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CANADIAN TAX FOUNDATION

Peter Birch Sørensen, « The Nordic Dual Income Tax: Principles, Practices, and Relevance for Canada », *Revue fiscale canadienne*, vol. 55, no 3, 46 pages.
<http://www.ctf.ca/PDF/07ctj/2007ctj3-sorensen.pdf>

Présentation du double régime d'impôt sur le revenu appliqué dans les pays nordiques et analyse de son applicabilité au Canada.

● Le double régime d'impôt sur le revenu combine des taux progressifs d'impôt sur le revenu de travail et un faible taux uniforme d'impôt sur le revenu de capital et le revenu des sociétés. Les pays nordiques ont été les premiers à mettre en place un tel régime fiscal et leur expérience peut servir de guide pour d'autres pays qui pourraient tirer profit de leur expérience. Cet article porte sur les arguments en faveur d'un tel régime, en mettant l'accent sur l'imposition du revenu de travailleur indépendant et du revenu de sociétés à peu d'actionnaires, décrit d'autres méthodes d'imposition du revenu d'entreprise dans le cadre d'un tel régime et passe en revue les pratiques fiscales actuelles dans les pays nordiques. L'auteur présente les arguments à l'appui d'un tel régime au Canada et suggère comment ce régime ou des éléments de ce régime pourraient être mis en place dans le contexte du régime fiscal fédéral existant.

Frances Woolley, « Policy Forum: Liability Without Control—The Curious Case of Pension Income Splitting », *Revue fiscale canadienne*, vol. 55, no 3, 23 pages.
<http://www.ctf.ca/PDF/07ctj/2007ctj3-woolley.pdf>

Le fractionnement des revenus de retraite : avantages, inconvénients et alternatives.

● Canadian pensioners are now allowed to split income from an employer pension and, in the case of people 65 and older, income from a registered retirement income fund, a registered retirement savings plan (rrsp) annuity, and some other forms of annuity. In this commentary, I argue that pension income splitting has no efficiency benefits and involves significant revenue sacrifices. From an equity perspective, pension income splitting benefits some of the least needy taxpayers in Canadian society and inhibits equality between men and women. Administratively, pension income splitting under the current rules is inferior to a number of other methods of achieving the same distributional outcomes; in particular, it imposes tax liabilities on the lower-income spouse, who may lack the means to pay those liabilities. There are better ways of achieving the government's goals, such as allowing for retroactive conversion of personal to spousal rrsp or transferring basic rate tax room as opposed to tax liabilities. There are also better ways of spending money on older Canadians—for example, expanding the reach of the guaranteed income supplement.

Allan R. Lanthier et Jack M. Mintz, « Policy Forum: Seeking a More Coherent Approach to Interest Deductibility », *Revue fiscale canadienne*, vol. 55, no 3, 26 pages.
<http://www.ctf.ca/PDF/07ctj/2007ctj3-lanthier.pdf>

Discussion sur les limites à la déductibilité des intérêts sur les investissements dans des sociétés étrangères affiliées proposées par le ministère des Finances.

- The Canadian federal budget of March 19, 2007 proposed to deny deductions for interest on funds borrowed by Canadian taxpayers to invest in foreign affiliates. On May 14, 2007, the finance minister announced a much narrower measure that would limit the denial to situations where a Canadian borrowing is part of certain cross-border financing structures—so-called double-dips. In this article, the authors comment on the economic impact of outbound investment, as well as technical issues and problems that can be expected to arise under the government's proposal. The authors argue that any limitation on interest deductibility should be considered in the context of a broader initiative that seeks to achieve greater neutrality between businesses, and at internationally competitive tax rates. A comprehensive domestic thin capitalization rule is recommended as an alternative to the government's proposal, to limit excessive debt leveraging in Canada in respect of both inbound and outbound investment, and also to address Canadian debt dumping by foreign investors and leveraged buyouts of Canadian businesses. Businesses maintaining reasonable levels of debt financing in Canada would not be penalized. The authors also argue that high Canadian corporate income tax rates attract debt to Canada and discourage Canadian domestic investment, and that any proposal to restrict interest deductibility should be linked with significant reductions in Canada's corporate tax rates.

INSTITUT ÉCONOMIQUE DE MONTRÉAL

Mathieu Laberge, « 11 idées pour changer le Québec – 2 points », *Textes d'opinion*, janvier 2008, 3 pages.
http://www.iedm.org/main/show_editorials_fr.php?editorials_id=605

L'IEDM propose une hausse de deux points de la TVQ et une baisse de l'impôt sur le revenu équivalente.

- Onze idées pour changer le Québec : l'IEDM lance un débat! L'IEDM propose aux Québécois une discussion autour d'idées de réformes qui pourraient être mises en vigueur d'ici cinq ans, la plupart d'entre elles d'ici 12 ou 24 mois. Ces idées ont été publiées dans le Journal de Montréal le 12 janvier 2008. Le gouvernement du Québec pourrait hausser la TVQ de deux points (de 7,5 % à 9,5 %). En contrepartie, il devrait réduire l'impôt sur le revenu des particuliers du montant ainsi collecté.

INSTITUT C.D. HOWE

Duanjie Chen, « Flaherty's Missed Opportunity », *E-brief*, no 52, 18 décembre 2007, 4 pages.
http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/ebrief_52.pdf

Critique sur le choix du Canada d'abaisser son taux d'imposition des sociétés plutôt que d'élargir l'assiette fiscale corporative.

- The cheerful opening message in Finance Minister Jim Flaherty's October 30 Economic Statement was that "Canada's economic and fiscal fundamentals are rock solid." To promote capital investment, Flaherty announced a reduction in the general federal corporate income tax rate to 15 percent by 2012 from its current rate of 22.1 percent, and indicated he would seek the collaboration of the provinces and territories to reach a 25 percent combined federal-provincial-territorial statutory corporate income tax rate. The Finance Minister's stated aim is to reduce Canada's statutory corporate income tax rate relative to other G-7 countries; yet, while lower tax rates are welcome, comprehensive tax reforms remain very much needed. The most critical of these, in business taxation, is broadening the corporate income tax base to improve tax neutrality and enable future rate reductions, particularly at the provincial level. It would be regrettable if the federal

government regarded the current proposed tax relief as “mission accomplished” while leaving key reform opportunities unpursued.

William B.P. Robson, « Time and Money: The Challenge of Demographic Change and Government Finances in Canada », *Backgrounder*, décembre 2007, 16 pages.

http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/backgrounder_109.pdf

Analyse des conséquences fiscales reliées au changement démographique du Canada et solutions possibles pour en minimiser l'impact.

■ As Canada's baby-boomers move through middle age and closer to retirement, a long-anticipated transformation of the country's demographic structure is accelerating. In several respects, Canadians are unprepared for this change. They are still not ready for the eventual fiscal consequences — a major rise in the share of income Canadians will need to devote to publicly funded programs. Barring some wrenching changes in public finances, this rise will force today's youngsters to pay higher taxes for their lifetime package of public programs than their parents and grandparents did. This Backgrounder puts a dollar figure on that rising tab — the net additional claims public programs will make on Canadian incomes as a result of demographic change. Demographic change will push the price, or share of income, down for some programs such as family benefits and education. This gives governments a kind of implicit asset: they could lower taxes or rise spending elsewhere, and yet deliver the same value per recipient of education or family benefit programs as they do now. For other programs, mainly healthcare, demographic change will drive the share-of-income price up. This gives governments an implicit liability: they will need to raise taxes or cut other programs to deliver the same value per recipient of healthcare as they do now. This notion of implicit assets and liabilities lets us put the fiscal impacts of demographic change into a ledger alongside other more familiar balance-sheet measures. These include the debts recorded on budgets (which will oblige governments to charge more in taxes than they deliver in programs in the future), and the unfunded liabilities of the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans (C/QPP) (which will oblige future contributors to pay more than an actuarially fair price for their benefits). The key difference is that Canadians are already paying interest to cover most of governments' on-budget debts, and partial prefunding of the C/QPP has also brought some of the ultimate costs of those programs forward in time. By contrast, direct experience of the increased cost of the demographically driven liabilities still lies in the future.

CENTRE CANADIEN DE POLITIQUES ALTERNATIVES (CCPA)

Andrew Jackson, « Why Charity Isn't Enough: The Case For Raising Taxes On Canada's Rich », *Alternative Federal Budget*, décembre 2007, 12 pages.

http://www.policyalternatives.ca/documents/National_Office_Pubs/2007/Why_Charity_Isnt_Enough.pdf

Proposition pour une augmentation du taux d'imposition des particuliers les plus riches.

■ Canada's richest citizens are enjoying an explosion in their market income that the majority of Canadians have not seen. At the same time, Canada's richest citizens have been bestowed another, generous gift: they have been the biggest beneficiaries of a decade's worth of federal and provincial tax cuts. While their effective tax rate shrinks — disproportionately compared to the majority of Canadians — Canada is quickly moving away from a progressive tax system where those who have more contribute more. This paper makes a clear and simple case for raising taxes among the richest of Canadians, to fund the kinds of things Canadians say they want and need to continue to be productive citizens: public health care, affordable housing, reasonable university tuition, better public infrastructure, public transit, and affordable quality child care. It finds that progressive taxation of income plays an important role in reducing income inequality in Canada, but the progressivity of our system has been diminishing under the tax cut agenda. The paper concludes that a basic increase in the personal income taxes paid by our richest citizens would put the progressivity back into Canada's tax system, funding high quality public services and social programs that improve the life chances of all Canadians. To those who say Canada cannot afford fair taxes for the rich, this paper provides useful comparisons and finds Canada has room to grow on the taxation front.

THE FRASER INSTITUTE

Niels Veldhuis, Alvin Rabushka, *A Flat Tax For Canada*, 3 janvier 2008, 50 pages.

http://www.fraserinstitute.org/COMMERCE.WEB/product_files/FlatTaxForCanada.pdf

Présentation d'un système d'imposition canadien basé sur le modèle du taux d'imposition unique et de ses impacts sur le système fiscal canadien.

- Canada's federal and provincial tax systems are impeding the country's ability to reach its full economic potential. Most significantly, Canada's personal and corporate income taxes reduce economic growth by creating strong disincentives to work hard, save, invest, and engage in entrepreneurial activities. In addition, individuals and businesses incur large costs to comply with Canada's tax code and pay for the government's tax-collection system. As a result of these costs and distorted incentives, Canadians would benefit considerably from a more economically friendly, efficient, income-tax system. This chapter presents a proposal for a thorough reform of Canada's federal and provincial income-tax systems. Specifically, we propose an integrated flat tax for Canada based on a model first crafted for the United States by Robert E. Hall and Alvin Rabushka of the Hoover Institution. The proposed Canadian flat tax would significantly improve the incentives to engage in productive economic behavior and reduce the costs to comply with and administer the tax system while raising the same amount of revenue as the current system. The first section of the chapter evaluates the simplicity, efficiency and fairness of Canada's current income-tax system relative to that of a flat-tax system. Section 2 provides an overview of the Hall-Rabushka flat tax. Section 3 presents a flat tax for Canada based on the Hall-Rabushka proposal. Section 4 discusses the likely impact of a flat tax on the Canadian economy.



ÉTATS-UNIS

TAX POLICY CENTER (URBAN INSTITUTE/BROOKINGS INSTITUTION)

William G. Gale, *Fixing the Tax System: Support Fairer, Simpler, and More Adequate Taxation*, 17 janvier 2008, 13 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2007/~//media/Files/Projects/Opportunity08/PB_TaxPolicy_Gale.pdf

Les défis du prochain président des États-Unis : des réformes nécessaires du système fiscal.

- A good tax system raises the revenues needed to finance government spending in a manner that is as simple, equitable, stable, and conducive to economic growth as possible. But the challenge for the next President will be to make reform work not just in the abstract, but in the real world, where special interests often rule the roost. The next President should support reforms that would tax all income once (only) at the full tax rate, simplify and streamline the tax code, and, of course, raise sufficient revenues. To achieve these goals, the package of specific reforms proposed in this paper would: tax all new corporate investment income only once; remove all corporate subsidies in the Code and strengthen corporate anti-sheltering provisions; integrate payroll and income taxes for individuals; introduce return-free filing for many taxpayers; consolidate and streamline tax subsidies for education, retirement and families; eliminate or revise various tax deductions and create a value-added tax that would, eventually, raise 5 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in revenues.

Douglas W. Elmendorf and Jason Furman, *If, When, How: A Primer on Fiscal Stimulus*, 17 janvier 2008, 30 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~//media/Files/rc/papers/2008/0110_fiscal_stimulus_elmendorf_furman/0110_fiscal_stimulus_elmendorf_furman.pdf

La politique fiscale est un moyen efficace de stabiliser l'économie.

■ Economists believe that monetary policy should play the lead role in stabilizing the economy because of the Federal Reserve's ability to act quickly and effectively to adjust interest rates, using its technical expertise and political insulation to balance competing priorities. Fiscal policy can also help to stabilize the economy. Countercyclical fiscal policy happens automatically to a certain extent, because tax payments fall and unemployment insurance spending rises when the economy slows. Such stimulus could include legislated tax cuts or spending increases designed to give a quick boost to the economy by increasing aggregate demand. In considering fiscal policy at this juncture, policymakers need to answer several key questions. Is fiscal stimulus needed? When should such stimulus be provided? And what would constitute effective fiscal stimulus? These questions are not merely technical. Fortunately, economic research provides clear theory and evidence for making appropriate decisions about if, when, and how to craft fiscal stimulus. This paper summarizes the evidence and provides straightforward principles and examples for formulating effective stimulus.

Jason Furman, *Options for Fiscal Stimulus*, 24 janvier 2008, 13 pages.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/testimonies/2008/0124_fiscalstimulus_furman/0124_fiscalstimulus_furman.pdf

Suggestions de mesures fiscales destinées à stimuler l'économie.

■ A spate of bad news, including a jump in the unemployment rate, a decline in consumer spending and a continued plunge in housing starts, leave little doubt that the economy is weakening. Well-designed fiscal stimulus, in the form of increased government spending or tax reductions, has the potential to help cushion the economic blow. The key to well-designed stimulus is to ensure that it is timely, temporary and targeted –the “three T” principles enunciated by economists as diverse as Harvard Professors Lawrence Summers and Martin Feldstein, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and Congressional Budget Office Director Peter Orszag. Three of the options that best meet this test are (1) a refundable tax rebate that is adjusted for family size and phased out for high-income households; (2) a temporary extension and possibly expansion in unemployment insurance benefits; and (3) a temporary increase in food stamps. Policymakers should also consider state fiscal relief implemented as a temporary increase in the federal share of Medicaid costs. This testimony today has three parts. First it discusses the underlying economic logic that motivates the three principles of fiscal stimulus. Second, it applies these principles to analyze a range of stimulus options. Finally, it includes a more detailed discussion of the design of an individual rebate.

William F. Fox, LeAnn Luna, and Matthew N. Murray, *Emerging State Business Tax Policy: More of the Same, or Fundamental Change?*, 29 janvier 2008, 13 pages.

http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/UploadedPDF/1001134_state_business_tax.pdf

Analyse de la politique fiscale corporative des États américains.

■ This report focuses on state responses to the weak corporate tax collections during the 2000-2003 period as well as to the revenue performance during the years immediately preceding and following the recession. The report is not an attempt to argue that the corporate income tax is an important component of good state tax policy. Instead, our focus is on identifying state tactics to maintain or change the tax, determining whether those strategies are good tax policy, and evaluating whether they are working to achieve the basic goals of the states. The report is composed of three sections. Section 1 reviews the revenue performance of corporate taxes over the past 15 years to provide insight into why states may have sought new strategies. Section 2 presents a brief summary of state corporate tax policy changes and reforms during recent years. Finally, section 3 analyzes the policy changes in terms of their long-term effectiveness, across a broad set of criteria, including their capacity to help or hinder states through economic cycles like 2001 to 2003.

Adam Carasso et Jonathan Barry Forman, *Tax Considerations in a Universal Pension System (UPS)*, 20 décembre 2007, 30 pages.

http://www.taxpolicycenter.org/UploadedPDF/411593_universal_pension_system.pdf

Un régime de pension universel est nécessaire et possible aux États-Unis.

- The inadequacy of the current U.S. public and private pension systems along with the escalating costs of health care may warrant the establishment of a universal pension system (UPS). Such a pension system could cover all workers—full-time and part-time—and require them to contribute at a level that can help provide them with adequate incomes when they retire. The simplest design for a UPS would be to piggyback a system of individual retirement savings accounts onto the existing Social Security withholding system. Other designs would target subsidies to low-income workers to help defray the costs of such a new system on their incomes. UPS pensions would be fully portable, could boost the stock of private savings, and could ease the burden on Social Security to meet presently unrealistic benefit commitments without altering the current program—merits which ought to find common ground among both liberals and conservatives. This paper develops such a universal pension system and estimates its revenue and distributional consequences. A system of individual accounts could be held by the government, invested in a broadly diversified portfolio of stocks, bonds, and government notes, and annuitized on retirement. The rewards of a UPS would be seen over the long term. This paper also shows that targeted subsidies could raise supplemental retirement benefits for most low- and moderate-income workers even further.

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

John Karl Scholz, *Employment-Based Tax Credits for Low-Skilled Workers*, décembre 2007, 31 pages.
http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2007/~//media/Files/rc/papers/2007/12_taxcredit_scholz/12_taxcredit_scholz.pdf

Utiliser la fiscalité afin d'encourager le retour au travail des travailleurs à faible revenu.

- Families in low-income communities face three interrelated problems: unemployment rates are high, incarceration rates of low-skilled men are high, and a large fraction of children in low-income communities are being raised in single-parent households. To address these interrelated problems, I propose a two-part policy designed to increase the return to work. The first part of my proposal is an expanded earned income tax credit that would apply to low-income, childless taxpayers. The second part of my proposal is a targeted wage subsidy for low-wage workers who live in certain economically depressed areas, whereby the federal government would pay subsidies of 50 percent of the difference between the worker's market wage and a target wage of \$11.30 per hour. The premise for adopting these policies is straightforward: increasing the return to work for childless low-skilled workers will lower unemployment rates and achieve the dual social benefits of reducing incarceration rates and increasing marriage rates, thus reducing the number of children being raised in single-parent households. The proposal would redistribute \$10.4 billion to poor, working individuals. Based on empirical estimates from the literature, I expect employment to increase by 850,000 jobs and crime to fall by over one million incidents. Conservative estimates of the social cost of crime indicate that the social benefit from reduced crime could cover 8 percent or more of the cost of the proposal. Many estimates of the cost of crime would claim much larger cost saving. The proposal would also increase marriage and improve the environments in which poor children are raised.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE

Congressional Budget Office, *Historical Effective Federal Tax Rates: 1979 to 2005*, décembre 2007, 8 pages.
<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/88xx/doc8885/12-11-HistoricalTaxRates.pdf>

La variation des taux d'imposition effectifs, de 1979 à 2005.

- The following tables update the series of historical effective tax rates estimated by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) by providing values for an additional calendar year—2005. The tables show effective tax rates for the four largest sources of federal revenues—individual income taxes, social insurance (payroll) taxes, corporate income taxes, and excise taxes—as well as the total effective rate for the four taxes combined. The tables also present average pretax and after-tax household income; counts of households; and shares of taxes, income, and households for each fifth (quintile) of the income distribution and for the top percentiles of households.

Congressional Budget Office, *Options for Responding to Short-Term Economic Weakness*, janvier 2008, 35 pages.

http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/89xx/doc8916/01-15-Econ_Stimulus.pdf

Propositions pour une utilisation de la politique fiscale afin d'éviter une récession et de faire face à la crise des hypothèques.

■ The economy has recently been buffeted by several interlinked shocks, and the risk of recession is significantly elevated compared with what it is during normal economic conditions. In response to a request from the Chairmen of the House and Senate Budget Committees, the Congressional Budget Office has examined the potential role of fiscal policy efforts to expand aggregate demand in the current economic situation and the efficacy of various policy options to do so. This paper also examines options for dealing with the crisis in the home mortgage market, which has contributed to the overall economic weakness. The first section reviews the economic situation, including how the monetary and regulatory authorities have already responded. The next section assesses different fiscal approaches to giving a temporary boost to aggregate demand in the economy. A final section examines policy options geared specifically toward the housing and mortgage markets.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Joint Committee on Taxation, *Overview of past Tax Legislation providing fiscal stimulus and issues in designing and delivering a cash rebate to individuals*, 21 janvier 2008, 52 pages.

<http://www.house.gov/jct/x-4-08r.pdf>

Revue législative des mesures visant la réduction du fardeau fiscal.

● A number of policy makers and economists have expressed concern that the rate of growth of the U.S. economy is slowing and that a significant economic downturn, or recession, may lie ahead. While no precise definition of “recession” exists in economics, variables commonly examined to identify whether the economy is in recession are the rate of growth of real gross domestic product (GDP), the unemployment rate, the capacity utilization rate, the inflation rate, and interest rates. When the rate of growth of GDP is low, or negative, and when unemployment increases and capacity utilization decreases, policy makers often consider adopting fiscal stimulus policies. Typically, these policies are intended to increase demand for goods and services either by individuals, businesses or governments. In response to past economic slowdowns or downturns, the Congress has made changes in tax laws to provide fiscal stimulus. This pamphlet reviews a number of the tax tools the Congress has chosen in the past as part of stimulative fiscal policy, reviews some of the available economic evidence related to the efficacy of such tax tools, and discusses design issues with respect to proposals to pay cash rebates to taxpayers.

CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

Aviva Aron-Dine, *President's Expected Push to Make Tax Cuts Permanent is Irresponsible Fiscal and Economic Policy*, 28 janvier 2008, 2 pages.

<http://www.cbpp.org/1-28-08tax.pdf>

Critique des arguments invoqués par l'administration Bush pour justifier la décision de rendre permanentes les coupures de taxes en cette période de difficultés économiques.

● In his State of the Union address this evening, President Bush is expected to renew his push to make his signature tax cuts permanent. In recent weeks, Administration officials have offered three major arguments for this policy — (1) the tax cuts yielded strong economic growth over the past few years, (2) extending them would help the economy overcome its current weakness, and (3) extending them would improve the economy's performance over the long run. None of these claims bears up well under scrutiny.

THE INSTITUTE ON TAXATION AND ECONOMIC POLICY

M. Leachman et J. Margheim, *No special treatment: Seven reasons why Oregon should not reduce or eliminate the income tax on capital gains*, 21 janvier 2008, 9 pages.

<http://www.ocpp.org/2008/iss20080121capitalgainsfnl.pdf>

En Oregon, où le gain en capital est imposé au même taux que les autres revenus, le débat fait rage sur l'opportunité d'un taux d'imposition préférentiel.

■ This issue brief examines seven reasons why giving special treatment to income from capital gains is a terrible idea: it would not stimulate additional economic growth, it would not attract much venture capital, it would waste millions chasing after the few Oregonians who move to Washington to avoid Oregon income taxes, it would mainly benefit the wealthiest 1 percent of Oregonians, it would blow a half-billion-dollar hole in the state budget, it would cripple or eliminate the best player on the income tax team, and it would penalize those who put in an honest day's work.

NATIONAL TAX JOURNAL (NTJ)

William A. Testa et Richard H. Mattoon, « Is There a Role for Gross Receipts Taxation? », *National Tax Journal*, vol. 60, no 4, p. 821, décembre 2007, 20 pages.

Résumé : <http://ntj.tax.org/wwtax/ntjrec.nsf/009a9a91c225e83d852567ed006212d8/239788d40fbd26cf852573e10057741e?OpenDocument>

Étude des effets d'un impôt sur les recettes brutes des entreprises.

● States are showing renewed interest in using Gross Receipts Taxes (GRTs) as a method for taxing business. This paper discusses the advantages and disadvantages of GRTs along three dimensions—as a stand alone tax against standard tax principles, as a replacement for an existing business tax structure, and finally as a "fill-in" or corrective tax to rebalance a state's tax system. In addition, the paper offers estimates of current state and local tax levies on business relative to estimates of the benefits that business receives through public services. The paper concludes that the GRT is not a first best option, and that an origin-based value added tax would be a preferred business tax structure.

Bradley T. Heim, « The Effect of Tax Rebates on Consumption Expenditures: Evidence from State Tax Rebates », *National Tax Journal*, vol. 60, no 4, p. 685, décembre 2007, 26 pages.

Résumé :

<http://ntj.tax.org/wwtax/ntjrec.nsf/009a9a91c225e83d852567ed006212d8/1c57d3f28d107d2b852573e100547197?OpenDocument>

Les rabais de taxes auraient des effets minimes sur l'augmentation des dépenses de consommation.

● This paper uses Consumer Expenditure Survey data to estimate the response to a sequence of state tax rebates implemented during 1995–2001. The results generally suggest that expenditures increased by one-fifth to one-fourth of the rebate amount, with positive effects on nondurable spending, spending on apparel, and among households with single respondents. However, the results vary depending on the sample, regressor, and expenditure component, with several variables entering insignificantly or with the wrong sign. Rebate announcements are estimated to have had a small and insignificant effect on the amount of spending, but may have shifted the composition of spending.



OCDE

OCDE, *Prestations et salaires – Indicateurs de l'OCDE*, 13 décembre 2007, 234 pages.

www.oecd.org/els/social/prestationsetsalaires

Comment les pays de l'OCDE utilisent la fiscalité et les prestations sociales pour encourager le travail.

- Les résultats de cette série montrent l'incidence de la fiscalité et des politiques sociales sur les personnes qui travaillent et celles qui sont au chômage ainsi que sur leur famille. Les allocations chômage et les aides liées au non-emploi évitent à ceux qui sont sans travail de tomber dans la pauvreté, mais peuvent dans un même temps réduire l'incitation à travailler. C'est un des principaux dilemmes des politiques sociales. Un éventail de mesures politiques innovatrices visent à valoriser le travail tout en maintenant des revenus adéquats pour ceux qui ne sont pas dans la possibilité de trouver un emploi. « Prestations et salaires » fait l'analyse des politiques menées dans ce domaine et mesure leur impact global sur les revenus disponibles aux familles individuelles. Il compare les niveaux de prestations liées au filet de sécurité dans les différents pays, indique combien les personnes doivent gagner pour échapper à la pauvreté, et combien ils gagnent à prendre un emploi.

OCDE, Center for tax policy and administration, *Programs to Reduce the Administrative Burden Resulting from Tax Regulations in Selected Countries*, 22 janvier 2008, 68 pages.

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/39/6/39947998.pdf>

Analyse des mesures adoptées par les pays de l'OCDE pour réduire les coûts administratifs pour les entreprises engendrés par la réglementation fiscale.

- This information note prepared by the Forum on Tax Administration records the results of a study of the key strategies and approaches being adopted by ministries of finance and revenue bodies to reduce the administrative burden resulting from tax regulations. Cutting red tape/reducing administrative burdens is a priority item on the political agenda of many member countries, with Governments embarking on comprehensive 'whole of government' exercises to estimate the size of administrative burden resulting from government regulations, setting ambitious targets for their reduction and developing a program of measures to achieve the targets set. Taxation is a key focus of these burden reduction efforts, given that a fair proportion of the estimated burden at a 'whole of government' level results from tax regulations. The note briefly describes: 1) the results of recent work in member countries to estimate aggregate administrative burdens resulting from tax regulations (in most cases using what is known as the Standard Cost Model (SCM)); 2) identifies targets that have been set for burden reduction; 3) describes the key tax policy and administrative measures proposed/ implemented to achieve burden reduction objectives; and 4) identifies known impacts of the measures already implemented.

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH NETWORK (SSRN)

Francesco Figari, Herwig Immervoll, Horacio Levy, Holly Sutherland, *Inequalities within Couples: Market Incomes and the Role of Taxes and Benefits in Europe*, décembre 2007, 41 pages.

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1078893

L'impact de la fiscalité sur les écarts de revenus entre les hommes et les femmes dans les pays de l'Union européenne.

- In spite of there being few elements of tax or cash benefit systems in developed countries that are any longer explicitly gender-biased in a discriminatory sense, it is well recognised that they have significant gender effects. To the extent that women earn less than men on average under tax-benefit systems that are progressive, there is some redistribution from men to women overall. However, an aggregate perspective is insufficient for understanding how earning opportunities and public policies affect living arrangements at the family level in general and the circumstances of men and women in

particular. Arguably, it is within the household that a gendered division of labour is most relevant. It is difficult to observe how income and other resources get allocated within households. We can, however, observe the incomes brought into the household and to what extent taxes and benefits mitigate (or indeed exacerbate) any inequality of income between men and women. We explore the effects of tax and benefit systems on differences in income and in incentives to earn income between men and women within couples in a selection of the member countries of the European Union (EU) using EUROMOD, the EU tax-benefit microsimulation model. This comparative perspective allows us to establish the relative effects of different policy regimes, given the underlying characteristics of each national population, using a consistent approach and set of incidence assumptions across countries.

Jinyan Li, *The Rise and Fall of Chinese Tax Incentives and Implications for International Tax Debates*, 27 janvier 2008, 57 pages.

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1087382

Analyse des changements récents dans l'imposition des investissements étrangers en Chine.

- China had no foreign direct investment (FDI) before 1979. Now, it is one of the world's largest recipients of FDI. China has been generous to a fault in granting tax incentives to foreign investors. As of January 1, 2008, however, these FDI-specific incentives are abolished or phased out. What explains the rise and fall? Were the tax incentives not effective in attracting FDI and promoting China's economic growth? What are the implications of the Chinese experience for international tax debates? This article examines these questions.

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