

YouGov / FreeAgent Survey Results

Sample Size: 529

Fieldwork: 18th - 31st December 2012

Total	Gender		Age				Region			Company		Region					
	Male	Female	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55+	North	Midlands	South	sole	2 to 5	North	2-5	North	2-5	North	2-5

Thinking about expenses incurred by you on behalf of your business... Approximately what percentage, if any, do you claim back of all the costs you've incurred personally?

	Unweighted Base	529	394	135	14	55	137	323	133	159	237	360	169	87	46	111	48	162	75
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	395	134	13	49	132	335	150	150	229	397	132	108	42	116	35	173	55
All of them - 100%		26%	26%	24%	15%	29%	21%	27%	25%	29%	24%	28%	19%	30%	13%	33%	19%	23%	24%
Nearly all - 75 to 99%		29%	31%	20%	53%	27%	33%	26%	32%	31%	25%	27%	33%	31%	34%	27%	44%	25%	25%
More than half - 50% to 74%		12%	12%	11%	8%	7%	11%	13%	10%	14%	12%	12%	12%	9%	12%	14%	13%	13%	11%
Some but less than half -25% to 49%		11%	10%	15%	-	8%	13%	11%	8%	10%	14%	12%	7%	6%	11%	11%	5%	17%	5%
Hardly any of them - 1% to 24%		7%	6%	9%	-	9%	5%	7%	6%	6%	7%	6%	8%	7%	3%	4%	13%	7%	8%
None of them - 0%		4%	4%	2%	13%	8%	4%	3%	7%	1%	4%	3%	5%	6%	9%	1%	-	3%	5%
Not applicable - I never personally incur any costs		13%	10%	20%	11%	11%	13%	13%	14%	10%	14%	11%	16%	12%	18%	11%	6%	11%	21%

Thinking about the expenses you don't claim back, which, if any, of the following are reasons for this? (Please tick all that apply)

	Unweighted Base	328	252	76	10	34	90	194	84	97	147	220	108	53	31	62	35	105	42
don't claim all of their expenses		327	251	76	10	29	86	202	92	91	144	241	85	63	29	65	26	113	30
I lose or forget about the receipts		35%	35%	36%	52%	37%	46%	30%	33%	33%	38%	35%	38%	36%	29%	30%	40%	36%	46%
I can't stand the admin involved		13%	14%	8%	23%	14%	14%	12%	13%	12%	13%	10%	20%	8%	24%	9%	20%	12%	17%
I'm embarrassed because I've left it so long		3%	2%	3%	13%	10%	2%	1%	2%	-	4%	2%	3%	2%	2%	-	-	4%	7%
I don't think they're worth claiming		41%	40%	46%	19%	32%	45%	42%	50%	43%	35%	40%	44%	44%	61%	44%	39%	36%	32%
I worry I'll claim the wrong amount		22%	20%	28%	38%	19%	26%	20%	13%	24%	27%	23%	21%	12%	15%	26%	19%	26%	29%
I worry that HMRC will challenge me		19%	18%	22%	21%	28%	16%	19%	21%	16%	20%	16%	27%	15%	33%	12%	26%	19%	22%
Other (see OE_1)		10%	10%	9%	-	3%	6%	12%	9%	7%	12%	11%	7%	9%	7%	10%	-	12%	12%

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Total	Industry						
Total	Manufacture	Construction	Retail	hospitality	Education/ health	Transport	Business services

Thinking about expenses incurred by you on behalf of your business... Approximately what percentage, if any, do you claim back of all the costs you've incurred personally?

	Unweighted Base	529	55	120	59	44	51	21	179
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	55	114	59	74	51	36	140
All of them - 100%		26%	23%	24%	24%	15%	29%	30%	32%
Nearly all - 75 to 99%		29%	26%	34%	28%	25%	24%	27%	29%
More than half - 50% to 74%		12%	15%	10%	12%	7%	8%	28%	12%
Some but less than half -25% to 49%		11%	3%	9%	11%	11%	17%	15%	12%
Hardly any of them - 1% to 24%		7%	10%	9%	8%	7%	2%	-	5%
None of them - 0%		4%	4%	4%	6%	7%	2%	-	2%
Not applicable - I never personally incur any costs		13%	18%	10%	10%	28%	18%	-	7%

Thinking about the expenses you don't claim back, which, if any, of the following are reasons for this? (Please tick all that apply)

	Unweighted Base	328	33	81	38	26	26	15	109
don't claim all of their expenses		327	32	76	39	42	27	25	85
I lose or forget about the receipts		35%	41%	34%	28%	27%	47%	25%	42%
I can't stand the admin involved		13%	17%	13%	18%	19%	4%	4%	10%
I'm embarrassed because I've left it so long		3%	4%	5%	6%	-	-	-	1%
I don't think they're worth claiming		41%	37%	41%	53%	49%	42%	41%	34%
I worry I'll claim the wrong amount		22%	20%	23%	24%	37%	27%	14%	14%
I worry that HMRC will challenge me		19%	17%	14%	21%	27%	20%	18%	19%
Other (see OE_1)		10%	6%	9%	8%	-	12%	21%	13%

YouGov / FreeAgent Survey Results

Sample Size: 529

Fieldwork: 18th - 31st December 2012

Total	Company Turnover				
Total	First year of trading	Up to £99,999	£100,000 to £999,999	Don't know	Prefer not to say

Thinking about expenses incurred by you on behalf of your business... Approximately what percentage, if any, do you claim back of all the costs you've incurred personally?

	Unweighted Base	529	22	360	82	9	56
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	21	367	76	11	53
All of them - 100%	26%		7%	26%	20%	29%	35%
Nearly all - 75 to 99%	29%		37%	30%	31%	27%	13%
More than half - 50% to 74%	12%		14%	13%	10%	-	12%
Some but less than half -25% to 49%	11%		8%	10%	11%	23%	14%
Hardly any of them - 1% to 24%	7%		13%	6%	10%	-	5%
None of them - 0%	4%		-	4%	4%	-	6%
Not applicable - I never personally incur any costs	13%		21%	11%	14%	21%	15%

Thinking about the expenses you don't claim back, which, if any, of the following are reasons for this? (Please tick all that apply)

	Unweighted Base	328	16	224	54	5	29
don't claim all of their expenses		327	15	229	50	6	27
I lose or forget about the receipts	35%		35%	36%	33%	54%	35%
I can't stand the admin involved	13%		18%	12%	13%	33%	11%
I'm embarrassed because I've left it so long	3%		22%	2%	1%	-	3%
I don't think they're worth claiming	41%		31%	44%	39%	35%	28%
I worry I'll claim the wrong amount	22%		12%	23%	19%	-	35%
I worry that HMRC will challenge me	19%		23%	19%	18%	-	27%
Other (see OE_1)	10%		-	10%	7%	32%	9%

Fieldwork: 18th - 31st December 2012

Total	Gender		Age				Region			Company		Region				
	Male	Female	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55+	North	Midlands	South	sole	2 to 5	sole	2-5	sole	2-5	sole

If you do not record your expenses properly, your business can appear more profitable than it actually is and therefore is liable to pay more tax than necessary. Based on this, do you think you may be paying too much tax due to not recording your expenses properly?

	Unweighted Base	529	394	135	14	55	137	323	133	159	237	360	169	87	46	111	48	162	75
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	395	134	13	49	132	335	150	150	229	397	132	108	42	116	35	173	55
Yes, definitely	5%	5%	4%	-	7%	7%	4%	3%	4%	6%	4%	7%	1%	9%	4%	3%	6%	7%	
Yes, probably	20%	23%	12%	40%	22%	22%	18%	21%	19%	20%	19%	24%	22%	20%	16%	29%	19%	25%	
No, probably not	36%	34%	41%	14%	33%	39%	36%	33%	36%	38%	36%	35%	30%	39%	35%	40%	41%	29%	
No, definitely not	32%	32%	34%	29%	29%	25%	36%	34%	34%	30%	33%	29%	40%	21%	36%	28%	28%	36%	
Don't know	7%	6%	9%	17%	8%	7%	6%	8%	7%	7%	8%	5%	7%	11%	9%	-	7%	4%	

How much anxiety, if any, does the current tax system cause you, as someone running a business?

	Unweighted Base	529	394	135	14	55	137	323	133	159	237	360	169	87	46	111	48	162	75
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	395	134	13	49	132	335	150	150	229	397	132	108	42	116	35	173	55
A lot of anxiety	13%	12%	15%	15%	12%	10%	14%	15%	14%	11%	13%	13%	15%	13%	13%	17%	11%	10%	
Some anxiety	33%	32%	37%	35%	34%	42%	29%	31%	29%	37%	30%	42%	24%	50%	27%	35%	36%	41%	
A little anxiety	28%	28%	27%	28%	21%	30%	28%	27%	31%	25%	29%	24%	29%	23%	33%	25%	26%	24%	
No anxiety	27%	29%	21%	22%	33%	19%	29%	27%	26%	27%	29%	21%	32%	15%	27%	23%	28%	25%	

Please imagine your records were inspected by HMRC tomorrow... How much, if any, of the information do you think you'd have to hand that they'd want to see?

	Unweighted Base	529	394	135	14	55	137	323	133	159	237	360	169	87	46	111	48	162	75
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	395	134	13	49	132	335	150	150	229	397	132	108	42	116	35	173	55
None of it	1%	0%	2%	-	-	1%	1%	1%	-	1%	1%	1%	1%	-	4%	-	-	1%	-
Not very much of it	5%	5%	5%	19%	3%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	6%	2%	5%	2%	4%	6%	
Some of it	20%	21%	17%	17%	23%	26%	17%	21%	16%	21%	20%	20%	22%	20%	15%	18%	22%	20%	
All of it	68%	68%	69%	60%	60%	62%	72%	64%	74%	67%	68%	69%	63%	67%	74%	71%	67%	69%	
I don't know what I'd need	7%	6%	8%	5%	14%	6%	6%	8%	6%	6%	7%	7%	9%	7%	6%	9%	6%	5%	

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If you do not record your expenses properly, your business can appear more profitable than it actually is and therefore is liable to pay more tax than necessary. Based on this, do you think you may be paying too much tax due to not recording your expenses properly?

	Unweighted Base	529	55	120	59	44	51	21	179
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	55	114	59	74	51	36	140
Yes, definitely	5%		4%	7%	4%	3%	2%	5%	5%
Yes, probably	20%		24%	27%	10%	21%	27%	22%	13%
No, probably not	36%		36%	42%	33%	25%	39%	32%	37%
No, definitely not	32%		32%	19%	36%	40%	27%	35%	39%
Don't know	7%		4%	5%	17%	10%	4%	5%	6%

How much anxiety, if any, does the current tax system cause you, as someone running a business?

	Unweighted Base	529	55	120	59	44	51	21	179
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	55	114	59	74	51	36	140
A lot of anxiety	13%		16%	16%	18%	6%	9%	19%	10%
Some anxiety	33%		34%	37%	33%	42%	26%	36%	26%
A little anxiety	28%		31%	29%	17%	28%	28%	20%	31%
No anxiety	27%		18%	18%	33%	24%	36%	25%	33%

Please imagine your records were inspected by HMRC tomorrow... How much, if any, of the information do you think you'd have to hand that they'd want to see?

	Unweighted Base	529	55	120	59	44	51	21	179
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	55	114	59	74	51	36	140
None of it	1%		-	1%	4%	-	2%	-	-
Not very much of it	5%		2%	6%	6%	3%	1%	5%	6%
Some of it	20%		27%	23%	14%	16%	20%	24%	17%
All of it	68%		59%	63%	69%	73%	72%	63%	73%
I don't know what I'd need	7%		11%	7%	8%	8%	5%	8%	4%

Fieldwork: 18th - 31st December 2012

Total	Company Turnover				
	First year of trading	Up to £99,999	£100,000 to £999,999	Don't know	Prefer not to say

If you do not record your expenses properly, your business can appear more profitable than it actually is and therefore is liable to pay more tax than necessary. Based on this, do you think you may be paying too much tax due to not recording your expenses properly?

	Unweighted Base	529	22	360	82	9	56
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	21	367	76	11	53
Yes, definitely	5%	-	4%	8%	-	7%	
Yes, probably	20%	34%	19%	24%	-	18%	
No, probably not	36%	44%	36%	35%	45%	29%	
No, definitely not	32%	4%	35%	25%	10%	38%	
Don't know	7%	17%	5%	8%	44%	8%	

How much anxiety, if any, does the current tax system cause you, as someone running a business?

	Unweighted Base	529	22	360	82	9	56
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	21	367	76	11	53
A lot of anxiety	13%	12%	13%	10%	21%	12%	
Some anxiety	33%	53%	29%	45%	28%	36%	
A little anxiety	28%	25%	28%	22%	41%	27%	
No anxiety	27%	10%	29%	23%	10%	25%	

Please imagine your records were inspected by HMRC tomorrow... How much, if any, of the information do you think you'd have to hand that they'd want to see?

	Unweighted Base	529	22	360	82	9	56
All owners of/ partners in micro businesses		529	21	367	76	11	53
None of it	1%	-	1%	1%	-	-	
Not very much of it	5%	6%	4%	3%	21%	7%	
Some of it	20%	33%	18%	30%	18%	12%	
All of it	68%	47%	73%	57%	45%	66%	
I don't know what I'd need	7%	13%	5%	8%	16%	15%	