

France's National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) was adopted by the Interministerial Committee for Sustainable Development on 27 July 2010. This document presents headline and context indicators updated in October 2011 in the first report submitted to Parliament on implementation of the NSDS.

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Introduction

In line with the provisions of the Grenelle Environment Planning Act, the French government has adopted the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) for the 2010-2013 period. Drafting of the strategy involved numerous public and private sector partners.

The fifteen headline indicators and four economic and social context indicators presented in this document form the core of the indicator scoreboard used to facilitate monitoring of the NSDS and to contribute to its wide dissemination.

The indicators were chosen within the framework of collaboration organised in accordance with the Grenelle's model of governance by five stakeholder groups. A commission constituted in line with this principle – and chaired by Philippe Le Clézio, a member of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council – worked through the winter of 2010-2011 to produce the scoreboard.

This open and lively collaboration conveyed the importance of widespread uptake of the sustainable development indicators and of their potential role in the public debate.

The indicators were selected in accordance with several criteria. They were chosen to:

- illustrate the key issues for sustainable development in response to the NSDS's nine key challenges:
 - Challenge 1: Sustainable consumption and production;
 - Challenge 2: Knowledge society (education and training, research and development);

- Challenge 3: Governance;
- Challenge 4: Climate change and energy;
- Challenge 5: Sustainable transport and mobility;
- Challenge 6: Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources;
- Challenge 7: Public health, risk prevention and management;
- Challenge 8: Demographics, immigration, social inclusion;
- Challenge 9: International challenges of sustainable development and fight against world poverty;
- be consistent with the European headline indicators;
- be applicable to infra national territories (including overseas territories), to give expression to the concerns of populations as comprehensively as possible and as close as possible to the grassroots;
- provide information on breakdown by social category, income class, age or gender.

Three “categories” of indicators are distinguished for the scoreboard: fifteen headline indicators relating directly to the issues covered by the strategy (Level 1), four economic and social context indicators and thirty-five additional indicators relating to strategic choices (Level 2, not presented in this document).

All of the indicators were updated in October 2011, for submission to Parliament of the first report on implementation of the NSDS for 2010-2013.

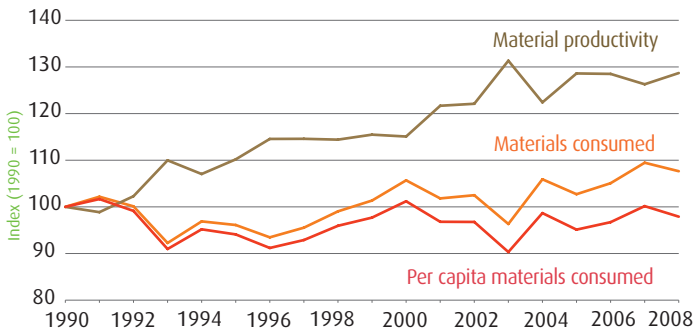
Calculation and updating of the indicators is coordinated by Insee and SOeS, with contribution from other ministerial statistics departments.

Material productivity

Headline indicator 111

Material productivity increased by 29% in France between 1990 and 2008 but per capita material consumption remained stable.

Material productivity and per capita domestic material consumption



Note: Aggregate apparent domestic consumption, in tonnes, fossil fuels, mineral and agricultural products, extracted from national territory or imported as raw materials or finished products, minus exports.

Source: SOeS – Insee, 2011. Metropolitan France and overseas departments.

Key challenge 1: “Sustainable consumption and production”

Issues

Orienting our modes of production and consumption towards an economy that uses less natural resources is a major issue. The EU’s strategy in favour of sustainable development, like that of France, aims to decouple economic growth from the environmental impact of use of natural resources and raw materials. Progress on decoupling can be approached via material productivity indicators. Material productivity gives an indication of the efficiency of an economy by linking use of materials and the level of economic activity.

Analysis

Material productivity is equal to GDP divided by the apparent domestic material consumption. In France in 2008, it was €1.8 of GDP per kg of materials used. It has increased by 29% since 1990, indicating a lower need for materials to produce the same level of value added. In spite of this progress, the amount of materials consumed has not reduced, as a result of an increase in output.

Per capita material consumption has been stable since 1990, at around 14 tonnes per inhabitant in 2008. When hidden flows are also taken into account, total estimated per capita consumption rises to 28 tonnes, twice the level of apparent domestic consumption. In Europe, material productivity in 2007 was €1.6 of GDP/kg of materials used for the EU-15 and €1.3 for EU-27, corresponding to a per capita apparent domestic material consumption of 20 tonnes for EU-15, 16.5 tonnes for EU-27.

For further information:

- <http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>, click on: Environnement > Ressources et déchets > Gestion des ressources
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators

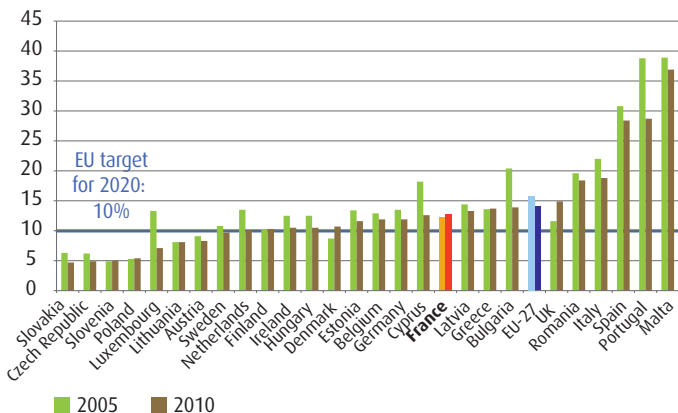
Early school leavers

Headline indicator 211

With 12.8% of 18-24 year olds leaving the education system early in 2010, France is slightly above the EU's 2020 target level of 10%. The aim is to foster social inclusion and access to employment via education and training.

Early leavers (proportion of 18-24 year olds not in education or training and without higher secondary school qualifications)

As %



Note: Countries ranked according to value in 2010; break for the Denmark, UK and Netherlands sets.
Source: Eurostat, calculated from Work Force survey, 2010

Key challenge 2: “Knowledge society”

Issues

Having higher secondary educational qualifications can be considered as a guarantee of an adequate level of education to participate in the knowledge society. That is why the EU has set as a target that, by 2020, “early leavers” amongst 18-24 year olds (i.e. young people not in education or training and without higher secondary level qualifications) should represent less than 10% of that age group. In France, that means 18-24 year olds no longer in education or training and not having attained the CAP (certificate of occupational aptitude) or BEP (school leaving certificate).

Analysis

With 12.8% of early leavers in 2010 in the 18-24 year old group, France is close to the 10% target. However, the situation has not improved since 2005, with a slight increase in early leavers of 0.6%. France does, however, stand out from the southern European countries which suffer from a general lag in secondary education. The level of early leavers for the whole of the EU was 14.1% in 2010, falling from 15.8% in 2005 and 17.6% in 2000.

For further information:

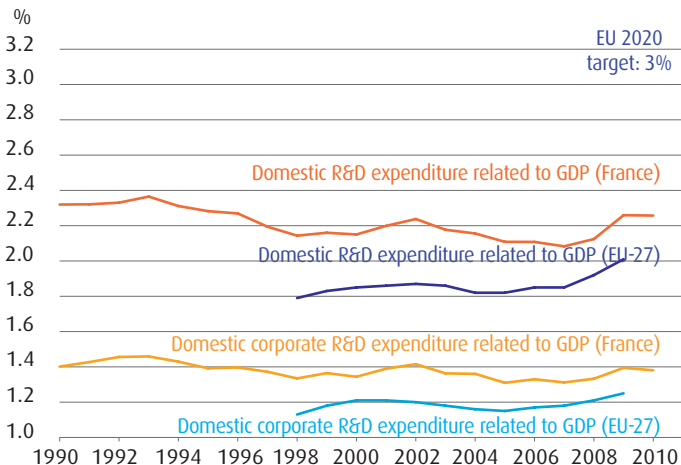
- <http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes>, click on: enseignement-éducation
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators > Social inclusion > Education
- <http://www.oecd.org/education>
- <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/pid20303/evaluationstatistiques.html>
- <http://www.education.gouv.fr/pid132/les-publications.html>

Research and development

Headline indicator 212

Domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) was 2.26% of GDP in 2010. In 2009 it reached its highest level since 1996 but remained below the target of 3% set by the EU for 2020.

Share of R&D expenditure in GDP, including corporate R&D



Source: MESR-SIES, OECD, 2010

Key challenge 2: “Knowledge society”

Issues

R&D is a key factor for growth and employment in the mid-term, as it is the source of innovation that allows a competitive position in development of the knowledge society. It is one of the means for meeting the major challenges facing society (energy, climate change, health, etc.) and for encouraging sustainable growth and a “green” economy.

Monitoring of R&D expenditure is a direct response to the European strategic target for 2020 of a level of investment in R&D corresponding to 3% of GDP, at both the European and national levels.

Analysis

In 2009 and 2010, 2.6% of France’s GDP was allocated to R&D expenditure, whereas it represented 2.32% of GDP in 1990. The proportion of this expenditure in GDP, reducing since 1990, increased temporarily between 2000 and 2002, when the Lisbon strategy was launched. In 2009, the effort on research reached its highest level since 1996 (2.26%). Higher than the proportion for the EU-27 (2.01%), this is still less than in Germany (2.82%). 62% of R&D expenditure is by corporations, a proportion that has been stable since 1999 and close to the division of R&D expenditure between the public and private sectors in the EU-27.

For further information:

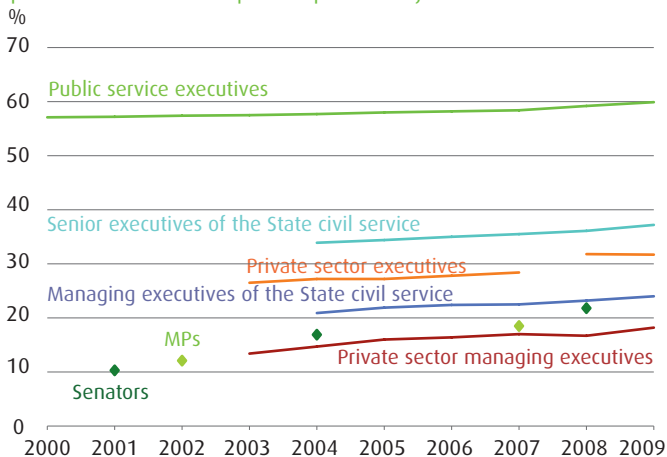
- <http://cisad.adc.education.fr/reperes/public/chiffres/> (Ministry of Higher Education and Research)
- <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>, click on: Statistics database > Science and technology

Participation of women in governance bodies

Headline indicator 311

Women's participation in governance bodies is progressing but is still low and below levels in the most advanced countries.

Proportion of women with responsible positions or jobs



Scope: private and semi-public sector executives working full time. Equivalent full time employees in commercial non-agricultural sectors; state civil service. Main jobs, physical numbers as of 31 December, France.

Note: break in sets between 2007 and 2008 for private sector executives as a result of change in DADS professional category codes.

Source: Ministry of Interior – DGAFF – Insee

For further information:

- <http://www.insee.fr> (dossier sur la parité)
- <http://www.observatoire-parite.gouv.fr> (repères statistiques)
- <http://www.fonction-publique.gouv.fr>, click on : publications, statistiques
- <http://www.undp.org/french/> (UNDP development report, French version)

Key challenge 3: “Governance”

Issues

Aiming to improve parity between men and women in nationally elected and decision-making positions and in both public and private sectors can be seen as a way of helping society to develop by mobilising all of its skills. It is also a way of fostering experimentation with new ways of attaining sustainable development aims.

The main indicator on the proportion of female senators amongst all of the elected members of the Senate provides regular (three yearly) information that depends on the functioning of society as whole and not directly on laws on parity in electoral mandates promulgated since 2000 (local elections for municipalities with populations of over 3.500, regional and European elections).

Analysis

In 2008, 21.8% of elected members of the Senate were women, against 5.9% in 1998 and 1.7% in 1977. Encouraged by the requirements of the Act of 10 July 2000, this increase remains well below the proportion of women candidates (42%) and their proportion in the electorate (53%). 18.5% of members of parliament are women.

The proportion of women amongst managing executives in the State civil service is increasing but remains low (21% in 2004, 24% in 2009) whereas women represent 60% of executive staff as a whole. This is slightly higher than for managing women executives in the private sector (15% in 2004, 18% in 2009).

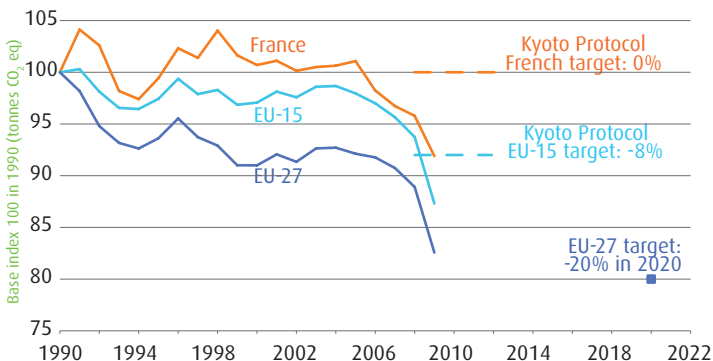
In the UNDP’s Human Development Report, France ranked 17th in 2009 for its participation of women. This is a compound index, with the drawbacks inherent to such indices, but it does indicate that France is lagging with regard to parity between men and women in relation to the most advanced countries.

Aggregated emissions of six greenhouse gases

Headline indicator 411

Between 1990 and 2009, the reduction in France's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reached 8.1%, ahead of the Kyoto Protocol's stabilisation target.

Evolution of emissions of six GHGs in France and European Union



Note: Total emissions not including land use, its change and forests. Maritime and international air traffic emissions are excluded.

Source: SOeS from Citepa, UNFCCC inventory May 2011 (including overseas departments) - European Environment Agency, 2011

Key challenge 4: “Climate change and energy”

Issues

Combating climate change is a major global challenge. By signing the Kyoto Protocol, the EU-15 committed to reducing its emissions by 8% in relation to 1990 levels between 2008 and 2012; France’s aim was to stabilise its emissions, given the country’s low level of per capita emissions. By 2020, the European Union has committed to reducing its emissions by 20% in relation to 1990 levels. France is taking part and has committed to reducing its emissions by a factor of four by 2050.

Analysis

In 2009, France’s emissions inventory showed a reduction of 8.1% for the gases in the Kyoto “basket” in relation to 1990, measured in terms of global warming potential.

Changes in GHG emission levels vary, however, depending on the gas considered. CO₂ emissions, which constituted 72% of total emissions in 2009, have reduced by 5.1% since 1990. 95% of CO₂ emissions arise from combustion for energy. Emissions of methane (CH₄), 13% of emissions, have reduced by 2.3% since 1990 as a result, notably, of closures of coal mines and less livestock farming of ruminants. Emissions of nitrous oxide (N₂O), 12% of emissions, dropped one-third as a result of reduction in emissions from the chemical industry. Lastly, the use of fluorated gases in cooling systems explains the sharp increase in their emission (+63%).

In the EU-15, GHG emissions dropped by 12.7% between 1990 and 2009, beating the Kyoto Protocol target of an 8% reduction. In that same period, the EU-27’s emissions dropped by 17.4%.

For further information:

- <http://www.citepa.org>
- <http://eea.europa.eu/> (European Environment Agency)

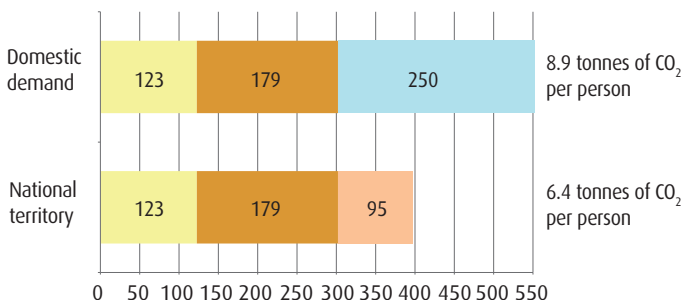
Carbon footprint

Headline indicator 412

The carbon footprint for a French inhabitant is around 9 tonnes of CO₂ per year if foreign trade is included. That is 39% higher than the emissions per inhabitant in the national territory alone.

Carbon footprint for domestic final demand in 2007

In millions of tonnes of CO₂



- Direct household emissions (cars and heating)
- Emissions from national output to satisfy domestic demand
- Emissions associated with net imports (excluding re-exported imports)
- Emissions associated with exports (excluding re-exported imports)

Note: CO₂ emitted within national territory of metropolitan France (excluding CO₂ from energy biomass or land use, its change and forests) and estimate of CO₂ associated with imports.

Source: SOeS, from Citepa – Insee – Customs services – Eurostat and IEA, 2011

Key challenge 4: “Climate change and energy”

Issues

The inventories of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions prepared under the UN Climate Change Convention are drawn up on the basis of the perimeter of the national territories of the signatory nations. However, in the context of a global economy, it is necessary to take account of the emissions relating to all goods and services, including those generated beyond national boundaries, as well as transfer of activities to other countries (carbon leaks). Widening GHG monitoring beyond the perimeter of national territory and including the CO₂ equivalent content of external trade allows an appreciation of the global impact of a country’s consumption on the climate, a global common.

Analysis

Following on from a first estimate made for 2005, work is under way to update this indicator on a regular basis and to analyse its evolution. The provisional estimate made for 2007 shows that France’s imports were responsible for the emission of around 250 million tonnes of CO₂ generated abroad to satisfy domestic final demand (not including re-exported imports), that is 45% of the carbon footprint of French demand.

In these conditions, the carbon footprint (estimated for CO₂ only) for the final demand of each French inhabitant is 8.9 tonnes per year, whereas 6.4 tonnes of CO₂ per capita are emitted on average within French territory.

For further information:

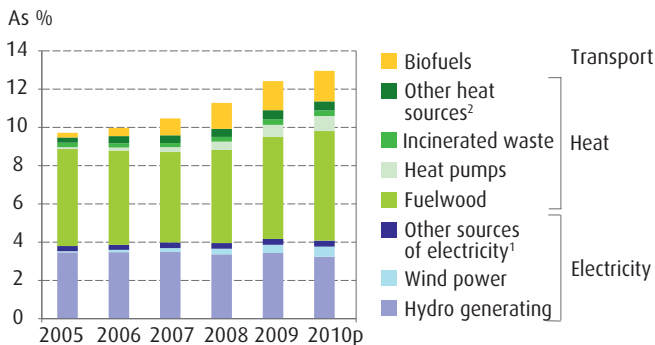
- <http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>, click on: Environnement
- <http://carbonfootprintofnations.com>

Renewable energy

Headline indicator 413

The Grenelle 1 Act set a target of 23% of energy from renewable sources in France's final energy consumption by 2020, in line with the European Directive of 2009. This rate progressed from 9.7% in 2005 to 12.9% in 2010.

Share of renewable energy in final energy consumption



¹ Solar photovoltaic, marine energy, geothermal electricity, biomass electricity (fuelwood, biogas, incinerated waste, bagasse).

² Thermal solar, geothermal, biogas, agricultural and agri-food wastes.

p = provisional data

Source: SOeS, 2011, whole of France

For further information:

- <http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>, click on : Énergies et climat and Environnement
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators

Key challenge 4: “Climate change and energy”

Issues

Energy from renewable sources does not use up the stock of exhaustible natural resources. It also has the advantage, in relation to fossil fuels, of not emitting greenhouse gases in either its production or use (e.g. solar, wind, hydro) or, as in the case of biomass, is carbon neutral (the CO₂ emitted during combustion being assumed equal to that taken up during growth). Renewable energy contributes to diversity and security of energy supply. Its development is also one of the most effective ways of combating climate change.

Analysis

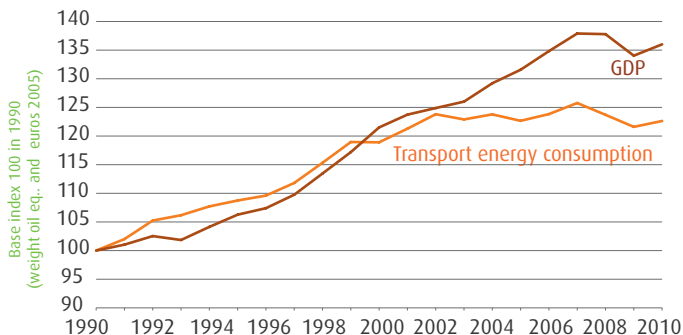
In 2010, final energy consumption from renewable sources in France was 22 million tonnes of oil equivalent, mainly from fuelwood and hydroelectricity. The share of renewable energy in France’s total final energy consumption in 2010 was 12.9%. The Grenelle 1 Act set a renewable energy target of 23% of final consumption by 2020, in line with the 2009 European Directive. The improvement observed since 2005 stems mainly from the combined effects of use of biofuels and heat production that has increased via use of fuelwood and heat pumps. Generation of electricity, for its part, has tended to stagnate, with the strong progress of wind power only just compensating for the regular drop in hydro generating. In the EU-27, renewable energy was covering 10.3% of final energy consumption in 2008, the target being 20% by 2020.

Transport energy consumption and GDP

Headline indicator 511

Until 1999, energy consumption for transport followed growth in GDP closely. Since then, it has been rising much more slowly. Not including biofuels, energy consumption for transport in 2010 returned to its 1999 level.

Energy consumption for transport and GDP



Note: final energy consumption of the transport sector, excluding international bunker quantities. Metropolitan France.

Source: SOeS – Insee

For further information:

- <http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>, click on: Transports, Énergies et climat and Environnement

Key challenge 5: “Sustainable transport and mobility”

Issues

The national sustainable development strategy, like the European sustainable development strategy, highlights the necessity of decoupling economic development from increasing transport flows so as to minimise damage to the environment. This implies, notably, opting for modes of transport and patterns of mobility that use less energy and are more respectful of the environment.

Analysis

Until 1999, transport energy consumption followed growth in GDP closely. Since 2000, it has progressed more slowly. This is mainly due to the much lower consumption of the vehicle fleet, resulting from tightening of standards and the introduction of incentives for stakeholders (scrappage allowance schemes, bonus/malus). Increased fuel prices and better adherence to speed limits have also contributed. Consumption of biofuels is increasing rapidly as a result of the regular increase in their regulatory level of incorporation (7% in 2010 for gasoline). Renewables thus represented 5.3% of transport’s energy consumption in 2010, against 0.8% in 2005.

In 2010, 82% of domestic passenger transport was by car. The share of public transport (rail and road) was 16.8%.

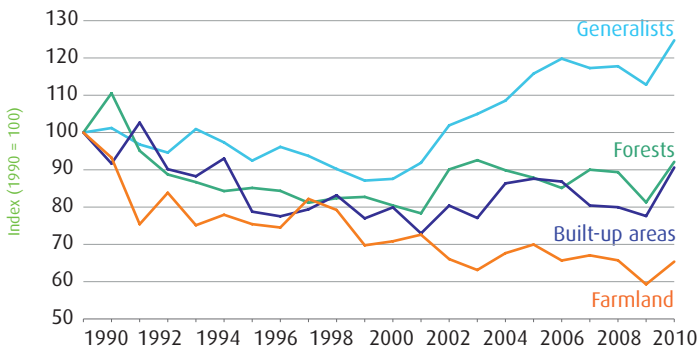
For goods transport, the share of modes other than road (rail and inland waterways) was 11.1% in 2010. The target set by the Grenelle 1 Act is to increase this share by one quarter between 2006 and 2012. Transport of goods by road continues to increase. In 2010 it accounted for 88.9% of traffic measured in tonnes-km.

Abundance index of common bird populations

Headline indicator 611

Numbers of the four groups of birds studied declined during the 1990s. However, specialist species appear to have stabilised over the past decade. Generalist species adapt better and show a clear increase. If confirmed, this evolution will constitute a threat to the avian fauna as a result of its homogenisation.

Evolution of the abundance index of common bird populations



Source: National Natural History Museum, 2010, Metropolitan France

Key challenge 6: “Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources”

Issues

In line with its international commitments, France introduced a national strategy for biodiversity in 2004, with the aim of arresting biodiversity loss between 2004 and 2010. The strategy was renewed for the 2011-2020 period and forms the “biodiversity” part of the national sustainable development strategy. France, with Spain, has the most varied avian fauna in Europe. Common birds are monitored throughout national territory and constitute good markers for the pressures exerted on the environment.

Analysis

Between 1989 and 2010, common bird populations underwent contrasting changes. The overall trend observed since 1989 for the 65 species monitored indicates: decline in farmland species (-27%), sensitive to the degradation of their habitats, and decline in built up areas (-12%) and forest species (-8%). However, over the past decade, numbers seem to have stabilised for specialist species (at a low level for farmland birds). Generalist species adapt better and show clear increase (+25%).

Similar trends are observed in Europe. The causes of decline are multiple. Degradation or loss of habitat remains the main threat. The “Birds” and “Habitats” directives are the cornerstone of the European Union’s actions to preserve biodiversity. The sites designated under these two directives constitute the “Natura 2000” network, covering 17.5% of the EU-27’s land surface.

For further information:

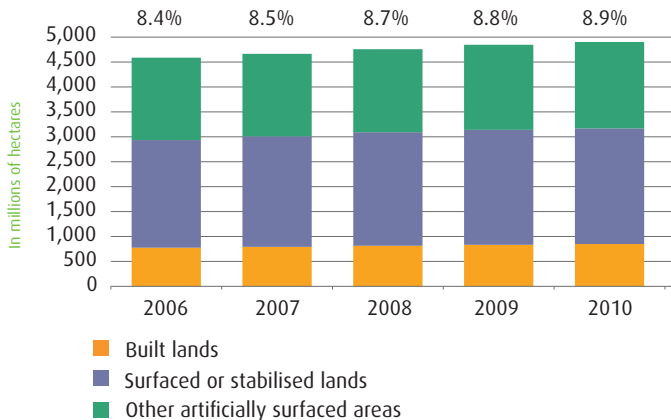
- <http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>, click on: Environnement > Milieux > Nature et biodiversité
- <http://vigienature.mnhn.fr>, click on: Oiseaux

Artificialisation of soils

Headline indicator 612

Artificial surfaces occupied 4.9 million hectares in France in 2010, around 9% of the metropolitan area. They are continuing to extend to the detriment of agricultural lands and natural areas.

Development of artificialised areas



Note: Metropolitan France

Source: Ministry of Agriculture (SSP), Teruti-Lucas survey, revised data set, April 2011

Key challenge 6: “Conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and natural resources”

Issues

The spread of artificial surfaces engenders losses of natural and agricultural resources and sealing of surfaces, usually irreversible. It is accompanied by fragmentation or compartmentalisation of natural areas, which is prejudicial to numerous species. It also contributes to increased travel and, thereby, to increased emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Combating artificial covering of areas and uniformisation of landscapes is one of the strategic choices for the national sustainable development strategy.

Analysis

According to the Teruti-Lucas survey, artificially covered areas represented 8.9% of territory in 2010, i.e. 4.9 million hectares. 17% of these areas were built-up (houses, blocks, etc.), 47% were surfaced or stabilised areas (roads, parking areas, etc.) and 36% represented other types of artificial areas (gardens, worksites, etc.). Artificial areas increased by around 315,000 hectares between 2006 and 2010, mainly (58%) to the detriment of agricultural lands, but also of semi-natural areas. The pace of this consumption of space accelerated over the past decade in relation to the preceding one.

For further information:

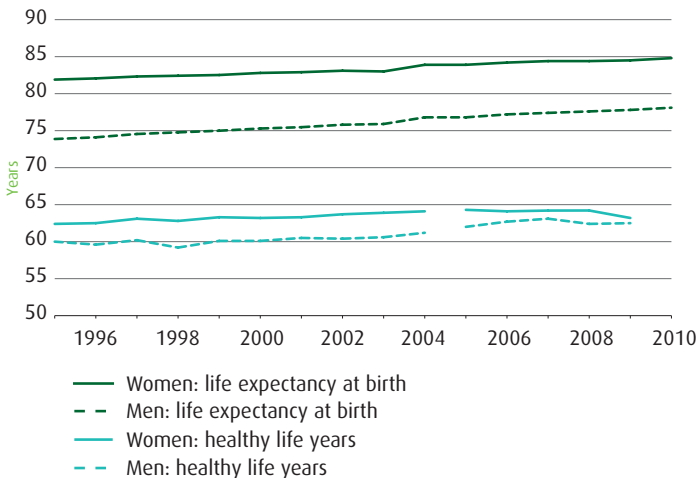
- <http://agreste.agriculture.gouv.fr>, click on: Thématique > Territoire, Environnement
- <http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>, click on: Environnement

Life expectancy and healthy life years

Headline indicator 711

Life expectancy at birth and healthy life years continue to improve. The results are comparable with those for neighbouring countries but a little lower than for the Nordic countries. Differences in life expectancy between the different social categories are still great.

Life expectancy and healthy life years, at birth, in France



Note: Break in series in 2004 for healthy life years

Life expectancy: provisional results at end of 2010

Source: Insee, population estimates and statistics for the civil population, Metropolitan France

Key challenge 7: “Public health, risk prevention and management”

Issues

Life expectancy at birth, like the expected number of healthy life years (i.e. without limitation on activity or serious incapacity) is a major aspect of wellbeing, gauged by measuring the overall results of health policy. Differences between social categories indicate inequalities to be addressed in this area.

Analysis

In France in 2009, the expected number of years of healthy life at birth, that is to say without limitation on activity, is estimated at 63.2 years for women and 62.5 years for men. This result is comparable with those for neighbouring countries but a little lower than for the Nordic countries.

The difference in life expectancy at birth between men and women is greater – 84.8 years for women and 78.1 years for men in 2010 – even though gains in life expectancy for men have been more rapid than those for women in the past ten years. Differences in expectancies between social categories are more marked for men than for women. In the mid 1990s, male executives at the age of 35 had a life expectancy of 47 years, against only 41 years for male routine workers. The difference was less than half of this for female executives and female routine workers (52 and 49 years respectively).

For further information:

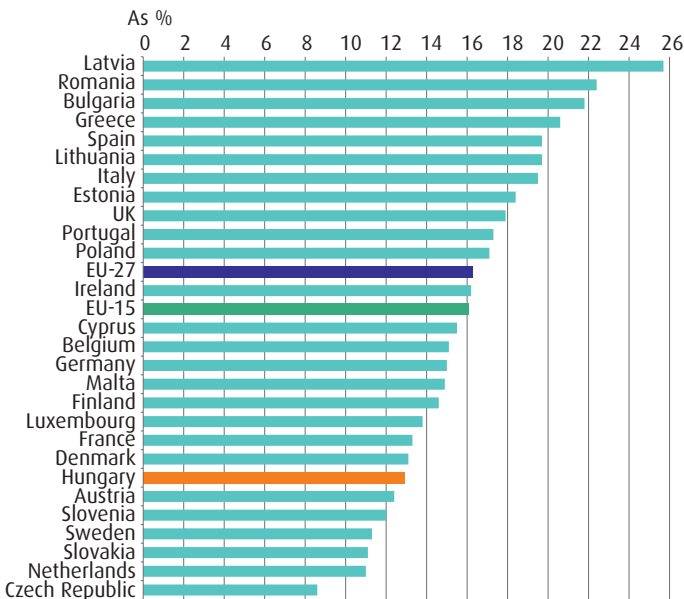
- <http://www.insee.fr>, click on: Thème > Population
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators > Public health
- Insee Première « L'espérance de vie s'accroît, les inégalités sociales face à la mort demeurent » n° 1372 octobre 2011

Monetary poverty after social transfers

Headline indicator 811

In 2009, 13.5% of people living in France were below the poverty line of €954 euros per month. This proportion had risen by 0.5% in relation to 2008. The average for the European Union was 16% in 2008.

Monetary poverty rate after social transfers in 2008



Source: Eurostat, monetary poverty rate after social transfers, source EU-SILC

Key challenge 8: “Demographics, immigration, social inclusion”

Issues

Knowledge of national income enables calculation of average economic prosperity but gives no indication of how that prosperity is shared out amongst individuals. To get a picture of the objective of social cohesion, a core concept for the notion of sustainable development, income inequalities must also be considered and, upstream, inequalities in access to employment and education. The main indicator used here is the level of monetary poverty, that is to say people whose standard of living (disposable income after consideration of tax and social services and taking account of the composition of the household) is below 60% of the median standard.

Analysis

Monetary poverty defined in this way affected 13.5% of the people in France in 2009, according to the ERFIS (fiscal and social incomes survey). These people live on less than €954 per month. After showing a clear drop in 1970-1980, and a continuing downward trend in the 1990s, poverty levels are no longer declining.

Poverty affects around 31% of people living in single parent families. According to the European source on income and living conditions (SILC-SRCV), the European average in 2008 was 16%, with important differences between countries: 11 or 12% in the Netherlands and Austria against around 20% in Greece and Spain, for example. The Baltic countries, Bulgaria and Romania are the most affected.

For further information:

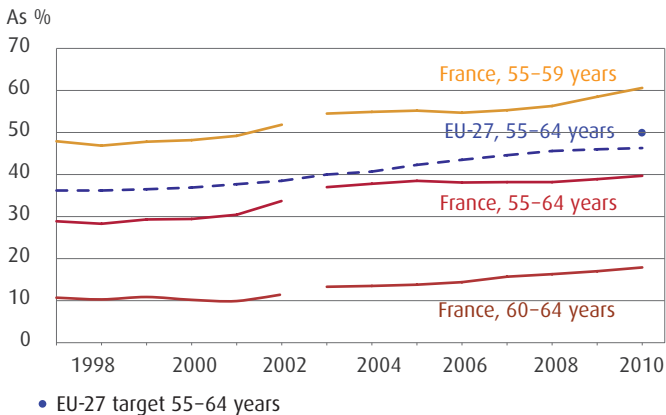
- <http://www.insee.fr>, click on: Publications et services > Dossier > Inégalités sociales
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators > Social inclusion

Employment rate of older workers

Headline indicator 812

In 2010, 40% of people aged between 55 and 64 years in France were employed. This rate remains low, less than that for the EU-27 (46%) and very much less than the 50% target fixed for 2010 in the Lisbon Treaty.

Employment rate of older workers



Note: break in French data series between 2002 and 2003, Metropolitan France

Source: Insee, employment survey, Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, sustainable development indicators

Key challenge 8: “Demographics, immigration, social inclusion”

Issues

Employment of 55 to 64 year olds is considered as an important lever for limiting their exclusion from the labour market and for controlling retirement spending. The EU strategy, included in the Lisbon strategy, is to reach an employment rate of 50% for this group by 2010.

Analysis

In 2010, the average rate of employment of workers between 55 and 64 years of age was only 40% in France. It is 46% in the EU-27, whereas the EU's target, like that of France, is for 50% by 2010. However, there has been a notable improvement since 2000, even more pronounced after correction for the effects of demographic structure (increased ageing of generations becoming less and less active).

Given the legal requirements on retirement age current in 2010, there is a large difference in France between the employment rate for 55–59 year olds, at 61% in 2010, and that for 60–64 years olds, at 18%.

For further information:

- <http://www.insee.fr>, click on: Thèmes > Travail-Emploi > Emploi-Population active
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators > Demographic changes
- <http://www.travail-solidarite.gouv.fr>, click on: Études, recherche, statistiques de la Dares, étude n° 039 de juin 2010

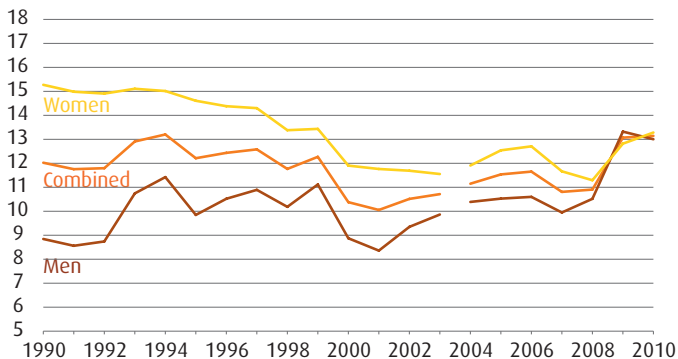
Proportion of young people unemployed and not in training

Headline indicator 813

In 2010, 13.1% of young people aged between 16 and 25 were unemployed and not in training. This proportion was stable in 2010, after a sharp increase in 2009, returning to its mid 1990s level.

Proportion of young people between 16 and 25 unemployed and not in training

As %



Note: Break in series in 2003. Age at end of year.

Source: Insee, quarterly employment survey since 2003, annual employment survey before. Metropolitan France.

Key challenge 8: “Demographics, immigration, social inclusion”

Issues

Young people’s access to employment and training is a determining factor for their social inclusion and for social cohesion. Their inclusion contributes to the development of human capital and to its mobilisation for future development.

Analysis

The proportion of young people aged between 16 and 25 who are registered as unemployed or who are inactive without having been in training, even for a short period, is an indicator of the difficulties of the social inclusion of the young and of an absence of prospects that can lead to their becoming marginalised.

In 2010, 13.1% of young people were in this situation, that is 2% more than in 2008. It is the highest level reached since 1994. This situation is related to the economic crisis, as 2010 saw no upturn for the young even though employment was beginning to rise.

Young women are more exposed to this type of problem than young men: in 2010, 13.3% of them were not in education or training, against 13% for men. This difference is, however, reducing progressively: it was 6.4 points in 1990.

For further information:

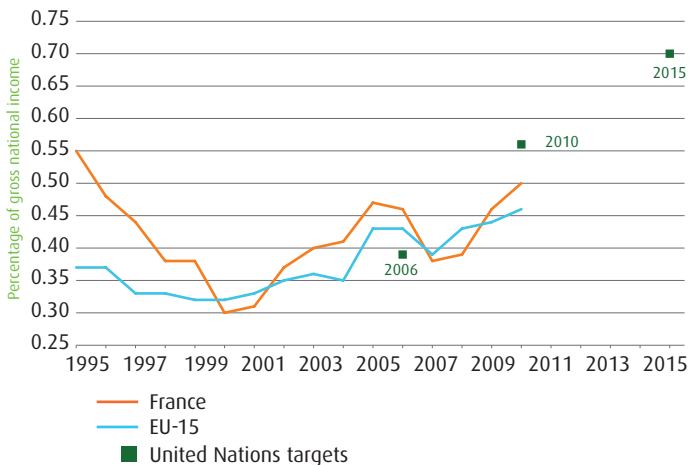
- <http://www.insee.fr>, click on: Thèmes > Travail-Emploi
- <http://www.travail-solidarite.gouv.fr>, click on: Études, recherche, statistiques de la Dares and Études, recherche, statistiques de la Drees

Official development assistance

Headline indicator 911

In 2010, France allocated 0.50% of its gross national income to official development assistance (ODA). The level has increased slightly over two years but remains below the commitment made to the United Nations to allocate 0.56% in 2010 and 0.7% by 2015.

Official development assistance



Source: Eurostat, sustainable development indicators

Key challenge 9: “International challenges for sustainable development and fight against world poverty”

Issues

This challenge reflects a concern for global equity. Sustainable development is inconceivable without a reduction in world poverty and in the major imbalances in the distribution of wealth. Official development assistance (ODA) provides a measure of the effective solidarity of countries with regard to the rest of the world. The European Union is the source of around half of the world's efforts on ODA.

Analysis

In 2010, France allocated 0.50% of its gross national income (GNI) to ODA, a level that had risen for two years. It was above that of the EU-15 (0.46%) and of the EU-27 (0.43%). However, in the light of the commitments made by European governments in 2000 to the Millennium Goals, further efforts will be needed to reach the target of 0.7% by 2015. Only Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Sweden are already exceeding the 2015 target.

For further information:

- <http://www.oecd.org/cad> (OECD Development Assistance Committee)
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators > Global partnership
- <http://www.insee.fr>, click on: Publications et services > Développement durable

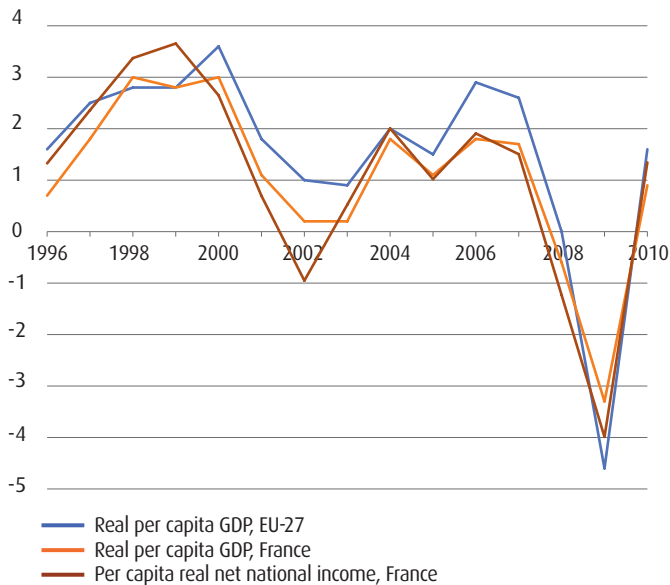
Net national income and GDP per capita

Context indicator 0.1

Between 2000 and 2010, economic growth measured in terms of real net per capita national income increased, on average, by 0.3% per year. Against the yardstick of per capita gross national product (GDP), a more usable indicator for international comparison, growth in France between 2000 and 2010 was more moderate (0.5%) than for the whole of the 27-member state European Union (0.9%).

Annual growth in real net per capita national income and GDP

As %



Source: Insee, national accounts – Eurostat, 2010, base 2005

Economic and social context

Issues

Economic prosperity is one of the pillars of sustainable development. In line with the terms of the Lisbon Strategy, approved in March 2000, the European Union's sustainable development strategy reaffirms the necessity of a dynamic economy as driver for sustainable development and growth.

Analysis

Dynamic per capita growth contributes to the development of mobilisable resources to meet current and future social and environmental needs. The dynamism of growth can be gauged from the evolution of per capita real net national income.

In France, between 2000 and 2010, per capita real net national income grew by 0.3% per year. This is a measure of what is actually available per person at the national level once account has been taken of exchanges of primary income with the rest of the world and the need to renew fixed installed capital to ensure sustainability. It is a better indicator than per capita GDP for measurement of sustainable development. In gross terms, its evolution is, however, close to that of GDP, an indicator which makes international comparison easier.

The growth in real GDP (i.e. in volume) per capita was more moderate in France than for the European Union as a whole between 2000 and 2010: +0.5% per year against +0.6% per year for the EU-15 and +0.9% for the EU-27.

For further information

- <http://www.insee.fr>, click on: Thèmes > Comptes nationaux et finances publiques
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators > Socio-economic development

Unemployment and underemployment rates

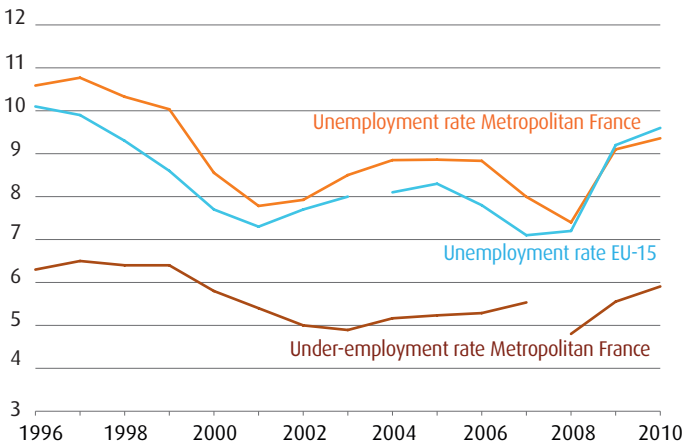
Context indicator 0.2

After a reduction between 2005 and 2008, the level of unemployment has increased again sharply, reaching 9.4% in 2010, a level comparable to that of the EU-15.

In 2010, 5.9% of employed people, i.e. around 1.5 million, found themselves obliged to work less than they would have wished.

Unemployment and underemployment rates

As %



Note: Break in series for European unemployment rate in 2003 and for underemployment rate in France in 2008

Source: Insee, employment survey – Eurostat, Labour Force Survey, sustainable development indicators

Economic and social context

Issues

Variations in employment and in the active population result, on balance, in variations in unemployment. Like the unemployment rate, the rate of underemployment is an indicator of the mismatch between labour supply and demand. From the sustainability point of view, this mismatch can be seen both as a source of inefficiency in the use of existing human resources and a source of tension affecting the wellbeing and living standard of a part of the population.

Analysis

France is amongst the European countries with the highest unemployment rates. Between 1993 and 1999, more than 10% of the active population was unemployed. This is higher than for the EU-15. After dropping in 2006, unemployment increased again sharply in 2009, reaching 9.4% in 2010, a level close to that of the EU-15. The unemployment rate profile follows economic cycles, with reductions that can reach several points in up cycles. The underemployment rate represents the proportion of people in employment who have been obliged to work less than they would have wished. Its evolution has been similar. In 2010, underemployment concerned 5.9% of the employed, that is around 1.5 million people. The difference between men and women is particularly marked: underemployment affected 8.8% of employed women, against 3.3% of men.

For further information:

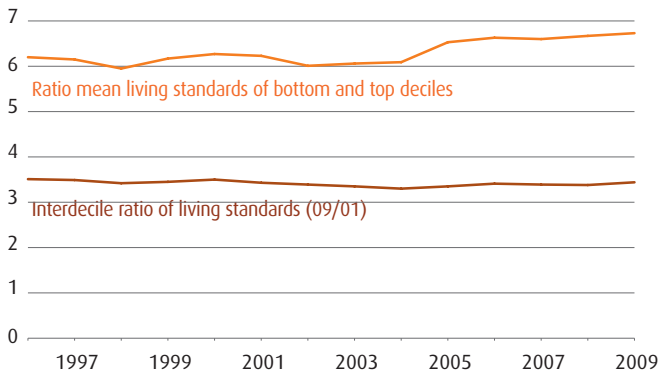
- <http://www.insee.fr>, click on: Thèmes > Travail – Emploi
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators > Socio-economic development

Income distribution

Context indicator 0.3

The gap between the living standards in the bottom and top deciles, social income included, is relatively stable. It is less marked than in the whole of the EU.

Distribution of standards of living: ratio of extreme deciles and interdecile ratio



Note: Break in series in 2002 and 2005

Scope: Households with declared income positive or zero and where the reference person is not a student in Metropolitan France.

Bottom living standard decile (D1): maximum income of 10% of the population with lowest income level.

Top living standard decile (D9): minimum income of 10% of the population with highest income level.

Source: Insee – DGI, fiscal incomes survey 1996-2005 and Insee-DGFIP-CnaI-CCMSA, fiscal and social incomes from 2005 to 2009.

For further information:

- <http://www.insee.fr>, dossier Inégalités sociales and click on: Publications et services > Collections nationales > Insee références > Les revenus et le patrimoine - Édition 2011
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators > Social inclusion

Economic and social context

Issues

The distribution of living standards, i.e. of income per consumer unit, gives an overview of monetary inequality. It can be interpreted in terms of sharing of the fruits of growth and of the importance afforded to questions of solidarity, equity and the risks arising from a deficit of social cohesion. A large gap between the top and bottom living standard deciles or a high interdecile ratio indicates a low degree of solidarity, which may lead to social risks. However, these analyses are highly dependent on cultural context, practices varying greatly from country to country. When attention is focused on the deprived members of society and on combating poverty and exclusion, the issues become an explicit part of the demographics, immigration and social inclusion challenge addressed under the NSDS.

Analysis

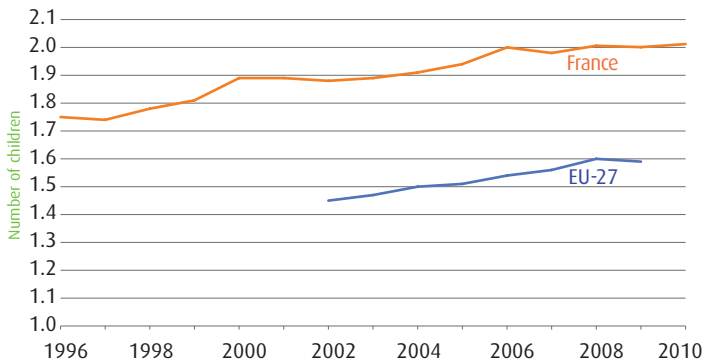
In metropolitan France, the ratio between the mean living standards (including social income exclusive of direct income taxes) of the top and bottom deciles was 6.73 in 2009, according to the fiscal and social incomes survey. It corresponds to a mean disposable income of €53,220 per year per consumer unit above the 9th decile, related to a mean income of €7,910 per year below the 1st decile, including social income. This living standards ratio appeared fairly stable from the mid 1990s to the mid 2000s, before increasing slightly. The interdecile ratio, that is to say between the top and bottom living standards deciles, is another measure of living standard inequality: it was 3.44 in 2009. It appears fairly stable throughout the period, oscillating between 3.3 and 3.5. According to the European survey of incomes and living conditions, which allows international comparisons, the distribution of living standards in 2008 appears narrower in France than in the rest of the European Union. According to this source, the ratio between the mean living standards of the top and bottom quintiles was 4.9 for EU-27 and 4.4 for France 2008.

Demographics: fertility rate

Context indicator 0.4

The indicator for total fertility in France has been progressing regularly for fifteen years. With 2.01 children per woman in 2010, the country, together with Ireland, has the highest fertility rate in the European Union. The total fertility rate for the whole of the European Union in 2009 was 1.59, a result of the low level in Europe's southern and eastern countries.

Total fertility rate



Note: The total fertility rate is a measure of the average number of children that would be born to a woman in her lifetime if the fertility rates observed in a specific year at each age remained unchanged.

Source: Insee, statistics and estimations for the civil population, provisional result at end of 2010 – Eurostat, data available in 2011

Economic and social context

Issues

The total fertility rate is often used to provide a snapshot of a population's capacity to renew its numbers in the long term based purely on natural changes (births, deaths). It is then compared to a replacement level, estimated at 2.1 for the developed countries. However, it should be noted that to ensure a degree of balance between generations or in the structure of the population in terms of the main age categories – thereby guaranteeing dynamism and continuity – solutions other than just natural fertility are also possible, notably the bringing in of other populations, used widely by countries of immigration.

Analysis

In 2010, the total fertility rate for France was at 2.01. In 2008, it reached its highest level since 1975, going beyond the symbolic threshold of two children per woman and has remained at that level since. France and Ireland are the European countries with the highest fertility. For the whole of the 27-member European Union, the total fertility rate was at 1.59 in 2009, a result of the low level of total fertility in Europe's southern and eastern countries (Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain on the one hand, Austria, Germany, Hungary and Poland on the other).

For further information

- <http://www.insee.fr>, click on: Thèmes > Population (Insee)
- <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, click on: Selected statistics > Sustainable development indicators > Demographic changes (Eurostat)
- <http://www.ined.fr>, click on: Population en chiffres

Glossary

Consumer unit: calculated from the number of individuals in a household using the modified OECD equivalence scale which attributes one unit to the first adult in a household, 0.5 to people over 14 years of age and 0.3 to children less than 14.

Domestic research and development expenditure (in France DIRD): corresponding to the research and development (R&D) work carried out within national territory regardless of origin of funding. Part of this is carried out by the administration (DIRDA), and part by corporations (DIRDE). It includes both current expenses and capital expenditure.

Expected healthy life years, at birth: a measure of how many years of healthy life a person can expect to live (from birth). Good health is defined as being free from limitations on activity in daily life and absence of incapacity.

Gross domestic product (GDP): value of all goods and services produced, minus the value of the goods and services used for their production. GDP is a measure of economic activity.

Gross national income (GNI): measures what is actually available within national territory, once account is taken of primary income exchanges with the rest of the world and the necessity of renewing installed fixed capital to ensure a degree of sustainability.

Household disposable income: this includes the income from activity, from assets, transfers from other households and social transfers, including retirement pensions and unemployment benefit, net of direct taxes (generally income tax, rates and, in France, the CSG general social contribution and CRDS contribution to reduction of the national debt).

Interdecile ratio: ratio between D9 and D1.

Life expectancy at birth: length of an average life – in other words the average age at death – of an imaginary generation that would be subject to the year's conditions of mortality. It characterises mortality independently of age structure.

Official development assistance (ODA): net amount of donations and loans under favourable conditions granted by public bodies to countries and bodies on the OECD Development Assistance Committee's list of beneficiaries. In addition to financial contributions, assistance also includes technical cooperation.

Standard of living: household disposable income divided by the number of consumer units (one consumer unit for the first adult, 0.5 for other people over 14 years of age and 0.3 for children less than 14).

The six greenhouse gases (GHG) in the Kyoto "basket": carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) and perfluorocarbons (PFC).

Underemployment rate: ratio of underemployment to total employment. Underemployment comprises people working part time and who would wish to work more during a reference period.

Unemployment rate (in the ILO sense of the term): percentage of unemployed in ILO sense in the active population (active people in employment and unemployed).

Young people not employed and not in training: young people between 16 and 25 years of age who have not worked even one hour during a reference week, who have finished their initial studies and who have not taken up education or training (even short-course) for 3 months.

Acronyms

Agreste: website of the statistics and outlook department of the Ministry for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries, Rural Affairs and Spatial Planning

BEP: French high school diploma

CAP: French school diploma of occupational aptitude

CCMSA: Central agricultural social fund

Citepa: Interprofessional technical centre for study of atmospheric pollution (France)

Cnaf: National family allowance fund (France)

Dares: Department of outreach, research, studies and statistics of the Ministry for Labour, Employment and Health

DGAFP: Directorate general of administration and civil service (Ministry of Public Service)

DGFIP: Department of public finance (France)

DGI: Inland revenue department (France)

Drees: Department of research, studies, evaluation and statistics of the Ministry for Labour, Employment and Health

EU: European Union

Eurostat: the statistical office of the European Union

GDP: Gross domestic product

GNI: Gross national income

IEA: International Energy Agency

ILO: International Labour Organisation

Ined: French national institute for demographic studies

Insee: French national office for statistics and economic studies

MESR: French ministry of higher education and research

NNI: Net national income

OECD: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

SOeS: Department for Monitoring and Statistics of the French Ministry for ecology, sustainable development, transports and housing

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Useful links

The national sustainable development strategy

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>

Click on: Développement durable > Stratégie nationale de développement durable

First report to Parliament on the implementation of the national sustainable development strategy

<http://www.gouvernement.fr/gouvernement>

Politiques publiques > Développement durable > article > Stratégie nationale de développement durable: un premier rapport transmis au Parlement

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>

Click on: Développement durable > Stratégie nationale de développement durable > Premier rapport de la mise en oeuvre de la stratégie nationale du développement durable

National sustainable development indicators

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>

Click on: Développement durable > Stratégie nationale de développement durable > Les indicateurs de la stratégie nationale du développement durable

<http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>

Click on: Indicateurs et indices > Développement durable > Indicateurs de développement durable nationaux

<http://www.insee.fr>

Click on: Publications et services > Dossiers > Développement durable

Territorial sustainable development indicators

<http://www.statistiques.developpement-durable.gouv.fr>

Click on: Indicateurs et indices > Développement durable > Indicateurs de développement durable territoriaux

<http://www.territoires.gouv.fr/observatoire-des-territoires/fr>

Click on: Enjeux thématiques > Développement durable

European sustainable development indicators

<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>

Click on: Statistics > Sustainable development indicators

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