

## Tax rises? Bring them on as we will all be better off

Published: January 17, 2026, 12:00 pm

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The UK is a low tax nation. I point this out because the [Institute for Fiscal Studies has said](#) that if we want to balance the budget and end austerity the UK will have to pay 1% more of GDP in tax. Based on Eurostat data this is how we compare in the EU on this issue:

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Tax paid as a % of GDP

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%

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1 Denmark 46.5%

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2 France 45.6%

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3 Belgium 45.2%

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4 Finland 43.9%

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5 Austria 43.2%

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6 Sweden 43.1%

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7 Italy 43.0%

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8 Hungary 38.8%

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9 Germany 38.4%

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10 Netherlands 37.4%

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11 Luxembourg 37.2%

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12 Croatia 37.1%

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13 Slovenia 36.6%

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14 Greece 36.6%

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15 Portugal 34.4%

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16 Czech Republic 34.0%

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17 Estonia 33.7%

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18 Spain 33.7%

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19 Cyprus 33.2%

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20 United Kingdom 33.1%

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21 Poland 32.4%

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22 Malta 32.1%

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23 Slovak Republic 32.1%

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24 Latvia 30.1%

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25 Bulgaria 29.1%

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26 Lithuania 28.9%

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27 Romania 28.0%

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28 Ireland 23.4%

We are twentieth. And ignore Ireland: its GDP data is so distorted by being a tax haven even Walt Disney would dismiss it as incredible.

We are also the slowest growing country in the EU.

That is not a coincidence.

Tax rises? Bring them on, I say. We will all be better off.