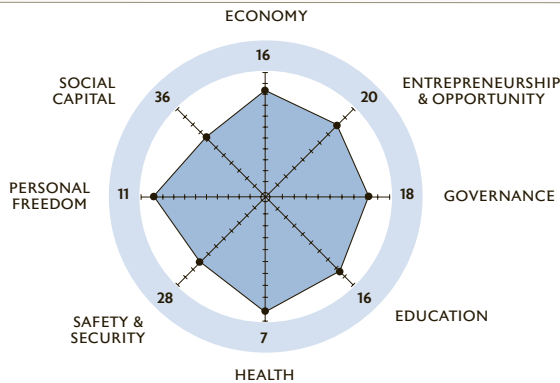


FAST FACTS

Average life satisfaction (Rated 0 > 10)	6.8	Literacy rate (% of adult population) (2009)	100%
Population mn. (2011 Est.)	63.25	Life expectancy years (2009)	81.1
GDP per capita (PPP) (2011 Est.)	\$34,858	Business start-up costs (% of Gross National Income) (2011)	0.9%
GDP (PPP) bn. (2011 Est.)	\$2,204.71	% of people believe society is meritocratic* (2011)	75.4%
Freedom House rating (2011)	Free	% of people feel personal safety* (2010)	68.0%
Political System	Republic	% of people find others trustworthy* (2009)	19.9%

SUB-INDEX RANKINGS



INDEX OF COMPARISONS

	Rank/ No. of countries
Legatum Prosperity Index	18/110
Average Life Satisfaction Ranking	24/110
Per Capita GDP Ranking	21/110
WEF Global Competitiveness Index	15/139
UN Human Development Index	14/169
Heritage/WSJ Economic Freedom Index	64/179
TI Corruption Perceptions Index	25/178
Vision of Humanity Global Peace Index	36/153

ECONOMY:

France's stable economy has slow growth and suffers from a lack of public confidence

RANKED
16

French macroeconomic indicators are solid: inflation is negligible, while unemployment is above average at 9%, ranking the country 78th, globally**, on this variable. They have a self-reported employment rate of 44%* which places France at a low 94th. Gross domestic savings .at 17% of GDP, put the country below the global average at 74th in the Index on this variable. Standards of living are high with the majority of the population having access to affordable food and shelter and 83% are satisfied with their standard of living. However, French citizens express pessimism about the future as only 20%* of the population feel that it is a good time to find a job, ranking France 79th on this variable. Expectations for the economy are worse, placing France 105th*, worldwide, on this variable. This is partly borne out by the slow growth of the economy between 2005 and 2009, at an average of just 0.12% per year. On the other hand, France places in the top 50 of the Index for foreign direct investment performance as measured by both net inflows and volatility, outperforming most of its European neighbours on this variable. It ranks 16th, globally, for capital per worker, implying high productive efficiency, fifth in terms of market size, and 17th in terms of high-tech goods as a proportion of its manufactured exports. However, France's banks have a ratio of non-performing loans of 3.6%, and it ranks only 99th worldwide in terms of the population's confidence in the financial sector.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & OPPORTUNITY:

France is an innovative country with a favourable climate for entrepreneurship

RANKED
20

France places in the top 20 in the world in terms of royalty receipts and R&D expenditure as a proportion of GDP. Its level of ICT exports also place it in the top third of the Index. It is placed fifth, globally, for the availability of internet bandwidth, but it comes in only 59th and 25th, respectively, in terms of the number of mobile phones and secure internet servers per capita. This high level of innovation and the solid technical infrastructure is matched by a supportive environment for entrepreneurs, measured both subjectively and objectively. Start-up costs were less than one 1% of GNI per capita, the 11th lowest figure for this variable, and 76%* of French citizens believe their country is a good place for entrepreneurs. The country is in the top third of the Index for economic development across different socio-economic groups, suggesting a high potential for social mobility. However, a relatively low 75%* of the population feel that working hard can get them ahead, placing France at 79th in the Index on this variable.

GOVERNANCE:

The French place more confidence in the political processes than in their politicians

RANKED
18

France is a well functioning and well governed democracy, placing 17th, worldwide on the effective governance variable. The 40-year life of the present constitutional arrangement suggests a stable democracy. The country scores above average both for constraints on political actors and for the quality of its electoral process, with lively competition for executive and legislative office. The country ranks well for perceived corruption, placing the country 21st*, globally, on this variable. However, just 42%* of the population has confidence in the national government, ranking France 73rd on this variable, though 42%* and 59%* approve of the country's efforts to address poverty and preserve the environment, respectively, ranking France slightly above average on both variables. France places highly, both for rule of law and effective regulation, at 18th and 21st place on these variables, globally. This translates to confidence in national institutions: 85%* of French people trust their military. The country takes first place on the variable describing political rights available to citizens, and an above average 23%* of the population voiced their opinion to an official in the past month. Two-thirds* of French people expressed confidence in national elections, putting France in the top third of the Index on this variable.

EDUCATION:

France has a strong education system that produces a highly skilled labour force

RANKED
16

France scores well on almost every measure of its education system. It enjoys 98% net primary education enrolment and 113% gross enrolment for secondary schools, placing it in the top 20 for both variables. Gross tertiary enrolment, at 55%, puts France 39th in the Index on this variable. The country has near gender equality in primary and secondary education. A high 77%* of French people are satisfied with education in their area, while 88%* believe most children in the country are learning every day, putting France somewhat above average on the latter variable. A ratio of 19 primary pupils per teacher is slightly above average. The solid education system produces a well educated workforce: secondary education per worker is very high, placing France in the top 10, globally; tertiary education per worker is also impressive, putting the country in the top third of the Index, on this variable.

HEALTH:

France's well financed health system yields good results in preventive care

RANKED
7

France's basic health indicators are good. Infant mortality levels are the 12th lowest worldwide, and the country places within the top 10 for health-adjusted life expectancy, which stands at 73 years. Just 5% of the population is undernourished and France's immunisation rates for major childhood diseases and measles are at 99% and 90%, respectively. The country's health infrastructure is excellent, with the seventh highest level of per capita health expenditure, globally. The country has about seven hospital beds per 1,000 people, ranking it 10th worldwide. Incidence of tuberculosis is low, ranking 11th in the world, and reported cases of respiratory diseases are the third lowest worldwide. In France, there is universal access to improved sanitation facilities and 86%* of French citizens are satisfied with their water quality. The same proportion* of people report feeling satisfied with their health and only 23%* complain about debilitating health problems. However, 30%* of French people report feeling worried during the previous day, well above the global average. While a relatively low 67%* reported being well-rested, over nine in ten* of respondents stated they are satisfied with the beauty of their surroundings.

SAFETY & SECURITY:

Despite some group grievances, general levels of security in France remain high

RANKED
28

France has low numbers of refugees and displaced persons as well as minimal levels of human flight, in particular amongst professionals. Tensions arising from group grievances are below average, ranking France 53rd, globally, on this variable. It places 19th, globally, on the variable measuring state-sponsored violence and is free from civil and ethnic strife. Demographic instability resulting from border disputes, ownership or occupancy of land, access to transportation outlets, control of religious or historical sites, and proximity to environmental hazards is low, placing France in the top 25 on this variable. Levels of crime are also low: France ranks 54th* with regards to the number of respondents reporting assault, and 33rd* for reported levels of theft. The country scored in the top 40 on people's freedom to express political views in 2010, and 68%* of French people feel safe walking the streets at night, putting France slightly above average on that variable, globally.

PERSONAL FREEDOM:

The French are happy with their personal freedom and their treatment of 'outsiders'

RANKED
11

French citizens enjoy the highest level of civil liberties, as measured by freedom of expression, belief, association, and personal autonomy. This is reflected in subjective data, with almost 85%* of French people reporting satisfaction with their freedom of choice. Roughly the same proportion of the population regard their country as a tolerant place for immigrants and racial and ethnic minorities, ranking the country 16th* and 21st on these two variables, globally.

SOCIAL CAPITAL:

Levels of trust and marriage are markedly low in France, despite signs of civic engagement

RANKED
36

France ranks slightly below the global average with 20% of citizens stating that they think others can be trusted. In the same survey, 38%* indicated having helped another person in the previous month, placing the country near the bottom of the Index for this variable. Other indicators of social capital are closer to the global average: 27%* of French citizens had volunteered in the past month and 29%* had donated to charity, both scores falling above the global average. A high 94%* of French think they have family and friends they can rely on in times of need. Although marriage levels and religious observance, are both low in France, placing the country 85th* and 92nd* on these variables, respectively, suggesting low potential access to religious and familial networks.

**REGIONAL RANKING:
Europe**

RANK	COUNTRY
1	Norway
2	Denmark
5	Sweden
7	Finland
8	Switzerland
9	Netherlands
11	Ireland
12	Iceland
13	United Kingdom
14	Austria
15	Germany
17	Belgium
18	France
22	Slovenia
23	Spain
25	Portugal
26	Czech Republic
28	Poland
30	Italy
32	Slovakia
33	Estonia
36	Hungary
40	Greece
41	Croatia
44	Lithuania
48	Bulgaria
50	Belarus
51	Latvia
58	Romania
59	Russia
74	Ukraine
76	Macedonia
79	Moldova

* Data is taken from the Gallup World Poll ** The terms 'international', 'global', or 'world' are used to reference the 110 Prosperity Index countries, which represent approximately 93% of the world's population and 97% of global GDP. The term 'average' refers to the average performance in the Index for the referenced variable.