

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910219908903321
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Titolo	Shadow Economies Around the World : : Size, Causes, and Consequences / / Friedrich Schneider, Dominik Enste
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C. : , : International Monetary Fund, , 2000
ISBN	1-4623-2787-7 1-4527-9267-4 1-281-60577-8 1-4518-9213-6 9786613786463
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (56 pages)
Collana	IMF Working Papers
Altri autori (Persone)	EnsteDominik
Soggetti	Macroeconomics Money and Monetary Policy Taxation Economics: General Informal Economy Underground Econom Taxation, Subsidies, and Revenue: General Monetary Systems Standards Regimes Government and the Monetary System Payment Systems Labor Economics: General Economics of specific sectors Public finance & taxation Monetary economics Labour income economics Informal economy Currencies Labor Tax incidence Marginal effective tax rate Informal sector Economics Tax administration and procedure

Money
Labor economics
Income economics
United States

Lingua di pubblicazione

Inglese

Formato

Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico

Monografia

Note generali

Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph

Sommario/riassunto

This paper presents estimates of the size of the shadow economy in 76 developing, transition, and OECD countries, which are derived by combining figures from different estimation methods. We describe and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the different estimation methods. We find that the growth of the shadow economy—which is now remarkably large in the 76 countries—is strongly related to increasing burdens of taxation and social security contributions, as well as to the extent of state regulatory activities. Rising corruption also has a clearly positive impact on the growth of the shadow economy.