Tax and benefit measures

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Taxes and benefits in the Budget



No huge changes, but some modest reforms to...

- 1. Alcohol and fuel duties
- 2. Universal Credit
- 3. Business taxes

Also an £11,850 personal allowance and £46,350 higher rate threshold

unchanged in real terms

'Inevitable' freeze in fuel duties...

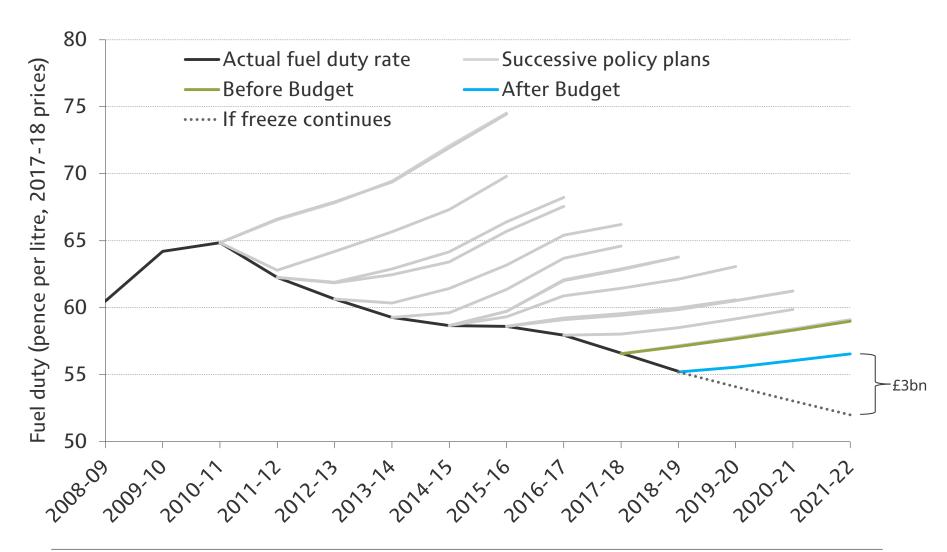


'Inevitable' freeze in fuel duty rates costs £800m

 8th consecutive year Government has frozen fuel duty – bringing the total cost of freezes since 2010 to over £6bn p.a.

'Inevitable' freeze in fuel duties...





'Inevitable' freeze in fuel duties... ...alongside other 'traditional' cuts to alcohol duties



'Inevitable' freeze in fuel duty rates costs £800m

- 8th consecutive year Government has frozen fuel duty policy bringing the total cost of freezes since 2010 to over £6bn p.a.
- Yet Government forecasts still assume fuel duties will rise: but continuing to do last minute freezes flatters the public finances

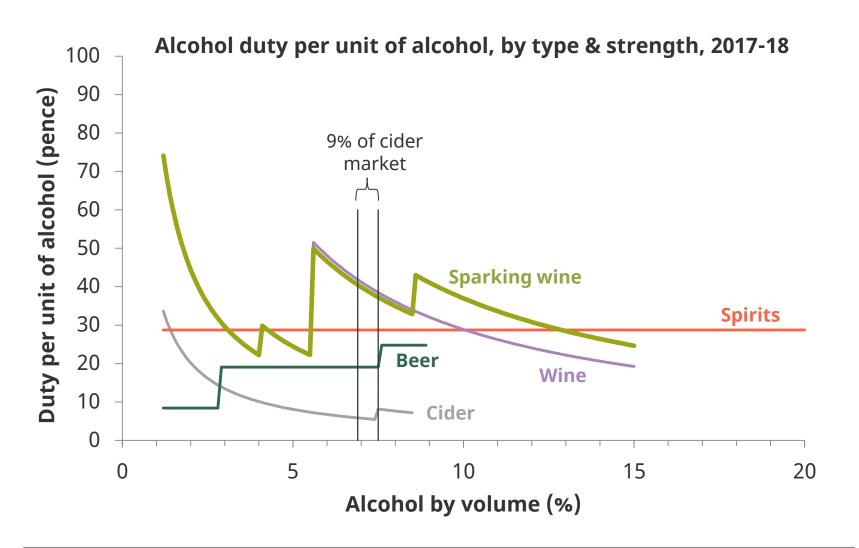
Government also announced a 'traditional' freeze in alcohol duties

6th real terms cut since 2010, bringing total cost to £1bn annually

... and an increase in duty on higher-strength cider from 2019

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Changes to universal credit

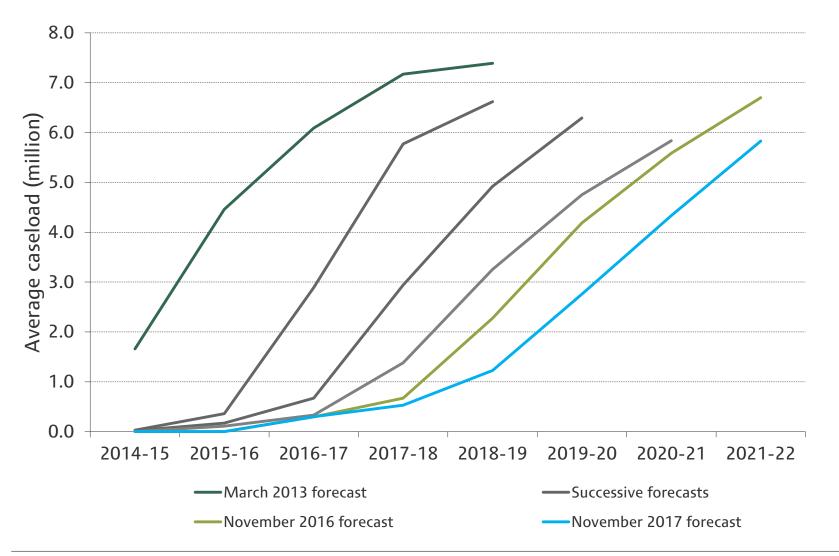


Universal credit (UC) replacing six major means-tested benefits

- Large potential benefits from simplification and getting rid of very weakest work incentives
- Currently c. 600k claimants, rising to 7m by 2022-23
- But number of issues with roll-out delayed again yesterday

Plans for rolling out UC - a history





Changes to universal credit



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3 changes announced yesterday to designed to address 'six-week wait'

- Abolition of 7-day waiting period reduces wait for first normal UC payment from 6 to 5 weeks
- 2. Advance loans now up to 100% of expected entitlement prev. 50% cap.
- 3. Can now still get housing benefit for first two weeks of UC claim Processing (few days)

Total giveaway of £330m in 2019-20 - declines after that

Bigger picture: UC is part of large package of benefit cuts



Universal credit will reduce benefit entitlements by about £5bn p.a. in the long run

Creates lots of winners and losers

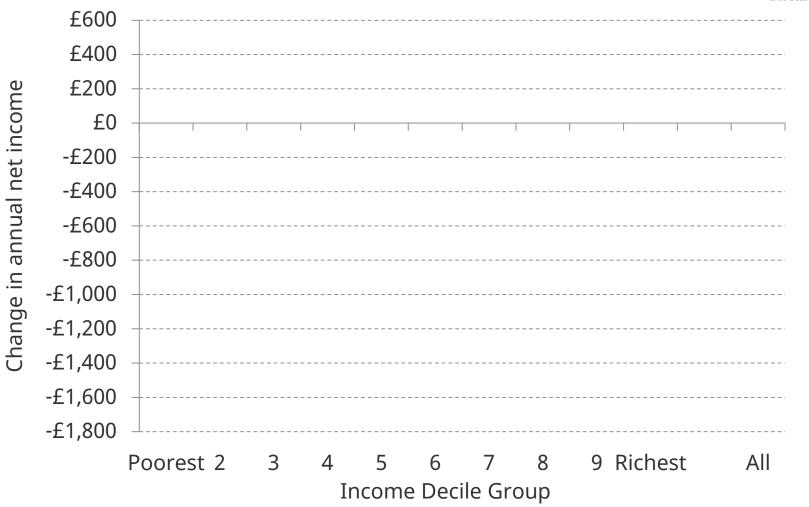
Most working-age benefits frozen in April 2018 and 2019

4-year freeze now expected to save c.£4½ bn p.a., with 11m households affected losing over £400 p.a. on average.

And in long-run low-income families to lose significantly from cuts to child tax credit

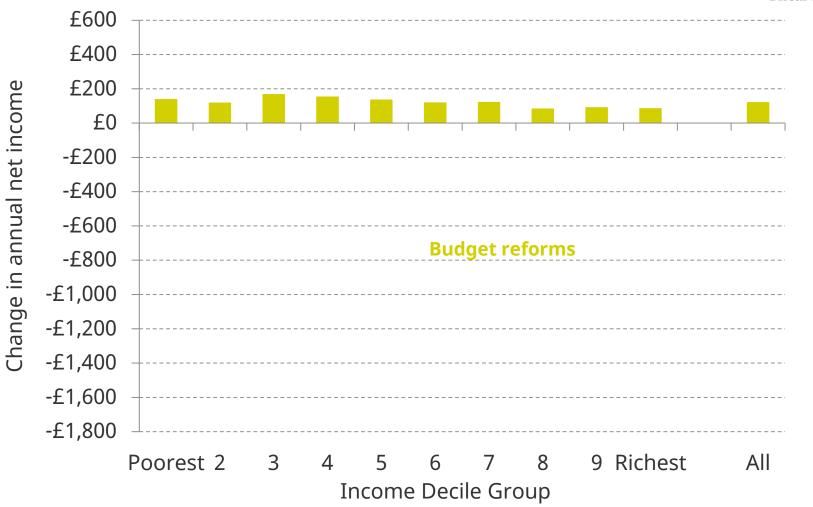
Long-run saving of around £5bn a year





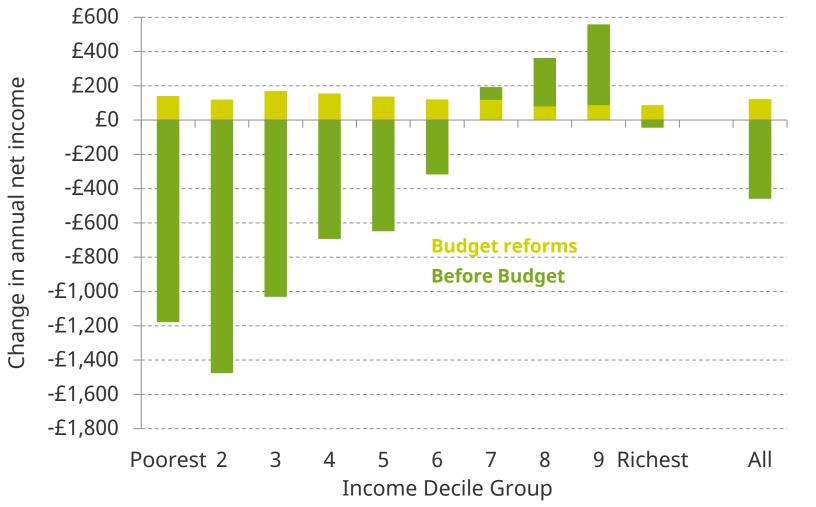
Notes: Assumes full take-up of means-tested benefits and tax credits and all changes fully in place.



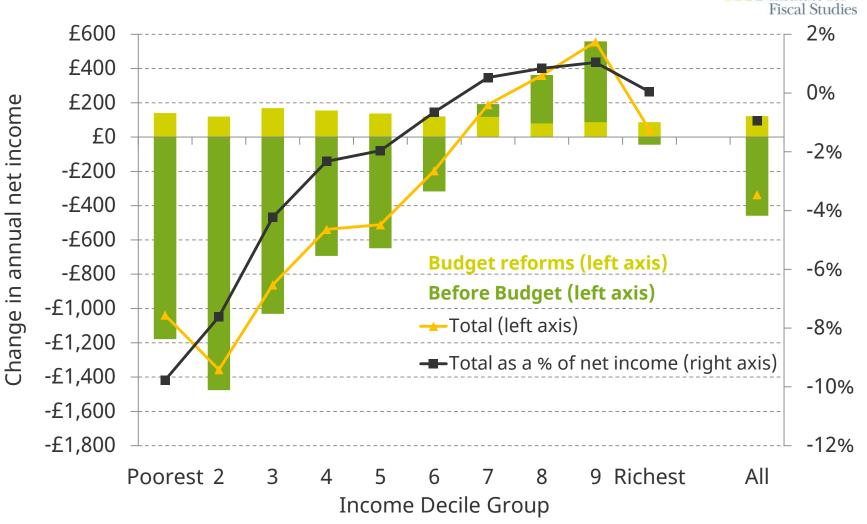


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Institute for

Business taxes



Increase main R&D credit from 11% to 12% (-£175m)

Business rates giveaways (-£520m)

- Bring forward CPI uprating to 2018-19
- Move to revaluations every 3 years

Anti-avoidance measures (+£1.5bn)

Capital Gains (+£685m)

Freeze indexation allowance

VAT threshold frozen at £85,000 for 2 years (+£170m)

Conclusion



No huge giveaways or takeaways in taxes or benefits yesterday

Some changes on duties:

- Ongoing fuel duty freeze becoming increasingly costly
- Cider reform represents a small detail in the bigger picture

Universal Credit reforms may well ease early days for claimants

But bigger picture remains substantial cuts to working-age benefits

Business taxes

Series of small changes, overall a revenue raiser