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## As happy as Larry?

Two new studies by American economists have revealed that men are happier than women. Is it true?

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Working overtime. Photographer: Tim O'Hara/Corbis.

As if the [pay gap](#) wasn't enough, new research has [revealed](#) another gap between the genders: happiness. Two studies from American economists have come to the conclusion that men are [happier](#) than women.

The first study, carried out by Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers from the University of Pennsylvania, asked women and men whether they were satisfied with their lives and compared the results with a similar survey from 1976. The percentage of content men shot up from 17% to 25% while the percentage of women stayed at 22%.

Stevenson said that the results showed that 30 or 40 years ago women were happier because they had narrower ambitions and did not compare themselves to men. She added: "now women are more competitive and more ambitious. But it seems it doesn't make them any happier."

Working hours featured highly in both studies. The second, by Alan Krueger from Princeton University, compared surveys on time use compiled since the 1960s and found that, while men have cut back on time spent performing unpleasant tasks, women are spending just as long doing things they don't enjoy. Over time this, Krueger claims, has largely changed from housework to paid work. Women now spend 90 more minutes a week on unpleasant tasks, in contrast to the 40 minutes more they spent in the 1960s.

What do you think? Are men happier than women?

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