



International Comparisons

**DTI Sunday shopping consultation event,
London**

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Introduction

- What may happen based on what has actually happened
- Outcomes on
 - Retail sector
 - Employees
 - Operating costs
 - Distributional impacts
 - Rural communities
 - Small stores
 - Consumers
- Mainly from no Sunday trading to deregulation, rather than restricted Sunday trading to deregulation



Europe

- Pattern of trading hours is varied
 - Closed with exceptions (railway stations, airports and/or tourist areas)
 - Allowed on a restricted number of Sundays each year
 - Restricted hours
- Germany
 - Consumer responses to Saturday trading
 - Cross-border shopping on Sunday
- Sweden
 - Deregulated in 1971
 - Decreased prices and increased consumer spending
 - Mainly grocery shopping
- Scotland



Australia

- Varies between States/Territories
- Competition legislation
- Restrictions based on employee numbers rather than store size
- Impacts
 - Large increase in Sunday shopping
 - Increase in retail sales – not just big chains
 - Increase in retail employment – part-time, youth, female and older workers
 - Rural communities net benefit for consumers, although rural stores affected
 - Significant welfare benefits



Other countries

- New Zealand
 - Deregulated in 1990 with some days still restricted
 - Garden centres can open on Easter Sunday
- Canada
 - Decision made on provincial basis
 - Employment gains between 5 and 12 per cent
 - New employees rather than existing workforce



Conclusion

- International comparisons suggest
 - Increase in retail sale
 - Increase in retail employment
 - Decrease in retail prices
 - Some distributional impact – winners and losers
 - Consumer benefits