15.2	14,700	2.3
Lithuania	3.0	14.9	18.1	62.2	13.5	17,800	3.2
Luxembourg	0.5	17.1	14.0	65.8	5.2	69,400	2.9
Malta	0.4	14.7	16.5	59.0	6.5	22,000	3.2
Netherlands	16.8	17.3	16.2	75.1	5.3	32,900	2.8
Poland	38.5	15.1	13.8	59.7	10.2	16,800	3.7
Portugal	10.5	14.8	19.4	61.8	16.4	19,200	2.8
Romania	20.1	15.0	15.0	59.5	7.3	12,600	3.4
Slovakia	5.4	15.4	12.8	59.7	14.0	19,200	3.7
Slovenia	2.1	14.3	16.8	64.1	9.0	21,000	2.8
Spain	46.7	15.2	17.4	55.4	25.2	24,900	2.4
Sweden	9.6	16.7	18.8	73.8	8.1	32,800	0.9
United Kingdom	63.9	17.5	16.9	70.1	8.0	28,000	2.8
European Union	505.7	15.6	17.8	64.2	10.6	25,600	2.6

1. Annual average. 2. Purchasing power standard, a unit of measurement useful for international comparisons. 3. 2011 data for Latvia
4. Rate of variation 2012/2011 in the annual average of the overall harmonised consumer price index. Source: Eurostat.

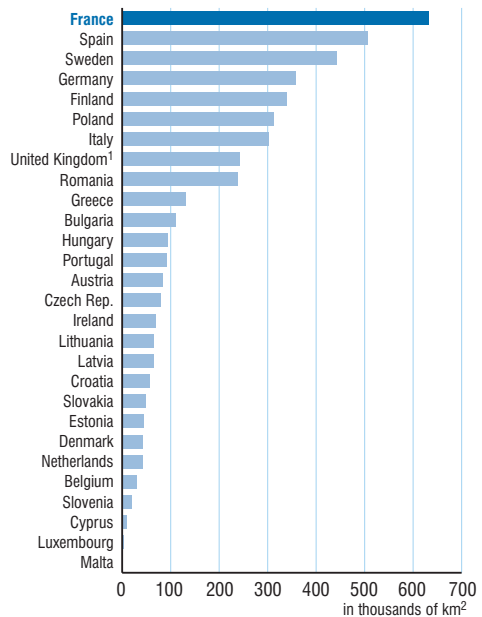
2. Situation of the 27-member EU in the world and in relation to other G20 nations

as a %

	2013		2012	
	Proportion of global population ¹	GDP (in billions of dollars)	Share of global GDP	
South Africa	0.7	384.3	0.5	
Saudi Arabia	0.4	711.1	1.0	
Argentina	0.6	475.2	0.7	
Australia	0.3	1,541.7	2.1	
Brazil	2.7	2,253.1	3.1	
Canada	0.5	1,821.4	2.5	
China ²	19.1	8,221.0	11.4	
South Korea	0.7	1,129.5	1.6	
United States	4.4	16,244.6	22.5	
India	17.9	1,841.7	2.6	
Indonesia	3.5	878.5	1.2	
Japan	1.8	5,960.3	8.3	
Mexico	1.6	1,177.4	1.6	
Nigeria	2.4	270.2	0.4	
Russia	2.0	2,029.8	2.8	
Turkey	1.1	788.3	1.1	
EU27³	7.0	16,673.3	23.1	
World	100.0	72,216.4	100.0	

1. Mid-year population estimates. 2. Exc. Hong Kong and Macao.
3. These figures for share of global GDP differ from those given in section 1.3 (calculated with reference to purchasing power) due to the differences in prices in different countries. Sources: Ined ; FMI.

3. Surface area of EU member States in 2013



1. 2004 data. Note: total surface area, including lakes and seas. Source: Eurostat.

1.2 European monetary union

In a context marked by the downturn in economic activity, and the volatility of financing conditions following the financial crisis and the sovereign debt crisis, 2012 was another difficult year for monetary policy in the EU. The further deterioration of the sovereign debt crisis in the first half of 2012 prompted the European Central Bank to reiterate the urgent need for closer coordination of economic, budgetary and financial policies in order to stave off the risk of untenable developments in certain countries.

Real economic activity declined in the **Eurozone** in 2012, reflecting the weakness of private investment and consumption. All in all **gross domestic product** was down 0.6% on 2011, after two years of weak but positive growth. This decline is indicative of the lack of confidence among economic agents, the pervading air of uncertainty and the ongoing process of restructuring balance sheets in the financial and non-financial sectors, aggravated by the high rate of unemployment, tighter fiscal policy and sluggish world demand.

Annual **inflation** in the Eurozone remained relatively high in spite of the unfavourable macroeconomic climate. These high levels of inflation are largely a result of strong increases in energy prices, as well as increases in indirect

taxation and prices in various countries. On average, inflation as derived from the variations in the **harmonised consumer price index** stood at 2.5% in 2012 (2.7% in 2011).

In 2012, developments in the exchange rate of the Euro largely mirrored the fluctuating opinions of market forces regarding the economic perspectives of the Eurozone and the modification of the risk premium linked to the sovereign debt crisis within the Eurozone. The nominal effective exchange rate of the Euro against the currencies of the Eurozone's twenty principal trading partners remained practically unchanged over the course of the year. By the end of 2012, in nominal effective terms, the Euro stood 0.4% below the level recorded at the end of 2011.

The combined government **deficit** of the Eurozone nations fell to 3.7% of GDP in 2012. This decrease in the level of budget deficits can be attributed to an increase in public revenue as a percentage of GDP, reflecting the increases in income and wealth taxes and, to a lesser extent, increases in indirect taxation. Meanwhile, the ratio of expenditure has increased slightly. By the end of 2012, the **government debt** ratio was above the benchmark level of 60% of GDP in 12 of the 17 Eurozone countries. ■

Definitions

All data given here are for the 17 Eurozone countries (excluding Latvia, which joined the Eurozone on 1st January 2014).

Eurozone: monetary zone comprising the countries of the European Union that have adopted the euro as the single currency. The eighteen member States making up the Eurozone are Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain. The Eurozone was created in 1999 by eleven countries, joined by Greece in 2001, Slovenia in 2007, Cyprus and Malta in 2008, Slovakia in 2009, Estonia in 2011 and Latvia in 2014.

Maastricht Treaty convergence criteria, reported public deficit, reported public debt, harmonised consumer price index (HCPI), inflation, purchasing power parity (PPP), gross domestic product (GDP), purchasing power standard (PPS), exchange rate, nominal effective exchange rate, interest rate: see the *Glossary*.

Further Reading

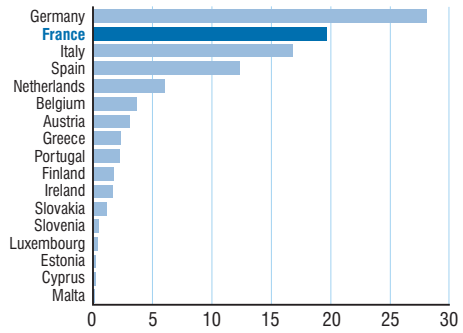
- « Zone euro - Principaux indicateurs économiques et financiers », Banque de France, December 2013.
- "Eurozone and EU28 government deficit at 3.7% and 3.9% of GDP respectively", press release n° 152, Eurostat, October 2013.
- "Convergence Report", European Central Bank, June 2013.
- "Annual Report 2012", European Central Bank, April 2013.

1. Exchange rate of the Euro against other currencies

	equivalent of one Euro at the end of the period indicated		
	2011	2012	nov. 2013
Dollar	1.2939	1.3194	1.3611
Yen	100.20	113.61	139.21
Pound Sterling	0.8353	0.8161	0.8328
Swiss Franc	1.2156	1.2072	1.2298
Danish Krone	7.4342	7.4610	7.4589
Swedish Krona	8.9120	8.5820	8.9075
Czech Koruna	25.787	25.151	27.391
Hungarian Forint	314.58	292.30	301.10
Latvian Lats	0.6995	0.6977	0.7030
Romanian Leu	4.3233	4.4445	4.4385
Bulgarian Lev	1.9558	1.9558	1.9558
Lithuanian Litas	3.4528	3.4528	3.4528
Polish Zloty	4.4580	4.0740	4.2060

Source: European Central Bank.

2. National GDP as a share of total Eurozone GDP in 2012



N.B.: GDP calculated using purchasing power standard to neutralise national price differences.

Source: Eurostat, December 2013.

3. Situation of EU nations with regard to the convergence criteria

	Balance of public finances (as a % of GDP) ¹			Government debt (as a % of GDP) ^{1 2}			Inflation (as a %) ³			Long-term interest rate (as a %) ⁴		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Austria	-4.5	-2.5	-2.5	72.3	72.8	74.0	1.7	3.6	2.6	3.23	3.32	2.37
Belgium	-3.7	-3.7	-4.0	95.7	98.0	99.8	2.3	3.4	2.6	3.46	4.23	3.00
Bulgaria	-3.1	-2.0	-0.8	16.2	16.3	18.5	3.0	3.4	2.4	6.01	5.36	4.50
Croatia	-6.4	-7.8	-5.0	44.9	51.6	55.5	1.1	2.2	3.4	...	6.54	6.13
Cyprus	-5.3	-6.3	-6.4	61.3	71.5	86.6	2.6	3.5	3.1	4.60	5.79	7.00
Czech Rep.	-4.7	-3.2	-4.4	38.4	41.4	46.2	1.2	2.1	3.5	3.88	3.71	2.78
Denmark	-2.5	-1.8	-4.1	42.7	46.4	45.4	2.2	2.7	2.4	2.93	2.73	1.40
Estonia	0.2	1.1	-0.2	6.7	6.1	9.8	2.7	5.1	4.2	...	...	...
Finland	-2.5	-0.7	-1.8	48.7	49.2	53.6	1.7	3.3	3.2	3.01	3.01	1.89
France	-7.1	-5.3	-4.8	82.4	85.8	90.2	1.7	2.3	2.2	3.12	3.32	2.54
Germany	-4.2	-0.8	0.1	82.5	80.0	81.0	1.2	2.5	2.1	2.74	2.61	1.50
Greece	-10.7	-9.5	-9.0	148.3	170.3	156.9	4.7	3.1	1.0	9.09	15.75	22.50
Hungary	-4.3	4.3	-2.0	82.2	82.1	79.8	4.7	3.9	5.7	7.28	7.64	7.89
Ireland	-30.6	-13.1	-8.2	91.2	104.1	117.4	-1.6	1.2	1.9	5.74	9.60	6.17
Italy	-4.5	-3.8	-3.0	119.3	120.7	127.0	1.6	2.9	3.3	4.04	5.42	5.49
Latvia	-8.1	-3.6	-1.3	44.4	41.9	40.6	-1.2	4.2	2.3	10.34	5.91	4.57
Lithuania	-7.2	-5.5	-3.2	37.8	38.3	40.5	1.2	4.1	3.2	5.57	5.16	4.83
Luxembourg	-0.8	0.1	-0.6	19.5	18.7	21.7	2.8	3.7	2.9	3.17	2.92	1.82
Malta	-3.5	-2.8	-3.3	66.8	69.5	71.3	2.0	2.5	3.2	4.19	4.49	4.13
Netherlands	-5.1	-4.3	-4.1	63.4	65.7	71.3	0.9	2.5	2.8	2.99	2.99	1.93
Poland	-7.9	-5.0	-3.9	54.9	56.2	55.6	2.7	3.9	3.7	5.78	5.96	5.00
Portugal	-9.8	-4.3	-6.4	94.0	108.2	124.1	1.4	3.6	2.8	5.40	10.24	10.55
Romania	-6.8	-5.6	-3.0	30.5	34.7	37.9	6.1	5.8	3.4	7.34	7.29	6.68
Slovakia	-7.7	-5.1	-4.5	41.0	43.4	52.4	0.7	4.1	3.7	3.87	4.45	4.55
Slovenia	-5.9	-6.3	-3.8	38.7	47.1	54.4	2.1	2.1	2.8	3.83	4.97	5.81
Spain	-9.6	-9.6	-10.6	61.7	70.5	86.0	2.0	3.1	2.4	4.25	5.44	5.85
Sweden	0.3	0.2	-0.2	39.4	38.6	38.2	1.9	1.4	0.9	2.89	2.61	1.59
United Kingdom	-10.1	-7.7	-6.1	78.4	84.3	88.7	3.3	4.5	2.8	3.36	2.87	1.74
Benchmark target	-3.0	-3.0	-3.0	60.0	60.0	60.0	1.5	3.4	3.2	4.9	4.8	3.7

1. Figures submitted to the European Commission and verified by Eurostat.

2. Gross government debt as defined in the Maastricht Treaty.

3. Harmonised Consumer Price Index (HCPI). annual average.

4. Annual average.

Sources: European Central Bank; European Commission; Eurostat.

4. Comparison of the Eurozone (17 countries) with the USA and Japan in 2012

	annual average, as a %		
	Eurozone	USA	Japan
Population as of 1 st January 2013 (in millions)	331.1	313.9	127.5
Unemployment rate	11.4	8.1	4.4
GDP (billions of Euros at PPP)	9,146.6	12,325.7	3,405.1
GDP per capita (in euros at PPP)	27,570	39,220	26,700
GDP growth in volume	-0.6	2.8	1.9
Government deficit (as a % of GDP)	-3.7	-8.7	-9.9
Government debt (as a % of GDP)	90.6	106.3	219.1
Variation of consumer prices	2.5	2.1	0.0
Variation in industrial production (excluding construction)	-2.4	3.9	0.2
Balance of current transactions (as a % of GDP)	-1.4	3.5	1.5
Variation in volume of retail sales	1.8	-2.6	1.0
Long-term interest rate	3.06	1.79	0.85

Sources: European Central Bank; European Commission; Eurostat.

1.3 European Union over the long run

Since 1980, the **European Union** (EU) has gradually expanded from nine to twenty-eight countries. The Union only really took on its present name on 1st November 1993, further to the **Maastricht Treaty** of 7 February 1992, succeeding the **European Economic Community** created by the Treaty of Rome of 25 March 1957, of which France was one of the six founding countries.

In its 2013 form which includes Croatia, the EU covers 4.5 million km² and gathers 508.3 million inhabitants as of 1st January 2012. The nineteen countries that have joined the EU since 1980 account for 61% of the territory but only 39% of its inhabitants. The EU was also extended with the reunification of Germany in 1990. Within the EU, France is the largest country in size (14% of the territory) and the second most populated (13% of the population) after Germany (16% of the population).

From 1980 to 2012 the population of the EU of 27 rose by 10%. It grew more sharply in France (+18% for Metropolitan France) than in most of the other large European countries: Germany (+5%, including the former German Democratic Republic), Italy (+8%) and the United Kingdom (+12%). It is in Spain that the population grew the most (+24%), due to a particularly high migration balance.

In the EU as a whole the share of people aged 65 or over rose from 13% in 1980 to 18% in 2012. In Metropolitan France this growth was slightly less marked: from 14% to 17%. This population ageing, due both to the drop in fertility rates and to falling mortality rates among the most elderly, came earliest in several northern and western countries such as Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom. Certain southern countries have now caught up with them, for example Italy,

Greece and Portugal. In 2012 as in 1980, Germany remained one of the two countries with the largest proportion of elderly people, with Italy replacing Sweden as the other country.

The **gross domestic product** (GDP) of the EU (excluding Croatia) represented 19% of world GDP in 2012. This share is calculated as **purchasing power parity** (PPP) in order to eliminate differences in national price levels. Within the EU including Croatia, the top five countries in terms of PPP are Germany (20% of EU GDP in 2012), France (14%), the United Kingdom (14%), Italy (12%) and Spain (9%). But as an average per inhabitant, seven countries are ahead of them, with Luxembourg far and away at the top of the list.

From 1980 to 2012, average GDP in volume per inhabitant increased slightly less in the Europe of 12 (perimeter in 1986) than in the USA or Japan. Up to the start of the 1990s it grew much faster in Japan than in the USA or Europe, and the trend was then reversed through to the start of the 2000s. The growth rates of the three zones were then similar until the crisis of 2007-2008, which resulted in a recession in all industrialised countries in 2009. At that point divergences reappeared: in 2012 the European countries recorded GDP in volume per inhabitant which was still far lower than its 2008 level, unlike the USA and Japan.

Individual situations within the EU contrast, however: among the five main European countries over the last 20 years, GDP growth per inhabitant has been strongest in the United Kingdom and weakest in Italy. Since the mid-2000s, French growth per inhabitant has been well below that of Germany.

In 2012, of the five countries, only Germany showed GDP in volume per inhabitant that was higher than its pre-crisis level. ■

Definitions

European Union, Maastricht Treaty, European Economic Community, gross domestic product, purchasing power parity: see *Glossary*.

Further Reading

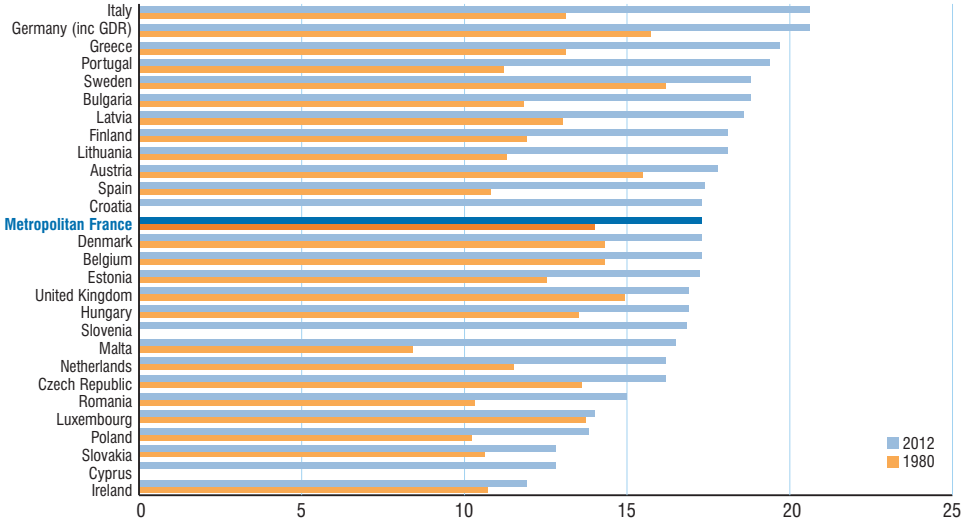
- Eurostat website: <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/eurostat/home/>
- IMF website: <http://www.imf.org/external/>
- « De 55 à 65 millions d'habitants : pourquoi la population a-t-elle augmenté plus vite en France que dans les pays voisins ? », in *France, portrait social, INSEE Références* coll., 2011 edition.
- « Populations et tendances démographiques des pays européens (1980-2010) », *Population* n°1, Ined, 2011.

European Union over the long run 1.3

1. Gradual enlargement of the European Union

Date of entry	Member States
1957	Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands
1973	Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom
1981	Greece
1986	Spain, Portugal
1995	Austria, Finland, Sweden
2004	Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia
2007	Bulgaria, Romania
2013	Croatia

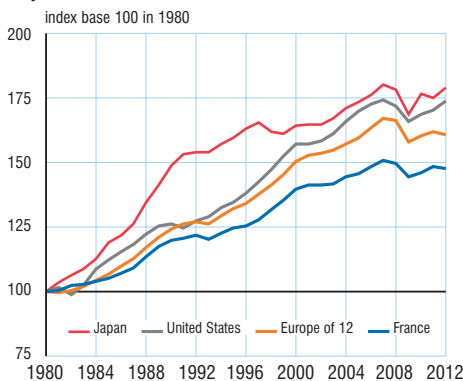
2. Proportion of the population aged 65 or over



Source: Eurostat, extraction at 8 September 2013.

as a %

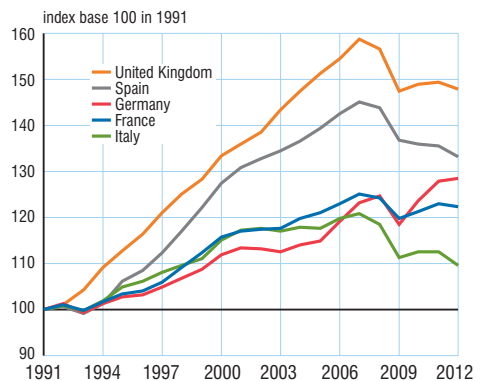
3. Gross domestic product (GDP) in volume per inhabitant since 1980



Note: over the period 1980-1994, the "Europe of 12" series was rebuilt based on data in the 1991 base. For years prior to 1991 the calculation was based on the application of GDP growth rates in volume of the Europe of 12 excluding the former East Germany to the GDP of Germany as reunified in 1991. In 1980 and 1981, the population in France is estimated by retropolation using variations in Metropolitan France.

Sources: Eurostat, extraction at 8 September 2013 (GDP; population in Europe of 12 excluding France); INSEE (population in France); World Bank (population of the USA and Japan).

4. GDP in volume per inhabitant in five large EU countries since 1991



Note: unlike Figure 3, here the data only go back to 1991 because the historical series is only available for the Europe of 12 as a whole.

Sources: Eurostat, extraction at 8 September 2013 (except the population in France); INSEE (population in France).

1.4 Sustainable development indicators

In July 2010, France adopted a new National Sustainable Development Strategy for the period 2010-2013. This strategy was organised around nine strategic challenges, consistent with the nation's European and international commitments. The fruit of a consultation with representatives of all five stakeholders of the 'Grenelle de l'Environnement' agreements (central government, local government, businesses, social partners and environmental NGOs), fifteen headline indicators and four economic and social context indicators were chosen relating to these nine challenges. They form the basis of the indicator scoreboard used to facilitate monitoring of the national strategy.

Since the year 2000 economic growth per capita in France has fallen behind the EU average, and some of the pressure on natural resources seems to have eased, particularly in terms of greenhouse gas emissions and the productivity of natural resources. For instance, in 2010, emissions of greenhouse gases contributing to global warming were 6.6% below their 1990 levels, the benchmark used in the Kyoto protocol. Since 2000 total energy consumption in the transport sector has been decoupled from economic growth, and combined with the increase in renewable energy production (supplying 13.1% of final energy consumption needs in 2011) this has helped to bring emissions under control. The efficiency of the economy in terms of raw material usage is also increasing: the volume of GDP (in Euros) generated by one kilogram of materials increased by 26% between 2000 and 2010.

However, the long-term commitments of this strategy are very demanding: at the Copenhagen summit, France agreed to slash its greenhouse gas emissions to a quarter of current levels by 2050. Furthermore, France is still lagging far behind the target, set out in the first Grenelle Law, of 23% of final energy consumption being provided by renewable sources by 2020.

Moreover, economic growth has come at the expense of greater dependence on imports and the 'hidden flows' associated with these imports, which must be added to those emissions generated in France itself. The carbon footprint of the final demand of each French

citizen, i.e. the greenhouse gas emissions generated by the production of the goods and services required to satisfy individual demand, thus stood at 12.2 tonnes per year in 2007 when all goods and services incorporated into this demand are taken into account, regardless of whether they are produced in France or imported. Of this figure, an average of only 8.2 tonnes comes from emissions generated on French soil. Furthermore, the pressure on biodiversity remains very strong, even if this complex phenomenon is difficult to assess. In 2010, artificial surfaces covered 8.9% of France's total surface area. The increase in this proportion has been accelerating in recent years: artificial areas expand by the equivalent of one *département* every seven years on average. This development poses a threat to many species, particularly farmland birds sensitive to the degradation of their habitat, while generalist birds are faring better, or even thriving.

In terms of well-being and social cohesion, these indicators paint a mixed picture: the employment rate among older workers continues to rise, and the monetary poverty rate in France is below the European average, but rising nonetheless. Similarly, life expectancy in good health has stopped rising and the proportion of young people aged 16 to 25 who are unemployed and unqualified remains high (12.8% in 2011).

There is still considerable progress to be made in the transition to a knowledge economy. Research spending as a share of GDP is significantly below the target of 3% set out in the Europe 2020 strategy, and the proportion of young people aged 18-24 not in education or training and without secondary school qualifications (early school leavers) remains above the 10% target set by the EU for 2020 (12.0% in 2011).

Similarly, further effort will be required to meet the international sustainable development objectives commonly referred to as the 'millennium goals': only 0.46% of gross national product was allotted to Official Development Assistance in 2011, a decrease after three successive years of increase. The objective was to reach 0.56% by 2010 and 0.7% in 2015. ■

Sustainable development indicators 1.4

1. Sustainable development indicators

	1995	2001 ¹	2005	2009	2010	2011
Challenge 1 - Sustainable consumption and production						
1.1 Material productivity (euros/kg)²						
France	1.74	1.80	2.01	2.19	2.27	...
EU27 (e)	...	1.34	1.40	1.57	1.64	...
Challenge 2 - Knowledge society						
2.1 Early school leavers in the 18-24 age group (%)³						
France	15.4	13.3	12.2	12.2	12.6	12.6
EU27	...	e 17.6	15.8	14.4	14.1	13.5
2.2 Domestic research and development expenditure (as a % of GDP)						
France	2.28	2.15 ⁴	2.11	2.21	2.24 ⁴	e p 2.25
EU27	e 1.81	e 1.86	1.82	e 2.02	e 2.01	e 2.03
Challenge 3 - Governance						
3.1 Proportion of women in executive roles (% of female company directors in the private sector)						
France	...	...	16.0	18.2	20.3	...
Challenge 4 - Climate change and energies						
4.1 Greenhouse gas emissions (in equivalent CO2 tonnes, index: Base 100 in 1990)						
France	99.4	101.0	101.5	92.1	93.4	...
EU27	93.4	91.0	92.2	82.6	84.6	...
4.2 Carbon footprint of final domestic demand (tonnes per person)⁵						
France	11.1	11.6	12.2	...	...	...
4.3 Renewable energies (as a % of final energy consumption)						
France	...	...	9.7	12.2	12.8	13.1
EU27	...	...	8.5	11.7	12.5	...
Challenge 5 - Sustainable transport and mobility						
5.1 Total energy consumption by transport in tonnes of oil equivalent (toe) in relation to GDP (base 100 in 1990)						
France	102.3	97.9	92.3	90.2	88.9	88.8
Challenge 6 - Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources						
6.1 Abundance index of common bird populations (base 100 in 1989)						
France, general birds	92	88	115	112	123	119
France, birds requiring agricultural habitats	75	71	70	60	66	61
6.2 Soil artificialisation (as a % of national surface area)						
France	///	7.3	///	8.84	8.9	...
Challenge 7 - Public health, risk prevention and management						
7.1 Life expectancy in good health (years)						
Men	60.0	60.1	62.3	62.8	61.8	62.7
Women	62.4	63.2	64.6	63.5	63.4	63.6
Challenge 8 - Demographics, immigration and social inclusion						
8.1 Income poverty (%)⁶						
France	14.50 ⁷	13.6	13.1	13.5	14.1	...
EU27	...	...	e 16.5	16.4	16.9 e	...
8.2 Senior citizens' employment rate (aged 55-64, as a %)						
France	29.8	29.4	38.5	38.8	39.8	41.5
EU27	36.0	36.9	42.3	46.0	46.3	47.4
8.3 Proportion of young people aged 16-25 neither in training nor employment (as a %)						
Men	9.8	8.9	10.5	13.3	13.0	12.3
Women	14.6	11.9	12.5	12.8	13.3	13.4
Challenge 9 - International challenges relating to sustainable development and global poverty						
9.1 Official Development Aid (as a % of gross national revenue)						
France	0.55	0.30	0.47	0.47	0.50	p 0.46
EU27	0.37	0.32	0.42	0.42	0.44	p 0.42
Economic and social context						
0.11 GDP per capita (average annual growth rate in volume, as a %)¹						
France	///	2.3 ¹	1.1	-3.7	1.1	1.1
EU27	///	2.7 ¹	1.6	-4.6	1.8	1.3
0.12 Net domestic income per capita (average annual growth rate in volume, as a %)¹						
France	///	2.7 ¹	1.1	-4.1	1.3	1.0
EU27	///	2.5 ¹	1.1	-4.8	1.5	...
0.21 Unemployment rate (%)						
Metropolitan France	10.1	8.6	8.9	9.1	9.4	9.2
EU27	///	8.8	9.0	9.0	9.7	9.7
0.21 Under-employment rate (%)						
Metropolitan France	6.2	5.8	5.2	5.6	5.9	5.1
0.3 Income distribution						
Metropolitan France: ratio of average equivalised income to the upper and lower deciles	6.20 ⁷	6.27	6.53	6.73	7.08	...
Metropolitan France: inter-decile equivalised incomes ratio (D9/D1)	3.51 ⁷	3.50	3.35	3.44	3.48	...
0.4 Fertility rate						
France	1.73	1.89	1.94	2.00	2.03	...
EU27	...	...	1.51	1.59	1.60 ⁴	e 1.57 ⁴

1. Except annual average growth rate 1995 - 2000. 2. Relationship between GDP in volume (base 2000) and domestic consumption of raw materials.

3. Proportion of those aged 18-24 in neither education nor training and without a degree of higher education. 4. Discontinuity in calculation methods.

5. CO2 emissions generated by all goods and services required to satisfy final national demand. 6. Proportion of people living with less than 60% of national median income. 7. Data for 1996.

Sources: INSEE-SOeS, tableau de bord de la stratégie nationale de développement durable ; Eurostat.