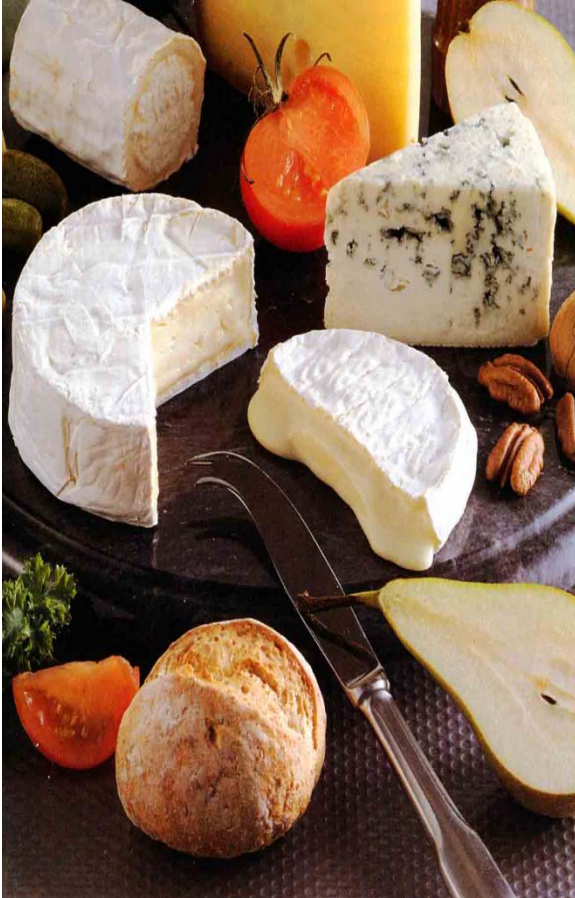


Discover France and Franco-American Relationship

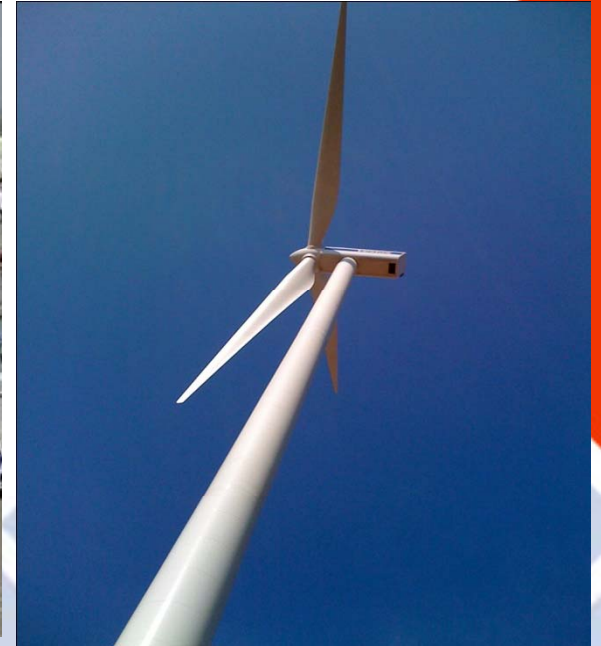


Yesterday, today, and tomorrow

France = wine, cheese and fashion ?



France on the move = transportation and energy!

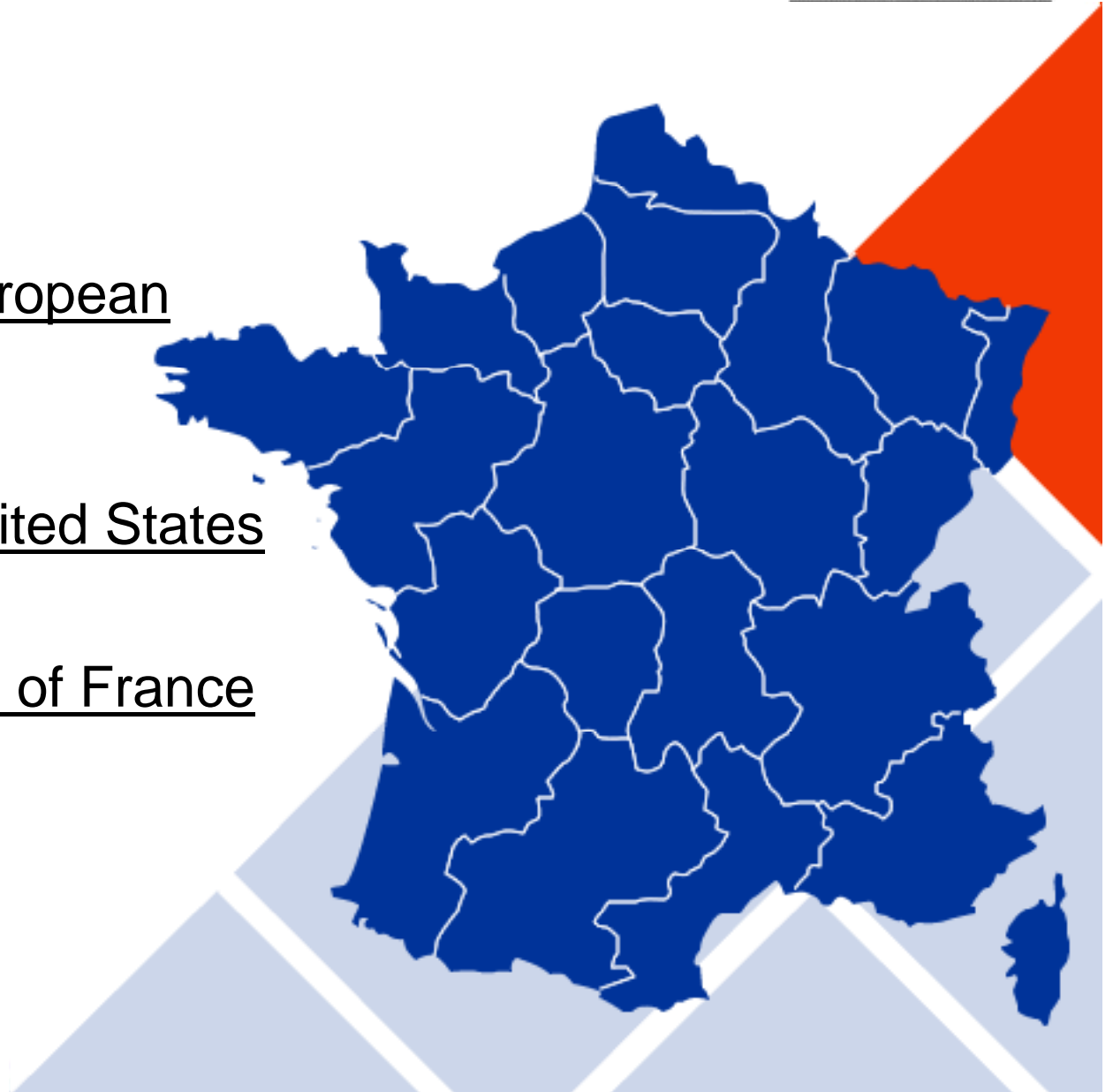


- With The «Train à Grande Vitesse» (TGV / High Speed Train) or the Airbus European planes, France is also leading country in new technologies
- Agriculture, nature and renewable energies, a country that wants to be green !

Index



- France
- France and the European Union
- France and the United States
- Consulate General of France in Miami



GEOGRAPHY



- **550,000 km²: largest country in Western Europe**

Located at the heart of the European Union, crossroads of Europe, France borders Belgium, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Luxembourg

- **A temperate climate**

Oceanic, in the West

Mediterranean, in the South

Continental, in the Centre and the East

- **Exceptional diversity of landscape:**

5,500 km of coastal shores: North Sea and the Channel, Atlantic Ocean, Mediterranean

Extensive mountain ranges: the Alps, Pyrenees, Jura, Massif Central, Vosges

Large plains: Beauce, Picardy, Berry, and vast areas of forest

- **A country that protects its natural heritage**

7 national parks

136 natural reserves

37 regional nature parks



DEMOGRAPHICS

- **63.8 million inhabitants**
- **The French Republic is made up of:**
 - **The metropolis (the main land)**

22 regions, 96 departments
57 urban areas with over 100,000 inhabitants
 - **Overseas departments (DOM)**

Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Reunion
 - **Overseas territories (TOM)**

French Polynesia, New Caledonia,
Wallis and Futuna and the French
Southern and Antarctic Territories
 - **"Territorial communities"**

Mayotte and St Pierre and Miquelon.



HISTORY



- XVIIth century : **peak of absolute monarchy**,
Construction of Versailles under Louis XIV (1643-1715)

- XVIIIth century: **Age of Enlightenment**

- **The French Revolution (1789–1799)**

Radical social and political upheaval
Old ideas about hierarchy and tradition succumbed to new
Enlightenment principles of citizenship and inalienable rights.

- **Napoleon and the Empire**

Active expansion policy
Administrative, legal and educational restructuring,
still partly in force today

- **The Restoration and the Second Empire**

Changes in economy and society
Industrial Revolution:
growth in industry,
creation of banks,
expansion of department stores



HISTORY



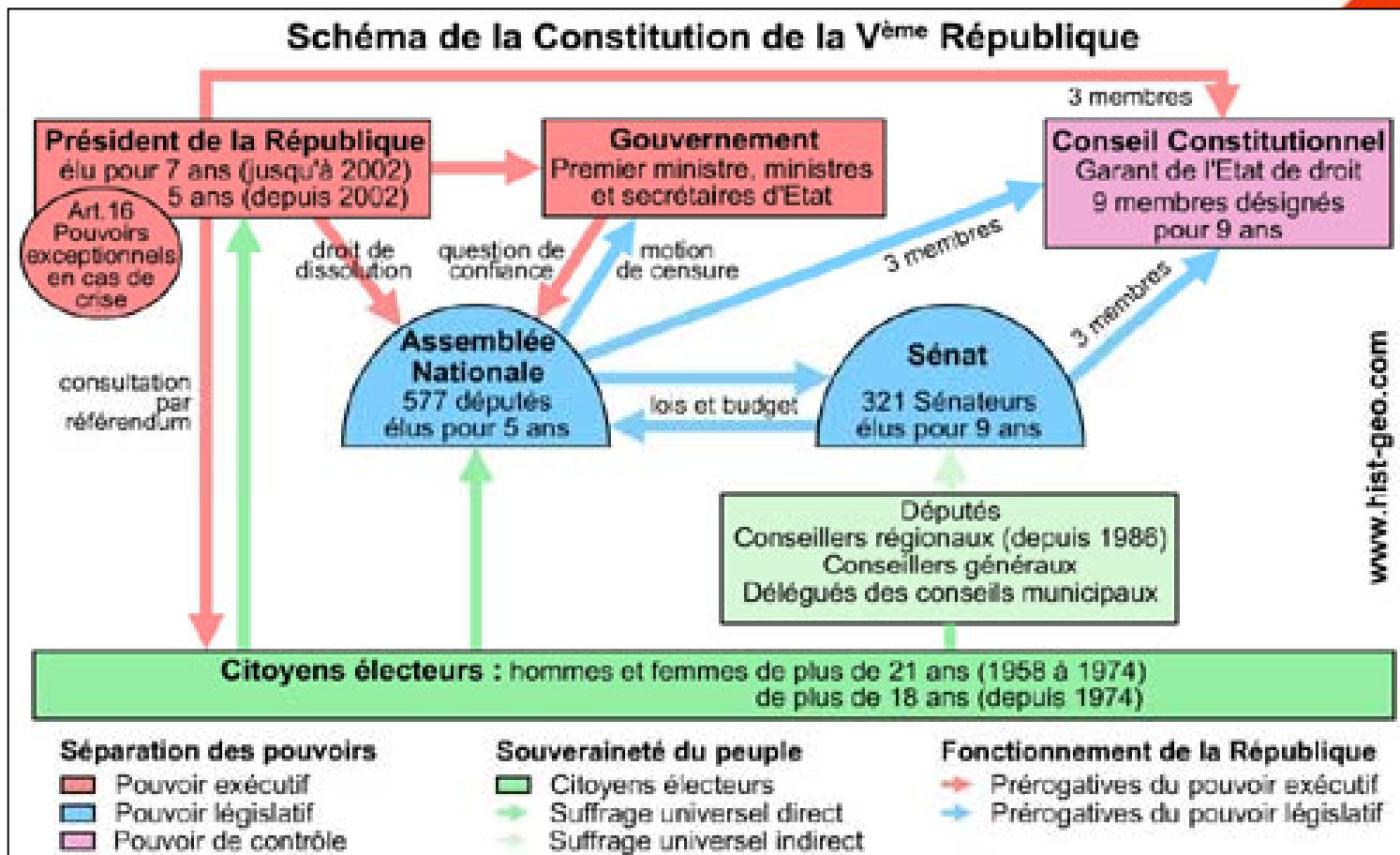
- France in the XXth century
 - Two great world wars:** 1914-1918 and 1939-1945
 - Followed by the **re-building of Europe**
- **From the beginnings of the Vth Republic to the present**
 - Reassertion of **France's international role** by **General de Gaulle**, president of the Republic
 - Algerian War:** 1954-1962, results in the Algeria's independence from France
 - May 1968 : **political and social change**
 - 1969-1974 : **Georges Pompidou, President**
 - 1974-1981 : **Valery Giscard-d'Estaing, President**
 - 1981-1995 : **François Mitterrand, President (1st Iraq war)**
 - 1995-2007 : **Jacques Chirac, President**
 - 2002: France contributes to the **toppling of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan**
 - May 16, 2007: **Nicolas Sarkozy elected**



FRENCH POLITICAL SYSTEM



France is a **semi-presidential representative** democratic republic, in which the **President is head of state** and the **Prime Minister is the head of government**. There is a pluriform, multi-party system. **Executive power** is exercised by the **government**. **Legislative power** is vested in the **government, Senate and National Assembly**. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislature.



FRENCH CULTURE



- France has a long tradition of supporting **art and culture** and dedicated an entire **Ministry to culture** as early as 1959.
- France, and in particular Paris, has played an important role as a centre of **high culture and of decorative arts** since the seventeenth century.
From the late nineteenth century, France has also played an important role in modern **art, cinema, fashion and cuisine**.
- France houses some of the world's most prized museums. ***The Louvre, the Chateau de Versailles, the Centre Pompidou and the Musée d'Orsay*** alone welcome 15 million people annually.



FRENCH MODERN ART



- Following on the developments of **Impressionism** and **Post-Impressionism** at the end of the nineteenth century, the first half of the twentieth century in France saw the even more revolutionary experiments of **cubism** and **surrealism**, artistic movements that had a major impact on western, and eventually world, art.
- After the Second World War, some artists continued in artistic experiments, and others took on the **new Abstract Expressionism** and action painting from New York and tried them in a French manner (Tachism or L'art informel).
- In May 1968, the radical youth movement, through their *atelier populaire*, produced a great deal of **poster-art** protesting the policies of president Charles de Gaulle.
- January 31, 1977 The **Centre national d'art et de culture Georges Pompidou** opened in Paris.

This original cultural institution focuses on **modern and contemporary creation**, where the visual arts mixes with theatre, music, cinema, literature and the spoken word.



FRENCH CULTURE - MUSIC



- French musicians have continually made innovations in music, from the **Troubadours** singing songs of chivalry in the middle ages, to the **French Operas** and **classical composers**.
- In the 20th and 21st centuries, musicians continue to create new sounds. Some more recent genres in popular in France:



- **Chanson française :**

A typical style of French music and still very popular in France. Some french singer include Édith Piaf or Georges Brassens.



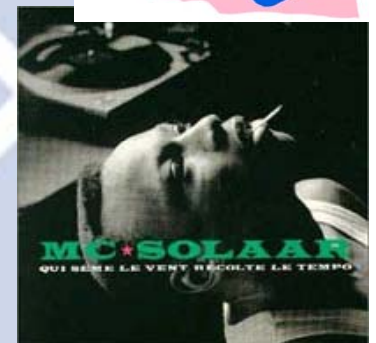
- **Electro / Pop Music :**

French electro and pop bands Air, Daft Punk and Phoenix and techno artists Justice and David Guetta found a wide audience recently, both locally and internationally.



- **Hip hop/rap :**

Hip hop music coming from the United States in the 1970s spread to much of the world, including France and was adapted to French context, especially in areas where many people of foreign descent live, from former colonial countries (West Africa and Maghreb, Caribbean).



FRENCH CULTURE - FILM



- France was the **birthplace of cinema** and is responsible for many significant contributions, including:
- The invention of the **cinématographe** by the **Lumière brothers**
- The origins of the **Nouvelle Vague**, or **New Wave** movement in 1060's
- The location of the **Cannes Film Festival**, founded in 1946, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious film festivals, held each year in May.
- A clip from the film, ***The Class (Entre les Murs)***, which won the Palme d'Or in 2008, the highest prize awarded to competing films at the Cannes Film Festival. Teacher and novelist François Bégaudeau plays a version of himself as he negotiates a year with his racially mixed students from a tough Parisian neighborhood.

[entre les murs.mp4](#)



FRENCH SPORTS



- France has always been a **nation of sports**, in part thanks to its **Ministry of Youth and Sports**, created in 1936
- In 1924, France hosted the first ever **Winter Olympic Games in Chamonix**
- Major sporting events are held annually in France:
 - **Tour de France** (bicycle)
 - **Rolland Garros** Master's tennis tournament
 - **Paris-Dakar** cars and motorcycles race
- Some famous French sports figures: **Zinedine Zidane, Marie-Jose Perrec, Yannick Noah, Tony Parker**
- France is also renowned for its national teams in several sports:
 - **Soccer**: '98 World Champions, '00 European Champions
 - **Handball**: '95, '01, '09 World Champions, '06, '10 European Champions; '08 Olympics Champions
 - **Rugby**: 9 Grand Slams at the Six Nations tournament



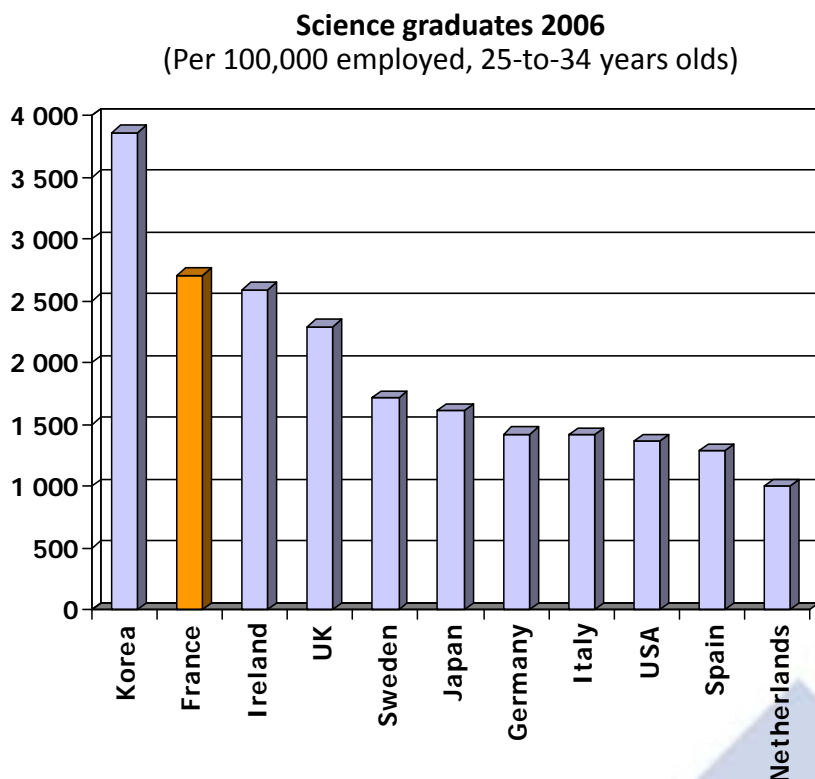
ECONOMY



- France is the **world's sixth largest economic power** in terms of GDP. The country's assets are varied and include:
 - Transport
 - The TGV (SNCF – Alstom)
 - Automobile companies like Renault (Nissan), Peugeot, Citroën,
 - telecommunications
 - Aerospace : Airbus, Ariane
 - agrifood
 - pharmaceutical industries (Sanofi Aventis)
 - banking and insurance
 - tourism
 - traditional luxury products (leather goods, fashion, perfumes, fine wines, etc.)
 - Designers and companies like Hermès, Louis-Vuitton, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Yves Saint Laurent, Lacoste, Sephora



A Highly Qualified Workforce - Driving the Knowledge Economy



Source: OECD, Education database 2008.

- France ranks among the **top 5** for the number of employees with higher education degrees in OECD countries.

Source: OECD

- France is ranked **#1** for young employees with science degrees in Europe, and **#2** in the world.

Source: OECD

- France ranks **5th** worldwide, before the U.S. (6th), Germany (26th) and the U.K. (32nd) for availability of scientists and engineers.

Source: WEF.



France is on the Move: Innovation

Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité

- **71** innovation clusters, stimulating public-private research projects since 2005
- **530** foreign companies are actively involved in these clusters
- Clusters have received funds totaling **1.5 billion €** since 2009





France is on the Move: Investing in the Future

- **Ongoing reforms, and an investment-led recovery:**
1,000 stimulus plan projects worth €28 billion launched since late 2008
- **A sustainable capital:** the “**Grand Paris**” project
- **Going Green:** France’s “**Green New Deal**”, which opens the way to developing eco-buildings, renewable energies, green technologies and sustainable transportation:
 - €200 billion for household energy improvement and energy-positive buildings
 - Nuclear progress: a 2nd EPR by 2012; the ITER nuclear fusion energy project, involving 34 countries and €10bn of investment
 - Creating a dozen new innovation clusters in 2010 specializing in green technologies
 - Transportation: CAREX-Cargo Rail Express project at Paris Charles de Gaulle airport

€ 460 bn invested by 2020 as part of France’s “Green New Deal”

23% of France’s energy consumption replaced with renewable energy by 2020 (vs. 10% in 2009)



France is on the Move: More Flexibility

Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité

- **More flexible working hours** (since 2007)
 - *Working hours are negotiated at the company level*
 - *Time worked over 35 hours is overtime, paid at higher hourly rates of 25% for the first 8 overtime hours and/or entitling the worker to additional days off in lieu*
 - *Maximum of 48 hours a week (cf. European Union regulations)*
- **More flexible labor laws** (since 2008 & 2009)
 - *Extended employee trial periods*
 - *Introduction of a new form of short-term contract (from 18 to 36 months maximum)*
 - *Introduction of a new form of contract termination (mutual consent)*
 - *Simplified and more flexible regulations governing Sunday business opening*
- **Modified trade union laws** (since 2008)
 - *Trade unions need 10% of the total vote to be representative*
 - *Trade unions need 30% of the total vote to sign an agreement*

France is on the Move : an Attractive Tax System Encouraging Investment

LIBERTÉ • ÉGALITÉ • FRATERNITÉ

A competitive French corporate tax system

A favorable *effective corporate tax rate**:

- for R&D operations:

France is ranked 2nd, ahead of the United Kingdom (4th) and Germany (8th);

- for manufacturing

operations: France is ranked 5th, ahead of the USA (7th) and Germany (8th).

* rate which takes into account the tax bases in different countries

Source : KPMG, *Competitive Alternatives*, 2010

- **Elimination of local business tax on productive investments** as of January 1, 2010 (generating €6.3 billion annual tax cut for businesses; tax relief will amount to €12.3 billion in 2010). In practical terms, **this will lower the cost of productive investments made over 10 years by more than 20%.**
- **The most generous Research Tax Credit in Europe**
- **Favorable tax regime for expatriates:** income tax exemption on up to 50% of total remuneration
- **Tax rebate for international film production in France:** 20% of production costs refunded in the form of a research tax credit or rebate

France is on the Move: Attracting International Talent



▪ *International mobility:*

3 multi-year residence permits, valid 3 to 10 years (since 2007)

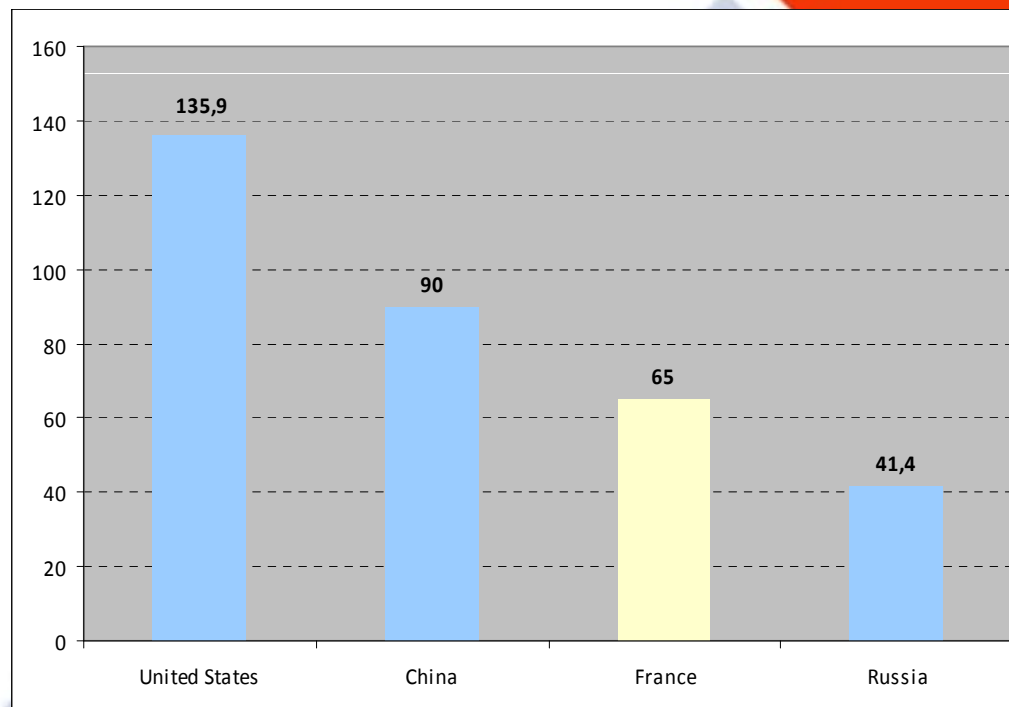
- “Skills and Expertise” residence permit
- The “Expatriate Employee” temporary residence permit
- A 10-year residence permit for foreign managers who have made an “exceptional economic contribution” to France, which is also extended to their immediate family

France: #1 Destination in Continental Europe for FDI



- In 2009, France was the world's **3rd** largest recipient of FDI, and #1 in Europe, receiving \$65 billion in inflows (*UNCTAD, February-2010*)

Top 4 FDI recipients in the world, 2009
(US \$bn)

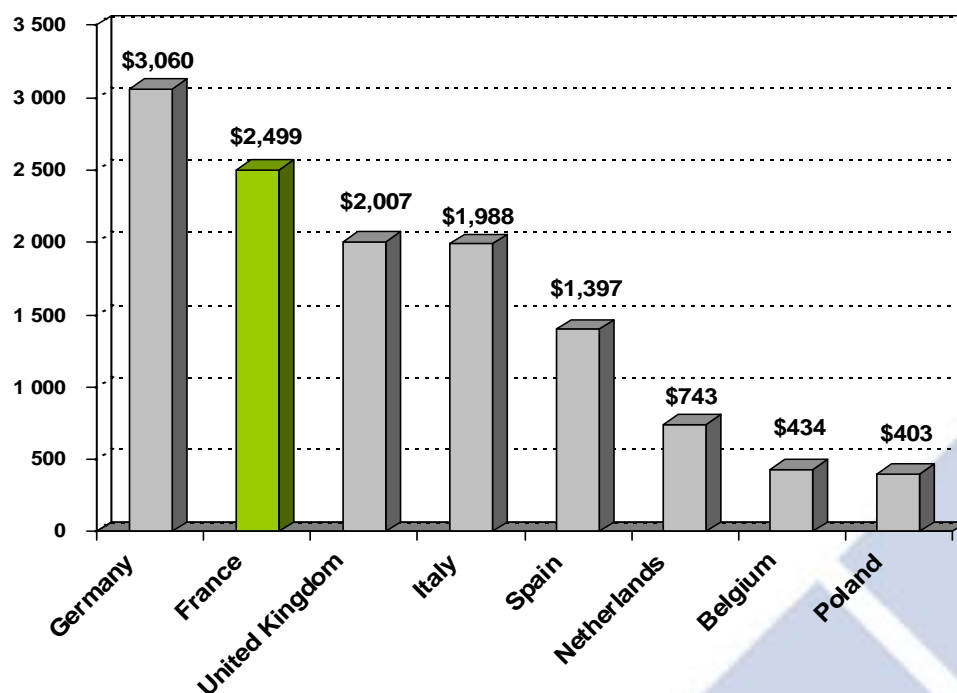


- **24,200 foreign companies** already in France.
- **Foreign investors own 38.5% of the CAC 40's capital**, the French equivalent of the Nasdaq (*Banque de France, 2009*).
- **639 decisions** to invest in France were made in 2009 by foreign companies.



A Thriving Market at the Heart of Europe = France is the 5th largest economy in the world, and the 2nd largest in Europe

Top 8 economies in the European Union
GDP in 2009 (current prices, US \$bn)



Source: International Monetary Fund, "World Economic Outlook" database, April 2009 (Estimates)

64.3 million inhabitants

3 million companies

40 French companies among the world's leading 500 (Germany: 39; United Kingdom: 26)

Second only to Tokyo, and ahead of Beijing and New York, Paris is home to more head offices of Fortune Global 500 companies than any other city in the world.

74 million tourists (2009) annually

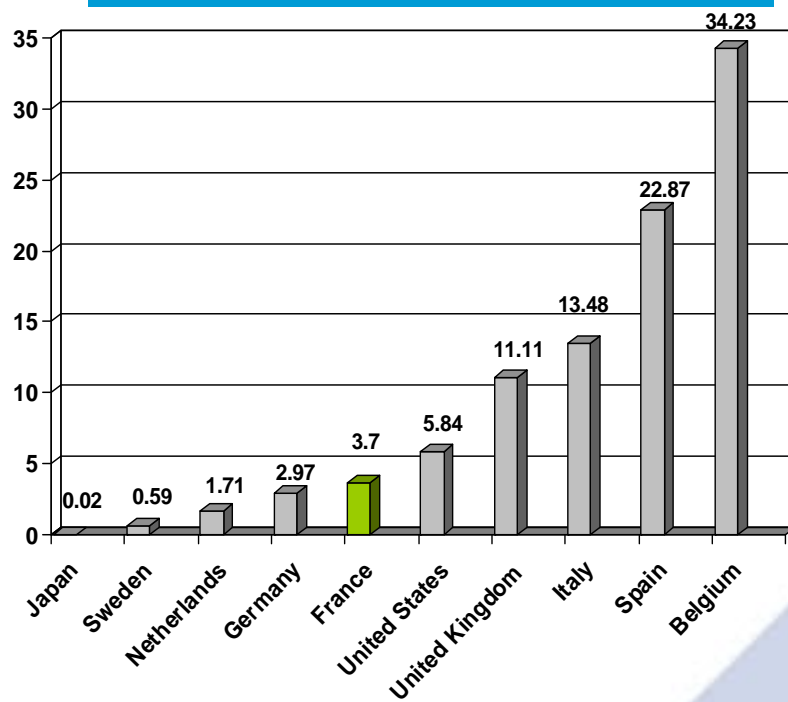
Sources: INSEE 2009 – Fortune Global 500 (2009) – ORBIS August 2009

A High-Producing and Flexible Workforce



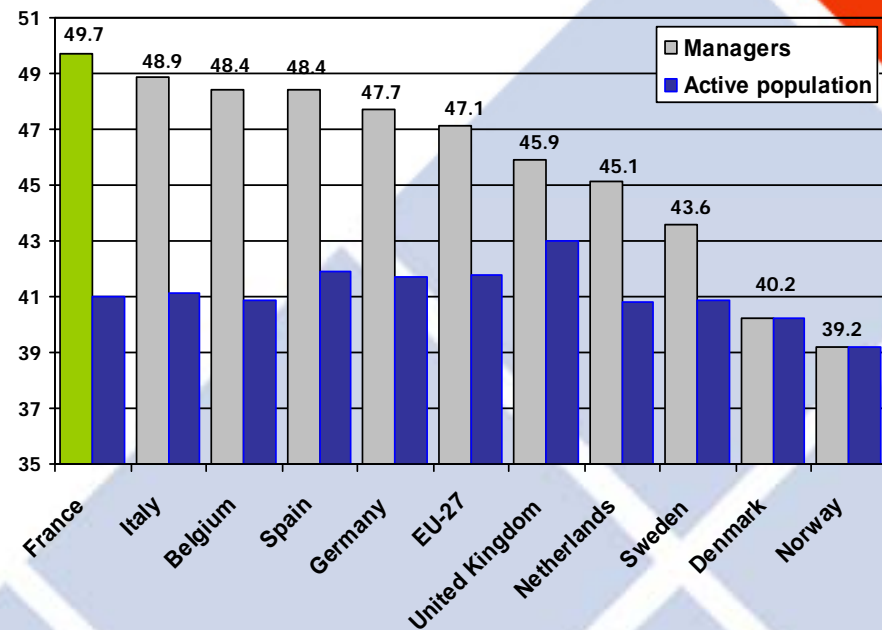
France has the 3rd most productive workforce in the world after Norway and the United States (*cf. the International Labour Organization 2007, 2008, 2009*), or Luxembourg and Norway (*cf. the IMD 2009*).

Average number of working days lost every year due to strike action* per 1,000 inhabitants (2005-2007)



Number of hours usually worked per week in 2008
Source: Eurostat, EFT Series, 2009

French managers work longer hours than their European counterparts



* Excluding the public sector - Sources: IMD 2009 - ILO



Rapid Connections Throughout Europe, North Africa and the Middle East

France is renowned for the quality of its transportation infrastructure:

- European airport hub Paris Charles-de-Gaulle ranked **1st** for the amount of cargo, **2nd** for number of passengers in Europe
- 2 ports in European Top 10 by tonnage: **Marseille (4th)** and **Le Havre (7th)**
- The longest high-speed rail network in Europe with **2,000 km** of lines, and the highest number of international connections
- The **3rd** longest highway network in **EU-27** countries (**11,000 km**), and the **2nd** best road network in the world after Singapore



Source: Paris Region Economic Development Agency, January 2009.

THE EUROPEAN UNION



- The European Union is a **unique economic and political partnership between 27 democratic European countries**, with the goal of **peace, prosperity and freedom**.
- The EU has developed a system of laws which apply in all member states, ensuring the free movement of people, goods, services, and capital
- Sixteen member states have adopted a common currency, the euro
- France and the EU works to spread **prosperity, democratic progress, the rule of law and human rights**.
- The European Union is the world's **biggest trading power**



THE EUROPEAN UNION



- April 18th, 1951: **creation of the European Coal and Steel Community**
 - Six countries sign a treaty to run their coal and steel industries under a common management.
 - None can on its own make weapons of war to turn against the other
- February 7th, 1992: **the Treaty on European Union was signed**
 - Objective: “an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe”
 - Institutional structure: three pillars
 1. The European Community
 2. Common Foreign and Security policy
 3. Justice and Home Affairs
- June 2007, European leaders reached a compromise to adopt, a simplified treaty for the European Union: **The Treaty of Lisbon.**



**Europe = 500 million consumers +
Biggest market in the world + plus
undeniable political stability**



European Union “EU-27”	16,500
USA + Canada + Mexico “NAFTA”	16,400
Japan + China + HK + Korea	11,000
Brazil + Russia + India	4,000

GDP 2009 per region , source IMF 2010
(in billions of dollars)

Even in Florida !

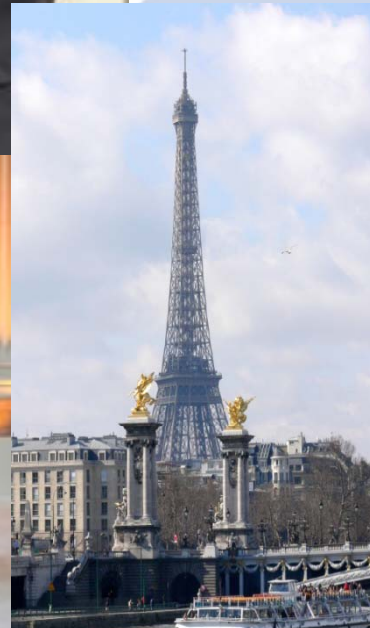




THE FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP

Yesterday's friendship is today's dialogue and tomorrow's cooperation

- A very old friendship
- A healthy and active dialogue
- A large field of bilateral and multilateral cooperation



A VERY OLD FRIENDSHIP: SOME HISTORICAL MILESTONES



- **1562: First French presence identified at Fort Caroline**
- 1685: the «Huguenots» (French Protestants) settle in America
- 1754: France Loses its Canadian territories to England and Louisiana to Spain, which triggers the French Acadians exodus to Louisiana and New England
- 1778: after the signing of the Treaty of Commerce and Friendship, Which historically makes my country America's first and oldest ally, France supports the American revolutionaries. 44,000 French troops serve during the War of Independence
- 1803: France cedes Louisiana (recovered from Spain in 1800) to the Unites States
- 1835: Alexis de Toqueville publishes « Democracy in America »
- 1850: French Consulate in Apalachicola



- 1886: France donates the Statue of Liberty to the United States
- 1917: The United States enters the World War I. Two million American troops fight in France and, by 1918, 115,000 have died
- 1927: Charles Lindbergh lands in France and becomes the first man to cross the Atlantic by plane
- June 6, 1944: D-Day. American soldiers land on Normandy Beaches to put an end to the World War II
- **1985: Opening of the Consulate General of France in Miami** (for the whole of Florida and Puerto Rico)
- 1990: France joins the United States in a coalition to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation
- From General La Fayette's decisive support to the American colonies in 1781 to the early morning landing on Normandy beaches in June 1944, the Franco-American relation has produced two centuries of friendship.



HEALTHY AND ACTIVE DIALOGUE: FEW ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL EXCHANGES



A high level of economic integration:

- The United States is the top destination for French investments worldwide
2,800 French companies operate here, employing more than 550,000 workers all over the country
- Similarly, the United States is the largest foreign investor in France, employing over 650,000 people with aggregate investment estimated at \$70 billion in 2008
- On average, over \$1 billion in commercial transactions take place every day between the two countries
- **More than 180 French companies have chosen Florida and created more than 11,000 local jobs.**
French investments represent one tenth of foreign investments in Florida.
In 2008, Florida imports from France represents 3 billion dollars. France is ranked the 7th international supplier in Florida.





A better understanding through educational and artistic exchange programs :

- The United States and France are major partners when it comes to education, culture and arts
 - The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs alone spends \$5 million a year in promoting schools and universities exchanges with the United States, as well as art production
 - Many organizations, like the French American Cultural Exchange (FACE), the Partner University Fund (PUF), the French Heritage language program (FHLP) and Culturesfrance, supported by a number of Foundations and Trustees, notably the France Florida Foundation for the Arts, offer substantial grants every year in the field of higher education, cinema, music, dance, theater and visual arts.
 - 7,000 French students in US Universities / 17,000 American in France every year
 - There are too many joint scientific programs to be named here.
- The latest Franco-American Commission for Science and Technology meeting, in June 2009 in Paris, gathered 70 renowned research fellows



AN AMERICAN IN PARIS, A FRENCH IN MIAMI (AND ELSEWHERE)



- From Thomas Jefferson to Jim Morrison, many famous Americans lived in France for several years or for the rest of their lives
- Although no official figure is available, it is estimated that over 100,000 American citizens reside currently in France, making my country one of the top destinations for American expatriates
- Similarly, close to 120,000 French nationals are registered at the French diplomatic and consular missions in the United States.
- We probably have to double this figure if we want to take into account the whole French population living on this side of the Atlantic
- It is estimated that **30,000 French citizens** reside in the state of Florida.
- From one end, State and official relations, to the other end, people to people connections, the relationship between France and the United States enjoys more stability than ometime featured.



A LARGE FIELD OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION



The friendly relation allows a frank bilateral dialogue:

- France and the United States share common values and have parallel policies on most political, economic and security issues
- A new spirit has emerged following Presidential elections both in France (2007) and in the United States
- The two countries had a different understanding of the situation in Iraq in 2003, when France opposed the use of force at the United Nation Security Council and, consequently, didn't join the US-led coalition
- Nevertheless, they have continued to cooperate closely on many issues, most notably in combating terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and on regional issues in Africa, Lebanon, Syria, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Georgia and Iran
- France is a close partner with the U.S. in the war on terror. Under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, intelligence and security officials monitor and disrupt terrorist groups and actively investigate and prosecute cases of extremism



THE COMBINED EFFORT IN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS



- France is one of NATO top troop contributors. President Sarkozy announced last March that our country was reintegrating NATO's military structures
- As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, G8 and G20, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the WTO, La Francophonie and other multilateral institutions, France has been able to promote common goals with the United States, most recently about reform of the financial institutions and markets
- France is second only to the United States in terms of troops deployed abroad and is heavily and actively participating in a variety of peacekeeping efforts in Africa, the Middle East and the Balkans alongside the United States in some instances
- This cooperation is and will be precious in the future in the face of new challenges, like the environment and the fight against poverty and global unbalances.



CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE IN MIAMI



- The Consulate is dedicated to the French community as well as to the foreign citizens planning to visit France. It welcomes the French citizens who need travel and identity documents or official vital records. **Consular assistance** is also provided to the French Nationals facing a difficult situation and offers scholarships to enroll children in local French programs.
- Its **Cultural and Communication Sections** promote French arts, literature, and education to local and academic institutions with a strong focus on the contemporary arts. Its assignment is to sustain high-level exchanges and support initiatives that draw attention to new developments in France, with the active support of local partners.
- **Trade and investment** between the U.S and France relies upon a number of organizations (Ubifrance for French SMEs willing to settle here, Invest in France for American companies moving to France, AtoutFrance in the field of tourism, Sopexa for agri-food promotion...) Locally, our partners are many: Chambers of Commerce, Enterprise Florida, Tallahassee structures...





Florida-based Companies chose France

More than 80 Companies from Florida have operations in France :

Royal Caribbean Cruises, Tupperware, Office Depot, Raymond James Financial, Elizabeth Arden, Brightstar, Hard Rock Café, Bacardi, ExacTech, Elutions, TechData, Jabil Circuit, Syniverse, Harris, Sykes...

FRENCH REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT IN FLORIDA



- In 2005, **7% of foreign home buyers in South Florida** were from France (4th country of origin of real estate investment in this region); the proportion was 4% for the whole Florida.
- Among the difficulties that French people mention about settling in Florida, we can quote the high level of property tax and the difficulty to get a long term visa. Schooling in French is also an issue for young families.
- Above all, what our fellow citizens expect before buying is **to be fully informed of the various procedures** and have a fair assessment of the value of their future property.
- We chose to mention "Florida realtors" on our website (<http://www.consulfrance-miami.org/spip.php?article1345>) as a safe way to discover what to do !
- We would highly appreciate if you could recommend to your French clients **to register with us** (<http://www.consulfrance-miami.org/spip.php?article459>) and mention our trilingual weekly webletter "e-toiles" (<http://www.consulfrance-miami.org/spip.php?article1161>).



France to the United States Consulate general of France in Miami



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Departments and services
Closing days
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Honorary Consuls

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Schools
Associations
Alliances françaises
Information and events
"French Heritage" Program
AFE Delegates
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French Embassy in the U.S.

Formalities

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Useful information

Consular Assistance -
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- » [Assasination of Michel Germaneau in Sahel](#)
- » [France to present offer of Gulf coast Assistance to the U.S](#)
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Attention ! L'e-Toile will take a break during the month of August. Stay tuned for September's weekly edition !!!

France-Diplomatie

- » [Somalia - Terrorist attack on a Mogadishu hotel \(25.08.10\)](#)
- » [18th Ambassadors Conference - Speech by the President of the Republic \(...\)](#)
- » [18th Ambassadors Conference \(25-27.08.10\)](#)
- » [Somalia - Deterioration of the security situation \(24.08.10\)](#)
- » [Situation in Madagascar \(23.08.10\)](#)


Le Cyber-Bulletin du Consulat
In English



Europe in Florida



France Magazine, in English



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www.consulfrance-miami.org

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