



## The Global Competitiveness Index 2013–2014: Country Profile Highlights

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### Les points forts et les points faibles de la France

France is ranked 23rd, down two places from last year. The decline comes on the back of increasing concerns among business leaders about the health of the financial sector.

France retains a number of clear competitive advantages, including the country's infrastructure, which is among the best in the world (4th), with outstanding transport links, energy infrastructure, and communications.

The health of the workforce and the quality and quantity of education are other strengths (ranked 24th for health and primary education and 24th for higher education and training). These elements have provided the basis for a business sector that is aggressive in adopting new technologies for productivity enhancements (France is ranked 17th for technological readiness).

In addition, the country's business culture is highly professional and sophisticated (21st in the business sophistication pillar), buttressing its good position in innovation (19th in the innovation pillar, particularly in certain science-based sectors) and bolstered by a large market (8th), all of which help to boost the country's growth potential.

On the other hand, France's competitiveness would be enhanced by injecting more flexibility into its labor market, which is ranked a low 116th both because of the strict rules on firing and hiring and the rather conflict-ridden labor-employer relations in the country.

**Its tax regime is also perceived as highly distortive to decisions to work (127th).**

Tentative efforts being made in these areas, **if implemented with rigor**, would provide an important boost to France's economic performance going forward.