

## General Information



### KEY INFORMATION ABOUT FRANCE

**Capital:** Paris  
**Official Language:** French  
**Population:** 69.1 million (2025) incl. 66.8 million in metropolitan areas\*  
**Currency:** Euro (EUR)  
**Calling Code:** +33

### KEY ECONOMIC INDICATORS

**GDP per capita:** €42,630 (2022)\*\*  
**Real GDP growth in 2025 Q4:** 0.2%  
**Unemployment rate in February 2026:** 7.9%\*\*

## DEFINITION OF VOLUNTEERING\*\*\*\*\*

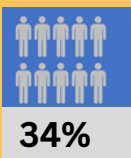
Volunteering is the act of a person who freely commits, in their personal time, to performing unpaid work for the benefit of others, or for a cause or collective interest.

## SOCIAL CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF VOLUNTEERING

No data available for the moment.

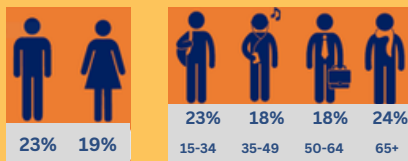
## Statistics and Demographics

### Volunteering rate of population\*\*\*



**Total number of volunteers:**  
 19 million in early 2025, including 12 million in associations.  
 • 34% of the metropolitan population aged 15 and over, including 21% in associations

### Volunteer experience per gender and age group (percentage of the total population)\*\*\*



**Annual economic value of volunteering:**  
 12 to 17 billion euros, or 0.75% to just over 1% of GDP, depending on the method used.\*\*\*\*

### Education Levels and Volunteering\*\*\*

Among higher education graduates, 26% participate in volunteering for associations. This rate is lower among those with a high school diploma, at 19%, and decreases further to 12% for individuals with a vocational certificate or lower level of education.

## Types of Volunteer Activities\*\*\*

- **Team leadership** (Board member or other leadership role): 30%
- **Fieldwork** (Reception/orientation, support, listening, facilitation, etc.): 50%
- **Support functions** (secretarial, accounting, management, communication, IT): 33%
- **Other:** 14%

## Motivation for Volunteering

FOR OR WITH OTHERS:

- Being helpful and acting for others (85%)
- The cause being supported (53%)
- Belonging to a team (31%)
- FOR ONESELF
- Personal fulfillment (42%)
- Acquiring skills (23%)
- Social recognition (17%)
- Exercising responsibility (14%)

## Impact of Volunteering

Currently, there is no systematic study of the impact of volunteering. The 1.5 million associations that rely on volunteers play a vital role in combating various forms of social vulnerability, advocating for causes and rights, and fostering social cohesion (people often ask, "What would France be without its associations?"). Moreover, the French have a high level of trust in their associations, more so than in most intermediary organisations.

Furthermore, we observe that volunteering has a very strong impact on the volunteers themselves through:

- A sense of being useful,
- A sense of community,
- Skills acquired
- Etc.

\*Source: INSEE Première No. 2087 dated 01/13/2025

\*\* Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>, INSEE: Quick Facts No. 34, published on 02/10/2026

\*\*\* Source: 2025 Volunteering Barometer - France Bénévolat/IFOP

\*\*\*\* Source: Article by Lionel Prouteau and François-Charles Wolff (LEM-CES, Faculty of Economics, University of Nantes) in ECONOMIE ET STATISTIQUE No. 373, 2004

\*\*\*\*\* Source: Opinion of the Economic, Social, and Environmental Council - June 28, 2022: <https://www.lecese.fr/actualites/engagement-benevole-le-cese-adopte-son-avis>

\*\*\*\*\* Source: Recherches et Solidarités - 2025 Volunteer Opinion Barometer

## Measuring the Impact of Volunteering

No data available for the moment.

## Quality Standards in the Field of Volunteering

No official standards, however, **volunteer charters** are offered by many organisations, and organisations that connect volunteers with organisations may provide templates.

## Challenges to the Development of Volunteering\*\*

Volunteering currently faces four challenges in French society:

- Pressure on volunteer availability is undermining nonprofit organisations.
- Growing pressure on caregivers, the rising retirement age, and societal changes directly affect volunteers' availability and their engagement patterns: a higher proportion of short-term assignments, requiring immediate action, and linked to major causes.
- Insufficient and inadequate public support for volunteering
- While public authorities appear to promote volunteer engagement, concrete measures to support organisations are lacking: insufficient funding, inefficient individual support mechanisms, and ineffective efforts to recognise the value of volunteering.
- A temptation to exploit volunteering
- Sometimes, under the guise of promoting volunteering, proposed initiatives seem designed to compensate for the disengagement of economic and institutional actors.
- Social, financial, and geographic barriers to volunteering
- Many people wish to get involved but face obstacles such as difficulties with mobility and accessibility

## National E-platform(s) for Volunteering

[Jeuxaider.gouv.fr](http://Jeuxaider.gouv.fr)



[tousbenevoles.org](http://tousbenevoles.org)



[francebenevolat.org](http://francebenevolat.org)



## Institutional and Legal Framework for Volunteering in France

Volunteers are not subject to any legal relationship of subordination. Their participation is voluntary: they are always free to terminate it without formal procedure or compensation. However, they are required to comply with the association's bylaws, as well as safety standards in their field of activity.\*\*\*\*

## National Award and Recognitions for Volunteering\*

Acknowledgments, presentation of tokens of appreciation (medals, the “Young Volunteer Award” from Tous Bénévoles, etc.), training to acquire new skills, issuance of the “Volunteer Passport” created by France Bénévolat,

### Citizen Engagement Account

- Eligibility threshold: 200 hours of volunteering per year (including at least 100 hours with the same organisation).
- Impact: Volunteers can earn up to €240 per year in their training account (capped at €720 in total) to fund personal or professional training.



## Financial Support for the Development of Volunteering

Financial support comes from government agencies (the Ministry responsible for community life, as well as the Ministry of Health, etc.) and local governments, but this funding is declining and is only very partially replaced by private funding (corporate sponsorship, pension funds, etc.)



## Key Stakeholders in the Development of Volunteering\*\*\*

According to the France Bénévolat Barometer,

1. The obstacles to volunteering cited by non-volunteers often relate to schedules (nearly 1 in 3 non-volunteers). France Bénévolat therefore recommends that organisations consider adjusting their schedules.
2. As for what might lead them to volunteer, for nearly 1 in 2 non-volunteers, personal connections are the top factor (a volunteer they know, information provided by active volunteers), followed by organisations (through their calls for volunteers, their websites, etc.).
3. Finally, intermediaries such as France Bénévolat are cited by 17% of non-volunteers. Platforms and social media also play a role, but to a lesser extent (22%).

We can also include universities and schools, companies (e.g., as part of CSR initiatives), and the media, which raise public awareness, supported by organisations—particularly France Bénévolat—whose mission is to promote volunteering.

## Trends in the Development of Volunteering in France\*\*\*\*

After a period of growth, volunteering has been declining for over 10 years, with the following differences:

- Increase in youth volunteering
- Decline in senior volunteering
- Growth in occasional volunteering
- Persistent influence of educational attainment on participation rates

There is also a growing trend toward occasional volunteering, accompanied by a decline in long-term and highly committed volunteering (one or more days per week).

## Research in the Field of Volunteering

No data available for the moment.

\* Source: France Bénévolat, the six pillars of volunteer team management / Labor Code, Articles L6151-1 et seq.

\*\*Source: France Bénévolat's Advocacy for Volunteering – 2025 General Assembly

\*\*\*Source: 2025 Volunteering Barometer - France Bénévolat/IFOP

\*\*\*\*Source: The Volunteer Guide. Ministry of Sports, Youth, and Community Life

\*\*\*\*\*Source: 2025 Volunteering Barometer - France Bénévolat/IFOP / La France Bénévole 2025 – Recherches et Solidarités/IFOP