

Insee Références Collection “French economy” - Edition 2016

This morning, INSEE presented *Insee Références* “French economy” report to the press. Based on the national accounts, this 2016 edition contains an **analysis of the main economic events of 2015, in France and throughout the world.**

There are 3 files that make up the document: one on the role of the Internet in describing and analysing the economy, the second on purchasing power since the economic crisis and the last on environment-related spending.

In addition there are around **twenty themed information sheets.**



Key figures for the French economy in 2015

Growth rate: +1.3% in volume after +0.6% in 2014, greatest increase since 2011, driven mainly by **household purchasing power (+1.5%)** and **corporate investment (+2.8%)**

Household purchasing power: +1.6% after +0.7% in 2014, a substantial increase linked with **zero inflation**

Public deficit: 3.6% of GDP in 2015, against 4.0% in 2014

Government debt: 96.1% of GDP after 95.3% in 2014

✓ The role of Internet in describing and analysing the economy

- Online activities that are based on a **strictly market model** (e-commerce) are recorded in the national accounts.
- **Activities in the collaborative economy** often generate substantial savings for households, but these are **difficult to track in GDP.**
- **Internet does not systematically involve a reduction in prices.**
- **The growth in online activities has a more favourable impact on well-being than on GDP.**

Our experts say....

“Estimates of the national accounts are **gradually refined** as **INSEE obtains more and more accurate data**, especially corporate tax returns. **The annual accounts are not fully stabilised until two and a half years after the end of the year under consideration.**”

Didier Blanchet, Director of Economic Studies and National Accounts, INSEE

Our experts say....

“Internet provides **services based on a very wide range of economic models**, from the strictly market model (e-commerce) to a production model of services with no immediate compensation.”

Ronan Mahieu, Head of the National Accounts Department





√ Purchasing power since the crisis

- **14% rise in purchasing power in France between 2000 and 2014.**
- **Growth achieved** mainly **before the 2008 crisis** in France and in most developed countries.
- **From 2000 to 2007, purchasing power per capita increased in all countries**, driven by growth in activity
- **From 2007 to 2014, different trends in 3 groups of countries:**
 - . Germany and Japan where it was dynamic,
 - . United Kingdom, Spain and Italy, where it fell
 - . France and the United States in an intermediate situation, with a more moderate slowdown



Our experts say....

*“The level of expenditure in waste and water management is due to **the importance of environmental issues and the corresponding legislation.**”*

Benoît Bourges, Head of the Office of Economic and Social Environmental Reviews. SOeS

√ You can also find

21 information sheets providing general key data and more specific information on household, business or general government accounts.

The complete document is available on insee.fr



Our experts say....

*“The change in purchasing power is driven by **two types of effect**: the **activity effect**, measured by GDP per capita, and the **distribution effect**, measured by the ratio of household purchasing power to GDP”*

Sébastien Roux, Head of the Department of Economic Studies, INSEE

√ 67 billion euros of expenditure related to the environment in 2013

- **1st item of expenditure: waste water and drinking water (38%)**
- **2nd item of expenditure: waste management (35%)**
- **Improvement in waste water treatment:** 90% of sewage treatment plants are standard compliant
- **Progress in recycling rate** (from 12.5% in 2000 to 21.5% in 2013)
- With regard to air and climate protection, a **reduction in emissions of the majority of atmospheric pollutants** across France but an **increase in greenhouse gas emissions in transport and in those associated with the manufacture of imported products.**