

Freedom of Information request 1330/2014

Received 17 March 2014

Published

Information request

What has happened to income inequality in the UK in the last 40 years? What are the likely causes of these changes?

DWP response

Income inequality is measured by the GINI co-efficient; which ranges from zero (everybody has identical incomes) to 100 percent (when all income goes to only one person).

A range of ONS reports on the subject of Income inequality of Households can be found here: [Income Inequality of Households on the Office for National Statistics \(ONS\) website](#).

The ONS report 'The effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Income, 2011/12' gives changes in income inequality in the UK between 1977 and 2011/12, as well as some of the potential causes of these changes. This can be found on [pages 17-18 of the report](#).

A more detailed analysis of changes to income inequality between 1980 and 2009/10 is provided in the report '[The effects of taxes and benefits on household income, 1980-2009/10](#)'.

Figures on income inequality between 1998/99 and 2011/12, both before and after housing costs are published in '[Households Below average Income](#)', [which can be found on page 29, chart 1.3 of the report](#).

Furthermore the Institute for Fiscal Studies publish a range of reports on income inequality, which can be found here: <http://www.ifs.org.uk/projects/127>.

This includes figures on income inequality from 1961 to 2011/12; which can be found by clicking the hyperlink entitled "spreadsheet".