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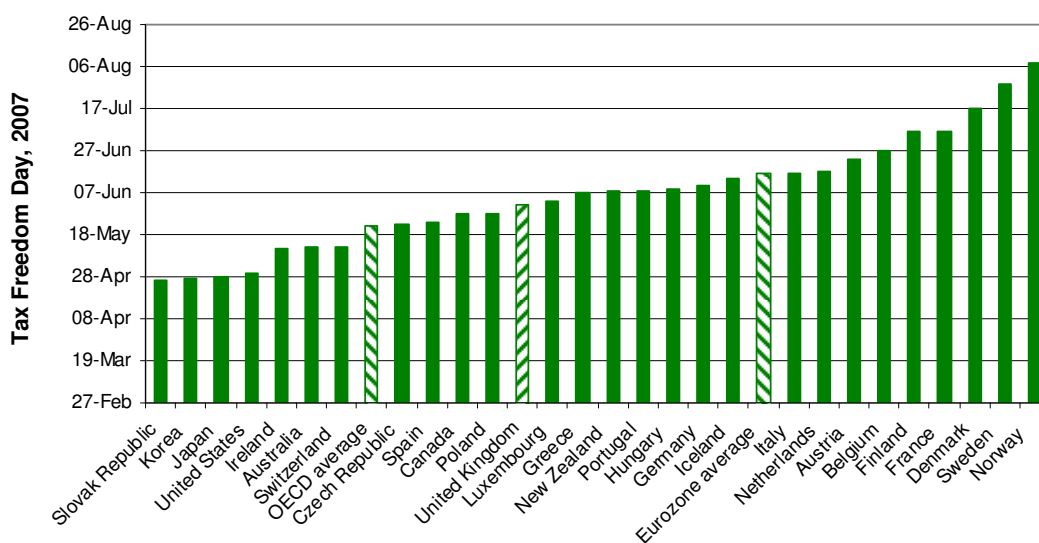
## **TAXPAYERS' ALLIANCE RESPONSE TO TAX FREEDOM DAY**

For a number of years, the [Adam Smith Institute](#) has been performing a great service by calculating just how many days in each year taxpayers have to work for the government, before they can begin working for themselves. (Click [here](#) for the Tax Freedom Day website.)

- This year, the ASI calculations show that **Tax Freedom Day** falls on **1 June**, which means that taxpayers have to work a full five months of the year for Gordon Brown.
- Put another way, a taxpayer working a standard 40-hour week (9am to 6pm) will have to work until **10am on Wednesday** for Gordon Brown.
- Or, a student aged 21 about to leave university will have to work until he is **39** for the Government, before working for himself.

In order to place Tax Freedom Day in Britain its international context, the TaxPayers' Alliance has collated Tax Freedom Day calculations made by think tanks in the UK and US, and provided indicative Tax Freedom Day estimates, based on OECD data, for the remaining OECD countries:

### **Tax Freedom Day estimates**



**Corin Taylor**, Research Director at the TaxPayers' Alliance, said:

*"Tax Freedom Day is being celebrated later and later in the year. If stealth taxes continue to rise, taxpayers will soon have to work a full six months for Gordon Brown. This tax, spend and waste ratchet has got to stop."*

Country	Tax Freedom Day estimate
Slovak Republic	26 April
Korea	27 April
Japan	28 April
United States	30 April
Ireland	11 May
Australia	12 May
Switzerland	12 May
<b>OECD average</b>	<b>22 May</b>
Czech Republic	23 May
Spain	24 May
Canada	28 May
Poland	28 May
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>1 June</b>
Luxembourg	3 June
Greece	7 June
New Zealand	8 June
Portugal	8 June
Hungary	9 June
Germany	10 June
Iceland	14 June
<b>Eurozone average</b>	<b>16 June</b>
Italy	16 June
Netherlands	17 June
Austria	23 June
Belgium	27 June
Finland	6 July
France	6 July
Denmark	17 July
Sweden	29 July
Norway	8 August



## Sources and methodology

Tax Freedom Day calculations for 2007 exist in the UK and the US, published by the Adam Smith Institute and the Tax Foundation respectively, and are used in the above table and graph.

For the remaining OECD countries, estimates of government receipts as a percentage of GDP in 2007 are taken from Table 26, OECD Economic Outlook No.80, December 2006. These percentages are then translated into dates in the year. This does not use the methodology employed by the Adam Smith Institute and the Tax Foundation and Tax Freedom Days for these countries can therefore be taken as indicative estimates only, rather than exact calculations. Nevertheless, it is helpful to have some basis of comparison, although further work will be required to calculate precise Tax Freedom Days in 2007 for the remaining OECD countries.

An excel spreadsheet with full details is available on request.

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