



6 August 2025

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 22 July 2025. Further to previously supplied information on the recent volumes of companies in loss you requested the following:

*Is it possible to say what would be normal proportion making losses in a non-downturn year? I don't think I need it sector by sector; I was more just thinking it would be good to have a benchmark to refer to. Could I ask what proportion of companies overall made a loss in the tax years 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019?*

### Information released

The requested data together with more recent years is supplied in the table on the following page. This data marginally updates the earlier release for the 2023 and 2024 March years as the data updates overnight. This data was extracted from Inland Revenue systems on 23 July 2025. All figures are rounded to the nearest ten. Companies without a taxable profit may have nil taxable income reflecting:

- a current year net loss,
- a current year net profit, but brought-forward or pass-through losses are being utilised to bring the current year taxable balance to nil, or
- the company otherwise has no income (including nil returns, holding or shelf companies, companies not trading, etc).

### Publishing of OIA response

We intend to publish our response to your request on Inland Revenue's website ([ird.govt.nz](http://ird.govt.nz)) as this information may be of interest to other members of the public. This letter, with your personal details removed, may be published in its entirety. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the OIA's purpose of enabling more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of officials.

Thank you again for your request.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Sandra Watson

**Policy Lead – Forecasting and Analysis**

**Table 1: Count of company tax returns by whether in loss or profit**

<b>Year ended 31 March</b>	<b>Current loss</b>	<b>Claimed loss</b>	<b>No income</b>	<b>Current profit</b>	<b>Total</b>
2016	98 260	41,810	128,080	121,890	<b>390,040</b>
2017	95,820	44,380	134,040	128,240	<b>402,480</b>
2018	97,940	43,610	143,220	133,150	<b>417,920</b>
2019	101,740	44,290	148,510	136,060	<b>430,600</b>
2020	100,430	45,840	154,220	138,760	<b>439,250</b>
2021	103,800	44,300	164,940	146,930	<b>459,970</b>
2022	99,500	45,810	165,050	162,790	<b>473,150</b>
2023	107,360	40,670	162,310	164,670	<b>475,010</b>
2024 progress	107,450	40,530	157,560	162,300	<b>467,840</b>