

THE FRENCH LOVE SPORT

KEY INFO IN

10

POINTS



1

▶ A NATION OF SPORTSPEOPLE

Sixty-four percent of French people play sport at least once a week, and more than 16 million people belong to a sport club. (French Ministry for Sport, 2017)

2

▶ WOMEN'S SPORT ON THE UP

In 2015, women accounted for 37.5% of all sports club members, a figure which rose to more than 80% for winter pursuits, horse riding and gymnastics. In late 2016, 48% of the top athletes in swimming were female, as were 39% in rugby. Since 2011, the number of female football club members has increased by 90%. (French Ministry for Sport, 2017)

3

▶ FRENCH YOUNGSTERS ENJOY BEING ACTIVE

Ninety-one percent of 15-29 year-olds say they have exercised in the past 12 months, while 46% say they enjoy regular physical activity (more than once a week). The most popular sports for young people are jogging (29%), swimming (31%) and football (27%). (French government Sports Economy Observatory, 2017)

4

▶ PASSIONATE RUNNERS

Sixteen percent of French people enjoy running. In 2017, the Salon du Running show welcomed more than 85,000 visitors in two and a half days. No fewer than 90 marathons are scheduled in 2017-18 across mainland France and its overseas territories. (French Ministry for Sport; marathon.fr, 2017)

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▶ TOP 10 SPORTS PLAYED IN FRANCE

The sports boasting the most club members in France are football (2,135,193), tennis (1,052,127) and horse riding (673,026). Judo (552,815), basketball (513,727), handball (513,194), golf (407,569), rugby union (323,571), swimming (300,926) and gymnastics (287,358) complete the top 10. (French Ministry for Sport, 2017)

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▶ DISABLED SPORTS: SPORT FOR ALL

Handisport, the French disability sport association, has 35,300 members in 1,390 sports clubs through which it organizes more than 1,700 events every year. Up to 60,000 participants can choose from around thirty different activities, 20 of which are official Paralympic sports. (Handisport, 2017)

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▶ SPORT AS A SHARE OF HOUSEHOLD SPENDING

Since 2010, annual household spending on sport-related goods and commercial services has averaged €16.6 billion, with €10.6 billion spent on goods and €6 billion on services (French Ministry for Primary and Secondary Education). Total annual spending on sport nationwide is in excess of €38.1 billion, or around 2% of GDP. (French Ministry for Sport, 2017)

8

▶ TV SPORT CONTINUES TO GAIN GROUND

In 2016, the sports rights market in France was estimated to be worth €1.45 billion, 80% of which was for football and 10% for rugby. The number of nationwide channels broadcasting sport increased from seven in 1995 to 37 in 2016 (12 free and 25 paid-for), while between 2000 and 2016 the number of hours of sports broadcasts increased fourfold. (French government Sports Economy Observatory, 2017)

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▶ THE RAPID RISE OF E-SPORT

Team video games have become a recognized discipline. In 2016, the French eSports Federation was set up, as was the eSport Academy in Nantes.



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▶ ONLINE SPORTS BETS SOAR

Online sports bets in France hit €2.1 billion in 2016, up 45% year-on-year. The 2017 World Handball Championships generated nearly €10 million of online bets in the French market, while nearly €46.6 million worth of bets were placed online for the 2017 French Open, making it the most attractive Grand Slam tournament for punters. (French online betting regulator ARJEL, 2017)



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**PARIS TO HOST
THE OLYMPICS
FOR THE THIRD TIME**

([OLYMPIC.ORG](https://olympic.org))



64%

**OF FRENCH PEOPLE
PLAY SPORT
AT LEAST
ONCE A WEEK**

(FRENCH MINISTRY FOR SPORT, 2017)



MORE THAN
16 MILLION
FRENCH PEOPLE
BELONG TO
A SPORT
CLUB



(FRENCH MINISTRY FOR SPORT, 2017)



MORE THAN
€38.1 BILLION
SPENT ANNUALLY
IN FRANCE ON SPORT,
OR AROUND 2% OF GDP

(FRENCH MINISTRY FOR SPORT, 2017)