

Holding corporations and CEOs accountable

Historically, our nation has enjoyed a well-educated and trained workforce, a robust interstate transportation system and an economy that is conducive to business development. All of these features support a competitive and advantageous business climate, which is why **nearly 30 percent of the world's top 2,000 firms have headquarters in the United States.**

The basic educational, physical and economic infrastructure that allows business to thrive is paid for with tax dollars, meaning all of us—including corporations—have a tremendous stake in ensuring our federal government raises the revenue it needs to maintain an environment in which corporations can create jobs and help build the economy.

But as it is, corporations are not contributing their fair share.

In fact, corporate taxes as a percent of GDP declined from a high of 7.1 percent in 1945 to just 1.7 percent today.

ITEP's corporate tax work focuses on the tax-paying habits of corporations, especially those in the Fortune 500. Our researchers carefully examine corporate filings and maintain and publish current and historic accounts of taxes paid (or not) by individual companies. Our work informs policymakers, media and the public about how current tax laws enable corporate tax avoidance and highlight the effect this has on the federal government's ability to raise adequate revenue.

The effectiveness of our work is reflected in public opinion.

The vast majority of taxpayers believe corporations are not paying their fair share, and the recent corporate tax cuts are immensely unpopular. But there is far more work to be done to ensure our federal tax policies raise adequate revenue from corporations that continue to benefit substantially from the economy that our collective tax dollars make possible.

With your support, ITEP can continue this critical research and outreach to fix broken corporate tax codes and hold corporations accountable for contributing their fair share.



OUR WORK IN ACTION

Since 1984, ITEP has released corporate studies on average effective tax rates paid by the nation's largest, most profitable corporations.

The 35 Percent Corporate Tax Myth, released in 2017, analyzes data from corporations that were consistently profitable over an eight-year period, finding that, on average, they paid substantially less than the statutory federal tax rate, in some cases zero or less.

Our work is continually cited in prominent national and local publications, including *The New York Times*, *Bloomberg*, *CNBC*, *The Washington Post* and *The Atlantic*, among others.

Research and advocacy organizations, including the Institute for Policy Studies and Public Citizen, have used ITEP research findings to educate consumers and taxpayers on corporate tax behaviors.