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COMPARISON OF TAX BURDENS AND  
RATES ON A SINGLE PERSON,  
A HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD,  
AND A MARRIED COUPLE

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PREPARED BY THE

STAFF OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
INTERNAL REVENUE TAXATION

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# COMPARISON OF TAX BURDENS AND RATES ON A SINGLE PERSON, A HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD, AND A MARRIED COUPLE

TABLE 1.—Comparison between the present law rates of tax on a single person, with that of a head of household and a married couple by taxable income classes <sup>1</sup>

[Rates of tax—percent]

Taxable income class <sup>1</sup> (thousands)	Single person	Head of household	Excess in taxable income class of single person's rate over head of household's rate	Married couple, joint return	Excess in taxable income class of single person's rate over married couple's rate
0 to \$2.....	20	20	0	20	0
\$2 to \$4.....	22	21	1	20	2
\$4 to \$6.....	26	24	2	22	4
\$6 to \$8.....	30	26	4	22	8
\$8 to \$10.....	34	30	4	26	8
\$10 to \$12.....	38	32	6	26	12
\$12 to \$14.....	43	36	7	30	13
\$14 to \$16.....	47	39	8	30	17
\$16 to \$18.....	50	42	8	34	16
\$18 to \$20.....	53	43	10	34	19
\$20 to \$22.....	56	47	9	38	18
\$22 to \$24.....	59	49	10	38	21
\$24 to \$26.....	59	52	7	43	16
\$26 to \$28.....	62	52	10	43	19
\$28 to \$32.....	62	54	8	47	15
\$32 to \$36.....	65	58	7	50	15
\$36 to \$38.....	65	58	7	53	12
\$38 to \$40.....	69	62	7	53	16
\$40 to \$44.....	69	62	7	56	13
\$44 to \$50.....	72	66	6	59	13
\$50 to \$52.....	75	68	7	59	16
\$52 to \$60.....	75	68	7	62	13
\$60 to \$64.....	78	71	7	62	16
\$64 to \$70.....	78	71	7	65	13
\$70 to \$76.....	81	74	7	65	16
\$76 to \$80.....	81	74	7	69	12
\$80 to \$88.....	84	76	8	69	15
\$88 to \$90.....	84	76	8	72	12
\$90 to \$100.....	87	80	7	72	15
\$100 to \$120.....	89	83	6	75	14
\$120 to \$140.....	89	83	6	78	11
\$140 to \$150.....	89	83	6	81	8
\$150 to \$160.....	90	87	3	81	9
\$160 to \$180.....	90	87	3	84	6
\$180 to \$200.....	90	87	3	87	3
\$200 to \$300.....	91	90	1	89	2
\$300 to \$400.....	91	91	0	90	1
\$400 and over.....	91	91	0	91	0

<sup>1</sup> Income after all deductions and exemptions;

TABLE 2.—Comparison of the difference in the present law tax of a single person with that of a head of household and a married couple in each taxable income class and the cumulative difference at the top of each taxable income class <sup>1</sup>

Taxable income class <sup>1</sup> (thousands)	Excess of single person's tax—			
	Over head of household in taxable income class	Over head of household cumulated to top of taxable income class	Over married couple in taxable income class	Over married couple cumulated to top of taxable income class
0 to \$2	0	0	0	
\$2 to \$4	\$20	\$20	\$40	\$4
\$4 to \$6	40	60	80	12
\$6 to \$8	80	140	160	28
\$8 to \$10	80	220	160	44
\$10 to \$12	120	340	240	68
\$12 to \$14	140	480	260	94
\$14 to \$16	160	640	340	1, 28
\$16 to \$18	160	800	320	1, 60
\$18 to \$20	200	1, 000	380	1, 98
\$20 to \$22	180	1, 180	360	2, 34
\$22 to \$24	200	1, 380	420	2, 76
\$24 to \$26	140	1, 520	320	3, 08
\$26 to \$28	200	1, 720	380	3, 46
\$28 to \$32	320	2, 040	600	4, 06
\$32 to \$36	280	2, 320	600	4, 66
\$36 to \$38	140	2, 460	240	4, 90
\$38 to \$40	140	2, 600	320	5, 22
\$40 to \$44	280	2, 880	520	5, 74
\$44 to \$50	360	3, 240	780	6, 52
\$50 to \$52	140	3, 380	320	6, 84
\$52 to \$60	560	3, 940	1, 040	7, 88
\$60 to \$64	280	4, 220	640	8, 52
\$64 to \$70	420	4, 640	780	9, 30
\$70 to \$76	420	5, 060	960	10, 26
\$76 to \$80	280	5, 340	480	10, 74
\$80 to \$88	640	5, 980	1, 200	11, 94
\$88 to \$90	160	6, 140	240	12, 18
\$90 to \$100	700	6, 840	1, 500	13, 68
\$100 to \$120	1, 200	8, 040	2, 800	16, 48
\$120 to \$140	1, 200	9, 240	2, 200	18, 68
\$140 to \$150	600	9, 840	800	19, 48
\$150 to \$160	300	10, 140	900	20, 38
\$160 to \$180	600	10, 740	1, 200	21, 58
\$180 to \$200	600	11, 340	600	22, 18
\$200 to \$300	1, 000	12, 340	2, 000	24, 18
\$300 to \$400		12, 340	1, 000	25, 18
\$400 and over		12, 340		25, 18

<sup>1</sup> Income after all deductions and exemptions;

Table 3 compares the tax liability under present law of a married couple with no dependents with that of a head of household with one dependent. This table shows the benefits of full income splitting received by a married couple as compared with the tax of a head of household who receives approximately one-half the full income splitting benefits.

TABLE 3.—*Comparison of the present law tax liability of a married couple with no dependents and head of household with 1 dependent*

Net income (income after deductions but before exemptions)	Tax liability		Difference in tax of married couple compared with head of household	
	Married couple, no dependents	Head of household, 1 dependent	Amount	Percent
\$5,000-----	\$760	\$778	\$18	2.3
\$10,000-----	1,888	2,060	172	8.3
\$25,000-----	6,724	8,082	1,358	16.8
\$50,000-----	19,592	22,788	3,196	14.0
\$100,000-----	52,776	59,520	6,744	11.3
\$500,000-----	403,548	416,388	12,840	3.1

Table 4 compares the individual income-tax liability between a single person and a married couple for the years 1944-45 with that under present law.

This table illustrates the change in the relative burden of a single person as compared with that of a married couple. For example, in 1944-45 a single person with a net income of \$10,000 paid \$2,755 in tax, a married couple \$2,585, or \$170 less than the single person; this difference was due to exemptions. Under present law this difference amounts to \$548; this difference is due to exemptions and split income. As shown in the table, the relative difference in the percent of net income taken in tax between the single person and a married couple is greater under present law than in the period 1944-45 for all classes shown.

TABLE 4.—Comparison between the individual income-tax liabilities of a single person with no dependents and a married couple<sup>1</sup> with no dependents for the years 1944-45 with that under present law

Marital status	Net income (income after deductions but before exemptions)	Tax liability		Percent of net income taken in tax	
		1944-45	Present law	1944-45	Present law
Single.....	\$2,000	\$345	\$280	17.3	14.0
Married couple.....	2,000	245	160	12.3	8.0
Excess, single over married.....		100	120	5.0	6.0
Single.....	3,000	585	488	19.5	16.3
Married couple.....	3,000	475	360	15.8	12.0
Excess, single over married.....		110	128	3.7	4.3
Single.....	5,000	1,105	944	22.1	18.9
Married couple.....	5,000	975	760	19.5	15.2
Excess, single over married.....		130	184	2.6	3.7
Single.....	10,000	2,755	2,436	27.6	24.4
Married couple.....	10,000	2,585	1,888	25.9	18.9
Excess, single over married.....		170	548	1.7	5.5

See footnotes at end of table, p. 5.

TABLE 4.—Comparison between the individual income-tax liabilities of a single person with no dependents and a married couple<sup>1</sup> with no dependents for the years 1944-45 with that under present law—Continued

Marital status	Net income (income after deductions but before exemptions)	Tax liability		Percent of net income taken in tax	
		1944-45	Present law	1944-45	Present law
Single.....	\$15,000	\$4,930	\$4,448	32.9	29.7
Married couple.....	15,000	4,695	3,260	31.3	21.7
Excess, single over married.....		235	1,188	1.6	8.0
Single.....	20,000	7,580	6,942	37.9	34.7
Married couple.....	20,000	7,315	4,872	36.6	24.4
Excess, single over married.....		265	2,070	1.3	10.3
Single.....	25,000	10,590	9,796	42.4	39.2
Married couple.....	25,000	10,295	6,724	41.2	26.9
Excess, single over married.....		295	3,072	1.2	12.3
Single.....	50,000	27,945	26,388	55.9	52.8
Married couple.....	50,000	27,585	19,592	55.2	39.2
Excess, single over married.....		360	6,796	.7	13.6
Single.....	100,000	69,870	66,798	69.9	66.8
Married couple.....	100,000	69,435	52,776	69.4	52.8
Excess, single over married.....		435	14,022	.5	14.0
Single.....	500,000	444,350	429,274	88.9	85.9
Married couple.....	500,000	443,895	403,548	88.8	80.7
Excess, single over married.....		455	25,726	.1	5.2
Single.....	1,000,000	<sup>2</sup> 900,000	<sup>3</sup> 869,478	<sup>2</sup> 90.0	<sup>3</sup> 86.9
Married couple.....	1,000,000	<sup>2</sup> 900,000	858,548	<sup>2</sup> 90.0	85.9
Excess, single over married.....			10,930		1.0

<sup>1</sup> Income earned by 1 spouse.<sup>2</sup> Maximum effective rate limitation of 90 percent on net income.<sup>3</sup> Maximum effective rate limitation of 87 percent on taxable income.

Table 5 compares the individual income-tax liability between a head of a household and a married couple for the years 1944-45 with that under present law. In 1944-45 a married couple or a head of a household paid the same tax. Under the present law the head of a household pays more than a married couple except where the taxable income is not over \$2,000.

TABLE 5.—Comparison between the individual income-tax liabilities of a head of a household with 1 dependent and a married couple<sup>1</sup> with no dependents for the years 1944-45 with that under present law

Marital status	Net income (income after deductions but before exemptions)	Tax liability		Percent of net income taken in tax	
		1944-45	Present law	1944-45	Present law
Head of household.....	\$3,000	\$475	\$360	15.8	12.0
Married couple.....	3,000	475	360	15.8	12.0
Excess, head of household over married couples.....					
Head of household.....	5,000	975	778	19.5	15.6
Married couple.....	5,000	975	760	19.5	15.2
Excess, head of household over married couple.....			18		.4
Head of household.....	10,000	2,585	2,060	25.9	20.6
Married couple.....	10,000	2,585	1,888	25.9	18.9
Excess, head of household over married couple.....			172		1.7
Head of household.....	15,000	4,695	3,708	31.3	24.7
Married couple.....	15,000	4,695	3,260	31.3	21.7
Excess, head of household over married couple.....			448		3.0
Head of household.....	20,000	7,315	5,744	36.6	28.7
Married couple.....	20,000	7,315	4,872	36.6	24.4
Excess, head of household over married couple.....			872		4.3

See footnotes at end of table, p. 7.

TABLE 5.—Comparison between the individual income-tax liabilities of a head of a household with 1 dependent and a married couple<sup>1</sup> with no dependents for the years 1944-45 with that under present law—Continued

Marital status	Net income (income after deductions but before exemptions)	Tax liability		Percent of net income taken in tax	
		1944-45	Present law	1944-45	Present law
Head of household.....	\$25, 000	\$10, 295	\$8, 082	41. 2	32. 3
Married couple.....	25, 000	10, 295	6, 724	41. 2	26. 9
Excess, head of household over married couple.....			1, 358		5. 4
Head of household.....	50, 000	27, 585	22, 788	55. 2	45. 6
Married couple.....	50, 000	27, 585	19, 592	55. 2	39. 2
Excess, head of household over married couple.....			3, 196		6. 4
Head of household.....	100, 000	69, 435	59, 520	69. 4	59. 5
Married couple.....	100, 000	69, 435	52, 776	69. 4	52. 8
Excess, head of household over married couple.....			6, 744		6. 7
Head of household.....	500, 000	443, 895	416, 388	88. 8	83. 3
Married couple.....	500, 000	443, 895	403, 548	88. 8	80. 7
Excess, head of household over married couple.....			12, 840		2. 6
Head of household.....	1, 000, 000	<sup>2</sup> 900, 000	<sup>3</sup> 868, 956	<sup>2</sup> 90. 0	<sup>3</sup> 86. 9
Married couple.....	1, 000, 000	<sup>2</sup> 900, 000	858, 548	<sup>2</sup> 90. 0	85. 9
Excess, head of household over married couple.....			10, 408		1. 0

<sup>1</sup> Income earned by 1 spouse.

<sup>2</sup> Maximum effective rate limitation of 90 percent on net income.

<sup>3</sup> Maximum effective rate limitation of 87 percent on taxable income.

TABLE 6.—*Comparison of the present law marginal rates of tax on individuals in Canada and the United States*

Taxable income (thousands)	Canadian rate <sup>1</sup>	United States rate for—		
		Single person	Head of household	Married couple joint return
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
0 to \$1	15	20	20	20
\$1 to \$2	17	20	20	20
\$2 to \$4	19	22	21	20
\$4 to \$6	22	26	24	22
\$6 to \$8	26	30	26	22
\$8 to \$10	30	34	30	24
\$10 to \$12	35	38	32	26
\$12 to \$14	40	43	36	30
\$14 to \$15	40	47	39	30
\$15 to \$16	45	47	39	30
\$16 to \$18	45	50	42	32
\$18 to \$20	45	53	43	32
\$20 to \$22	45	56	47	32
\$22 to \$24	45	59	49	32
\$24 to \$25	45	59	52	42
\$25 to \$26	50	59	52	42
\$26 to \$28	50	62	52	42
\$28 to \$32	50	62	54	42
\$32 to \$36	50	65	58	52
\$36 to \$38	50	65	58	52
\$38 to \$40	50	69	62	52
\$40 to \$44	55	69	62	52
\$44 to \$50	55	72	66	52
\$50 to \$52	55	75	68	52
\$52 to \$60	55	75	68	62
\$60 to \$64	60	78	71	62
\$64 to \$70	60	78	71	62
\$70 to \$76	60	81	74	62
\$76 to \$80	60	81	74	62
\$80 to \$88	60	84	76	62
\$88 to \$90	60	84	76	72
\$90 to \$100	65	87	80	72
\$100 to \$120	65	89	83	72
\$120 to \$125	65	89	83	72
\$125 to \$140	70	89	83	72
\$140 to \$150	70	89	83	82
\$150 to \$160	70	90	87	82
\$160 to \$180	70	90	87	82
\$180 to \$200	70	90	87	82
\$200 to \$225	70	91	90	82
\$225 to \$300	75	91	90	82
\$300 to \$400	75	91	91	92
\$400 and over	80	91	91	92

<sup>1</sup> Does not include the 2-percent old-age security tax on the 1st \$3,000 of income which is considered part of the Canadian income tax.

TABLE 7.—Comparison of the present law individual income-tax burdens in Canada and the United States

Income after deductions but before personal exemptions <sup>1</sup>	Canada <sup>2</sup>			United States		
	Single person, no dependents	Married couple, no dependents	Difference in amount of tax of single person over that of married couple	Single person, no dependents	Married couple, no dependents	Difference in amount of tax of single person over that of married couple
\$1,000-----				\$80		\$80
\$2,000-----	\$170		\$170	280	\$160	120
\$3,000-----	360	\$170	190	488	360	128
\$4,000-----	570	360	210	708	560	148
\$5,000-----	760	570	190	944	760	184
\$8,000-----	1,460	1,200	260	1,780	1,416	364
\$10,000-----	2,020	1,720	300	2,436	1,888	548
\$15,000-----	3,820	3,420	400	4,448	3,260	1,188
\$20,000-----	6,020	5,570	450	6,942	4,872	2,070
\$25,000-----	8,270	7,820	450	9,796	6,724	3,072
\$50,000-----	21,874	21,324	550	26,388	19,592	6,796
\$100,000-----	53,774	53,124	650	66,798	52,776	14,022
\$500,000-----	367,124	366,324	800	429,274	403,548	25,726
\$1,000,000-----	787,124	786,324	800	<sup>3</sup> 869,478	858,548	10,930

<sup>1</sup> Assumes all income up to \$30,000 is earned income and all income over \$30,000 is investment income other than dividend income.

<sup>2</sup> Includes the 2-percent old-age security tax on the 1st \$3,000 of income.

<sup>3</sup> Takes into account the maximum effective rate limitation of 87 percent of taxable income.

