

Fiscal Policy's Function in Reducing Economic Downturn

Hussein Shnawa Majeed

Department of Economics, College of Administration and Economics, Wasit University, Iraq

Mustafa Mahdi Abdulridha

Department of Economics, College of Administration and Economics, Wasit University, Iraq

 <https://orcid.org/0009-0007-2347-1517>

Noor Mohammed Kadhim

Department of Educational and Psychological Sciences

College of Education for Humanities, Wasit University, Iraq

OPEN ACCESS

Manuscript ID:
ECO-2024-12048124

Volume: 12

Issue: 4

Month: September

Year: 2024

P-ISSN: 2319-961X

E-ISSN: 2582-0192

Received: 23.07.2024

Accepted: 26.08.2024

Published: 01.09.2024

Citation:
Majeed, Hussein Shnawa, et al. "Fiscal Policy's Function in Reducing Economic Downturn." *Shanlax International Journal of Economics*, vol. 12, no. 4, 2024, pp. 11-15.

DOI:
<https://doi.org/10.34293/economics.v12i4.8124>



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License

Abstract

*Fiscal policy drives a nation's economic activity by taxing and spending by the government. It is essential for preventing economic downturns. Generally, it operates as follows: A rise in government spending Business and consumer spending typically decreases during recessions, which lowers the economy's total demand. The government can spend more on infrastructure, services, and public initiatives to make up for this. Quick economic stimulation results in more demand for goods and services as well as the creation of jobs. **Tax Rebates:** Lower taxes generate more cash for businesses and consumers alike. More money is available for both individuals and companies to invest in and expand their businesses. It is possible to counteract the drop in private sector demand by increasing spending and investment. **Transfer Payments:** The government may also raise transfer payments to pay for social security, unemployment insurance, and other welfare programs. These payments shield the purchasing power of those who are adversely affected by the recession and aid in stabilizing the economy. **Automatic Stabilizers:** Without the need for new legislation, some components of fiscal policy automatically promote economic stabilization. For instance, lower-class and impoverished households benefit from automatic stabilizers that reduce taxes in reaction to slower economic development and falling revenues. Unemployment insurance and progressive income taxes are two instances of these stabilizers. As a result, aggregate demand is sustained. **Debt and Budget Deficits:** During a recession, the government may have a budget deficit if expenditure exceeds revenue. This may lead to an increase in the national debt, but this is typically justified as a benefit to the economy. The theory is that the economy will eventually recover from the short-term debt increase due to the stimulus's long-term impacts, improving the country's financial situation. **The Multiplier Effect:** The economy may be impacted in a number of ways by the government's increased expenditure and tax incentives. For example, when the government funds a new infrastructure project, the workers employed to complete it spend their earnings on goods and services, increasing demand and economic activity as well as the profits of themselves and other firms. Generally speaking, the goal of fiscal policy is to boost the economy during recessions in order to lessen their severity and hasten their recovery.*

Keywords: Fiscal Policy, Economic Downturn, Tax Rebates

Introduction

The use of taxes and public funds to influence the economic activity of a country is called monetary policy. Fiscal policy is necessary to sustain and grow the economy in a recession, where output falls, unemployment rises and consumer spending falls Governments can prevent negative effects from counteract the effects of a recession in a variety of ways, including increasing aggregate demand, enhancing economic growth and reducing the cost of human and infrastructure In order for this plan to go maintaining it requires increases in public spending, reforms in the tax code, and specific measures to plan for a recession, and recovery from it

requires they understand the function and effectiveness of monetary policy in times of economic crisis.

Fiscal policy is essential to control the economic cycle and mitigate the effects of a recession. Specifically, fiscal policy refers to the choices made by governments about taxation and spending that can affect the state of the economy as a whole. Fiscal policy can help stabilize growth and boost growth during periods of economic crisis, notably lower consumer spending, corporate investment and higher unemployment and public debt. All government spending on social programs, infrastructure, and public services contributes directly to economic growth. This increases demand for goods and services and can lead to increased employment and economic expansion. Similarly, tax cuts encourage investment and consumption by increasing the amount of money available to businesses and consumers.

The timeliness, quality, and structure of the policies put in place determine how effectively monetary policy mitigates economic distress. The pace of economic growth can be accelerated by timely and well-targeted initiatives to offset the loss of personal needs. However, there are also drawbacks, such as the need for efficiency and the potential for loss of revenue.

Statement of the Study

A recession can be avoided by implementing fiscal policy, which uses taxation and government spending to expand and stabilize the economy. Aggregate demand decreases during a recession because consumer and labor income are reduced. Waste, the economy could stabilize. The government can respond by reducing taxes to increase disposable income, increasing funding for public works programs and services, and increasing other subsidies unemployed individuals. These policies aim to increase demand, create jobs, and further economic expansion. The government can create fiscal constraints as needed to invest in the economy, mitigate the effects of a recession and accelerate recovery.

Objectives of the Study

The aim of fiscal policy to combat the recession is to.

Increase aggregate demand: Cut taxes to offset the decline in private spending, while increasing overall government spending.

Employment incentives: We can reduce the negative effects of unemployment and underemployment by increasing incomes by creating jobs through government programs and other transfer payments.

Enhancing economic growth: Encourage consumer spending and investment to help the economy recover and grow over the long term.

Mitigating the effects of financial crises: Financial crises can be made less frequent and longer lasting through the implementation of prompt and efficient monetary policy.

Maintaining Economic Stability: To reduce swings and promote more stable economic performance, use fiscal mechanisms to balance the business cycle.

Methodology

The descriptive approach was used in the paper's methodology.

The countercyclical fiscal policy: In an effort to boost demand, governments may lower taxes or boost spending during recessions. To prevent becoming too hot, they might, however, cut spending or raise taxes during periods of strong economic growth.

Expansionary Fiscal Policy: To stimulate economic activity during a recession, the government may implement policies like raising employment in the public sector, funding infrastructure projects, or lowering taxes.

Gap of Study

The long-term efficacy and potential unintended consequences of fiscal policy's mechanisms, which include increased government spending, tax cuts, transfer payments, and automatic stabilizers, are still up for debate, despite the fact that they are largely accepted as essential tools for easing economic downturns. Up until now, most research has concentrated on the short-term consequences of fiscal interventions during recessions; however, little

is known about the long-term effects of these policies on income inequality, economic resilience, and debt sustainability. Comprehensive research is required to evaluate the trade-offs between short-term economic stimulus and long-term fiscal health, as well as the differences in the effects of fiscal policies on different socioeconomic groups and geographic areas.

Fiscal Policy’s Function

The following are some of the main ways that fiscal policy affects and regulates a country’s economy.

Fiscal policy changes government spending and taxes to minimize unpredictable economic growth. There are two methods to boost demand and expenditure during a recession are reducing taxes and raising spending. Conversely, reducing expenses and raising taxes can be useful in managing inflation and avoiding bubbles in times of economic overheating. Control of economic demand is managed through monetary policy.

During periods of economic downturn, a rise in demand can be attained by either cutting taxes or raising government expenditures. Implementing a relaxed monetary policy, like reducing expenditures or increasing taxes, can help prevent the economy from becoming too hot during periods of robust economic growth.

The federal budget employs public funds to sustain necessary public services like health, education, and infrastructure. These investments play a crucial role in fostering sustainable economic development, enhancing productivity, and increasing the overall quality of life.

Economic policy seeks to help low-income individuals and families by reducing income inequality through the progressive introduction of tax and social welfare programs This maintains social order there and enables the equitable distribution of economic benefits.

Choosing the amount of borrowing by the government and controlling its debt are two parts of the budget. Governments aim to maintain economic growth and prevent excessive debt that can choke spending and balance the budget and burden future generations.

Economic policy encourages investment and innovation in the private sector by creating the conditions for this effort. Expenditure on infrastructure.

Monetary Policy

Governments use different institutions and practices, but two important tools for controlling economic activity are developed Major economic objectives are monetary and fiscal policy. They work beautifully Together they help each other in this way Federal Reserve, U.S. the central bank conducts monetary policy.

The cost of the monetary policy that controls the supply of money and interest rates which will affect economic activity.

Objectives

- Control the rate of inflation.
- Limit the number of employees
- Maintain stable currency rates and encourage economic expansion

Recommendations

For progressive taxation, higher taxes are applied to higher incomes to keep the economy stable and stable. Debt management involves formulating strategies to reduce and control a country’s debt without impeding economic growth.

Automatic Stabilizers: Use mechanisms that adjust to inflation such as progressive tax rates and unemployment benefits to reduce inflation,

Transparency and accountability: Ensuring that budgetary decisions are made with transparency and accountability is essential for public confidence and effectiveness.

Measures to combat cyclical fiscal changes: tightening the economy, increasing spending or cutting taxes in recessions and reducing spending or raising taxes has increased in developing times.

Summary

Government budgeting, including taxation and spending, is critical to preventing a recession. A collection of its characteristics is presented here.

Spending by consumers and businesses generally falls during recessions, highlighting the need for

government spending in the form of stimulus. Increased funding for infrastructure and public services like education could be the solution the government decides to pursue to solve this problem. This inflow can increase consumer demand, stimulate economic growth, and create job opportunities.

Tax cuts include lowering taxes in order to maximize revenue for individuals and businesses. This increase in disposable income can increase consumer spending and infrastructure investment, ultimately boosting economic growth, automated monetary policies can reduce the effort needed to make explicit additional efforts to improve monetary efficiency. Progressive tax rates and unemployment benefits contribute to lower taxes and increased government spending during recessions, with opposite effects, during recessionary times, governments tend to run budgets because spending exceeds revenue on stimulus programs. While public debt can be effective, it is generally considered necessary to boost economic growth and prevent a potential recession, focused assistance: In addition to infrastructure assistance and financial assistance to low-income families, budgets can also include targeted services. With these measures, we can help those most affected by the crisis and protect vital economic resources

In conclusion, fiscal policy stimulates aggregate demand by increasing government spending, which leads to tax cuts.

Result

The effectiveness of fiscal policy in preventing recessions relies on proactive measures to maintain stability and economic growth. Counter-Cyclical Spending is crucial, where governments can save funds during economic growth periods to invest in public services, infrastructure, and innovation. By maintaining a strong economy and avoiding excessive heat, this approach can reduce the chance of a future economic downturn. Preventing economic overheating can be achieved through implementing progressive tax laws and adjusting tax rates. Tax increases, for instance, could restrict excessive demand and reduce the risk of inflation in periods of economic expansion, thus preventing the burst of

an economic bubble. During periods of economic growth, governments can operate with a surplus in their budget, allowing them to create financial reserves. The funds from these reserves are used to fund stimulus programs, support the economy in times of recession, and protect against future economic shocks. Changes are made to regulations in fiscal policies to enhance financial stability and discourage risky behavior that could lead to economic downturns. When markets and financial institutions are regulated effectively, systemic risks are decreased.

References

- Alesina, Alberto, and Roberto Perotti. "Fiscal Expansions and Adjustments in OECD Countries." *Economic Policy*, vol. 10, no. 21, 1995, pp. 205-48.
- Auerbach, Alan J., and Yuriy Gorodnichenko. "Measuring the Output Responses to Fiscal Policy." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2012, pp. 1-27.
- DeLong, J. Bradford, et al. "Fiscal Policy in a Depressed Economy." *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 2012.
- Ilzetzki, Ethan, and Carlos A. Végh. "Procyclical Fiscal Policy in Developing Countries: Truth or Fiction?". *NBER No. 14191*, 2008.
- Keightley, Mark P. *Fiscal Policy Considerations for the Next Recession*. Congressional Research Service, 2019.
- Mankiw, N. Gregory. "A Quick Refresher Course in Macroeconomics." *Journal of Economic Literature*, vol. 28, 1990, pp. 1645-60.
- Marshall, Alfred. *Principles of Economics*. Macmillan and Company, 1890.
- Mendez-Carbajo, Diego, et al. "Building a Taylor Rule using FRED." *Journal of Economics Teaching*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2017, pp. 14-29.
- Romer, Christina D. "Fiscal Policy and Economic Recovery." *Business Economics*, vol. 44, 2009, pp. 132-35.
- Roy, Rathin, and Raquel Almeida Ramos. "IMF Article IV Reports: An Analysis of Policy Recommendations." *Working Paper No. 86*, 2012.

Author Details

Hussein Shnawa Majeed, *Department of Economics, College of Administration and Economics, Wasit University, Iraq*

Mustafa Mahdi Abdulridha, *Department of Economics, College of Administration and Economics, Wasit University, Iraq, Email ID: mabdulridha@uowasit.edu.iq*

Noor Mohammed Kadhim, *Department of Educational and Psychological Sciences, College of Education for Humanities, Wasit University, Iraq*