

What people in the UK really earn

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Research has shown most people have little clue how income is distributed in the UK. In particular, the wealthiest think they are worse off than they are and many on what is called 'middle income' do not realise that they earn much more than 'middle'.

Latest data from HMRC, [just published](#), emphasis this. I have reduced their table to the most recent year for which information is available, which is 2012-13:

A decile is 10% of taxpayers. People who are not taxpayers are not in this table, so it overstates average incomes.

Half of people in the UK in 2012-13 had declared taxable income (I make the point carefully) of £21,000 or less. Having income of £49,200 put a person in the top 10% and £150,000 or more, unsurprisingly, in the top 1%.

To emphasise the [point median income by year looks like this](#):

There is no doubt that the UK needs a pay rise.