# ECONOMISTS AND THE BLOOMING OBVIOUS

*Posted on April 21, 2009 by Eddie*

**Category:** Observations

Apparently trying to keep up with the Jonses makes us unhappy - what a surprise. From the Daily Telegraph:

> *One study claims that workers who constantly compare their earnings with colleagues and friends feel less satisfied with their lives, because it makes them focus on what they haven't got.*
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> *Meanwhile separate research presented at the Royal Economic Society's annual conference has found that suicide levels are higher in wealthier areas, suggesting that being surrounded by rich neighbours can make people so unhappy that they decide to end their lives.*
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> *The first report concluded: "Man may well be a social animal, but constantly looking over one's shoulder seems to make the world a less happy, and more unequal, place."*
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> *The report, carried out by Andrew Clark and Claudia Senik at the Paris School of Economics, found that 75 per cent of Europeans believe income comparisons to be important.*
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> *Poorer people are more likely to compare their salaries with those around them than the rich, the economists claim.*
>
> *However their analysis of a range of surveys found that employees who are obsessed by what their co-workers earn are less likely to be happy with their lives.*

What next? Survey shows that the Pope is a Catholic?