# UK salary calculator reveals stark regional and sector disparities in 2024



Millions of households across the UK are feeling financial pressure as income disparities and the impact of taxation weigh heavily on many. A newly available salary calculator, based on official data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), allows individuals to compare their earnings against those of people in similar professions and geographic areas. By entering one’s salary, age, and postcode into the tool, users can gain insight into how their income measures up, what portion is taken by taxes, and how they rank nationally. This initiative provides a valuable snapshot of the state of earnings in Britain today, offering a clearer sense of economic positioning amid widespread cost-of-living challenges.

The calculator uses median salary figures for 2024, which better represent typical earnings by minimising the distortion caused by extremely high or low incomes. This approach contrasts with mean salaries, which can be skewed by outliers. It draws on Pay As You Earn (PAYE) records covering all employees, both full-time and part-time, and accounts for age, taxation, and student loan repayments. For example, a pre-tax income of £25,000 places the earner below 67% of all employees, while £35,000 situates them ahead of 56%. High earners, such as pilots and air traffic controllers, with median pay around £96,000 pre-tax, sit in the top 7% of the income distribution, while chief executives and senior officials earn a median of about £82,000, though this figure averages across organisations large and small.

Public sector salaries tend to lag behind those in private industries, with senior police officers earning roughly £64,000 and medical professionals like specialist nurses and paramedics earning between £39,000 and £52,000 on average. Regional disparities are also pronounced. London boroughs, particularly Richmond upon Thames and Westminster, boast some of the highest median full-time salaries in the country (£45,000 to nearly £48,000), reflecting the capital’s concentration of high-paying roles. Conversely, areas like West Devon and parts of Wales report average salaries around £24,000, nearly 35-36% below the UK average. Data from the ONS shows full-time median gross earnings reached £37,430 in April 2024, marking a 6.9% increase in nominal terms from the previous year, though this growth varies considerably by region and industry.

Among the lowest paid are seasonal exam invigilators, earning less than £2,400 annually, and sales and retail assistants with median after-tax take-home pay of around £13,400. Many low-paid roles, including customer service and receptionists, fall victim to the frozen personal tax allowance, which has not increased since 2021 and should have risen to align with inflation to nearly £17,000. This static tax threshold means that even modest wage growth has not translated into real income improvements for some workers. Senior economist Jack Kennedy from Indeed noted that real wages today are only marginally higher than pre-financial crisis levels in 2008, despite nominal wage increases.

Sectors like accommodation, food services, agriculture, and financial services witnessed the largest pay rises between 2023 and 2024, with increases approaching or exceeding 9%. Public sector wage growth was more modest, at around 5%, reflecting structural challenges in wage setting across education and health sectors, which constitute a majority of public roles. In contrast, private sector wages rose by 6.3%, with mining and quarrying earning the lowest increases near 1.6%. With growth slowing overall—a factor compounded by a rise in unemployment to its highest level in four years at 4.7%—many employees face a tougher job market, making pay rise negotiations more challenging.

Experts suggest employees seeking better pay should demonstrate clear value to their employers, highlighting contributions such as cost savings, revenue growth, completed projects, new skills, and positive feedback. Research from CV-Library indicates fewer job advertisements now include salary details, potentially reflecting a tightening labour market. Individuals contemplating career moves might aim for sectors with robust wage growth such as IT and healthcare, where even similar job titles can command significantly different pay scales depending on the industry. These insights underline the ongoing complexities facing UK workers striving for wage increases in a fluctuating economy.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/bills/article-15076669/Are-YOU-rich-you-earn-neighbours-calculator-reveals-salary-stacks-town-job.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/march2024)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/bills/article-15076669/Are-YOU-rich-you-earn-neighbours-calculator-reveals-salary-stacks-town-job.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2024/previous/v1)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/bills/article-15076669/Are-YOU-rich-you-earn-neighbours-calculator-reveals-salary-stacks-town-job.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/august2024), [[4]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/march2024), [[5]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/may2024), [[6]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/november2024), [[7]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/june2024)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/bills/article-15076669/Are-YOU-rich-you-earn-neighbours-calculator-reveals-salary-stacks-town-job.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2024/previous/v1)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/bills/article-15076669/Are-YOU-rich-you-earn-neighbours-calculator-reveals-salary-stacks-town-job.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2024/previous/v1)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/bills/article-15076669/Are-YOU-rich-you-earn-neighbours-calculator-reveals-salary-stacks-town-job.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2024/previous/v1), [[3]](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/august2024)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/bills/article-15076669/Are-YOU-rich-you-earn-neighbours-calculator-reveals-salary-stacks-town-job.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/annualsurveyofhoursandearnings/2024/previous/v1> - This bulletin presents data from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) for 2024, detailing employee earnings across various sectors and occupations in the UK. It highlights a 6.9% increase in median gross annual earnings for full-time employees, reaching £37,430 in April 2024. The report also notes that median weekly earnings for full-time employees were £728 in April 2024, marking a 6.0% increase from the previous year. Additionally, it provides insights into earnings growth across different industries and regions, offering a comprehensive overview of the UK's earnings landscape.
3. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/august2024> - This report from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) provides data on earnings and employment from Pay As You Earn (PAYE) Real Time Information for August 2024. It details the percentage change in payrolled employees across various UK regions, highlighting a 2.3% increase in Northern Ireland and a 0.5% increase in London compared to the previous year. The report also presents median pay across NUTS3 regions, ranging from £2,070 in Isle of Wight to £3,665 in Wandsworth, offering insights into regional variations in earnings.
4. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/march2024> - This ONS bulletin presents data on earnings and employment from PAYE Real Time Information for March 2024. It examines the growth in payrolled employees across UK regions, noting a 1.3% increase in Northern Ireland and a 0.4% increase in London compared to the same month in the previous year. The report also provides median pay figures across NUTS3 regions, with Leicester at £1,989 and Wandsworth at £3,602, highlighting regional disparities in earnings.
5. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/may2024> - This ONS bulletin offers insights into earnings and employment from PAYE Real Time Information for May 2024. It reports on the growth in payrolled employees across UK regions, with Northern Ireland experiencing a 1.6% increase and London a 0.2% increase compared to the previous year. The report also details median pay across NUTS3 regions, ranging from £2,057 in Leicester to £3,635 in Wandsworth, illustrating regional variations in earnings.
6. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/november2024> - This ONS bulletin provides data on earnings and employment from PAYE Real Time Information for November 2024. It highlights a 2.5% decrease in payrolled employees in Westminster compared to the previous year, and a 2.2% increase in Coventry. The report also presents median pay across NUTS3 regions, with Isle of Wight at £2,125 and Wandsworth at £3,737, offering insights into regional disparities in earnings.
7. <https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/bulletins/earningsandemploymentfrompayasyouearnrealtimeinformationuk/june2024> - This ONS bulletin presents data on earnings and employment from PAYE Real Time Information for June 2024. It reports on the growth in payrolled employees across UK regions, noting a 1.6% increase in Northern Ireland and a 0.2% increase in London compared to the previous year. The report also provides median pay figures across NUTS3 regions, with Leicester at £2,057 and Wandsworth at £3,635, highlighting regional variations in earnings.