

# Profile of France



Europe), Pyrenees, Jura, Ardennes, Massif Central and Vosges.

Coastline: Bordered by four seas (North Sea, Channel, Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean), France has 5,500 km of coastline.

## Climate

Three types:  
Oceanic in the west  
Mediterranean in the south  
Continental in central and eastern France

## Environment

Farms and forests cover 48 million hectares, i.e. 82% of the total area of metropolitan France. Some 27% of French territory is covered by forests, ranking France third in the European Union in forest land, behind Sweden and Finland. France boasts 136 different kinds of trees — exceptional for a European country — and the number of large animals is on the rise: in 20 years, the deer population has doubled and the number of roe deer has tripled.

In order to conserve and develop France's natural heritage, the government has established

six national parks, 128 nature reserves, 430 designated areas for protected species and 299 protected coastal areas. France also has 29 regional nature parks covering more than 7% of the country.

145 billion francs (22.11 billion euros) are allocated to the protection of the environment — 2,480 francs per inhabitant. Three quarters of this goes on waste water management and waste disposal.

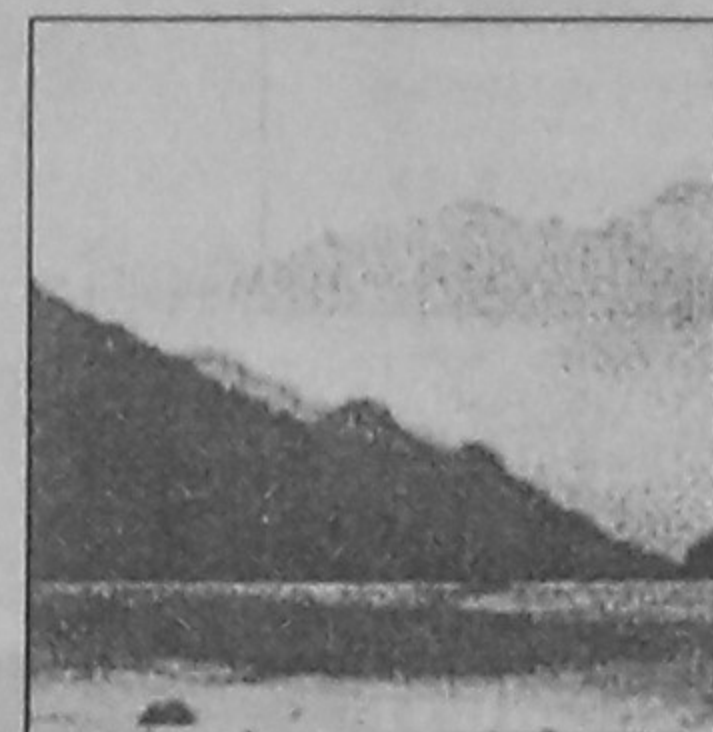
France is party to many international treaties and conventions concerning the environment, among them United Nations agreements on climate, biodiversity and desertification.

## Population

60.4 million (2000)  
Density: 107 inhabitants per sq. km

France has 52 urban areas with over 150,000 inhabitants with a total population of 30 million; the five largest are:

**Urban areas**      **Population in 1999**  
1. Paris                      10.6 million  
2. Lyon                      4.6 million  
3. Marseille-Aix-en-



Provence                      1.4 million  
4. Lille                      1.1 million  
5. Toulouse                      0.9 million

## Administrative Organization

The French Republic comprises metropolitan France, divided into 22 regions and subdivided into 96 departments, along with four overseas departments (DOM) — Guadeloupe, Martinique, Guyane (French Guiana) and Reunion. It also includes four overseas territories (TOM) — French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna and the French Southern and Antarctic Territories — and two "territorial collectivities" with a special status, Mayotte and St Pierre and Miquelon.

# ECONOMY

FRANCE is the world's fourth largest economic power in terms of GDP. The country's assets are varied and include its transport and telecommunications sectors, agri-foodstuffs and pharmaceutical industries, along with banking, insurance, tourism and the traditional luxury products (leather goods, ready-to-wear fashion, perfumes, fine wines and spirits, etc).

In 1999 France had a trade surplus of 124 billion francs (18.9 billion euros); it is the world's fourth largest exporter of goods (mainly durables) and ranks second in services and agriculture (cereals and agri-foodstuffs in particular). It is the leading producer and exporter of farm products in Europe. France carries out 63% of its trade with its European Union partners (50% within the euro area).

France ranks fourth internationally for direct inward investment. Foreign investors appreciate the skills of French workers, the advanced level of research, the mastery of high technology, the stable currency and control of production costs.

**Gross domestic product (GDP)** in 1999 : 8,833 billion francs (1,346.58 billion euros)  
**GDP growth** (1999) : 2.9%  
**Inflation** (1999) : 1.3%  
**Trade surplus** (1999) : 124 billion francs (18.9 billion euros).

## Agriculture

**Farms** : 680,000  
**Farmers/farm workers** : 910,000

**Utilized agricultural area** : 29,945,000 hectares, 54% of the area of metropolitan France

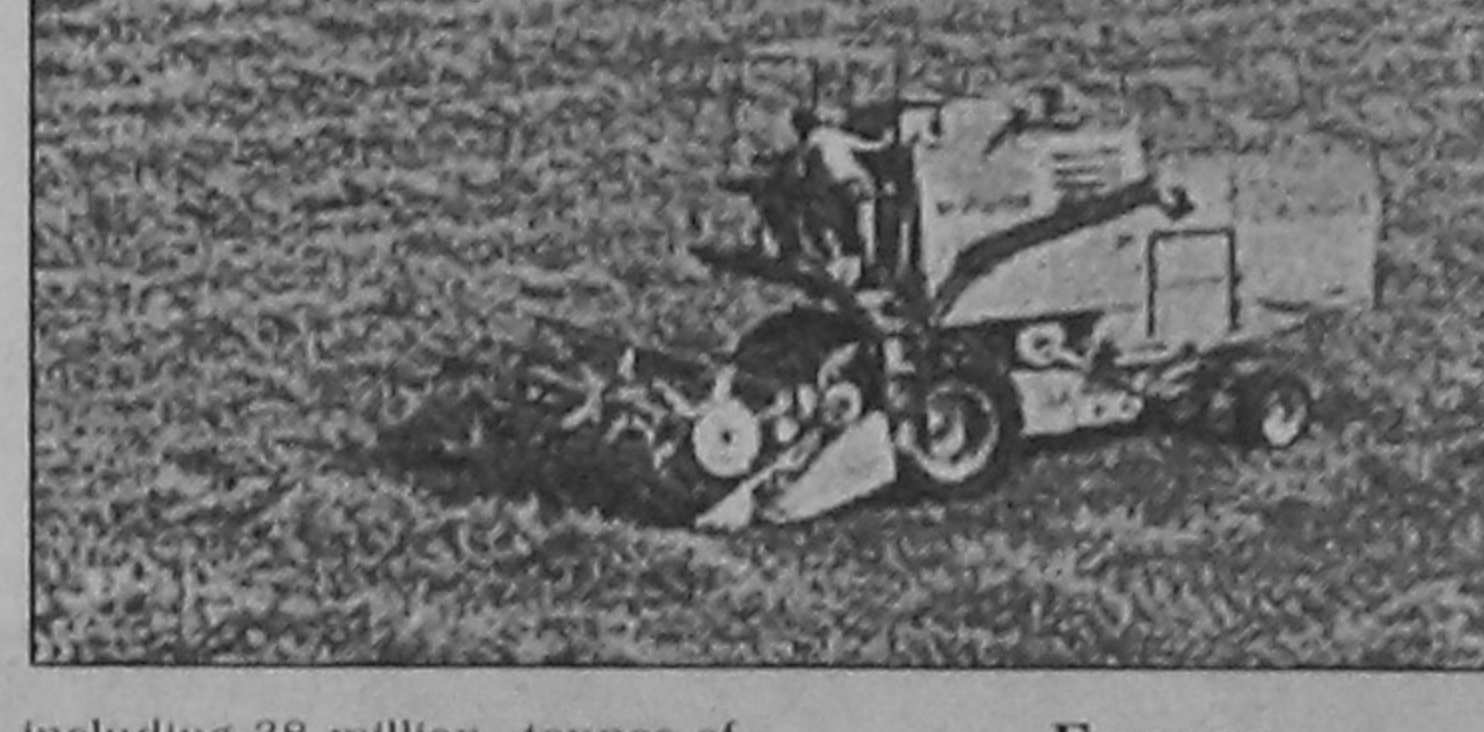
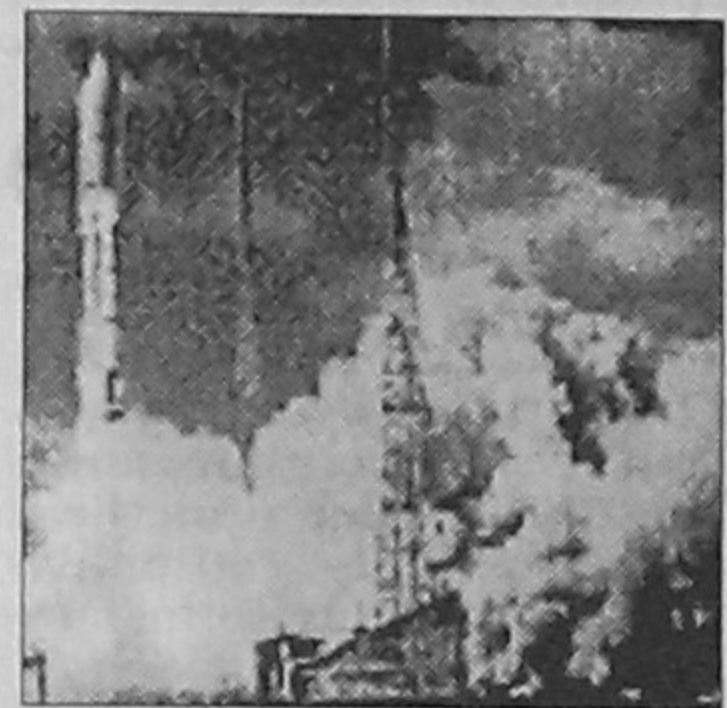
**Principal agricultural products in France**

**Sugar beet** : 1st in the EU, 2nd in the world (34 million tonnes)

**Wine** : 2nd in the world and EU after Italy (52 million hectolitres)

**Milk** : 2nd in the EU, after Germany and 5th in the world (23 million litres)

**Cereals** : 1st in the EU, 5th in the world (68 million tonnes).



including 38 million tonnes of soft wheat and 15 million tonnes of grain maize.

**Oilseeds** : 1st in the EU (5 million tonnes)

**Animal herds** : Cattle : 20 million; Pigs : 15.9 million; Sheep : 9.8 million; Goats : 1 million.

**Meat production** : Beef : 1,880 million tonnes; carcass-equivalent (tce); Pork : 2.3 million tce; Sheep/goat : 1.45 million tce; Poultry : 2.3 million tce.

## Forests

Woods and forests cover some 15 million hectares, 27% of France's total area, placing France third in the EU countries in terms of forest area.

Forest area in France has increased by 35% since 1945 and continues to grow by about 30,000 hectares each year. Most trees are deciduous (two thirds), while the remaining third consists of conifers. The National Forestry Office (Office national des Forêts — ONF) is responsible for managing national forests (1,750,000 hectares) and those belonging to local authorities (2,850,000 hectares). The remaining 10,500,000 hectares belong to some 3,800,000 private owners. Forests in France are a source of biological and scenic wealth, a place for excursions and relaxation; they also yield an annual harvest of 34 million cubic metres of timber.

## Energy

**Energy independence** : 48%  
**Primary energy consumption** : 249.4 million tonne oil equivalent (toe)

**Breakdown of energy consumption** : Oil-39.7%; Electricity-35.5%; Gas-13.6%; Coal-6.4%; Renewable energies-4.7%.

**Net electricity production** : 486 billion Twh, of which 76% is nuclear-generated.

**Energy bill** : 61 billion francs (9.3 billion euros)

## Industry

**Leading industrial sectors in France** :

• **Construction and civil engineering** : Annual turnover : 611 billion francs (93.15 billion euros).

Five French groups (Bouygues, the leading European group, SGE-Vivendi, GTM-Entrepose, GTM group, Eiffage and Colas) rank among the top European construction firms.

• **Agri-foodstuffs** : Annual turnover : 710 billion francs (108.24 billion euros).  
Workforce : 398,000

Leading sectors: meat and dairy production, cereals, confectionery, soft and alcoholic beverages. Leading exporter and second largest producer in the EU. Trade surplus : 58 billion francs (8.84 billion euros).  
Number of firms : 4,200

Main groups: Danone, Frigidaire, Beghin-Say, Nestlé, France, Besnier, Pernod-Ricard, Seita, Sodial, Socopa

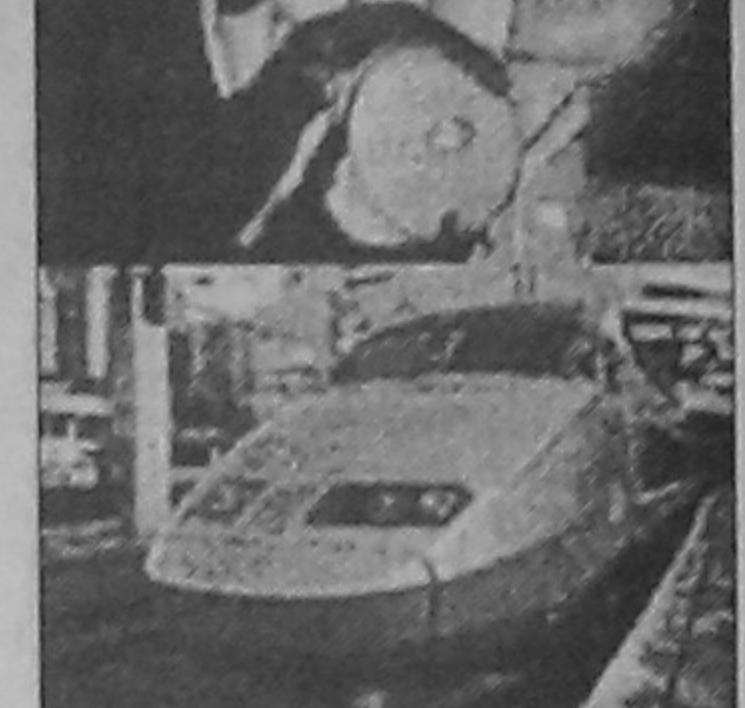
and Bongrain.

• **Fashion and luxury goods** : This sector includes haute couture, jewellery, luxury leather goods, perfumes, cosmetics and fine glassware.

Main groups : Yves-Saint-Laurent, Vuitton, Chanel, Baccarat, Hermès, Jean-Paul Gaultier, Dior and Cartier.

Turnover : 206 billions francs (31.4 billion euros)  
Workforce : 222,000

• **Pharmaceuticals** : Annual turnover : 186.6 billion francs (28.4 billion euros)



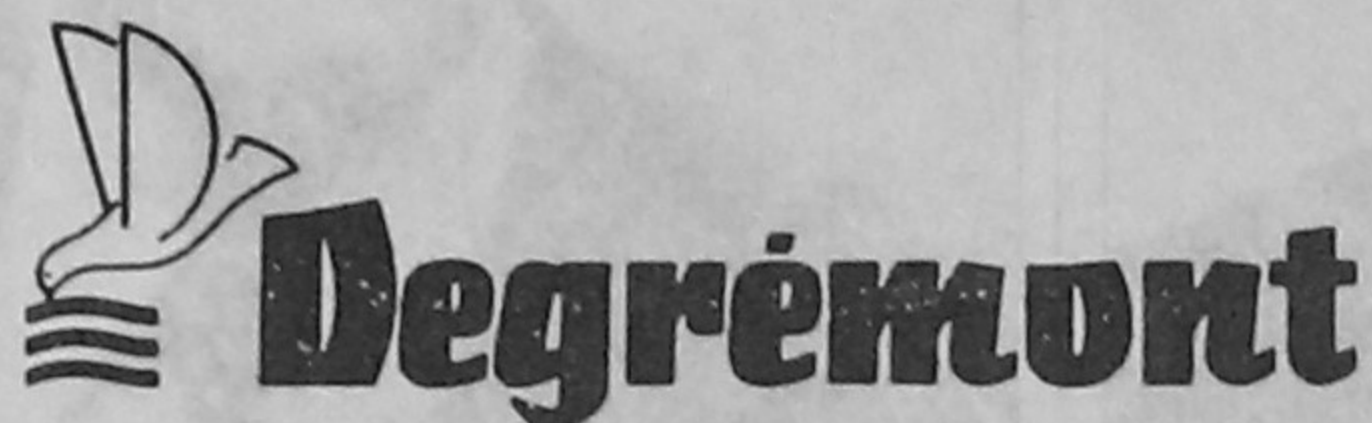
Workforce : 94,500.  
World's fourth largest producer and fifth largest exporter.

Main firms: Aventis-Pharma (merger of Rhône-Poulenc and the German firm Hoechst), Sanofi, Synthelabo, Biomérieux, Servier and Pierre Fabre.

• **Automobile industry** : Annual turnover : 542.1 billion francs (86.642 billion euros).

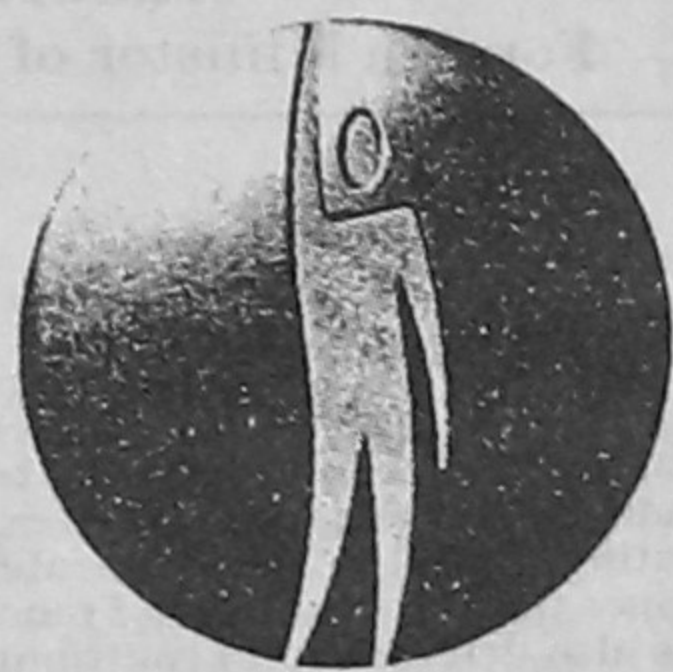
France is the world's third largest exporter of cars and, in 1998, had a surplus on its trade in this sector of 61 billion francs (9.3 billion euros). PSA (Peugeot-Citroën) and Renault are the two main groups in the sector.

4,519,000 vehicles were produced in 1998.  
Workforce : 286,000.  
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FRANCE

HAILS THE GROWING FRIENDSHIP  
BETWEEN FRANCE AND BANGLADESH  
ON THE OCCASION OF  
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# Culture and Leisure

THE Ministry of Culture's budget for 2000 is 16,039 billion francs (2.45 billion euros), 0.98% of the national budget.

The financing of cultural activities costs some 75 billion francs (11.43 billion euros), half provided by the State and half by local authorities.

On average, households spend 6,700 francs (1,021.41 euros) a year, i.e. 3.5% of their budget, on culture, leisure activities, sports and games.

## Books

In 1998, 47,168 books were published including 24,514 new titles and 22,654 reprints; 415 million copies were printed by 311 publishing houses.

Turnover in publishing (1998): 16 billion francs (2.44 billion euros).

## Newspapers

36% of the French read a daily newspaper every day.

There are seven national newspapers and 160 regional papers (dailies and weeklies).  
Total annual circulation: 9 billion.

## Periodicals

Among the top 100, six have a circulation of over one million and eight over 500,000 copies.

With 1,354 copies sold for every 1,000 residents, France ranks first in the world for magazine readership.

## Television

Watching television remains the favourite leisure activity of the French, with an average of 3 hours 15 minutes per person per day.

There are over 130 television channels.

• Four national public channels: France 2, France 3, Arte (Franco-German cultural channel) and La Cinquième (educational channel);

• Three national private channels: TF1, M6 and Canal Plus (pay channel with 6.6 million subscribers in France and 6.9 million abroad);

• Over 20 national and local cable channels (35% of households are connected to a cable network), 7.1% of households subscribe to specific cable channels;

• Multichannel satellite packages (Canal Satellite, TPS);

• TV5 and Canal France Internationale (CFI), are the two



television channels in France's external radio and television network.

## Radio

• Radio France is the umbrella company for the country's public service radio stations: France Inter, France Info (24-hour news), France Culture, Radio Bleue and FIP.

• The private sector is represented by the general interest stations RTL (France's most popular radio station), Europe 1 and Radio Monte Carlo and a host of music, specialist, community and regional stations broadcasting on FM.



• Radio France Internationale (RFI-30 million listeners worldwide), RMC-Moyen Orient aimed at the Middle East and Medi 1 aimed at the Maghreb form France's overseas radio broadcasting network.

## Information technology and multimedia

While computers are considered primarily as tools for work and are used as such by 46% of the French, an increasing proportion, currently 23%, of French households now have one.

The French have rapidly taken to the Internet, the new form of access to knowledge, with four million users at school, work or home.

Internet use in France has grown swiftly and remarkably in a few years; every institution, daily newspaper, government department and business now has its own website and there are sites of all kinds (sport, education, services, films etc).

Finally, the most visited sites are portal sites and ISP websites such as France Telecom's Wanadoo.

## Cinema

France, which invented the cinematograph in 1895, is still very active in this sector. 141 films were produced in 1996, making France second in the world for film investment. France also coproduces an increasing number of films, often with its European Union partners.

Despite competition from television, in 1998 over 170 million people more than at any time for the past thirteen

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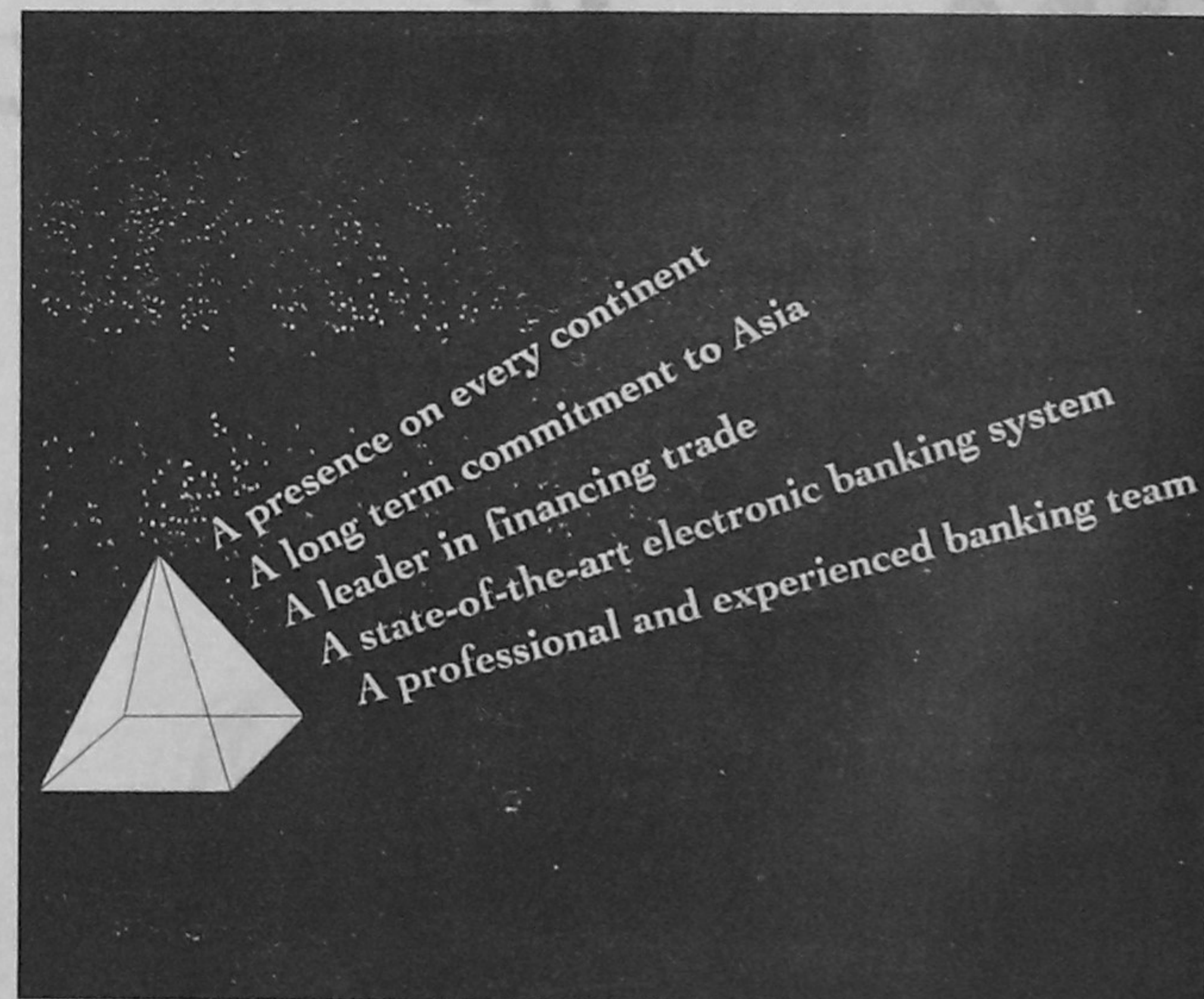
## Airport Office

Cargo Export Zone, Zia International Airport, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Tel: 8914584, 8914494

## Chittagong Office

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