

Wage Inequality and Income Distribution: Britain is the Most “Unequal Country” in the EU

By [Global Research News](#)

Global Research, May 19, 2015

[Daily Wales](#)

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [Poverty & Social Inequality](#)

The UK has become the most unequal country in Europe in terms of wages and income distribution, according to a [newly-published report](#) by the Dublin-based Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound).

[Eurofound](#) was established in 1975 to contribute to the planning and design of better living and working conditions. It carries out its role in partnership with governments, employers, trade unions and the European Union institutions.



London (left) and Penrhys, Rhondda

The growing inequality in the UK is the main driver of inequality within the whole of the EU, according to Eurofound.

The report, published last week, says that

“...the level of wage inequality in the EU as a whole is below that of the US. However, wage inequality in the UK, the EU’s most unequal country, is now above that of the US average. The UK, Latvia and Portugal are the three most unequal countries in Europe.

“The Great Recession changed the trend of overall EU wage inequality. Between 2004 and 2008, EU wage inequality decreased; after 2008, it increased.

“The decrease before the crisis was entirely due to a significant reduction in between-country wage differentials (in other words, a process of convergence in pay levels), which came to a halt in 2008 and even started to reverse at the end of the period of this analysis (2011).

“The main driver behind the increase in wage inequality after 2008, nevertheless, was within-country inequality, which until that point had remained more or less stable.

“But such increase was to a large extent driven by developments in the UK, without which the overall EU within-country component of inequality remained more or less stable as a result of rather diverse developments at the country level.”

In addition, the UK now has the worst [Gini](#) coefficient in the EU. Gini is the most widely

accepted measure of how fairly income is distributed amongst a nation's residents and is the standard measure of inequality.

With a Tory government committed to punishing the poorest through further austerity measures, and a leaderless Labour Party looking to lurch to the right, it appears that the UK will face growing inequality for at least the next decade.

Copyright Daily Wales, 2015

The original source of this article is [Daily Wales](#)

Copyright © [Global Research News](#), [Daily Wales](#), 2015

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research News](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca