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 France, Climate Change

### **France: A Step Towards A Healthier Country**

France is a country among others that's known for its tourist attractions and its historical landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower, but behind its beauty and fast paced lifestyle, there's a slight dimness within the brightly lit cities. For the most part, France is a pretty stable financial economy. The average minimum wage of workers is €1,678.95 per month which calculates to about €11.07 per hour ("WageIndicator.org"). Some of the options for workforce provided in this country include services such as Engineering, Management, and Teaching. Within a population consisting of over 67.5 million people, "81.24 % of the population remains in urban areas" ("Trading Economics"), while the other "18.76% were settled in rural areas" ("Trading Economics"). Thankfully with such extremity in population, France compared to other countries, has more options in the work field for both genders. Above the workforce as a whole, France is led under control of a semi-presidential system. This means that the country is led by both the President and the Prime Minister, who is in charge of the French Parliament. In addition to government focus, the most recent account on land cultivation was marked 52.15% in 2020 ("Trading Economics"). Within this percentage, the most major exports in France are wheat, sugar, wine, and beef (nationsencyclopedia). This leaves the most valuable crops to be wheat, barley, corn in grain, potatoes, sugar beet found in root vegetables, beef, pork, raw milk and cheese provided by livestock production (Agricultural Powerhouse).

When it comes to family life, France is on the smaller spectrum. Families living in France usually consist of an average of 2.18 people per household. This statistic is also translated as the fertility rate being 2 kids per pair. Their dwellings consist mainly of apartments and small homes. With the family size only decreasing, the need for larger housing isn't as much of a necessity. The most accessible source of food in the French lifestyle is the local French markets. Now, unlike other countries, the topic of diet is slightly different in France. "In France, eating habits and meal times are much more formal" ("France This Way"). It is very common for families to get together and have dinner with one another very often throughout the week. "Lunch is considered the main meal in France, and it usually entails a 3-4 course meal with copious amounts of fresh produce" ("Spoon University"). With lunch being the prominent meal of the day, this creates less of a need for a large family dinner or breakfast. This leaves people to consume only contents such as a piece of bread or yogurt for lunch and dinner. In continuation with family, all legal residents of France have access to education and healthcare, even residents of unemployment. The French healthcare system offers high-quality and affordable healthcare. "As of 2020, 99.25% of France lives with access to clean water" ("Macrotrends.net"). That leaves almost one percent without it.

According to the 2022 Sustainable Development Goal Report Card, one of the biggest population concerns regarding France's economy is the stress of climate change. The underlying factor playing into the crucial urge for such attention is the increase in greenhouse gas emissions being transmitted in the air. Although it seems as though shutting down this production altogether may be an easy way out, it cannot actually be executed that way so easily. The main reason for this difficulty is due to the fact that these

productions have been operating from fossil fuels since the earliest of time, such as the Industrial Revolution. Even if these emissions are eliminated entirely, it would take many years for the atmospheric temperatures to migrate back to normal levels (The Royal Society). With that being said, more extensive measures must be taken to reduce France's emission releases. Overall these staggering levels of gas emissions in the air have endangered France's economic balance as a whole. While it may seem as though gas release cannot have such extensive impacts on both economic and societal norms, there's much more to it than what meets the eye.

For more background, greenhouse gas emissions act as a direct cause to the drastic effects of climate change. When released, greenhouse gasses cause substantial disturbances in temperature due to how they trap heat (National Geographic). Normal French temperatures consist of "cooler winters and mild summers for the Western and Northern parts of France, as well as hot summers with mild winters for the South" ("Country Reports"). These conditions are equivalent to the percentage guides of 32-46 degrees fahrenheit during the winter, and anywhere ranging from 61-75 degrees fahrenheit in the summer. A 2019 review suggests that the development of Climate Change has entitled France with having some of the most extreme temperature increases out of every registered country in Europe. Aside from the environmental aspect of this problem, greenhouse gasses also place drastic effects on the livelihoods of citizens. The two prominent areas of disturbance caused by this issue are health care and crop production.

As it was previously stated, France is amidst the more fortunate of countries to have access to reassuring healthcare. Although, this reassurance is becoming more heavily depended on due to the increase in health cases followed by the emission releases. A 2016 article states that such issues have resulted in a decrease within life expectancies, as well as a high increase in upper respiratory infections (Towson University Journal of International Affairs). In addition to these health declines, a heat wave in 2003 was reported to have caused numerous cases of deaths exceeding 70,000 citizens (VOA News). Even though current companion organizations have reduced the impact of climate change, heat waves carrying into 2022 still are coming back with death tolls higher than what had been expected (VOA News). Not only are these consequences already troublesome, citizens infected by the downfalls of climate change are also proving to obtain long-term effects on top of their previous symptoms (Towson University Journal of International Affairs). In an effort to curb the health complications, "the mayor plans to attempt to reduce the number of cars in the city by half of their previous amount, while also banning diesel vehicles by 2024, with the intention of making the capital a more walkable city" ("Climate & Clean Air Coalition"). Thankfully there is still time to push fulfillment of this solution..

In correlation with their impacts on health, greenhouse gas emissions have also caused an imbalance in consumption and production due to the immense disruption of crop cycles. It was mentioned earlier that France is a country settled on their various selections of cheese and wines. The only conflict is yet again the sporadic economic troubles caused by climate change, this factor being droughts. Droughts have severely endangered the agricultural sector of France, primarily jeopardizing the cultivation of olives, corn, cheese, and wheat. As an attempt towards decreasing the devastation of all harvest, restrictions on agricultural use for water sources were set in stone (AA). While this may have seemed like a very effective reinforcement at the time, it only set France's agricultural sector further from a successful solution. The combination of water restrictions and limited rainy days, had contributed to the overall

result of dry soil conditions and limited moisture in groundwater (AA). Overall, the effects of climate change caused by greenhouse gasses has its devastating influence on both the economic and citizenry of France.

Furthermore, France as a whole is structured amongst flat plains with gently mountainous terrains. So, such drastic change in emission levels as now has created an unhealthy environment for both the country's commodities and citizens. In 2012, the global issue reached one of its highest peaks. This led the country to work alongside The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) with hopes of lightening the issue. Throughout the passing years as well as up to today's time, this organization has worked eagerly to put a reduction to emission levels, this being through forming groups of leaders who are highly intelligent in the agricultural field, and having them spread awareness about climate change while providing efficient solutions. In addition to the improvements made on France's economic system, this organization has also done its share in unifying France with other countries, while also familiarizing other areas with such an issue as emission levels. The Climate and Clean Air Coalition organization plans to enforce their efforts of reducing economic conflict by "mobilizing all tools, and stakeholders to greatly reduce greenhouse emission fuel release" ("Climate & Clean Air Coalition"). Another one of the many endeavors put in place towards reduction of climate change is the assistance of the World Bank. The mission of operation for the World Bank is the devotion to providing financial and technical assistance to developing countries such as France (The World Bank). With that being said, their main output for support is the co-financing of with the French Development Agency (FDA). This financial aid provides the country with the ability to form a trust fund, as well as the option to invest in research and development of new solutions (The World Bank). Lastly, the final prominent corporation involved in the restoration of France is The World Health Organization. The motivation behind The World Health Organization is the idea to promote good health as well as serving countries of vulnerability, and keeping citizens safe (World Health Organization). In other words, the partnership between France's government and WHO (The World Health), have continued to expand their efforts of educating community members looking towards improving their own health. This goal is achieved through high-quality learning technologies and other innovations provided to healthcare workers and professionals. Among the many solutions already pre-existing within the country, there are still many more implementations set forth in the near future. Therefore, the remaining solution towards the correction of this issue is best found through personal growth between the economic and citizen standpoints of France, meaning everyone obtains their personal responsibilities of influencing good health and nature.

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