

2015 data on number of hours actually worked confirms France's peculiar position in the EU

Coe-Rexecode releases its 2015 data on number of hours actually worked in the EU

For several years, Coe-Rexecode has asked Eurostat to calculate precisely the number of hours actually worked in the European Union Member States for each different categories of workers and for the different economic sectors.

The last Eurostat's European Union "Labour force survey" provides new data for 2015. This survey points out that French full-time employees have worked the least number of hours in the EU, corroborating Coe-Rexecode's previous findings on the country's peculiar position in the EU (as outlined in its [working papers n°29, published in 2012](#), and [49, published in 2014](#)).

➤ France's average annual number of hours actually worked by full-time employees is the lowest across the EU / Average annual number of hours actually worked by French full-time employees lowest of the EU

- In 2015, the average number of hours actually worked by a French full-time employee was 1,646 hours. This amount has decreased by 13 hours since 2013 and is the lowest of the 28 EU Member States.
- Between 2013 and 2015, the gap has widened between France and its main European trade partners for full-time employees. In 2015, Italian full-time employees have worked 130 additional hours, Spaniards 165 additional hours, Dutch 185 additional hours while the Brits have worked 228 additional hours in comparison to French full-time employees.
- The gap with Germany reached 199 hours in 2015, which is slightly more than in 2013. According to an in-depth analysis, this difference mainly results from the longer period of holidays and compensation leaves in France.
- While in 2013 France was ranked 27th for the average annual number of hours actually worked by full-time employees in the EU and, thus, still ahead of Finland (ranked 28th out of the 28 EU Member States), it is now at the tail-end.
- The Finnish government appears to have drawn the consequences of its low numbers and plans to increase by 24 hours a year the standard working time.

➤ **Average number of hours actually worked by French full-time employees in the non-market sector below overall French average**

- Looking at the data for French full-time employees across the different economic sectors, it appears that the duration is close to the overall mean in the industrial sector (1,649 hours) and in the construction sector (1,665 hours) and well above in commercial services (1,718 hours).
- The number of hours actually worked for full-time employees is however well below average in the non-market sector with 1,569 hours, 77 hours less than the overall average (1,646).

➤ **Average number of hours actually worked by French part-time employees above the EU average**

- The annual average number of hours actually worked by French part-time employees reached 981 hours in 2015, equivalent to almost 60% of the full-time employees' average and 6% more than the European average. This duration has slightly diminished, from 992 hours to 981 hours, since 2013.
- The French part-time employees work more than their counterparts in Germany (889 hours, 48% of a German full-time employee) and in the UK (873 hours, 47% of a British full-time employee), but less than Italian part-time employees (1,017, 57% of an Italian full-time employee).

➤ **Average number of hours actually worked by French independent full-time workers one of the highest in the EU**

- The annual average number of hours actually worked by French independent full-time workers reached 2,335 hours in 2015. This amount is down by 38 hours since 2013 but is the highest of the EU with the exception of Belgium.
- The working duration ratio between full-time independent workers and full-time employees is of 42% in France, 26% in Germany, 21% in Italy and only 8% in the UK.

Read the [full report](#) (in French) on www.coe-rexecode.fr.

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