



Tasks and activities of the Banque de France

KEY FACTS

The Banque de France is the **central bank of France**, with more than two centuries of history to its name. It is the French pillar of the “Eurosystème” that includes the European Central Bank (ECB) and the central banks of the countries that have adopted the **euro**. It is an **independent** body with three central missions:

- **Monetary strategy**

The Banque de France carries out functions essential to everyday life:

- maintaining price stability

It participates in the **monetary policy** decisions made by the ECB Governing Council and then implements them in France. **As a bank of banks**, it loans liquidity to banks to help **finance the economy**.

- preserving confidence in the currency

It is the leading public issuer of **euro banknotes**. It enters them into circulation via its network of branches and verifies their authenticity and quality. It also supervises payment systems and means of payment.

It is the guardian of France’s gold reserves and manages the country’s currency reserves.

- **Financial stability**

To sustainably support the creation of wealth and jobs, the financial system must be **secure and stable**. The **Autorité de contrôle prudentiel et de résolution** (ACPR – the Prudential Supervision and Resolution Authority) supervises this sector, backed by the Banque de France. It monitors banks and insurance companies, participates in developing security regulations, and oversees management of risk and the stability of the financial sector as a whole.

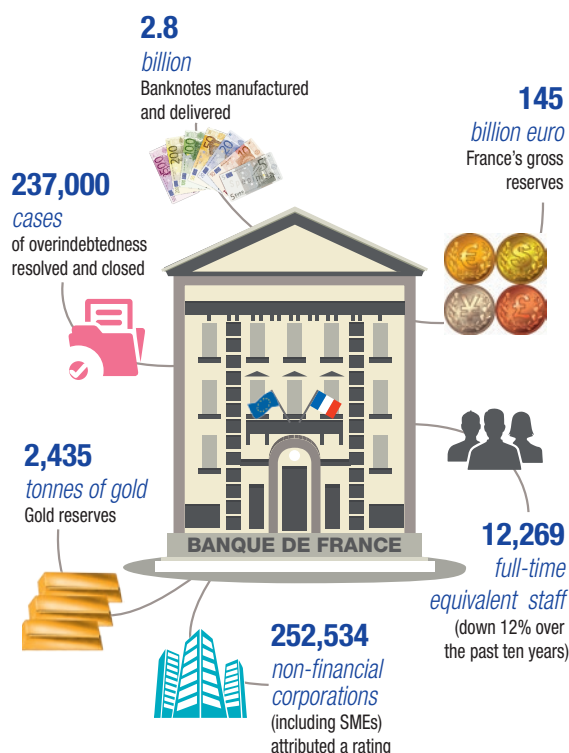
- **Economic services to the community**

As an **institution of the French Republic**, the Banque de France provides a number of economic services to businesses and individuals. It publishes statistics and research on the economy and establishes the balance of payments.

For companies and banks, the Banque de France manages the **fichiers d’incidents bancaires**, central registries that track incidents of insufficient funds and insolvency. The Banque de France assesses companies’ financial soundness and assigns them a rating. As a credit mediator, it helps them communicate with banks in case of a refusal of credit.

It **provides direct services to the public** and protects consumers: it facilitates public access to appropriate banking services and takes strong action to prevent and handle situations of **overindebtedness**.

KEY FIGURES (IN 2015)



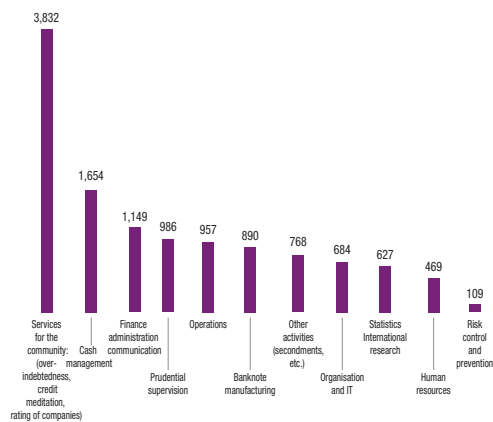
A BRIEF HISTORY

- **1800** Created by Napoleon, the Banque de France begins as one of a number of institutions issuing banknotes.
- **1803** It gains the monopoly over the issuance of banknotes.
- **1806** The bank sets up its headquarters in the first *arrondissement* of Paris.
- **1945** Nationalisation.
- **1993** Newly independent, the Banque de France can no longer take instruction from the government.
- **1999** The Banque de France is among the very first central banks to organise the transition to the euro.
- **2002** The first euro banknotes are issued.
- **2010** Creation of the *Autorité de contrôle prudentiel et de résolution* (ACPR), backed by the Banque de France.



Headquarters of the Banque de France in Paris

Staff breakdown by area of activity
(average monthly staff numbers over 2015)



Source: Banque de France.

THE BANQUE DE FRANCE AND YOU

The Banque de France provides general **banking and financial information** free of charge, to assist people in need of information. It makes available to all consumers, in partnership with the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers* (French financial markets regulator), the *Assurance Banque Épargne Info Service* (www.abe-infoservice.fr) public service portal. This site provides information on all matters related to insurance, banking and financial investments.

The Banque de France publishes its research and studies. Its wide-ranging publications meet the expectations of a variety of audiences, providing the highest level of technical detail for professionals and researchers around the world, as well as information for the general public. The **economic surveys and statistics** it produces provide a regular appraisal of the French economy.

The Banque de France **explains the economy to the public**. It is stepping up its initiatives to make it more accessible and understandable to all, in particular to young people. It has launched the *Cité de l'Économie et de la Monnaie* project, which organises conferences and a continuously expanding offer of educational courses available at www.citeco.fr. Partnerships have been formed with a number of schools and universities to inform academic staff and students. Instructional materials covering a wide range of topics are regularly uploaded to the Banque de France website.



TO LEARN MORE

Suggested reading:

- [Banque de France Annual Report](#)
- [Banque de France Activity Report](#)

Useful links:

- [Banque de France](#) (website)
- [ECB](#) (website)
- [Autorité de contrôle prudentiel et de résolution](#) (website)