

The population of France in 2005

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The French population is still growing. Three-quarters of this increase is due to the surplus of births over deaths, and one-quarter to net migration, i.e. the number of immigrants minus the number of emigrants. Fertility is still among the highest in Europe and life expectancy has risen again with respect to 2004. The overseas *départements* and regions account for 3% of the total population, but have little impact on overall fertility or life expectancy.

On 1 January 2006, the French population totalled an estimated 62.9 million inhabitants, of which 61.0 million in metropolitan France and 1.9 million in the overseas *départements* and regions [1]. In metropolitan France, the population increased by 342,000 in 2005 (+0.6%) and the growth rate was similar to that of 2004, with slightly more births, but also more deaths (Table, page 3). Net migration is estimated at 95,000, slightly below the figure for 2004 (105,000). These figures take account of the upward adjustments made by INSEE, the French institute for statistics, after the 2004 and 2005 census surveys. Estimated at 59.90 million on 1 January 2004, the total population was revised upwards by 0.5% to 60.20 million and then by 0.7% to 60.34 million.

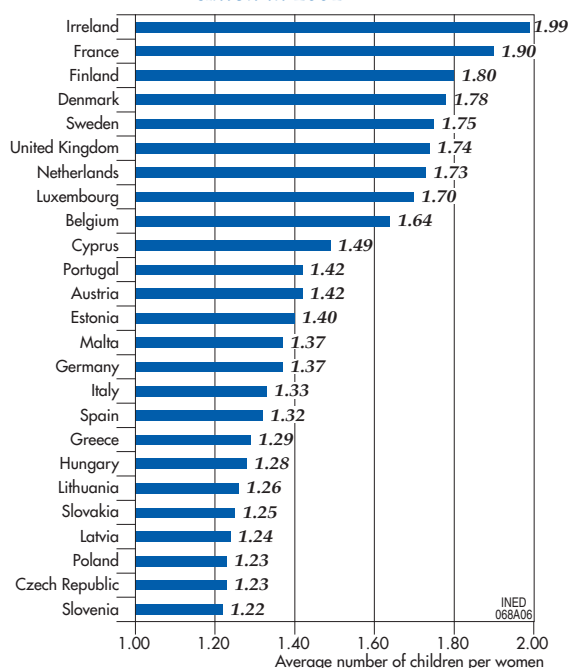
◆ Slightly more births in 2005 than in 2004

The total fertility rate, which has been increasing slowly for the last ten years, continued this uptrend in 2005. In metropolitan France, it reached 1.92 children per woman, up from 1.71 in 1995. This increase with respect to 2004 (1.90) more than offset the declining number of women of childbearing age, and the number of births increased to 775,000 in 2005, up from 768,000 in 2004.

The trend towards delayed childbearing is continuing and the average age of women who gave birth in

2005 was 29.7 years. This average age has been rising steadily since 1977, when it stood at 26.5 years. Though the fertility of women over 30 has been increasing since the late 1970s, that of women under 30 has remained stable over the last decade. Analysis of cohort fertility

Total fertility rate in the 25 countries of the European Union in 2004



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shows that women born in 1955, now aged 50 and at the end of their reproductive life, had 2.13 children on average. Those born in 1965, now aged 40, have already had 1.99 and will probably reach 2.05 by age 50. It is hazardous to make predictions for the younger cohorts, though their completed fertility is likely to be close to 2.0.

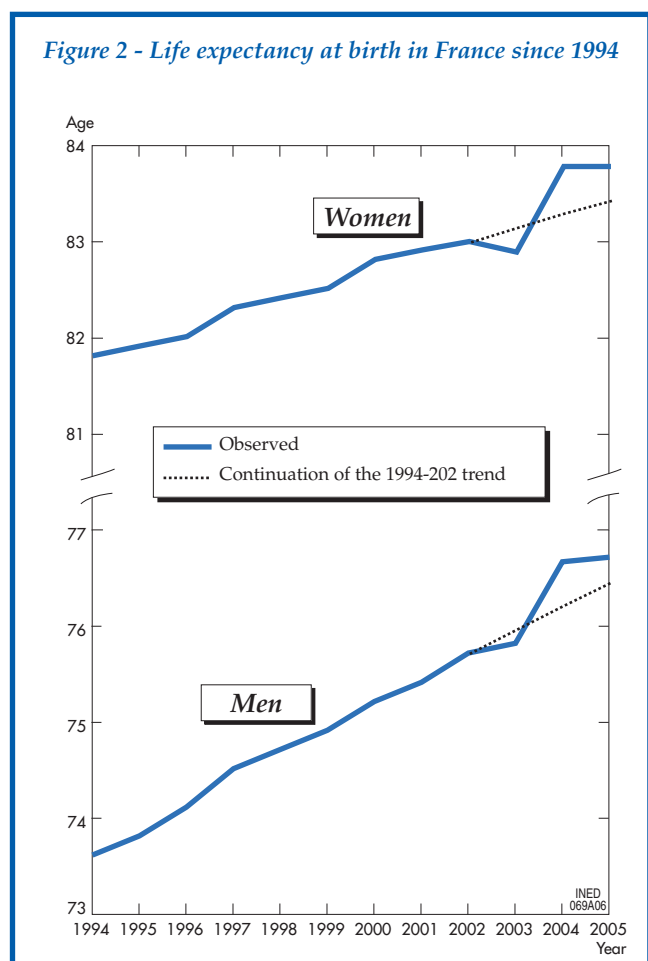
◆ The highest fertility in Europe, or almost

Fertility in France is among the highest in the European Union. In 2004, the most recent year for which estimates are available [3], it stood at 1.90 children per woman on average and France was outranked only by Ireland, where fertility reached 1.99 children per woman (Figure 1). In decreasing order of fertility, the Scandinavian countries come next: Finland with 1.80, Denmark with 1.78, and Sweden with 1.75. The United Kingdom and the Netherlands also have relatively high levels, with 1.74 and 1.73 respectively. Belgium lags slightly behind with 1.64. But the most striking contrast is with the countries of southern, central and eastern Europe, where fertility is well below 1.5 children. It is around 1.3 to 1.4 children in the Mediterranean countries, such as Portugal with 1.42, Italy with 1.33, Spain with 1.32 and Greece with 1.29. In central and eastern countries it is even lower, at around 1.2 to 1.3 children, with 1.28 in Hungary, 1.26 in Lithuania,

1.25 in Slovakia, 1.24 in Latvia, 1.23 in Poland and the Czech Republic and 1.22 in Slovenia. This north-south and west-east gradient has a number of exceptions however. Estonia, with 1.40 children per women ranks slightly above its low-fertility Baltic neighbours. Cyprus, with 1.49 is in a similar situation. Austria with 1.42 and Germany with 1.37, though in the geographical centre of Europe, have low fertilities which tend to place them with the countries of the east and south rather than with those of the north and west.

◆ Two years after the heat wave, life expectancy equalled the record level of 2004

In 2005, 527,000 deaths were reported in metropolitan France. This is above the total of 511,000 in 2004, though the number of deaths in that year were exceptionally low due to the repercussions of the 2003 heat wave, with certain deaths that should have taken place in 2004 occurring prematurely in 2003. At 83.8 years, life expectancy at birth (1) in 2005 equalled the high level of 2004 for women and even rose slightly for men (76.8 years versus 76.7). If the fluctuations of the last three years are analysed in the context of a ten-year trend, the effect of the 2003 heat wave becomes clearly visible, along with its consequences in 2004 (Figure 2). The 2003 heat wave may even have affected mortality in 2005, and this might explain the continued jump in life expectancy to well above the trends recorded from 1994 to 2002. But the decrease in deaths in 2004 was much larger than the surplus in 2003, so the number of deaths brought forward from 2005 to 2003 was probably quite small. Moreover, a severe influenza epidemic also occurred in 2005 (but not in 2004), without which life expectancy would have increased more sharply between 2004 and 2005. Last year, we suggested a change in attitude towards old people following the heat wave as an explanation for the 2004 life expectancy increase [4]. Its continued high level in 2005 shows that this change is a durable one.



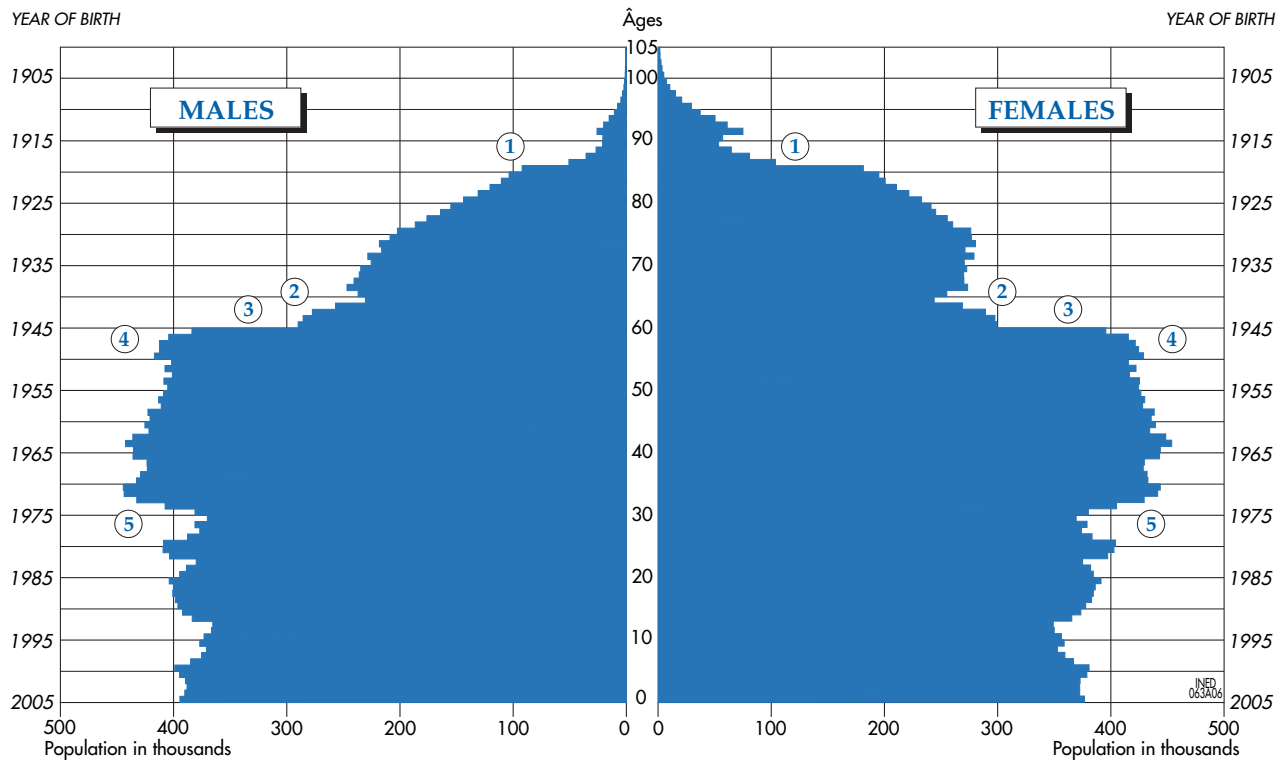
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(1) The calculation of life expectancy factors out variations in population size and age distribution, so as to include only changes in the risks of death.

POPULATION OF FRANCE

PROVISIONAL ESTIMATE ON 1 JANUARY 2006



- ① Birth deficit due to World War I (depleted cohorts) ③ Birth deficit due to World War II
 ② Depleted cohorts reach reproductive age ④ Baby boom
 ⑤ End of baby boom

Source: INSEE.

Table - Population indicators from 1950 to 2005, metropolitan France

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004(p)	2005(p)
Births (m)	858	816	848	800	762	734	727	738	745	775	771	762	761	768	775
Deaths (m)	530	517	540	547	526	536	530	534	538	531	531	535	552	511	527
Natural increase (m)	328	299	308	253	236	199	196	204	207	244	240	226	209	257	247
Net migration (m)	35	140	180	44	80	35	40	45	60	70	85	95	100	105	95
Total growth (m)	363	439	488	297	316	234	236	249	267	314	325	321	309	362	342
Adjustment (1) (m)	-	-	-	-	-	-53	-53	-53	62	62	62	62	62	-	-
Birth rate (t)	20.5	17.9	16.7	14.9	13.4	12.7	12.5	12.6	12.7	13.1	13.0	12.7	12.7	12.7	12.7
Death rate (t)	12.7	11.3	10.6	10.2	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.2	8.4	8.7
Infant mortality rate (r)	51.9	27.4	18.2	10.0	7.3	4.8	4.7	4.6	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.6
Total fertility rate (e)	2.93	2.73	2.47	1.94	1.78	1.73	1.73	1.76	1.79	1.87	1.88	1.87	1.87	1.90	1.92
Life expectancy:															
male (a)	63.4	67.0	68.4	70.2	72.7	74.1	74.6	74.8	75.0	75.3	75.5	75.8	75.9	76.7	76.8
female (a)	69.2	73.6	75.9	78.4	80.9	82.0	82.3	82.4	82.5	82.8	82.9	83.0	82.9	83.8	83.8
Marriages (m)	331	320	394	334	287	280	284	271	286	298	288	279	276	272	272
Marriage rate (t)	7.9	7.0	7.8	6.2	5.1	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5
Population (2) (m)	42 010	45 904	51 016	54 029	56 893	58 116	58 299	58 497	58 825	59 200	59 586	59 970	60 340	60 702	61 045
Under 20(2) (m)	12 556	14 665	16 748	16 419	15 632	15 056	15 027	15 018	15 037	15 041	15 042	15 046	15 095	15 123	15 148
65 and above (2) (m)	4 727	5 288	6 174	7 541	8 036	9 011	9 164	9 285	9 419	9 536	9 656	9 763	9 850	9 968	10 035
Under 20 (2) %	29.9	31.9	32.8	30.4	27.5	25.9	25.8	25.7	25.6	25.4	25.2	25.1	25.0	24.9	24.8
65 and above (2) %	11.3	11.5	12.1	14.0	14.1	15.5	15.7	15.9	16.0	16.1	16.2	16.3	16.3	16.4	16.4

(a) in years - (e) children per woman - (m) in thousands - (p) provisional - (r) per 1,000 live births - (t) per 1,000 population
 (1) the population estimates for the period 1990-2003 were adjusted to establish consistency between the censuses of 1990 and 1999 and the census surveys of 2004 and 2005 [1] [2] - (2) at year-end.

Source: INSEE, Division des enquêtes et études démographiques (<http://www.insee.fr>)

Box 1

Metropolitan France and the overseas départements and regions

French population statistics may vary from one source to another, depending on the geographical entities covered. The French overseas départements and regions (DOM-ROM) of Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Réunion (which rank both as départements and regions) may or may not be included, and the same is true for the overseas collectivities (COM) (Mayotte, Wallis and Futuna, Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon) and the overseas countries (POM) (French Polynesia and New Caledonia). The United Nations publishes statistics by geographical entity, with certain entities corresponding to sovereign states and others to non-self-governing territories. The French départements and regions are listed apart from metropolitan France and considered separately. As the countries and entities are classified geographically by region and continent, Guadeloupe for example, for which the United Nations produces full statistics, is listed under the Caribbean sub-group, itself included in Latin America and the Caribbean, and its population is logically included in the totals of these groupings. The statistical tables published every two years in the issue of Population & Societies called The Population of the World does likewise (Pison 2005). Eurostat, which publishes European population statistics, only includes the population of metropolitan France.

INSEE, the French institute of statistics, includes the overseas départements and regions in its annual demographic report, specifying that the figures include the whole of France and not just metropolitan France. But INSEE does not include the other overseas territories, collectivities and countries. INSEE also publishes statistics for metropolitan France alone (see Box 2).

Grouped together, the overseas départements and regions had 1.8 million inhabitants in 2003, and their inclusion raises the population of France from 59.9 to 61.6 million, a difference of 3% (Table). The other territories have close to 650,000 inhabitants, slightly more than 1% of the total. There were 32,500 births in the overseas départements and regions in 2003 (4% of births in France) and 10,100 deaths (2%). This represents a natural increase of 22,400 people (9% of the natural increase of France), due to the relatively young population age structure compared with France. The inclusion of overseas départements and regions increases the total fertility rate by 0.02 children per woman, and reduces life expectancy by one-tenth of a year (Table).

United Nations – Population Division: *World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision, New York, 2005* (<http://esa.un.org/unpp/>).

Gilles Pison – “The population of the world (2005)”, *Population & Societies*, no. 414, July-August 2005.

Insee – “La France en faits et en chiffres” (http://www.insee.fr/fr/ffc/pop_age.htm)

Demographic indicators of metropolitan France and the overseas départements and regions in 2003

	Population on 1 January 2003 (thousand ⁽¹⁾)	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Total increase	Fertility (children per woman)	Life expectancy at birth (years)	
							Men	Women
Metropolitan France	59856	761464	549987	+211477	+344177	1.88	75.9	82.9
Overseas départements and regions (DOM-ROM)								
Guadeloupe	439	7047	2636	+4411	+4180	2.2	75.3	81.5
Martinique	391	5430	2725	+2705	+2448	2.0	75.9	81.7
French Guiana	178	5553	692	+4861	+6653	3.9	71.8	80.2
Réunion	752	14427	4022	+10405	+10901	2.4	71.3	79.8
Total DOM-ROMs	1760	32457	10075	+22382	+24182	2.4	73.3	80.7
Metropolitan France + DOM-ROM	61616	793893	560077	+233816	+368359	1.90	75.8	82.8
Overseas collectivities (COM) and overseas countries (POM)								
French Polynesia	245	4501	1122	3379	3800	2.3	70.9	76.3
New Caledonia	224	4102	1121	2981	4286	2.3	71.3	71.2
Mayotte	160 ⁽²⁾	7197	453	6744	-	4.5	72.0 ⁽⁵⁾	76.0 ⁽⁵⁾
Wallis and Futuna	15 ⁽³⁾	280 ⁽⁴⁾	62 ⁽⁴⁾	218 ⁽⁴⁾	115 ⁽⁴⁾	2.7	74.3 ⁽⁶⁾	-
Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon ⁽⁷⁾	7	72	54	18	-	-	-	-

Notes: ⁽¹⁾ For metropolitan France and the DOM-ROMs: provisional estimates based on the 2004 census • ⁽²⁾ Population on 30/07/2002 • ⁽³⁾ Population on 22/07/2003 • ⁽⁴⁾ Annual average over the period 1996-2003 • ⁽⁵⁾ In 2004 • ⁽⁶⁾ Both sexes, for the period 2000-03 • ⁽⁷⁾ For Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, the total fertility rate and life expectancy for 2003 cannot be calculated (there are fewer than 100 births and 100 deaths per year).

Sources: INSEE, *French Demographic Situation in 2003* (data for metropolitan France + DOM-ROMs). Data for the COMs and POMs are supplied by the local statistical bodies: for French Polynesia www.ispf.pf; for New Caledonia, www.isee.nc

Box 2

The demographic situation in France, soon available in full on the INSEE website (www.insee.fr)

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Every year, INSEE publishes a report on the demographic situation in France giving details of the current situation and of trends in population size, births, marriages, divorces, deaths, births outside marriage, migration, civil unions etc. The report also includes data for each département and comparative tables with data from other European countries. The next edition, The French Demographic Situation in 2004, will be issued in mid-2006. The entire dataset will be available free on-line via the INSEE website (www.insee.fr). It will include detailed data up to 2004 (in both French and English), along with estimates of the main indicators for 2005 and the population on 1 January 2006. Retrospective data will also be provided so that users can follow demographic trends right through the twentieth century. For the first time, most of the tables will be available both for metropolitan France only and for metropolitan France plus the overseas départements and regions.