



National Statistics Survey

HM Revenue and Customs
(Knowledge, Analysis & Intelligence)

HMRC TAX & NIC RECEIPTS

Monthly and annual historical record

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HM Revenue and Customs Tax and NICs receipts

Background

The UK statistical system was substantially reformed through the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, which brought about a number of changes:

- The creation of the UK Statistics Authority from 1 April.
- Established the Office for National Statistics (ONS) as an Executive Office of the Authority. The statistics they produce and publish are done so independently from Ministers.
- Established the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#), which is the responsibility of the Authority.

Assessment

Following an assessment ([link](#)) by the UK Statistics Authority, which was published in June 2011, there were 9 requirements to be completed in order for our statistics to be compliant with the National Statistics Code of Practice, part of which was to engage with users and identify their needs. To this end, we conducted a survey to assess how our statistics were used, how often and what for, as well as looking for suggestions for further improvement. In total, we received 54 responses to our survey.

Publication

We currently publish National Statistics covering all the tax receipts and National Insurance Contributions collected by HMRC. The data is published monthly on the 15th working day each month (or the 16th if the 15th falls on a Monday). The publication is in two parts:

- a) one in Excel form which presents historical monthly data going back to April 2008 and annual totals going back to 2001-02.
- b) The second is a bulletin in PDF form, which provides snapshot of the Excel table above, as well as background and analysis on some of the larger taxes and duties

[Link to the HMRC website](#)

Our survey says.....

Q1 - How did you find our statistics?

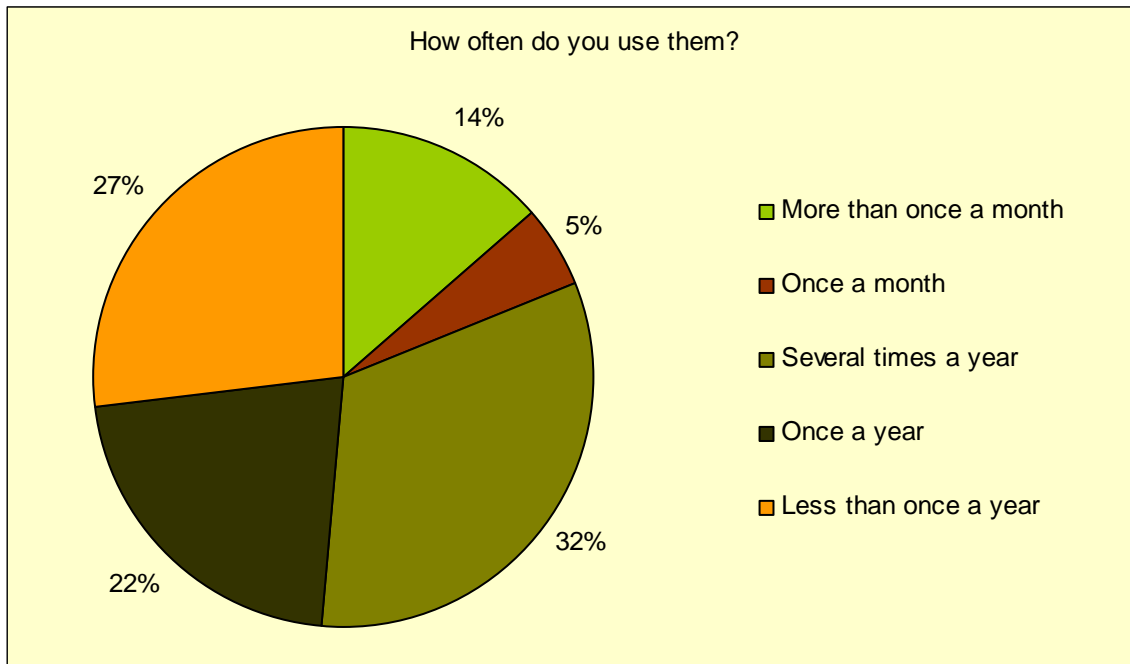
The majority (77 per cent) of customers found our statistics through the HMRC website, with 12 per cent finding them through Google. The remainder found them via newsletters or mail-shots.

Q2 - Were the statistics easy to find?

Most (69 per cent) customers found our statistics easily, however the remainder had difficulty for reasons such as unclear links. This is not what we want and following a recent change to our website, has now been rectified. There is now a link to the Library and Official Statistics section on the front page of the [HMRC website](#).

Q3 - How often do you use them?

Of the total replies, nearly 20 per cent of customers used the statistics once a month or more. See the chart below.



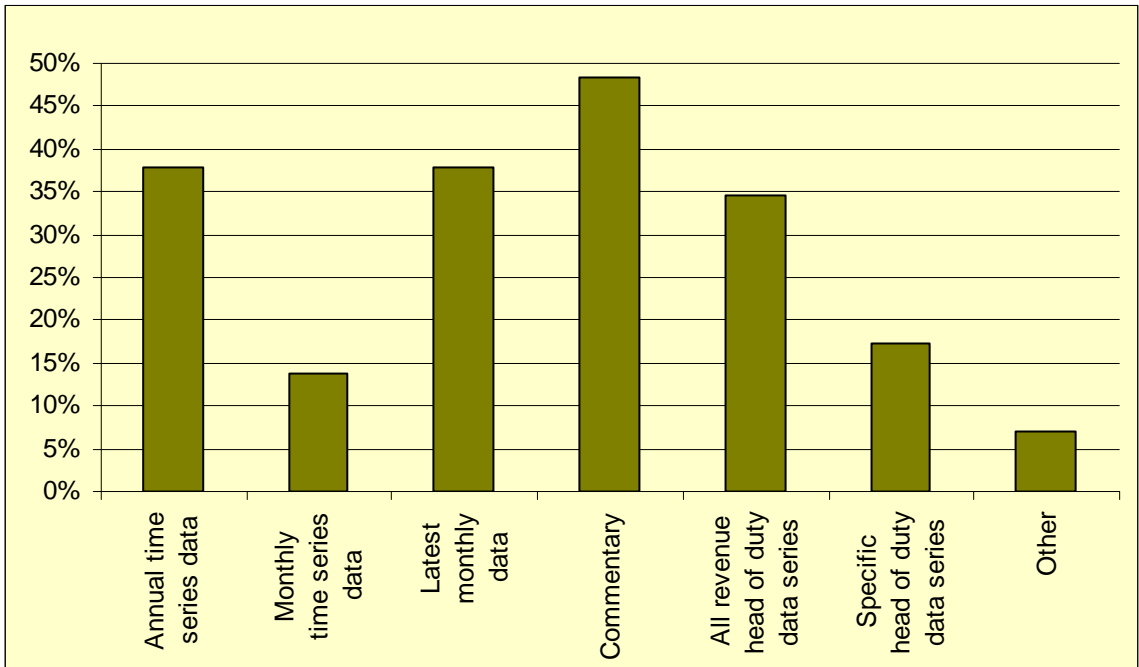
Q4 - The statistics are available within a (PDF) document that provides supporting commentary, but the data tables can also be accessed separately (either as a PDF file or an Excel spreadsheet). Do you tend to use:

- The data tables as an Excel file – 36 per cent
- The data tables as a PDF file - 45 per cent
- The full PDF publication – 42 per cent

Each of our publications attracts a fair amount of interest with some customers using more than one.

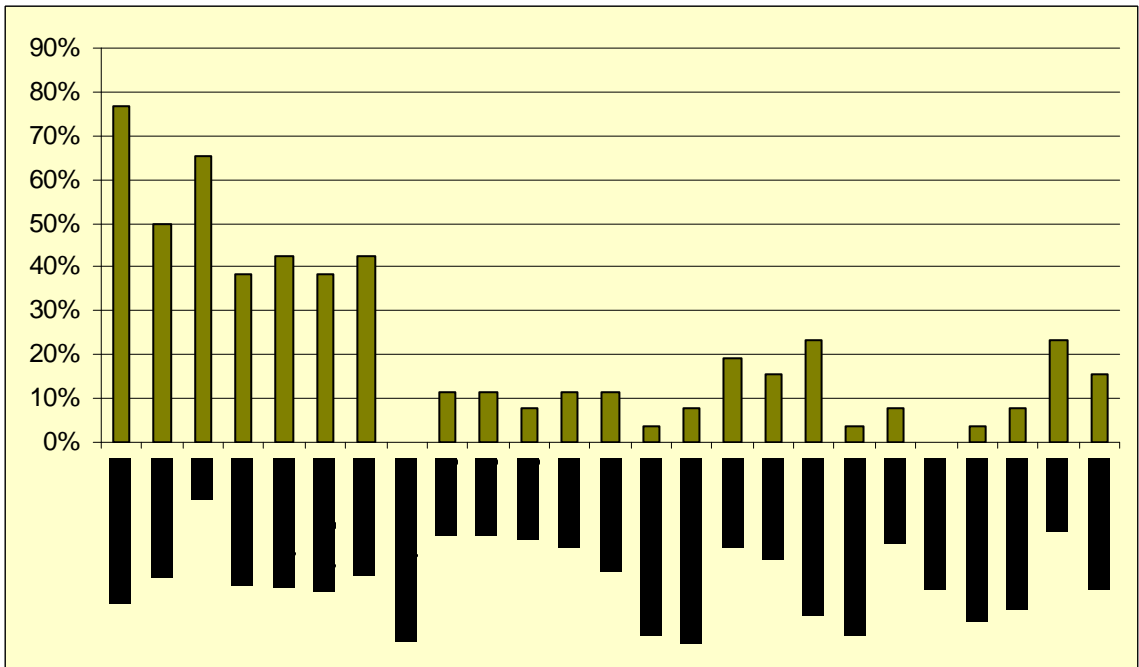
Q5 - What information do you use?

Customers value both the data and commentary elements of the publication. The chart below shows that the commentary is used most, and then the latest monthly and annual time series.



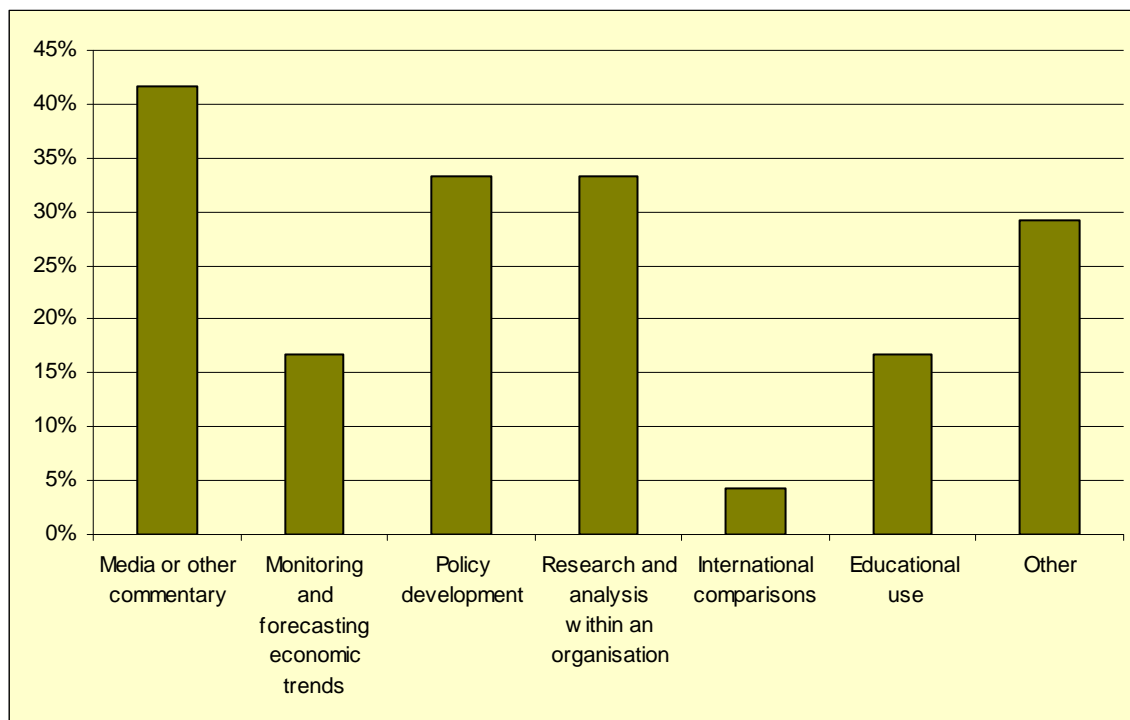
Q6 - Which tax head of duty data do you use?

Responses suggest that there is mostly interest across all the taxes and duties; the nil responses for aggregates levy and insurance premium tax can likely be explained by the relatively low sample size. See the chart below. In particular, income tax (77 per cent) and NICs (65 per cent) are used the most with corporation tax and inheritance tax joint fourth at 42 per cent each.



Q7 - What purpose do you use the statistics for?

The majority of our data is used for media commentary (42 per cent), and policy development and research (both at 33 per cent). The chart below shows other uses by customers such as general or personal interest and background information to support commentary and articles for publishing.



Q8 - Is the content within the bulletin easy to read/use?

79 per cent of customers found our [bulletin](#) easy to read. The remaining 21 per cent stated that:

- They found the figures in the table rather small.
- Terminology is not always as clear as it might be. The basis, on which statistics are collated, including assumptions made is not transparent and clear.

On the first point, an Excel version of this table is also available on our website and there is a link to it in the bulletin. And the second point, there is some background data on this but we will look to expand this to provide fuller detail.

Q9 - Do you find the content in the bulletin useful?

Generally, most customers (92 per cent) found our bulletin content useful. However, there were suggestions that the commentary could be a lot more detailed and cover more tax streams. Currently the commentary covers some background on the larger taxes, and some analysis on the year to date total compared to last year, with explanations where possible. We will look to continue this but expand on the detail where possible and also expand on the duties we currently comment on.

Q10 - Is there any additional information you would like included in the bulletin?

The following comments were received:

- More detail on the data such as “are the figures are gross (of repayments)?”, and “are they on a cash or accruals basis (the period in which they relate)”.
- Other material used by HMRC policy staff to develop figures in impact assessments, so can determine whether the figures are reasonable.
- No, but could the publication timetable be speeded up?

On the first comment, the figures are net of repayments and are on a cash basis: we will update the bulletin and the table to include this information.

For the second comment, the background data includes information on the quality of the data published and how robust it is. We will look to expand this information further.

And on the last point, unfortunately we cannot publish this data any earlier as we are restricted to publishing it at the same time as the joint publication on [Public Sector Finances](#) by the Office of National Statistics and HM Treasury.

Q11 - Please provide any other suggestions to improve the content, presentation or usefulness of our statistics on HMRC tax and NICs receipts.

The following comments were received:

- Providing links to previous PDF publications.
- More analysis of the number of SA taxpayers who have each type of income shown on an SA tax return
- Reduce the time between data collection and publication.

On the first comment, currently we do not archive previous versions of the bulletin or the Excel table but we will look at doing so in the future.

The second comment is rather detailed and such information may be available in the Personal Taxes section on our website: there is some analysis by type in Table 2.8, <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/statistics/income-tax-receipts.htm>.

With regards to the third point, as mentioned unfortunately, we cannot publish this data any earlier

And finally.....

This is our first survey on this publication and we would like to thank everyone who took part. As a result of your comments we will introduce a number of improvements to the publication (see end of this note) and will look to conduct further surveys on an annual basis.

Thank you again.

Action points:

- Expand on the background data in the bulletin
- Within the Excel publication, insert a link to the bulletin
- Expand on the taxes and duties covered in the bulletin
- Expand on the explanations whenever possible
- Look at archiving previous versions of the bulletin and table.