

**ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TAX BURDEN THAT CAN REFLECT THE
FINANCIAL PROVISION OF BUDGET NEEDS**

Susanna S. Alieva,

Candidate in Economic Sciences, Associate Professor,
Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service

Abstract: The article examines the significance of the tax burden as a crucial indicator reflecting the financial security of enterprises. It is noted that not only is the tax burden characterized by the share of taxes in GDP, calculated based on the indicators of the country's economic development, but also the lack of a generally accepted methodology for calculating the absolute and relative tax burden of enterprises. In this regard, special attention is paid to the analysis of the tax burden, defining it as a method that allows for comparing tax levels at enterprises in various sectors of the economy. Indicators influencing the level of tax burden on enterprises are presented, and it is noted that enterprises feel the weight of the tax burden and actively seek various ways to reduce it. A number of proposals are being made for the most accurate determination of the real level of tax burden for specific taxpayers and its optimization.

Keywords: financial security, tax burden, absolute and relative tax burden, tax burden forecasting, optimization, non-tax revenue, instability, inflation, tax policy, tax regime, tax regime, added value.

The state of affairs at the stage of directing tax relations generally depends on the quality of decisions made by the relevant state governing bodies. Any decisions (economic, organizational, technical, economic, financial, legal) predetermine the measures of financial impact: what exactly should be reduced in the regulated object and what these innovative changes should be. Therefore, the most important component of scientific regulation of the tax system is the assessment of the effectiveness of the tax burden of both planned (at the stage of adoption) and already implemented decisions. Such an assessment in the first case allows one to be convinced either of the validity of the measures taken, or of the insufficient effectiveness and the need to make adjustments to the draft decision. In the second case, feedback is provided, thanks to which it is possible to judge the achievement of the goal of effective management.

In modern conditions, as the activities of enterprises expand, in particular, those with an innovative orientation, it is important to substantiate the economic limits of the tax burden, the determination of which requires the correct choice of alternatives. This largely depends on the reliability of methods for assessing the effectiveness of the tax system, ensuring the necessary budget needs with financial resources.

An effective tax system, on the one hand, provides financial resources within the framework of the budget's economic need, and on the other hand, stimulates the active activity of economic entities. The budget's resource needs are largely determined by the tax burden. The latter is also a significant economic indicator of the tax climate. The tax burden is a crucial indicator that reflects both financial security and the state's role in the economy, its interaction with businesses. This explains the widespread keen interest in the tax burden on the country's economy as a whole and its determination at the micro level.

Currently, in transition economies, the tax burden at the macro level is characterized by the share of taxes in the gross domestic product (hereinafter - GDP), calculated based on the indicators of the country's economic development. At the same time, there is no unified approach to the methodology for determining it at the micro level - at the level of business entities. Today,

there is no generally accepted methodology for calculating the absolute and relative tax burden of enterprises.

Literature review. In economic literature, there are methods for determining the tax burden within economic entities, which differ in the composition of taxes included in the calculation, as well as in the choice of the basic indicator of the enterprise's activity, with which the tax amount is correlated. In this regard, the analysis of the tax burden on the country's economy, characterizing the effectiveness of its tax system, as well as the determination of a universal indicator of the tax burden, allowing for the comparison of tax levels at enterprises in various sectors of the economy, is of considerable interest.

The generally accepted methodology for calculating the tax burden would allow enterprises to independently calculate and assess its level, justify management decisions, and also forecast this burden for the future. If necessary, enterprises could optimize the tax burden by applying various methods provided for in the Tax Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

As a rule, the tax burden on the economy represents the ratio of all taxes received to the created GDP. At the same time, tax revenues are determined by their receipts to the budget revenues of all levels of the budget system, including state extra-budgetary funds. These revenues include customs duties.

At the same time, customs duties are also mandatory, they are inherent in the fundamental features of taxes, they are one of the types of indirect taxes. Therefore, although customs payments in the Republic of Uzbekistan are classified as tax revenues, they should not be taken into account when determining the tax burden.

Customs duties are paid by business entities. Their share is more than 85% of the total. For other enterprises and individual entrepreneurs, the tax burden at the macro level is significantly lower. Table 1 presents the calculated indicators of the tax burden in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2022, determined as the ratio of all received taxes to GDP. Currently, in transition economies, two methods are used to determine the tax burden, including and without customs duties.

Table 1
**Tax Burden in the Republic of Uzbekistan
in 2020-2025 (in %) [11]**

Indicators	2020.	2021	2022	2025
Tax burden including customs duties	22.1	21.9	21.9	14.7
Including: share of customs duties in GDP	4.3	4.5.	5.2	0.63
Tax burden excluding customs duties	17.9	17.4	16.7	14.1

From the data presented in Table 1, it can be seen that:

- 1) the share of customs duties in GDP for 2025 was 0.63% - this is an indicator of a decrease in their impact on the level of tax burden and the economy as a whole;
- 2) the tax burden for enterprises as a whole and private entrepreneurs engaged in economic activity and paying customs duties has decreased to 11.7% - this is an indicator of a moderate tax burden;

3) the tax burden on the country's entire economy has significantly decreased to 14.7% in the last year - this is evidence of its relative stability. Note that this level of tax burden is not close to the indicators of a number of countries with a developed market economy. Thus, the average tax burden for OECD countries in the European zone is 38%, in Germany - 36.2%, in Great Britain - 36.6%, in Spain - 37.2%, and in the Czech Republic - 36.4% [1-10].

Today, it is quite difficult to predict the further dynamics of tax burden changes. The financial crisis will undoubtedly affect the tax obligations of taxpayers.

Improving the methodology for economically assessing the effectiveness of the tax system can be significantly advanced if the necessary research is conducted at the intersection of the theory of effectiveness and regulation of tax revenues to budget revenues in accordance with expenditures on targeted areas. Because the financial provision of budgetary needs belongs to the most important components of financial science. The cross-sectional area of the research objects in both cases is precisely the criterion for determining the economic limit of the tax burden.

If the first deals with substantiating the effectiveness of decisions made, taking into account their direction and the results achieved after certain periods of functioning of the production and economic activities of taxpayers, then the second (budget revenue) deals with the criteria and methods for determining the effectiveness of resource expenditures (their values are established by the relevant decisions of the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan).

One of the fundamental concepts of taxes is "feedback," which is carried out by comparing expected and actual effectiveness (e.g., planned effectiveness of tax revenues with the profitability of the fixed capital into which they are transformed).

In conditions of financial instability, production decline, and rising inflation, it becomes difficult for business entities to pay taxes. They feel the burden of the tax burden more acutely and actively seek various ways to reduce it. At the same time, it is clear that, in the near future, the level of tax burden will ultimately be determined by the state of the country's economy, the tax policy pursued by the state under conditions of financial instability, and tax administration.

Analysis of the current tax burden status.

Here, we would like to draw attention to the fact that the problem seems important due to the fact that the indicator of the current tax burden at the macro level does not adequately reflect the degree of severity of tax obligations of specific taxpayers. As you know, there is also a shadow economy sector here that evades taxes. Conscientious taxpayers covered by the general tax regime may bear a high tax burden, which is significantly different from its established indicator at the macro level. This situation is especially characteristic of business entities with labor-intensive production. The problem lies in determining the real level of tax burden for specific taxpayers in various sectors of the economy as accurately as possible, as well as in its optimization.

The lack of a universally recognized methodology for determining tax burden does not allow for its calculation for various enterprises according to unified rules and the comparison of the obtained assessments among themselves.

To compare the established level of tax burden at enterprises with the national level, it is necessary to compare all paid taxes (including personal income tax) with added value:

$$\Delta H_H = \frac{\sum HO\Pi_1 + \sum C_H \Pi_{B3H}}{\sum DC} \times 100\% , \quad (1)$$

ΔH_H where: - tax burden of enterprises;

$\sum C_H \Pi_{B3H}$ - social tax and other targeted deductions;

$HO\Pi_1 \Delta$ - all paid taxes (million soums);

Σ DC- added value (million soums).

When determining the tax burden of enterprises, a number of indicators are used for calculation, for example:

- the ratio of taxes to the revenue of enterprises from sales;
- ratio of enterprise taxes to profit;
- the ratio of taxes to the added value;
- others.

The methodology for calculating the tax burden of organizations, developed by management bodies, is widely known. According to the current methodology, it is defined as the ratio of the sum of all accrued taxes, including payments to extra-budgetary funds, to the volume of products sold. This methodology is quite convenient and simple, but it also has significant shortcomings. It would be more correct to exclude personal income tax from the calculation of the tax burden. The specified methodology does not take into account the structure of production costs. For example, in some industries, material costs and depreciation constitute the majority of expenses. Consequently, the amount of tax payments will be mainly compared with these expenses.

The methodology under consideration is not sufficiently correct - here, tax payments are correlated not only with the newly created value but also with material costs for the production of products, which have no relation to the tax burden. The level of tax burden determined by the specified methodology does not mean that the intensity of tax obligations for organizations of different industries is equal. Therefore, the tax burden values obtained here can only be compared for similar enterprises with comparable revenue structures.

At the same time, the methodology of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Uzbekistan is practically applied and is in demand by both taxpayers and tax authorities.

"Universal risk assessment criteria for taxpayers" are necessary. Similar criteria can be used by tax authorities in the process of selecting objects for conducting on-site tax audits. Here, the first publicly available criterion should be the level of tax burden. The tax burden is calculated as the ratio of the amount of taxes paid (according to the reporting data of tax authorities) and the turnover (revenue) of enterprises. If the tax burden of a specific taxpayer is significantly lower than its average level for economic entities in a particular sector of the economy, then such a taxpayer must be included in the list of on-site tax audits.

For this purpose, it is necessary to calculate the tax burden for the types of economic activity of enterprises according to the procedure specified in the appendix. Calculate the tax burden for 2023 taking into account social tax revenues. Let's start with the fact that the minimum tax burden is defined for taxpayers who are producers of innovative products. The maximum tax burden is set at no more than 60.0% for fuel and energy enterprises. The average tax burden for all types of economic activity of enterprises should not exceed 14.0%. Thus, a huge "scattering" of tax burden values by type of economic activity is evident. Even within the same type of economic activity, significant fluctuations in tax burden values are possible. In addition, all types of economic activity of enterprises should be listed in the appendix.

Practice confirms that the revenue of enterprises cannot be a universal base indicator when calculating the tax burden. The presented values of the tax burden will compel taxpayers to explain to tax authorities the reasons for significant deviations of their tax burden from the established average norms for the types of economic activity of enterprises.

The originality of the methodology for calculating the tax burden, in our opinion, should lie in the comparison of the tax and the source of its payment. Each tax group, depending on its source, should have its own criterion for assessing the tax burden. The general indicator of this methodology should be the profit of enterprises, with which the sum of all taxes is correlated.

When determining the tax burden according to this methodology, it is necessary to proceed from the ideal situation when enterprises do not pay taxes at all and compare this situation with the real one. Corresponding calculations can show how many times the amount of taxes paid differs from the profit remaining at the disposal of enterprises. The main feature of this approach to assessing the tax burden is that indirect taxes should not be taken into account and considered as taxes that affect the amount of profit of enterprises.

This methodology should act as an effective tool for analyzing the impact of direct taxes on the financial condition of enterprises.

In this approach, the impact of indirect taxes on the financial condition of enterprises is underestimated. Meanwhile, indirect taxes, although to a lesser extent than direct taxes, also affect the amount of profit. Therefore, the application of the analyzed methodology in practice must be combined with assessing the impact of indirect taxes on the tax burden of enterprises.

In economic literature, there are proposals, essentially, for a quantitative methodology for determining the tax burden of enterprises [8]. According to it, specialists are offered to assess the tax burden as a share of the added value created by a specific enterprise contributed to the budget.

Added value, according to economists, is the source of the enterprise's income and, consequently, the source of tax payment. Therefore, it is advisable to compare each tax with the source of payment. However, currently, there are neither functionally justified methods for determining the tax burden nor published recommendations for its assessment in transition economies. In scientific publications developed by researchers or individual economists, and in several printed publications, only the possibility and necessity of developing them based on certain recommendations or considerations are discussed.

However, the so-called new approaches to calculating the tax burden must have a certain economic meaning, and the initial data or indicators for its calculation, other calculations, and the results obtained must meet modern requirements.

To be fair, it should be noted that, in essence, the effectiveness of calculating the tax burden should contribute to changes in the financial position over a specific period of time. And this can be represented in the form of four interconnected chain of arguments in favor of calculating the tax burden:

Determining the economic necessity of the tax burden → determining the initial indicators for determining the tax burden → introducing restrictions that make it impossible to calculate the tax burden using multiple options → excluding the possibility of multifaceted interpretation of the tax burden.

This model, in our opinion, is acceptable for calculating the tax burden.

The integral indicator obtained during the calculation process using the methodology under consideration allows for averaging the tax burden assessment for different types of production, i.e., ensures comparability of the tax burden for different enterprises. The summation of all taxes here allows for obtaining a share of the allocated value added of enterprises to the state budget. This indicator is simultaneously a function of the production type according to the criterion of the share in the gross revenue of material, labor, or depreciation costs.

The application of the developed methodology allows for comparing the quantitative changes in the share of taxes in the added value depending on the type of production and its profitability. According to the formulas proposed in it, by changing variables (material intensity, capital intensity, labor intensity, etc.), it is possible to obtain a share of the tax burden in the added value of enterprises. When using the methodology under consideration, it becomes possible to calculate the impact of increasing or decreasing tax rates and benefits on the development rate of enterprises.

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