

# France

*Women, Business and the Law 2023* (WBL2023) presents an index covering 190 economies and structured around the life cycle of a working woman. In total, 35 questions are scored across eight indicators. Overall scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. Data refer to the laws and regulations that are applicable to the main business city (Paris). Different rules may apply in other jurisdictions so local legislation should be reviewed. Based on this approach, **France scores 100 out of 100**. The overall score for France is higher than the regional average observed across OECD high-income economies (95.3). Within the OECD high-income region, there are 14 economies that score 100 out of 100.

## France - Scores for Women, Business and the Law 2023



## Relative Strengths

When it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's pay, constraints related to marriage, laws affecting women's work after having children, constraints on women starting and running a business, gender differences in property and inheritance, and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, France gets a perfect score.

## Areas for Improvement

France attains a perfect score on all of the WBL2023 indicators.

## Recent Reforms

No reforms were observed during the past year (October 2nd, 2021 – October 1st, 2022).



Further data details for France are available at:  
<https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/data/exploreeconomies/france/2023>



	QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Mobility	Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	Yes	Code Civil, Art. 215
	Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman apply for a passport in the same way as a man?	Yes	Décret no. 2005-1726 relatif aux passeports, Arts. 4 et 5; Procédures de demande de passeport
	Can a woman travel outside the country in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Workplace	Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	Code Civil, Art. 223
	Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Code du Travail, Arts. L1132-1 et L1142-1
	Is there legislation on sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	Code du Travail, Arts. L1153-1 - L1153-5
	Are there criminal penalties or civil remedies for sexual harassment in employment?	Yes	<i>Criminal:</i> Code Pénal, Art. 222-33 <i>Civil:</i> Code du Travail, Arts. L1153-1 - L1153-5 et L1235-3-1
Pay	Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	Yes	Code du Travail, Art. L3221-2
	Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Marriage	Is the law free of legal provisions that require a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	Code Civil, Art. 212
	Can a woman be head of household in the same way as a man?	Yes	Code civil, Art. 213
	Is there legislation specifically addressing domestic violence?	Yes	Loi No. 2010-769; Code Pénal, Arts. 132-80, 222-8(4° ter) et 222-24(11°)
	Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	Code civil, Art. 229
Parenthood	Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	Yes	Code de la Sécurité Sociale, Art. L331-3; Code du Travail, Art. L 1225-17
	Does the government pay 100% of maternity leave benefits?	Yes	Code de la Sécurité Sociale, Art. L111-1
	Is paid leave available to fathers?	Yes	Code du Travail, Art. L1225-35; Code de la Sécurité Sociale, Art. L331-8
	Is there paid parental leave?	Yes	Code du Travail, Art. L1225-47; Code de la Sécurité Sociale, Arts. L531-4
	Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	Yes	Code du Travail, Art. L 1225-4
Entrepreneurship	Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	Yes	Code pénal, Arts. 225-1 et 225-2
	Can a woman sign a contract in the same way as a man?	Yes	Code Civil, Art. 216
	Can a woman register a business in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
	Can a woman open a bank account in the same way as man?	Yes	Code civil, Art. 221
Assets	Do men and women have equal ownership rights to immovable property?	Yes	Code civil, Arts. 1421, 1422, 1424 et 1425
	Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets from their parents?	Yes	Code Civil, Art. 735
	Do female and male surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	Code Civil, Arts. 756 et 757-2
	Does the law grant spouses equal administrative authority over assets during marriage?	Yes	Code Civil, Arts. 1421, 1422, 1424 et 1425
	Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	Yes	Code civil, Arts. 1387 et 1400-1405
Pension	Is the age at which men and women can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	Code de la Sécurité Sociale, Arts. L351-8 et L161-17-2
	Is the age at which men and women can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	Code de la Sécurité Sociale, Art. L161-17-2
	Is the mandatory retirement age for men and women the same?	Yes	Code du Travail, Art. L1237-5
	Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	Yes	Code de la Sécurité Sociale, Arts. L136-2(II)(7) et L351-3(1)