



French Polynesia



French Polynesia is a group of 118 islands and atolls in the South Pacific. It is composed of five groups of islands, the Society Islands (which include the island of Tahiti), the Austral and Gambier Islands, as well as the Marquesas and Tuamotu archipelagos. It has been an overseas territory of France for over 60 years. French Polynesia gained political autonomy in 1984, and has a self-governing status within the French Republic. Under the new autonomy statute of March 2004, French Polynesia became an “overseas country” of France with increased domestic and international autonomy. The French Polynesian economy relies heavily on financial aids from France. Tourism and the black pearl industry make up the bulk of their economy.

The country has consistently banked in a healthy GDP growth of around 4.5 percent annually. Most French Polynesians work for the government or the tourism industry. The country is self sufficient, with a good agricultural sector providing food for local consumption. In the early 1960s, around 50 percent of the workforce was employed by agriculture. By 1990, this figure dropped to 9 percent. The growing economy provided new jobs in the military and tourism sectors for the people. Goods prices are high in the islands due to its trade deficit and remote geographic location. French Polynesia hosts an international banking system operating on a stable monetary policy. There is a total freedom on currency transfers, and there is a firm base for



Photo: Daneer Henzama, EDT

financial development given a Euro exchange rate guaranteed by the French state.

Industry Overview

Electricité de Tahiti (EDT) is the main private electric utility. It is in charge of the production and the distribution of electricity on 19 islands of French Polynesia, with more than 50,000 customers on the island of Tahiti and 19,000 customers on the other 18 islands. The “Service

PROFILE

Capital	Papeete	Installed Capacity	528 MW
Area	4,167 km ²	Population Electrified	97%
Population	278,963	Main Voltages (kV)	90, 30, 20, 14.4
GDP	US\$4.58 billion	Natural Resources	hydropower
Currency	French Pacific Francs (CFP)		

de L'Energie et des Mines", a department of the Government of French Polynesia, is in charge of regulating the power sector and imposing electricity fares. EDT supplies electricity to nearly 92% of the French Polynesian population, and that includes almost the entire population of Tahiti.

EDT has contracts for electricity generation and distribution in Tahiti and 18 other islands through to the year 2030. It does not subsidise rates. The rates are equalised between the main island of Tahiti and the greater remote islands of French Polynesia. EDT meets the requirements of international standards including ISO 9001:2000 (for quality management), ISO 14001 (for environmental management), and OHSAS (for healthy and safety management). The Punaruu and Vairaatoa facilities are thermal power stations.

Other power utilities are Marama Nui, which generates hydropower, and in which EDT holds the majority stake, and Transport d'Energie en Polynésie (TEP) which is in charge of the transmission of electricity at 20 kV, 30kV and 90kV levels. The transmission and distribution equipment on the islands are mostly French or American. SEMT Pielstick of France and Wärtsilä of Finland are among the generation equipment suppliers. The country has no natural fuel reserves. As such, 70% of power generation in Tahiti is produced from imported heavy fuel, and the remaining from hydropower, while light diesel oil is commonly used on other islands with some generation coming from hydro electric power stations in the Marquesas islands.

Growing Demand

In 2003, EDT inaugurated the operation of two new engines of 17MW each. The investment reflected EDT's resolve to meet growing consumption and also to anticipate the needs for electric output of its customers, as demand is expected to grow by 3% over the next few years.

As French Polynesia has no natural fuel reserves, 98% of power generation in Tahiti is produced from heavy fuel, while light diesel oil is commonly used on other islands. Approximately 39% of the generation comes from hydroelectricity, which is about 122.3GWh.

Transmission and Distribution

In 2004, EDT did not start operations of any new engines in Tahiti. There is no plan for increasing transmission lines. There are currently six substations in the island of Tahiti. There are projects lined up for installation in 2007 or 2008. Transmissions voltages and the length of the installed backbone network is as follows:

	Tahiti	Other islands
LV Network length	1119 km	743 km
HV Network length	703 km	625 km

Tariff

Low Voltage tariffs:

A variation from the previous year of 0.5 XPF/ kWh has been made in order to share the cost of increase of fuel prices.

Subscription monthly fees:

Monthly fee is fixed for low voltage customer at a value (in XPF) of: $P = 14.04 \times 16.12 \times N$ with N : Value in kVA of power subscribed by customer for the point of connection. There is no monthly fee for pre-paid customers, as the fee is included



Photo: Danee Henzama, EDT

in price per kWh to the customer.

Domestic tariffs:

Mensual consumption (kWh) :

C	P.U. per kWh (H.T)
0 < C < 100 kWh	10,53 XPF
100 < C < 200 kWh	28,68 XPF
C > 200 kWh	37,21 XPF

Public Lighting: 29,00 XPF

Professional Use: 33,83 XPF

Pre-payment Tariff (Domestic use only in specified sites)

Ps = 2.2 kVA	17.44 XPF
Ps = 3.3 kVA	25.16 XPF
Ps = 4.4 kVA	29.19 XPF
Ps = 5.5 kVA	30.79 XPF
Ps = 6.6 kVA	32.58 XPF

High Voltage tariffs:

A variation of 0.5 XPF/kWh from the previous year has been made in order to share the cost of increase of fuel prices.

Subscription monthly fees:

Monthly fee is fixed for High voltage customer at a value (in XPF) of : $P = 468.19 \times 16.12 \times N$ with N : Value in kVA of power subscribed by customer for the point of connection

Energy Rates

Night & Day use :

Day Use Mensual consumption (kWh):

CD	P.U per kWh (H.T)
0 < CD < 16200	26.08 XPF
16201 < CD 48600	17,18 XPF
CD > 48600	16,57 XPF

Night Use Mensual consumption (kWh):

ND	
0 < ND 9000	17,52 XPF
ND > 9000	16,35 XPF

There has been a decrease in tariffs since January

2005. The last decrease in electricity tariffs was in January 2005. Tariffs that appeared under domestic uses and professional low voltage uses experienced the decrease.

This was to help the low income households and to promote development for the small-scale enterprises and industries.

In accordance to these decreases, pre-payment tariffs have been adjusted to new values, as they are linked to prices of energy for domestic uses.

Subsidised Rates

There are no subsidised rates of electricity in the French Polynesia, but rates of energy are equalised between the main island of Tahiti and remote islands from the archipelagos of French Polynesia.

Invoice

Energy is invoiced in French Polynesia on a monthly basis. The monthly invoice includes subscription fees & expense of energy invoices for consumption per kWh. Electricity rates are defined for each tariff slot as a fixed difference between a Reference Rate & value applicable for each rate.

The Reference Rate, $P_{ref} = E + T + ACE$, where, E = Price per kWh for primary Energy used (Fuel, Hydroelectricity, renewable energy), T = Price per kWh for Transportation of energy between power plants to substations and ACE = All other Charges for Exploitation every 5th year (beginning in 2001).

The Government & EDT negotiates the value of each term with the evolution of life's cost, technical yield of networks, total consumption and growth in the last five years.

Tariff rates are made public after they are approved by the local government after the ministerial council meeting.