

France



Trilemma Rank  
**# 5**

Trilemma Score  
**81.7**

Balance Grade  
**AAA**

France is one of the top performers in the Trilemma Index, ranking 5th globally, with strong scores across the board. Energy Equity and Sustainability are particularly high. However, while the score for energy equity remains stable, sustainability scores fell for the fourth year in a row. The score for Energy Security is slightly weaker, which is mainly a result of limited diversity in energy generation and limited availability of energy storage. Nevertheless, France's performance is balanced with a grade of AAA.

Population  
67.3 (millions)

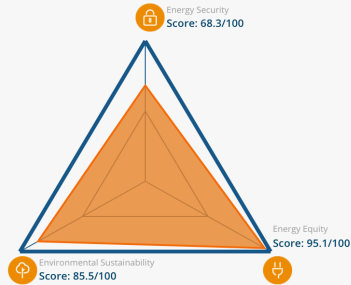
Land Area  
547.6 (thousand sq. km)

GDP Per Capita  
41,464 (PPP US\$)

Industrial Sector  
16.9 (% of GDP)

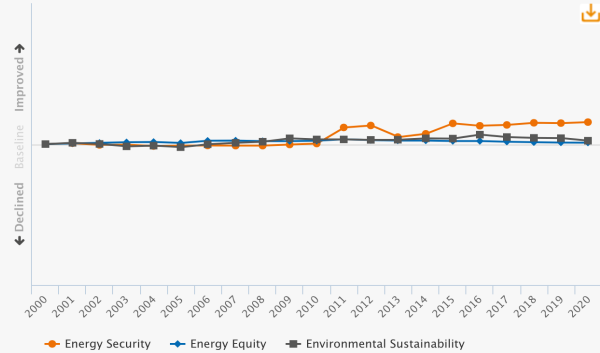
GDP Growth  
1.7 (annual %)

Balance



Historical Trilemma Scores

Trend lines track the country's performance in each dimension, beginning with a baseline of 100 in the year of 2000



Trends and Outlook

France imports about 48% of its energy needs, mainly fossil fuels. While the country is, in general, an energy importer, it is also Europe's largest net electricity exporter. About 90% of France's electricity is already produced from low carbon sources. More than 71% of the electricity produced comes from nuclear power plants, leading to low carbon emission in the electricity sector but also very high dependence on a single electricity source, which explains the low score for Energy Security.

In November 2019, the French government passed a law on Energy and the Climate, which enshrines the commitment to attaining carbon neutrality in 2050, in accordance with the EU directive. To achieve this goal, it defines a number of quantified objectives for the energy sector: the remaining four coal power plants will be decommissioned by the end of 2021; the administrative framework of electricity companies will be streamlined to boost renewable energy sources and the government will introduce measures to improve energy efficiency in buildings. In addition to mitigating climate change, the law also includes an emphasis on adaption to climate change and resilience. However, a number of questions have arisen as to the wisdom of developing renewable energy sources at a high cost to replace nuclear power and risk increasing CO2 emissions.

The 'yellow vests' protest movement in late 2018 and early 2019, which followed fuel price increases due to higher carbon taxes, was a signal that energy and climate policies cannot be implemented without acceptance by the general public. The government responded to public anger by scrapping the planned introduction of the higher carbon tax.

As a result of this protest movement and in order to ensure greater acceptability of the decisions, the 'Citizens' Convention on Climate, an unprecedented democratic experiment in France, aims to give citizens a voice in the effort to accelerate the fight against climate change. Its mandate is to define a series of measures that will allow the country to achieve a reduction of at least 40% in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 (compared to 1990) in the spirit of social justice. The Convention, which was proposed by the French President, has 150 members, drawn by lot and represents the diversity of French society. These citizens have learned about, debated and prepared draft laws on all issues relating to ways to combat climate change. Their plenary sessions will be streamed online. The Convention report includes 149 thematic proposals brought together under 50 goals submitted to a vote of Convention members. President Emmanuel Macron has committed to putting these legislative and regulatory proposals "without a filter" either to a referendum, to a vote in Parliament or to direct implementation. COVID-19 led to a drop in electricity demand in France in the early part of 2020. As a result of this decline, the share of renewable energy increased in the electricity mix. Coal and gas-fired plants were barely in operation.

Key metrics

Metrics are determined relative to other countries, with a full bar representing a score of 100.

