

# Working hours and economic performance: What lessons can be drawn from the Coe-Rexecode report?

By [Eric Heyer](#) and [Mathieu Plane](#)

Do people work less in France than in the rest of Europe? Is France the only country to have reduced working hours in the last decade? Is the 35-hour work week really dragging down the French economy? The report published on 11 January by the [Coe-Rexecode](#) Institute provides fresh material for answering these questions.

We have produced [a note on the main conclusions of the report](#), which can be summarized as follows:

## **1. People work fewer hours in France than in the rest of Europe.**

- TRUE for full-time employees,
- FALSE for part-time employees,
- FALSE for non-salaried employees,
- UNDETERMINED for the total.

## **2. Working hours have fallen more in France than in Germany over the last 10 years.**

- FALSE

## **3. “The shorter work week has failed to meet the goal of job creation and work-sharing” in France.**

- FALSE

## **4. “The shorter work week has undermined per capita purchasing power” in France.**

- FALSE