

Monday 8th May 2017 – 8:00am

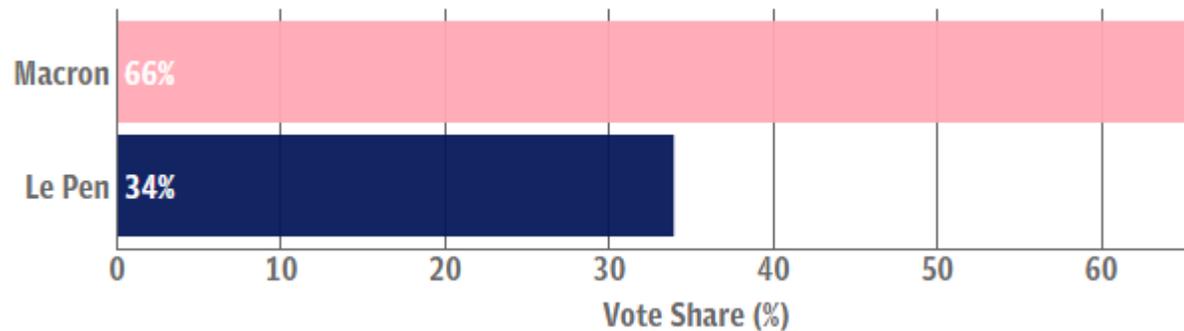
International

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French Election: Landslide Macron victory prompts muted initial reaction

- The widely-expected outcome of the French presidential election came to be on Sunday evening, as pro-euro centrist Emmanuel Macron was projected to become the new President-elect of France.
- Macron easily defeated his rival, anti-euro candidate Marine Le Pen, by a substantial margin, prompting some to declare that the election outcome was a clear vote of confidence for European unity.
- Projections gave 39-year-old Mr. Macron almost two thirds of the vote, showing a clear path to the Élysée Palace for the pro-EU centrist who was a political unknown until three years ago and has never held elected office.



Source: Telegraph

- There has been a collective sigh of relief on the markets following Emmanuel Macron's victory in the French presidential election.
- Early morning trading, showed the single European currency rising to as high as USD1.1024, its highest in about six months, before stepping back to USD1.0984.
- The euro later slipped back, reflecting uncertainty over whether Macron will be able to secure a majority in next month's parliamentary elections, enabling him to implement his economic programme.
- He plans to blend a big reduction in public spending and a relaxation of labour laws with greater investment in training and a gradual reform of the unmanageable pension system.
- Asian markets were mostly higher, with Japan's Nikkei 225 surging 2.31%, close at 19,895.7. The Nikkei share average also reached its highest level since December 2015.
- The Shanghai Composite traded 0.85% lower at 3,076.7861 while the Shenzhen Composite fell 1.98% close at 1,835.5866.



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