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Traduisez l'ensemble de article suivant en français.

# **Do people in France really work less than in other countries?**

President Macron said so in a speech this week, but the figures paint a more complicated picture - and

# what about productivity?

**15 October 2021**

**By Joanna York**

President Emmanuel Macron this week said: “In comparison to others, we are a country that works less than other countries.”

He made the statement as he announced a [€30billion investment plan](#) to boost the economy and “build France 2030.”

It was later reiterated by government spokesperson Gabriel Attal, who said OECD data “showed it to be true”.

This is not the first time the president has made such a claim. In 2019, he said: “People in France work a lot less than our neighbours. We enter the work market later [in life], retire earlier and work less during the year.”

## **So do the French really work less?**

[Figures from the OECD](#) do show that France was at the lower end of the scale of all developed countries surveyed for the average number of hours worked per year.

In France, part-time and full-time workers worked on average 1,511 hours per year, below the European Union average of 1,593 hours and the OECD average of 1,743 hours.

In Europe, people in Spain (1,688), Italy (1,751) and Greece (1,920) were all found to work more hours than those in France.

However, many north European countries – typically economic high-performers – were found to work less hours per year than an average person in France, including Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Holland and Germany.

OECD economist Mathieu Plane told [Le Figaro](#): “The highest performing countries in Europe, like those in the north, are those where the number of hours worked is, in reality, quite low. “Germany is almost last on the list [for the number of hours worked], and Greece is top.”

## **Measuring productivity**

Measuring economic productivity rather than hours worked, OECD data also found how much workers in each country contribute to gross domestic product per hour.

On this scale, the average worker in France was found to make the same as in Germany, with both contributing \$67 (€57.7) to the countries’ GDP per hour.

This is significantly higher than the OECD average of \$52, and the Greek rate of \$34, and indicates that although people in France work fewer hours, they use them effectively.

Mr Plane said: “We found that when productivity is higher, the duration of work often goes down.”

However, comparing weekly hours worked, rather than annual figures, also changes the ranking.

Factoring in part-time and full-time work, a [study](#) from Le Trésor Public found that people in France worked an average of 36.1 hours per week, almost the same as the EU average of 36.3 hours per week, and higher than the German average of 34.3 hours.

However, one difference was that, while the number of bank holidays in France was similar to the EU average, workers in France were found to have seven extra holiday days each year.

### **French employment rates low for young and old**

The figures tell yet another story when the total number of hours worked is divided by the population of each country.

Here, OECD figures show people in France working significantly less than in other EU countries.

While workers in France log an average of 634 hours per inhabitant per year, workers in Germany (728), Spain (708), and Italy (713) do more.

The French average is also 15% below the EU norm of 751 hours per inhabitant per year.

Whatsmore, with later entry into employment and earlier departures, the average person in France is part of the workforce for 35.2 years.

This brings the overall rate of employment in France (which measures how many eligible workers are in employment) down to 66%, making it lower than the EU average (69.5%), the OECD average (68.9%) and the German average (76.9%).

So, it seems that overall, people in France do work less than in other countries in Europe.

However, the degree of this varies depending on the data used.

While the number of hours worked per worker is a relatively small amount lower than in other EU countries, the gap between the number of hours worked per inhabitant is significant.

<https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/Do-people-in-France-really-work-less-than-in-other-countries>