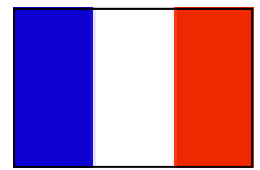


FAST FACTS 2007



FRANCE

Capital: Paris

Population:

France: 60.88 million

Virginia: 7.64 million

Government type: Republic

Chief of State: President Jacques Chirac

Head of Government:

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin

Languages (Official): French

Land Size:

547,030 square kilometers
(CIA)

Currency: (www.oanda.com)

Euro (€)

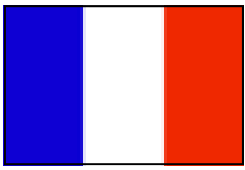
1US\$ = 0.7493 € (March 2007)



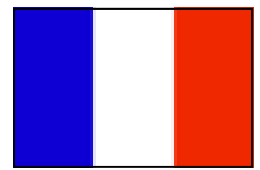
(France Map. CIA)

Did You Know?

- France is the tenth largest export market for the United States. Exports in 2006 grew 8.10% over 2005 to \$24.22 billion.
- France is a member of the G-8, the European Union, the World Trade Organization and the OECD, confirming its status as a leading economic player in the world. (CCG)
- France enjoyed a modest recovery in 2006, but the peak of the upturn is already in the past. Real GDP growth is forecast to slow from 2% in 2006 to 1.9% in 2007 and to pick up only modestly in 2008. (Economist)
- The French economy, alongside that of the UK, is the second-largest in western Europe and around three-quarters the size of the German economy. (Economist)
- France's trade balance, which in 2004 posted its first deficit since 2000, will remain substantially in the red throughout the forecast period. However, as the visible trade deficit will be offset by continued surpluses on the services and investment income accounts, France's current account deficit should remain manageable as a share of GDP. (Economist)
- France is holding presidential elections this year—the first round will be held April 22, 2007 and the second round will be held on May 6, 2007.



FAST FACTS 2007



FRANCE

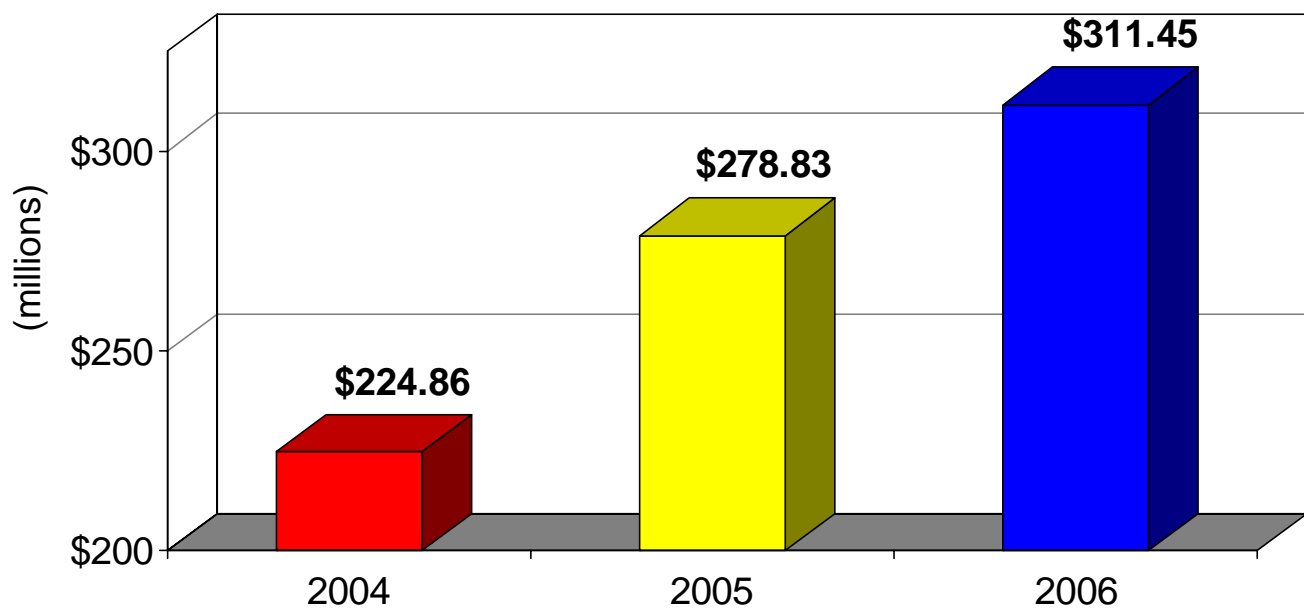
ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

France is in the midst of transition from a well-to-do modern economy that has featured extensive government ownership and intervention to one that relies more on market mechanisms. The government has partially or fully privatized many large companies, banks, and insurers, and has ceded stakes in such leading firms as Air France, France Telecom, Renault, and Thales. It maintains a strong presence in some sectors, particularly power, public transport, and defense industries. The telecommunications sector is gradually being opened to competition.

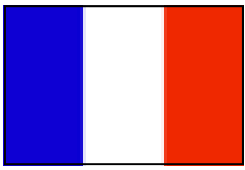
France's leaders remain committed to capitalism in which they maintain social equity by means of laws, tax policies, and social spending that reduce income disparity and the impact of free markets on public health and welfare. The government in 2006 focused on introducing measures that attempt to boost employment through increased labor market flexibility; however, the population has remained opposed to labor reforms, hampering the government's ability to revitalize the economy. The tax burden remains one of the highest in Europe (nearly 50% of GDP in 2005). The lingering economic slowdown and inflexible budget items probably pushed the budget deficit above the Eurozone's 3%-of-GDP limit in 2006; unemployment hovers near 9%.

With at least 75 million foreign tourists per year, France is the most visited country in the world and maintains the third largest income in the world from tourism. (CIA)

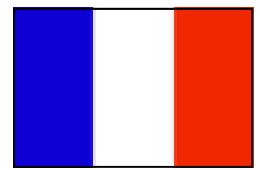
VIRGINIA EXPORTS TO FRANCE



(Source for graph: World Trade Atlas)



FAST FACTS 2007



FRANCE

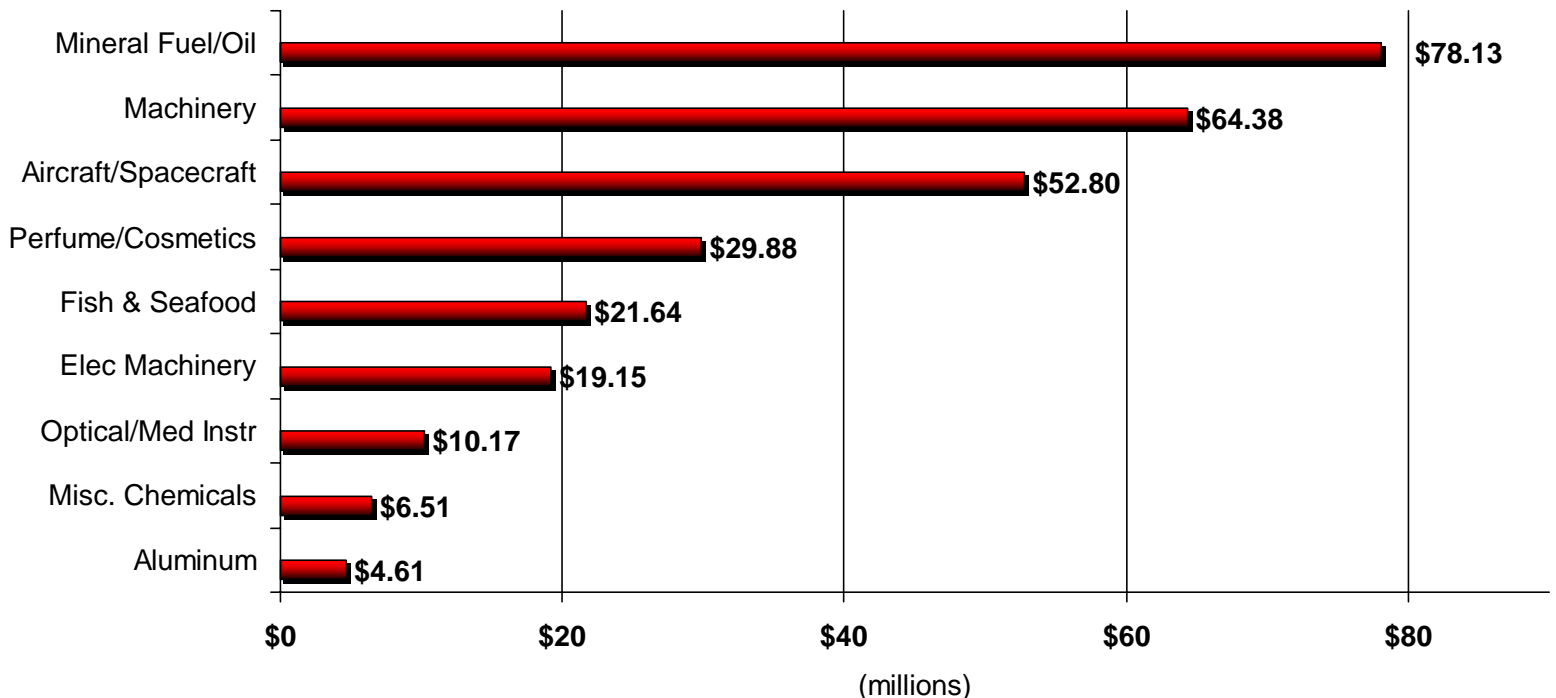
VIRGINIA EXPORTS TO FRANCE

In 2006, Virginia exports to France increased 11.70% over 2005 to \$311.45 million. Bituminous coal was Virginia's largest export to France, growing 8.21% over 2005 to \$78.13 million.

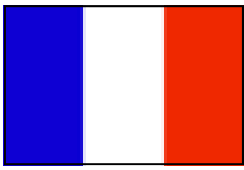
Machinery exports, to include gas turbines and hand tools, grew 22.46% over 2005 to \$64.38 million in 2006. Aircraft and spacecraft exports jumped 40.39% in 2006 to \$52.80 million. The majority of these exports were airplane and helicopter parts. Perfumes and cosmetics declined slightly in 2006, 3.37% to \$29.88 million.

Fish and seafood, mainly scallops, experienced significant growth in 2006, leaping 136% over 2005 to \$21.64 million. Electrical machinery and optical & medical instruments both saw declines in 2006, 36.06% and 13.37% respectively.

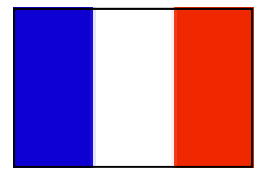
VIRGINIA'S TOP EXPORTS TO FRANCE - 2006



(Source for Text and Graph: World Trade Atlas)



FAST FACTS 2007



FRANCE

VEDP TRADE EVENTS

For a complete listing of VEDP's international trade events, please visit the "Events" tab on our website: www.ExportVirginia.org

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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Embassy of France in Washington D.C.: <<http://www.ambafrance-us.org/>>
- U.S. Embassy in France: <<http://http://www.amb-usa.fr/>>
- Bonjour la France: <<http://www.bonjourlafrance.net/>>

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Publication Date: March 2007

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