

George's claim that we're going to top the G7 looks as ...

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According to George Osborne, [as reported by the Guardian](#), it is within Britain's grasp to become the wealthiest country in the G7 measured by GDP per head of population.

The G7 states are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, USA and the EU (yes, that is 8: the EU doesn't count).

This is core data to assess this claim based on [World Bank information via Wikipedia](#):

So the UK has to move from fifth to first, leapfrogging France, Germany, Canada and the US on the way and see a massive relative increase to overhaul the US whilst they sit back and let us do just that.

And apparently we're going to do that by requiring that future governments would be forced to operate a budget surplus each year in what he described as "normal times". That's a sweet attachment to pure Keynesianism on Osborne's part. It's also a commitment to reduce GDP in every year when a budget surplus is run, because that is what the impact of doing so is.

So Osborne says the UK will become the richest G7 state despite the government doing all it can to prevent that process by consciously reducing GDP through its own actions. As interesting ideas go that are very unlikely to have any relationship with reality that's a good one.

And this also shows a touching faith in UK business which is at present refusing to invest and is so poor at making what the world wants that we're running record trade deficits. But again, George appears not to want to let facts get in his way. It could happen, but is as likely as Scunthorpe (currently 17th in League One) winning the Premiership.

I have to conclude that if this is the hype we're already getting in the election campaign we're in for a lot of complete nonsense being said between now and May. And if I am

already beginning to wonder whether this stuff is even worth paying attention to, how many who are less interested than me (and that's probably most people) are feeling the same?