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1982 CENSUS OF POPULATION

22 October 1982

First results for France

A census of population was carried out in France on 4 March 1982 and a preliminary results were issued in August 1982. Although the census was held within the context of the Community directive for synchronised censuses in 1981 it was not possible, for administrative reasons, to carry out the enumeration in the Spring of 1981 as specified in the directive and a derogation was obtained permitting a postponement for one year.

The total resident population of metropolitan France on 4 March 1982 was 54 257 000 persons, an increase of 1 664 000 persons or 3.2% on the figure recorded at the previous census in February 1975. The rise in population was due to a natural increase (excess of births over deaths) of 1 483 000 during the period 1975 to 1982 and a net immigration of 181 000 persons.

Comparisons with the population balance during the preceding inter-censal periods show a marked reduction in the rate of demographic growth: from 1.2% per annum during the period 1962-1968, the average rate of growth fell to 0.8% during 1968-1975 and to 0.4% during 1975-1982. It should be noted, however, that the period 1962-1968 saw a return of 900 000 repatriates from Algeria. There was a very considerable reduction in the numbers of foreign workers entering France during the most recent period with the result that the overall net immigration declined from 783 000 during 1968-1975 to 181 000 in 1975-1982.

The total population of the Regions of France at the three most recent censuses, as well as the annual rate of change between censuses, are shown in the table which follows:

About 43% of the population of France resides in four regions covering 18% of the total area of the country: Ile de France (10.1 million inhabitants), Rhône-Alpes (5 million), Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur (4 million), Nord-Pas-de-Calais (3.9 million). This is a consequence of long-term migration trends linked to urbanisation.

The slowing down of population growth in the most recent period was observed in all regions with the exception of Languedoc-Roussillon, where the annual average increase amounted to 1.2% compared with 0.7% in 1968-1975. In the Ile-de-France region the annual average increase was below the national average, amounting only to 0.3% while the Pas-de-Calais region showed almost no change in population. In the Lorraine and Limousin regions, small decreases in population were recorded.

Population by region at the 1968, 1975 and 1982 censuses and annual average percentage change: preliminary figures

Region	Population (thousands)			Average annual change percent	
	1968	1975	1982	1968/1975	1975-1982
Ile de France	9 248,5	9 878,6	10 056,1	0,95	0,25
Bassin Parisien	9 108,2	9 641,0	9 946,1	0,82	0,45
Champagne-Ardennes	1 279,2	1 336,8	1 347,0	0,63	0,11
Picardie	1 578,5	1 678,7	1 740,0	0,89	0,51
Haute-Normandie	1 497,4	1 595,7	1 653,0	0,92	0,50
Centre	1 990,3	2 152,6	2 262,0	1,13	0,71
Basse-Normandie	1 260,1	1 306,2	1 350,4	0,52	0,47
Bourgogne	1 502,7	1 571,0	1 593,7	0,29	0,20
Nord Pas-de-Calais	3 816,0	3 913,7	3 938,5	0,36	0,09
Est	4 679,6	4 908,6	4 960,6	0,68	0,15
Lorraine	2 274,4	2 330,9	2 318,0	0,35	- 0,08
Alsace	1 412,4	1 517,3	1 558,4	1,03	0,38
Franche-Comté	992,8	1 060,4	1 084,2	0,95	0,32
Ouest	6 531,7	6 890,8	7 197,6	0,77	0,62
Pays de la Loire	2 583,0	2 767,1	2 926,3	0,99	0,80
Bretagne	2 468,2	2 595,5	2 703,7	0,72	0,58
Poitou-Charentes	1 480,5	1 528,2	1 567,6	0,45	0,36
Sud-Ouest	5 381,5	5 557,2	5 694,6	0,46	0,35
Aquitaine	2 460,2	2 550,3	2 646,8	0,52	0,53
Midi-Pyrénées	2 184,9	2 268,2	2 315,3	0,54	0,29
Limousin	736,4	738,7	732,5	0,05	- 0,12
Centre-Est	5 734,9	6 111,1	6 337,2	0,91	0,52
Rhône-Alpes	4 423,1	4 780,7	5 005,0	1,12	0,65
Auvergne	1 311,8	1 330,4	1 332,2	0,20	0,02
Méditerranée	5 216,4	5 692,3	6 126,6	1,26	1,06
Languedoc-Roussillon	1 707,5	1 789,5	1 944,5	0,67	1,19
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	3 298,9	3 675,8	3 952,1	1,56	1,04
Corse	210,0	227,0	230,0	1,12	0,19
FRANCE	49 716,9	52 593,3	54 257,3	0,81	0,43