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НАЛОГОВАЯ СИСТЕМА ВЕЛИКОБРИТАНИИ

Р. Н. Хусаинова

Павлодарский государственный университет им. С. Торайгырова

Мақалда Ұлы Британияның салық жүйесі талдап жіктеленген; Британиялық үкіметінің салықтарды жинау жүйесінде реформалар және салықтар жіктеуі туралы жазылған.

В статье рассматривается налоговая система Великобритании; описываются реформы Британского правительства в системе сбора налогов, а также виды налогов в Соединенном Королевстве.

The article is devoted to the tax system of Great Britain; UK's Government taxation system reforms and types of taxes are described.

The development of Britain's tax system has been based on certain general principles, which have had a continuing influence despite changes in government and policy objectives.

The present Government's economic objective is to achieve high and stable levels of growth and employment. Recently these reforms has been developed in the United Kingdom's tax system:

– helping to raise productivity by providing support for small businesses and encouragement of the commerce sector;

– removing more of the old barriers to new investment through reductions in capital gains tax;

– improving public services with extra monies allocated to the National Health Service, education, tackling crime and improving transport;

– providing extra support for low income families and pensioners;

– introducing measures and reforms to ensure that everyone who is able to work has the chance to do so;

– protecting the environment through reforms to vehicle excise duty and company car taxation, an increase in landfill tax to promote better waste management, and other measures.

Taxation is the principle source of revenue that finances central government expenditure, accounting for over three quarters in 2000-2001. Most of the remainder comes from National Insurance contributions (NICs), which are deducted as a percentage of earnings. This money is administered separately from revenue collected in taxes and duties. The Department responsible for determining the levels of revenue to be raised to finance central government expenditure is Her Majesty's Treasury.

In general, local authorities are responsible for deciding their own levels of expenditure. The majority of local authority spending is financed by grants from central government and business rates. The rest is met from the council tax and surpluses on trading and rents. Any shortfall of total receipts in relation to expenditure is met by borrowing.

The principal sources of national tax revenue are:

– taxes on income, which include income tax, corporation tax and petroleum revenue tax;

– taxes on capital, namely capital gains tax and inheritance tax;

– taxes on expenditure and on the ownership or use of certain assets. These include value added tax (VAT), excise duties, customs duties and stamp duties;

– the council tax and business rates.

As it was mentioned above, the UK Government's central economic objective is to achieve high and stable levels of growth and employment. In meeting this objective the Government wants to encourage a fair society in which everyone can share in higher living standards and wider job opportunities, and to see economic development taking place in a way that respects the environment.

Stable public finances are a key requirement for long-term economic stability. The Government's fiscal policy is guided by strict rules:

– that over the economic cycle the Government will borrow only to invest, and that current spending will be met from taxation;

– that public debt as a proportion of national income will be held over the economic cycle at a stable and prudent level.

– these rules require that current taxpayers pay for current spending since they enjoy its benefits.

Taxes on income include a graduated system of income tax, corporation tax and oil taxes.

In general, income tax is charged on all income – including wages, salaries, profit, rent, interest, dividends, annuities and pensions – accruing to residents in the United Kingdom from sources both within the country and abroad. Non-cash benefits given by companies to their employees, such as the private use of a company car, can also be taxed. Income tax is levied progressively so that it falls proportionately more heavily on those with higher incomes. Incomes below a certain level are exempt from tax.

Income tax has the largest yield of any single tax in Britain. It was first introduced in 1799, at a standard rate of 10 per cent, to meet the need for finance during the Napoleonic wars, and has been a central element in Britain's tax system since 1842.

There are a number of exemptions from liability to income tax. These include:

– commitment to regular contributions from earnings linked to an employee share option scheme;

– savings deposited in an Individual Savings Account (ISA). This account was introduced in April 1999 and offers tax-free saving through cash deposits, stocks and shares, or life insurance, and is guaranteed to last for at least 10 years. The maximum subscription to the account is 7000 pounds per tax year;

– income from certain educational scholarships;

– many social security benefits.

Charities are exempt from income tax on most of their income provided that it is applied for charitable purposes only.

The amount of tax charged is graduated by means of allowances and reliefs, and different tax rates. Income tax is generally charged at one or three rates, depending on the level of taxable income. The rates are as follows:

– 10 per cent starting rate on the first 1520 pounds of taxable income;

– 22 per cent basic rate on taxable income between 1521 pounds and 28400 pounds;

– 40 per cent higher rate on taxable income above 28400 pounds.

All companies resident in the UK, non-resident companies trading in the UK through a branch or agency, corporate bodies and incorporated associations are subject to corporation tax on their profits. Local authorities are exempt.

There is a special system of taxation for profits arising from the production of oil and gas under licence in Britain and from the United Kingdom Continental Shelf. There are three principal sources of revenue: licence royalty, petroleum revenue tax and corporation tax, levied in that order. Licence royalty is 12,5 per cent of the value of oil and gas landed.

Inheritance tax applies to transfers of assets made on, and up to seven years before, the donor's death. It is chargeable for seven-year period.

Value added tax is a general tax on consumer expenditure. It applies to a wide range of home-produced goods and services and to imported goods, either for personal or business use. VAT also applies to certain imported services. Any business with a taxable turnover of 52000 pounds or more a year must be registered for Value Added Tax. Traders with a lower turnover may apply for voluntary registration.

As a member of the European Union, Britain applies the European Community Common Customs Tariff to goods from outside the EU. A principal feature of the EU is that it is a customs union. This means that goods that are produced in a member state, or goods that have paid customs duty on importation into a member state, are free to circulate within the rest of the EU without any liability to pay further customs charges.

The aim of the landfill tax is to encourage businesses and consumers to produce less waste, to dispose of less waste in landfill sites and to recover value from waste, for instance by recycling.

Insurance premium tax (IPT) is charged on insurance premiums where the associated risk is in the UK at the standard rate of 5 per cent or at the higher rate of 17 per cent. The standard rate applies to most general insurance, the higher rate to certain premiums relating to insurance for domestic appliances, motor vehicles and travel insurance. However, IPT does not apply to most types of long-term insurance, such as life insurance and pensions.

LITERATURE

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