

Country Historic Profile: FRANCE

World Bank Group Archives
Profile completed: November 6, 2020

In its early years of operation, the World Bank had country members that controlled or occupied other territories as colonies or protectorates, etc. The World Bank worked with these members in the development of the controlled or occupied territories. Selected information and resources related to these activities have been included in this profile and identified with this icon: 

Basic Historical Information

Membership days for each affiliate

Information is taken from [World Bank Group membership page](#).

- IBRD: December 27, 1945
- IDA: December 30, 1960
- IFC: July 20, 1956
- MIGA: December 28, 1989
- ICSID: September 20, 1967

First loan(s)

Information taken from [Projects & Operations website](#).

- May 9, 1947: [Reconstruction Project](#)

Resident Mission establishment

Information taken from internal World Bank Group Archives resource.

- August 1947

Photo resources related to country

Hyperlink links to photos in the World Bank Group Archives' [Photo Catalog](#) for a given country. Digitization and description of archival photos are ongoing, and photos are added to the catalog regularly. In instances where the catalog contains no photos for a given country, check back frequently for additions, or contact the Archives for consultation by emailing archives@worldbank.org.

- [Historical photos related to France](#)

Project profiles related to country

Link is to a list in the [Projects & Operations website](#) of all projects approved, dropped, or in the pipeline for a given country. Each project links to a project profile that includes description, financial details, and lists of reports, archival record folders, and photos, when available. This can be helpful to study the evolution of the Bank's work in the country over time, and to identify notable projects that represent

important shifts or moments in the country's history. Projects are also excellent examples of case studies of how the Bank made an impact in a particular sector. The WBG Archives have original records and other information related to these projects. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

- [France project profiles in Projects & Operations](#)

Description of operational records in Archives Holdings

Archival records relating to Bank operations are described according to the ISAD(g) standard and are accessible in our [Archives Holdings catalog](#). Descriptions include lengthy organizational histories of the regional vice presidency responsible for operations in that region and a description of records created and transferred to the Archives by that vice presidency. The descriptions in the catalog can be helpful to understand the organizational context of Bank work, and to understand more about the content of the records in the Archives.

- [Records of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Vice Presidency](#)

Chronology events

Events have been selected from the Archivists' Chronology, an 800+ page resource compiled by Bank Group archivists over the course of the institution's history. Events chosen include important firsts, milestones and other events that evidence the country's development history and/or its relationship with the World Bank Group. The Archivists' Chronology is accessible on [this page](#). This list of events can be helpful to determine if you'd like to dig deeper into any moments in the country's history of engagement with the Bank. The WBG Archives may have original records and other information about these events. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

IBRD Articles of Agreement Signed by France

December 27, 1945

First Loan Application from France

October 8, 1946

First Loan Approved

May 9, 1947

Fifth Annual Board of Governors Meeting Held in Paris

September 7, 1950

International Finance Corporation charter comes into force; France among First to Sign Articles of Agreement

July 20, 1956

France Signs the IDA Articles of Agreement

December 29, 1960

Bank Announces That Its First Loan Of \$250 Million Made In 1947 To Credit National of France

August 2, 1963

France Joins ICSID

September 20, 1967

MIGA Articles of Agreement Signed by France

December 28, 1989

World Bank Group Timeline Events

Events are selected from the [World Bank Group Timeline](#). The Timeline is an online platform created by the Archives designed to highlight the important events in the Bank Group's history and to illuminate those events through a variety of archival records, photos, video and audio clips, oral history transcripts, reports, and more.

[Eleven European countries sign IBRD Articles of Agreement](#)

December 27, 1945

[World Bank approves first loan for reconstruction](#)

May 9, 1947

[Bank Research Director Leonard Rist travels to Europe](#)

May 21, 1947

[The Prospects of European Recovery released](#)

April 8, 1948

[World Bank Vice President Garner travels to Europe](#)

May 21, 1948



[World Bank and U.K. Colonial Development Corporation \(CDC\) halt negotiations](#)

January 1, 1950

[Paris, France hosts Fifth Annual Board of Governors meetings](#)

September 7, 1950

[France - The Economy released](#)

May 31, 1954

[First World Bank loan sold](#)

August 2, 1963

Early Country Economic Reports

Reports have been selected from the [Documents & Reports website](#), a database of publicly available World Bank Group authored reports and publications dating to the opening of the Bank in 1946. Country economic reports selected here are, in many cases, some of the earliest economic studies ever published on Bank member countries. Reports discussing the whole economy of a country, rather than individual sectors, are prioritized in this list.

France - Report on France	11/30/1947
France - Summary impressions of France	5/10/1948
The creditworthiness of France	3/31/1952
The end of the postwar period	4/22/1953
France - The economy	5/24/1954
 France and French West Africa - The economies: introduction and conclusions	5/24/1954
France - Current economic position and prospects	8/15/1955
France - The economy	6/22/1959

Country Assistance Strategies

List is based on a similar list compiled by World Bank's Secretary's staff. Introduced in 1990 and replaced by the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) in 2014, the CAS is an overview of each borrowing country's current economic situation and contains a discussion of its development challenges, prospects, and project-planning. CASs were often initially published as part of project documents but later on were published as standalone documents.

None.

Staff Newsletters

Resources have been selected from the World Bank Group's [Documents & Reports website](#). The World Bank has produced a staff newsletter since 1947. The publication has changed its name twice: from International Bank Notes to Bank Notes in 1971 and then to Bank's World in 1982. The newsletter moved online in 2000 and physical publication ceased. In addition to offering news relating to Bank operations and country development, the newsletters were intended to foster a sense of community among staff by highlighting social events, marriages and births, arrival of new staff, recreational events, favorite cooking recipes submitted by staff, and features on different aspects of staff's home country and culture.

International Bank Notes -- Vol. 2, Iss. 22	December 1, 1948	"Noel de France"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 3, Iss. 14	July 15, 1949	"An encouraging note on France"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 3, Iss. 14	July 15, 1949	"In Western Europe for the Bank"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 3, Iss. 15	August 1, 1949	"Progress is being made in the development and reconstruction of member countries as a result of loans from the Bank"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 4, Iss. 7	April 1, 1950	"A Visit to the Potash Mine"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 4, Iss. 7	April 1, 1950	"An Observation of Europe's Increased Production"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 1, Iss. 13	July 1, 1950	"The Story of the Paris Office"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 4, Iss. 17	November 1, 1950	No title - "Sale of Bank's bonds in Paris Bourse"

International Bank Notes -- Vol. 5, Iss. 7	June 25, 1951	"Lending - The Bank's Contribution to Economic Develoment"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 5, Iss. 10	October 1, 1951	"Paris Celebrates its 2,000th Anniversary"
International Bank Notes -- Vol. 14, Iss. 5	May 1, 1960	"Ca c'est Paris!"
Bank Notes -- Vol. 2, Iss. 10	September 1, 1973	"Letter from Paris"
Bank's World -- Vol. 6, Iss. 5	May 1, 1987	"Recollections of Richard Demuth and Robert L. Garner - The Bank's first loan: \$250 million to France"
Bank's World -- Vol. 1, Iss. 7	May 9, 1997	"Gamble on France pays off"

Oral histories

Oral histories are selected from the World Bank Group Archives' [Oral History website](#). The site contains transcripts of oral history interviews with departed staff and, in lesser number, Executive Directors and other individuals affiliated with or impacted by the World Bank Group. Interviews were conducted as part of an ongoing effort by the Archives to collect the personal stories and reflections of Bank Group staff. A portion of the interviews were conducted as research for publications. Each transcript provides a valuable first-person account of Bank activities and decision-making from the very beginning of its operations.

Daniel Crena de longh	August 1, 1961
Robert Garner	July 19, 1961
Leonard Rist	July 19, 1961
Lester Nurick	November 10, December 5, 2003; February 20, April 7, 2004; February 22, 2005

Online exhibits

Online exhibits are authored by World Bank Group staff and are accessible on both the Archives' [external site](#) and as a [series of older exhibits](#) in the Documents & Reports website. Exhibits focus on notable personalities and accomplishments in the Bank Group's history.

Title: [The World Bank's First Loan - May 9, 1947](#)

Originally published: March 2002

Title: [The Bank's First Development Loans](#)

Originally published: May 2003

Title: [Fifth Annual Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the WBG and the IMF, Paris, September 1950](#)

Originally published: September 2008

Executive Directors

The list is based on the World Bank Group [Board of Directors website](#). The country following the name of each ED indicates their nationality.

MENDES-France, Pierre (France)	May 7, 1946	October 27, 1947
HOPPENOT, Roger, (France)	January 8, 1948	October 31, 1956
PEROUSE, Maurice (France)	November 1, 1956	February 14, 1957
LARRE, Rene (France)	July 1, 1957	August 31, 1967
PLESCOFF, Georges (France)	September 1, 1967	October 31, 1970
VIENOT, Marc (France)	November 1, 1970	June 30, 1973
WAHL, Jacques (France)	July 1, 1973	September 4, 1978
MENTRE de LOYE, Paul (France)	September 5, 1978	December 15, 1981
DE MAULDE, Bruno (France)	December 16, 1981	January 24, 1986
PLOIX, Helene, (France)	February 24, 1986	August 29, 1989
PLOIX, Helene, (France)	September 18, 1989	October 1, 1989
LANDAU, Jean-Pierre (France)	October 30, 1989	August 3, 1993
AUTHEMAN, Marc-Antoine (France)	August 4, 1993	November 30, 1997
MILLERON, Jean-Claude (France)	February 7, 1998	August 1, 2001
DUQUESNE, Pierre, (France)	August 20, 2001	September 28, 2007
FAYOLLE, Ambroise, (France)	September 29, 2007	March 4, 2013, Des. from September 24, 2007
DE VILLEROUCHE, Herve (France)	March 11, 2013	January 12, 2020
BUISSÉ, Arnaud Fernand, (also: BUISSE, Arnaud Fernand) (France)	January 13, 2020	present

For More Information

If you would like information or guidance on accessing more historic sources, we invite you to contact us by emailing archives@worldbank.org.