



# France

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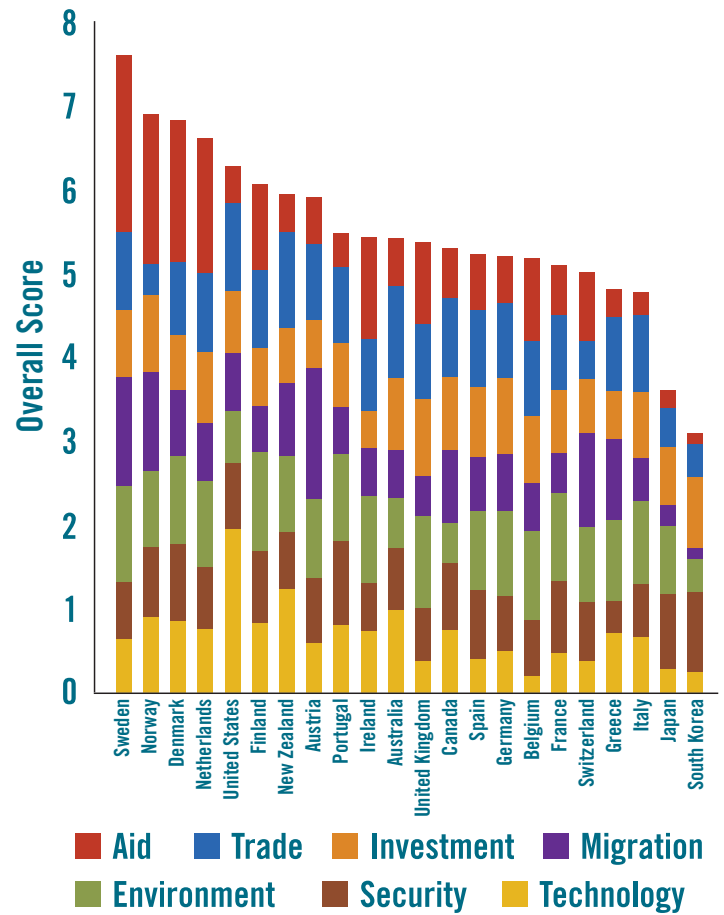
The Commitment to Development Index (CDI) ranks 22 of the world's richest countries based on their dedication to policies that benefit poor nations. Looking beyond standard comparisons of foreign aid flows, the CDI measures national effort in seven policy areas that are important to developing countries: aid, trade, investment, migration, environment, security and technology. This report reviews France's performance on the 2011 CDI.

## France's 2011 CDI Performance

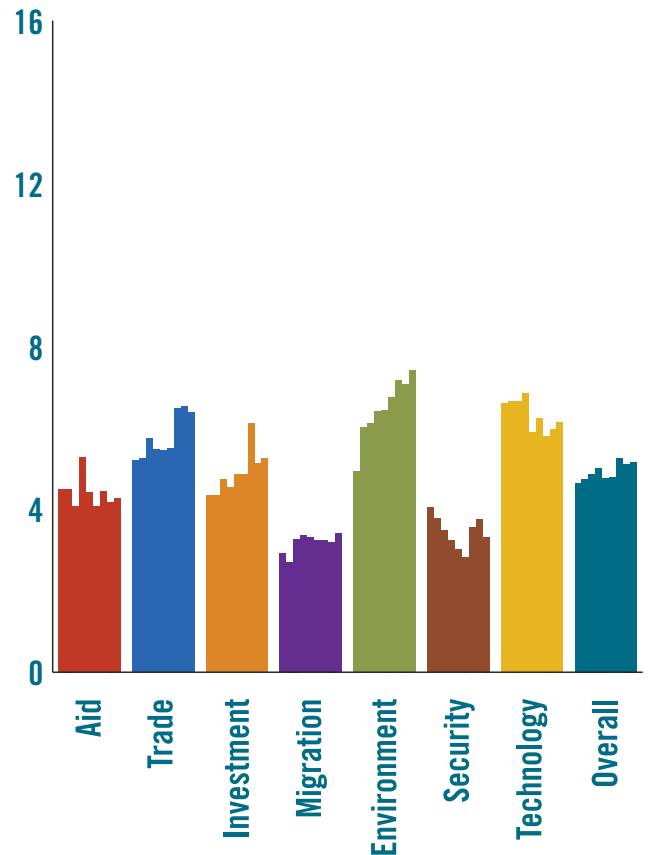
- Overall rank 2011: 16
- Overall score 2011: 5.2
- Change since 2003: +0.6  
(using 2011 methodology)

France ranks 16<sup>th</sup> overall in 2011. France scores highest on the environment and technology components, thanks to low greenhouse gas emissions, low fossil fuel production, and strong support of research and development. But France's performance is affected by its poor immigration record, with few immigrants entering France from poor countries. It is also one of the world's largest exporters of arms to undemocratic governments.

## Commitment to Development Index 2011



## France's CDI Performance, 2003–11



## Aid

Aid quality is just as important as aid quantity, so the CDI measures gross aid as a share of GDP adjusted for various quality factors: it subtracts debt service, penalizes “tied” aid that makes recipients spend aid only on donor goods and services, rewards aid to poor but relatively well-governed recipients, and penalizes overloading poor governments with many small projects.

■ **Score: 4.3**

■ **Rank: 11**

### Weaknesses

- Selectivity: large share of aid to less poor and worse-governed recipients (rank: 21)
- Small amount of private charitable giving attributable to tax policy (rank by share of GDP: 14)

## Trade

International trade has been a force for economic development for centuries. The CDI measures trade barriers in rich countries against exports from developing countries.

■ **Score: 6.4**

■ **Rank: 11**

### Strengths

- Low tariffs on textiles (6.0% of the value of imports; rank: 3)
- Low tariffs on apparel (6.0% of the value of imports; rank: 3)

### Weaknesses

- High agricultural subsidies (equivalent to a tariff worth 12.1% of the value of imports; rank: 14)

## Investment

Rich-country investment in poorer countries can transfer technologies, upgrade management and create jobs. The CDI includes a checklist of policies that support healthy investment in developing countries.

■ **Score: 5.3**

■ **Rank: 13**

### Strengths

- Particularly active in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and in the G-8 Anti-Corruption and Transparency Action Plan
- Employs tax-sparing arrangements to prevent double taxation of corporate profits earned abroad
- Provides assistance in identifying direct investment opportunities
- Provides insurance against political risk for both domestic and foreign firms

### Weaknesses

- Does not screen projects for social impacts through national political risk agency
- Imposes some restrictions on pension fund investments in emerging markets
- Agency does little to monitor environment, labor, and human rights
- Political risk insurance also given to inefficient, import-substituting projects

## Migration

The movement of people from poor to rich countries provides unskilled immigrants with jobs, income, and knowledge. This increases the flow of money sent home by migrants abroad and the transfer of skills when the migrants return.

■ **Score: 3.4**

■ **Rank: 20**

### Strengths

- Large share of foreign students from developing countries (84%; rank: 7)
- No tuition fee for foreign students

### Weaknesses

- Only a small increase during the 1990s in the number of unskilled immigrants from developing countries living in France (rank by share of population: 19)
- Small number of immigrants from developing countries entering France (rank by share of population: 19)

# Environment

Rich countries use a disproportionate amount of scarce resources, and poor countries are most vulnerable to global warming and ecological deterioration, so the CDI measures the impact of policies on the global climate, fisheries, and biodiversity.

■ **Score: 7.4**

■ **Rank: 5**

## Strengths

- Low greenhouse gas emissions rate per capita (7.0 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; rank: 7)
- Low fossil fuel production rate per capita (0.0 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent; rank: 1)
- Significant decline in greenhouse gas emissions in 1999–2009 (average annual growth rate/GDP, -2.8%; rank: 10)
- High gas taxes (\$1.09 per liter; rank: 10)

# Security

Since security is a prerequisite for development, the CDI rewards contributions to internationally sanctioned peacekeeping operations and forcible humanitarian interventions, rewards military protection of global sea lanes, and penalizes arms exports to poor and undemocratic governments.

■ **Score: 3.3**

■ **Rank: 16**

## Strengths

- Military ships stationed in sea lanes that are important to international trade (rank by share of GDP: 2)

## Weaknesses

- High arms exports to poor and undemocratic governments (rank by share of GDP: 21)

# Technology

Rich countries contribute to development through the creation and dissemination of new technologies. The CDI captures this by measuring government support for R&D and penalizing strong intellectual property rights regimes that limit the dissemination of new technologies to poor countries.

■ **Score: 6.1**

■ **Rank: 5**

## Strengths

- High tax subsidy rate to businesses for R&D (rank: 1)

## Weaknesses

- Large share of government R&D expenditure on defense (2.1%; rank: 21)
- Pushes to incorporate into bilateral free trade agreements “TRIPS-Plus” measures that restrict the flow of innovations to developing countries

## Background Papers and Contributors

See “The Commitment to Development Index: 2011 Edition” by David Roodman, available at [www.cgdev.org/cdi](http://www.cgdev.org/cdi). The website also has background papers for each policy area: David Roodman on foreign aid, William R. Cline on trade, Theodore H. Moran on investment, Elizabeth Grieco and Kimberly A. Hamilton on migration, Amy Cassara and Daniel Prager on environment, Michael E. O’Hanlon and Adriana Lins de Albuquerque on security, and Keith Maskus on technology.

## Commitment to Development Index 2011

Country	Rank	Aid	Trade	Investment	Migration	Environment	Security	Technology	Overall Score	Change since 2003
Sweden	1	14.9	6.5	5.6	9.2	8.1	4.5	4.9	7.7	+1.6
Norway	2	12.7	2.6	6.4	8.4	6.5	6.4	5.8	7.0	+0.9
Denmark	3	11.9	6.2	4.7	5.6	7.4	6.1	6.5	6.9	-0.2
Netherlands	4	11.5	6.6	6.0	4.9	7.3	5.3	5.2	6.7	+0.2
United States	5	3.1	7.4	5.3	4.9	4.4	13.8	5.6	6.4	+2.2
Finland	6	7.3	6.6	4.9	3.8	8.4	5.9	6.1	6.1	+1.1
New Zealand	7	3.3	8.1	4.7	6.1	6.4	8.7	4.9	6.0	+0.3
Austria	7	3.9	6.5	4.0	11.1	6.7	4.2	5.5	6.0	+0.6
Portugal	9	2.8	6.5	5.4	4.0	7.3	5.7	7.0	5.5	+1.0
Ireland	9	8.6	6.1	3.1	4.1	7.4	5.2	4.0	5.5	+0.4
Australia	9	4.1	7.7	6.1	4.0	4.2	7.0	5.3	5.5	-0.1
United Kingdom	12	7.0	6.3	6.4	3.5	7.7	2.7	4.5	5.4	+0.2
Canada	12	4.2	6.7	6.1	6.2	3.4	5.3	5.7	5.4	+0.4
Spain	14	4.8	6.4	6.0	4.6	6.6	2.8	5.9	5.3	+1.0
Germany	14	4.0	6.3	6.4	4.8	7.2	3.5	4.7	5.3	+0.3
Belgium	16	7.0	6.3	5.6	4.0	7.6	1.4	4.7	5.2	+0.7
France	16	4.3	6.4	5.3	3.4	7.4	3.3	6.1	5.2	+0.6
Switzerland	18	5.7	3.2	4.6	7.9	6.3	2.7	5.0	5.1	+0.5
Greece	19	2.3	6.3	4.0	6.8	6.9	5.1	2.7	4.9	+1.1
Italy	20	2.0	6.5	5.6	3.7	7.0	4.7	4.5	4.8	+0.5
Japan	21	1.5	3.3	4.9	1.8	5.7	2.0	6.3	3.7	+1.1
South Korea	22	1.0	2.8	5.9	1.0	2.8	1.7	6.8	3.1	n/a

This table ranks the 22 countries in the CDI, showing their scores in seven policy areas. A country's overall score is the average of its seven policy scores. The final column shows the change in each country's overall score since the CDI began in 2003, using 2011 methodology.

The CGD website ([www.cgdev.org/cdi](http://www.cgdev.org/cdi)) has reports on each of the 22 countries in the CDI, as well as graphs, maps, spreadsheets, and background papers.

The Commitment to Development Index is designed by the Center for Global Development, an independent think tank that works to reduce global poverty and inequality by encouraging policy change in the United States and other rich countries through rigorous research and active engagement with the policy community.

David Roodman, the architect of the Commitment to Development Index, is a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development.

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