



ENVIRONMENT AT A GLANCE INDICATORS

France

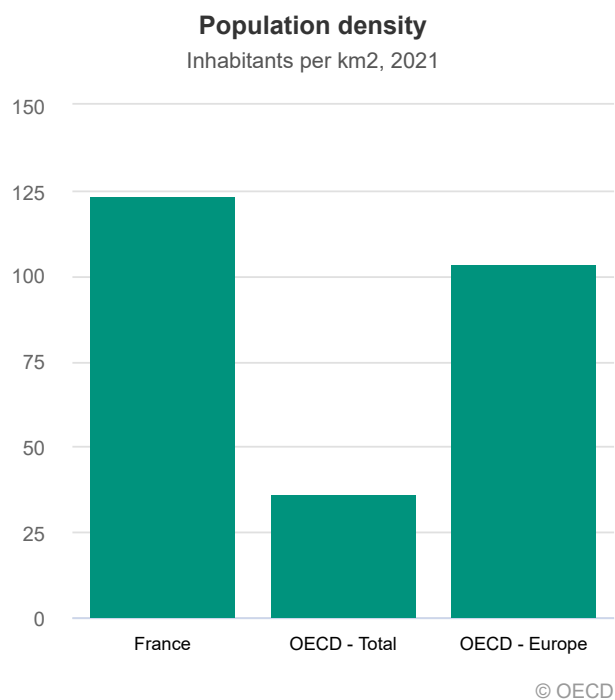
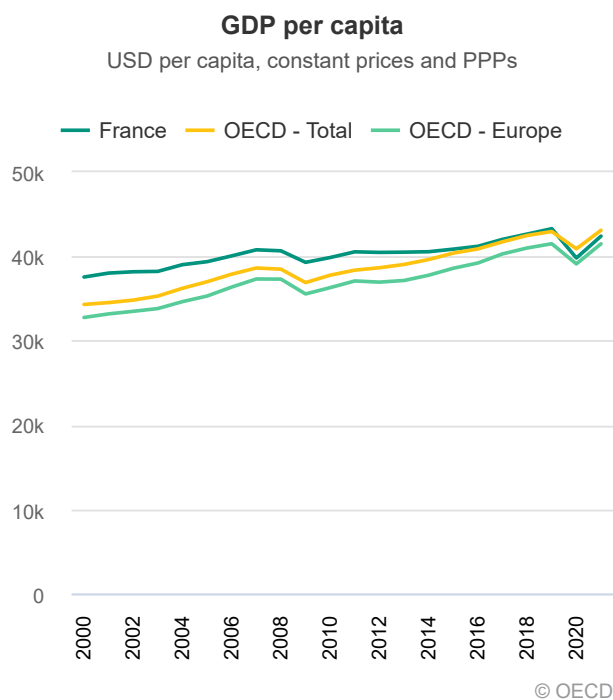
This country profile features selected environmental indicators from the OECD Core Set, building on harmonised datasets available on [OECD.stat](https://data.oecd.org). The indicators reflect major environmental issues, including climate, air quality, freshwater resources, waste and the circular economy and biodiversity. Differences with national data sources can occur due to delays in data treatment and publication, or due to different national definitions and measurement methods. The OECD is working with countries and other international organisations to further improve the indicators and the underlying data.

Context

France is the largest country by area in the European Union and among the largest economies in the OECD. Its people enjoy relatively high levels of education and quality of life. France territory within Europe, referred to as “metropolitan France”, covers 550 000 km². It has overseas “départements” (DOM) and other overseas territories in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans as well as in the Antarctic. Metropolitan France has long coasts of 5°500 km. Its overall maritime domain covers 11 million km², most of it associated with overseas territories.

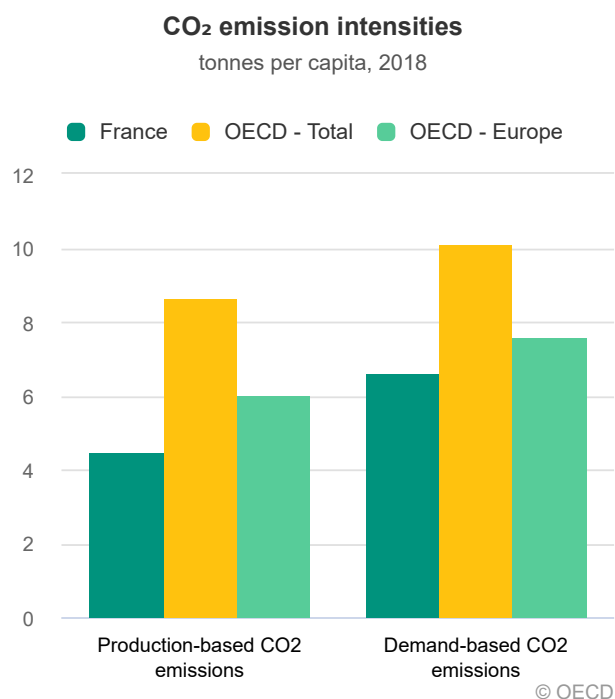
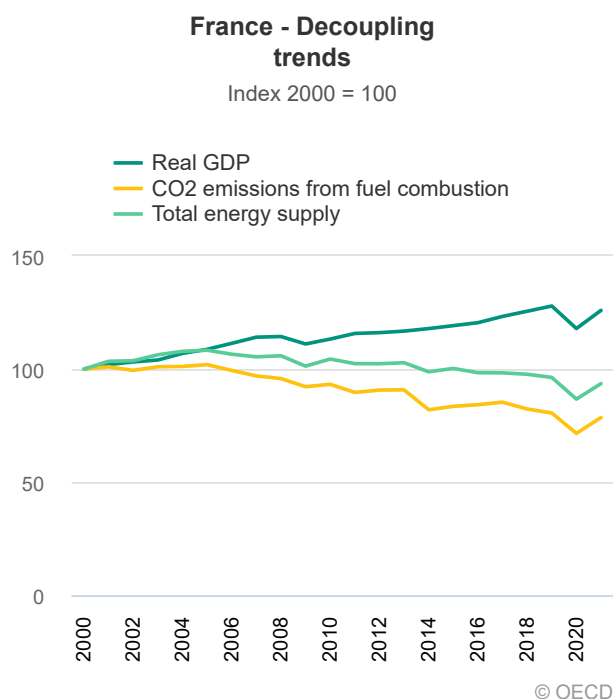
Thanks to its geographic position within Europe and its overseas possessions, France embraces a great diversity of land-based and marine ecosystems. Metropolitan France’s subsoil resources include a wealth of building materials, such as limestone, aggregates and gypsum. It also has an abundance of industrial minerals, including kaolin, potassium compounds and silica. However, it has few energy resources: the country rely heavily on nuclear energy. France has the highest share nuclear energy in OECD countries. France’s overseas territories are endowed with very substantial natural resources (marine, mineral and botanic resources, renewable energy sources and high biodiversity). Metropolitan France’s water resources are unevenly distributed both geographically and seasonally, which can result in high water or floods, as well as droughts.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the French economy had a high productivity, ensuring good standards of living. The economy is one of the most highly tertiarised in the OECD, despite its relatively diversified industrial structure. Some 80% of the population is concentrated in major urban areas, which occupy a third of the territory.



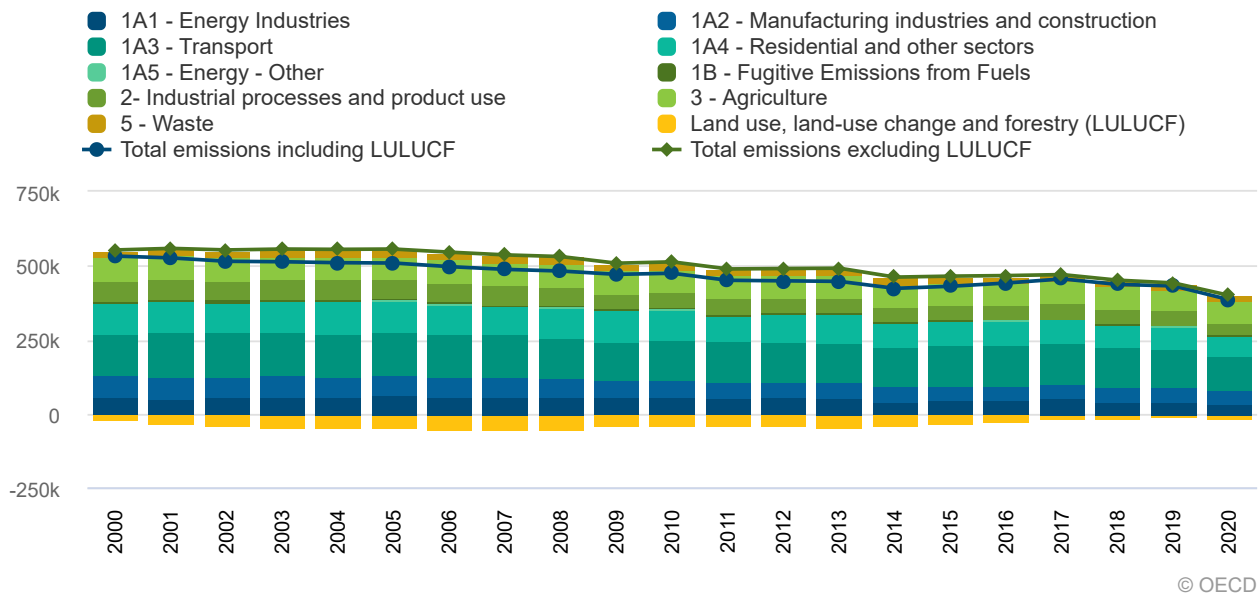
Source: OECD, "Green growth indicators", OECD Environment Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00665-en>.

Climate change



Source: OECD, "Green growth indicators", OECD Environment Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00665-en>, based on OECD and IEA data.

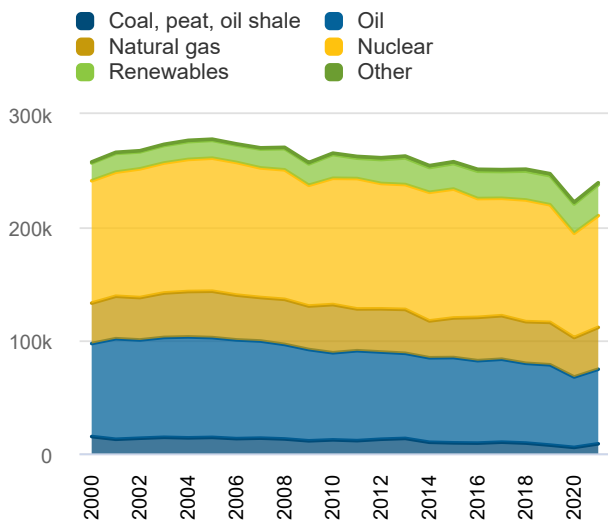
France - GHG emissions by source

Thousand tonnes CO₂ equivalent

Source: OECD, "Air and climate: Greenhouse gas emissions by source", *OECD Environment Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00594-en>.

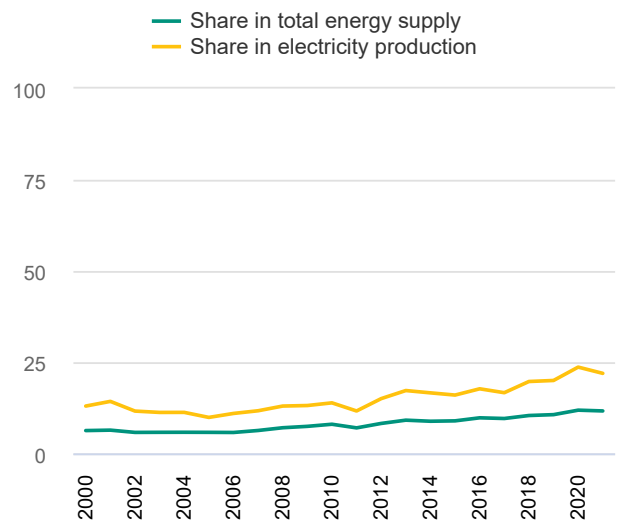
France - Total energy supply mix

ktoe



France - Share of renewables

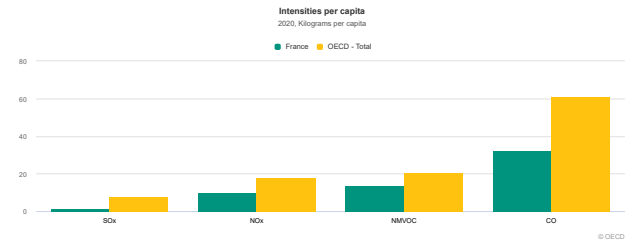
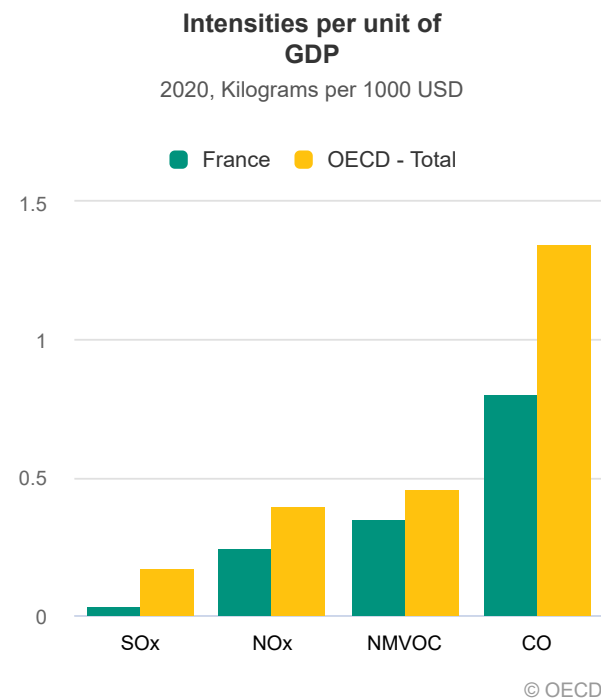
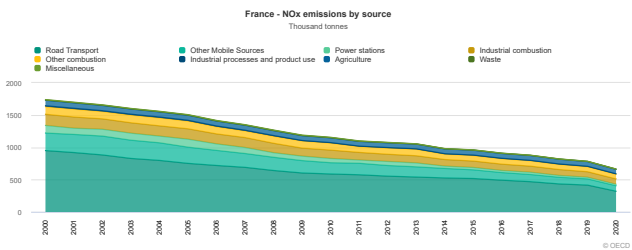
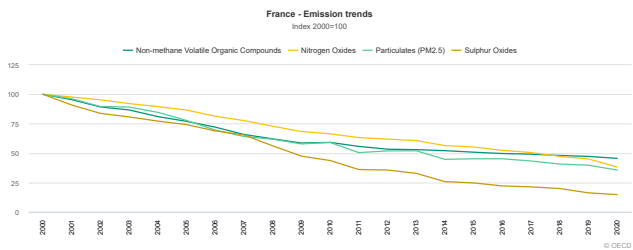
%



Source: IEA, "World energy statistics", *IEA World Energy Statistics and Balances* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00510-en>.



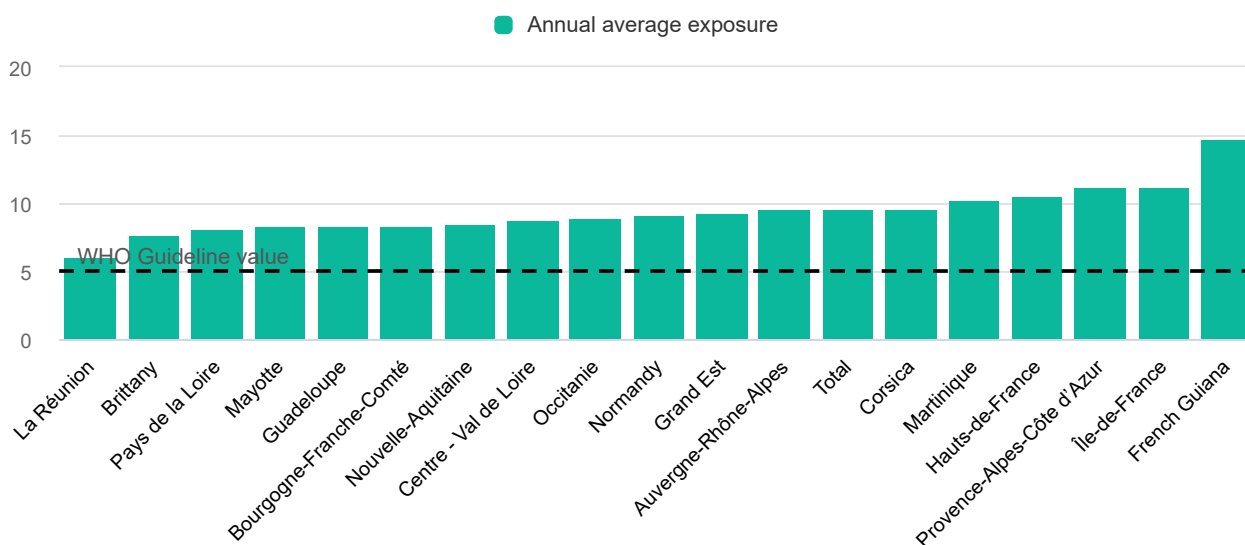
Air quality



Source: OECD, "Air and climate: Air emissions by source", OECD Environment Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00598-en>.

France - Population exposure to fine particulates (PM2.5), Large regions

2020, micrograms per cubic meter (population weighted)



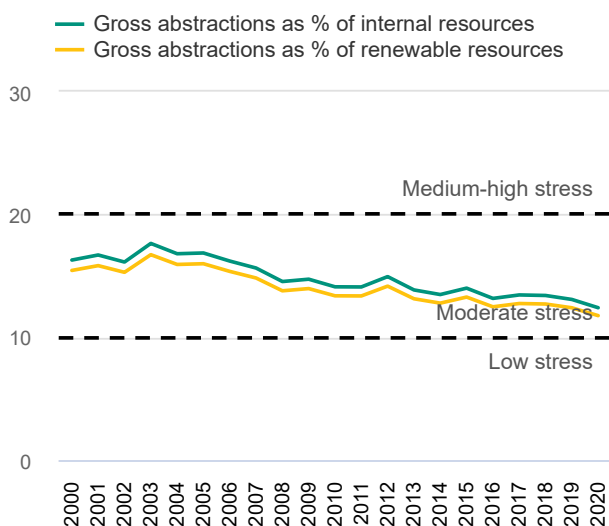
© OECD

Source: OECD, "Air quality and health: Exposure to PM2.5 fine particles - countries and regions", *OECD Environment Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/96171c76-en>.

Freshwater resources

France - Water stress

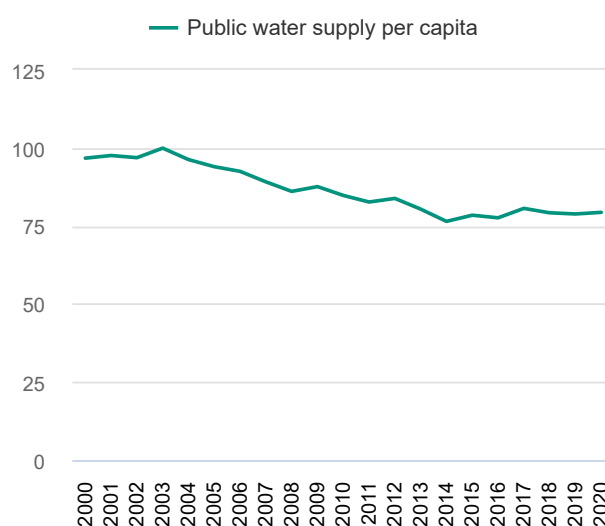
Gross water abstractions over available renewable stocks, %



© OECD

France - Abstraction intensity for public supply

Cubic meters per capita

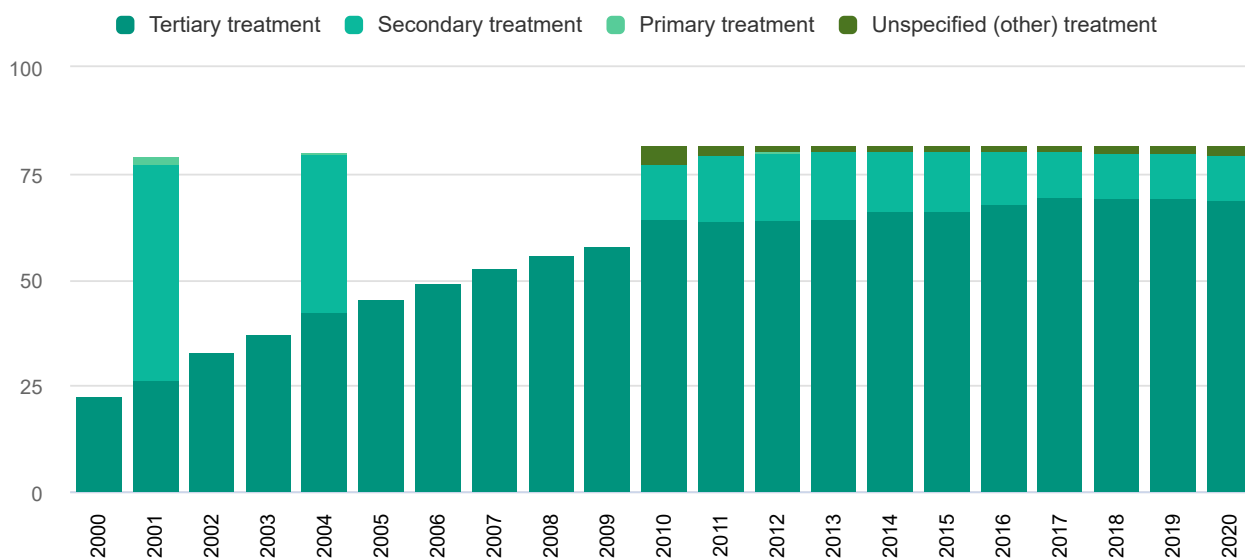


© OECD

Source: OECD, "Water: Freshwater abstractions", *OECD Environment Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00603-en>.

France - Connection rates to public wastewater treatment plants

% of population connected



© OECD

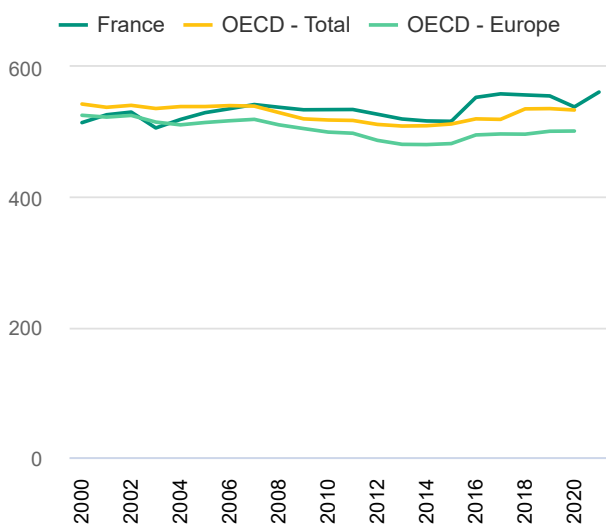
Note: The optimal connection rate is not necessarily 100%: it may vary among countries and depends on geographical features and on the spatial distribution of human settlements.

Source: OECD, "Water: Wastewater treatment", *OECD Environment Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00604-en>.

Waste, materials and circular economy

Municipal waste generation intensity

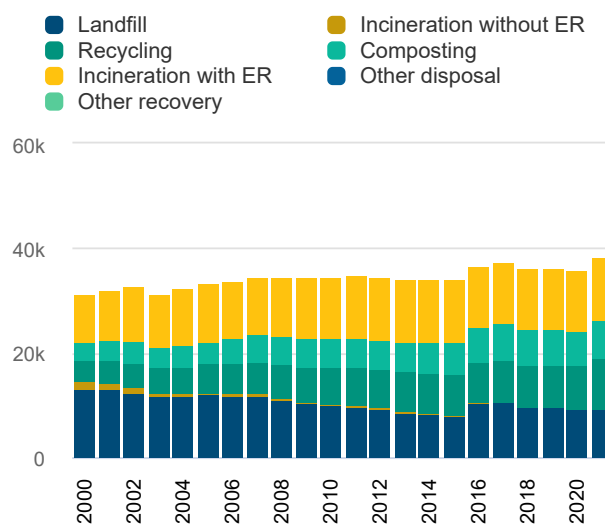
kg per capita



© OECD

France - Municipal waste treatment modes

Thousand tonnes



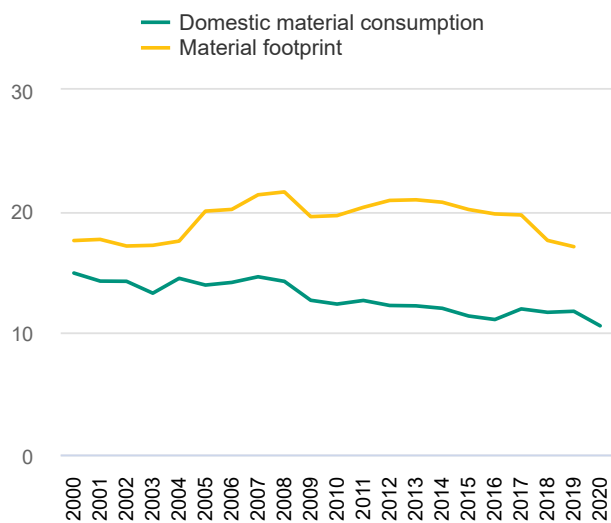
© OECD

Note: See [country metadata](#).

Source: OECD, "Waste: Municipal waste", *OECD Environment Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00601-en>.

France - Material consumption intensities

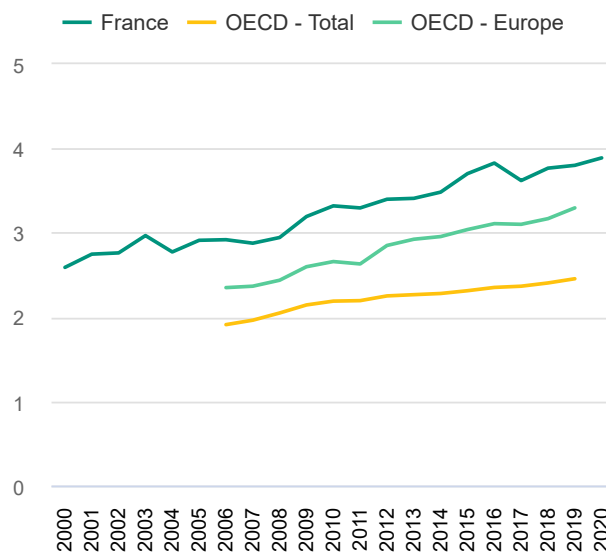
Tonne per capita



© OECD

Material productivity

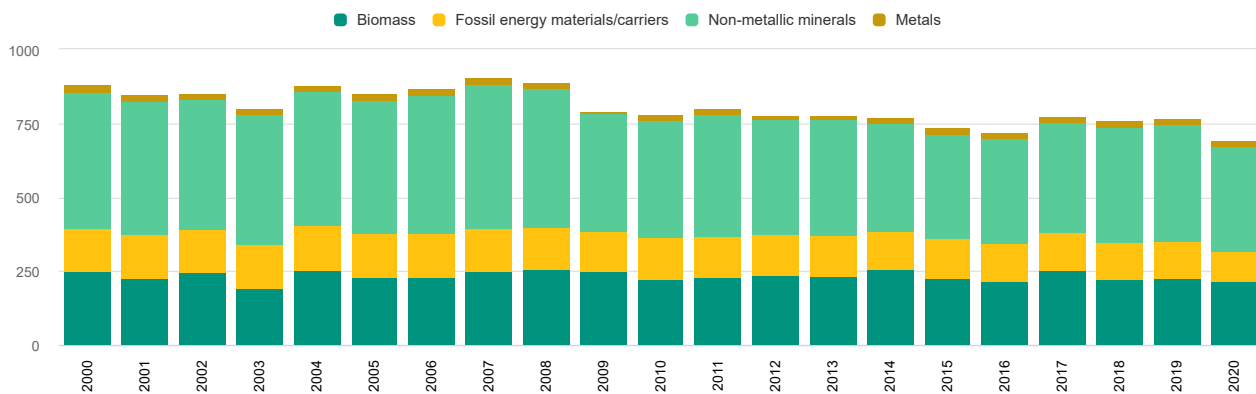
USD per kilogram



© OECD

France - Materials mix

Million tonnes



© OECD

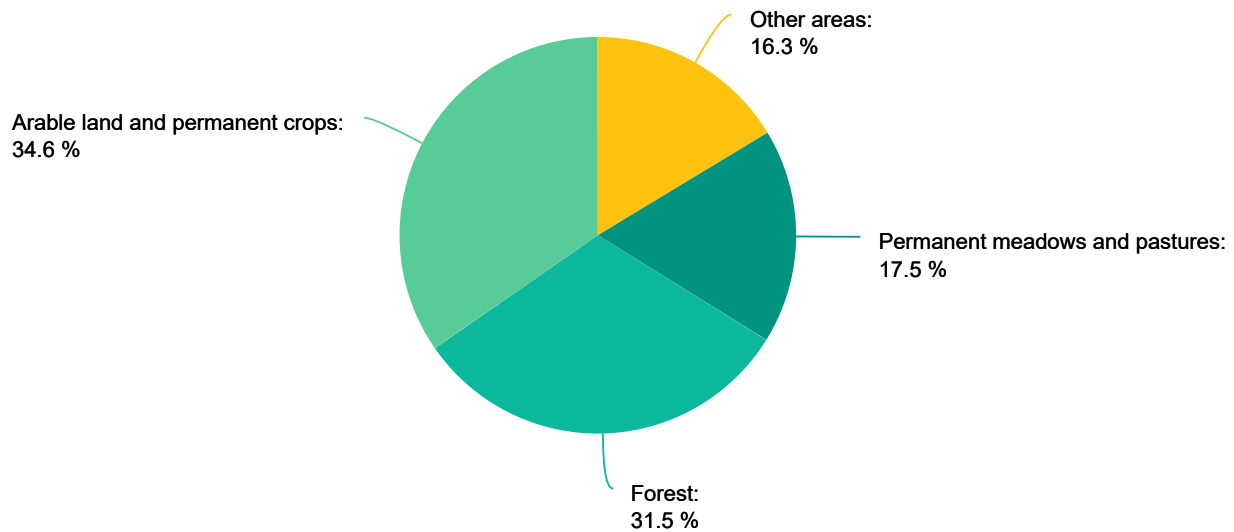
Note: A negative physical trade balance can result in negative values.

Source: OECD, "Material resources: Material resources", OECD Environment Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00695-en>.

Biodiversity

France - Land use

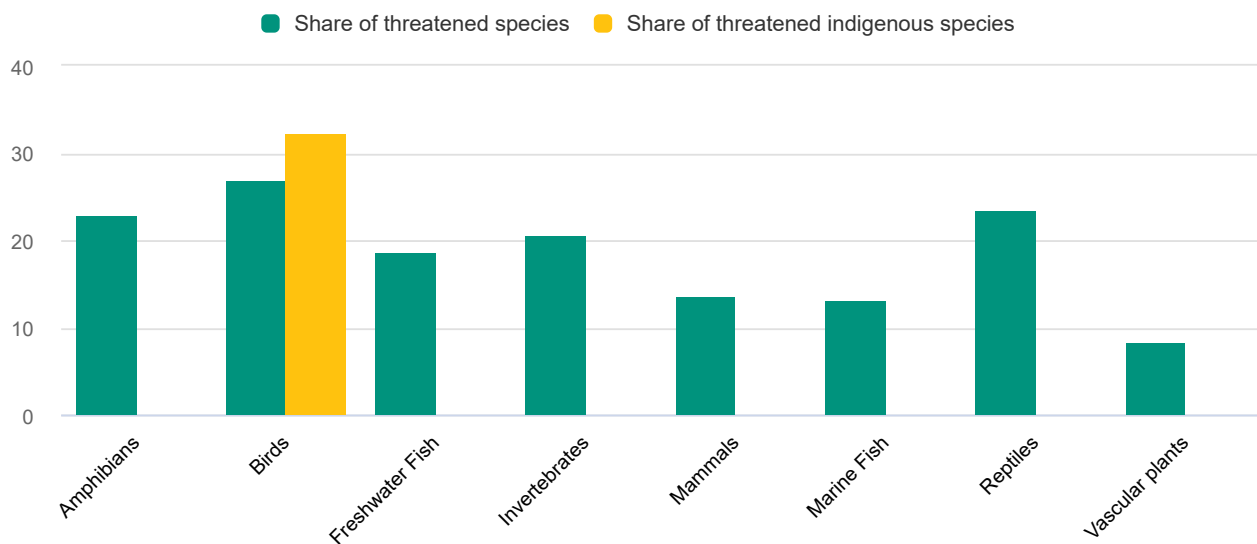
% of land area, 2020



© OECD

France - Threatened species

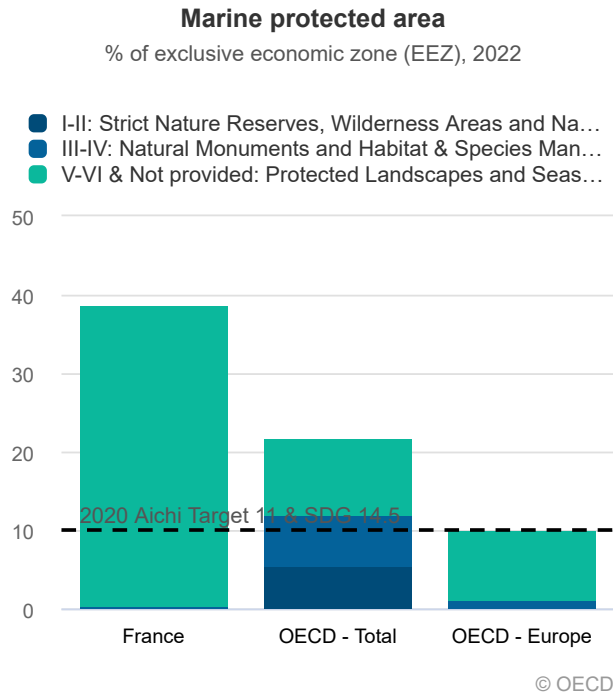
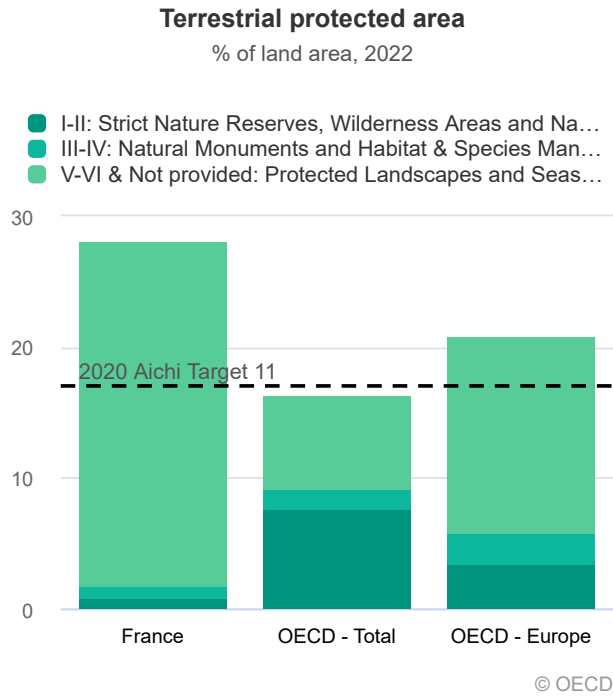
% of known species, Latest available year



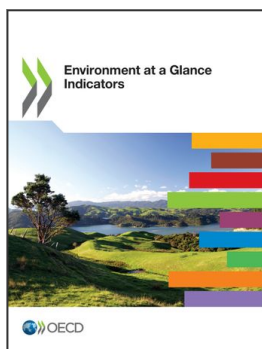
© OECD

Note: Threatened species: see [country metadata](#).

Sources: OECD, "Biodiversity: Threatened species", *OECD Environment Statistics* (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/data-00605-en>.



Source: OECD, "Biodiversity: Protected areas", OECD Environment Statistics (database), <https://doi.org/10.1787/5fa661ce-en>.



From:
Environment at a Glance Indicators

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/ac4b8b89-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2023), “France”, in *Environment at a Glance Indicators*.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/42f1e86b-en>

This document, as well as any data and map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area. Extracts from publications may be subject to additional disclaimers, which are set out in the complete version of the publication, available at the link provided.

The use of this work, whether digital or print, is governed by the Terms and Conditions to be found at <http://www.oecd.org/termsandconditions>.