

Coe-Rexecode releases previously unpublished figures on actual working time and compares employment strategies implemented in France and in Europe.

Coe-Rexecode publishes, for the first time, **figures of actual working time in European countries**. These figures, based on the annual Eurostat « Labour Forces Survey», have not been available until now.

➤ The Coe-Rexecode study establishes the reality of working time in Europe

The Coe-Rexecode study is based on the statistical survey, conducted by Eurostat, which provides **comparable figures** on working time for all European countries :

1. The data concern **the actual annual working time** (*i.e.* the number of hours actually worked during the year) ;
2. The comparisons are based on **the averages of comparable and homogenous workers' categories** (a distinction is made between employees and employed persons except employees, as well as between full-time and part-time employees).

➤ The actual working time in France is the lowest in Europe

The comparison established by Coe-Rexecode between the European countries leads to three major results:

1. The **actual average yearly working time of full-time employees** in France is, with Finland, **the lowest in the European Union** (1,679 hours in 2010, that is 224 hours less than in Germany);
2. After the 35-hour workweek reform, France experienced the **strongest reduction in the European Union of actual working time** of full-time salaried employees over the last 10 years (270 fewer hours between 1999 and 2010 compared to 124 fewer hours for Germany).
3. In addition, the actual average annual working time among **full-time employed persons except employees** (2,453 hours) and **part-time employees** (978 hours) in France is in the high range of **European average**.

➤ Different employment strategies have been implemented in Europe

Connecting working time, employment rate and purchasing power, the study of Coe-Rexecode has examined the strategies for employment implemented in European countries and their macroeconomic consequences. The study highlights, among other things, **the gap between :**

1. **A German example** characterised, in a declining demography, by a **successful « work sharing » program**. Germany has encouraged business negotiation, **the development of part-time work and a limited reduction in the actual working time**. This has allowed for **an increase in the employment rate and more purchasing power** for its population.
2. **A French strategy** which has not taken advantage of its demographic assets and **has, therefore, lost part of its potential**. The shifting to a 35-hour workweek has **strongly reduced the working time** (for full time and part time) **without significantly stimulating the overall employment rate, and has also curbed average purchasing power**.

The report (in french) is available online :

[La durée effective de travail en France et en Europe](#)

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www.coe-rexecode.fr/public/Analyses-et-previsions/Documents-de-travail

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