

5.3.5 Country profile – France



With an average of only 57 index points, and in eleventh place in the global benchmark study, France clearly has some catching up to do. Compared to the world's leading ICT nations, this Western European economy is trailing far behind, and is therefore ill-prepared to take up the challenge of an increasingly competitive market. France failed to make global leader in any performance indicators.

Market development – 7th place ↑

While France's performance in the category “Market development” was the same as the previous year (44 index points), it still improved its ranking relative to the other countries, rising one place to seventh place. However, it clearly still has some catching up to do. “ICT expenditure as a proportion of GDP” fell from 5.6 percent to 5.3 percent in the current year. This led to a deterioration in performance of twelve index points. “Growth in IT turnover” fell from 3.5 percent in 2007 to three percent in 2008 which, relative to the other countries included in the study, resulted in a gain of 16 index points to reach 36 index points.

Infrastructure – 11th place →

With a rise from 62 to 67 index points in the national index for infrastructure conditions, France had the largest growth this year, along with Germany. However, its ranking was unchanged and it stayed in eleventh place. France's positive development was primarily due to its improved performance in “Internet access in households”, where the penetration rate increased from 49 to 53 percent. In the category “Computer penetration”, the penetration rate rose from 62 to 68 percent. In “Broadband connections in the population”, France's performance is one-third below that of the world leader, Denmark.

Applications – 11th place →

With 65 index points in the national average for the category “Applications”, France stayed in eleventh place, but with an improvement of five index points it had the highest point gain in the national average across all key performance indicators. Within one year, “Internet use in the population” grew considerably by approximately 17 percentage points to 68 percent, “e-Commerce user penetration” rose five percentage points to 40 percent, and “Use of social networks” rose nearly twelve percentage points to just under 64 percent.

Fig. 5.3.5a: Significance of the French ICT market as of 2008
Relatively strong performance in “ICT expenditure per inhabitant” only

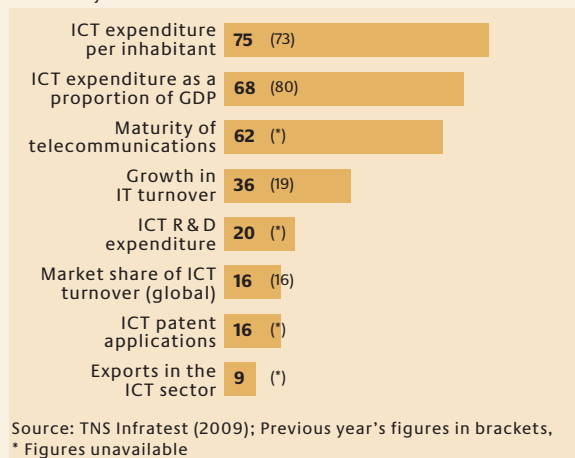


Fig. 5.3.5b: State of development of France's infrastructure as of 2008

France's performance in the category “Infrastructure” only average

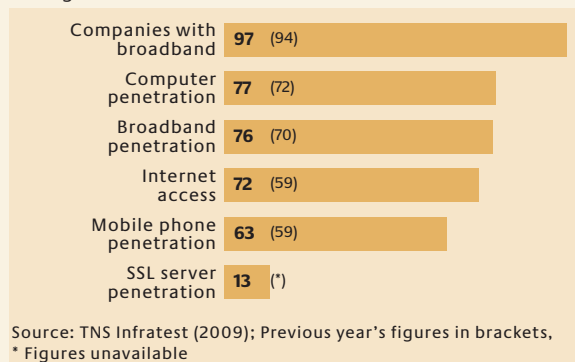


Fig. 5.3.5c: Maturity of the French applications sector as of 2008

Good performance in “e-Government” and “Internet use in companies”

