

Are the Right Poorer in the UK? An Analysis.

Author	The Statistical Research Team
Department	The UoR Political and Statistical Dept.
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Abstract

Do political allegiances have financial repercussions on those who live and work in the United Kingdom? The Statistical Research Team in the Political and Statistical Department of the University of Reading has conducted analysis of various online public resources and conducted an extensive online poll to gauge the financial trends of political leanings using newly developed analytical algorithms.

Unless asking the question directly “Where do your political allegiances lie?”, determining political leanings from available data has been an imperfect process but with the development of new data-mining techniques and large language models in conjunction with the Advanced Quantum Computing Department at the UoR it has become possible to extract such information from existing data sets. Of course, in our online poll we do ask the question directly, but with the work of data and computer scientists this information is now available from historical data sources. The financial effect of a political stance is now easily observable from any demographic dataset.

This document summarises the findings of a cooperative effort between multiple different departments of a vibrant and exciting university and provides easy to understand visual graphics to aid in comprehension.

Data Sources

Online Poll: the results of an online poll conducted in the first half of 2025 (1st Jan to 30th Jun) are displayed in the 'Online Poll Results' section. The poll was available at www.online-data-polls.com and was completed in by 16,193 respondents. Submissions are now closed.

Public Data: an analysis and breakdown of pre-existing public data is given in the 'Online Public Data' section. Primary public data sources are:

YouGov: GB Inequality May 16

https://d3nkl3psvxxpe9.cloudfront.net/documents/YGC_GB_Inequality_May_16.pdf

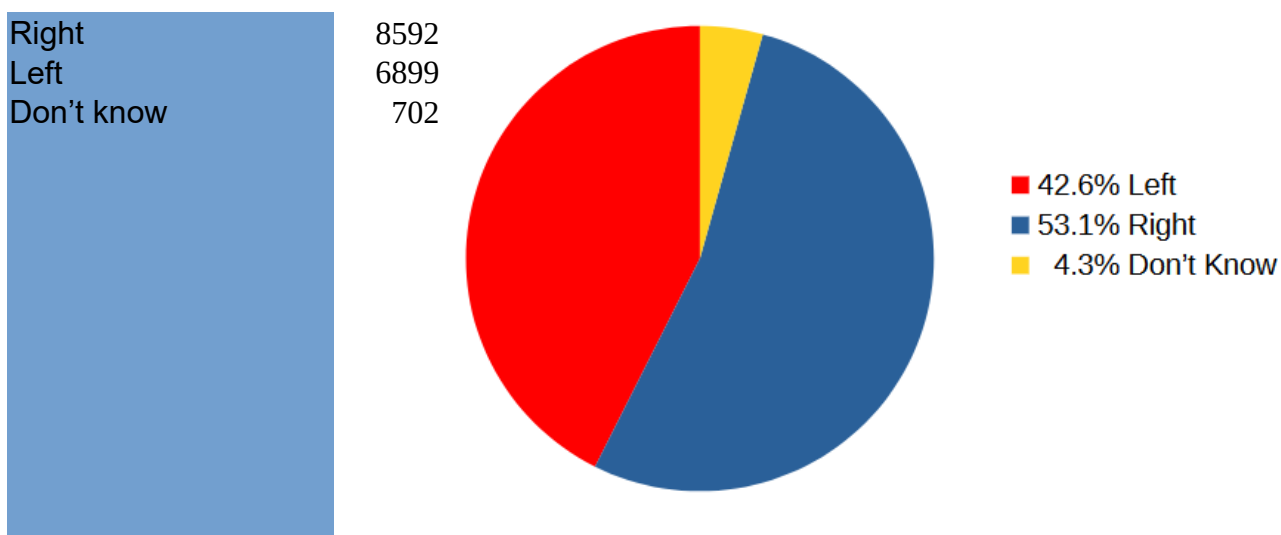
Office for National Statistics (ONS), UK Government:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/personalandhouseholdfinances/incomeandwealth/bulletins/totalwealthingreatbritain/april2020tomarch2022>

Online Poll Results

In conjunction with the Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy departments of the UoR, questions were chosen to be impartial and to not prejudice either left or right leaning persons. Apart from the first question in the online poll no reference is made to political leanings.

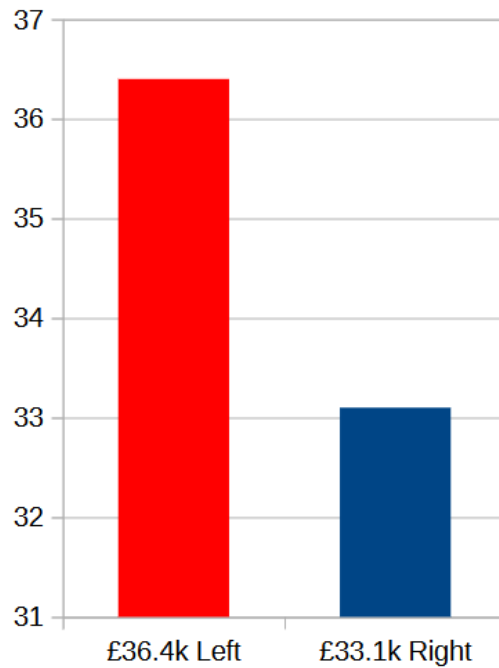
1. Are you politically right or left aligned?



Note: only respondents who expressed a political alignment were included in further data analysis. Therefore the data from the 702 respondents who answered 'Don't Know' to the question 'Are you politically right or left aligned?' are not included in subsequent analysis.

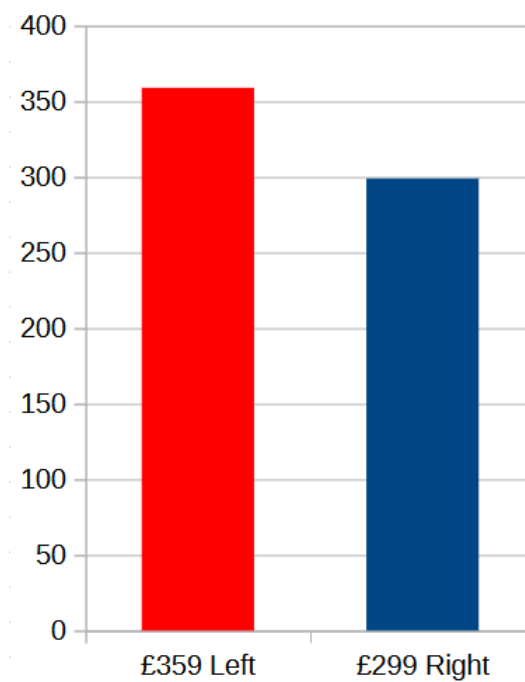
2. What is your yearly income? (include all income, e.g: salary, rental properties and other passive investments):

The average income of the left aligned was £36,489 and the right aligned was £33,102.



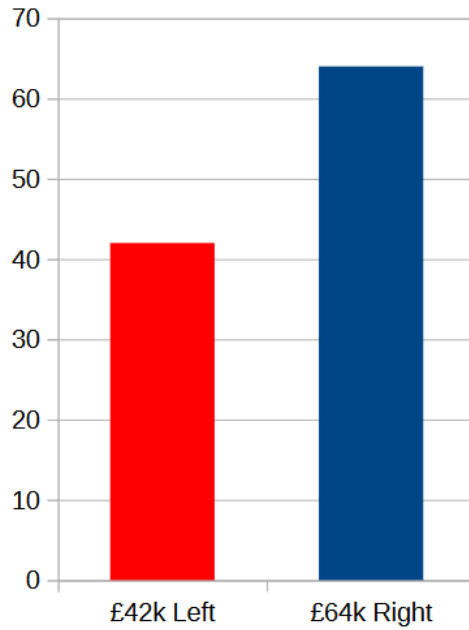
3. How much disposable income do you estimate you have per month?

The average disposable income of the left aligned was £359 per month and the right aligned was £299.



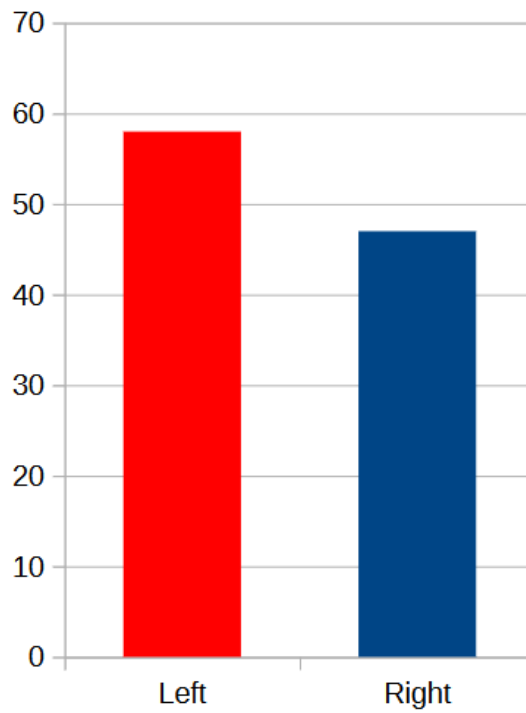
4. How much debt are you in? (include mortgages, loans, credit cards etc.)

The average debt of the left aligned was £42k and the right aligned was £64k.



5. How positive do you feel about the future?

Left leaning were 58% optimistic while right leaning were 47% optimistic.



Online Public Data

YouGov and the UK government's Office for National Statistics (ONS) have conducted extensive studies over multiple years of various demographics of the UK population and publish their findings online. However, neither have attempted to extrapolate how political leanings have an effect on an individual's wealth to the extent now available. At the UoR we have developed new data-mining functionality which has given a unique insight into the publicly available data, using a new algorithm, the 'Observer Density by Quadratic Complex' algorithm allows historical information to be aligned with political views.

The following table of data contains output from data gathered from the YouGov and ONS websites. You can see figures which correlate to the questions and results of our online poll:

Combined YouGov and ONS 'Political Allegiance with Financial Effect' table.

	Left	Right
£ Yearly Income	£37,885	£32,212
£ Monthly Disposable	£361	£281
£ Debt	£61,413	£71,322
Future Outlook Positivity	61%	44%

Conclusion:

In both the recent online poll and historical public data politically left leaning people have more money than right leaning. This is born out by the right earning less salary and having less disposable income but at the same time having more debt than the left.

All studies show right leaning people are less optimistic about the future.

Recommendations:

It would make sense for individuals who are right leaning to reassess their political opinions and move more to the left in order to be richer and happier.