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Artículo de Reflexión

Direct and indirect impact of federal transfer to individuals and to the government of Puerto Rico¹

ABSTRACT

The Puerto Rico Planning Board classifies individual transfer payments into two categories: “earned transfers” and “granted” transfers. The purpose of this work is to estimate the direct and indirect economic effects of federal and other transfer payments to Puerto Rico using two input-output models and two vectors of employment and income coefficients base on tables for years 1992 and 2002. The economic impacts were estimated for three economic indicators namely, gross output, direct and indirect employment and direct and indirect wage income. The results presented in this work shows that the argument that Puerto Ricans enjoy relatively generous income supplements and retirement benefits without imposing heavy tax burdens on highly compensated workers failed to distinguish that most of the transfer payments to individuals were in the category of earned transfers. It is doubtful that this type of transfer “impose heavy tax burdens” to American taxpayers. Since we are an open economy most of the income generated by transfer to individuals is spent of goods and services a substantial amount of which comes from United States. It is also doubtful that earned transfer to individuals (especiallly transfers in the form of pensions and payments to veterans) have any significant impact on the labor force participation rate or the incentives to work.

Keywords: Puerto Rico, earned transfers, granted transfers, flow of funds, input-output analysis, direct and indirect impacts, incentives to work, low labor force participation rate.

JEL: H77, O11, O19, O20, R11

Impacto directo e indirecto de las transferencias federales a los individuos y al gobierno de Puerto Rico

RESUMEN

La Junta de Planificación de Puerto Rico clasifica las transferencias individuales en dos categorías: “transferencias devengadas” y “transferencias concedidas”. El propósito de este trabajo es estimar los efectos económicos directos e indirectos de las transferencias federales y de otros tipos a Puerto Rico por medio de dos modelos de insumo-producto y dos vectores con base en los coeficientes

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empleo e ingreso de las tablas para los años 1992 y 2002. Los efectos económicos se estimaron para tres indicadores económicos a saber, la producción bruta, el empleo directo e indirecto y los salarios directos e indirectos. Los resultados presentados en este trabajo muestran que el argumento de que los puertorriqueños disfrutaban de complementos de renta relativamente generosos y jubilaciones, sin imponer pesadas cargas impositivas sobre los trabajadores altamente remunerados, no era diferente a la mayoría de los pagos de transferencias a las personas que se encontraban en la categoría de transferencias devengadas. Es dudoso que este tipo de transferencias “pesadas cargas impositivas” sean impuestas a los contribuyentes estadounidenses. Ya que somos una economía abierta, la mayor parte de los ingresos generados por las transferencias que las personas gastan en bienes y servicios, gran cantidad proviene de Estados Unidos. También es dudoso que las transferencias devengadas de las personas (especialmente las transferencias por concepto de pensiones y los pagos a los veteranos) tuvieron un impacto significativo en la tasa de participación de la fuerza de trabajo o en los incentivos al trabajo.

Palabras clave: Puerto Rico, transferencias devengadas, transferencias concedidas, flujo de fondos, el análisis de insumo-producto, los impactos directos e indirectos, los incentivos al trabajo, la baja tasa de participación en la fuerza laboral.

Impacto direto e indireto das transferências federais aos indivíduos e ao governo de Porto Rico

RESUMO

O Conselho de Planejamento de Porto Rico classifica as transferências individuais em duas categorias: “transferências adquiridas” e “transferências concedidas”. O propósito deste trabalho é estimar os efeitos econômicos diretos e indiretos das transferências federais e de outros tipos a Porto Rico por meio de modelos de insumo-producto e dos vetores com base nos coeficientes emprego e ingreso das tabelas para os anos 1992 e 2002. Os efeitos econômicos se estimaram para três indicadores econômicos: a produção bruta, o emprego direto e indireto, e os salários diretos e indiretos. Os resultados apresentados neste trabalho mostram que o argumento de que os porto-riquenhos gozam de complementos de renda relativamente generosos e aposentadorias, sem impor pesadas cargas impositivas sobre os trabalhadores altamente remunerados não era diferente à maioria dos pagamentos de transferências às pessoas que se encontravam na categoria de transferências adquiridas. É duvidoso que esse tipo de transferências “pesadas cargas impositivas” sejam impostas aos contribuintes estado-unidenses. Por sermos uma economia aberta, a maior parte dos ingressos gerados pelas transferências que as pessoas gastam em bens e serviços, grande quantidade provém dos Estados Unidos. Também é duvidoso que as transferências adquiridas das pessoas (especialmente as transferências por conceito de aposentadoria e pagamentos aos aposentados) tiveram um impacto significativo na taxa de participação da força de trabalho ou nos incentivos ao trabalho.

Palavras-chave: Porto Rico, transferências adquiridas, transferências concedidas, fluxo de fundos, análise input-output, impactos diretos e indiretos, incentivos ao trabalho, baixa taxa de participação na força laboral.

INTRODUCTION

In a relatively recent article Gary Burtless and Orlando Sotomayor (2006) argue that “because Puerto Rico is the recipient of substantial net transfers from the mainland government, taxpayers on the island do not have to pay for all the government benefits received by the island residents. Low income Puerto Ricans enjoy relatively generous (emphasis of mine) income supplements and retirement benefits without imposing heavy tax burdens on highly compensated workers”. They go ahead to analyze the impact of transfer payments on labor force participation rates and the incentive to work. In the analysis they failed to distinguish between granted and earned transfers. When analyzing both types of transfers the federal government program of transfers to Puerto Rico does not seem so “generous”. The starting point when analyzing transfer payments is to separate both types of transfers.

During 2011, Puerto Rico received a total of \$16,854.4 million in gross transfer payments from the federal and state governments and other non-residents (Table 1). Federal transfer payments were divided as follows: transfers to individuals, \$15,580.0 million; subsidies to industries, \$213.8 million; transfers received from state governments, \$21.1 million; and transfer from other non-residents, \$1,039.5 million. Payments to the federal government and to non-residents of \$3,613.0 million have to be deducted from the gross amount, however, leaving a net balance of transfer of \$13,241.4 million. In addition to federal transfers to individuals, the Government of Puerto Rico received a total of \$5,088.6 million for joint projects and operational expenses for a total net transfer into the Puerto Rican economy in 2011 of \$18,330.0 millions. This amount was equal to 18,6% of 2011 GDP compared with 13,2% of GDP in 1992.

The Puerto Rico Planning Board classifies individual transfer payments into two categories: “earned transfers” and “granted” transfers (table 2). The first category is defined as those transfers received by persons and government

for previously rendered services or for previous payments to the federal government, like for instance, veterans and social security payments, respectively. The second category of transfers are those given unilaterally to Puerto Ricans. They cannot be related, at least directly, to previously rendered services or payments. During fiscal year 2011 gross earned transfers amounted to \$10,910.4 millions compared to \$4,669.5 millions in gross granted (or unilateral transfers) to individuals and \$5,088.6 to government. The major component of earned transfers is social security payments which amounted to \$7,081.6 during fiscal year 2011 (64,1% of all earned transfers to individuals). Nutritional assistance is the major component of granted transfers, amounting to \$1,766.8 millions, or 37,8% of granted transfers to individuals during fiscal year 2011. Adding payments to government and deducting payments made by Puerto Ricans to the federal government, net transfers received in 2011 amounted to \$17,528.1 millions. It is important to emphasize that any analysis of transfer payments to the island should start by using net amounts, otherwise the analysis will be biased. Since we are dealing with two economies, the flows from both should be taken into account. Table 1 below offers a detailed account of earned and granted transfer payments to individuals for fiscal years 1992 and 2011.

As mentioned before, besides transfers to individuals, residents and government of Puerto Rico receive other transfers and grants (in the case of government). During fiscal year 2011 these two categories of transfers amounted to \$5,302.3 million (after deductions a net amount of \$4,989.7). Table 2 shows other transfer payment for years 1992 and 2011 and table 3 shows a summary of federal grants to the government of Puerto Rico (Commonwealth government, Public enterprises and Municipal governments).

In the next section the input output model together with vectors of employment and income coefficients is used to estimate the impact of transfer payments in the economy of Puerto Rico.

Table 1.

*Earned and granted gross and net transfer to individuals, 1992 and 2011
(in million dollars)*

<i>Fiscal Year 2011</i>	<i>Gross Receipts</i>	<i>Payments</i>	<i>Net Balance</i>
EARNED TRANSFERS TO INDIVIDUALS			
Total	10.910,40	3.375,20	7.535,20
Veterans' Benefits	915,7	0	915,7
Old Age and survivors Insurance benefits*	7.081,60	2.767,90	4.313,70
United States civil Service retirement pensions and refunds*	309,8	205,9	103,9
medicare benefits	2.603,30	401,4	2.201,90
GRANTED TRANSFERS TO INDIVIDUALS			
Total	4.669,50	2,8	4.666,70
Food Stamps (Nutritional Assistance)	1.766,80	0	1.766,80
Rent subsidies	569,8	0	569,8
Scholarships	918,7	0	918,7
Student loans interest subsidies	18,1	0	18,1
Assistance to Families on disaster Areas	10,3	0	10,3
Other Transfer to persons**	1.344,30	2,8	1.341,50
Transfer to private Institutions	41,6	0	41,6
TOTAL, EARNED AND GRANTED	15.579,90	3.378,00	12.201,90
<i>Fiscal Year 1992</i>			
EARNED TRANSFERS TO INDIVIDUALS			
Total	3.289,50	1677,3	1.612,20
Veterans' Benefits	383,1	0	383,1
Old Age and survivors Insurance benefits	2.315,10	1503,7	811,4
United States civil Service retirement pensions and refunds	104,2	65,4	38,8
medicare benefits	487,1	108,2	378,9
GRANTED TRANSFERS TO INDIVIDUALS			
Total	1.528,30	1,2	1.527,10
Food Stamps	956,7	0	956,7
Rent subsidies	212,4	0	212,4
Scholarships	304	0	304
Student loans interest subsidies	5,6	0	5,6
Assistance to Families on disaster Areas	0	0	0
Other Transfer to persons	7,8	1,2	6,6
Transfer to private Institutions	41,8	0	41,8
TOTAL, EARNED AND GRANTED	4.817,80	1.678,50	3.139,30

* Payments include employees' and employers' contributions to social security systems

** For year 2011 Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Fund and other minor items

Source: Calculated by the author.

Table 2.

*Other gross and net transfers, fiscal years 1992 and 2011
(in million dollars)*

Fiscal Year 2011	Receipts	Payments	Net Balance
Transfer to and from Industries	213,8	104,4	109,3
Transfers to and from States Governments	21,1	17,2	3,9
Transfer to and from Other Nonresidents	1.039,50	707	332,6
Total	1.274,40	828,6	445,8
Fiscal Year 1992	Receipts	Payments	Net Balance
Transfer to and from Industries	85,5	24,2	61,3
Transfers to and from States Governments	29,3	4,3	25
Transfer to and from Other Nonresidents	175,1	69,4	105,7
Total	289,9	97,9	192

Source: Table 21 Statistical Appendix, Economic Report to the Governor, 2011 and 1998

Table 3.

*Federal grants to the government sector of Puerto Rico fiscal years 1992 and 2011
(in million dollars)*

Fiscal Year 2011	Receipts	Payments	Net Balance
FEDERAL GRANTS TO THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR	5.088,60	208,2	4.880,40
Commonwealth central government	2.746,00	0	2.746,00
Public enterprises	324,1	0	324,1
Municipios	606,7	0	606,7
Unemployment Trust Insurance funds	612,4	208,2	404,2
School Lunch Program and Food for Free Distribution	14,3	0	14,3
Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Funds	16,1	0	16,1
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	769	0	769
Fiscal Year 1992	Receipts	Payments	Net Balance
FEDERAL GRANTS TO THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR	1.453,20	204,3	1.248,90
Commonwealth central government	818,3	0	818,3
Public enterprises	275,6	0	275,6
Municipios	146,3	0	146,3
Unemployment Trust Insurance funds	194,8	204,3	-9,5
School Lunch Program and Food for Free Distribution	14,8	0	14,8
Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Funds	3,4	0	3,4
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009	0	0	0

Source: Table 22 Statistical Appendix, Economic Report to the Governor, 2011 and 2000

The economic impacts will be shown for three economic indicators namely gross output, direct and indirect employment and direct and indirect wage income.

METHODOLOGY AND MODEL

Methodology: transfers to individuals

The Leontief's open input output model data requirements consist of an industry-by-industry transaction matrix (in our case 93 by 93 for years 1992 and 2002), a rectangular matrix of value added and a rectangular matrix of final demand. To estimate vectors of direct and indirect employment and income, we also need employment and income coefficients. The exogenous vectors of the model are the different components of final demand matrix². Therefore, our first task was to transform data of transfer payments into final demand vectors. Earned and granted transfers to individuals were distributed according to the percentage (weights) of each component of consumption vector in total consumption. The hypothesis behind this procedure was that individuals spend transfers received on consumption of goods and services. However, some of the transfers were allocated to specific industries (not distributed proportionally). For instance, scholarships were assigned to the educational service industry. We used the consumption vectors of 1992 and 2002 as weights. Grants to government were allocated to government expenditures vector of the final demand matrix (the components of final demand matrix are the column vectors of consumption, Investment, Government consumption expenditures and the external sector). Other miscellaneous transfers were allocated using proportions derived from consumption vector and government consumption vector (in the case of transfer to industries which figures consist mostly of the Job Training Partnership Act JTPA).

The figures for transfers were net of pay-

2 Personal Consumption, investment, government consumption, and exports vectors.

ments to the federal government and others (receipts minus payments). Final demand estimates and results for year 1992 were expressed in current prices since the input matrix available was for that year. Figures for 2011 were deflated and expressed in 2002 prices using the Gross domestic Product the implicit price deflator by industry (By SIC). The dimension of the matrices used were of 93 by 93 sector³. The benchmark table for year 2002 was updated to 1911 using RAS method.⁴

Data Sources model

Data Sources

The Input-Output Tables for years 1992 and 2002 were supplied by the Puerto Rico Planning Board. The table for 2011 was estimated by the author using the RAS method. Employment by industrial sector (to estimate employment coefficients) were supplied by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Department of Labor and Human Resources.

Model

The following equations in matrix and vector notation were used to estimate direct and indirect effects of transfer payments on gross interindustry output, employment and income. The model was run for both 1992 and 2006 for the three categories of transfer payments.

3 The matrices are available to the reader on request to the author.

4 See Richard Stone, John Bates y Michael Bacharach, A Programme for Growth (No.3): Input Relationship 1954-1966, Cambridge Department of Applied Economics, England (Publicado en Inglaterra por Chapman and Hall, Ltd., y en Estados Unidos, por M.I.T. Press)

1. $(I-A)^{-1} T_I = X_{TI}$
2. $(I-A)^{-1} T_G = X_{TG}$
3. $(I-A)^{-1} T_O = X_{TO}$
4. $\frac{E}{X} = N$ or $XN = E$
5. $\frac{W}{X} = S$ or $XS = W$

Where,

$(I-A)^{-1}$ is a 93 by 93 direct and indirect coefficient input output matrix for year 1992 (better known as Leontief's inverse).

T_I = transfer payments to individuals (final demand vector)

X_{TI} = vector of output generated by transfers to individuals

T_G = transfer payments to government (grants to Puerto Rican Government).

X_{TG} = output generated by transfers to government.

T_O = Other miscellaneous transfers.

X_{TO} = output generated by other transfers

$\frac{E}{X} = N$ = vector of employment coefficients (persons employed per million dollars of output for both 1992 and 2006)

XN = direct and indirect employment generated by output solutions to the model (in our case the output for the three categories of transfers for both 1992 and 2006)

$\frac{W}{X} = S$ = vector of wages and salaries coefficient (wages divided by output both for years 1992 and 2011)

$XS = W$ = income generated by the output solutions to the model for the three categories of transfers for years 1992 and 2006

Results

The results will be presented in the following order: results of the model for transfers to individuals, results for transfer to government and results for other transfers. The years analyzed are 1992 (our base year) and estimates for year 2011 using the I-O table of 2002. First we analyze the impact on output, employment and income generated by transfers to individuals (earned and granted). Second impacts of government and other transfer will be analyzed.

Transfer to individuals

The results are obtained by solving the open input-output model. Employment and income are obtained by multiplying the results by the employment and income coefficients vectors. Table 4 shows the allocation of transfer payments to individuals to the final demand vectors of the input-output model. The table is a summary of the 93 by 1 column vector of final demand. The data for year 2011 is used with the latest I-O table for year 2002.

An analysis of table 4 data shows that from 1992 to 2011 earned transfers increased from \$1,612.2 million to \$5,796.3 million, an annual rate of growth of 6,8%. Granted transfer (at 1992 prices) increased from \$1,527.1 to \$3,589.8 million, a rate of growth of 4,60% per year. In other words, in 1992 granted transfers constituted 48,6% of total transfers to individuals while during 2011 granted transfer decreased to 38,2% of total transfers to individuals. For year 2011 net granted transfer at 1992 prices constituted 5,2% of GDP at 2002 prices (\$69,168.8). *These figures are very significant and contradict the common view that transfers to individuals are "generous" and constitute one of the pillars of our economic development, making the economy of the island highly dependent on US taxpayers.*

Table 4.

Final demand (allocation of net transfer payments to input-output industries) years 1992 and 2011
(in thousand dollars, 1992=100)

FISCAL YEAR 2011 (1992 = 100)			
Industrial Sectors	Total Individuals Earned Transfers	Total Individuals Granted Transfers	Total
Agriculture	3.630,40	2.248,40	5.878,90
Mining and Construction	0	0	0
Manufacturing	820.906,50	508.405,80	1.329.312,20
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	508.613,90	314.996,00	823.609,80
Wholesale and Retail trade	1.684.958,30	1.043.532,40	2.728.490,70
Finances, Insurance and Real State	1.499.493,70	928.670,00	2.428.163,80
Personal Services	92.899,40	57.534,70	150.434,10
Business services	0	0	0
Amusement and Recreation	16.010,90	9.915,90	25.926,80
Medical and Health Services	685.810,90	424.738,10	1.110.549,00
Other Services	421.917,80	261.303,10	683.221,00
Commonwealth Government	53.222,20	32.961,70	86.184,00
Municipal Government	0	0	0
Federal Government	8.849,70	5.480,80	14.330,60
Total Transfers Allocated	5.796.313,80	3.589.786,90	9.386.100,80
FISCAL YEAR 1992			
Industrial Sectors	Total Individuals Earned Transfers	Total Individuals Granted Transfers	Total
Agriculture	12.592,05	7.466,83	20.058,88
Mining and Construction	0	0	0
Manufacturing	308.124,52	182.701,11	490.825,62
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	139.200,52	82.537,88	221.738,40
Wholesale and Retail trade	460.896,11	273.286,47	734.182,59
Finances, Insurance and Real State	366.731,60	435.281,04	802.012,64
Personal Services	26.926,55	15.966,17	42.892,72
Business services	0	0	0
Amusement and Recreation	3.193,83	1.893,29	5.087,11
Medical and Health Services	142.460,99	84.471,03	226.932,02
Other Services	112.332,78	419.931,31	532.264,09
Commonwealth Government	23.263,30	13.793,80	37.057,09
Municipal Government	0	0	0
Federal Government	16.477,76	9.771,07	26.248,84
Total Transfers Allocated	1.612.200,00	1.527.100,00	3.139.300,00
RATE OF GROWTH 1992-2011	6,97%	4,60%	5,93%

Source: Calculated by the author.

Table 5.

Output by industrial sector generated by transfer payments
(in thousand dollars)*

FISCAL YEAR 2011 (2002=100)			
Industrial Sectors	Total Individuals Earned Transfers	Total Individuals Granted Transfers	Total
Agriculture	67.727,40	41.945,10	109.672,50
Mining and Construction	181.936,60	112.677,40	294.614,00
Manufacturing	1.794.464,80	1.111.352,20	2.905.817,00
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	1.016.650,20	629.634,20	1.646.284,50
Wholesale and Retail trade	1.906.584,40	1.180.790,40	3.087.374,90
Finances, Insurance and Real State	2.973.810,90	1.841.747,60	4.815.558,50
Personal Services	118.064,50	73.120,00	191.184,50
Business services	196.192,90	121.506,60	317.699,50
Amusement and Recreation	50.508,70	31.281,20	81.789,90
Medical and Health Services	731.572,10	453.079,00	1.184.651,10
Other Services	609.919,20	377.736,60	987.655,90
Commonwealth Government	56.425,60	34.945,60	91.371,20
Municipal Government	91,6	56,7	148,3
Federal Government	56.772,60	35.160,60	91.933,20
Total Transfers Allocated	9.760.721,50	6.045.033,30	15.805.754,80
FISCAL YEAR 1992			
Industrial Sectors	Total Individuals Earned Transfers	Total Individuals Granted Transfers	Total
Agriculture	45.318,80	28.038,10	73.356,90
Mining and Construction	34.745,00	36.838,70	71.583,70
Manufacturing	472.797,80	301.719,80	774.517,60
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	251.191,70	175.736,80	426.928,50
Wholesale and Retail trade	573.891,80	355.670,80	929.562,70
Finances, Insurance and Real State	537.481,40	583.546,30	1.121.027,70
Personal Services	35.252,60	23.221,20	58.473,80
Business services	76.728,60	74.770,90	151.499,50
Amusement and Recreation	9.093,60	7.695,20	16.788,80
Medical and Health Services	152.589,50	87.577,40	240.166,90
Other Services	179.177,10	477.430,40	656.607,40
Commonwealth Government	39.294,50	50.043,40	89.337,80
Municipal Government	2.908,80	2.968,20	5.877,00
Federal Government	21.325,50	13.498,30	34.823,80
Total Transfers Allocated	2.431.796,80	2.218.755,40	4.650.552,20
RATE OF GROWTH 1992-2011	7,59%	5,42%	6,65%

* All Data for year 1992 are expressed in current 1992 prices since we are using 1992 I-O matrix. All Data for 2011 are expressed in 2002 prices since we are using 2002 Input-Output table.

Source: Calculated by the author.

Output by Industrial Sector Generated by Transfers

Applying equation (1) we get as solution the output necessary to satisfy the final demand (in our case final demand equals the consumption generated by transfer payments to individual). The results are summarized in table 5. A glance at table 5 shows an increase in output⁵ generated by granted transfers and earned transfers from 1992 to 2011. Output generated by earned transfers increased significantly, from \$2,431.8 to 9,760.7 million. The industries more favorably impacted by earned transfer were manufacturing, trade, and finance, insurance and real estate and transportation, communications and public utilities. Industries more favorably impacted by granted transfers are trade, professional services, finance insurance and real estate, manufacturing, public utilities and medical and health services.

A comparative analysis of table 5 and table 4 shows that for each million dollars increase (or decrease) in transfer to individual output of the system will increase (or decrease) by \$683,953 (a output multiplier of 1.683953).

Impact of Transfer to Individuals in Employment

Using the data of output together with employment coefficients we get the direct and indirect employment generated by transfers payments (see equation 4 above). Table 6 shows the employment generated by transfers to individuals (earned and granted).

Some of the results derived from table 6 are as follows:

- Direct and indirect employment generated by earned transfer payments to individuals increased at annual rate of

3.53% from 1992 to 2011, increasing from 49,446 to 95,648 during this period. Employment generated by granted transfers increase only 1.09%.

- Percentage wise during 2011 employment generated by earned transfers to individuals amounted to 61.7% of total employment generated by transfer payments to individuals and granted transfer amounted to 38.2% of total transfers, while in year 1992 the percentage was 50.6% and 49.3% respectively. These figures show a reduction of granted transfer and an increase of earned transfers as percentage of total transfer to individuals during this period.
- Total (direct and indirect) employment generated by transfer payments to individuals amounted to 14.4% of total employment in Puerto Rico for year 2011.
- During 2011 24% of employment generated by transfers to individuals was in wholesale and retail industry while in 1992 was 18.8%. During 2011 employment generated by transfers in medical services amounted to 22.5% of total employment generated by transfers to individual. Another industry where employment generated by earned transfers was significant was other services (mostly professional service and educational services).

For each 100 million dollars of increase (or decrease) in transfer to individuals the economy gains (losses) 1,270 jobs⁶.

Impact on Value Added in Wages and Salaries

One important result of the Input-Output model is the direct and indirect income (wages and salaries)

⁵ Interindustry output is equal to intermediate plus final output while Gross domestic product is equal to gross output minus intermediate output. Gross national product is equal to Gross Domestic product minus rest of the World (income of external firms established in the island, for instance profits).

⁶ Estimates based in the results of Input-Output models of 2002.

Table 6.

Direct and indirect employment generated by transfer payments to individuals

FISCAL YEAR 2011 (2002=100)			
Industrial Sectors	Total Individuals Earned Transfers	Total Individuals Granted Transfers	Total
Agriculture	2.227	1.379	3.606
Mining and Construction	1.861	1.153	3.014
Manufacturing	8.166	5.057	13.223
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	6.736	4.172	10.909
Wholesale and Retail trade	27.572	17.076	44.647
Finances, Insurance and Real State	4.973	3.080	8.053
Personal Services	1.292	800	2.092
Business services	6.266	3.881	10.146
Amusement and Recreation	654	405	1.058
Medical and Health Services	21.284	13.182	34.465
Other Services	12.630	7.822	20.451
Commonwealth Government	1.530	947	2.477
Municipal Government	3	2	5
Federal Government	456	282	739
Total	95.648	59.237	154.885
FISCAL YEAR 1992			
Industrial Sectors	Total Individuals Earned Transfers	Total Individuals Granted Transfers	Total
Agriculture	2.404	1.506	3.910
Mining and Construction	213	220	433
Manufacturing	3.616	2.338	5.953
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	4.179	2.989	7.168
Wholesale and Retail trade	17.178	10.646	27.824
Finances, Insurance and Real State	3.043	2.634	5.678
Personal Services	1.457	997	2.453
Business services	1.721	1.724	3.445
Amusement and Recreation	461	417	878
Medical and Health Services	7.185	4.145	11.330
Other Services	5.494	17.761	23.255
Commonwealth Government	1.818	2.315	4.134
Municipal Government	210	214	424
Federal Government	469	297	766
Total	49.446	48.204	97.650
RATE OF GROWTH 1992-2011	3,53%	1,09%	2,46%

Source: Calculated by the author.

generated by transfer payments. As explained before transfer payments are allocated to the exogenous vectors of final demand. The model is solved giving as solution the direct and indirect output by industrial sector. To produce the output workers constitute one of the main inputs of the production process. Workers are paid wages and salaries. Table 7 shows direct and indirect income in form of wages generated by transfer payments to individuals.

- Data on table 7 shows that, during 2011, of the total wage income generated by transfers to individuals earned transfers generated 61.7%.
- Trade, transportation, communications and public utilities other services and finances were the most favorable impacted by transfer payments to individuals. Of total income generated by transfers to individuals, 10.8% was generated

in manufacturing industries, 24.4% in trade, public utilities 13.51 and 13.52% in professional services.

- Once again earned transfers are responsible for most of the direct and indirect impact on the wages and salaries of workers.
- Income generated by earned transfers to individuals increased at annual rate of 6.62% while granted transfers rate of growth was 3.61% from 1992 to 2011.
- The results of the model shows that for each million dollars increase (or decrease) in transfer to individuals wages in the economy will increase (or decrease) by \$274,663. For instance a reduction of 100 million dollars in transfer to individuals will reduce wages by \$27,466,283.

Table 7.

Direct and indirect income generated by transfer payments

FISCAL YEAR 2011 (in 2002 prices)			
Industrial Sectors	Total Individuals Earned Transfers	Total Individuals Granted Transfers	Total
Agriculture	16.843,40	10.431,50	27.274,90
Mining and Construction	28.697,30	17.772,90	46.470,10
Manufacturing	171.412,80	106.159,80	277.572,60
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	215.010,50	133.160,80	348.171,20
Wholesale and Retail trade	388.090,50	240.353,10	628.443,60
Finances, Insurance and Real State	199.533,60	123.575,60	323.109,30
Personal Services	22.563,90	13.974,30	36.538,30
Business services	82.173,50	50.891,90	133.065,30
Amusement and Recreation	9.705,50	6.010,80	15.716,30
Medical and Health Services	179.369,50	111.087,50	290.457,00
Other Services	215.314,80	133.349,30	348.664,10
Commonwealth Government	34.030,10	21.075,60	55.105,70
Municipal Government	46,6	28,9	75,5
Federal Government	29.240,70	18.109,40	47.350,00
Total Transfers Allocated	1.592.032,50	985.981,40	2.578.013,80

FISCAL YEAR 1992			
Industrial Sectors	Total Individuals Earned Transfers	Total Individuals Granted Transfers	Total
Agriculture	9.054,50	5.782,50	14.837,10
Mining and Construction	5.111,80	5.410,80	10.522,60
Manufacturing	44.227,10	29.197,20	73.424,30
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities	55.551,90	39.247,20	94.799,10
Wholesale and Retail trade	140.373,90	86.997,10	227.371,00
Finances, Insurance and Real State	57.234,10	48.147,70	105.381,90
Personal Services	7.110,70	5.189,70	12.300,50
Business services	12.455,20	12.363,70	24.819,00
Amusement and Recreation	1.823,80	1.623,10	3.446,90
Medical and Health Services	37.557,20	21.604,80	59.161,90
Other Services	61.385,60	206.002,10	267.387,70
Commonwealth Government	24.315,40	30.966,80	55.282,30
Municipal Government	1.535,00	1.566,30	3.101,30
Federal Government	13.362,60	8.458,00	21.820,60
Total Transfers Allocated	471.098,90	502.557,30	973.656,20
RATE OF GROWTH 1992-2011	6,62%	3,61%	5,26%

Source: Calculated by the author.

Transfers to government and others

Puerto Rican Government receives grants from the Federal Government. During fiscal year 2006 the government received a total amount of \$2,378.2 million. Table 8 shows gross transfers of Federal Government to Commonwealth Government for fiscal year 2011 in current prices.

Figures shown in table 8 were adjusted by payments made by local government to Federal Government and deflated to 2002 prices.

The procedure was necessary to run the Input-Output model whose base year is fiscal year 2002.

As with transfers to individuals, the results are shown for the variables output, employment and income. The transfer to governments was allocated to final demand vector of government expenditures (Municipal and Commonwealth) except for the School Lunch Program that was allocated to the educational service industry. Table

12 shows a summarized version of the results of the input-output model for selected years. The selected fiscal years were chosen according to the availability of input-output tables, except for 2006 when we assumed the structure of 1992.

Table 9 shows results for years 1967 to 2011 at current prices, since we used input-output data bank for each of these years. However, for year 2011 we used constant price figures to run the model since we were assuming 2002 structure. The analysis of data of table 9 shows that:

- Federal Grants to Commonwealth Government, public enterprises and municipalities increases at annual rate of 9,6% from 1967 to fiscal year 1987, compared to 4,4% from 1992 to 2011.
- During fiscal year 2011 grants to Puerto Rican government generated 112,016 direct and indirect jobs. Adding the jobs

Table 8.

*Grants to commonwealth government by the Federal government, 2011
(in million dollars)*

Commonwealth government	2.746,0
Municipal Government	606,7
Public enterprises	324,1
Unemployment Insurance	612,4
School Lunch Program	14,3
Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Funds	16,1
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009	769,0
Total	5,088,5

Source: Calculated by the author.

Table 9.

*Impact of federal grants to the commonwealth government and others, fiscal years
(in million dollars)*

	1967	1977	1987	1992	2011
Transfers to Commonwealth, Municipal Government and Public Enterprises	Current Prices	Current Prices	Current Prices	Current Prices	Constant 1992 prices
Transfers Received Adjusted for Payments	197,700.0	889,900.0	1,236,700.0	1,535,700.0	3,701,293.0
Output Generated	277,695.2	1,261,461.3	1,792,627.2	2,109,156.1	5,073,699.4
Direct and Indirect Employment	34,336	71,886	67,652	85,472	112,016
Direct and Indirect income	150,701.9	670,749.8	854,677.6	1,038,961.6	2,432,148.9
Other Transfers					
Transfers Received Adjusted for Payments	7,999.0	25,200.0	207,501.0	204,400.0	445,808.0
Output Generated	10,542.4	38,540.9	299,738.0	302,145.3	611,109.6
Direct and Indirect Employment	1,114	1,245	5,719	6,144	13,492
Direct and Indirect income	2,625.3	7,831.3	53,681.9	58,533.0	292,944.0
Total Government and Others					
Transfers Received Adjusted for Payments	205,699.0	915,100.0	1,444,201.0	1,740,100.0	4,147,101.0
Output Generated	288,237.6	1,300,002.2	2,092,365.2	2,411,301.4	5,684,809.0
Direct and Indirect Employment	35,450	73,130	73,370	91,616	125,508
Direct and Indirect income	153,327.2	678,581.1	908,359.5	1,097,494.6	2,725,092.9

Source: Calculated by the author.

created by other transfers the amount increases to 125,508. Impact on jobs creation of Federal Grants increase from 85,472 in 1992 to 112,016 in fiscal year 2011 (an increase of 26,544).

When jobs created by transfers to individuals are added to above figures total increases to 280,393.

The reader should consider that implicit price deflator of government expenditure increased by 43,3% from 1992 to 2006. Therefore the annual rate of growth of federal grants to the local government was only 0,56% during this period.

- The same pattern can be observed in income generated by federal grants to Commonwealth Government and other transfers. A significant growth in the direct and indirect income generated by other transfers (17,5% at current prices and 9,6% at constant 1992 prices). On the other hand, we observe a relatively slow growth for the same variable of government grants (8,61% in current prices and only 3,4% in constant prices). However the impact on income is much higher than in employment which means that salaries are increasing at a higher rate than jobs at least using the data bank of 1992 input-output with 2006 income and employment coefficients.

SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS

When jobs created by transfers to individuals are added to above figures total increases to 280,393.

The following findings can be derived by the analysis of table 10:

- For year 2011 earned transfers to individuals is the major component of total transfers to the island, accounting to 42,8% of total transfer payments. This category of transfers also generates 34% of direct and

indirect employment. From 1992 to 2011 earned transfer experienced an annual rate of growth of 6,85%.

- Granted transfers to individuals account for 26,5% of total transfer and create 21,1% of employment. Granted transfers experienced an annual rate of growth of 4,7% from 1992 to 2011.
- Net grants from federal government to Commonwealth government amounted to 27,3% of total transfer payments and was responsible for the creation 112,016 jobs or 39,9% of total direct and indirect employment created by total transfer payments (280,393). Annual rate of growth for this category of transfers was 4,7% from 1992 to 2011.

Total direct and indirect jobs created by total transfers during fiscal 2011 amounted to 280,393 which constitutes 26,8% of total employment (1,047,000)

- Other transfers increased from \$204.0 million to \$445.8 million from 1992 to 2011 (this kind of transfer payments are mainly from nonresidents), an annual rate of growth of 3,8% for the same period.
- Total net transfers from Federal Government, and other sources, to Puerto Rico amounted to \$13,530.2 million during fiscal year 2011. From 1992 to 2011 total transfer experienced a 5,5% rate of growth. Total (direct and indirect jobs created by total transfer amounted to 280,393 which constitute 26,0% of total employment of the island for that year.
- Using the model we can also estimate the contribution of transfer payments to gross domestic product and other macroeconomic variables. Gross domestic product (GDP) of the island was \$98,757.0 million for fiscal year 2011 (\$69,168.8 million at 2002 prices). GDP

Table 10.

*Direct and indirect impact of federal and other transfer payments to individuals and government in Puerto Rico
(monetary figures in thousand dollars)*

	1967	1977	1987	1992	2011*
Earned Transfers					
Transfers	172.000,00	518.897,00	1.348.902,00	1.645.098,00	5.793.313,80
Output Generated	226.661,00	793.606,50	1.948.513,60	2.431.796,80	9.760.721,50
Direct and Indirect Employment	23.945	25.626	37.175	49.446	95.648
Direct and Indirect income	56.443,40	161.256,10	348.971,20	471.098,90	1.592.032,50
Granted Transfers					
Transfers	1.100,00	658.493,00	1.263.700,00	1.493.799,00	3.589.786,90
Output Generated	1.214,30	1.214.005,00	2.079.989,00	2.218.755,40	6.045.033,30
Direct and Indirect Employment	144	29.580	35.231	48.204	59.237
Direct and Indirect income	686,4	173.486,90	381.354,80	502.557,30	985.981,40
Transfers to Commonwealth, Municipal Government and Public Enterprises					
Transfers	197.700,00	889.900,00	1.236.700,00	1.535.700,00	3.701.293,20
Output Generated	277.695,20	1.261.461,30	1.792.627,20	2.109.156,10	5.073.699,40
Direct and Indirect Employment	34.336	71.886	67.652	85.472	112.016
Direct and Indirect income	150.701,90	670.749,80	854.677,60	1.038.961,60	2.432.148,90
Other Transfers					
Transfers	7.999,00	25.200,00	207.501,00	204.400,00	445.808,00
Output Generated	10.542,40	38.540,90	299.738,00	302.145,30	611.109,60
Direct and Indirect Employment	1.114	1.245	5.719	6.144	13.492
Direct and Indirect income	2.625,30	7.831,30	53.681,90	58.533,00	212.355,00
Gran Total					
Transfers	378.799,00	2.092.490,00	4.056.803,00	4.878.997,00	13.530.201,90
Output Generated	516.112,90	3.307.613,60	6.120.867,80	7.061.853,60	21.490.563,80
Direct and Indirect Employment	59.539	128.337	145.776	189.265	280.393
Direct and Indirect income	210.456,90	1.013.324,10	1.638.685,50	2.071.150,70	5.222.517,80

* Net at constant 2002 prices.

Source: Calculated by the author.

for fiscal year 2002 was approximately 50,5% of gross output (intermediate plus final demand). For year 2011 gross output generated by transfer payments amounted to \$21,490.6 (at 2002 prices), therefore the contribution for transfer payments to GDP of the island was approximately 15,4%.

For each \$100 million of increase (or decrease) in total transfer, direct and indirect employment will increase (or decrease) by 2,072, output generated in the economy will increase (or decrease) by \$158.8 million, and wages will increase (or decrease) by \$38.6 million (estimates based on 2002 input-output model together with updated employment and income coefficients for year 2011).

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A relatively recent article by Gary Burtless and Orlando Sotomayor argue that “because Puerto Rico is the recipient of substantial net transfers from the mainland government, taxpayers on the island do not have to pay for all the government benefits received by the island residents. Low income Puerto Ricans enjoy relatively **generous** (emphasis of mine) income supplements and retirement benefits without imposing heavy tax burdens on highly compensated workers”.

In the analysis they failed to make a clear distinction between granted and earned transfers. The Puerto Rico Planning Board classifies individual transfer payments into two categories: “earned transfers” and “granted” transfers (Table 2). The first category is defined as those transfers received by persons and government for previously rendered services or for previous payments to the federal government, like for instance, veterans and social security payments, respectively. The second category of transfers are those given unilaterally to Puerto Ricans. They cannot be related, *at least directly*, to previously rendered services or payments. When analyzing both types of transfers the federal government program of transfers to Puerto Rico

does not seem so “generous”. The starting point when analyzing transfer payments is to separate both types of transfers.

It is important also to emphasize that any analysis of transfer payments to the island should start by using net amounts; otherwise the analysis will be biased. Since we are dealing with two economies, the flows from both should be taken into account.

The purpose of this work was to estimate the direct and indirect economic effects of federal and other transfer payments to Puerto Rico. The economic impacts was estimated for three economic indicators namely, gross output, direct and indirect employment and direct and indirect wage income. An input output model, together with employment and income coefficients, were used to obtain the results.

An analysis of the data shows that from 1992 to 2011 earned transfers increased from \$1,645.1 million to \$5,793.3 million, an annual rate of growth of 6,85% while granted transfer to individual increased from \$1,493.8 to \$3,589.8 million an annual rate of growth of 4,7% per year. In term of percentage share, in 1992 granted transfers constituted 30,6% of total transfers while during 2011 granted transfers decreased to 26,5% of total transfers while earned transfer increased from 33,7% of total transfer to 42,8% during the same period. There is a clear tendency for granted transfer to decrease and earned transfer to increase.

Transfer payments generate interindustry output, employment and income. A glance at data on output shows a greater impact of earned transfer than granted transfers from 1992 to 2011. The industries more favorably impacted by earned transfer were trade, finance, insurance and real estate and manufacturing. But most of the impact was on the service sector. Industries more favorably impacted by granted transfers were trade, professional services, finance insurance and real estate, manufacturing, public utilities and medical and health services.

During 2011 employment generated by earned transfers to individuals amounted to 34% of total employment generated by transfer payments.

The corresponding figure for granted transfers was 21,1% of total transfers. Total (direct and indirect) employment generated by transfer payments to individuals amounted to 14,4% of total employment in Puerto Rico for year 2011.

During 2011, earned transfers generated 73,5% of the total income generated by transfers to individuals. Manufacturing, trade, and professional services were the industries the most favorable impacted by transfer payments to individuals. Of total income generated by transfers to individuals, 19% was generated in manufacturing industries, 17,4% in trade and 16% in professional services. Once again earned transfers were responsible for most of the direct and indirect impact on the wages and salaries of workers.

Puerto Rican Government receives grants from the Federal Government. During fiscal year 2011 the government (Commonwealth, Municipal and Public enterprises) received a total net amount of \$3,701.3 million (at constant 2002 prices). Federal Grants to Commonwealth Government increases at annual rate of 4.74% from 1992 to fiscal year 2011, while other transfers increased at of 4,2%. During fiscal year 2011 grants to Puerto Rican government generated 112,016 direct and indirect jobs. Adding the jobs created by other transfers the amount increased to 125,508. The impact of government grants on jobs creation increase at a rate of only 1.4% from 1992 to 2011 compared to 3,7% annual rate from 1967 to 1992 (this in spite of the increase in current price federal grants to the Commonwealth Government).

Total net transfers from Federal Government, and other sources, to Puerto Rico amounted to \$13,530.2 million during fiscal year 2011 (at constant 2002 prices). From 1992 to 2011 total transfer experienced a 5,5% rate of growth. During fiscal

year 2011 total (direct and indirect jobs created by total transfers amounted to 280,393 which constitute 26,0% of total employment of the island for that year.

Using the model we can also estimate the contribution of transfer payments to gross domestic product and other macroeconomic variables. Gross domestic product (GDP) of the island was \$98,757.0 million for fiscal year 2011 (\$69,168.8 million at 1992 prices). GDP for fiscal year 2011 was approximately 50,5% of gross output (intermediate plus final demand). For year 2011 gross output generated by transfer payments amounted to \$21,490.6 (at 1992 prices), therefore the contribution for transfer payments to GDP of the island was approximately 15,4%.

The results presented in this work shows that the argument that Puerto Ricans enjoy relatively **generous** (emphasis of mine) income supplements and retirement benefits without imposing heavy tax burdens on highly compensated workers failed to distinguish that most of the transfer payments to individuals were in the category of earned transfers. It is doubtful that this type of transfer "impose heavy tax burdens" to American tax payers.

Since we are an open economy most of the income generated by transfer to individuals is spent of good and services a substantial amount of which comes from United States. (Angel L. Ruiz and Fernando Zalacaín 1994).

It is also doubtful that earned transfer to individuals (especially transfers in the form of pensions and payments to veterans) have any significant impact on the labor rate of participation or the incentive to work. Low labor rate of participation is determined by other factors other than the small amount of granted transfer payments (among which are scholarships).

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