Record Nr. UNISA996320655803316 How to feed the World's growing Billions: understanding FAO world **Titolo** food projections and their implications; world population, agriculture, consumption Berlin, : Heinrich Böll Stiftung, WWF Deutschland Pubbl/distr/stampa Altri autori (Persone) Grethe, Harald Duman, Nuray Dembélé, Assa Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia 2. Record Nr. UNINA9910957404003321 Autore Tervala Juha **Titolo** Tax Reforms, "Free Lunches", and "Cheap Lunches" in Open Economies // Juha Tervala, Giovanni Ganelli Washington, D.C.:,: International Monetary Fund,, 2008 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 9786612841781 9781462343683 1462343686 9781452713762 1452713766

9781451870855 145187085X 9781282841789 1282841785

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (32 p.)

**IMF** Working Papers Collana

IMF working paper; ; WP/08/227

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336.2 Disciplina

Soggetti Taxation - Econometric models

Public welfare - Econometric models

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Lingua di pubblicazione

Inglese

**Formato** 

Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico

Monografia

Note generali

Description based upon print version of record.

Nota di bibliografia

Includes bibliographical references.

Nota di contenuto

Contents; I. Introduction; II. The Model; A. Households; B. The Government; C. Firms; D. The Initial Steady State; III. Parameterization; IV. The Domestic and International Effects of a Cut in the Income Tax Rate; A. The Impact on the Domestic Economy; B. The International Effects; V. Consumption Tax Cuts; VI. A Revenue Neutral Tax Reform; VII. Sensitivity Analysis; VII. Conclusions; Appendix; References

Sommario/riassunto

This paper focuses on the macroeconomic and budgetary impact of tax reforms in a New Keynesian two-country model. Our results show that both income and consumption unilateral tax rate reductions do not constitute a "free lunch", in the sense that they have negative budgetary consequences for the country which implements them. In addition, the degree of self-financing implied by our model is in the 8½-24 percent range. Since the degree of self-financing estimated in previous literature was larger, we conclude that in our model not only the "lunch" is not "free", but is also not that "cheap". A comparison of alternative (income-tax versus consumption-tax based) fiscal stimulus packages shows that consumption tax cuts imply a larger short-run impact on domestic output but the income tax cuts stimulate the domestic economy more in the long run. We also look at the implications of a revenue-neutral tax reform in which consumption taxes are increased to compensate for lower income tax collection.