

9 HOME TO CULTURAL AND LITERARY EXCELLENCE

France has produced some of the most internationally celebrated authors in modern literary history, reflected by its record in the **Nobel Prize in Literature**. France is the **country with the most Nobel Literature laureates**, with 15 French winners since the prize was established in 1901, making it the most rewarded nation in this category.

Sources : afsacramento.org

10 A BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT WITH DIGITAL LEADERSHIP

France was ranked **first in the world for e-government services** in past global surveys, reflecting strong digital public services and online accessibility for citizens and businesses. (Historical ranking with contemporary digital transformation context.)

Macro Context, Recent GDP and Growth

France's economy remained resilient with **~0.9 % GDP growth in 2025**, despite weak domestic demand, reflecting broad economic stability amid global challenges.

Sources : reuters.com



FRANCE, A LEADING ECONOMY

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1 A MAJOR DESTINATION FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT

For the sixth year in a row, France was **Europe's leading destination for foreign direct investment (FDI)** in 2024, ahead of the UK and Germany. It recorded **1 025 investment projects** despite a wider decline in investment across Europe, maintaining its role as a top destination for industrial and R&D projects.

In 2024, foreign investment decisions generated or maintained **37 747 jobs** and saw an increase in investment in research and engineering.

Sources : en.media.businessfrance.fr

2 A LAND OF ENTREPRENEURS AND INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

France is actively promoting entrepreneurship and innovation, with a high number of foreign firms choosing to invest and set up R&D centres. Public support for R&D remains strong, with France ranking **first in Europe for public support for corporate R&D** and **second country in Europe for patent filings** in 2024.

France also ranks **12th globally** in the 2024 Global Innovation Index, showing strong innovation output.

Sources : businessfrance.fr
wipo.int/edocs/giiranking/2024

3 A LEADING LUXURY AND FASHION INDUSTRY

The luxury sector in France remains a **key pillar of the economy**, accounting for over **4 % of GDP (~€120 billion)** in 2024 and employing tens of thousands directly with strong export performance.

French luxury houses, such as LVMH and Kering, continue to be global leaders with major revenues and global influence.

The broader fashion and luxury segment contributes meaningfully to value added and employment, with fashion alone accounting for around **3 % of GDP**.

Sources : luxonomy.net / fashionunited.com

4 COMPETITIVE R&D AND INNOVATION ENVIRONMENT

France's research and development environment is supported by generous incentives (e.g., a 30 % R&D tax credit) that make it attractive for innovation-driven companies.

According to OECD data and innovation rankings, France positions itself solidly among leading innovation economies with strong eco-innovation performance and public R&D support.

Sources : businessfrance.fr / ec.europa.eu

5 DYNAMIC TECH SECTOR AMONG EUROPE'S FASTEST GROWERS

While specific rankings such as the Deloitte Fast 500 change yearly, France's technology ecosystem, from startups to unicorns, remains strong, supported by government initiatives and foreign investment in AI and green tech. (Context from Business France and French economic reports.)

Sources : en.media.businessfrance.fr



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6 AN INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

France has a diversified science and research base with institutions like CNRS regularly ranking among the top research organizations globally.

French innovation metrics show high performance in EU comparisons for government R&D support and eco-innovation.

Sources : ec.europa.eu

7 FIRST-CLASS TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS INFRASTRUCTURE

France offers world-class infrastructure, including the **largest high-speed rail network in Europe** and **Paris-Charles de Gaulle**, a key EU aviation hub. Infrastructure quality and connectivity support both domestic activity and international business.

Sources : businessfrance.fr

8 WORLD'S TOP TOURISM DESTINATION

France consistently ranks as the **most visited country in the world**, with **over 93 million international arrivals by 2024** and an estimated **~100 million arrivals** supported by global events such as the Paris Olympics.

Tourism contributes significantly to employment and national consumption, and is a major driver of service exports.

Sources : atout-france.fr / oecd.org