INTRODUCTION
The French annexed various Polynesian island groups during the 19th century. In 1966, the French Government began testing nuclear weapons on the uninhabited Mururoa Atoll. In September 1995, France stirred up widespread protests by resuming nuclear testing after a three-year moratorium. The tests were halted in January 1996. In recent years, French Polynesia’s autonomy has been considerably expanded.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President Emmanuel MACRON
Head of Government
President of French Polynesia Edouard FRITCH
Government Type
parliamentary democracy (Assembly of French Polynesia); an overseas collectivity of France
Capital
Papeete
Legislature
unicameral Assembly of French Polynesia or Assemblée de la Polynésie française (57 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 4,167 sq km
Land: 3,827 sq km
Water: 340 sq km
Climate
tropical, but moderate
Natural Resources
timber, fish, cobalt, hydropower

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
small, territorial-island tourism-based economy; large French financing; lower EU import duties; Pacific Islands Forum member; fairly resilient from COVID-19; oil-dependent infrastructure
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $5.49 billion (2017 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $17,000 (2015 est.)
Industries - tourism, pearls, agricultural processing, handicrafts, phosphates
Agricultural products - coconuts, fruit, roots/tubers, pineapples, cassava, sugarcane, eggs, tropical fruit, tomatoes
Exports $1.245 billion (2014 est.)
cultured pearls, coconut products, mother-of-pearl, vanilla, shark meat
partners: Japan 23%, Hong Kong 22%, Kyrgyzstan 16%, US 16%, France 12% (2017)
Imports $2.235 billion (2014 est.)
fuels, foodstuffs, machinery and equipment
partners: France 28%, South Korea 12%, US 10%, China 7%, NZ 7% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
297,150 (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
0.75% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
Polynesian 78%, Chinese 12%, local French 6%, metropolitan French 4%
Language
French (official) 70%, Polynesian (official) 28.2%, other 1.8% (2012 est.)
Religion
Protestant 54%, Roman Catholic 30%, other 10%, no religion 6%
Urbanization
urban population: 62.1% of total population (2021)
rate of urbanization: 0.65% annual rate of change (2020-25 est.)