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Lived in Germany for 15 months long ago. Miss it every week.

**[Why is Germany so successful in spite of least working hours?](https://www.quora.com/Why-is-Germany-so-successful-in-spite-of-least-working-hours%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

Germany is so successful BECAUSE they work fewer hours.

When I worked there, people showed up for work well rested and EAGER to do a great job. They worked like crazy and then, come quitting time, simply left. They brought nothing from home and took nothing home. They worked at full speed knowing full well that no manager would drop by at 4pm asking them to stay till 10pm on some random shit that they thought up that afternoon.

Things were planned. Product requirements were thought through and presented to engineers. No muddled thinking (otherwise the engineers would have ripped the person apart). Constant attention to detail and constant vigilance that the time was being spent appropriately.

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Comments:

There is a saying in Germany” Bier ist Bier und Schnaps ist Schnaps!” - meaning, when you work, you WORK, when you are off, your are OFF!

**[Brandon Marcus](https://www.quora.com/profile/Brandon-Marcus-2%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

I worked in Switzerland for a while for an American company on a project. The team consisted of Americans, French, a French Moroccan, Germans, and Swiss. The French just wanted to have meetings and talk on the phone all day. The Americans worked and expected to work all the time and were told they \*HAD\* to leave at 5pm since that was the culture. The Swiss were like robots where they did what was expected and always followed the rules. The Germans were extremely organized, expected everything to be well thought out and well documented. They worked harder than everyone. You say Germans worked better because they work less. I say they have to work less to keep working as hard as they demand of themselves.

**[Neel Kumar](https://www.quora.com/profile/Neel-Kumar-27%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

Working less and working better go hand in hand. Germans are not going to sacrifice their evenings and weekends so they demand that everything be crystal clear. We Americans are less protective of our time so we allow for sloppy thinking and execution.

**[Richard Brown](https://www.quora.com/profile/Richard-Brown-70%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**

" The French just wanted to have meetings and talk on the phone all day" - This is so true, they'll have meetings about what meetings they should have!...and also be late to them.