

Country Fact Sheet France



General country information	
Form of government	Republic
Administrative organisation	Decentralized
Area (in km ²)	675 417 km ²
Population	65'447'374
Official language	French
Capital	Paris
Number of inhabitants in capital city	11'769'433

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Legal Forms

Legal Form in English	Legal Form in local language	Description	Trade registered	Participants	Remarks
Sole proprietorship	Entreprise individuelle	There is no share capital. The enterprise and the owner are a sole entity. The owner is responsible on his whole private assets. The enterprise doesn't pay the corporate income tax. The owner is directly drawn in compliance with personal income tax.	yes	Only the owner	The main real estate could be protect with a memorandum of exemption from seizure.
Private limited company	SARL/EURL	The shareholders set the authorised capital (no minimum). 20 % of the authorised capital has to be paid in cash during the business creation. Remainder has to be paid in the next five years. The company pays corporate income tax. A Sarl consisted of the member of one family can choose the personal income tax instead of the corporate income tax.	yes	2 shareholders (min.) - 100 (max.). Individuals or companies. The Private Limited Company is managed by 1 or many directors (only individuals). The director can be a shareholder or another individual.	An auditor is required if 2 of the 3 following conditions are met: Balance sheet higher than 1 550 000 €, turnover higher than 3 100 000 €, the company employs more than 50 persons.

Legal Form in English	Legal Form in local language	Description	Trade registered	Participants	Remarks
Joint-stock company	SA/SAS	The shareholder(s) plan(s) himself/themselves the organisation of the company. He has/they have to appoint a Chairman (individual or company). The directorship is assumed by the Board of Management consisted of 3 to 18 members (only shareholders can be members). Among the members the Board of Management appoints a Chairman. The Chief Executive Officer can be appointed to stand for the company and assume the daily management.	yes	Minimum 7 shareholders - Unlimited (individuals or companies). The liability of the shareholders is limited to the amount they have agreed to contribute to the company's asset.	The identity of the shareholders could be not disclosed. 50 % of the authorised capital has to be paid in cash during the business creation. Remainder has to be paid in the next five years. An auditor is required.
General Partnership	SNC	The liability of the partners is unlimited (solitarily and on whole private assets).	yes	Minimum 2 partners - Unlimited (individuals or companies). The directorship is assumed by one or many individual(s) or company(ies), partner or not.	The company doesn't pay the corporate income tax. Each partner is personally taxed on its benefits. The General Partnership can nevertheless choose to pay the corporate income tax instead of personal income tax. Contribution to capital are fully paid or not in cash during the business creation. If not, the remainder can be deposited on call of directorship. An auditor is required at the same conditions as the Sarl.

Legal Form in English	Legal Form in local language	Description	Trade registered	Participants	Remarks
Association	Association	There is no share capital. The association receives contribution from its members if the invoiced services or the provision are insufficient.	no	Minimum 2 members - Unlimited. ^No liability for the simple member. Legal liability and penal responsibility for the trustee(s). If the trustee(s) are voluntary worker(s) the responsibility can be minimized. Management method is free. The association is managed by an administrative council which appoints an office (consisted of a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary).	The profit associations are taxable in compliance with the VAT and have to pay the corporate income tax. The non-profit associations don't pay the corporate income tax. The members can contribute in kind, in work or in cash. The member will claw back their contribution in case of dissolution of the association. The non-profit associations with sales receipts not exceeding 60.000 € per year don't pay VAT, corporate income tax and other professional taxes.

Number of companies

Main Legal Form	Total number of companies	Thereof active companies	Remarks
Sole proprietorship	2'714'131		
General partnership	45'963		
Private limited company	1'325'453		
Joint-Stock company	192'157		
Association	604'018		
All legal forms	6'802'707		

Trade Register

Company Register	Companies Register Bulletin	Unique Identifiers	Access
RCS	Bodacc	RC number	
INSEE	INSEE	Siren/Siret	

Annual Accounts

Criteria for the disclosure	Deadline	Measure of non-disclosure	Company Size	Access
Private limited company	6 month after the date of the balance sheet date	Fee for the company	All	Greffes
Joint-stock company	6 month after the date of the balance sheet date	Fee for the company	All	Greffes
General Partnership	6 month after the date of the balance sheet date	Fee for the company	If all the partners are private limited companies or joint stock companies	Greffes
Association	6 month after the date of the balance sheet date	n.a	more than 50 employees, turnover < € 3 100 000, total of BS < € 1 550 000 ; association receiving subsidies < € 153 000/year ; corporate patronage	Journal Officiel des associations
Sole proprietorship	no	no	no	no