

## Job Satisfaction by Country (%)

From David Blanchflower (Dartmouth College, US) and Andrew Oswald (Warwick University, UK)  
*using*  
 International Social Survey Programme survey data: 1997

	Completely satisfied	Very satisfied	Fairly satisfied	Neither	Dissatisfied	N
Bangladesh	20%	13	47	11	8	476
Bulgaria	9	17	49	14	11	466
Canada	7	32	42	12	8	582
Cyprus	22	38	27	10	2	602
Czech Republic	15	13	51	14	7	521
Denmark	25	37	27	7	4	639
East Germany	5	26	46	16	8	266
France	11	21	42	16	10	697
Great Britain	13	23	43	10	11	536
Hungary	9	14	38	30	9	625
Israel (Arabs)	35	17	28	14	7	243
Israel (Jews)	25	22	35	10	8	658
Italy	16	19	43	13	8	482
Japan	5	25	43	13	15	715
Netherlands	11	38	41	6	4	1141
New Zealand	12	29	43	9	7	713
Norway	10	27	46	12	5	1417
Philippines	27	34	27	6	6	608
Poland	9	18	55	11	7	547
Portugal	18	21	33	22	7	888
Russia	14	25	19	27	14	835
Slovenia	12	15	40	26	7	516
Spain	14	36	34	11	5	396
Sweden	10	30	42	12	6	800
Switzerland	12	41	37	7	3	1738
United States	16	33	35	7	9	808
West Germany	9	30	43	13	5	714
Total	14	28	39	13	7	18629

### Britain Only 17th in New Job-Satisfaction League Table

New research from the University of Warwick reveals that Britain trails at number 17 in the job-satisfaction international league table.

Using newly released data, Professor Andrew Oswald and an American colleague David Blanchflower surveyed 19,000 workers in face-to-face interviews. Across a large number of nations, Denmark was the top-ranked country, with 62% of workers completely or very satisfied with their jobs. In Great Britain, by contrast, the equivalent figure was only 36% of workers.

Nations like Switzerland (53%), Spain (50%) and the United States (49%) easily outperformed Britain.

Professor Oswald said: “For a prosperous nation, we do a lot less well on the latest job-satisfaction ranking than we should. These findings are consistent with other evidence that the 1990s was not an especially good decade in British workplaces. We don’t yet understand why. Job insecurity and longer commutes may be part of the explanation.”

The Eastern European nations performed worst on the survey. Japan too was low down, with only 30% of employees completely or very satisfied with their jobs. France (at 32%) was also slightly below Britain. Hungary was the bottom country in the whole ranking.

The authors’ analysis was based on random sampling of each nation’s working population.

Note for editors on international ranking: The full league-table numbers are Denmark 62%, Philippines 61, Cyprus 60, Switzerland 53, Israel (Arabs) 52, Spain 50, Netherlands 49, US 49, Israel (Jews) 47, New Zealand 41, Sweden 40, Canada 39, Portugal 39, Russia 39, Western Germany 39, Norway 37, Britain 36, Italy 35, Bangladesh 33, France 32, Eastern Germany 31, Japan 30, Czech Republic 28, Poland 27, Slovenia 27, Bulgaria 26, Hungary 23.

A full statement of the data is available from the author’s web page [www.oswald.co.uk](http://www.oswald.co.uk). Andrew Oswald is an economics professor at the University of Warwick. David Blanchflower is an economics professor at Dartmouth College in the USA.