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France rocked by cost-of-living unrest, over 1,800 arrested

This is the country's worst unrest in years.

By **Manasee Kurlekar** | October 19, 2026



France is counting the cost of its worst unrest in years.

More than 1,800 people were arrested after weekend protests turned violent.

Authorities said masked groups set fires and attacked public buildings, including city halls, in several cities on Saturday. Student protests escalated into widespread unrest over the cost of living and other issues. Macron vowed rioters "must pay" as France assessed the damage.

What began as student protests escalated into widespread anger over the cost of living and other grievances.

President Macron has condemned those he says tried to bring down the Republic.

For Europe's second-largest economy, the economic pressure on households is now showing up in the streets, and political pressure on the Élysée is rising with it.

Read online: <https://worldbusinesswatch.com/news/45/281/france-rocked-by-cost-of-living-unrest-over-1800-arrested.html>

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