

Freedom of Information request 2013-4936

Date received: 14th October 2013

Date of response: 12th November 2013

Information request

I am looking for the average weekly household income for the UK as a whole and for each of the UK regions for 2011/12 (or the most recent year available). Is this something the FRS can provide?

DWP response

In response to your question, the data you require is contained in the attached Excel document (FOI 2013-4936 Response.xls).

Please note, three survey years have been combined because single year estimates are not considered to be sufficiently reliable. This will mean the United Kingdom totals will differ from the single year estimates published in the "Households Below Average Income 1994/95–2011/12" report which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/households-below-average-income-hbai--2>

Although the Family Resources Survey (FRS) sample is large enough to allow some analysis to be performed at a regional level, it should be noted that no adjustment has been made for regional cost of living differences, as the necessary data are not available. In the analysis here it is therefore assumed that there is no difference in the cost of living between regions, although the After Housing Costs measure will partly take into account differences in housing costs.

Notes

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average Income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2011/12 FRS. This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
2. In HBAI, a household is defined as a single person or group of people living at the same address as their only or main residence, who either share one meal together or share the living accommodation. This differs from a benefit unit, which is defined as a single adult or a married or cohabiting couple, plus any dependent children. From

January 2006 same-sex partners (civil partners and cohabittees) are also included in the same benefit unit. A household will consist of one or more benefit units.

3. All statistics presented in the HBAI publication are based on a single year median household equivalised income for the United Kingdom and not the estimates presented above.
4. Net disposable incomes have been presented here and this includes earnings from employment and self-employment, state support, income from occupational and private pensions, investment income and other sources. Income tax payments, National Insurance contributions, council tax / domestic rates and some other payments are deducted from incomes.
5. Figures have been presented on a Before Housing Cost and an After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Costs, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, buildings insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Costs they are.
6. The median income is the income of the middle person in the population, such that half the population have incomes below the median and half the population have incomes above the median. The median is more commonly used than the mean income because the mean is affected by outlying cases with very high income values and this is what is used in the HBAI publication.
7. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to a degree of uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.