

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 2162

Fieldwork: 28th - 30th August 2007

For full results click [here](#)

		Total
		%
Which political Party do you identify with, if any?		
	Conservative	25
	Labour	32
	Liberal Democrat	10
	Another Party	7
	None	20
	Don't know	6
Which of the following comes closest to your view?		
	I am satisfied with Labour's record	15
	I am NOT satisfied with Labours record, but I still prefer Labour	
	in charge to the Conservative party	34
	I am NOT satisfied with Labours record and I would prefer a	
	Conservative government	29
	None of these	17
	Don't know	6
What is the maximum proportion of an average household's income that government should be able to take in taxes?		
	5 percent	18
	10 percent	23
	15 percent	13
	20 percent	15
	25 percent	8
	30 percent	5
	40 percent	3
	50 percent	2
	60 percent	0
	70 percent or more	1
	Don't know	13

Total
%

And what proportion of an average household's income do you think actually does go in taxes?

5 percent	2
10 percent	2
15 percent	5
20 percent	11
25 percent	16
30 percent	17
40 percent	21
50 percent	8
60 percent	4
70 percent or more	1
Don't know	13

Some people have suggested reducing the tax burden in a number of different ways. Which, if any, of the following tax cuts would you like to see, regardless of whether you think they are likely? [Please tick all that apply]

Lowering council tax	68
Significantly raising the tax-free personal allowance from £5,225	66
Excluding the main home from inheritance tax	63
Abolishing stamp duty for first-time buyers	57
Lowering the basic rate of income tax from 22%	52
Lowering the VAT rate from 17.5%	50
Raising the threshold at which people pay 40% income tax from £34,600	35
Abolishing stamp duty on share transactions	17
Lowering the higher rate of income tax from 40%	17
Lowering taxes on business	14
None of these	4

Since the current Government was elected in 1997, do you think you are personally paying more tax, less tax, or about the same amount?

Significantly more tax	39
Slightly more tax	31
Same amount of tax	12
Slightly less tax	3
Significantly less tax	1
Don't know	14

Total

%

Using a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means 'very fair' and 5 means 'not at all fair', please indicate what you think of these taxes in terms of fairness.

Income tax

1	9
2	14
3	32
4	24
5	17
Don't know	4

Cigarette, beer and wine taxes

1	28
2	20
3	19
4	12
5	17
Don't know	4

Business taxes

1	11
2	17
3	33
4	12
5	6
Don't know	21

National Insurance

1	9
2	18
3	34
4	21
5	13
Don't know	5

Fuel duty

1	7
2	10
3	18
4	22
5	38
Don't know	5

		<div> <div></div> <div>Total</div> </div>
		%
Council tax		
	1	4
	2	8
	3	17
	4	27
	5	40
	Don't know	4
BBC licence fee		
	1	7
	2	10
	3	16
	4	16
	5	47
	Don't know	5
Inheritance tax		
	1	5
	2	5
	3	15
	4	17
	5	48
	Don't know	10
Stamp duty		
	1	3
	2	6
	3	20
	4	25
	5	34
	Don't know	12
Air passenger duty		
	1	11
	2	12
	3	23
	4	19
	5	26
	Don't know	9

Total

%

The money the government spends on public services and other things comes mainly from taxation. Do you think...

The government spends too much and therefore taxes us too much	64
The government has got the balance about right	18
The government spends too little and therefore taxes us too little	4
Don't know	14

Which, of any, of the following would you say are major financial worries for you and your family?[Please tick all that apply]

Cost of utility bills	65
The levels of council tax	61
Rising prices of things you buy	54
House price affordability	51
Rising tax burden	37
Levels of personal debt	36
Mortgage repayments	30
Risk of unemployment/job security	28
The risk that house prices may fall	15
None of these	7

Some people have suggested doubling the personal allowance – the amount people can earn before paying tax – to £10,000. This would give all taxpayers up to an extra £1,000 per year. If this happened how would you use the extra £1,000?

Reducing debt or paying off credit cards	26
Savings	18
Put it towards my pension	10
Home improvements	5
Family holiday	2
Taking out private health care	1
School tuition	1
Starting a home business	1
Spend it going out more	1
Buying a new appliance or piece of furniture	1
I would give it to charity	0
Nothing specific, I would just be able to spend a little more on everyday things	24
Other	1
Not applicable - I am not a taxpayer	6
Don't know	4

		Total
		%
If you had £200 that had to be given to a good cause, who would you give it to?		
	Directly to a person or family in need	31
	To a local charity or church working with needy people	24
	To an organisation working with poor people in the third world	9
	To a national charity campaigning for better policies towards poor people	7
	To a local authority to spend on fighting poverty	2
	To central government to spend on fighting poverty	1
	Other	19
	Don't know	8
Have you given serious thought to or are you planning to move abroad?		
	No, neither	54
	Yes, I have given serious thought to moving abroad	36
	Yes, I am planning to move abroad	4
	Don't know	6
Which of these statements best describes your opinion of the present system of governing Britain?		
	Works extremely well and could not be improved	1
	Could be improved in small ways but mainly works well	33
	Could be improved quite a lot	38
	Needs a great deal of improvement	24
	Don't know	4
In the latest round of reshuffles the Prime Minister Gordon Brown and the Opposition leader David Cameron both appointed some people from outside Parliament with relevant skills and experience to be ministers. Do you think this is a		
	Good idea	69
	Bad idea	10
	Don't know	21

Total

%

Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

Most senior politicians have the necessary experience, competence and knowledge to run public services **12**

Few if any senior politicians have the necessary experience, competence and knowledge to run public services **63**

Neither **12**

Don't know **13**

Overall, would you say that the extra money the government has spent on public services such as health and education over the last decade has generally been...

Spent well **19**

Spent badly **65**

Don't know **16**

For every £100 the Government spends overall, how much of that money do you think is wasted through mismanagement or unnecessary spending that doesn't give value for money?

Up to £5 **4**

£6-£10 **9**

£11-£15 **12**

£16-£20 **16**

More than £20 **53**

Don't know **7**

How would you rate the value you personally get from the council tax you pay to local government?

Excellent **1**

Good **9**

Average **37**

Poor **31**

Bad **16**

Don't Know **6**

Total

%

How would you rate the value you personally get from taxes you pay to central government?

Excellent	1
Good	6
Average	34
Poor	34
Bad	16
Don't Know	8

Do you think Government has got better or worse at spending taxpayers' money over the last ten years?

Better	11
Worse	54
No difference	25
Don't know	10

Which of the following do you think are the most important causes of wasteful spending in government? [Please tick up to three]

Constant changes, reorganisations and re-branding	66
Government bureaucracy	62
Money spent on the wrong things	60
Inexperienced politicians and civil servants	31
Presentation and public relations	20
Other	3
None of these – there is no significant wasteful spending in government	1
Don't know	5

Total

%

On a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 meaning totally agree and 0 meaning totally disagree, how much do you agree or disagree that if the Government reformed public services and cut waste, it could lower taxes without having to cut spending on vital services?

10	21
9	7
8	17
7	12
6	9
5	12
4	4
3	3
2	3
1	1
0	2
Don't know	9

Do you think that politicians should set the overall policy on education and health services?

Yes, they should	39
No, they shouldn't	49
Don't know	12

And do you think that politicians should manage the day-to-day delivery of education and health services?

Yes, they should	17
No, they shouldn't	73
Don't know	10

Recently politicians of all main parties have considered increasing or introducing new 'green' taxes. What do you think is their primary motivation for suggesting these taxes?

Politicians are not serious about the environment and are using the issue as an excuse to raise more revenue from green taxes	63
Politicians are serious about the environment and are bringing in new green taxes to change people's behaviour to help reduce carbon emissions	20
Some other reason	8
Don't know	9

Total

%

Generally speaking do you approve or disapprove of additional 'green' taxes on motoring and air travel?

Strongly approve	9
Slightly approve	36
Slightly disapprove	21
Strongly disapprove	25
Don't know	8

If extra 'green' taxes are raised, do you think the extra funds should be used to reduce other taxes?

Yes, they should	61
No, they shouldn't	27
Don't know	12

Would you approve or disapprove of local councils placing extra charges for bin collection on top of council tax to encourage recycling?

Strongly approve	4
Slightly approve	13
Slightly disapprove	12
Strongly disapprove	65
Don't know	6

You currently pay £10 in Air Passenger Duty on an economy short-haul flight to a European destination. Some politicians have suggested raising this. Imagine you were taking a short haul flight to a holiday in a European location. How much would Air Passenger Duty have to cost before you choose NOT to fly?

20	19
£21-30	10
£31-40	12
£41-50	10
£51-60	10
£61-70	2
£71-80	1
£81-90	1
£91-100	1
More than £100	6
I would not fly to a European destination anyway	11
Don't know	17

Total
%

How much of the price of a litre of petrol that costs £1.00 at the pump do you think is made up of taxation?

Less than 10p	1
11p-20p	2
21p-30p	3
31p-40p	6
41p-50p	9
51p-60p	12
61p-70p	21
71p-80p	23
81p-90p	12
More than 90p	3
Don't know	7

Do you think that overall taxes will be higher or lower in three years time than they are now?

Higher	79
The same	14
Lower	2
Don't know	6

Thinking about the present levels of tax on the one hand and the state of the public services (like health or education) on the other, do you think the party you support should pledge to increase taxes, hold taxes at their present level or to reduce taxes at their present level or to reduce taxes?

Increase taxes	6
Hold at present level	38
Reduce taxes	44
Don't know	12

If the party that you generally support signed a public pledge not to increase taxes in government, would this make you more or less likely to vote for them, or would it make no difference?

More likely	40
Less likely	5
No difference	44
Don't know	11