

France

1. Industrial Strategy (Including Objectives/Goals)

France's industrial strategy has historically been shaped by a strong tradition of state-led planning. Dating back to the post-war era the General Planning Commission (Commissariat général du Plan), created in 1946 and succeeded by the High Commission for Strategy and Plan. Through a series of five-year Plans spanning from 1946 to 1993, the French state played an active role in steering industrial development, infrastructure modernisation, and sectoral coordination.¹

The integration through the Single Market and Monetary Union (EMU) in the early 1990s marked a significant shift for European countries. The political and legal developments underpinning European integration moved the focus of national industrial policy from 'vertical' interventions supporting specific sectors/companies to 'horizontal' measures aimed at creating a level playing field in the single market.²

However, France has continued to assert its tradition of strong tradition of state-led planning within the European Union framework during the 2010s onwards. In 2013, the French government presented a forward-looking strategy titled France in 10 Years' Time, which included a ten-year industrial policy agenda aimed at strengthening key innovative sectors such as renewable energy, robotics, and medical biotechnology.³ Spearheaded by then-Industry Minister Arnaud Montebourg, the strategy sought to boost industrial output and employment through targeted state support.⁴ That same year, France initiated the Friends of Industry (FoI) conference, a transnational forum of EU economy ministers intended to build consensus around reforming EU-level industrial governance.⁵ Under President Emmanuel Macron, planning has been reintroduced as a policy discourse through the creation of a High Commission for Planning (Haut-Commissariat au Plan) in 2020, as well as the announcement of an ecological planning initiative tied to France's climate transition.⁶

The current centrepiece of France's industrial policy is the France 2030 plan, launched in 2021.⁷ With a €54 billion budget over five years, it aims to address economic resilience, reindustrialisation, and technological leadership. Ten priority sectors are identified for strategic

¹ High Commission for Strategy and Planning <<https://www.strategie-plan.gouv.fr/en/about-haut-commissariat-la-strategie-et-au-plan>> accessed 18 July 2025.

² Michael Blauberger, 'Of 'Good' and 'Bad' Subsidies: European State Aid Control through Soft and Hard Law' [2009] *West European Politics*, 32(4), 719–737.

³ Financial Times 'Ministers set out utopian but hazy vision of a strong France <<https://www.ft.com/content/3bd19d4a-08eb-11e3-8b32-00144feabdc0>> accessed 18 July 2025.

⁴ Di Carlo, Donato and Luuk Schmitz, 'Europe First? The Rise of EU Industrial Policy Promoting and Protecting the Single Market' (2023) 30(10) *Journal of European Public Policy* 2063.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ 2020 Annual Report of France Stratégie <<https://www.strategie-plan.gouv.fr/en/actualites/2020-annual-report-france-strategie>> accessed 18 July 2025.

⁷ France 2030 Plan

<https://www.info.gouv.fr/upload/media/organization/0001/01/sites_default/files_contenu_piece-jointe_2023_06_rapport_devaluation_csia_france_2030_vf_-_publique.pdf> accessed 18 July 2025.

investment including green hydrogen, biomedicine, nuclear energy, aerospace, semiconductors, electric vehicles, and agri-tech.⁸ The plan combines funding for innovation, public-private partnerships, and state-backed financing tools to support industrial transformation in alignment with decarbonisation goals.

However, the broader context is one of persistent deindustrialisation. France remains one of the most deindustrialised economies in Europe, with manufacturing contributing a relatively small share to national GDP. The industrial share of GDP has declined more steeply in France than in many of its peers since the 1990s, although this trend has somewhat stabilised in recent years.⁹

In the wake of COVID-19 reindustrialisation has gained renewed urgency in France. On September 3 2020, the then government launched a historic recovery plan of 100 billion euros to recover the economy and make the "France of tomorrow" plan. The plan highlights three pillars: ecology, competitiveness and cohesion.¹⁰

2. Digital (Development) Strategy

France has a number of policy documents detailing its digital development strategy. Central amongst these is the French Roadmap for Digital Development.¹¹ The roadmap is structured around four areas of work aimed at achieving key objectives: digital skills, digital infrastructures, the digital transformation of companies and the digitization of public services. The document details the measures and actions implemented to achieve the objectives set for 2030.¹²

France's digital development strategy is reflected in its performance across the European Union's Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI), which monitors progress on digital indicators among member states. France continues to show improvement across all key dimensions of the index. The country has made significant gains in digital connectivity, particularly through the implementation of the Plan France Très Haut Débit (France Very High-Speed Plan), which has expanded access to fibre-optic infrastructure nationwide. As of the latest reporting, 86% of premises in France are eligible for fibre-optic connections, placing the country among the leading EU member states in this domain.¹³

France has also advanced in the area of digital skills, with increasing uptake of basic digital competencies across the population. However, challenges remain in the digital transformation of

⁸ France 2030 Major Objectives < <https://www.info.gouv.fr/grand-dossier/france-2030-en/major-objectives>> accessed 18 July 2025.

⁹ OECD Economic Surveys: France 2024 <https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-economic-surveys-france-2024_bd96e2ed-en/full-report.html> accessed 18 July 2025.

¹⁰ Recovery Plan < <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/presentation-plan-relance#>> accessed 18 July 2025.

¹¹ Digital Development Roadmap < https://www.entreprises.gouv.fr/files/files/presse/2024/Feuille_route%20numérique_web.pdf> accessed 18 July 2025.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ France 2024 Digital Decade Country Report < <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/factpages/france-2024-digital-decade-country-report>> accessed 19 July 2025.

businesses, particularly among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which continue to lag behind larger firms in adopting digital tools and processes.¹⁴

France has also implemented an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy.¹⁵ It also has a

3. Main Constitutional Provisions

There is no specific Constitutional provision on industrial policy and industrial development.

4. Main Regulatory Provisions and Policy Developments

France is under an obligation to implement or to adapt and implement EU Regulations and Directives that have an impact on industrial policymaking. However, the EU Court of Justice has incorporated in art. 5(4) of the TFUE from several EU members constitutional traditions, requires the administration to take a measure not exceeding what is appropriate and necessary to achieve the intended purpose. There exists a number of domestic acts that are relevant for digital industrial development some of which are:

- Digital Republic¹⁶
- Confidence in the Digital Economy¹⁷
- Relating to Information Technology, Files and Freedoms¹⁸
- Relating to the Assessment and Certification of Security Offered by Products and Information Technology Systems.¹⁹

5. (Regional) Economic Treaties to which France is a Signatory

France is bound by the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to observe, and implement, decisions taken by the EU concerning Common Commercial Policy aspects (which includes, among others, trade in goods and services), an exclusive competence of the latter.²⁰

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ National Strategy on AI <

https://minefi.hosting.augure.com/Augure_Minefi/r/ContenuEnLigne/Download?id=334FD34F-7844-497E-9551-79EDFF3B2EEF&filename=1645%20-%20DP%20-%20Stratégie%20Nationale%20pour%20l'IA%202ème%20phase.pdf> accessed 19 July 2025.

¹⁶ Law Number 2016-132 of 7 October 2016 <<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000033202746>>

¹⁷ Law Number 2004-575 Of June 21, 2004 <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000033202746>

¹⁸ Law Number 78-17 of 6 January 1978 <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/loda/id/JORFTEXT000000886460/>

¹⁹ Decree Number 2002-535 Of April 18 2002

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichTexte.do?cidTexte=JORFTEXT000000412673&dateTexte=&categorieLien=id>

²⁰ Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Art. 207.

6. *Plurilaterals*

France is participating in multiple plurilateral initiatives and agreements. Some of the most relevant ones are:

- the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement,²¹
- the Information Technology Agreement,²²
- the Investment Facilitation for Development Initiative,²³
- the WTO's Joint E-Commerce Initiative.²⁴

7. *Proceedings Initiated Against France, or by It, Before International Fora for the Adoption/Implementation of Industrial Policy Measures (e.g., Before WTO Panels, the WTO's AB)*

France has appeared as a respondent in:

- DS347: European Communities and Certain Member States — Measures Affecting Trade in Large Civil Aircraft (Second Complaint);²⁵
- DS131: France — Certain Income Tax Measures Constituting Subsidies.²⁶

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²¹ Revised Agreement on Government Procurement, Mar. 30, 2012, Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, Annex 4(b), 1915 U.N.T.S. 103.

²² WTO, 'Information Technology Agreement – An Explanation' <https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/inftec_e/itaintro_e.htm> accessed 20 July 2025.

²³ Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement, Members Parties <https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/invfac_public_e/invfac_participation_list_e.htm> accessed 20 July 2025.

²⁴ Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce, INF/ECOM/87 (26 July 2024).

²⁵ WTO, European Communities and Certain Member States — Measures Affecting Trade in Large Civil Aircraft (Second Complaint) (WT/DS347) Request for Consultations (23 October 2023) <https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds347_e.htm> accessed 15 July 2025.

²⁶ WTO, France — Certain Income Tax Measures Constituting Subsidies (WT/DS131) Request for Consultations (5 May 1998) <https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds131_e.htm> accessed 20 July 2025.