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What is known about numbers and “earnings“ of the self-employed?

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Identifies the self-employed in a number of different sources and examines their ‘earnings’ using information from household surveys.

There is currently very little information available about the so-called “earnings” of the self-employed, particularly because by definition they do not earn a salary or wage.

This article firstly identifies the self-employed in a number of different sources using two perspectives: the individual perspective obtained through self-classification in household surveys and the legal perspective set out by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). This work suggests that self-classification as self-employed in household surveys can be adjusted towards the legal perspective using information on the types of self-employment and payment of tax and National Insurance.

The “earnings” of the self-employed are then examined using information from household surveys and compared with aggregate figures published by HMRC.

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The Full Text of this article can be found on the National Statistics website
(http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/07_07/downloads/ELMR_July07_Ormerod.pdf)