

Employment as a Proportion of the Population

You will recall that figures we have on employment in the UK as a proportion of the population which show that a higher proportion of our population is in work than most other comparable countries.

The following is the Table from which this is drawn:-

Percentage of total population in work:-European Community Comparisons 1983 figures

Denmark	48 per cent
Luxembourg	44 per cent
United Kingdom	42 per cent
FRG	41 per cent
France	39 per cent
Belgium	37 per cent
Italy	37 per cent
Netherlands	35 per cent

Source: Eurostat Employment and Unemployment 3 - 1984

We have now obtained figures for the proportion of the population of working age in work, which show that the UK's advantage has actually increased by taking this measure. For 1982, for example, employment as a proportion of population of working age is 66% as compared with the European average of 60%. It may be worth, therefore, switching to these figures which, in any event,

are probably a better guide since they eliminate considerations of age structure.

Total Employment as a Percentage of Population from 15 to 64

	<u>1980</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>Average 1960-82</u>
UK	71	66	71
Japan	70	71	71
West Germany	64	61	67
France	63	61	66
USA	67	66	64
Italy	56	55	57
OECD Europe	62	60	65

Source: OECD Historical Statistics 1960-82.

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