

YouGov / Scottish Government Survey Results

Sample Size: 1051 Scottish Adults (18+)
Fieldwork: 4th - 8th October 2021

	Vote In 2019 GE				2016 EU Ref		2014 Indy Ref		Gender		Age				Social Grade		
Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	SNP	Remain	Leave	Yes	No	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	
Weighted Sample	1051	202	149	77	362	533	309	408	504	506	545	111	426	270	244	547	504
Unweighted Sample	1051	203	159	71	393	560	300	371	505	478	573	109	399	274	269	593	458
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

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How well, if at all, do you feel you understand the UK tax system and the UK taxes you pay?

Understand them very well	9	10	15	10	14	8	11	9	9	10	13	7	10	7	13	10	14	4
Understand them fairly well	50	42	49	50	35	50	48	44	44	45	47	38	29	35	50	51	46	38
TOTAL UNDERSTAND	59	52	64	60	49	58	59	53	53	55	60	45	39	42	63	61	60	42
Do not understand them that well	26	31	25	23	40	32	30	33	31	31	28	33	34	38	24	24	28	34
Do not understand them at all	10	10	7	14	5	7	7	10	10	8	6	14	14	10	9	10	6	15
TOTAL DO NOT UNDERSTAND	36	41	32	37	45	39	37	43	41	39	34	47	48	48	33	34	34	49
Don't know	5	7	4	3	6	3	4	3	5	6	6	9	14	9	4	4	5	9

And how well, if at all, do you feel you understand tax devolution in Scotland and the devolved taxes you pay?

Understand them very well	7	7	10	7	10	8	8	8	7	10	5	4	5	9	10	11	3	
Understand them fairly well	37	32	32	32	28	41	39	28	37	31	37	27	23	30	36	36	37	26
TOTAL UNDERSTAND	44	39	42	39	38	49	47	36	45	38	47	32	27	35	45	46	48	29
Do not understand them that well	33	35	35	37	30	39	35	41	37	37	33	37	40	36	35	32	33	38
Do not understand them at all	17	18	18	19	26	10	15	19	12	19	14	22	18	19	15	19	13	23
TOTAL DO NOT UNDERSTAND	50	53	53	56	56	49	50	60	49	56	47	59	58	55	50	51	46	61
Don't know	6	8	5	5	6	2	4	4	5	7	6	9	15	10	5	3	6	9

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		Scottish Region								
		Total	North East Scotland	Highlands & Islands	South Scotland	West Scotland	Central	Mid-Scotland & Fife	Lothians	Glasgow
Weighted Sample	1051	144	104	150	110	112	138	168	125	
Unweighted Sample	1051	152	100	155	109	116	130	172	117	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
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How well, if at all, do you feel you understand the UK tax system and the UK taxes you pay?										
	9	10	9	6	10	10	11	4	14	11
Understand them very well	50	42	41	40	44	41	41	40	49	39
Understand them fairly well	59	52	50	46	54	51	52	44	63	50
TOTAL UNDERSTAND	26	31	31	40	28	34	25	34	28	27
Do not understand them that well	10	10	11	11	8	7	15	18	4	10
Do not understand them at all	36	41	42	51	36	41	40	52	32	37
TOTAL DO NOT UNDERSTAND	5	7	7	2	10	8	8	4	6	13
Don't know	And how well, if at all, do you feel you understand tax devolution in Scotland and the devolved taxes you pay?									
	7	7	4	6	11	10	12	1	7	7
Understand them very well	37	32	26	38	31	27	25	29	43	32
Understand them fairly well	44	39	30	44	42	37	37	30	50	39
TOTAL UNDERSTAND	33	35	40	35	32	36	37	40	30	32
Do not understand them that well	17	18	23	18	16	16	17	25	13	16
Do not understand them at all	50	53	63	53	48	52	54	65	43	48
TOTAL DO NOT UNDERSTAND	6	8	7	2	9	11	9	4	6	14
Don't know										

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	Vote In 2019 GE				2016 EU Ref		2014 Indy Ref		Gender		Age				Social Grade		
	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	SNP	Remain	Leave	Yes	No	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	ABC1	C2DE	
Weighted Sample	1051	202	149	77	362	533	309	408	504	506	545	111	426	270	244	547	504
Unweighted Sample	1051	203	159	71	393	560	300	371	505	478	573	109	399	274	269	593	458
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Which ONE, if any, of the following is how you find most of your information on tax?

UK Government website	22	29	25	24	18	23	21	19	24	26	18	18	21	26	21	24	19
Scottish Government website	11	7	9	6	16	12	11	15	8	10	12	18	11	11	8	12	10
Mainstream media (newspapers, TV and radio)	10	16	7	20	11	12	10	10	12	12	8	3	6	12	19	13	7
Friends and family	7	6	11	5	8	8	5	6	7	6	8	13	9	5	4	7	8
Independent websites	6	7	5	8	5	6	6	6	7	7	6	8	5	6	7	7	5
My employer	5	4	7	3	6	5	6	4	6	6	4	1	8	6	1	5	5
Independent tax professional organisations	3	4	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	4	3	2
Social media	2	1	2	0	2	1	4	3	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	3	2
Other [See Tab 1]	2	1	3	5	3	3	2	3	1	2	3	2	3	1	3	3	2
Don't know	6	2	5	5	5	6	2	3	7	5	7	6	7	6	4	4	8
Not applicable – I don't find information on tax	26	23	24	20	23	21	31	29	23	21	30	27	25	24	29	19	33

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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'Government should redistribute income from the better-off to those who are less well off.'

Agree strongly	26	26	8	29	16	36	30	19	36	17	30	22	25	27	29	19	25	26
Agree	32	33	24	42	43	34	35	32	31	35	31	34	36	31	35	31	33	32
TOTAL AGREE	58	59	32	71	59	70	65	51	67	52	61	56	61	58	64	50	58	58
Neither	26	27	35	20	24	22	23	28	21	29	24	29	21	26	26	31	24	30
Disagree	12	11	23	5	15	6	9	14	8	15	9	12	8	11	7	14	12	9
Disagree strongly	5	5	9	4	3	1	2	6	4	5	5	4	11	4	2	5	6	3
TOTAL DISAGREE	17	16	32	9	18	7	11	20	12	20	14	16	19	15	9	19	18	12

Suppose the government had to choose between the three options on this card. Which do you think it should choose?

Reduce taxes and spend less on health, education and social benefits	6	7	8	5	1	7	5	7	7	5	8	5	14	8	5	2	7	6
Keep taxes and spending on these services at the same level as now	46	48	57	42	52	35	42	51	41	52	48	48	49	51	47	42	45	51
Increase taxes and spend more on health, education and social benefits	48	46	35	53	47	59	53	42	52	43	44	47	37	40	48	56	48	43

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	Scottish Region								
	North East Scotland	Highlands & Islands	South Scotland	West Scotland	Central	Mid-Scotland & Fife	Lothians	Glasgow	
Weighted Sample	1051	144	104	150	110	112	138	168	125
Unweighted Sample	1051	152	100	155	109	116	130	172	117
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Which ONE, if any, of the following is how you find most of your information on tax?

UK Government website	22	23	19	22	21	26	19	26	15
Scottish Government website	11	8	12	11	10	10	9	13	15
Mainstream media (newspapers, TV and radio)	10	12	8	13	15	10	8	9	5
Friends and family	7	4	5	7	5	7	7	11	10
Independent websites	6	4	7	5	6	1	9	9	8
My employer	5	8	3	5	3	7	3	5	5
Independent tax professional organisations	3	1	2	3	4	3	2	1	4
Social media	2	1	3	3	2	1	3	2	1
Other [See Tab 1]	2	2	4	1	1	2	1	4	2
Don't know	6	3	7	5	6	10	6	5	7
Not applicable – I don't find information on tax	26	33	29	24	25	23	31	15	29

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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'Government should redistribute income from the better-off to those who are less well off.'

Agree strongly	26	26	28	23	23	22	32	18	27	32
Agree	32	33	29	39	32	25	29	36	37	32
TOTAL AGREE	58	59	57	62	55	47	61	54	64	64
Neither	26	27	29	22	28	32	21	30	25	27
Disagree	12	11	8	12	11	16	14	13	8	4
Disagree strongly	5	5	7	4	6	5	4	3	3	6
TOTAL DISAGREE	17	16	15	16	17	21	18	16	11	10

Suppose the government had to choose between the three options on this card. Which do you think it should choose?

Reduce taxes and spend less on health, education and social benefits	6	7	7	6	4	6	6	7	8	7
Keep taxes and spending on these services at the same level as now	46	48	49	52	46	46	45	46	50	50
Increase taxes and spend more on health, education and social benefits	48	46	44	42	50	47	49	47	42	43

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

As you may know, the current Covid-19 pandemic has required high levels of government spending. Following the crisis, and when emergency spending comes to an end, which of these statements do you agree with the most in relation to future levels of tax and

I am prepared to pay more taxes myself in order to fund public services	40	37	44	42	51	50	35	42	41	41	38	31	36	42	48	48	31
I am prepared for some cuts to public services rather than pay more taxes myself	21	28	15	17	15	15	28	19	21	26	16	23	25	19	13	19	22
Neither	25	26	27	20	21	22	26	24	26	23	27	25	23	25	28	21	29
Don't know	15	9	14	20	14	14	12	15	13	10	19	21	16	14	12	11	19

In which of the following areas would you be prepared to pay more tax in? Please tick all that apply.

[Only shown to those who said they would be prepared to pay more taxes to fund public services; N=465]

Income taxes	63	60	62	62	69	64	64	66	62	66	60	47	60	66	69	64	61
Green/environmental taxes	33	8	27	33	44	36	19	40	25	34	32	47	38	30	24	34	31
Consumption taxes (e.g. VAT)	30	37	26	31	30	31	28	27	34	34	26	24	30	29	34	30	30
Local taxes (e.g. Council Tax)	27	16	18	48	27	25	28	25	28	25	28	27	28	24	28	26	29
Other taxes <i>[See Tab 2]</i>	3	3	6	2	2	3	5	3	3	3	3	0	2	6	3	3	2
Don't know	8	10	10	0	7	8	6	7	7	4	12	8	12	5	5	7	9

On balance, would you say that the amount of tax that you and your family have to pay is too high, too low or about right?

Too high	28	28	26	16	29	26	34	31	26	30	27	26	32	32	19	28	29
About right	52	63	53	65	54	57	53	46	60	52	52	37	48	53	65	55	49
Too low	3	0	4	5	5	4	1	6	2	5	2	5	2	3	3	4	2
Don't know	17	9	17	14	12	13	11	17	13	13	20	31	18	12	13	13	20

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Unweighted Sample	1051	152	100	155	109	116	130	172	117
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

As you may know, the current Covid-19 pandemic has required high levels of government spending. Following the crisis, and when emergency spending comes to an end, which of these statements do you agree with the most in relation to future levels of tax and

I am prepared to pay more taxes myself in order to fund public services	40	38	40	37	38	36	42	46	37
I am prepared for some cuts to public services rather than pay more taxes myself	21	22	26	19	18	14	21	26	16
Neither	25	25	20	28	26	30	25	21	23
Don't know	15	14	13	16	17	20	12	8	23

In which of the following areas would you be prepared to pay more tax in? Please tick all that apply.

[Only shown to those who said they would be prepared to pay more taxes to fund public services; N=465]

Income taxes	63	59	70	62	70	67	52	66	63
Green/environmental taxes	33	44	26	32	26	30	27	40	31
Consumption taxes (e.g. VAT)	30	32	42	23	36	32	19	33	28
Local taxes (e.g. Council Tax)	27	19	23	39	27	25	30	25	27
Other taxes <i>[See Tab 2]</i>	3	3	3	0	0	2	8	3	4
Don't know	8	9	3	6	8	11	12	7	6

On balance, would you say that the amount of tax that you and your family have to pay is too high, too low or about right?

Too high	28	31	30	22	27	30	33	31	23
About right	52	51	52	61	53	51	45	53	50
Too low	3	2	1	2	2	10	5	3	1
Don't know	17	16	17	15	18	10	17	14	26