

Technical Annex for the Economic Note

Who Spends More: Left or Right?

March 2013

Sources for the Figures “Public spending as a share of GDP by government”:

Figure 1 – Canada

Department of Finance Canada, *Fiscal Reference Table 2012*; Statistics Canada, *Table 384-0035, Selected Economic Indicators*; Statistics Canada, *Table 384-0001, Gross domestic product (GDP), income-based, provincial economic accounts*; Statistics Canada, *Table 384-0037, Gross domestic product, income-based, provincial and territorial*; Department of Finance Canada, *Backgrounder: Results of the Department of Finance’s October 2012 survey of private sector economists, Table 1*; Department of Finance Canada, *Budget 2012, Chapter 6: Fiscal Outlook, Table 6.4.*

Figure 2 – Quebec

Ministère des Finances du Québec, *2011-2012 Budget Plan*, p. I9; Ministère des Finances du Québec, *2009-2010 Budget Plan*, p. J9; Statistics Canada, *Table 384-0035, Selected Economic Indicators*; Statistics Canada, *Table 384-0001, Gross domestic product (GDP), income-based, provincial economic accounts*; Statistics Canada, *Table 384-0037, Gross domestic product, income-based, provincial and territorial.*

Figure 3 – United States

Office of Management and Budget, White House, *Table 1.1—Summary of Receipts, Outlays, and Surpluses or Deficits (-): 1789–2017*; Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Current-dollar and real GDP.*

Complete data on the evolution of the ratio of public spending to GDP for each government:

| Canada | | | | Percentage-point change | Percentage change |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Starting point | Endpoint | | |
| Trudeau/Clark/Turner | 1968-1984 | 16.9% | 23.6% | 6.8 | 40.0% |
| Mulroney/Campbell | 1984-1993 | 23.6% | 22.4% | -1.3 | -5.4% |
| Chrétien/Martin | 1993-2006 | 22.4% | 15.1% | -7.3 | -32.5% |
| Harper | 2006-2012 | 15.1% | 15.1% | 0.0 | 0.1% |

| Quebec | | | | Percentage-point change | Percentage change |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Starting point | Endpoint | | |
| Bourassa | 1971-1976 | 18.7% | 21.7% | 2.9 | 15.6% |
| Lévesque/Johnson PM | 1976-1985 | 21.7% | 25.2% | 3.5 | 16.4% |
| Bourassa/Johnson D | 1985-1994 | 25.2% | 24.5% | -0.7 | -2.7% |
| Parizeau/Bouchard/Landry | 1994-2003 | 24.5% | 19.9% | -4.7 | -19.0% |
| Charest | 2003-2011 | 19.9% | 19.8% | -0.1 | -0.4% |

| United States | | | | Percentage-point change | Percentage change |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | | Starting point | Endpoint | | |
| Nixon/Ford | 1969-1977 | 18.7% | 20.2% | 1.5 | 8.1% |
| Carter | 1977-1981 | 20.2% | 21.7% | 1.5 | 7.6% |
| Reagan | 1981-1989 | 21.7% | 20.9% | -0.8 | -3.8% |
| Bush Sr. | 1989-1993 | 20.9% | 21.1% | 0.3 | 1.3% |
| Clinton | 1993-2001 | 21.1% | 18.1% | -3.0 | -14.3% |
| Bush Jr. | 2001-2009 | 18.1% | 25.2% | 7.1 | 39.0% |
| Obama | 2009-2012 | 25.2% | 24.2% | -1.0 | -3.9% |