



30 June 2022

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 1 June 2022. You requested the following:

I would like to know what percentage of individuals this year have received a tax bill/ have a negative balance for the last tax period, and the same for the previous period please. I would also be interested in the median, or average balance of individuals. I would also like to know the same percentage for those who have are registered for Working of Families and have a negative balance please. If you do not hold this specific information, I would be interested in any general statistics you hold for the last tax period.

On 16 June 2022 we sought clarification on your request. As we did not receive a response, we have provided the information requested based on current completed individual income tax assessments (IITA) which include both IR3 returns and auto-calculated assessments as at 23 June 2022. Debit assessments include customers who have received an automatic write-off due to small debit balances. The debit balance is higher for people with income streams from which there is no PAYE.

Individual Income Tax

	2020	2021	2022
Number of customers	4,355,214	4,497,826	2,686,824
Percentage with a debit balance	42%	42%	36%
Average	\$3,428	\$3,748	\$1,260
Median	\$113	\$144	\$12

This data is for fully finalised information, i.e. it excludes any data that has been suspended or in error, but includes those that are completed, awaiting payment, overdue and/or assessments that are pending a refund/disbursement.

Please note that the generation and completion of assessments for the 2022 income tax year is ongoing, therefore the data is subject to change significantly until IITA are completed by 31 March 2023. We therefore recommend not using the 2022 data as at 23 June 2022 as a basis for comparison with previous tax periods due to its incompleteness. We have provided additional data for the 2020 tax period that may be beneficial for the purpose of comparison.

There is also information that has been published in Inland Revenue's 2021 Annual Report (page 80) regarding IITA, which can be found at: <https://www.ird.govt.nz/about-us/publications/annual-corporate-reports/annual-report>. The information published is at 30 June 2021 and only refers to automatic assessments, whereas the attachment provided includes IR3 tax return data. Information for 2020 and 2021 may have different figures from earlier published data sets as adjustments/reassessments can still occur and overdue returns can still be filed.

Individual Income Tax and Working for Families

	2020	2021	2022
Number of customers	298,109	287,618	172,087
Percentage with a debit balance	30%	45%	34%
Average	\$2,402	\$2,660	\$1,634
Median	\$882	\$907	\$625

Working for Families (WfF) average/median assessments are larger due to many customers opting to receive their entire assessment at the end of the tax year rather than regular payments. The WfF amounts used is the value of the square-up (the difference of assessed entitlement versus the amount actually received when assessment was calculated, not the total of the annual entitlement).

Publishing of OIA response

Please note that Inland Revenue regularly publishes responses to requests that may be of interest to the wider public on its website. We consider this response is of public interest so will publish this response in due course. Your personal details or any information that would identify you will be removed prior to it being published.

Thank you again for your request.

Yours sincerely



Jane Elley
Customer Segment Leader
Customer & Compliance Services, Individuals