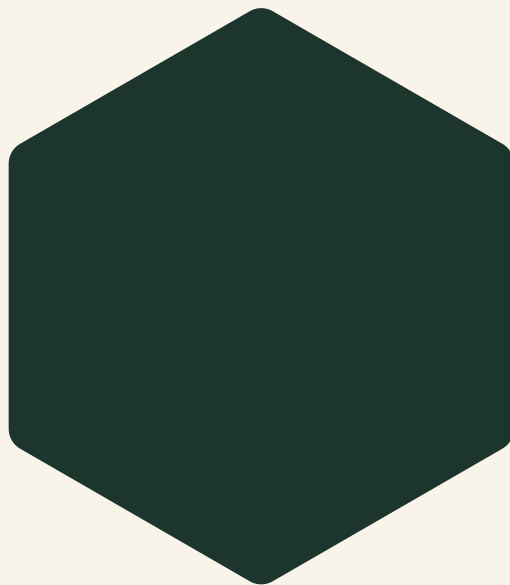




Money in France: What you need to know



Opening a bank account in France,
what you need to know

In France, you need a bank account for any financial transactions. Here is some information to help you open a bank account.

1. Opening a bank account

1 / Make an appointment at a bank. Make sure you can understand and be understood. If you need help, take a French speaker with you.

2 / When you go to the appointment, you must bring the following document.

Proof of ID:

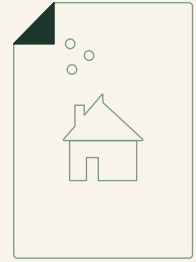
- An official valid identity document (*ideally a passport or other ID document*) with a photograph.
- A receipt (*récépissé*) for your application for a residence permit or your asylum application.
- Your temporary residence permit (*autorisation provisoire de séjour, APS*).



Proof of residence:

- If you are living in independent accommodation: receipt for rent or rental agreement, or an energy bill dated within the last three months.
- If you are being accommodated by a support organisation: a certificate from the host organisation.
- If you are living with an individual or a family: that person's proof of residence and identity document.

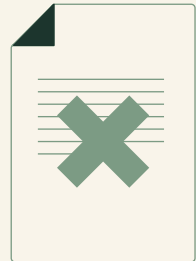
At the end of the appointment or more usually a few days later, you will get a response to your request to open a bank account. Be aware that a bank can refuse to open a bank account, but this is nothing to panic about.



3 / Here are the steps to take if you are refused a bank account:

If the bank refuses to open an account for you, you can benefit from the right to basic banking services (*"droit au compte"*)

- Ask the bank to provide you with written confirmation that they have refused to open a bank account for you.
- Book an appointment online on the Banque de France website (<https://accueil.banque-france.fr>) and bring that written document as well as your identity document and proof of existence.
- The Banque de France will appoint a bank which will open an account for you within 48 hours.



2. Bank accounts and payment methods

1 / Opening a bank account

The day your bank account is opened, your banking advisor will give you:

- The account contract ("*convention de compte*") which explains the rules about your account.
- The IBAN: essential for all transfers and direct debits.
- Your login and password to connect to your banking app.



2 / Bank cards

About ten days later, you will receive your bank card and pin number.

Don't worry, the card and the pin number are sent in separate envelopes. Your card can be used in any cash machine and in all shops in France and abroad. You cannot make any payments if you don't have enough money in your account.

Your banking advisor can give all kinds of useful advice – feel free to ask questions! There is a limit on how much you can withdraw from a cash machine, but if you need to, you can take out more money at your bank. This may take some time. Remember that most people in France use their bank card for most of their everyday expenses.

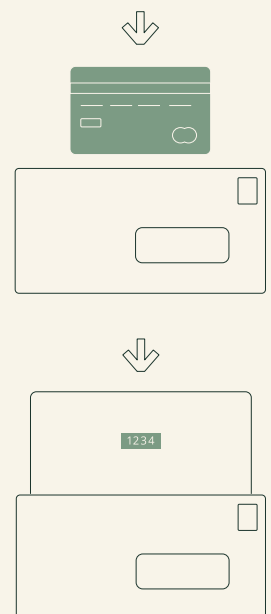


How a bank account works

Every month, you will receive a bank statement: check it carefully for any mistakes. You must keep this document for five years.

Your bank may ask you where your money comes from if you are depositing cash, particularly for high amounts.

There may be a fee for international money transfers: ask about any fees and commission!



3. Good financial habits

1/ Managing your bank account

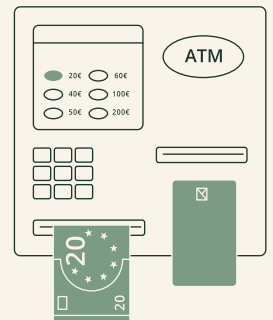
Check your bank balance regularly through your banking app or using your bank card and selecting "account balance" (*solde du compte*) at any cash machine.

To find out about how long you should keep documents, download our fact sheet "*Les papiers de la famille*" (in French) available on our website: www.finances-pedagogie.fr

Check that you always have enough money in your account in order to avoid any banking problems.

When it comes to international money transfers, bank transfers within the euro zone are free if you do them yourself through your app.

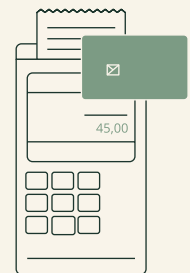
In any case, ask for advice from your bank. Find all the information on opening and managing your bank account on our website www.finances-pedagogie.fr, in the fact sheet "*La Relation Banque-Client*" (in French).



2 / Bank cards

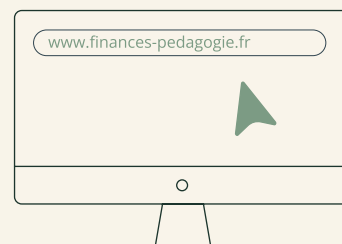
Some additional advice

- If you withdraw cash from a cash machine from a different bank, you may have to pay a fee. Find this out from your bank.
- Contactless payment can be used in shops without entering your pin number, up to a limit of €50 per purchase.



➤ If your bank card is lost or stolen, you can block it or cancel it through your banking app or directly at your bank. You can find the phone number to call on any cash machine. Good to know: you can use your Ukrainian bank card in France if it is an international card, within the rules set by your Ukrainian bank.

➤ Find out more about payment methods on our website www.finances-pedagogie.fr in the "Les Moyens de Paiement" fact sheet (in French).



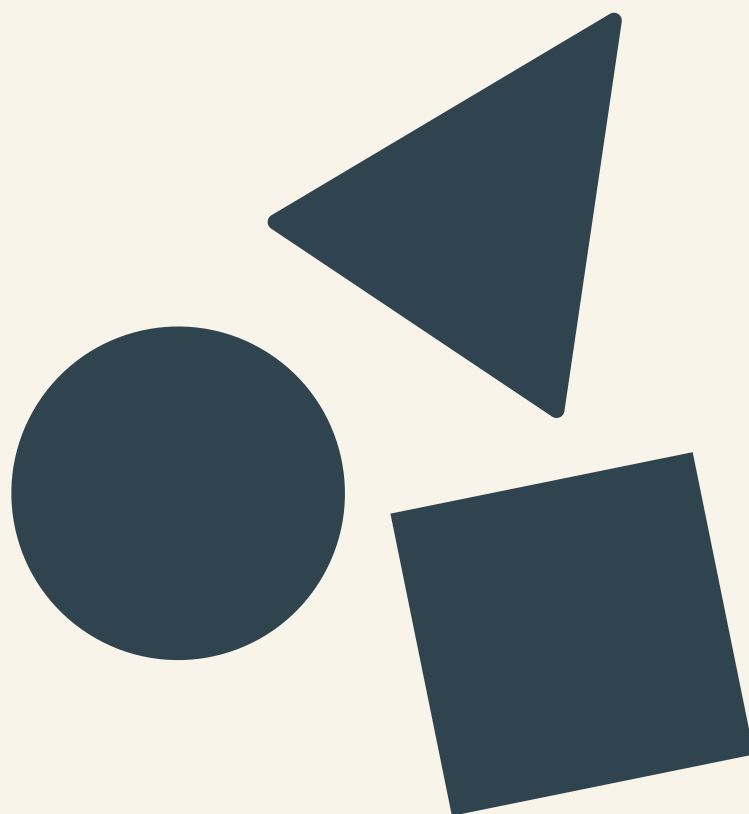
3 / Good habits around security:

➤ Never respond to any requests (by text, email, phone calls, etc.) asking for your bank login details, passwords or pin numbers.

➤ Never communicate the pin number for your bank card when making online purchases.

➤ Be careful if you want to receive or send money by any channel other than through your bank (money orders through specialist operators): some tempting offers (very short timescales, no fees, etc.) may be fraudulent. Ask for advice if you are in any doubt, especially from your banking advisor.





About money in France,
what you need to know

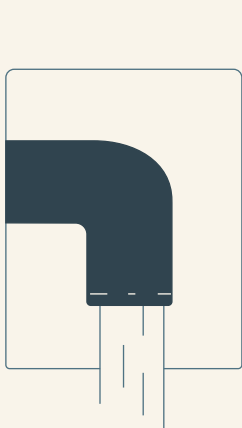
What currency is used in France?

➤ For day-to-day purchases, France uses the euro. There are currently 320 Hryvnia in €10. There are €5, €10, €20, €50, €100 and €200 banknotes, €1 and €2 euro coins, and 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 cent coins. Banknotes are identical across the entire euro zone.

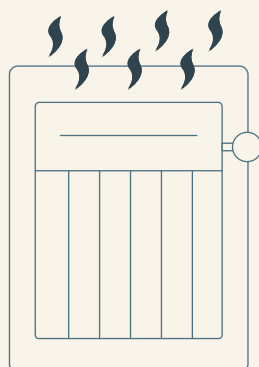


What are the main expenses?

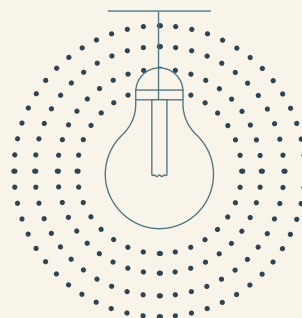
➤ For day-to-day expenses, budget for housing-related costs, such as:



Water, around **€12** per person, per month



Heating, around **€82** per month for a small home

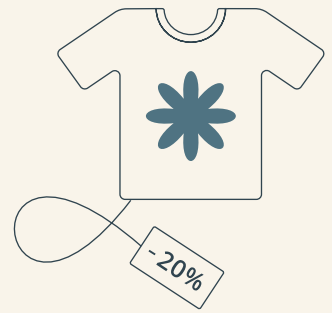


Electricity costs between **€50 and €150** per month depending on the size of your accommodation (a studio or a five-roomed house) as well as the energy characteristics of the building.

➤ On average for clothing (clothes and shoes), you should budget **€60** per month for one person.

The winter sales take place from the start of January and the summer sales take place at the end of June.

You can often buy clothes with reductions of between **20%** and **50%** in French shops.



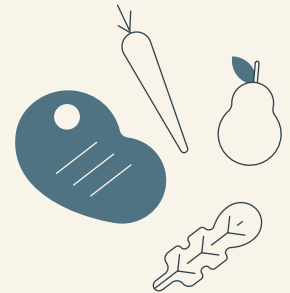
➤ For food, the average French person spends **€300** per month per person, with **€117** on fruit and vegetables.

This may be slightly higher or lower depending on your eating habits.

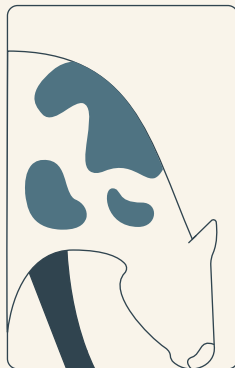
➤ The price of non-organic meat ranges from **€3/kg** for pork to **€11/kg** for beef.

A chicken costs around **€6**.

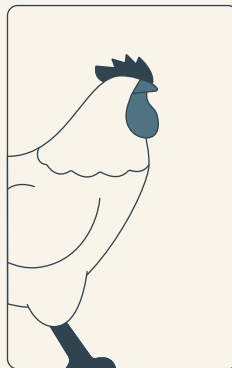
Be aware that organic meat may cost more.



€3/kg



€11/kg

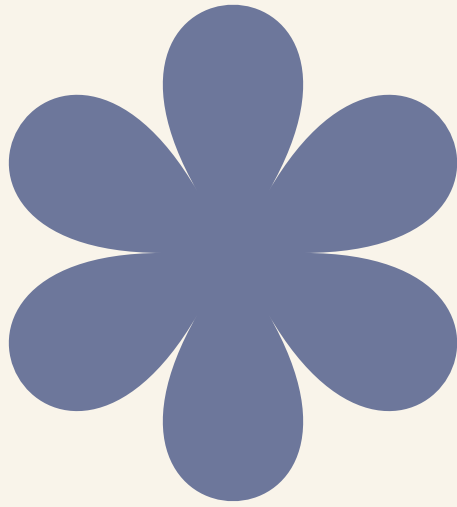


€6

➤ To make it easier to manage your budget and expenses, we recommend you download two apps:

Pilote Budget and **Pilote Dépenses**.





About daily life in France,
what you need to know

What resources are available?

- The asylum seekers' allowance (*allocation au demandeur d'asile, ADA*). As well as the temporary residence permit which provides temporary protection for Ukrainians, you can also receive the ADA. This benefit is calculated according to the composition of your family.

It is paid onto a card which can be used to make payments and is the equivalent of €6.80 per day for one person.

- If you find a job, you will receive a minimum salary which is calculated on the basis of the SMIC (the minimum wage in France). For one month of full-time work (35 hours a week in France) your net salary will be around €1,269, which is €8.58 euros per hour, net (the SMIC is regularly updated, and this figure is only given as an indication).

- Depending on your family situation, you may also ask for additional resources from the benefits office (*Caisse d'Allocations Familiales, CAF*) who will tell you more about the conditions for accessing it.

ADA



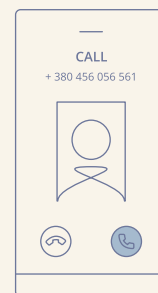
Caisse d'Allocations
Familiales



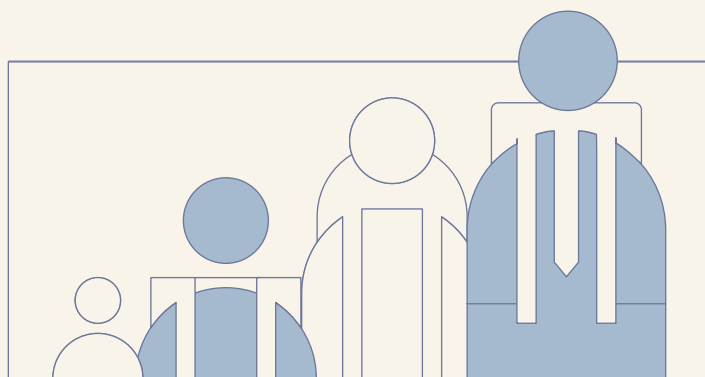
What are the main expenses?

- ➔ At around €20 per month, a mobile phone contract in France currently includes unlimited communication, texts and data usage which is more than enough for surfing the web and using common apps. Please note that, as an exceptional and temporary measure, communication to and from Ukraine is currently offered at no extra charge by French operators.

For more information, you can go to a mobile phone operator shop or find out more from the charity Emmaüs Connect.
www.emmaus-connect.org/nous-trouver

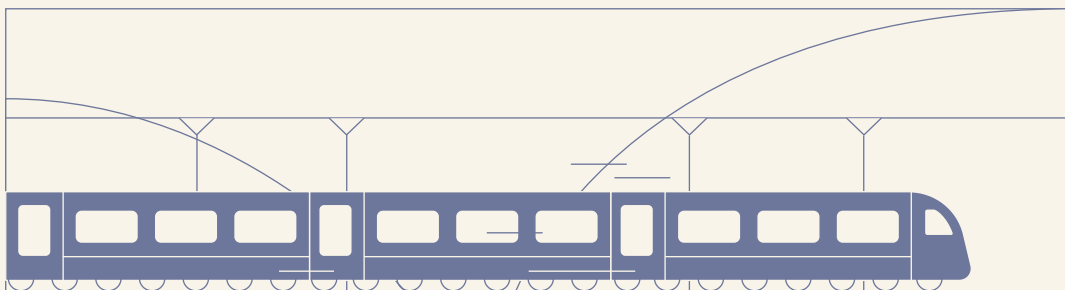


- ➔ In France, schooling is compulsory for all children between the ages of 3 to 16. Education is free in public schools.



- ➔ For children under the age of three, it is possible to attend a nursery or creche. For more information, contact the CAF.

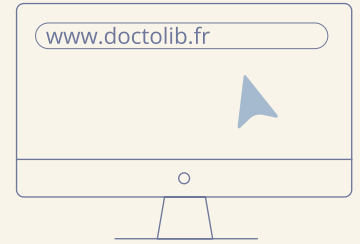
- ➔ To find out about train travel, get in touch with SNCF, OUIGO or other transport providers. On a temporary basis, Ukrainian refugees can get free train tickets from the SNCF.



- ➔ For local transport, contact your local town hall ("*mairie*").

➤ In terms of healthcare, it is important to get in touch with your health insurance company in order to get a temporary social security number, while you are waiting for a definitive one. Your social security number (both temporary and definitive) will allow you to be refunded for certain treatments and when you buy medicines in the pharmacy when these have been prescribed by your doctor.

It is important to get in touch with a general practitioner (known as a "*médecin généraliste de ville*"). You can find one on the www.doctolib.fr website.



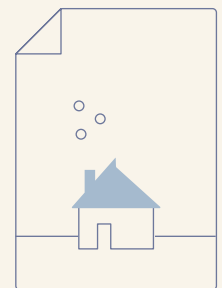
Pharmacies are also an important source of information and advice.

In an emergency, you can go to the nearest hospital with your passport or any other form of identification.

www.ameli.fr/assure/droits-demarches/situations-particulieres/refugie-ukrainien

➤ Insurance: it is compulsory to insure your home and your vehicle. If you are housed free of charge, civil responsibility insurance is required. This should cost between €30 and €50 per year.

➤ Two apps can help you to manage your budget and your spending: Pilote Budget and Pilote Dépenses



The booklet is provided by



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Association soutenue par les Caisses d'Épargne