



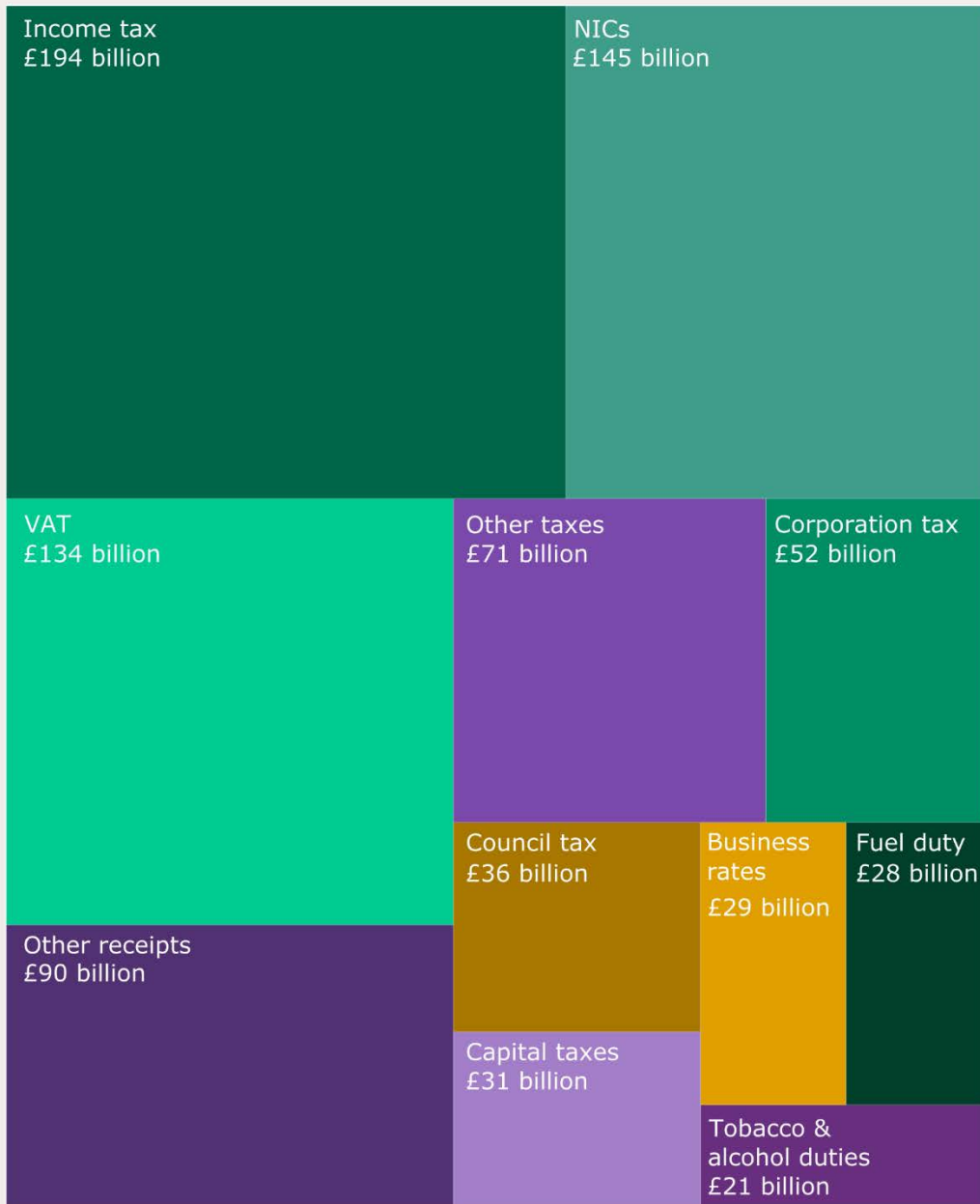
BRIEFING PAPER

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Tax statistics: an overview

By Matthew Keep

Public sector current receipts 2019/20: £828 billion



Contents:

1. Recent trends and forecasts
2. Public sector receipts since the 1940s
3. Distributional analysis
4. International comparisons
5. Effects of illustrative tax changes
6. Tax reliefs
7. Key sources

Contents

Summary	3
1. Recent trends and forecasts	4
1.1 Latest year	4
1.2 Trends and forecasts	5
Recent trends	5
Forecasts: the coronavirus pandemic	6
1.3 The four largest taxes	7
Income tax	7
National Insurance contributions (NICs)	8
VAT	8
Corporation tax	8
1.4 Broad groups of taxes	9
2. Public sector receipts since the 1940s	11
2.1 Trends in total receipts	11
2.2 Broad groups of taxes	12
3. Distributional analysis	14
3.1 Income taxpayers	14
3.2 Households	15
Households' share of tax receipts	15
Impact of taxes on household income	16
4. International comparisons	20
5. Effects of illustrative tax changes	21
6. Tax reliefs	22
7. Key sources	24
Recent years and forecasts	24
Regional comparisons	24
International comparisons	24
Taxpayers	24
Households: Effects of taxes on households	24
Income tax: breakdowns and further analysis	25
Other individual taxes	25
Tax reliefs	25
Commentary/discussion	25

Summary

UK government raises over £820 billion a year in receipts – income from taxes and other sources – equivalent to around 37% of national income, as measured by GDP. The majority are from three main sources: income tax, National Insurance contributions (NICs) and value added tax (VAT). Together these raise over £470 billion.

Recent trends

Between 2007/08 and 2009/10 receipts fell by around 1% of GDP, following the financial crisis and recession of 2008 and 2009. Receipts have since increased and have exceeded 37% of GDP for the past four years. Receipts were last consistently above this level in the mid-1980s.

Receipts from VAT and NICs are larger in 2019/20, relative to the size of the economy now than they were in 1999/00. Income tax and corporation tax receipts are relatively smaller than they were in 1999/00.

Since the late 1990s receipts from stamp duty on property transactions, capital gains tax and council tax have all grown noticeably faster than the economy. Fuel duties and tobacco duties have declined.

Coronavirus: impact on 2020/21 receipts

The coronavirus pandemic is having a significant effect on receipts. Receipts have fallen as there has been less economic activity and because the Government has given tax breaks to support the economy.

In November 2020, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast that receipts could be around 7% lower in 2020/21 compared with 2019/20, a fall which is almost exactly in line with the economy.

Individual taxpayers: income tax paid, by income

Income tax payments are concentrated amongst those with the largest incomes. The 10% of income taxpayers with the largest incomes contribute over 60% of income tax receipts.

Households: taxes paid, by income

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) – an economic think tank – has analysed how much households pay in tax. Their analysis – which covers around three quarters of tax revenues (including income tax, NICs, VAT, excise duties and council tax) – found that the 50% of households with the largest incomes contribute around 78% of taxes.

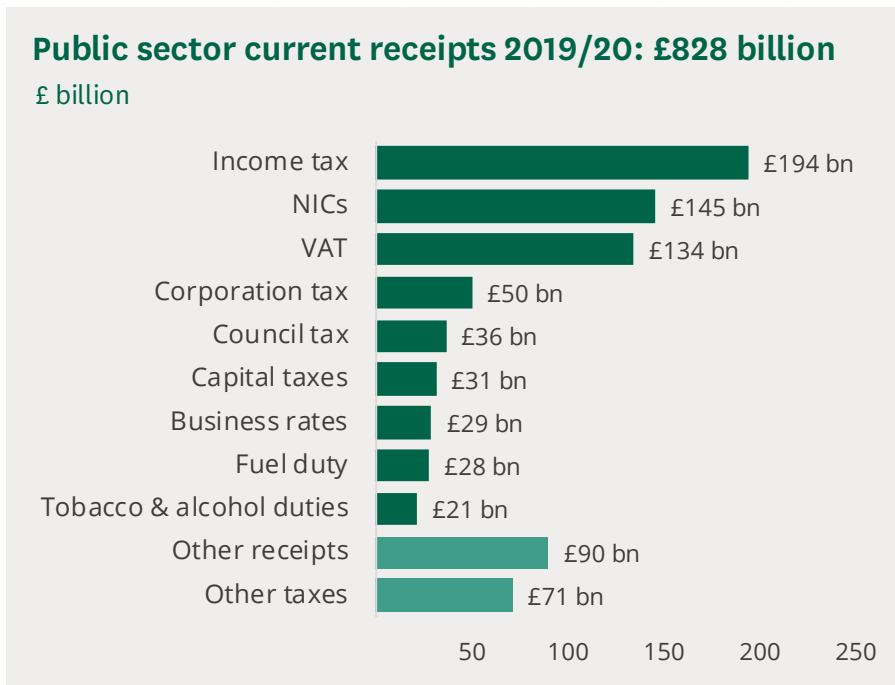
Impact of taxes across the income distribution

Overall, direct taxes (including income tax, NICs and council tax) lower income inequality. Richer individuals pay a greater share of their gross household income in direct taxes compared with poorer individuals.

Measured relative to household income, those with lower incomes pay more in indirect taxes (VAT, duties etc). Measured relative to household spending, there is little variation in indirect taxes across the income distribution.

1. Recent trends and forecasts

1.1 Latest year



source: ONS. [Public sector current receipts: Appendix D](#)

In 2019/20, UK government revenues – or public sector current receipts – were £828 billion. This is equivalent to 37% of GDP.

Income tax, National Insurance contributions (NICs) and Value Added Tax (VAT) contribute a little under three-fifths of all revenues. In 2019/20, £194 billion was raised from income tax, £145 billion from NICs and £134 billion from VAT.

Corporation tax was the fourth largest tax, raising £50 billion. Council tax raised around £37 billion, business rates £29 billion and fuel duty £28 billion. All other individual taxes each raised less than £20 billion in 2019/20.

Aside from taxes and duties, the government also receives other receipts, largely from income generated by public corporations (operating surpluses: see [Box 2](#)) – such as through local authority housing, or housing associations – and from interest payments on its assets, such as student loans.

Box 1: National Accounts taxes vs public sector current receipts

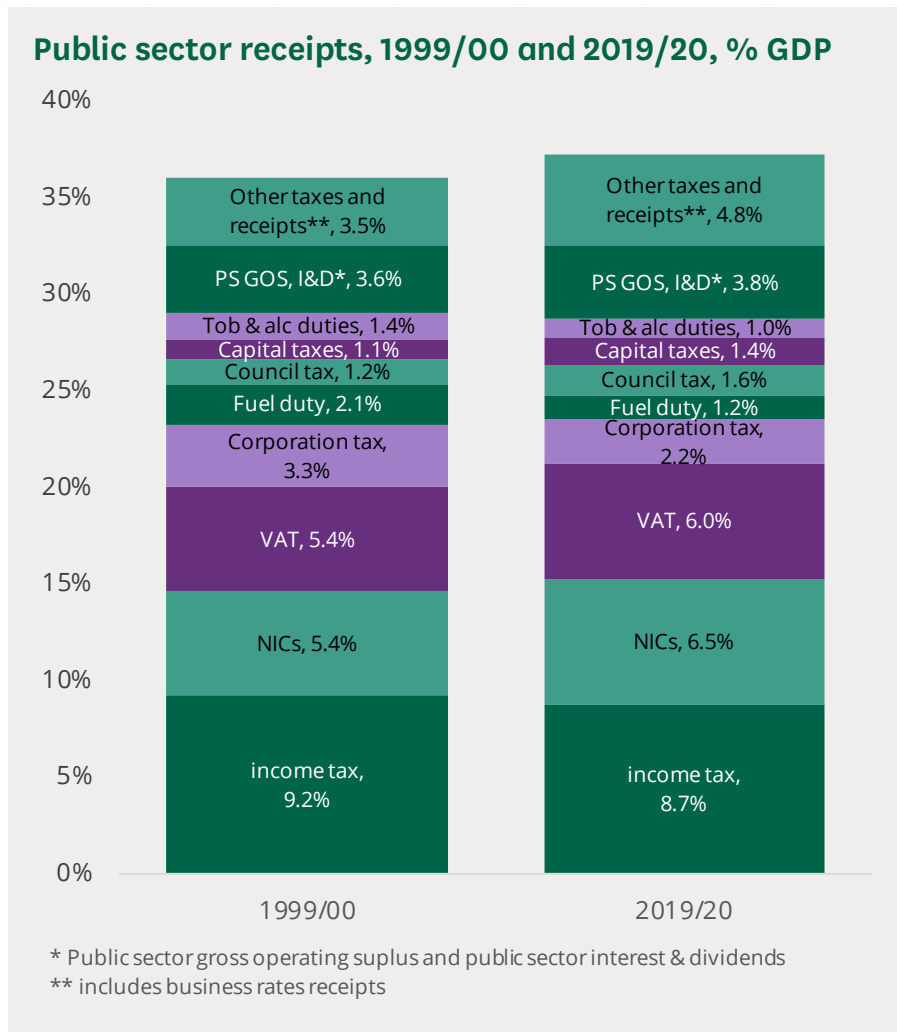
The vast majority of government revenues are classified as National Accounts taxes – that is, they are recorded as taxes in the National Accounts, which are the core accounts for the UK as a whole. In 2019/20, £743 billion was raised from National Accounts taxes, equivalent to 33% of GDP. In the chart above the only items that aren't National Accounts taxes are 'other receipts'.

If 'other receipts' – such as interest payments on government assets, and income generated by public corporations – are added in we reach the wider measure of public sector current receipts. In 2019/20, £828 billion was raised from public sector receipts, equivalent to 37% of GDP.

1.2 Trends and forecasts

Recent trends

Comparable data on public sector receipts covering both the past and forecasts for the future are available from 1999/00. In 1999/00, public sector receipts were equivalent to 36% of GDP. Receipts have fluctuated in the 19 years since, but the general trend has been towards receipts growing relative to the size of the economy. In 2019/20 public sector receipts were equivalent to 37% of GDP.



source: OBR [public finances databank](#) [accessed on 7/07/2020]

Both VAT and NICs are larger in 2019/20 than they were in 1999/00, relative to the size of the economy. Income tax and corporation tax receipts are relatively smaller than they were in 1999/00.

Since 1999/00, noticeable relative decreases have been seen in fuel duty receipts – a result of improved fuel efficiency and freezes in fuel duty rates – and in tobacco duties.

Council tax has grown in significance since 1999/00. Receipts grew particularly quickly in the years leading up to 2009/10 but have slowed since then.

The taxes grouped in the chart above as 'capital taxes' have grown from 1.1% of GDP in 1999/00 to 1.4% in 2019/20. Receipts for stamp duty

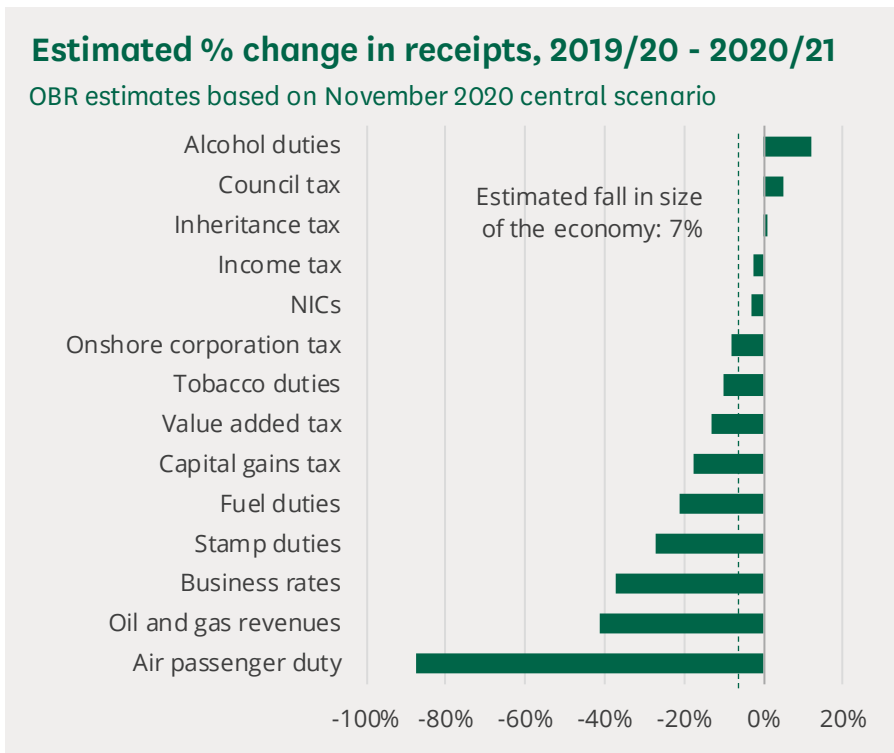
on property transactions and capital gains tax have grown faster than the economy over the period.

The growth seen in the taxes grouped as ‘other taxes’ has largely come from the introduction of environmental levies and growth in receipts from both air passenger duty and insurance premium tax. Other new taxes introduced since 1999/00 include, the bank levy, the bank surcharge, the apprenticeship levy, diverted profits tax and the digital services tax.

Forecasts: the coronavirus pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic is having a significant effect on receipts in 2020/21. Receipts have fallen because there has been less economic activity and because the Government has given various tax breaks to support businesses through the crisis.

In November 2020, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast that receipts could be around 7% lower in 2020/21 compared with 2019/20. However, the OBR expect receipts to be broadly unchanged relative to the size of the economy at 37% of GDP. This is because they expect GDP and receipts to fall at a similar rate .



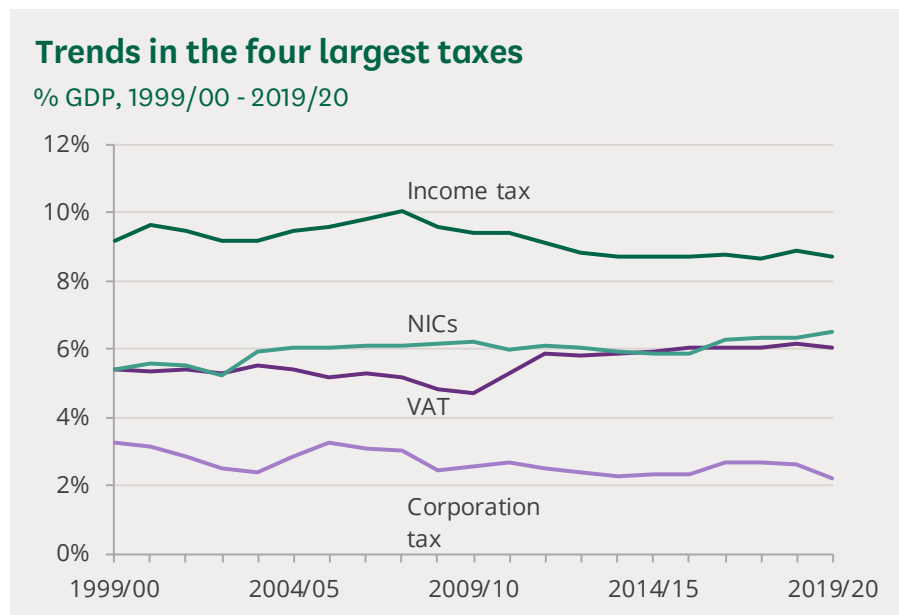
source: OBR. [Economic and fiscal outlook - November 2020](#), Table 3.3 and Table 2.9

Section 4.3 of the Library briefing paper [Coronavirus: Economic impact](#) summarises the tax measures introduced by the Government to support businesses, workers and individuals during the coronavirus outbreak. The Government has, for instance, given business rates holidays in 2020/21 to businesses in retail, hospitality, leisure and nurseries. The Government is also allowing payments for taxes including VAT and self-assessed income tax to be deferred.

Each month the OBR is analysing the performance of government receipts in its [commentary](#) on the monthly public sector finances data release.¹

1.3 The four largest taxes

Taken together, income tax, National Insurance contributions (NICs), VAT and corporation tax contributed around three-fifths of public sector receipts in 2019/20, a similar proportion as in 1999/00. Receipts from the four were equivalent to 23.2% of GDP in 1999/00 and had risen to 23.5% of GDP in 2019/20.



source: OBR [public finances databank](#) [accessed on 12/2/2021]

Income tax

[Income tax](#) is charged on different forms of personal income including earnings, income from investment and pension income.

Income tax receipts were equivalent to 8.7% of GDP in 2019/20, lower than in 1999/00 when income tax receipts were equivalent to 9.2% of GDP. Prior to the financial crisis and recession of 2008 and 2009, income tax receipts had risen to 10.0% of GDP.

The relative fall in income tax receipts since the recession can be broadly attributed to weak earnings growth and government increasing the tax-free personal allowance. Increases in the personal allowance mean that fewer people are paying income tax, and, for most income taxpayers, income tax is charged on less of their income.²

¹ OBR. [Monthly public finances release](#)

² Individuals with incomes over £100,000 have their personal allowance tapered away by £1 for every additional £2 they earn over £100,000.

National Insurance contributions (NICs)

[NICs](#) are levied on the wages and salaries of employees and earnings of the self-employed. NICs receipts have increased from 5.4% of GDP in 1999/00 to 6.5% in 2019/20.

Receipt increased in 2003/04 when various employee, self-employed and employer rates were raised by 1% point. At the same time thresholds at which earnings start being charged NICs were frozen. The measures were introduced to raise revenues for additional NHS spending.³ NICs receipts increased from 5.3% of GDP in 2002/03 to 5.9% in 2003/04.

In 2011/12 the main rates paid by employees, employers and the self-employed were increased by 1% point. At the same time NICs free thresholds for employees and employers were increased. The 'employment allowance' was introduced from April 2014, giving each employer a £2,000 tax-free threshold to offset against their NICs liability.⁴

Since 2016/17, NICs receipts have consistently been at or over 6.3% of GDP. Receipts were boosted in 2016/17 by the removal of a rebate related to the State Pension.⁵ In April 2016 the new State Pension removed the ability of certain taxpayers due to reach State Pension age to 'contract out' of the additional earnings-related element of the previous two-tier state pension and thus pay lower NICs via a rebate.

VAT

[VAT](#) is charged on the purchase of many goods and services.

In the years leading up to the financial crisis, VAT receipts had fluctuated between 5.2% - 5.5% of GDP. During, and immediately after, the recession they fell below 5% of GDP. The standard rate of VAT was reduced from 17.5% to 15% for a 13-month period between 1 December 2008 and 31 December 2009.

The standard rate of VAT was increased from 17.5% to 20% from January 2011⁶ and since VAT receipts have been equivalent to between 5.8% and 6.2% of GDP.

Corporation tax

The majority of corporation tax ([onshore corporation tax](#)) is raised from the taxable profits of limited companies and other organisations, after taking into account various deductions and allowances. Some corporation tax ([offshore corporation tax](#)) is raised from UK oil and gas revenues.

³ For further information see the Library briefing [The National Insurance Contributions Bill](#), 8 May 2002

⁴ OBR. Working Paper No. 15. The evolution of public sector receipts over the past decade, April 2020, [para 2.8](#)

⁵ OBR. Working Paper No. 15. The evolution of public sector receipts over the past decade, April 2020, [para 2.8](#)

⁶ For further information see the Library briefing [VAT : the new 20% standard rate](#), 3 September 2013

Corporation tax receipts have fallen from 3.3% of GDP in 1999/00 to 2.2% in 2019/20. Since 1999/00 corporation tax receipts have only exceeded 3.2% of GDP in one year outside of 1999/00, which was 2005/06. In 1999/00 corporation tax receipts were relatively large due to buoyancy in onshore receipts, which themselves were equivalent to 3.1% of GDP. In 2005/06 offshore receipts – largely from North Sea oil – were at the highest level over the period (0.6% of GDP) while onshore receipts were also above the average for the period.

The financial crisis saw corporation tax fall from 3% to 2.4% of GDP between 2007/08 and 2008/09. Despite cuts to the main rate of corporation tax since 2010/11, onshore receipts were a little larger in 2018/19 relative to the size of the economy. The growth in receipts can be explained by growth in company profits, growth in the number of firms paying the tax and wider changes to the complex corporation tax system.⁷

Corporation tax fell from 2.6% of GDP in 2018/19 to 2.2% in 2019/20. Onshore corporation tax receipts were around £6.9 billion lower in 2019/20 because of coronavirus.⁸ Coronavirus reduced receipts, thanks to downwards revisions to firms' profit expectations as well as increases in actual or anticipated use of loss reliefs.⁹

1.4 Broad groups of taxes

The chart below shows that between 1999 and 2007 (immediately prior to the financial crisis) taxes on individual incomes,¹⁰ social security contributions,¹¹ taxes on property¹² and (to a lesser extent) taxes on corporate income¹³ increased relative to the size of the UK economy. Taxes on specific goods and taxes, which are largely excises and duties, fell over the same period.

⁷ OBR. Working Paper No. 15. The evolution of public sector receipts over the past decade, April 2020, [paras 2.11-2.14](#)

⁸ OBR. [Forecast evaluation report – January 2021](#), Table 3.1

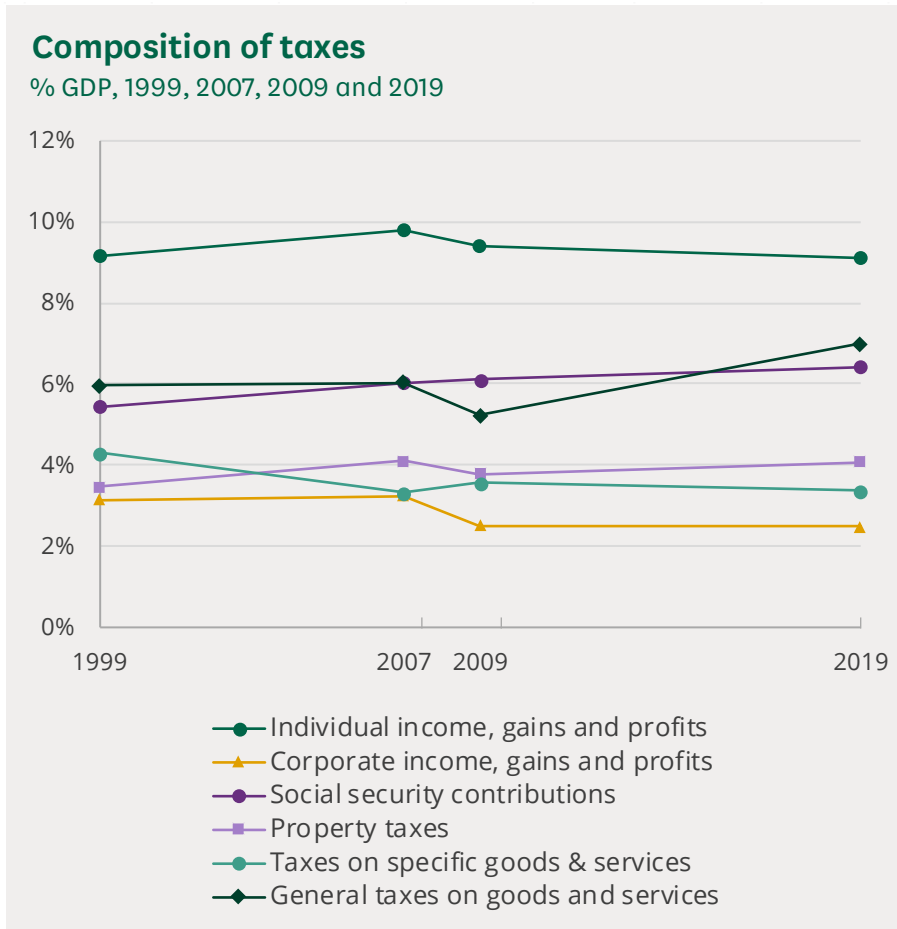
⁹ OBR. [Forecast evaluation report – January 2021](#), para 3.8

¹⁰ The vast majority of which is income tax

¹¹ NICs

¹² Largely made of council tax, business rates and stamp duties

¹³ Largely corporation tax



sources: OECD. [Revenue Statistics](#) and OBR. [public finances databank](#)

Between 2009 and 2019 receipts from general taxes on goods and services have increased noticeably. VAT contributes nearly all UK taxes in this group. Since 2009 taxes on individual incomes have fallen, relative to the size of the economy, and are now at a similar level to in 1999.

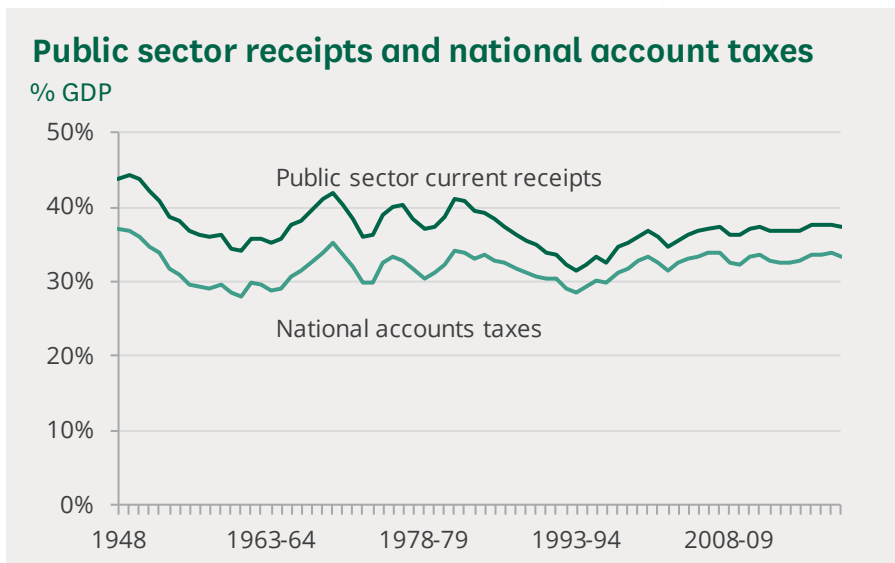
2. Public sector receipts since the 1940s

2.1 Trends in total receipts

Since the late 1940s public sector current receipts have fluctuated between 31% and 44% of GDP, with peaks in the early 1950s, late 1960s, mid-late 1970s and early 1980s. Receipts were smallest relative to the size of the economy in 1993/94.

National accounts taxes have fluctuated between 28% and 37% of GDP and have largely tracked the wider measure of public sector receipts (see Box 1 for definitions of the two measures).

Between 2007/08 and 2009/10 both measures fell by around 1% of GDP, following the 2007-2008 financial crisis and recession. Both are now at levels similar, relative to the size of the economy, to just before the crisis. Public sector current receipts were last consistently at a higher level in the mid-1980s when the public sector included more nationalised industries.



source: OBR [public finances databank](#) [accessed on 12/2/2021]

The gap between public sector receipts and national accounts taxes closed between the early 1980s and the early 1990s from around 7% of GDP to around 3% of GDP. This is largely a result of industries previously under public ownership being privatised.

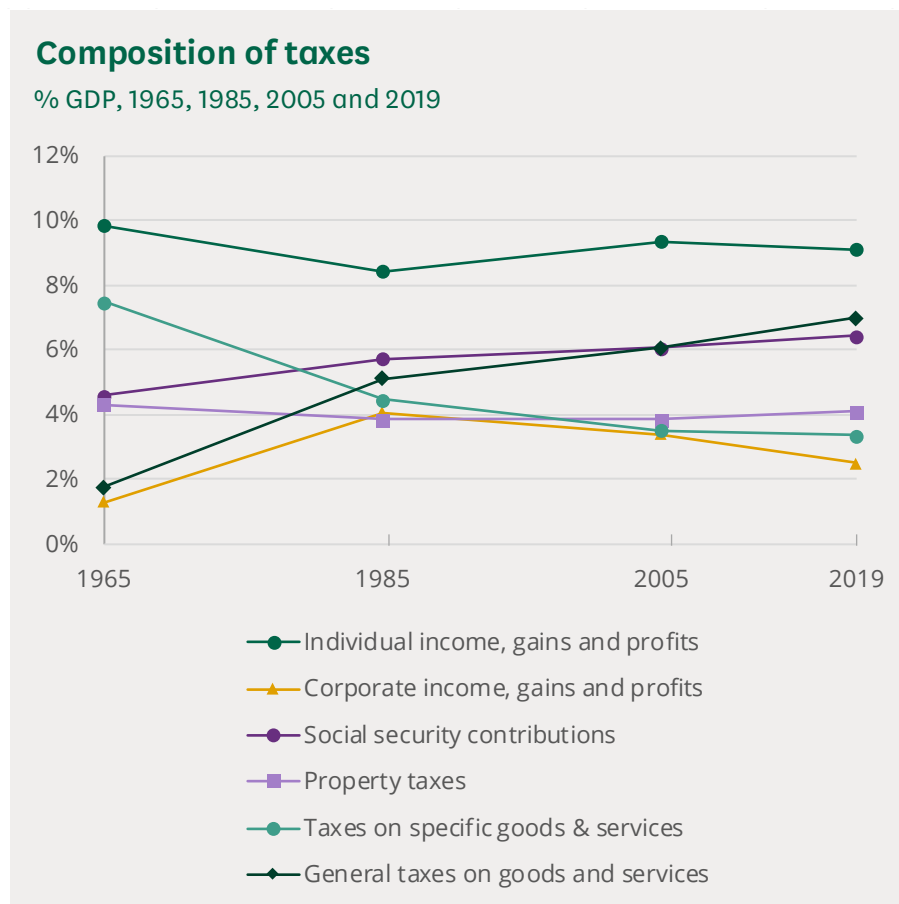
When industries are in public ownership some of their operation generates receipts that add to public sector receipts. For instance, any surplus created by public sector industries adds to public sector receipts. During the late 1970s public corporations' gross operating surplus was over 4.5% of GDP – by the early 1990s it was less than 1% of GDP.

Box 2: What is 'Gross operating surplus'?

Public sector gross operating surplus consists of [general government depreciation](#) and the [gross operating surplus of public corporations](#). The gross operating surplus of corporations is akin to the profit of a public sector body. It is the income from operating that exists once operating costs – such as production costs, staff costs and taxes – have been taken away.

2.2 Broad groups of taxes

The chart below shows trends since 1965 across broad groups of taxes. Throughout the period, taxes on individual incomes have raised the most receipts, but they raise a little less now than they did in 1965, relative to the size of the economy.



sources: OECD. [Revenue Statistics](#) and OBR. [Public finances databank](#)

Comparing 1965 and 2019, the most noticeable difference in tax receipts are amongst those levied on goods and services. General taxes on goods and services (largely VAT) have increased from around 2% to 7% of GDP while taxes on specific goods and services, such as excise duties, have fallen from over 7% to 3% of GDP. VAT was introduced in 1973 when the UK joined the European Economic Community and the main rate has risen from 8% to today's rate of 20%.

Social security contributions have increased from being equivalent to a little under 5% of GDP in 1965 to just over 6% in 2018. Taxes on corporate income are also more significant now than they were in 1965.

The Institute for Government discuss trends in these groups of taxes in more detail in [Taxing Times: The need to reform the UK tax system](#).

Historical view

The Library briefing [The public finances: a historical overview](#) includes data on government revenues from the late 1600s. It discusses how the composition of government revenues changed during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

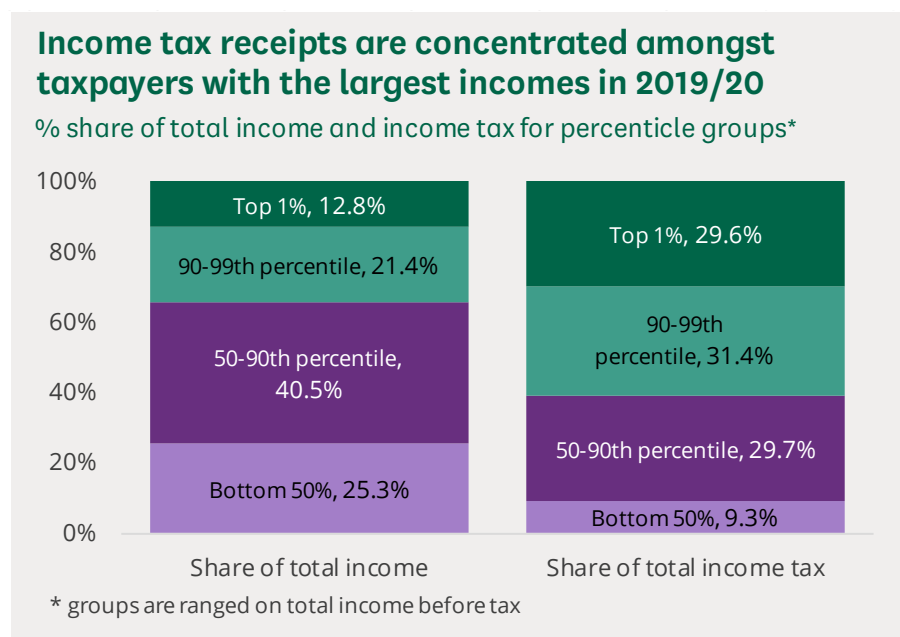
3. Distributional analysis

Here we look at how the tax paid varies across individuals or households with different incomes and how taxes affect incomes.

3.1 Income taxpayers

Projections for 2019/20 suggest that the top 1% of income taxpayers (those with the largest incomes) will receive 13% of all income and contribute 30% of income tax receipts. The top 1% are expected to have pre-tax incomes of over £189,000.¹⁴

The top 10% of income taxpayers (including the top 1%) are expected to contribute around 60% of income tax receipts. The bottom 50% of income taxpayers (with incomes under £26,300) are expected to contribute around 9% of income tax receipts. These figures only include those paying income tax. They exclude, for instance, anyone whose income is too low to be charged income tax.



source: HMRC. [Table 2.4 Shares of total Income Tax liability](#)

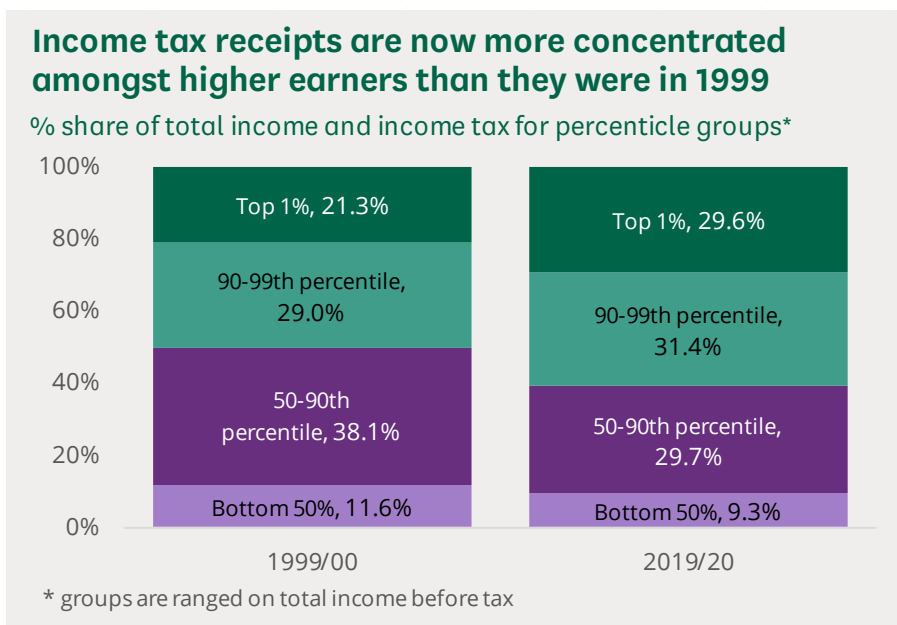
In 1999/00 income tax receipts weren't concentrated to quite the same extent as they are now. The top 1% contributed 21% of income tax receipts in 1999/00, with the top 10% contributing 50%.

Some of the increased concentration in income tax receipts towards the top of the distribution can be put down to an increase in the share of total income going to those at the top of income distribution. Policy changes made since the 2007-2008 financial crisis recession have also had an effect. For example, the tax-free personal allowance has been withdrawn for those with incomes over £100,000,¹⁵ the threshold at

¹⁴ HMRC. [Table 2.4](#) Shares of total Income Tax liability

¹⁵ The allowance is reduced by £1 for every £2 income is over £100,000.

which the higher income tax rate is paid has been lowered,¹⁶ the income tax relief individuals can claim on pension contributions has been reduced and the tax rate on income over £150,000 has increased.

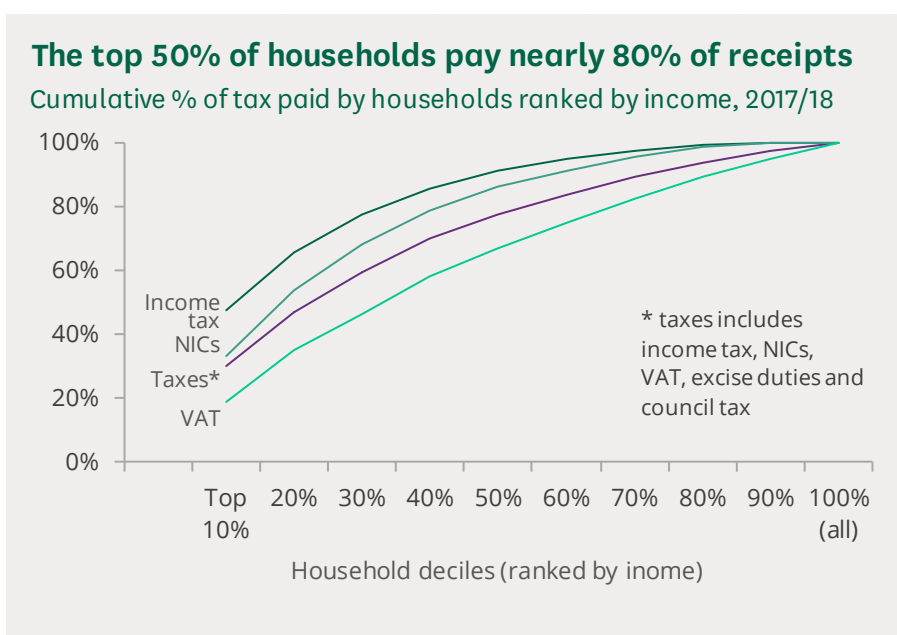


source: HMRC. [Table 2.4 Shares of total Income Tax liability](#)

3.2 Households

Households' share of tax receipts

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) – an economic think tank – has looked at how a broader set of taxes are distributed across households, according to household incomes.¹⁷



¹⁶ In real terms ie after adjusting for inflation

¹⁷ IFS, [Tax revenues: where does the money come from and what are the next government's challenges?](#), 2017

The IFS include around three quarters of tax revenues (including income tax, NICs, VAT, excise duties and council tax) in their analysis. They find that the 50% of households with the largest incomes contribute around 78% of these taxes. This means that overall tax payments are concentrated, but not to the same extent as income tax receipts.

For NICs and VAT, the IFS find that:

- NICs are concentrated amongst the better-off households, but not to the same extent as income tax
- VAT receipts are more broadly distributed across households.

There are limitations to the IFS' analysis, which point to taxes being concentrated amongst the higher income households to a greater extent than their estimates suggest:

- the data are based on survey responses, which under report the incomes of the highest earners and the analysis is therefore likely to underestimate their tax contribution
- some of the tax receipts not included – such as capital gains tax and inheritance tax – are likely to be concentrated amongst the better off households

Impact of taxes on household income

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reports on the effects of taxes and benefits on UK household income. Their analysis considers the impact of direct and indirect taxes.¹⁸

Direct taxes

In 2018/19, the average household paid £13,600 in direct taxes, equivalent to 23% of gross income. Gross income includes all original income – for example, from earnings and investments – plus cash benefits provided by government – for example from the state pension.

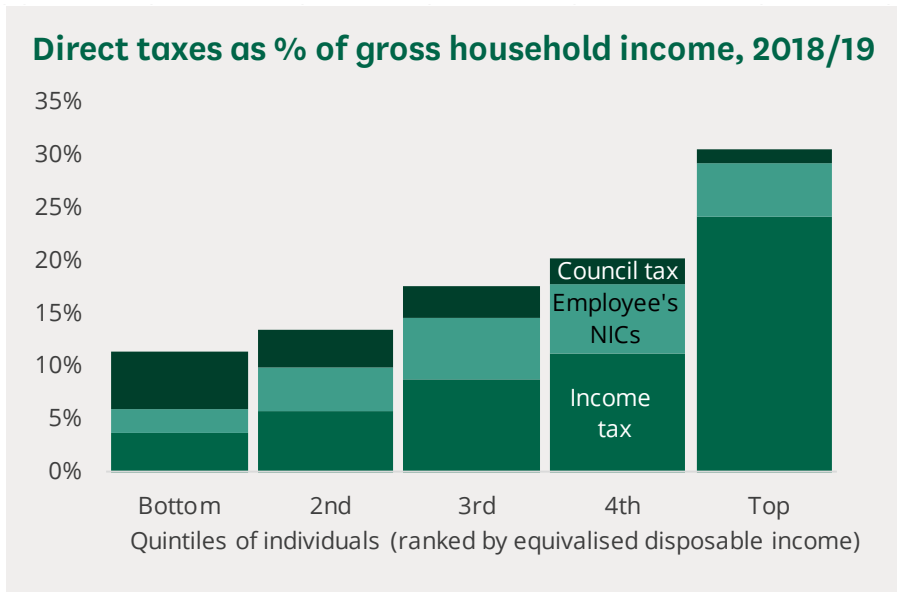
Direct taxes (income tax, employee NICs and council tax) reduce income inequality: household incomes are more evenly distributed across the income distribution after direct taxes have been paid. The richest fifth paid on average £40,400 in direct taxes in 2018/19, which is equivalent to 31% of gross household income.¹⁹ The poorest fifth paid £2,100 in direct taxes, which is equivalent to 11% of gross household income.

Council tax limits the extent to which direct taxes reduce income inequality. Even after including council tax support claimed, the poorest fifth pay a greater proportion of their gross income on council tax than

¹⁸ ONS. [Effects of taxes and benefits on UK household income: financial year ending 2019](#)

¹⁹ Individuals are grouped into quintiles (or fifths) based on their equivalised household disposable income. The richest quintile is the 20% of individuals with the highest equivalised household disposable income. The poorest quintile is the 20% of individuals with the lowest equivalised disposable income. Equivalisation is the process of accounting for the fact that households with many members are likely to need a higher income to achieve the same standard of living as households with fewer members.

the richest fifth.²⁰ Research from the IFS suggests that this is partly due to low take-up of council tax support entitlements.²¹



source: ONS. [Effects of taxes and benefits on UK household income: financial year ending 2019](#), 23 June 2020

Indirect taxes

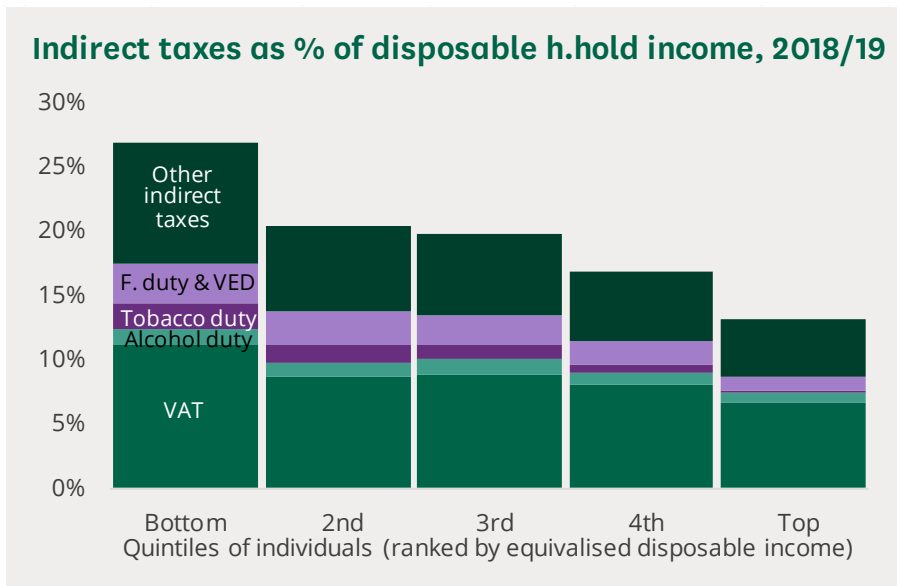
When measured relative to household incomes, indirect taxes²² (around 45% of which are VAT) can be judged to be regressive: that is, those with lower incomes pay more relative to their income. However, when measured relative to household expenditure, indirect taxes are more evenly distributed across individuals.

The richest fifth paid £12,000 in indirect taxes in 2018/19; the poorest fifth paid £4,500. For the poorest fifth this is equivalent to 27% of disposable household income, but for the richest fifth it is equivalent to 13% of disposable household income.

²⁰ This is council tax and Northern Ireland rates after benefits/rebates

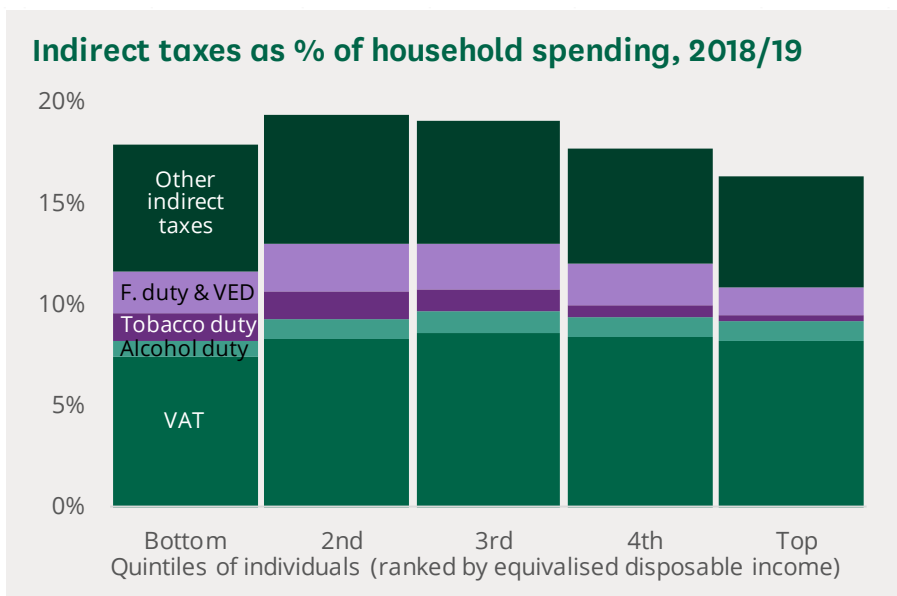
²¹ IFS. [The effect of taxes and benefits on UK inequality](#), May 2019, page 10

²² Including intermediate taxes



source: ONS. [Effects of taxes and benefits on UK household income: financial year ending 2019](#), 23 June 2020

Indirect taxes can also be considered relative to households' spending, not least because they are generally levied on spending. Doing so results in less variation across the income distribution. The IFS have argued – largely in respect of VAT – that there is a good argument for measuring impact as a share of household spending, rather than income. This is because incomes are volatile, and spending can be smoothed through borrowing and saving. The IFS's opinion is that this 'consumption smoothing', makes spending a better measure of living standard (and households' perception of the level of spending they can sustain).²³



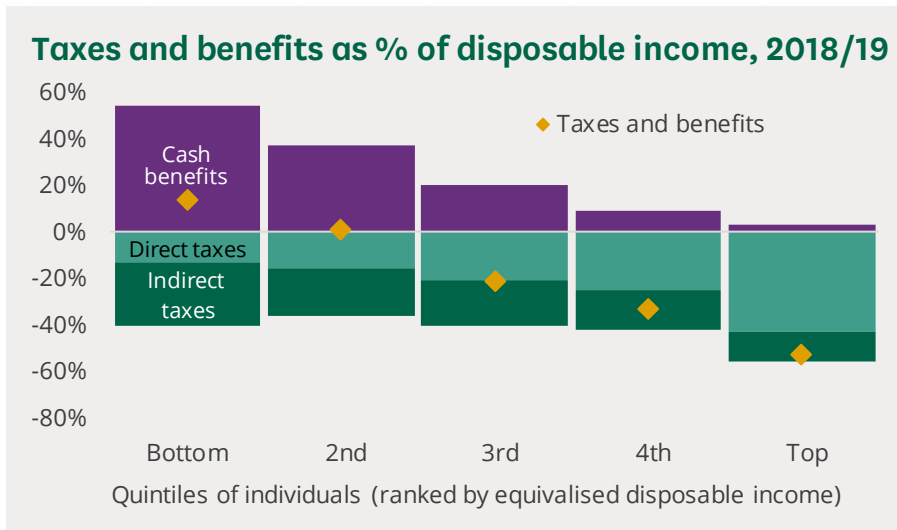
source: ONS. [Effects of taxes and benefits on UK household income: financial year ending 2019](#), 23 June 2020

²³ IFS. Green Budget 2009, Chapter 10, [pp197-199](#)

Overall tax and benefit system

It's important to bear in mind that the overall tax and benefit system is redistributive.

Household incomes described above include cash benefits from government. For the poorest households these benefits make up a significant part of their income. The poorest fifth and, to a lesser extent, the second poorest fifth receive more in cash benefits than they pay in direct and indirect taxes.



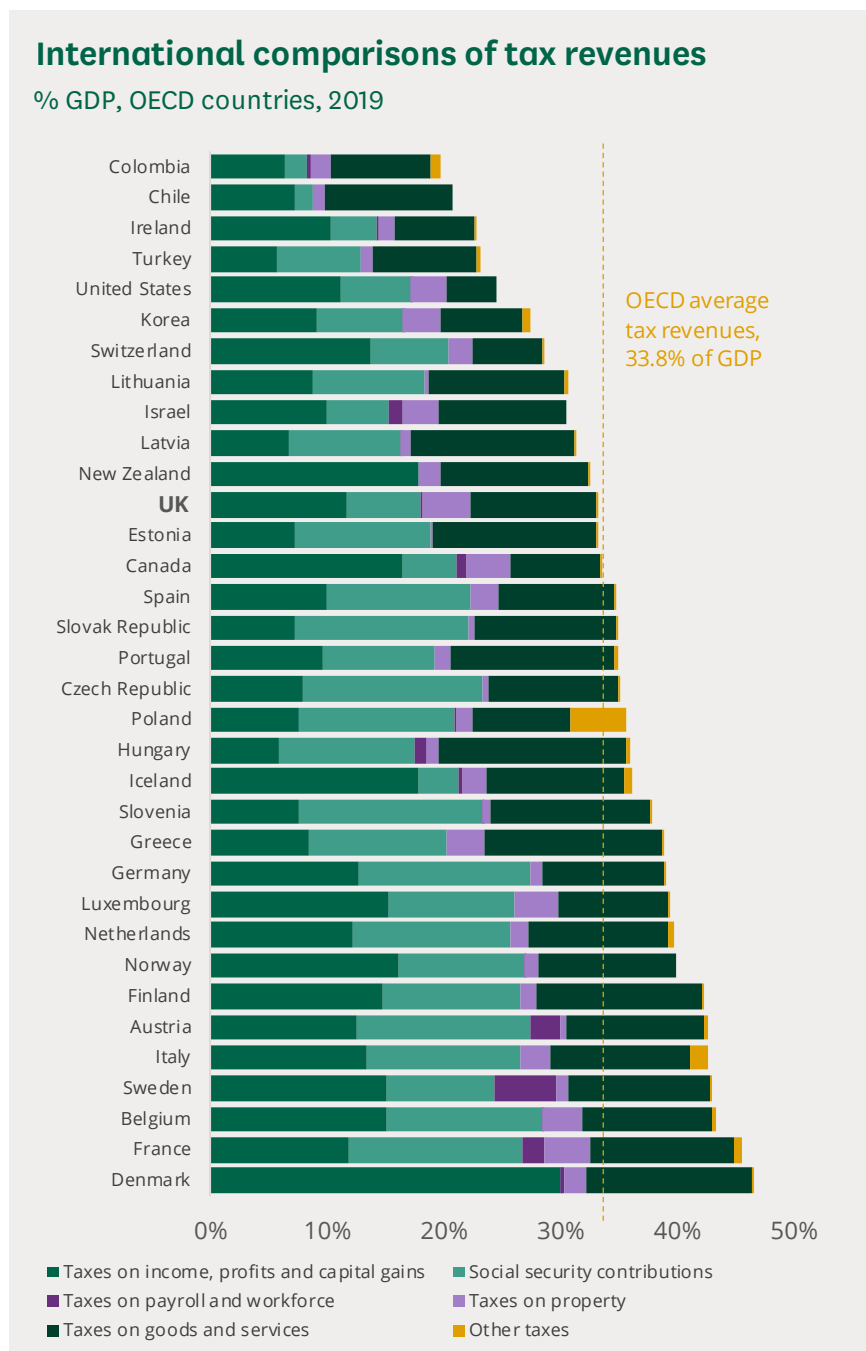
source: ONS. [Effects of taxes and benefits on UK household income: financial year ending 2019](#), 23 June 2020

Further analysis is available in the IFS' [The effect of taxes and benefits on UK inequality](#)

4. International comparisons

The UK raises slightly less tax revenues, as a share of GDP, than the average of countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In 2019, OECD countries' tax revenues were equivalent to 33.8% of GDP; in the UK they were 33.0% of GDP.

In 2019, the UK raised more from taxes on property, as a share of GDP, than any of 34 OECD countries. 15 countries raised more from taxes on income, profits and capital gains than the UK, while 18 raised less.²⁴



source: OECD. [Revenue statistics – OECD countries: Comparative tables](#)

²⁴ Complete data are available for 34 OECD countries in 2019

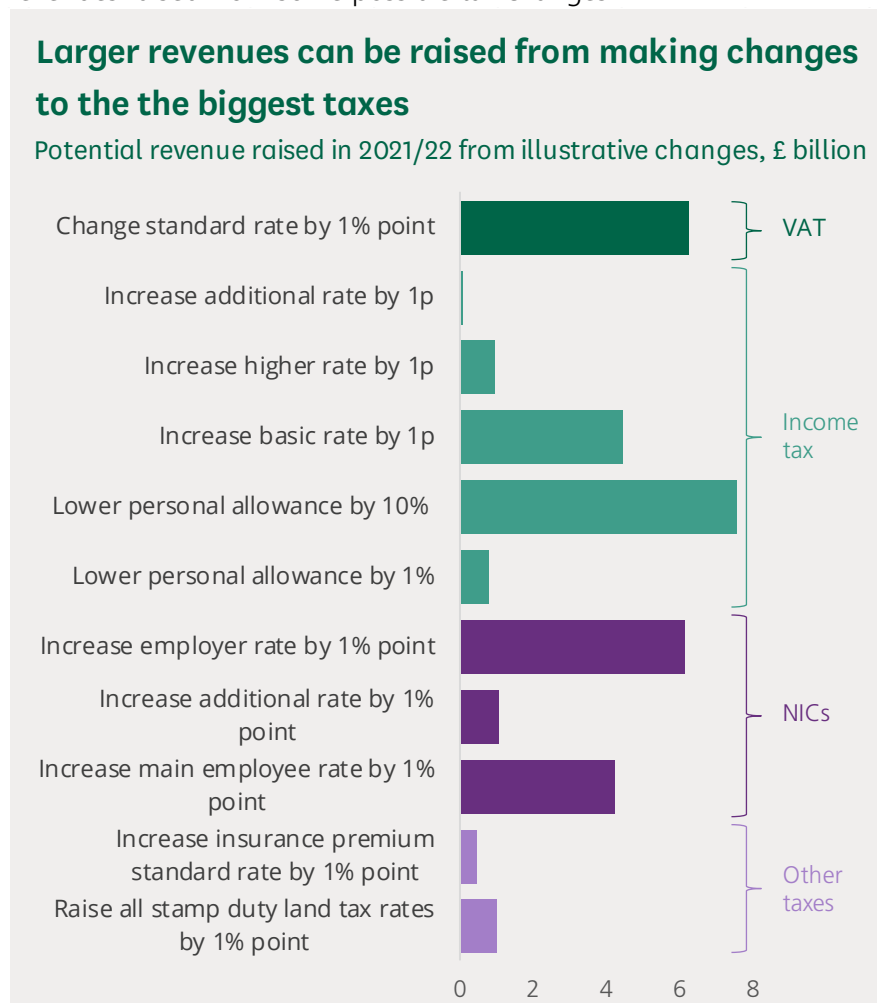
5. Effects of illustrative tax changes

[HMRC publish estimates](#) of the effect of illustrative tax changes on tax receipts, in what is often described as its 'ready reckoner'.²⁵

Clearly a range of options are available for increasing revenues from existing taxes. HMRC's ready reckoner includes illustrative changes to taxes such as: income tax; corporation tax; capital gains tax; inheritance tax; NICs; duties; VAT; insurance premium tax; and, stamp duty land tax.

HMRC's estimates only consider the direct impact of a measure on the tax base to which it is being applied, or to closely related tax bases. Effects on wider economic factors are generally excluded as are potential impacts on government welfare spending.

For purely illustrative purposes, the chart below lays out the potential revenues raised from some possible tax changes.



source: [HMRC. Direct effects of illustrative tax changes](#)

²⁵ HMRC. [Direct effects of illustrative tax changes](#)

6. Tax reliefs

There are more than 1,000 tax reliefs in the UK system. In many cases they are an essential part of defining the scope and structure of a tax. Broadly speaking HMRC splits tax reliefs into 'tax expenditures' and 'structural reliefs':

- the effect of **tax expenditures** is to help or encourage particular types of individuals, activities or products for economic or social objectives;
- **structural reliefs** can be reasonably regarded as an integral part of the tax structure.

Some reliefs combine both expenditure and structural elements.

HMRC publish estimates of the cost of [structural](#) and [non-structural](#) tax reliefs (tax expenditures). HMRC's figures are broad estimates as the loss of revenue from a tax relief cannot be directly observed and so the estimates are often based on simplified assumptions. They are not reliable estimates of the additional tax that would be raised if a tax relief were removed. As the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) explain:

The estimates HMRC produces are what is known as 'static' estimates. That is, they answer the question 'Given the activity that took place in the economy in a particular year, if this relief did not exist and the same activity took place how much additional tax would have been raised?'. This is a very different question to 'How much additional tax would be raised if this relief did not exist?' – to answer that you would need to consider how activity might change as taxpayers responded to the different tax incentives now in place. And it is an even more different question to 'How would the public finances be affected if this relief did not exist?' – which would require you to think about knock-on implications to other elements of the public finances, for example the welfare spending implications of changing the income tax personal allowance when the universal credit means test is measured after tax or, where the figures involved are large, how would economic growth more generally be affected.²⁶

HMRC estimates that the most significant tax expenditures are for exempting the sale of main residences from capital gains tax (£25 billion in 2019/20); income tax relief for registered pension schemes (£22 billion in 2019/20); NICs relief for employer contributions to registered pension schemes (£19 billion in 2019/20); and, 0% VAT on some food (£19 billion in 2019/20).

HMRC estimates that the most significant structural reliefs are for the income tax personal allowance (£113 billion in 2019/20); the NICs employer threshold (£32 billion in 2019/20); and, the NICs employee threshold (£27 billion in 2019/20). The estimated cost of the income tax personal allowance – the point at which individuals start paying income

²⁶ OBR. Fiscal risks report – July 2019, [para 4.64](#)

tax – has increased in recent years. This is a result of the Government making above inflation increases to the personal allowance.

The OBR discuss tax reliefs in their [2019 fiscal risks report](#). The OBR look at the different types of relief, what role they perform, the cost of reliefs and international comparisons. They also look at six specific reliefs: pensions tax relief; R&D tax credit; entrepreneurs' relief; business and agricultural property reliefs for inheritance tax; creative sector reliefs; and, the patent box.

7. Key sources

Recent years and forecasts

- OBR. [Public finances databank](#)

The 'receipts' tab of the databank provides a time series for most receipts from 1999/00. The OBR's most recent forecasts are also included.

- OBR. [Working paper No.15: The evolution of public sector receipts over the past decade](#)

This paper studies the evolution of tax revenues and other sources of government income between 2007-08 and 2018-19.

- OBR. [Economic and fiscal outlook – November 2020](#)

For more of a discussion of the latest data and forecasts see the public sector receipts section of the OBR's latest economic and fiscal outlook (para 3.18-3.65). Table 3.3 shows data for the latest year and all forecast years.

- ONS. Public sector finances, [Public sector current receipts: Appendix D](#)

This data-only release includes monthly receipts for most receipts. It also includes a summary table showing comparisons for the latest month's data and aggregates for financial recent financial years.

Regional comparisons

- ONS. [Country and regional public sector finances](#)

Experimental data from the ONS, which estimate public sector receipts (and spending) by UK region. The data includes estimates for individual taxes. The Library briefing [country and regional public sector finances](#) summarises the data.

International comparisons

- European Commission, [Taxation trends in the European Union](#)

This report contains a detailed statistical and economic analysis of the tax systems of the 28 Member States of the European Union, plus Iceland and Norway.

- OECD, [Tax Database](#)

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) tax database provides comparative information on a range of tax statistics – tax revenues, personal income taxes, non-tax compulsory payments, corporate and capital income taxes and taxes on consumption – that are levied in the OECD member countries.

Taxpayers

- HMRC, [Numbers of taxpayers and registered traders](#)

HMRC statistics related to numbers of taxpayers and registered traders.

Households: Effects of taxes on households

- ONS. [Effects of taxes and benefits on UK household income](#)

This ONS release looks at how taxes (and benefits) affect the distribution of incomes in the UK. It includes estimates of the taxes paid by retired, non-retired and all households, by level of income.

Income tax: breakdowns and further analysis

- HMRC, [Income Tax statistics and distributions](#)

HMRC's tables provide breakdowns of income taxpayers and Income Tax liabilities by age and gender, marginal tax rate, income source and tax band, and by country and region. Includes estimates for recent years.

- HMRC, [personal income by tax year](#)

HMRC's tables provide detailed information on individuals liable to UK Income Tax and their incomes. The statistics include gender, age, income and tax distribution, income source, country and geographical area.

The statistics in this HMRC release are less timely than those discussed above, but they provide a greater level of detail, and include data for parliamentary constituencies.

- OBR, [Income tax](#)

The OBR's in-depth analysis of income tax discusses recent trends, forecasts, policy changes, and other information.

Other individual taxes

- [Statistics at HMRC](#)

This landing page provides links to statistics covering HMRC's main work from collecting tax to paying tax credits and child benefit.

- OBR, [in-depth: tax by tax](#)

In these pages the OBR gather together their published information on key taxes including [income tax](#); [National Insurance Contributions](#); [VAT](#); [Onshore corporation tax](#); [Oil and gas revenues](#); [Fuel duties](#); [Capital gains tax](#); [Inheritance tax](#); [Tobacco duties](#); [Alcohol duties](#); [Council tax](#); [Air passenger duty](#); [Bank Levy](#); [Betting and gaming duties](#); [Vehicle excise duty](#); and, [Landfill tax](#). For each the OBR describes what the tax represents in the real world, how the amount of money raised has changed in recent years and sets out the most recent forecast and how it is performing against the latest data. It also provides background information about how each forecast is produced, how they have evolved over time and other issues.

Tax reliefs

- OBR, Fiscal Risks Report – July 2019, [paras 4.63 – 4.115](#)

This section of the OBR's biennial reports into fiscal risks covers tax reliefs. It summarises what they are, what they do and why they may pose a risk to the public finances. It includes case studies for pensions tax relief, R&D tax credit, Entrepreneur's relief, Inheritance tax and creative sector reliefs.

Commentary/discussion

- House of Commons Library, [Key documents: taxation](#)

This briefing lists some of the most useful sources on tax law, tax policy and tax statistics, as well as guidance for taxpayers. It also provides a checklist of official documents and briefing material on Budgets since 2010, and gives a short selection of other reading on the Parliamentary scrutiny of government taxation and spending.

The Library publishes many [briefings on taxation](#).

- Resolution Foundation, [The shifting shape of UK tax](#), 13 November 2019

This paper looks at the size of taxes, trends in taxes, distribution of taxes, future challenges and party policies.

- Institute for Government, [The UK tax system needs urgent reform under any government](#), 15 July 2019

This briefing note includes a discussion of trends in UK tax receipts, along with potential future challenges.

- IFS, [Tax revenues: where does the money come from and what are the next government's challenges?](#), 2017

This briefing note provided background material for the 2017 general election. It provides trends in tax revenues, changes in the distribution of taxes and challenges for tax receipts and policy.

- IFS, [The changing composition of UK tax revenues](#), 2016

An in-depth look at trends in tax revenues.

- IFS, [The coalition government's record on tax](#), 2015

Discusses policy changes between 2010 and 2015.

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