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U.K. alcohol duty receipts reached £7.1 billion through October

HM Revenue & Customs reported a provisional £40 million increase from a year earlier, pointing to broadly steady tax intake

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HM Revenue & Customs said alcohol duty receipts in the United Kingdom reached £7.1 billion between April and October 2026, up by £40 million from the same period a year earlier, according to its monthly tax receipts bulletin.

The figures are provisional, meaning they could be revised in later releases as more information is processed. HMRC publishes the bulletin as part of its regular update on tax receipts and National Insurance contributions across the country.

The latest alcohol duty total points to little change in revenue growth so far in the 2026-27 fiscal year. A £40 million increase on more than £7 billion in receipts suggests that the government’s intake from alcohol duties has been broadly steady compared with the same stretch of 2025, even though the cash total edged higher.

HMRC describes the monthly series as a record of actual revenues received by the government rather than a forecast. The department says the data are used for short-term fiscal monitoring and for longer-term policy analysis. That makes the alcohol duty figure an official reference point for tracking how this part of the tax base is performing as the fiscal year develops.

For the drinks industry, the number offers a useful benchmark on the tax flow linked to alcohol sales, from beer and wine to spirits and ready-to-drink products. At the same time, revenue data do not by themselves show whether people are consuming more or less alcohol. Duty receipts can also be affected by changes in tax rates, the timing of payments, shifts in product mix and other market factors.

That distinction matters for producers, importers, distributors and retailers trying to read demand conditions from public data. A rise in receipts can reflect stronger sales, but it can also come from higher duty rates or changes in when businesses clear goods for sale. A flat or weak revenue trend, likewise, does not automatically mean volumes have fallen across the whole market.

The alcohol duty figures sit within a broader monthly publication that tracks government income from major taxes and duties. HMRC uses the bulletin to report receipts from a wide range of sources, including income tax, value-added tax, business taxes, fuel duty and tobacco duty, alongside National Insurance contributions.

Because the data are published monthly, they are closely watched by economists, budget analysts and industry groups for signs of how public revenues are holding up during the year. In the case of alcohol, the April-to-October total gives an early view of the sector’s contribution to the public finances, while leaving open the possibility that later revisions or changes in trading conditions could alter the picture in the months ahead.