## Income Tax

## Case Study: Ms. Bigsho†

In contrast to everything else on FinStart, this case study is not ageappropriate. For the foreseeable future, most students will have little income and will most likely not pay any income tax. So a young person's case study would not be very instructive. Instead, we present Ms. Bigshot, who is in the highest tax bracket, has various sources of income that are treated differently for tax purposes, and uses two registered accounts, the TFSA and RRSP. That's a rich dataset to illustrate key points.

## No calculations required

Problem 1 in this case study is entirely qualitative. We have prepared Ms. Bigshot's income tax filing using a CRA-approved tax preparation software and ask students to answer questions by finding certain data points on it. There are two ways to do it:

1. Using a summary table within Problem 1.
2. Using real-life printouts of the tax forms from the software (in the Appendix to Problem 1).

## Calculations required

Problem 2 requires calculations and is a good example of how we are structuring math problems in this booklet:

- Those that require various calculations, sometimes multi-step.
- Those that can be represented as functions and then solved, graphed, etc.
- Those that are well-suited for building an Excel workbook or writing code (Python, Visual Basic, Java, etc.)

We thought that organizing questions in this way will make them easy to use in various levels of core math, data management, and other quantitative courses (perhaps economics), and even by certain clubs. We look forward to hearing what you think.

## Terminology

Terminology used in this case study is explained as follows:

- Income Tax https://www.finstart.ca/income-tax.html
- Registered accounts https://www.finstart.ca/registered-accounts---investing.html
- GICs https://www.finstart.ca/gics.html
- Investments https://www.finstart.ca/investment-accounts.html



## Teaching with <br> FinStart

Active learning module:
Kay has just arrived from Mars for a summer internship on Earth. Upon inspecting her first paycheque, she notices...
How It Works video
Talk Like a Banker (word game)
Take a FinStart Quiz
Reference: Income Tax pages

- Prepare
- Submit
https://www.finstart.ca/inco me-tax.html

A 6-minute video on the For Teachers page shares a number of ideas about teaching with FinStart.

## Case Study: Ms. Bigshot

Ms. Bigshot is a high-earning individual with tax residency in Ontario. She pays both Federal and Provincial income taxes. To prepare her tax return for 2019, she goes through seven steps outlined in the Federal Income Tax and Benefit Return form, also known as T1 General form, provided by Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA). The first step is "Identification and other information". Steps 2-7 are listed in the table on the next page that we use for Problem 1.

When answering the questions in Problem 1, you can use either the table on the next page or Ms. Bigshot's completed T1 General form, included in the Appendix.

- Ms. Bigshot earned salary of $\$ 215,000$ from her employer in 2019. From each paycheck the employer subtracted mandatory payroll deductions that add up to the following amounts for 2019:
- \$70,000 of income tax deduction.
- $\$ 2,748.90$ (the maximum allowed) contributions she made to Canada Pension Plan (i.e. CPP.
- $\$ 860.22$ (the maximum allowed) premium she paid to Employment Insurance (i.e. El).
- In addition, Ms. Bigshot received \$20,000 of interest income from her GIC investments and had a $\$ 30,000$ capital gain from selling her stocks (it's called a 'realized gain' because the investment was sold).
- She made the maximum allowed RRSP contribution of $\$ 27,320$ and maximum allowed TFSA contribution of $\$ 6,500$ (those are registered accounts).
- She used net capital losses of \$2,000 from previous year to reduce her taxes for 2019.

| Step | Field Number | Field Description | Amounts | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Step 2: <br> Total income | $\begin{aligned} & 10100 \\ & 12100 \\ & 12700 \\ & 15000 \end{aligned}$ | Employment income <br> Interest and other investment income <br> Taxable capital gains <br> Total income (sum of all the above lines in Step 2) | $\begin{aligned} & \$ 215,000.00 \\ & \$ 20,000.00 \\ & \$ 15,000.00 \end{aligned}$ | \$250,000.00 |
| Step 3: <br> Net income | $\begin{aligned} & 20800 \\ & 22215 \\ & 23600 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | RRSP deduction <br> Deduction for CPP or QPP enhanced contributions on employment income <br> Net income (Total income less all the above deductions in Step 3) | $\begin{gathered} \$ 27,230.00 \\ \$ 80.85 \end{gathered}$ | \$222,691.53 |
| Step 4: Taxable income | $\begin{aligned} & 25300 \\ & 26000 \end{aligned}$ | Net capital losses of other years <br> Taxable income (Net income less all the above deductions in Step 4) | \$2,000.00 | \$220,691.53 |
| Step 5: Federal tax Part A: <br> Federal nonrefundable tax credits | $\begin{aligned} & 30800 \\ & 31200 \\ & 31260 \\ & 33500 \\ & \\ & 35000 \end{aligned}$ | Base CPP or QPP contributions through employment income Employment insurance premiums (maximum \$860.22) <br> Canada employment amount <br> Sum of all the above lines in Step 5 <br> Total federal non-refundable tax credit rate <br> Total federal non-refundable tax credits | $\begin{gathered} \hline \$ 2,668.05 \\ \$ 860.22 \\ \$ 1,222.00 \\ \$ 16,819.27 \\ 15 \% \end{gathered}$ | \$2,522.89 |
| Part B: <br> Federal tax on taxable income |  | Federal tax on taxable income (see detail calculations in T1 General form, Step 5, Part B) |  | \$52,123.99 |
| Part C: <br> Net federal tax | 42000 | Net Federal Tax <br> (subtract non-refundable tax credits from federal tax) |  | \$50,261.10 |
| Step 6 Provincial or territorial tax | 42800 | Provincial tax payable (calculation methodology similar to that of federal tax, however, the allowed deductions and tax brackets vary across provinces) |  | \$30,629.46 |
| Step 7: Refund or balance owing | 43500 | Total payable |  | \$80,230.56 |
|  | 43700 | Net income tax deducted |  | \$70,000.00 |
|  | 48500 | Balance owing |  | \$10,230.56 |
| Problem 1 (no calculations required) <br> i. Step 2: Why is total income greater than employment income? |  |  |  |  |

ii. Step 2: Which item from the bulleted list on the previous page did Ms. Bigshot enter as "Interest and other investment income"?
iii. Step 2: Which item from the bulleted list on the previous page did Ms. Bigshot enter as "Capital gain"?
iv. Step 2: Ms. Bigshot realized $\$ 30,000$ of capital gains from selling her stocks. Why does her tax form (field 12700) shows only $\$ 15,000$ ?
v. Step 3: What is the reason that net income is lower than total income?
vi. Step 3: Has Ms. Bigshot forgotten to deduct her $\$ 6,500$ contribution to the TFSA from her total income?
vii. $\quad$ Step 4: What is the reason that her taxable income is smaller than net income?
viii. Step 4: What do you think the term "Net capital loss from previous years" means?
ix. Step 5, Part A: What are Ms. Bigshot's total non-refundable tax credits?
x. Step 5, Part A: How are federal non-refundable tax credits calculated?

Additional information from Ms. Bigshot's tax filing (to be used for questions xi) to xiv):

xi. Step 5, Part B: What's Ms. Bigshot's federal tax on taxable income?
xii. Step 5, Part B: What tax rates are used on different portions of taxable income to calculate federal tax? Inspect T1 General form, Step 5, Part B and find the relevant line.
xiii. Step 5, Part B: The Canadian tax system is called progressive. This means that the tax rate increases as the taxpayer makes more money. Justify this statement using the above table.
xiv. Step 5, Part B: What's Ms. Bigshot's net federal tax on taxable income?
xv. Step 5, Part C: How are federal non-refundable tax credits used to calculate net federal tax?
xvi. Step 6: What's Ms. Bigshot's provincial tax payable?
xvii. Step 7: What's Ms. Bigshot's total tax payable (the sum of federal and provincial taxes)?
xviii. Step 7: Why is Ms. Bigshot's balance owing smaller than total tax payable?
xix. Are there any other taxes that Ms. Bigshot needs to pay in addition to income tax?

## Problem 2 (calculations required)

i. What is the average percentage tax rate that Ms. Bigshot pays on her total income?
ii. Before she submitted her tax filing, Ms. Bigshot noticed that she forgot to declare $\$ 1,000$ of interest earned in her bank saving account. When she included this amount in the T1 General form, she noticed that her total tax payable increased to $\$ 80,765.86$ from $\$ 80,230.56$. What is the marginal tax that Ms. Bigshot is subject to?
iii. If Ms. Bigshot had not contributed $\$ 27,230$ to her RRSP, how much more would she pay in 2019 tax year? [Hint: use the marginal tax rate].
iv. Do you think that Ms. Bigshot will ever pay income tax on the $\$ 27,230$ she contributed to RRSP?
$v$. If the CRA had declared that $\$ 30,000$ should be treated as interest income rather than capital gain, how much more would Ms. Bigshot pay in the 2019 tax year? [Hint: use the marginal tax rate and account for the difference in tax treatment between interest income and capital gains].
vi. The following table contains marginal tax brackets for combined federal and provincial Ontario taxes. Using thie table, calculate total tax payable (federal plus provincial) on taxable income of $\$ 220,691.53$. Compare the results to the previously calculated number (field 43500) and comment on the accuracy of the approximate method.

| Taxable Income Upper Bound | Marginal Tax Rate |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 12,069.00$ | $0.00 \%$ |
| $\$ 43,906.00$ | $20.05 \%$ |
| $\$ 47,630.00$ | $24.15 \%$ |
| $\$ 77,313.00$ | $29.65 \%$ |
| $\$ 87,813.00$ | $31.48 \%$ |
| Ty hu t | $33.89 \%$ |
| $\$ 95,259.00$ | $37.91 \%$ |
| $\$ 147,667.00$ | $43.41 \%$ |
| $\$ 150,000.00$ | $46.41 \%$ |
| $\$ 210,371.00$ | $47.97 \%$ |
| $\$ 220,000.00$ | $51.97 \%$ |
|  | $53.53 \%$ |

vii. Write a mathematical function where the independent variable x is Taxable Income and the dependent variable y is Total Payable Tax.
viii. Write a program code (Python, VBA, Java, etc.) or build an Excel workbook to implement the above mathematical function. Run the program for different values of Taxable Income and plot the results in $x$ (Taxable Income) and y (Total Payable Tax) coordinates.

## Appendix

Federal Tax: T1 General form


## Step 1 - Identification and other information (continued)

Please answer the following questions.

Elections Canada (For more information, see "Elections Canada" under Step 1, in the guide.)

## A) Do you have Canadian citzenship?

If yes, go to question B. If no, skip question B
B) As a Canadian citizen, do you authorize the Canada Revenue Agency to give your name, address,
date of birth, and citizenship to Elections Canada to update the National Register of Electors or, if
you are aged 14 to 17, to update the Register of Future Electors?

Yes X ,

Yes X
№ $\qquad$

No $\qquad$ $\square^{2}$

Your authorization is valid until you file your next tax return. Your information will only be used for purposes permitted under the Canada Elections Act, which include sharing lists of electors produced from the National Register of Electors with provincial and territorial electoral agencies, members of Pariament, registered and eligible political parties, and candidates at election time.

Your information in the Register of Future Electors will be included in the National Register of Electors once you turn 18.
Information from the Register of Future Electors can be shared only with provincial and teritorial electoral agencies that are allowed to collect future elector information. In addition, Elections Canada can use information in the Register of Future Electors to provide youth with educational information about the electoral process

## Indian Act - Exempt income

Tick this box if you have any income that is exempt under the Indian Act.
For more information on this type of income, go to canada.ca/taxes-aboriginal-peoples.
If you tick the box, get and complete Form T90, Income Exempt under the Indian Act. Complete this form so that the CRA
can calculate your Canada training credit limit for the 2020 tax year. The information you provide may also be used to
calculate your Canada workers benefit for the 2019 tax year, if applicable.

## Foreign property

Did you own or hold specified foreign property where the total cost amount of all such property, at any time in 2019, was more than CANS 100,000 ?

Yes $\qquad$ No $\mathrm{X}{ }^{2}$
If yes, get and complete Form T1135, Foreign Income Verification Statement. There are substantial penalties for not
completing and filing Form T1135 by the due date. For more information, see Form T1135,

| Step 2 - Total income |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| As a resident of Canada, you have to report your income from all sources both inside and outside Canada. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Income Tax and Benefit Guide may have additional information for certain lines. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Employment income (box 14 of all $T 4$ slips) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 10100 | 215,000 | ¢0 |
| Tax-exempt income for emergency services volunters |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (See line 10100 in the guide.) |  |  |  |  | 10105 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Commissions included on line 10100 (box 42 of all T4 slips) |  |  |  |  | 10120 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Wage-loss replacement contributions (See line 10100 in the guide.) |  |  |  |  | 10130 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Other employment income |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 10400 | 0 | 00 |
| Oid age security pension (box 18 of the T4A(OAS) slip) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11300 | 0 | 0 |
| CPP or QPP benefits (box 20 of the T4A(P) slip) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11400 | 0 | 00 |
| Disability benefits included on line 11400 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (box 16 of the T4A(P) slip) |  |  |  |  | 11410 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Other pensions and superannuation (See line 11500 in the guide and complete line 31400 in theWorksheet for the return.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11500 | 0 | 00 |
| Elected split-pension amount (Get and complete Form T1032.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11600 | 0 | 00 |
| Universal child care benefit (UCCB) (See the RC82 slip.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11700 | 0 | 00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Employment insurance and other benefits (box 14 of the T4E slip) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11900 | 0 | 00 |
| Employment insurance maternity and parental benefits and provincial |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Complete the Worksheet for the return.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12000 | 0 | 00 |
| Taxable amount of dividends other than eligible dividends, included on |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| line 12000, from taxable Canadian corporations |  |  |  |  | 12010 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Interest and other investment income (Complete the Workshest for the return.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12100 | 20,000 | 00 |
| Net partnership income: limited or non-active partners only |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12200 | 0 | 0 |
| Registered disability savings plan income (box 131 of the T4A slip) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12500 | 0 | 00 |
| Rental income | Gross | 12599 | 0 | 00 |  |  | Net | 12600 | 0 | 00 |
| Taxable capital gains (Complete Schetule 3.) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12700 | 15,000 | 00 |
| Support payments received | Total | 12799 |  |  |  | Taxable | mount | 12800 |  |  |
| RRSP income (from all T4RSP slips) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12900 | 0 | 00 |
| Other income Specify: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 13000 | 0 | 00 |
| Taxable scholarship, fellowships, bursaries, and artists' project grants |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 13010 | 0 | 00 |
| Selfemployment income |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Business income | Gross | 13499 | 0 | 00 |  |  | Net | 13500 | 0 | 00 |
| Professional income | Gross | 13699 | 0 | 00 |  |  | Net | 13700 | 0 | 00 |
| Commission income | Gross | 13899 | 0 | 00 |  |  | Net | 13900 | 0 | 00 |
| Farming income | Gross | 14099 | 0 | 00 |  |  | Net | 14100 | 0 | 00 |
| Fishing income | Gross | 14299 | 0 | 00 |  |  | Net | 14300 | 0 | 0 |
| Workers' compensation benefits (box 10 of the T5007 slip) |  |  |  |  | 14400 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Social assistance payments |  |  |  |  | 14500 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Net federal supplements (box 21 of the T4A(OAS) slip) |  |  |  |  | 14600 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Add lines 14400, 14500, and 14800. (See line 25000 in Step 4.) |  |  |  |  |  | 0 | ${ }^{\infty}$ * | 14700 | 0 | $\infty$ |
| Add lines 10100,10400 to 11400,11500 to $11700,11900,12000$, 12100 to $12500,12800,12700,12800,12900$ to $13010,13500,13700$, 13900, 14100, 14300, and 14700 . |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | This is your total | come. | 15000 | 250,000 | 00 |

## Step 3 - Net income



Step 4 - Taxable income

| Canadian Forces personnel and police deduction (box 43 of all 74 slips) | 24400 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Security options deductions | 24900 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Other payments deduction (Claim the amount from line 14700, unless it |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| includes an amount at ine 14800. If so, see line 25000 in the guide.) | 25000 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Limited partnership losses of other years | 25100 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Non-capital losses of other years | 25200 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Net capital losses of other years | 25300 | 2,000 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Capital gains deduction (Get and complete Form Te57.) | 25400 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Northern residents deductions (Get and complete Form T2222.) | 25500 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Additional deductions Specify: | 25600 | 0 | 00 |  |  |  |
| Add lines 24400 to 25800 . | 25700 | 2,000 | 00 |  | 2,000 | $\infty$ |
| Line 23800 minus line 25700 (if negative, enter "O") |  | This is your taxable | nome. | 26000 | 220,689 | 15 |

Step 5 - Federal tax (formerly Schedule 1)


Part B - Federal tax on taxable income


Part C - Net federal tax


Step 6 - Provincial or territorial tax
Complete form 428 to calculate your provincial tax.

## Step 7 - Refund or balance owing



Provincial (Ontario) Tax Form

## Ontario 8 <br> Ontario Tax <br> Form ON428 <br> 2019 <br> Protected B when completed

This is Step 6 in completing your return. Complete this form and attach a copy to your return.
Claim only the credits that apply to you.
Part A - Ontario non-refundable tax credits

finstart
Part A - Ontario non-refundable tax credits (continued)
Form ON428


Part B - Ontario tax on taxable income
Enter your taxable income from line 28000 of your return. $\quad 36$

Use the amount from line 36 to decide which column to complete.

|  | Line 36 is $\$ 43,906$ or less |  | Line 36 is more than $\$ 43,906$ but not more than $\$ 87,813$ |  | Line 36 is more than $\$ 87,813$ but not more than $\$ 150,000$ |  | Line 36 is more than <br> $\$ 150,000$ but not more than $\$ 220,000$ |  | Line 36 is more than $\$ 220,000$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Amount from line 38 | 0 | 00 | - 0 | 00 | - 0 | 00 | 0 | 00 | 220,689 | 15 | 37 |
| Line 37 minus line 38 | 0 | 00 | 43,906 | $\infty$ | 87,813 | $\infty$ | 150,000 | 00 | 220,000 | 00 | 38 |
| (cannot be negative) | 0 | 00 | 0 | $\infty$ | 0 | $\infty$ | 0 | $\infty$ | 689 | 15 | 39 |
|  | 5.05\% |  | 9.15\% |  | 11.16\% |  | 12.16\% |  | 13.16\% |  | 40 |
| Multiply line 39 by line 40. | 0 | 00 | 0 | $\infty$ | 0 | $\infty$ | 0 | 00 | 90 | 69 | 41 |
| Add lines 41 and 42. | 0 | 00 | 2,217 | 00 | 6,235 | 00 | 13,175 | 00 | 21,687 | $\infty$ | 42 |
| Ontario tax on taxable income | 0 | 00 | 0 | 00 | 0 | 00 | 0 | 00 | 21,777 | 69 | 43 |

## Part C - Ontario tax

| Enter your Ontario tax on taxable income from line 43 of the previous page. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 21,777 | 69 | $\begin{array}{r} 44 \\ +45 \end{array}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Enter your Ontario tax on split income from Form T1206. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 61510 | 0 | 00 |  |
| Add lines 44 and 45. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 21,777 | 69 | 46 |
| Enter your Ontario non-refundable tax credits from line 35 of the previous page. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 712 | 57 | 47 |
| Line 46 minus line 47 (if negative, enter "0") |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 21,085 | 12 | 48 |
| Ontario minimum tax carryover: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount from line 48 above |  |  |  |  |  | 21,065 | 12 | 49 |  |  |  |
| Enter the Ontario dividend tax credit calculated for line 61520 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| from your Worksheet ON428. |  |  |  |  |  | 0 | 00 | 50 |  |  |  |
| Line 49 minus line 50 (if negative, enter "0) |  |  |  |  |  | 21,085 | 12 | 51 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 | 00 | 52 |  |  |  |
| Enter whichever is less: amount from line 51 or 52. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 61540 | 0 | 00 | + 53 |
| Line 48 minus line 53 (if negative, enter "0) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 21,085 | 12 | 54 |
| Ontario surtax |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount from line 54 above |  |  |  |  |  | 21,085 | 12 | 55 |  |  |  |
| Amount from line 45 above |  |  |  |  |  | 0 | 00 | 56 |  |  |  |
| Line 55 minus line 56 (if negative, enter "0) |  |  |  |  |  | 21,085 | 12 | 57 |  |  |  |
| Complete lines 58 to 60 if the amount on line 57 is more than $\$ 4,740$. If the amount is less than $\$ 4,740$, enter " $\sigma$ " on line 60 and continue on line 61 . |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (Line 57 21,085 | 12 |  | \$4,740) $\times 20 \%$ (if negative, | ter "0) | $=$ | 3,285 | 02 | 58 |  |  |  |
| (Line 57 21,085 | 12 |  | \$8,087) $\times 36 \%$ (if negative, | ter "0") | = | 5,399 | 32 | 59 |  |  |  |
| Add lines 58 and 59. |  |  |  |  |  | 8,684 | 34 | - | 8,884 | 34 | 60 |
| Add lines 54 and 60 . |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 29,729 | 46 | 61 |
| Ontario dividend tax credit: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Amount from line 50 above |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 61520 | 0 | 00 | + 62 |
| Line 61 minus line 62 (if negative, enter "0") |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 29,729 | 46 | 63 |
| Ontario additional tax for minimum tax purposes <br> If you entered an amount on line 98 of Form T691, enter the additional tax for minimum tax purposes calculated for line 64 from your Worksheet ON428. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 0 | 00 | + 64 |
| Add lines 63 and 64. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 29,729 | 46 | 65 |




## CPP Contributions

https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/payroll/payroll-deductions-contributions/canada-pension-plan-cpp/cpp-contribution-rates-maximumsexemptions.html

| Year | Maximum <br> annual <br> pensionable <br> earnings | Basic <br> exemption <br> amount | Maximum <br> contributory <br> earnings | Employee <br> and <br> employer <br> contribution <br> rate (\%) | Maximum <br> annual <br> employee <br> and <br> employer <br> contribution | Maximum annual self- <br> employed contribution |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2020 | $\$ 58,700$ | $\$ 3,500$ | $\$ 55,200$ | 5.25 | $\$ 2,898.00$ | $\$ \$ 796.00$ |
| 2019 | $\$ 57,400$ | $\$ 3,500$ | $\$ 53,900$ | 5.10 | $\$ 2,748.90$ | $\$ 5,497.80$ |

## El Premia

https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/businesses/topics/payroll/payroll-deductions-contributions/employment-insurance-ei/ei-premium-rates-maximums.html

| Year | Maximum annual <br> insurable earnings | Rate (\%) | Maximum annual <br> employee premium | Maximum annual <br> employer premium |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2020 | $\$ 54,200$ | 1.58 | $\$ 856.36$ | $\$ 1,198.90$ |
| 2019 | $\$ 53,100$ | 1.62 | $\$ 860.22$ | $\$ 1,204.31$ |

## Solutions - Income Tax

## Case Study: Ms. Bigsho†

## Solution 1

i. Total income includes all sources of income, including employment income. In the case of Ms. Bigshot, it includes interest from GICs and capital gains from selling stocks. Other items that can be included in total income are dividends, rental income, various benefits received (Canada Pension Plan, old age security, disability, child care), employment-related insurance payments received (employment insurance, maternity payments, disability payments, support payments, wage replacements), pension payments, RRSP withdrawals, RESP withdrawals, and others.
ii. An example of "Interest and other investment income" is interest payments received from GICs (Guaranteed Investment Certificates) and savings accounts. Dividends received from nonCanadian companies are also treated as interest for tax purposes.
iii. An example of capital gain is a gain from selling stocks, ETFs or mutual funds. Investors in mutual funds can also have capital gains without selling their units of mutual funds. They will see those capital gains on T3 or T5 tax slips.
iv. Although Ms. Bigshot realized $\$ 30,000$ of capital gains from selling her stocks, only $50 \%$ of this gain is taxable. This is why her tax form (field 12700) shows only $\$ 15,000$ instead of $\$ 30,000$. Capital gains are much more tax-efficient than interest income.
v. Net income is calculated by subtracting multiple deductions from total income. Deductions lower income tax. High tax bracket taxpayers benefit from deductions more than low tax bracket taxpayers. Examples of deductions are: a pension plan contribution, RRSP contribution, professional/union dues, selected child care expenses, part of CPP contributions, and employment expenses.
vi. It is true that Ms. Bigshot made $\$ 6,500$ contribution to the TFSA. However, TFSA contributions are not treated as tax deductions (unlike RRSP contributions, which are considered tax deductions).
vii. Taxable income is calculated by subtracting additional deductions and loses from net income. Ms. Bigshot claims $\$ 2000$ of capital losses from previous years to calculate taxable income. Taxable income is used as a basis for calculating both federal and provincial income tax.
viii. An example of net capital loss from previous years is a loss on selling a stock at a lower price than the purchase price - in 2018 or earlier years. Capital losses can be used to offset any capital gains in the same calendar year or can be 'carried forward' and claimed in future years.
ix. Ms. Bigshot's total non-refundable tax credits include a basic personal amount $(\$ 12,069)$, Canada employment amount ( $\$ 1,222$ ), base CPP contribution $(\$ 2,668.05)$ and Employment Insurance ( $\$ 860.22$ ). Other items that are considered as tax credits are: tuition and textbooks amounts, interest paid on student loans, age amount (for those at 65 and above), spouse or common law partner amount, amount for eligible dependent, caregiver amounts, firefighter and search $\&$ rescue volunteers' amount, home buyers amount, home accessibility expenses, adoption expenses, disability amounts, medical expenses and some pension income.
x. Tax credits are amounts that reduce the tax you pay on your taxable income. All federal nonrefundable tax credits are summed up together and multiplied by $15 \%$ to get the dollar amount that can be used to reduce the tax you pay on taxable income. The $15 \%$ is the lowest federal tax rate applicable to taxable income up to $\$ 47,630$. The above calculation method ensures that non-refundable tax credits have the same dollar value for both low-tax-rate (15\%) individuals and high-tax-rate (33\%) individuals. This is in contrast to tax deductions that have
higher dollar value for high-tax-rate individuals. In general, the non-refundable tax credits must be used in the current tax year. Any tax credit in excess of payable taxes is left unused. Only some non-refundable tax credits such as "tuition education and textbook amounts" can be carried forward to future years or transferred to parents/guardians.
xi. Ms. Bigshot's federal tax on taxable income is $\$ 52,123.99$ (as per field 42).
xii. Different portions of taxable income are subject to different tax rates. T1 General form, Step 5, Part B shows what feral tax is applied to what part of taxable income. The answer is summarized in the table below:

| Taxable Income |  |  | Tax Rate |  |
| :---: | :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | More Than | Not More Than |  |  |
| $\$$ | - | $\$$ |  | $47,630.00$ | $15.00 \%$ |
| $\$$ | $47,630.00$ | $\$$ | $95,259.00$ | $20.50 \%$ |
| $\$$ | $95,259.00$ | $\$$ | $147,667.00$ | $26.00 \%$ |
| $\$$ | $147,667.00$ | $\$$ | $210,371.00$ | $29.00 \%$ |
| $\$$ | $210,371.00$ |  |  | $33.00 \%$ |

xiii. The table above illustrates that, indeed, the tax rate increases (i.e. progresses) from $15 \%$ to $33 \%$ with the growing taxable income. This is why the Canadian tax system is called progressive.
xiv. Ms. Bigshot's net federal tax on taxable income is $\$ 49,501.10$ as per field 42000.
xv. To calculate net federal tax, we start with federal tax on taxable income of \$52,123.99 and subtract from it total federal non-refundable tax credits of $\$ 2,522.89$.
xvi. Ms. Bigshot's provincial tax payable is $\$ 30,629.46$ as per field 42800 . Calculation of provincial tax follows similar logic to that used in federal tax calculations. However, additional deductions and tax credits are introduced, different tax brackets and tax rates are used, and additional surcharges may be applied. Details can be found in the filled provincial tax forms included in the Appendix.
xvii. Ms. Bigshot's total tax payable, i.e. the sum of federal and provincial taxes, is $\$ 80,230.56$ as per field 43500?
xviii. Ms. Bigshot's balance owing of $\$ 10,230$ is less than the total tax payable of $\$ 80,230.56$ because she has already paid $\$ 70,000$ in taxes throughout the year. Canadian employers must deduct the estimated income taxes and other statutory deductions (CPP contributions, El premium) from each paycheck. In the case of Ms. Bigshot, the deductions were not sufficient as the employer was unaware of her investments. Quite likely, the CRA will ask that Ms. Bigshot pay tax by installment in the tax year 2020 to ensure that her balance owing does not exceed \$2000.
xix. In addition to income taxes, Ms. Bigshot pays $13 \%$ HST (Harmonized Sales Tax) on nearly all purchases she makes throughout the year (she lives in Ontario; the tax will differ in other provinces). If she spends $\$ 50,000$, she will pay $\$ 6,500$ in HST. If Ms. Bigshot lives in a house or a condo, she pays property tax. The tax will vary based on the municipality and the market value of the house. One could roughly estimate that she would pay between $\$ 8,000$ to $\$ 15,000$ in property taxes.
$x x$. The average tax rate in percent that Ms. Bigshot pays on her total income can be calculated as $\$ 80,230.66$ / $\$ 250,000$ which is around $32.09 \%$, i.e. roughly one third of her total income.
xxi. The marginal tax that Ms. Bigshot is subject to can be calculated as ( $\$ 80,765.86-\$ 80,230.56$ ) / $\$ 1000=53.53 \%$, i.e. the highest marginal tax bracket for Ontario tax payers. The marginal tax can be used to calculate how much income tax Ms. Bigshot needs to pay on each additional dollar of taxable income
xxii. If Ms. Bigshot had not contributed $\$ 27,230$ to her RRSP, her taxable income would have been $\$ 27,230$ higher. On that higher income she would pay additional income tax at the marginal tax of $53.53 \%$. Thus, her additional tax would be $\$ 27,230$ * $53.53 \%=\$ 14,576.22$. This calculation
demonstrates that the RRSP deduction is worth a lot to a high-tax-bracket individual. The same deduction for a taxpayer in the $20 \%$ tax bracket would be worth only $\$ 27,230$ * $20 \%=\$ 5,446$. Thus, a high-tax-bracket individual gets $\$ 9,130$ more in tax savings than the low-tax-bracket individual on the maximum allowed RRSP contribution.
xxiii. Ms. Bigshot will pay income tax when she withdraws her money from the RRSP. While in the RRSP, her money will grow tax-free. Ms. Bigshot's strategy is to withdraw money from the RRSP in the future when her marginal tax bracket will be lower. To illustrate how this strategy might work, imagine that Ms. Bigshot has loses her job in 2020 and in 2021 her only income is \$15,000 from investments. That year, she withdraws $\$ 27,230$ from her RRSP. Her marginal tax bracket is $20 \%$, and thus, her tax is $\$ 5,446$. Thus, on the $\$ 27,230$ income she paid tax of $\$ 5,446$ in 2021 instead of paying tax of $\$ 14,567.22$ in 2019. This tax strategy allowed Ms. Bigshot to save $\$ 9,130$ in taxes.
xxiv. If the CRA had declared that $\$ 30,000$ should be treated as interest income rather than capital gain, Ms. Bigshot would have to pay tax on the whole $\$ 30,000$ instead of $\$ 15,000$ that she included in her 2019 taxable income (recall that only half of capital gains is taxable, and thus, only $50 \%$ * $\$ 30,000=\$ 15,000$ was included in her 2019 taxable income). Consequently, Ms. Bigshot would need to pay tax on additional $\$ 15,000$ at her marginal tax bracket of $53.53 \%$, i.e. \$8.029.50 (53.53\% * \$15.000).

## Solution 2

i. The average tax rate (in percent) that Ms. Bigshot pays on her total income can be calculated as $\$ 80,230.66 / \$ 250,000$, which is around $32.09 \%$, i.e. roughly one third of her total income.
ii. The marginal tax that Ms. Bigshot is subject to can be calculated as (\$80,765.86-\$80,230.56) $/ \$ 1000=53.53 \%$, i.e. the highest marginal tax bracket for Ontario taxpayers. The marginal tax can be used to calculate how much income tax Ms. Bigshot needs to pay on each additional dollar of taxable income.
iii. If Ms. Bigshot had not contributed $\$ 27,230$ to her RRSP, her taxable income would be $\$ 27,230$ higher. On that higher income she would pay additional income tax at the marginal tax of $53.53 \%$. Thus, her additional tax would be $\$ 27,230$ * $53.53 \%=\$ 14,576.22$. This calculation demonstrates that the RRSP deduction is worth a lot to a high-tax-bracket individual. The same deduction for a taxpayer in $20 \%$ tax bracket would be worth only $\$ 27,230$ * $20 \%=\$ 5,446$. Thus, a high-tax-bracket individual gets $\$ 9,130$ more in tax savings than the low-tax-bracket individual on the maximum allowed RRSP contribution.
iv. Ms. Bigshot will pay income tax when she withdraws her money from the RRSP. While in the RRSP, her money will grow tax free. Ms. Bigshot's strategy is to withdraw money from the RRSP in the future when her marginal tax bracket is lower. To illustrate how the strategy might work imagine that Ms. Bigshot loses her job in 2020 and in 2021 her only income is $\$ 15,000$ from investments. That year she withdraws $\$ 27,230$ from her RRSP. Her marginal tax bracket is $20 \%$, and thus, her tax is $\$ 5,446$. Thus, on the $\$ 27,230$ income she paid tax of $\$ 5,446$ in 2021 instead of paying tax of $\$ 14,567.22$ in 2019. This tax strategy allowed Ms. Bigshot to save $\$ 9,130$ in taxes.
v. If the CRA had declared that $\$ 30,000$ should be treated as interest income rather than capital gain, Ms. Bigshot would have to pay tax on the whole $\$ 30,000$ instead of $\$ 15,000$ that she included in her 2019 taxable income (recall that only half of capital gains is taxable, and thus, only $50 \%$ * $\$ 30,000=\$ 15,000$ was included in her 2019 taxable income). Consequently, Ms. Bigshot would need to pay tax on additional $\$ 15,000$ at her marginal tax bracket of $53.53 \%$, i.e. \$8.029.50 (53.53\% * \$15.000).
vi. In the table below, taxable income of $\$ 220,691.53$ is allocated to each tax bracket from the lowest to the highest - see column "Taxable Income per Bracket". For each bracket, the tax amount is calculated by multiplying values in the column "Marginal Tax Rate" by values in the column "Taxable Income per Bracket". The results are stored in the column "Tax Amount per Bracket". The "TOTAL Tax Amount" of $\$ 80,247.07$ is the sum of all values in the column "Tax Amount per Bracket". The value is about $\$ 16.50$ higher than the tax calculations of $\$ 80,230.66$ on T1 General form. This simple method produces a good approximation of tax payable.

| Taxable Income Upper Bound | Marginal Tax Rate | Taxable Income per Bracket | Tax Amount per Bracket |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\$ 12,069.00$ | $0.00 \%$ | $\$ 12,069.00$ | $\$-$ |
| $\$ 43,906.00$ | $20.05 \%$ | $\$ 31,837.00$ | $\$ 6,383.32$ |
| $\$ 47,630.00$ | $24.15 \%$ | $\$ 3,724.00$ | $\$ 899.35$ |
| $\$ 77,313.00$ | $29.65 \%$ | $\$ 29,683.00$ | $\$ 8,801.01$ |
| $\$ 87,813.00$ | $31.48 \%$ | $\$ 10,500.00$ | $\$ 3,305.40$ |
| $\$ 91,101.00$ | $33.89 \%$ | $\$ 3,288.00$ | $\$ 1,114.30$ |
| $\$ 95,259.00$ | $37.91 \%$ | $\$ 4,158.00$ | $\$ 1,576.30$ |
| $\$ 147,667.00$ | $43.41 \%$ | $\$ 52,408.00$ | $\$ 22,750.31$ |
| $\$ 150,000.00$ | $46.41 \%$ | $\$ 2,333.00$ | $\$ 1,082.75$ |
| $\$ 210,371.00$ | $47.97 \%$ | $\$ 60,371.00$ | $\$ 28,959.97$ |
| $\$ 220,000.00$ | $51.97 \%$ | $\$ 9,629.00$ | $\$ 5,004.19$ |
|  | $53.53 \%$ | $\$ 691.53$ | $\$ 370.18$ |
|  |  | TOTAL Taxable Income | TOTAL Tax Amount |

vii) The following is a piecewise function where the independent variable x is Taxable Income and the dependent variable $y$ is Total Payable Tax.

The function is defined by 12 equations because there are 12 tax brackets. Each equation has the same format:
$y=a+(x-L)^{*} b$
where

- $\boldsymbol{a}$ is the cumulative tax payable as per the table in the problem above
- $\boldsymbol{b}$ is the tax rate in each tax bracket as per the table in the problem above
- $L$ is the lower bound of the tax bracket

| Function $\mathrm{y}=\mathrm{a}+(\mathrm{x}-\mathrm{L})$ * b | Domain of $x$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| $y=\$ 0.0$ | $x \leq \$ 12,069$ |
| $y=(x-\$ 12,069.0) * 20.05 \%$ | \$ $12,069<x \leq \$ 43,906$ |
| $y=\$ 6,383.32+(x-\$ 43,906.0) * 24.15 \%$ | \$43,906 < x |
| $y=\$ 7,282.66+(x-\$ 47,630.0) * 29.65 \%$ | \$47,630<x |
| $y=\$ 16,083.67+(x-\$ 77,313.0) * 31.48 \%$ | \$77,313<x |
| $y=\$ 19,389.07+(x-\$ 87,813.0) * 33.89 \%$ | \$87,813 < x |
| $y=\$ 20,503.38+(x-\$ 91,101.0) * 37.91 \%$ | \$91,101<x |
| $y=\$ 22,079.68+(x-\$ 95,259.0) * 43.41 \%$ | \$95,259 < x |
| $y=\$ 44,829.99+(x-\$ 147,667.0) * 46.41 \%$ | \$147,667 < x |
| $y=\$ 45,912.73+(x-\$ 150,000.0) * 47.97 \%$ | \$150,000 < x $\leq$ \$210,371 |
| $y=\$ 74,872.70+(x-\$ 210,371.0) * 51.97 \%$ | \$210,371 < x $\leq$ \$220,000 |
| $y=\$ 79,876.89+(x-\$ 220,000.0) * 53.53 \%$ | \$220,000 < x |

The above piecewise function is plotted in red below, in the $x$ (Taxable Income) and $y$ (Total Payable Tax) system of coordinates for values of $x$ from 0 to $\$ 250,000$. The plot also includes a blue straight line that shows Total Payable Tax if the same lowest tax rate of $20.05 \%$ was applied to all the tax brackets, i.e. the tax rate was constant. The steepening red line when compared to the blue line illustrates the concept of progressive taxation in Canada.

Total Payable Tax (federal plus provincial) on Taxable Income for Ontario Residents in 2019


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