

PAYE Statistics – 2023 Q1 Review

Preliminary Statistics
(26 April 2023)

These statistics are provisional and may be revised

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This statistical report reviews the Income Tax Return activity of PAYE taxpayers in 2023 Q1.

It provides a detailed overview of three of the most popular claims:

- Rent tax credit
- Health expenses
- Remote working relief

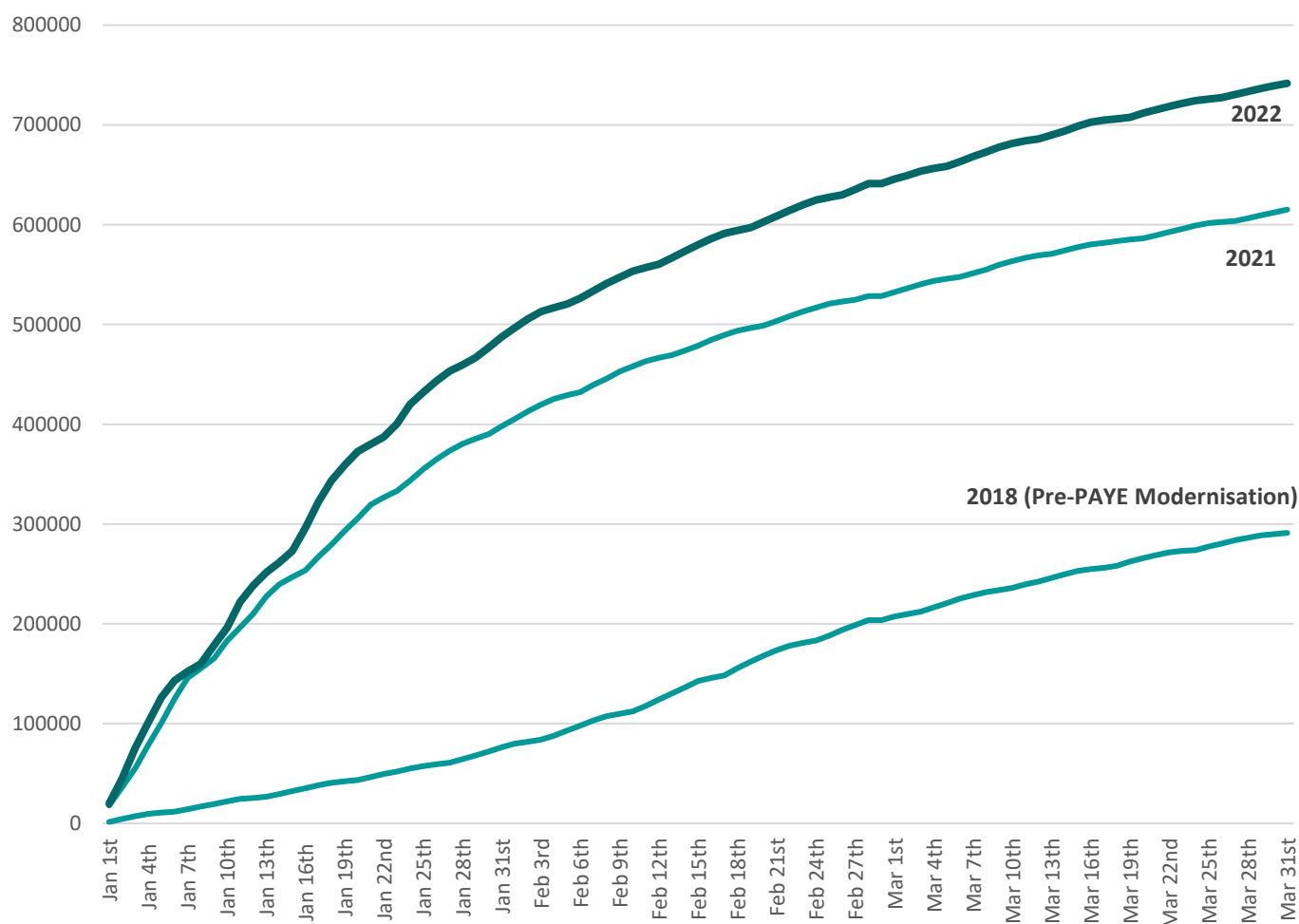
It also summarises the position of PAYE taxpayers who have already filed an Income Tax Return and PAYE taxpayers who have yet to file, highlighting the extent of tax underpayments, tax overpayments (refunds), and balanced tax positions.

Income Tax Returns by PAYE Taxpayers – 2023 Q1 Review

Since PAYE Modernisation was introduced by Revenue in 2019, there has been a pronounced increase in the numbers of PAYE taxpayers filing their Income Tax returns for the preceding year in the first quarter of the year (Figure 1).

Taxpayers need to complete an Income Tax return in order to finalise their tax position. The Income Tax return can be used to claim additional credits (such as the [rent tax credit](#)), reliefs (such as [remote working relief](#)) or expenses (such as [health expenses](#)), or to declare other incomes. Revenue will then generate a Statement of Liability confirming the taxpayer’s final tax position for the year.

Figure 1: PAYE Taxpayers who File an Income Tax Return, by Tax Year



Where a taxpayer has an overpayment of Income Tax or USC after completion of an Income Tax return, this is refunded by Revenue to their bank account. Any underpayment is normally collected, interest free, by reducing future tax credits over a maximum period of four years. A taxpayer has the option of making a single payment to Revenue if they so wish.

Table 1: Income Tax Returns in Q1

Total returns processed:		
	2022 Q1	2023 Q1
Income tax returns processed	641,860	810,584
Gross income of taxpayers (€m)	20,560	28,968
Tax paid by taxpayers (€m)	3,657	5,512

Overpayment of tax:		
	2022 Q1	2023 Q1
Returns resulting in overpayment of tax	502,610	650,192
Overpayments (refunds) due to taxpayers (€m)	349	453
Gross income of taxpayers (€m)	16,619	24,758
Tax paid by taxpayers (€m)	3,042	4,860
Refunds as share of tax paid (%)	11.5%	9.3%

Underpayment of tax:		
	2022 Q1	2023 Q1
Returns resulting in underpayment of tax	98,776	104,882
Underpayments to be collected from taxpayers (€m)	16.0	15.1
Gross income of taxpayers (€m)	3,213	3,287
Tax paid by taxpayers (€m)	525	558
Underpayments as share of tax paid (%)	3.0%	2.7%

Balanced tax position:		
	2022 Q1	2023 Q1
Balanced tax position (no overpayment or underpayment)	40,474	55,510
Gross income of taxpayers (€m)	729	922
Tax paid by taxpayers (€m)	89	94

Figure 2: Overpayments (refunds) due to PAYE taxpayers

Note: Data refer to filing activity in 2023 Q1 for the 2022 tax year.

Note: statistics refer to the number of online Income Tax Returns, which typically make up more than 99 per cent of returns filed. The returns filed in each quarter refer to the number of returns filed in that period for the preceding tax year. A taxpayer can file more than once i.e., submit an amended return. Income Tax Returns by self-assessed taxpayers are not included in this publication as these taxpayers' returns are generally submitted later in the year. The statutory filing date for the 2022 Income Tax return for self-assessed taxpayers is 31 October 2023.

Figure 3: Activity by New Filers in Q1

148,409 PAYE taxpayers who filed a 2022 Income Tax Return in 2023 Q1 did not file at any point in the previous four years

43,972 of these claimed the Rent Tax Credit



19,323 of these claimed relief on Health Expenses



8,147 of these claimed Remote Working Relief



36% per cent of taxpayers directly contacted by Revenue in 2022 subsequently filed an Income Tax Return

Figure 4: Use of Tax Agents to File Income Tax Returns

23% of Income Tax returns were filed by Tax Agents, on behalf of PAYE taxpayers, in 2022 Q1

19% of Income Tax returns were filed by Tax Agents, on behalf of PAYE taxpayers, in 2023 Q1

Note: A Tax Agent may be an individual or a company.

Figure 5: Popular Claims on 2022 Income Tax Return in the Year to Date

1	<p style="text-align: center;">Rent Tax Credit 202,522 Claimants * € 474 Average Benefit Received</p>	🏠
2	<p style="text-align: center;">Health Expenses 207,506 Claimants € 277 Average Benefit Received</p>	⊕
3	<p style="text-align: center;">Remote Working Relief 75,321 Claimants € 61 Average Benefit Received</p>	🖥️

Note: Statistics based on data up to 20 April 2023.

* Additional Taxpayers have claimed the Rent Tax Credit in 2023 but not 2022. See further detail in Figure 6.

Rent Tax Credit

Budget 2023 announced the introduction of a new Rent Tax Credit. This new tax credit is available for the years 2022 to 2025 inclusive. The Rent Tax Credit for 2022 can be claimed by filing an Income Tax Return. The Rent Tax Credit for 2023 can be claimed in 'real-time' since 20 February 2023.

The following statistics are based on data up to 20 April 2023.

Figure 6: Rent Tax Credit Claims to Date

To date, over 226,000 Rent Tax Credit claims have been made by over 209,000 PAYE taxpayers

186,180 taxpayers made claims for 2022 only
16,342 taxpayers made claims for both 2022 and 2023
7,221 taxpayers made claims for 2023 only

89% of the tenancies are registered with the Residential Tenancy Board.
11% of the tenancies are 'rent-a-room' or 'digs'.

88% of the tenancies are for the renter's principal private residence.
12% of the tenancies are used to facilitate attendance at work or an approved course.

1.7% of claims are for rent payments on behalf of children.
All other claims refer to the individual's own rent payments.

To date, PAYE taxpayers have claimed €113 million in Rent Tax Credit for tax year 2022, €96 million of which they have offset against tax or received as a tax refund.

The following tables provide additional breakdowns on the Rent Tax Credit claimants.

Table 3: Income Levels (2022 claimants only)

Annual Gross Income for 2022 (€)	Taxpayers	% of Total	Average Claim Amount (€)	Average Benefit Received (€)
0-10,000	11,149	5.5	474	1
10,001-20,000	22,043	10.9	485	84
20,001-30,000	37,952	18.7	497	458
30,001-40,000	40,247	19.9	512	489
40,001-50,000	29,981	14.8	544	538
50,001-60,000	19,275	9.5	600	598
60,001-70,000	13,336	6.6	655	654
70,001-80,000	9,037	4.5	691	691
80,001-90,000	5,910	2.9	722	722
90,001-100,000	3,988	2.0	745	744
100,001-150,000	7,463	3.7	763	763
150,001-200,000	1,516	0.7	796	796
200,001-250,000	398	0.2	814	814
250,000 +	227	0.1	809	809
Total	202,522	100	556	474

Table 4: Sex

Sex	Taxpayers	% of Total
Male	109,012	52.0
Female	100,731	48.0
Total	209,743	100

Table 5: Age

Age	Taxpayers	% of Total
<24	25,296	12.1
25-34	110,494	52.7
35-44	49,462	23.6
45-54	17,739	8.5
55-64	6,089	2.9
65+	663	0.3
Total	209,743	100

Table 6: Lease Duration

Lease Duration	Claims for 2022	Claims for 2023	% of Total
<1 years	35,259	4,826	17.7
1-2 years	48,761	4,745	23.7
2-3 years	30,393	3,150	14.8
3-4 years	21,184	2,452	10.5
4-5 years	19,421	1,984	9.5
5-6 years	11,212	1,454	5.6
6-10 years	21,029	2,663	10.5
10+ years	15,197	2,232	7.7
Not available	66	57	0.1
Total	202,522	23,563	100

Table 7: County (2022 claimants only)

County	Taxpayers	% of Total
Carlow	1,793	0.9
Cavan	1,587	0.8
Clare	2,418	1.2
Cork	23,261	11.5
Donegal	2,466	1.2
Dublin	97,072	47.9
Galway	14,844	7.3
Kerry	2,920	1.4
Kildare	7,010	3.5
Kilkenny	2,075	1.0
Laois	1,520	0.8
Leitrim	636	0.3
Limerick	9,969	4.9
Longford	1,148	0.6
Louth	2,567	1.3
Mayo	2,752	1.4
Meath	3,503	1.7
Monaghan	1,280	0.6
Offaly	1,564	0.8
Roscommon	1,273	0.6
Sligo	2,318	1.1
Tipperary	3,331	1.6
Waterford	3,904	1.9
Westmeath	2,891	1.4
Wexford	3,076	1.5
Wicklow	2,324	1.1
Not available	3,020	1.5
Total	202,522	100

Health Expenses

To date, PAYE taxpayers have claimed €60 million in Health Expenses for tax year 2022, €57 million of which they have offset against tax or received as a tax refund.

The following statistics are based on data up to 20 April 2023.

Table 8: Income Levels

Annual Gross Income for 2022 (€)	Taxpayers	% of Total	Average Claim Amount (€)	Average Benefit Received (€)
0-10,000	3,182	1.5	182	46
10,001-20,000	9,663	4.7	193	60
20,001-30,000	23,083	11.1	221	197
30,001-40,000	32,339	15.6	248	238
40,001-50,000	31,243	15.1	261	260
50,001-60,000	24,503	11.8	292	291
60,001-70,000	19,525	9.4	311	311
70,001-80,000	15,873	7.7	319	319
80,001-90,000	12,412	6.0	336	336
90,001-100,000	9,074	4.4	348	348
100,001-150,000	20,095	9.7	386	386
150,001-200,000	4,350	2.1	443	443
200,001-250,000	1,168	0.6	471	471
250,000 +	746	0.4	548	548
Total	207,256	100	289	277

Table 9: Sex

Sex	Taxpayers	% of Total
Male	102,303	49.3
Female	105,203	50.7
Total	207,506	100

Table 10: Age

Age	Taxpayers	% of Total
<24	10,374	5.0
25-34	55,957	27.0
35-44	57,536	27.7
45-54	38,511	18.6
55-64	25,045	12.1
65+	20,083	9.7
Total	207,506	100

Remote Working Relief

To date, PAYE taxpayers have claimed €5 million in Remote Working Relief for tax year 2022, €5 million of which they have offset against tax or received as a tax refund.

The following statistics are based on data up to 20 April 2023.

Table 11: Income Levels

Annual Gross Income for 2022 (€)	Taxpayers	% of Total	Average Claim Amount (€)	Average Benefit Received (€)
0-10,000	369	0.5	16	16
10,001-20,000	1,499	2.0	23	23
20,001-30,000	5,376	7.1	41	41
30,001-40,000	11,382	15.1	49	49
40,001-50,000	11,298	15.0	52	52
50,001-60,000	8,703	11.6	57	57
60,001-70,000	6,943	9.2	60	60
70,001-80,000	6,214	8.3	66	66
80,001-90,000	5,076	6.7	71	71
90,001-100,000	4,120	5.5	74	74
100,001-150,000	10,416	13.8	81	81
150,001-200,000	2,789	3.7	89	89
200,001-250,000	722	1.0	98	98
250,000 +	414	0.5	101	100
Total	75,321	100	61	61

Table 12: Sex

Sex	Taxpayers	% of Total
Male	40,476	53.7
Female	34,845	46.3
Total	75,321	100

Table 13: Age

Age	Taxpayers	% of Total
<24	2,270	3.0
25-34	32,332	42.9
35-44	25,526	33.9
45-54	11,130	14.8
55-64	3,678	4.9
65+	385	0.5
Total	75,321	100

Preliminary End of Year Statements for PAYE Taxpayers – 2023 Q1 Review

Revenue makes a Preliminary End of Year Statement (PEOYS) available to all PAYE taxpayers at the end of the year. The PEOYS sets out a *provisional* tax position, based on real-time information available on Revenue records.

The analysis shows the distribution of overpayments and underpayments for the 1,910,100 taxpayers (taxpayer units) who have yet to file a 2022 Income Tax return by the end of 2023 Q1:

- 418,400 (22%) taxpayers overpaid tax to an amount of €286m;
- 252,300 (13%) taxpayers underpaid tax to an amount of €95m; and
- 1,239,400 (65%) taxpayers had a balanced tax position.

PEOYS: Overpayments

Amount Overpaid €	Number of Taxpayers	% of Taxpayer Units	Average Overpayment €
10-50	131,900	6.9%	26
50.01-100	55,600	2.9%	65
100.01-200	36,300	1.9%	143
200.01-300	25,000	1.3%	245
300.01-400	19,500	1.0%	345
400.01-500	15,700	0.8%	448
500.01-600	13,000	0.7%	549
600.01-700	11,600	0.6%	649
700.01-800	9,800	0.5%	749
800.01-900	8,300	0.4%	849
900.01-1,000	8,100	0.4%	950
1,000.01-2,000	46,200	2.4%	1,383
2,000.01-3,000	16,400	0.9%	2,395
3,000.01-4,000	8,700	0.5%	3,438
4,000.01-5,000	4,400	0.2%	4,445
>5,000	8,000	0.4%	6,887
Overpaid Total	418,400	21.9%	

PEOYS: Underpayments

Amount Underpaid €	Number of Taxpayers	% of Taxpayer Units	Average Underpayment €
10-50	29,100	1.5%	29
50.01-100	41,900	2.2%	80
100.01-200	74,000	3.9%	150
200.01-300	32,800	1.7%	232
300.01-400	22,500	1.2%	333
400.01-500	8,700	0.5%	445
500.01-600	6,100	0.3%	544
600.01-700	5,100	0.3%	647
700.01-800	4,000	0.2%	741
800.01-900	2,800	0.1%	847
900.01-1,000	4,100	0.2%	956
1,000.01-2,000	15,700	0.8%	1,288
2,000.01-3,000	2,800	0.1%	2,359
3,000.01-4,000	1,900	0.1%	3,350
4,000.01-5,000	400	0.0%	4,400
>5,000	600	0.0%	7,454
Total	252,300	13.2%	

PEOYS: Balanced Tax Position	1,239,400	64.9%
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Notes

All figures and tables concerning Income Tax Returns and Preliminary End of Year Statements (PEOYS) refer to data as of 31 March 2023 i.e., end Q1 2023.

All figures and tables concerning the Rent Tax Credit, Health Expenses and Remote Working Relief refer to data as of 20 April 2023.

The statistics in this publication refer to activity by PAYE taxpayers. Data on claims by self-assessed taxpayers are not yet available as these taxpayers' returns are generally submitted later in the year. The statutory filing date for the 2022 tax return for self-assessed taxpayers is 31 October 2023.

Unless otherwise specified, data are on a 'tax unit' basis. A taxpayer unit is either an individual with any personal status who is singly assessed or a couple in a marriage or civil partnership who have elected for joint assessment.

The statistics in this publication generally refer to activity relating to the 2022 tax year. Figure 1 includes additional data on older tax years and, in the case of the Rent Tax Credit, the 2023 tax year is also analysed.

Further Information

Information on how to file an Income Tax Return and the operation of credits and reliefs is available on www.revenue.ie.

Queries of a statistical nature in relation to this report can be sent to statistics@revenue.ie. Media queries should be directed in the first instance to revpress@revenue.ie.