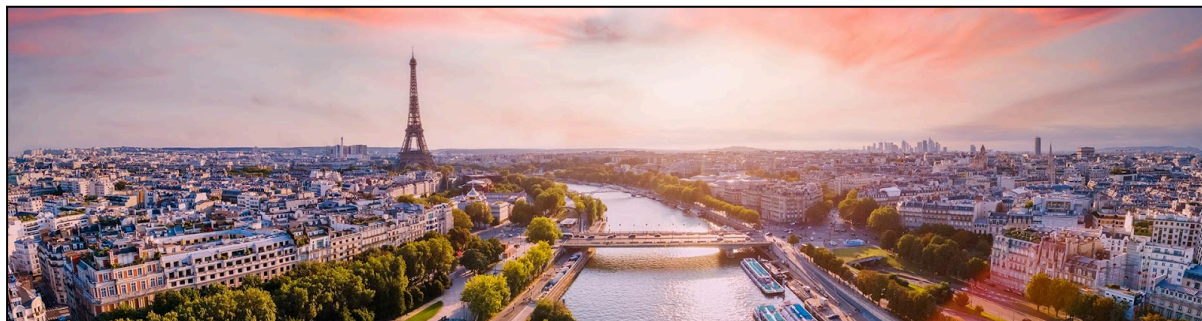




OECD Demographics Survey France

Executive Summary by Theodor Babusiaux



Factsheet

Fertility rate (births/woman)	Net migration rate (entering-leaving/1000)	Family policies	Attitude towards immigration
1.68 in 2023 (??th in the OECD)	0.97 (??th in the OECD)	Generous-to-Moderate	Historically Friendly, Currently Hostile

Immigration Policies

Immigration policies have evolved under recent presidents. During Chirac's presidency (1995-2007), the 1997 Debré Law tightened family reunification and visa requirements. Despite these measures, Chirac advocated for a multicultural France, emphasizing the importance of cultural diversity and mutual respect. His successor, Sarkozy (2007-2012) established the Ministry of Immigration, Integration, National Identity before abolishing it in 2010, and Co-Development, introducing measures like DNA testing for family reunification and deportation quotas. Later, Hollande (2012-2017) focused on humanitarian aspects, with the 2015 asylum reform improving refugee protections. And now, Macron's administration (2017-now) enacted the 2018 law to control immigration and enhance integration, reducing asylum application deadlines and extending detention periods. In 2024, Interior Minister Retailleau announced stricter measures to reduce both legal and illegal immigration, emphasizing language proficiency and assimilation of French values for new regularizations.

Family Policies

France has had historically generous family policies. Those include family allowances, with financial benefits being provided to families having at least two children under the age of 20, maternity leave of 16 weeks for the first two children and of 26 weeks for the third and later children. The French government also offers financial assistance for childcare and subsidises daycare centers. From a tax point of view, tax brackets are adapted using the family coefficient system, making it fiscally more feasible to have children. Despite those policies, the situation has deteriorated recently, with many policies being dismantled or weakened as well as some birth clinics being closed. Many schools have also been closed recently, leading to a more complicated situation for some families. This shift in policies has had its repercussions, with the fertility rate falling from 2.01 in 2012 to 1.68 in 2023. However, France still has one of the highest fertility rates in Europe, which shows that it is under a less tense situation than in comparable countries.

Potential allies: Any western country

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