



16 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received 19 April 2022. You requested:

The proportion of NZ Citizens and Residents who are net contributors vs net recipients** of tax for the years 2000 – 2021.*

Please also supply this information broken down by age group, gender, income level and ethnicity.

**including GST, fuel, alcohol and other such taxable items – If data is not collected with this level of specificity, please supply the best figures relating to net tax contributors.*

*** including infrastructure, benefits etc. – if data is not collected with this level of specificity please supply the best figures relating to net tax recipients.*

Information refused

Indirect taxes such as GST, fuel and alcohol excise are administered through third parties such as retailers and are not collated in a way that the tax paid is attributable to the person purchasing the item. Therefore, I have decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA as the information is not held by Inland Revenue, and we do not believe it is held by another agency.

Attributable information on collective expenditures such as infrastructure, and on ethnicity is also not held by Inland Revenue and is also refused under section 18(g) of the OIA.

Information released

The information you have requested that can be released, is provided in the tables attached to this request.

The tables partially respond to the request for the 1999-2000 to 2019-20 income years. Information for the 2020-21 income year is not available as tax returns are still being filed for that year, and the data will be incomparable with the previous year's information. The released information relates to the net outcomes from personal income tax, taxable transfers, and Working for Families¹ Tax Credits. For the purposes of this release, net taxes and transfers have been defined as follows:

Taxable income:

Income from all sources taxable to the individual, which does not include amounts taxed in another entity such as a company or trust. Individual taxable income can include taxable transfers such as some welfare benefits

¹ Previously Family Assistance

or New Zealand superannuation. It does not include non-taxable transfers such as the accommodation supplement or the winter energy payment. It does not include any Working for Families received. If taxable income is negative (from a loss, for example), it is replaced with a zero.

Tax: Tax on "taxable income" (as above) less rebates such as the donations tax credit, the housekeeper tax credit, the child tax credit, the independent earner tax credit, or the low-income tax credit. The offset from the rebates is capped, i.e., it cannot exceed the tax payable.

Net tax: Tax (as above) less gross transfers. Combined transfers can be bigger than the tax, resulting in a negative net result, considered a "gain" from the tax/transfer system. If tax is larger than gross transfers, this counts as a "loss" from the tax/transfer system.

Transfers: The transfers included in the above net tax calculation are below. Taxable transfers are marked with an asterisk:

- Gross New Zealand superannuation*.
- Gross taxable welfare benefits* (examples are Jobseeker and sole parent support).
- Gross paid parental leave*.
- Gross student allowances*.
- Working for Families – previously Family Assistance. The entire family entitlement is attributed to the family's nominated "principal caregiver".

Non-transfer income:

For the requested income level distributions, we have supplied two sets of income tables; one using taxable income which includes taxable transfers, and one using "non-transfer income" which excludes these transfers.

Denominator for the percentages

The released tables all contain percentages, specifically the percentage of the measured population who "gain" from the taxes and benefits as described above.

The measured population is defined as anybody who filed a tax return (even if this was a nil return), or received a tax square-up, or who had PAYE income (a wage/salary job or a taxable welfare benefit). This population numbers 2.9 million people in 1999-2000 and this gradually grew to 3.9 million people by 2017-18.

The likelihood of receiving a tax square-up has changed over time, and from 2018-19 onwards included square-ups of tax on interest earned in bank accounts. This brought a large number of additional people – many of them children and net taxpayers on their small amount of interest earnings – into the measured population. The 2018-19 year hence represents a structural break in the requested series, and this is highlighted in the released tables. The volumes in that year were 4.3 million people.

The measured population does not include people with no income unless they filed a tax return. It does include part-year cases.

Further information on the released tables

Table 1: Proportion by gender with a net gain from income tax and transfer system

Inland Revenue does not collect information on gender, but inferences can be made from each person's title (Mr, Mrs etc). Where a title is not gender-specific, the person has been randomly allocated.

Table 2: Proportion of age group with a net gain from income tax and transfer system

Each persons' age is measured as at 31 March. The up-to-25 age group will include some children if they were in the measured population through filing a tax return. This age group is the most affected by the 2018-19 structural break.

Table 3: Proportion of taxable income group with a net gain from income tax and transfer system

Note that taxable income can include the transfer itself, as described earlier. In this table the 2018-19 structural break from including people with small amounts of interest income in the measured population can be seen in the results for the "Up to \$10,000" category.

Table 4: Proportion of non-transfer income group with a net gain from income tax and transfer system

This table excludes the transfers from the income measure, i.e., the columns in the table are of taxable non-transfer income. The tax calculation is unchanged.

Right of Review

If you disagree with my decision to refuse aspects of your OIA request, you can ask an Inland Revenue review officer to review my decision. To ask for an internal review, please email the Commissioner of Inland Revenue at:

CommissionersCorrespondence@ird.govt.nz.

Alternatively, under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. You can contact the office of the Ombudsman by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Publishing of OIA responses

Please note that Inland Revenue regularly publishes responses to requests that may be of interest to the wider public on its website. If the response to this request is published, your personal details and any information that would identify you will be removed before publication.

Thank you again for your request.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Watson
Policy Lead, Forecasting and Analysis

Table 1: Proportion **by gender** with a net gain from income tax and transfers

People represented in this table filed a tax return, received a square-up, or earned PAYE related income. A structural break from 2018-19 has more people (net taxpayers) with a square-up, an example being children with bank accounts.

Year ended 31 March	Female	Male	Total
2000	43.2%	30.4%	36.9%
2001	42.2%	29.5%	35.9%
2002	40.9%	28.3%	34.6%
2003	39.9%	26.7%	33.3%
2004	38.7%	25.6%	32.2%
2005	37.3%	24.1%	30.7%
2006	36.7%	23.0%	29.9%
2007	39.5%	23.6%	31.7%
2008	39.1%	22.8%	31.0%
2009	40.0%	24.0%	32.0%
2010	42.6%	27.7%	35.2%
2011	43.4%	28.9%	36.2%
2012	43.1%	28.9%	36.1%
2013	42.5%	28.4%	35.5%
2014	41.5%	27.9%	34.8%
2015	40.8%	27.3%	34.0%
2016	39.8%	27.0%	33.4%
2017	39.1%	26.6%	32.8%
2018	37.9%	25.4%	31.7%
2019	34.9%	23.5%	29.2%
2020	34.9%	23.8%	29.4%

Table 2: Proportion of age group with a net gain from income tax and transfers

People represented in this table filed a tax return, received a square-up, or earned PAYE related income. A structural break from 2018-19 has more people (net taxpayers) with a square-up, an example being children with bank accounts.

Year ended 31 March	Up to 25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	Over 75	Total
2000	29.0%	29.5%	24.8%	18.6%	40.7%	93.4%	94.7%	36.9%
2001	27.2%	27.8%	24.4%	17.9%	38.2%	94.1%	95.7%	35.9%
2002	27.0%	26.7%	23.2%	16.5%	34.1%	93.6%	95.9%	34.6%
2003	25.2%	25.2%	22.3%	15.9%	31.7%	92.9%	95.4%	33.3%
2004	22.8%	23.7%	21.4%	15.4%	30.2%	92.9%	95.5%	32.2%
2005	20.5%	21.7%	20.1%	14.8%	28.1%	92.5%	95.2%	30.7%
2006	18.9%	20.9%	20.4%	14.7%	26.6%	91.1%	94.7%	29.9%
2007	19.7%	24.4%	24.4%	16.1%	24.9%	90.3%	94.2%	31.7%
2008	18.9%	23.6%	23.8%	16.1%	22.5%	89.4%	94.5%	31.0%
2009	21.5%	23.9%	24.5%	17.1%	21.8%	90.1%	95.3%	32.0%
2010	28.4%	27.4%	26.4%	19.1%	23.3%	90.7%	96.4%	35.2%
2011	30.7%	27.8%	26.7%	20.1%	23.6%	91.2%	96.3%	36.2%
2012	30.5%	27.5%	25.8%	19.6%	23.1%	91.6%	96.8%	36.1%
2013	28.9%	26.4%	24.7%	18.9%	22.5%	90.8%	96.6%	35.5%
2014	26.6%	25.0%	23.2%	18.2%	22.7%	90.9%	96.6%	34.8%
2015	25.3%	23.3%	22.5%	17.4%	21.8%	90.5%	96.7%	34.0%
2016	24.0%	22.0%	21.3%	16.7%	21.8%	90.3%	96.6%	33.4%
2017	22.7%	21.1%	20.6%	15.9%	21.5%	89.9%	96.6%	32.8%
2018	18.5%	20.0%	19.2%	15.5%	20.2%	88.4%	93.7%	31.7%
2019	13.3%	19.4%	18.9%	15.0%	19.1%	86.8%	92.7%	29.2%
2020	13.5%	19.5%	18.3%	14.6%	19.0%	86.8%	93.1%	29.4%

Table 3: Proportion of **taxable income** group with a net gain from income tax and transfers

Note: Taxable income includes taxable transfers. People included in this table filed a tax return, received a square-up, or earned PAYE related income. A structural break from 2018-19 has more people (net taxpayers) with a square-up, an example being children with bank accounts.

Year ended 31 March	Up to \$10,000	\$10,001 to \$20,000	\$20,001 to \$30,000	\$30,001 to \$40,000	\$40,001 to \$50,000	\$50,001 to \$60,000	\$60,001 to \$70,000	\$70,001 to \$80,000	\$80,001 to \$90,000	\$90,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100k	Total
2000	54.5%	63.8%	15.1%	4.9%	2.7%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	36.9%
2001	45.5%	68.8%	15.7%	5.4%	3.4%	1.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	35.9%
2002	42.0%	69.7%	17.5%	5.5%	3.8%	1.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	34.6%
2003	38.4%	69.3%	18.0%	5.8%	4.3%	1.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%
2004	33.9%	70.5%	20.0%	6.5%	4.7%	1.7%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.2%
2005	30.5%	70.5%	19.2%	7.2%	5.1%	2.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	30.7%
2006	28.7%	70.0%	21.3%	8.5%	5.9%	3.2%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	29.9%
2007	32.4%	72.1%	26.9%	11.7%	7.2%	3.7%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	31.7%
2008	31.3%	71.8%	29.1%	13.4%	7.8%	4.8%	1.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	31.0%
2009	34.2%	72.5%	30.8%	15.0%	9.0%	7.9%	2.4%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.0%
2010	38.3%	76.2%	35.9%	16.9%	9.8%	7.4%	3.8%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	35.2%
2011	39.6%	77.2%	38.9%	18.8%	11.0%	7.7%	5.6%	1.9%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	36.2%
2012	39.0%	74.5%	52.5%	20.7%	12.8%	8.4%	8.0%	4.6%	1.4%	0.0%	0.0%	36.1%
2013	37.6%	75.0%	53.6%	21.0%	13.0%	9.1%	8.6%	5.3%	2.0%	0.1%	0.0%	35.5%
2014	35.9%	74.4%	55.2%	21.3%	13.1%	9.3%	9.3%	6.7%	2.3%	0.7%	0.0%	34.8%
2015	33.5%	72.4%	59.2%	22.8%	13.7%	9.8%	9.6%	7.6%	2.8%	1.3%	0.0%	34.0%
2016	32.6%	71.2%	60.1%	23.1%	13.8%	9.9%	10.0%	8.4%	3.2%	1.3%	0.0%	33.4%
2017	30.3%	70.8%	60.5%	24.3%	13.9%	10.3%	10.1%	9.4%	3.3%	2.0%	0.0%	32.8%
2018	25.9%	68.9%	62.6%	28.4%	15.9%	10.4%	9.8%	9.1%	3.7%	2.0%	0.1%	31.7%
2019	15.7%	69.0%	64.9%	31.9%	17.9%	11.5%	10.1%	9.3%	4.7%	2.6%	0.1%	29.2%
2020	15.6%	67.9%	68.1%	35.1%	19.4%	12.1%	10.5%	9.5%	6.7%	2.8%	0.2%	29.4%

Table 4: Proportion of **non-transfer (and taxable) income** group with a net gain from income tax and benefits

Income measure here excludes taxable transfers. People represented in this table filed a tax return, received a square-up, or earned PAYE related income. A structural break from 2018-19 has more people (net taxpayers) with a square-up, an example being children with bank accounts.

Year ended 31 March	Up to \$10,000	\$10,001 to \$20,000	\$20,001 to \$30,000	\$30,001 to \$40,000	\$40,001 to \$50,000	\$50,001 to \$60,000	\$60,001 to \$70,000	\$70,001 to \$80,000	\$80,001 to \$90,000	\$90,001 to \$100,000	Over \$100,000	Total
2000	69.3%	23.4%	6.1%	1.7%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	36.9%
2001	68.2%	23.6%	6.5%	1.9%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	35.9%
2002	66.7%	24.3%	7.0%	2.2%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	34.6%
2003	65.5%	23.9%	7.7%	2.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%
2004	64.3%	25.1%	8.0%	3.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.2%
2005	62.5%	24.6%	8.7%	3.3%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	30.7%
2006	60.9%	25.6%	11.2%	4.4%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	29.9%
2007	63.6%	30.7%	16.7%	7.4%	1.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	31.7%
2008	63.1%	31.8%	18.3%	8.8%	2.8%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	31.0%
2009	65.2%	32.4%	19.7%	10.7%	4.8%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.0%
2010	68.8%	37.8%	21.9%	12.8%	5.3%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	35.2%
2011	70.6%	39.6%	24.5%	13.3%	6.6%	2.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	36.2%
2012	71.2%	39.9%	25.7%	14.9%	8.0%	5.2%	0.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	36.1%
2013	71.3%	40.3%	25.7%	14.9%	8.4%	5.9%	1.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	35.5%
2014	70.6%	40.2%	25.8%	15.2%	9.2%	6.6%	1.4%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	34.8%
2015	70.1%	39.0%	26.8%	16.3%	9.2%	7.0%	1.9%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	34.0%
2016	70.1%	38.3%	27.2%	16.4%	9.4%	7.1%	2.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	33.4%
2017	69.8%	37.5%	27.2%	16.7%	9.7%	7.6%	2.6%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	32.8%
2018	66.1%	39.7%	28.4%	17.9%	10.5%	7.5%	2.9%	0.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	31.7%
2019	52.6%	40.6%	31.0%	19.4%	12.2%	8.5%	3.6%	0.9%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	29.2%
2020	53.7%	41.3%	31.4%	20.1%	12.8%	8.8%	4.4%	1.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	29.4%