



France

General Information



Population

68 551 653 ([World Bank 2024](#))
68 606 000 ([STAT FR 2025](#))



Immigration

9 186 757 ([UN Immigration Stock 2024](#))
347 000 ([STAT FR 2023](#))



Emigration

2 547 158 ([UN Emigration Stock 2024](#))



Working-age population

42 055 285 ([World Bank 2024](#))
30 851 000 ([STAT FR 2024](#))



Unemployment rate

7.4 % ([World Bank 2024](#))
7.4 % ([STAT FR 2025](#))



GDP

3 160 442 622 465.1 current prices USD ([World Bank 2024](#))
2 919 900 000 000 current prices EUR ([STAT FR 2024](#))



Refugees, Asylum seekers, IDPs

Refugees

751 218 ([UNHCR 2025](#))
42 120 ([OFPRA 2024](#))

Asylum Seekers

77 412 ([UNHCR 2025](#))
153 715 ([OFPRA 2024](#))

IDPs

0 ([UNHCR 2025](#))



Citizenship

By Birth

No ([GLOBALCIT 2024](#))

By Descent

Yes ([GLOBALCIT 2024](#))

Years of Residency

5 years of residence required ([GLOBALCIT 2024](#))



Territory

643 801 km² ([CIA World Factbook](#))

Data from international sources is updated automatically as it becomes available.

Migration Authorities

Responsible Body

Ministry of Interior

Line Ministries

Ministry of Labour, Health, Social Affairs, and Families

Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs

Agencies

OFPRA (French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons)

OFII (French Office for Immigration and Integration)

CNDA (National Court for Asylum)

DGEF (General Directorate for Foreigners in France)

Local Prefectures

Border Police (PAF)

Key Policy Documents

CESEDA (Code for the Entry and Residence of Foreign Nationals and the Right of Asylum)

Law No. 2024-42 of 26 January 2024 on Controlling Immigration and Improving Integration

Law n. 2018-187 March 2018 allowing for sound application of the European asylum system

Law n. 2018-778 of 10 September 2018 for managed migration, effective asylum law and successful integration

Law No. 2021-1109 of 24 August 2021 reinforcing respect for the Principles of the Republic

Ordinance No. 2020-1733 of 16 December 2020 enacting the Legislative Part of the Code on the Entry and Residence of Foreigners and the Right of Asylum

General Guidelines on Exceptional Admission to Stay under Articles L.435-1 and following of the Code on the Entry and Residence of Foreigners and the Right of Asylum (Ritailleau Circular)

Relevant Publications

ICMPD publication, MC2CM City Migration Profile of Grenoble, 2022

ICMPD working paper, Responses to Demand in the Context of Trafficking in Human Beings: Regulatory measures from twelve national contexts, 2016

France is primarily a country of destination for migrants, with a [longstanding tradition of immigration](#). It is also, to a lesser extent, a [country of emigration](#) and, more marginally, a transit country. In 2025, the population reached approximately **68,6** million. Migration has become the main driver of demographic growth: in 2024, net migration was estimated at **152,000**, accounting for nearly **90%** of the annual population increase, or about **0.25%** per year.

In 2023, the total foreign-born population of France stood at **8,9** million, including **1,7** million French nationals born abroad. The immigrant population totalled **7,3** million, representing **10.7%** of the population. Among them, **2,5** million (**34%**) had acquired French citizenship, while **5,6** million remained foreign nationals, including **0,8** million born in France.

France's colonial legacy and geographic location continue to shape the primary countries of origin of immigrants. In 2023, **47.7%** of immigrants in France were born in an African country, with **28.7%** originating from the Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia). By contrast, the share of immigrants from Europe in France declined significantly, from **76.8%** in 1968 to **32.3%** in 2023. Migrants from **Portugal** (577,000), **Italy** (283,100), and **Spain** (231,200) together made about **15% of all immigrants** in the country. In 2023, the stock of valid residence permits amounted to **4,272,795**. Of these, 1,390,924 (33%) were issued for family reasons, 450,789 (11%) for employment, 349,957 (8%) for education, and the remainder for other reasons. Algerians (**649,991** permits), Moroccans (**617,053**), and Tunisians (**304,287**) remained the largest groups holding residence permits in France, while **169,991** residence permits were issued to British citizens as part of post-Brexit regularisation. According to France's Ministry of Labour (DARES study published in **2021**), immigrants account for about **one in ten jobs** (10.2%) overall, with their share exceeding **25%** in sectors such as domestic work, construction and security services.

In 2024, France issued **343,024** first-time residence permits to non-EU nationals, a **0.9%** increase compared to 2023. The top ten recipient nationalities were Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, India, Afghanistan, Cameroon, the United States, China, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal, together accounting for **49.4%** of all first permits. Moroccan nationals received the largest share (**36,815**), followed by Algerians (**29,270**) and Tunisians (**22,456**), who together made up more than one-quarter of all first permits. Migrants from India, Afghanistan, Cameroon, and the U.S. increased **notably** in 2024. By contrast, first permits for Chinese and Ivoirian nationals remained steady, and those for Senegalese nationals declined by **11%**. The reasons behind the residence permits also reveal distinct migration patterns. Overall, among the top ten nationalities, family migration remained the most common pathway (36.8%), followed by labour migration (21.9%), studies (16.7%) and humanitarian reasons (5.1%). Yet the mix varied strongly by nationality: study-related permits were most common among Senegalese (32.1%) and Chinese nationals (27.4%), while Comorian migration was overwhelmingly family-driven (76.1%). Tunisians, on the other hand, showed a much higher reliance on labour migration (**33.1%**).

Among other migration channels, France operates several specialised programmes, including *passport talent* for skilled migrants, humanitarian pathways, and the *admission exceptionnelle au séjour* (AES), which allows certain undocumented migrants to regularise their stay. In 2024, the number of *passport talent* permits declined by **5.4%** compared to 2023, totalling **55,678**. This decline was largely driven by reductions in the salaried and family subcategories. By contrast, the scientific, artistic, and non-salaried categories grew strongly – by **14.4%**, **18.9%**, and **24.0%**, respectively – reflecting France's ongoing efforts to attract skilled migrants. The AES programme issued **31,865** permits in 2024, an 8.2% decline from the previous year, with family-related cases continuing to dominate (**20,085**).

Emigration also plays a major role in France's migration profile. As of December 2024, **1,741,942** French nationals were registered in the consular register of nationals residing abroad, including **1.23** million who had lived in the same consular zone for more than five years. The largest communities of French nationals are found in Switzerland (171,884), the United States (159,357), the United Kingdom (141,065), Belgium (123,226), and Canada (118,772), together representing **40.5 %** of all French abroad. Employment opportunities remain the key mobility driver. According to [ExpatCommunication](#), 12% of French expatriates work in education, 8% in business, 8% in IT, 8% in trade, 7% in banking and insurance, and **6%** in hospitality and tourism. Retirees also make up a significant share – **8.3%** of French pensioners, more than **1.1** million, live abroad with nine in ten residing in Europe (47%) or Africa (42%). The largest retiree communities are in Algeria (341,184), Portugal (163,851), and Spain (**157,076**).

France registered a record **153,715** asylum applications in 2024. The top five countries of origin were Afghanistan, Ukraine, Guinea, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Côte d'Ivoire. According to OFPRA (French Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons), Afghanistan remained the leading country of origin for the seventh consecutive year, with **12,378** applications. African countries accounted for the largest regional share, with **59,706** applications (**46%** of the total), up from **40%** in 2023. In the same year, OFPRA granted protection to **70,284** individuals, bringing the total number of beneficiaries of protection in France to **663,241**.

The temporary residence permit (*Autorisation Provisoire de Séjour*) introduced in 2022 in response to the war in Ukraine, continued to play a role: in 2024, **56,314** displaced persons from Ukraine held APS permits. Ukrainians also became one of the main asylum-seeking groups in France, with **13,516** applications lodged in 2024. A total of **6,926** Ukrainians were granted international protection in 2024, up sharply from **2,350** in 2023.

Applications for stateless status remained stable, with **467** cases in 2024 compared to **465** in 2023. France also admitted **21** individuals through UNHCR-coordinated resettlement programme based on vulnerability criteria. These resettlements took place during 21 missions conducted in seven countries: Türkiye (6 missions), Cameroon (3), Jordan (3), Chad (3), Egypt (2), Ethiopia (2), and Rwanda (2).

In 2024, France detailed **147,156 foreigners nationals** for irregular stay, an 18.9% increase compared to 2023. Sharp rises were observed among nationals of Sudan (+108.1%), Eritrea (+73.4%), and Mali (+74.1%) reflecting changing irregular migration flows from the Horn of Africa and West Africa. That same year, **27,791 irregular migrants** left France, including 12,856 deportations, 4,586 assisted returns and 4,159 spontaneous returns. Voluntary returns under Ministry of Interior return assistance programs **fell to 89**,

while unassisted voluntary departures [rose to 6,101](#). In addition, [6,908](#) migrants received return and reintegration support through the French Office for Immigration and Integration (OFII).

As of January 2025, France had signed nearly [60](#) bilateral migration agreements, including seven on the concerted management of migration flows (e.g. with Senegal, Gabon, Tunisia, Republic of Congo, Cabo Verde, Burkina Faso and Benin), which address legal migration, irregular migration control, and development cooperation. Other agreements cover youth and professional mobility ([11](#)), working holiday programs ([16](#), including with Canada, Japan, and Australia), labour migration (5), and entry/stay arrangements with [14](#) African countries. France is also active in multilateral frameworks, having signed the 2018 UN Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees. At EU level, it supports the Pact on Migration and Asylum and joined 21 Member States in 2023 in a solidarity mechanism for relocations and financial aid. Although the Pact, adopted in April 2024, required national plans by December 2024, France had not published its plan by mid-2025, prompting questions in [Parliament](#) and [Senate](#).

Domestically, immigration has been governed by frequent legislative change – roughly [one new law every two years](#) since 1945. A 2023 proposal to tighten immigration rules was rejected, but the Immigration Control and Integration Improvement Law, adopted in January 2024, introduced several reforms. These include easier access to residence permits for undocumented workers in shortage sectors, and a new multi-year “talent” permit for non-EU medical professionals. However, the law tightened language and integration requirements, increased sanctions on employers of undocumented workers, and expanded deportation grounds to long-term residents convicted of serious crimes. The government plans to introduce a new immigration law in 2025.

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