

learn your world france

To support your global practice, ACC Docket offers country-specific fun facts from your peers who've been there – literally.

Economy

GDP (PPP):
\$2.273 trillion (2013 est.)
Note: Data are in 2013 US\$.

GDP by composition:

Agriculture: 1.9%

Industry: 18.7%

Services: 79.4% (2013 est.)

GDP in Q4 2013: GDP
increased by 0.3% in Q4
2013, compared to Q3 2013.

Corruption

According to Transparency
International's "2013
Corruption Perception
Index," France is the 22nd
"cleanest" (i.e., least corrupt)
country out of the 177 that
were scored.

Additional resources

Official website of France
www.france.fr/en

France-Diplomatie
www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/



TAXI PARISIEN © P. BURGHARDT

Want to do something on your iPhone? As the ad says, there's an app for that. Want to do anything in France? Chances are, there's a regulation for that.

In L'Hexagone, as the French call their six-sided land, it seems every activity — from baking baguettes (beware the “bread decree of 1993”) to posting flyers (the “Law of July 29, 1881” applies) — has a set of rules attached to it. That's because French law is based on the code, or extensive written law, as opposed to the Anglo-American system of civil, or judge-made, law. But the code reflects a deeper French instinct for imposing order on the world. Les français proudly call themselves “Cartesians,” in honor of the great logical thinker René Descartes, and they rightfully exult in their engineering achievements — from the Eiffel Tower to the TGV. It's no coincidence that the country's nickname comes from geometry.

So what about those long lunches (at least compared to that Anglo-Saxon habit of eating at one's desk) and even longer vacations? Well, if your country's cuisine and topography were as rich and varied as France's, you too might take an hour at midday or several weeks in August to enjoy them. C'est logique, n'est-ce pas?

MATTHEW BENZ, LEGAL COUNSEL, ORANGE S.A.

When doing business in France, do not follow the French when they indulge in auto-bashing at a lunch party or during any discussion. Coming from a foreigner, such criticism may not be well viewed even if the above-mentioned foreigner is agreeing with them. A prudent and diplomatic silence should be observed, and maybe on the contrary, one should find something positive to say. The self-bashing is part of showing that one's critical and much prized sense of analysis is keen and well developed. It is not to be taken as lacking in national pride.

CATHERINE FOX, ACC REPRESENTATIVE FOR FRANCE,
FORMER PRESIDENT OF ACC EUROPE



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