Abstract

The thesis focuses on base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) and resulting corporate income tax gains or losses. I first estimated profit shifting semi-elasticity using database of firm-level financial data. Subsequently I used these estimates to calculate corporate income tax gains or losses for individual countries. I estimate several models to see how much the semi-elasticity depends on specification and what affects it. The evidence suggests that companies do shift profits to countries with lower tax rate. The estimated overall profit shifting semi-elasticity ranges from 1.524 to 3.695 for different specifications of the benchmark model. Semi-elasticity of individual countries increases with financial secrecy score. Using statutory tax rate yields stronger results than using country-level effective tax rates calculated from the financial data. The estimated effect on government revenue ranges from 12% loss to 23% gain of corporate income tax revenues. In the sample of 53 countries with sufficient number of observations this translates to overall loss 48 billion US dollars.

JEL Classification F23, F68, G38, H25, H26, H87

Keywords base erosion, profit shifting, corporate

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