

Tax Incidence In-Class Questions

EC313- Public Economics: Taxation

Justin Smith

Wilfrid Laurier University

Fall 2025



RTTWS Chapter 14 Problem 4

In the province of Alberta, the tax on hotel rooms is 5 percent. Supporters of this tax argue that the tax benefits the province because its payers are largely out-of-province tourists. Use the theory of tax incidence to analyze this claim.



RTTWS Chapter 14 Problem 6

Internet purchases are thought to be highly sensitive to tax rates, and applying sales taxes to all such purchases substantially reduces the number of online buyers and the amount of online spending. What are the implications for the incidence of sales taxes that include internet sales?



RTTWS Chapter 14 Problem 7

Suppose that the demand for cigarettes in a hypothetical country is given by $Q_c = 2000 - 200P_c$, where Q_c is the quantity of packs demanded and P_c is the price per pack. The supply of cigarettes is $Q_s = 200P_s$.

- find the price and quantity of cigarettes assuming the market is competitive



RTTWS Chapter 14 Problem 7

- b. In an effort to reduce smoking, the government levies a tax of \$2 per pack. Compute the quantity of cigarettes after the tax, the price paid by consumers, and the price received by producers. How much revenue does the tax raise for the government? How much revenue comes from consumers and how much from producers?

RTTWS Chapter 14 Problem 10

According to the study by Kleven, Jacobsen, Landais, and Saez (2013), the international migration decisions of top-earning European soccer players is very sensitive to income tax rates - when they tax rates they face in their own country increase substantially, they move to another country. What are the implications of this finding for the incidence of income taxes on such players? Support your answer with a graph.

RTTWS Chapter 14 Problem 11

Arnie has an income of Y and spends it only on food and music. Let P_F and P_M be the prices of food and music, respectively and denote the quantities by Q_F and Q_M . In the absence of taxes, Arnie's budget constraint is $Y = P_F Q_F + P_M Q_M$. Now suppose an ad valorem tax of 25 percent is imposed on both food and music. What income tax rate is equivalent to this commodity tax?

