

New Zealand: Estimates of top shares of fiscal income for 2017, and revision for 2016

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We have extended the series of shares of fiscal income for New Zealand to 2017. We have also revised the numbers for 2016 due to revisions to National Accounts and income tax figures. We have followed the same procedure as described for the years from 2000 in Atkinson and Leigh (2007), with the following qualifications:

a) The income distribution data were provided in an XLS file from the Inland Revenue from both their website, and following an Official Information Act request.¹ It should be noted that the Inland Revenue notation refers to the income year ending 31 March 2018 as 2018; this is labelled 2017 both here and in WID.world (see footnote 3 on page 334 of Atkinson and Leigh, 2007). The data are given in great detail (222 ranges), so the interpolation error is tiny.

b) The Inland Revenue will not further update the income distribution data up to 2015. However, the distribution data for 2016 and 2017 are subject to revision.

c) For the population control total, Atkinson and Leigh (2007, page 336) used the total number of taxpayers from the Inland Revenue data. As in all previous updates (Atkinson, 2012; Alvaredo and Atkinson, 2013, 2014; Alvaredo, 2017; Alvaredo and Kergozou, 2019), we have followed the same procedure. The ratio of the number of taxpayers to the population aged 15+ is very close to 1, and it is even higher in some years, as the taxpaying population includes a small number of children, as well as any migrant who works in New Zealand at any point in the tax year.

d) Total fiscal income is based on the National Accounts (Income and Expenditure): Latest Release Year ended March 2018, Institutional Sector Accounts, Table 2.12 Household Sector Accounts 2004-2018, and also through Statistics New Zealand's Infoshare for the years before 2004. We have taken the sum of compensation of employees, farm and non-farm entrepreneurial income, interest, dividends, investment income from the rest of the world, social security benefits in cash, social assistance benefits in cash and pension fund benefits. As in Atkinson and Leigh (page 337), we have taken 95% of this sum.

The current and previous estimates are provided in Table 1. The full series are given in WID.world.

¹ <https://www.classic.ird.govt.nz/aboutir/external-stats/revenue-refunds/income-distrib-individual-customers/income-distrib-individ-customers.html>

Table 1: New Zealand. Revised and updated shares of fiscal income 2000-2017

	Shares of fiscal income (%)				
	Top 20%	Top 10%	Top 5%	Top 1%	Top 0.5%
2000	47.1	31.0	20.3	7.9	5.2
2001	48.0	31.6	20.9	8.3	5.6
2002	48.1	31.5	20.8	8.3	5.6
2003	48.1	31.7	21.1	8.8	6.1
2004	48.6	32.2	21.7	9.3	6.7
2005	47.6	31.4	20.9	8.6	5.9
2006	45.9	30.2	20.1	8.1	5.5
2007	44.2	29.1	19.4	7.8	5.3
2008	45.3	29.9	19.9	8.1	5.6
2009	45.0	29.6	19.6	7.8	5.3
2010	44.4	29.0	19.0	7.4	5.0
2011	46.0	30.4	20.2	8.0	5.4
2012	48.0	32.1	21.6	8.9	6.2
2013	46.7	30.8	20.4	7.8	5.2
2014	47.6	31.5	20.9	8.1	5.4
2015	48.1	32.0	21.3	8.4	5.6
2016	47.2	31.4	21.0	8.3	5.6
2017	48.0	32.1	21.5	8.7	5.9

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