

E: Tax burden refresher

Tax burden:

Portion of a tax borne by a given agent: buyer or seller

Notation and accounting:

P_i^d Price paid by **buyers** (demand side price) in equilibrium i

P_i^s Price received by **sellers** (supply side price) in equilibrium i

Q_i^m Market quantity traded in equilibrium i

t_i Tax rate

Relationship between prices: $P_i^d = P_i^s + t_i$

Example using hypothetical results:

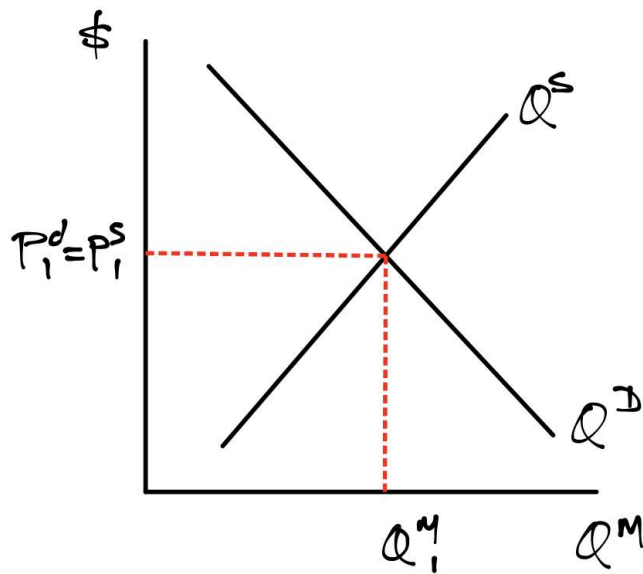
Equilibrium 1: no tax ($t_1 = 0$)

Suppose result 1 is:

$$P_1^d = 80$$

$$P_1^s = 80$$

$$Q_1^m = 1000$$



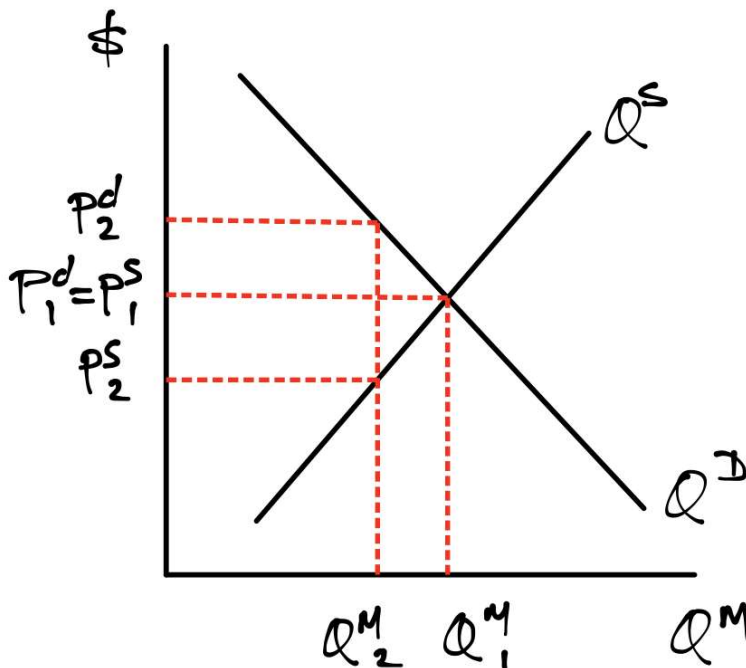
Equilibrium 2: \$10 unit tax ($t_2 = 10$)

Suppose result 2 is:

$$P_2^d = 84$$

$$P_2^s = 74$$

$$Q_2^m = 900$$



Analysis:

Revenue collected:

$$t_2 * Q_2^m = \$10 * 900 = \$9000$$

Impact of tax on prices:

$$\Delta P^d = 84 - 80 = 4 \quad \text{Buyers worse off by } \$4 \text{ on each unit}$$

$$\Delta P^s = 74 - 80 = -6 \quad \text{Sellers worse off by } \$6 \text{ on each unit}$$

Contribution to revenue from each group:

Group	Revenue	Share of revenue	Percent
Buyers:	\$4 *900 = \$3,600	\$3600/\$9000 = 0.4	40%
Sellers:	\$6 *900 = \$5,400	\$5400/\$9000 = 0.6	60%

Tax burdens via price changes alone:

Group	Share of T	Percent
Buyers:	\$4 /\$10 = 0.4	40%
Sellers:	\$6 /\$10 = 0.6	60%