

U.S. workers are world's most productive

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GENEVA - American workers stay longer in the office, at the factory or on the farm than their counterparts in Europe and most other rich nations, and they produce more per person over the year. They also get more done per hour than everyone but the Norwegians, according to a U.N. report released Monday, which said the United States "leads the world in labor productivity."

The average U.S. worker produces \$63,885 of wealth per year, more than their counterparts in all other countries, the International Labor Organization said in its report. Ireland comes in second at \$55,986, followed by Luxembourg at \$55,641, Belgium at \$55,235 and France at \$54,609.

The productivity figure is found by dividing the country's gross domestic product by the number of people employed. The U.N. report is based on 2006 figures for many countries, or the most recent available. Only part of the U.S. productivity growth, which has outpaced that of many other developed economies, can be explained by the longer hours Americans are putting in, the ILO said. The United States, according to the report, also beats all 27 nations in the European Union, Japan and Switzerland in the amount of wealth created per hour of work — a second key measure of productivity.

Norway, which is not an EU member, generates the most output per working hour, \$37.99, a figure inflated by the country's billions of dollars in oil exports and high prices for goods at home. The United States is second at \$35.63, about a half dollar ahead of third-place France. Seven years ago, French workers produced over a dollar more on average than their American counterparts. The country led the United States in hourly productivity from 1994 to 2003.

The U.S. employee put in an average 1,804 hours of work in 2006, the report said. That compared with 1,407.1 hours for the Norwegian worker and 1,564.4 for the French. In 2006, the median annual household income according to the US Census Bureau was determined to be \$48,201 or \$23.17 an hour.

1. In accordance with information obtained predominately from the passage above, in paragraph form explain the formula utilized to determine worker productivity rates.
2. Write a rule and an equation for the productivity formula discussed in question one and paragraph three.
3. Explain the difference between worker wealth produced and the median annual household income. What problems might a country anticipate if the figures happened to be reversed?
4. What are the measures of central tendency (i.e. mean, median, mode, and if applicable, outlier) of the monetary value produced by the United States, Ireland, Luxembourg, Belgium, and France. Additionally, create a table and coordinate graph accurately illustrating this data.
5. Assuming the additional information required was readily available in the passage above create or explain what one can determine via a box-and-whisker-plot regarding median annual household income amongst a series of nations? Explain.
6. Considering a 40-hour work week is the standard for full-time employment, how far below the bar were the following nations annually: a) United States, b) Norway, and c) France.
7. Write a rule, an equation, and solve the following: Assuming the American output figure in 2000 was 84% of the current figure, determine the 2000 value of the French (see paragraph four).
8. In 2006, how much more did American workers produce in relation to the amount earned over the traditional 40-hour workweek?
9. Upon completion of this assignment how far have we progressed through the 2007-08 series of The Daughtry Times? Express your answer as a fraction, percentage, and a decimal.
10. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least five ways using the "Four-Step Reading" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
11. In complete sentences, using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the words: *counterparts* and *generates*. Additionally, use each in a sentence to demonstrate further comprehension.
12. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.