

Deferred Income Tax and Its Influence on Indicators Describing the Economic Performance of Commercial Insurance Companies in the Czech Republic

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Abstract

The main objective of this paper is presentation of findings gathered through an analysis of items that cause deferred income tax in commercial insurance companies in the Czech insurance market. The evaluation of the subject is focused in accordance with the concept of the presented paper as regards structure analysis of the deferred tax, working with a selection of insurers - members of the Czech Insurance Association. We study, document and evaluate the influence of the deferred income tax being related with the given available income, as well as related to the effective income tax rate in a commercial insurance company. This analysis concerns the evaluation of the present-day degree of transformation and approximation of the Czech system of insurance in the process of harmonization with the European insurance system.

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Introduction

A commercial insurance company (further insurance company) acting as a business entity has - compared to other business entities - a number of specifics, and its system of accounting has to be able to reflect them. Insurance companies provide insurance, reinsurance, and perform activities connected with insurance and reinsurance.

Act No. 563/1991 Coll., on accounting, as well as other accounting-related regulations requires all commercial insurance companies to keep records on the deferred income tax. The current procedure to calculate and record the deferred income tax is compatible with methodological procedures regulated by international accounting standards, in particular, by IAS 12 - Income Taxes. The significance of recording the deferred income tax lies especially in the ability to show the available income in the insurance company's financial statement in a form that tallies with economic reality and that does not depend solely on tax-related legislation.

The focus of this paper is two-fold. In the first part we deal with methodological aspects in relation with a general definition of the accounting category "deferred tax", its importance for insurance companies' accounting, with stress on an analysis of individual items that cause deferred tax in commercial insurance companies. We also deal with the

methodological procedure of calculating and recording this tax in accounting books. In the second part of the paper we present an analysis of the deferred tax structure in a selection of commercial insurance companies, and an evaluation of how recording the tax influences the effective income tax rate and the available income in insurance companies.

The focus of this paper is to evaluate and test three basic hypotheses, as follows:

1. hypothesis 1 (H 1) - recording the deferred income tax has an influence on the amount of available income accounted for in the set of commercial insurance companies concerned.
2. hypothesis 2 (H 2) - recording the deferred income tax in insurance companies has an influence on the amount of ratio indicators describing the economic performance.
3. hypothesis 3 (H 3) - recording the deferred income tax has an influence on the amount of effective income tax rate and the relation to the nominal rate.

The general aim is focused on formulation of general hypothesis linked with theoretical background (see Jílek and Svobodová, 2006):

Hypothesis 0 (H 0) - recording the deferred income tax affects significantly values of indicators and ration indicators describing the economic performance of a commercial insurance company.

To this defined aim were used appropriate methods and approaches. Selected commercial insurance companies present important financial institutions with significant influence on both, Czech and European financial markets. Those insurance companies are stabilized; they are dominant players on the Czech insurance market, in insurance industry. Our research and testing of hypotheses was limited, on the other hand, through selection of relevant insurance companies and their economic performance.

The methodology used to evaluate economic performance of a respective insurance company is based on methodologies described in Šůvová (1999), and the methodology used to evaluate the influence of the deferred income tax on the effective income tax rate is based on Svoboda and Bohušová (2005).

The paper is proceeding of papers formerly published at several international scientific conferences and in international scientific journals. Methodology used in this paper is based on frequently used financial ratio indicators describing the economic performance and on analysis of their changes while recording deferred income tax. This methodology of assessment was used in former publications, the analysis in this paper is even more and deeper developed.

Definition of the Problem and Methodology

In accounting, the deferred income tax is considered to be one of the instruments for applying acknowledged accounting principles; namely, the precautionary principle, the accrual principle, the asset preservation principle (continuation of the accounting entity's existence in the near future) and other accounting principles (for more see Scott, 2006):

- Accrual principle
- Precautionary principle
- Asset preservation

In most countries, the income tax base is calculated from the profit/loss shown in accounting records, as mentioned by Nobes and Parker, 2006. However, there are significant differences in the extent and character of adjustments used in tax base transformations. There are two extremes: Germany, where the majority of companies do not make any adjustments, and

the United States, where a good number of adjustments are made. Other countries are between these two extremes. It means that adjustments are made but there are fewer of them. Based on this fact, Nobes (2003) has classified the relation between accounting and tax reporting, and established five groups of relations.¹

In the Czech Republic, the current functional model of accounting (for entrepreneurs, for banks and other financial institutions, and for insurance companies) - which is derived from Act No. 563/91 Coll., on accounting, as amended - does not represent tax accounting. It means that at the end of the year, when the accounting books have been closed, the accounting entity determines its pre-tax profit or loss which (for the purpose of taxation) has to go through a non-accounting adjustment by cost entries that are, according to the Income Tax Act, acknowledged as costs but with a different value or that are not eligible costs at all, or by items that lower the economic result (tax losses from previous years). This leads to differences between the recorded profit/loss and the income tax base concerning the given period. The differences may be permanent or temporary.

Permanent differences occur when costs or revenues are, neither in the current nor in other tax periods, part of the tax base and they do not cause the deferred tax.

Temporary differences are differences between the accounting profit/loss and the income tax base originating from the fact that some book entries are part of costs or revenues in a different accounting period and in another period they were used for the calculation of the income tax, or from the difference between the net book value and the asset/liability tax base. For these purposes, the asset tax base is understood as asset value that can be used for tax purposes in the future. According to Jílek and Svobodová (2006), it is represented by an amount the accounting entity will be able to deduct from the taxable profit, which will result from deducting the book value of the asset. As profits from assets we can understand income from assets that either influences or doesn't influence the tax base. If profits do not influence the tax base then the asset tax base equals its book value. A liability tax base is an amount that can be matched with the taxable liability. It is represented by a value that the accounting entity will be able to deduct for taxation purposes in the future.

Therefore, the deferred tax comes into existence as a result of temporary differences between the net book value of assets and liabilities shown in the balance sheet, that is, their gross value minus corrections (accumulated depreciation, adjusting items) and their tax base shown for the purpose of income tax base calculation. It can also result from time differences originating from the fact that costs and revenues are eligible (for accounting- and tax purposes) in different periods.

Under the current legislation governing insurance companies' accounting, the procedure of calculating and accounting for the deferred income tax is based on the liability method and the balance approach, as mentioned by Čejková and Valouch (2005), that is, just like in regular companies' accounting. The core of the liability method lies in that the deferred tax

¹ Types of relation between tax and accounting records, according to Nobes (2004):

Category I - disparity - different rules for tax and accounting purposes
Category II - identity - certain relevant rules are identical for both tax and accounting purposes

Category III - accounting prevalence - the accounting rule holds good for both tax and accounting purposes because the relevant tax rule is missing

Category IV - tax prevalence - the tax rule holds good for both tax and accounting purposes because the relevant accounting rule is missing

Category V - tax dominance - the tax rule holds good for both tax and accounting purposes because it dominates the accounting rule

related to the recorded profit/loss will be applied in a later period; this is why the calculation of the tax is based on the income tax rate effective in the period in which the tax is applied (tax receivable, tax liability). It is a long-term receivable/liability, as the time incongruity is adjusted over a number of accounting (tax) periods. The impact of the deferred tax on the profit and loss account is considered to be of a lesser importance, the actual amount being dependent on the deferred tax amount recorded in the balance sheet. The balance approach means showing the temporary differences between the net book value and the tax base of all balance sheet entries.

The temporary differences between the book value and the tax base can be classified by two points of view: whether the differences cause deferred tax receivables or liabilities, or asset-related differences and liability-related differences.

In the following text, our point of departure will be the latter classification, i.e. asset- or liability-related differences.

As far as assets are concerned, an important temporary difference is the one resulting from a different procedure of applying book depreciation (in accordance with the accounting entity's depreciation plan) and tax write-offs as required by the Income Tax Act. For accounting purposes, the accounting entity (insurance company) has to follow one of the main accounting principles - the "true and fair view" principle, and it is fully in its competence to decide about the accounting lifetime and the methodology, because the aim of book depreciation is to show permanent decrease in the value of fixed assets and its transfer onto the cost account. On the other hand, for tax purposes, the methodology and time of depreciation are prescribed in the Act on income taxes by the state.

Temporary differences in the insurance company's assets can result from revaluation towards their real value, as the asset tax base is not influenced at the moment of revaluation.

If the fixed assets' market value is lower than the net book value of these assets, accounting entities make adjustments to fixed assets. The making of adjusting items results from the application of the precautionary principle and is solely an accounting matter; the value of the adjusting item does not influence the asset tax base.

For assets that are registered in the insurance company's accounting books as financial placement of technical provisions, directive No. 502/2002 Coll., as amended by directive No. 474/2003 Coll. (in force as of 1/1/2004), has cancelled the possibility to depreciate financial placements that take the form of a building or a construction. Also, such financial placements of the insurance company's technical provisions cannot be adjusted through adjusting items, because the particular financial placement is revaluated to its real value. In relation to tax, financial placements in the form of buildings or constructions are depreciated in accordance with the Income Tax Act. The difference between what results from revaluating a financial placement to its real value and its tax base, is the basis for the calculation of the deferred income tax; however, the tax - just like the financial placement revaluation itself - is only accounted for in the balance sheet as a change in the equity capital, and at the moment of making the financial placement the deferred tax is accounted for in the balance sheet through a book entry with a value reverse to the one recorded when the tax occurred.

Trade receivables represent, in insurance companies' accounting, a rather important item; nevertheless, temporary differences can occur there as well. Unpaid trade receivables, where it is not likely for the accounting entity to receive the full amount, can be adjusted through adjusting items in accordance with the precautionary principle. Supposing that in the future the adjusting item will become an adjustment to receivables made according to the law, this difference can be considered temporary.

With receivables that are claims to a contractual interest on overdue payment and contractual sanctions, the temporary difference is the outcome of different rules for determining, for tax purposes, the moment when costs or expenses occurred. The income tax base is only lowered when they have been settled.

The most important group of insurance company liability-related temporary differences are differences caused by creating provisions that are not tax eligible. In accordance with Act No. 593/1992 Coll., on provisions for the determination of the income tax base, as amended by subsequent legislation, insurance companies create provisions the creation of which is an eligible cost. These are provisions an insurance company creates in accordance with Act No. 363/1999 Coll., on the insurance industry and amendments to certain related laws, as amended by Act No. 39/2004 Coll., in the sphere of life- and non-life insurance (Vávrová, Doložilková, Stuchlík; 2004).

Creation of other provisions mentioned (see following text) under paragraphs h) and f) is approved by the supervising authority following the insurance company's request. The request includes a proposal for how to create and use this provision. Provision creation beyond the ceiling calculated using the methods stipulated by Act No. 363/1999 Coll., on the insurance industry, as amended by Act No. 39/2004 Coll., is not taken as cost lowering the income tax base. However, actual costs of items for which provisions have been created are tax eligible costs: therefore, in such cases a temporary difference between the net book value of the liability and its tax base comes into existence.

On accounts that belong in accounting group 44 - "Technical provisions", insurance companies account for technical provisions according to special insurance industry-related legislation (Act No. 363/1999 Coll., on the insurance industry and amendments to certain related laws, as amended by subsequent legislation; and the Ministry of Finance Decree No. 303/2004 Coll., which implements Act No. 363/1999 Coll.). Czech accounting standard for insurance companies no. 207 recommends establishing accounts at least for the individual technical provisions.

From the perspective of accounting, technical provisions represent the valuation of the insurance company's future liabilities arising from its insurance and reinsurance activity. These liabilities will likely or certainly occur; what is uncertain is the amount of the liability or the time of its occurrence.

The amount of technical provisions is determined so that it is, at any time, sufficient enough for the insurance company to fulfil its obligations given by insurance contracts.

When accounting for the creation and use of these provisions, their gross amount as well as the share of reinsurers in the provisions are recorded.

The change in the state of the provision is calculated as a difference between the final and the initial balance of the given provision. Change in the state of the provision (the difference) is calculated as a gross amount, from which the reinsurers' share is calculated.

Technical provisions are debited to costs; however, from the tax perspective the entire amount of a provision does not have to be acknowledged as an eligible cost. According to Act No. 593/1992 Coll., eligible (in relation to the income tax) is the creation of provisions that are costs (expenses) associated with obtaining, securing and maintaining income:

- for non-life insurance, an amount that must not exceed the amount of liabilities calculated using methods that are stipulated by special legislation (Act No. 363/1999 Coll., on the insurance industry)
- for life insurance, an amount that must not exceed the amount of liabilities calculated using methods stipulated by special legislation (Act No. 363/1999 Coll.) and that arises from life insurances payable according to concluded insurance contracts.

Each technical provision is accounted for separately from other liabilities of the insurance company. The insurance company is required to submit a report on the creation and amount of technical provisions as well as on the structure of the financial placement of assets that are based on technical provisions. The report is submitted to the supervisory authority biannually, on 30 June and 31 December in the current year. The deadline is up to 60 days after the respective date.

Following reason which could cause the deferred tax is liability arising from the unpaid premium for social security and health insurance. It represents an item in which, in insurance companies' accounting, temporary differences can occur rather rarely. In the part of the liability that has arisen from the insurance covered by an employer, the temporary difference results from costs being found non-eligible for a premium that has not been paid before the end of the month following the accounting period at the latest. It only becomes a tax eligible expense at the time of payment. In case of premium for social security and health insurance deducted by an employer the income tax base is also increased by the unpaid amount, and a temporary difference occurs.

Real estate taxes, real estate-transfer taxes and other taxes that are considered as costs lowering the income tax base are debited to costs; however, they only become costs lowering the income tax base at the moment of their payment. Thus, even in this case temporary differences occur.

In the sphere of liabilities arising from contractual interests on overdue payment and contractual sanctions, a temporary difference between the book value and the tax base comes into existence due to the fact that they become tax eligible costs at the moment of their payment.

Another reason why temporary differences occur is the possibility of deducting tax losses from previous years from the income tax base. Therefore, the accounting entity can lower the tax base by amounts that are not recorded in accounting books. In this case, the accounting entity must consider carefully whether, in the future, it will achieve such income tax bases making it possible to apply the tax loss in full. If not, the deferred tax receivable should not be considered, or it should not be considered in full extent.

For assets (A), temporary differences (DR) can be expressed as a difference between the assets book value (ÚH) and their tax base (DZ), according to Bohušová and Svoboda (2005) methodology:

$$DR (A) = \text{ÚH} - DZ$$

For liabilities (P) it is vice versa, i.e. temporary differences (DR) can be expressed as a difference between the liabilities tax base (DZ) and their book value (ÚH):

$$DR (P) = DZ - \text{ÚH}$$

If the value of temporary differences is negative, it is a future deferred tax receivable (ODP); if the resulting value of temporary differences is positive, it is a future deferred tax liability (ODZ).

The value of temporary differences is multiplied by the income tax rate expected to be valid at the period the respective difference will be applied, provided that the tax rate for the period is known:

$$ODP (ODZ) = DR * \text{income tax rate}$$

The total sum of multiplied differences represents the deferred tax liability, i.e. the amount of income tax to be covered in future periods, or a deferred tax receivable, i.e. the amount of income tax to be claimed in future periods. The accounting entity (the insurance company) always

accounts for a deferred tax liability. The deferred tax receivable is accounted for by the accounting entity in compliance with the precautionary principle, if it is highly probable that the tax base for which the differences can be used will be achieved.

Findings and Discussion

To account for the income tax in insurance companies' accounting, account 371 - Income tax is used. Advance payments paid during the year are accounted for here. When closing accounting books, an insurance company's liability arising from the tax due for the accounting period is debited here with a corresponding entry in account 571 - Income tax on ordinary income - due, and to account 573 - Income tax on extraordinary income - due, correspondingly with account 371 - Income tax. The insurance company accounts for the deferred income tax in account 572 - Income tax on ordinary income - deferred, and in account 574 - Income tax on extraordinary income - deferred, with a corresponding entry in account 377 - Deferred tax liability or receivable. The methodology mentioned above is based on a sample chart of accounts (Čejková and Valouch, 2005). In contrast to corporate accounting (see Bohušová and Svoboda, 2005), this account is included in account class 3 - Receivables, liabilities and temporary accounts, used particularly to account for current liabilities (though this is a long-term liability/receivable).

When first accounting for the deferred tax, the differences relating to previous accounting periods are accounted for in the equity capital; the amount related to the current period is recorded in the profit and loss account, as in the following accounting periods.

Insurance companies are obliged to describe the method of calculating the respective amount in the appendix to the financial statement. They are obliged to do so even if the deferred tax is represented by a deferred tax receivable, and it is not expected to achieve such profit/loss in future periods allowing to use the deferred tax receivable while the deferred tax receivable is not accounted for. Subsequently, the appendix to the financial statement can be used for the analysis of reasons leading to the occurrence of temporary differences.

In compliance with IAS 12 - Income Taxes, accounting for the deferred tax aims to partially remove the discrepancy between the effective profit tax rate and the real profit tax rate resulting from the difference between book and tax values. For this purpose, a rate considered to be effective is a rate calculated as a quotient of the profit tax and the amount of profit/loss before taxation (Jílek and Svobodová, 2006).

The analysis has been performed on a set of empirical data gathered from five insurance companies in which the financial statement is prepared according to the Czech Accounting Standards for insurance companies, and which are obliged to record deferred income tax by law. The accounting periods examined are the years 2003 and 2004 based on published annual reports of the insurance companies (Česká pojišťovna a.s., ČSOB Pojišťovna, a.s., člen holdingu ČSOB, Generali Pojišťovna a.s., Kooperativa, pojišťovna, a.s., UNIQA pojišťovna, a.s.). The data for the analysis has been gathered from the insurance companies' annual reports published on the Internet. Attached to the annual report is a financial statement, including its appendix. It contains information on the methodology used to calculate the deferred income tax, including all reasons leading to the occurrence of temporary differences.

During the analysis the structure of items causing the deferred tax in insurance companies has been examined. The items have been examined in absolute values regardless of the influence they have on the nature of the deferred tax. When processing information concerning the structure of the deferred income tax, statistical methods described in Seger, Hindls,

Hronová (1998) have been used. The aim of the partial analysis is to identify the role of individual items that cause the deferred tax in insurance companies.

The main objective of the paper was to evaluate:

1. the influence of accounting for the deferred income tax on the amount of available income accounted for in the set of commercial insurance companies concerned.
2. the influence of recording the deferred income tax in insurance companies on the amount of ratio indicators describing the economic performance.
3. the influence of accounting on the amount of effective income tax rate and the relation to the nominal rate.

The methodology used to evaluate economic performance of a respective insurance company is based on methodologies described in Sůvová (1999), and the methodology used to evaluate the influence of the deferred income tax on the effective income tax rate is based on Svoboda and Bohušová (2005).

The analysis of the structure of the deferred income tax has been performed in a set of five insurance companies based on data from the appendix to the financial statement. The structure is shown in Tab. 1, Tab. 2:

Table 1: The structure of the deferred income tax in a set of insurance companies in 2003 (in %)

Item	01	02	03	04	05
Adjustments to assets					61.69
Provisions		66.68			
Net book value of fixed tangible assets	14.70		24.32	25.12	
Adjustments to receivables		33.32	23.59	3.21	
Other temporary differences			1.79		
Tax losses from previous years					
Estimated entries for social security/health insurance	6.74				
Revaluation to real value	78.56		50.30	71.67	38.31

Source: Insurance companies' annual reports

Table 2: The structure of the deferred income tax in a set of insurance companies in 2004 (in %)

Item	01	02	03	04	05
Adjustments to assets					18.80
Provisions		89.11		3.24	
Net book value of fixed tangible assets	19.71		15.20	42.44	6.06
Adjustments to receivables		10.89	14.93	1.57	
Other temporary differences			0.71		
Tax losses from previous years					
Estimated entries for social security/health insurance	5.01				
Revaluation to real value	75.28		69.17	52.75	75.14

Source: Insurance companies' annual reports

Tables 1 and 2 imply that the structure of the deferred income tax is rather different in the individual insurance companies. In majority of the entities, the crucial part in the structure in both the periods concerned is represented by the "Revaluation to real value" item. However, the deferred tax arising from the item mentioned is accounted for only in the balance sheet, i.e. it has no influence on the amount of the deferred income tax accounted for in profit and loss accounts. Thus, the amount of available income from the item mentioned is not influenced.

The "Provisions" item, which an insurance company creates to cover risks relating to its sphere of business, also plays an important part in the structure of deferred income tax in insurance companies' accounting. The creation of provisions not exceeding the amount stipulated by Act No. 593/1992 Coll., on provisions for the determination of the income tax base, as amended by subsequent legislation, is a cost lowering the income tax base. Certain insurance companies (02, 04) create (in compliance with the internal regulations of the insurance company) higher provisions, which leads to the occurrence of temporary differences between the book value and their tax base. The share in the entities mentioned amounts up to 89 %.

In the selection of insurance companies concerned, the "Net book value of the fixed assets" and "Adjustments to assets" items are rather important items in the structure of deferred income tax. They represent a share ranging from 0 % (in 01, 02, 04) through to 62 %.

The "Adjustments to receivables" item is also a rather important item representing the share ranging from 0 % through to 33.32 %. The other items represent not very important amounts in the structure of temporary differences that cause the occurrence of deferred tax in insurance companies accounting.

The values of indicators and ratio indicators for the evaluation of the influence of recording the deferred income tax in insurance companies are recorded and calculated in following tables, Tab. 3 - 6:

Table 3: Absolute values of indicators of the insurance companies concerned - deferred tax and profit/loss in 2003

Item (CZK thousands)/accounting entity	01	02	03	04	05
Deferred tax - cost	42,295	24,785	-644,396	- 6,408	*- 5,172
Deferred tax receivable (-)/ liability (+)	42,965	- 5,985	628,991	93,848	- 19,425
Profit/loss before taxation	- 31,531	88,552	4,542,248	683,716	124,970
Available income	- 73,826	45,575	3,161,060	448,196	75,680

Source: Insurance companies' annual reports

Table 4: Absolute values of indicators of the insurance companies concerned - deferred tax and profit/loss in 2004

Item (CZK thousands)/accounting entity	01	02	03	04	05
Deferred tax - cost	2,050	850	267,213	- 103,458	- 5,999
Deferred tax receivable (-)/ liability (+)	45,015	- 2,964	1,752,298	75,694	36,912
Profit/loss before taxation	578,328	298,240	5,536,113	765,247	722,594
Available income	500,399	213,817	4,200,767	490,288	527,318

Source: Insurance companies' annual reports

Table 5: Selected ratio indicators in 2003

Indicator/accounting entity	01	02	03	04	05
The proportion of the deferred tax and the total income tax	1.00	0.58	0.46	0.03	* ²
The proportion of the deferred tax and available income	- 0.57	0.54	0.20	0.10	*
Profitability of equity capital (without deferred tax)	* ³	0.11	0.25	0.16	0.07
Profitability of equity capital (with deferred tax)	*	0.10	0.20	0.17	0.08
Effective tax rate (without deferred tax)	*	0.20	0.16	0.35	0.40
Effective tax rate (with deferred tax)	*	0.27	0.30	0.34	0.33

Own calculation based on annual reports data

Table 6: Selected ratio indicators in 2004

Indicator/accounting entity	01	02	03	04	05
The proportion of the deferred tax and the total income tax	0.04	0.01	0.21	*	*
The proportion of the deferred tax and available income	0.01	0.01	0.06	*	*
Profitability of equity capital (without deferred tax)	0.25	0.33	0.24	0.07	0.54
Profitability of equity capital (with deferred tax)	0.25	0.33	0.23	0.09	0.55
Effective tax rate (without deferred tax)	0.12	0.28	0.19	0.55	0.27
Effective tax rate (with deferred tax)	0.13	0.28	0.24	0.40	0.29

Own calculation based on annual reports data

Tables 3 and 4 imply that due to recording the deferred income tax in the profit/loss statement (in profit and loss accounts - depending on the nature of the deferred income tax, it can be recorded as a cost or as an item lowering costs) the profit/loss is accounted for in compliance with all principles applied in the contemporary function model of accounting for insurance companies (accrual principle, precautionary principle). If the deferred income tax is debited to costs, the profit/loss accounted for is lowered; or, vice versa, the available income is increased. In insurance companies 01, 02 the available income was lowered in 2003; in insurance companies 03, 04 and 05 the available income was increased. In 2004 the profit/loss in 01, 02 and 03 was lowered, and in 04 and 05 it was increased due to accounting for the deferred income tax.

Accounting for the deferred income tax as costs leads to lowering the available income accounted for; it prevents the accounting entity (the insurance company) from allocating a greater amount of profit/loss than was really created in the respective period. The asset preservation principle is observed.

Accounting for the deferred income tax also influences the values of ratio indicators describing the economic performance of a company, as shown in Bohušová and Svoboda (2005). Provided that the numerator of the equity capital profitability indicators is the available income, the deferred income tax is influenced depending on its nature (a cost or an item lowering costs). If the deferred income tax is debited to costs, the

² the data cannot be expressed numerically, the deferred tax is negative

³ the data cannot be expressed numerically, as the insurance company recorded loss in the period monitored

capital profitability is lowered; or, vice versa, the profitability is increased in consequence of deferred tax recording.

The accounting for the deferred income tax in the insurance companies concerned has a minor influence on the profitability of the equity capital (in tenths of percent).

Tab. 5 - 6 imply that accounting for the deferred income tax in the insurance companies concerned has rather significant influence on the amount of effective income tax rate - the rate approximated the nominal rate in all the entities. In 2003, when the nominal income tax rate of legal entities was 31 %, the insurance company 01 accounted for a loss as the tax base; thus, the deferred income tax had no influence on the amount of the effective income tax rate. In insurance company 02 the effective rate increased by 7 % (from 20 % to 27 %); in 03 by 14 % (from 16 % to 30 %); in 04 the rate decreased by 1 % (from 35 % to 34 %) and in 05 by 7 % (from 40 % to 33 %). In 2004, when the nominal income tax rate was 28 %, the effective rate also approximated the nominal rate in all the entities.

Conclusion

Concerning testing of the hypothesis 1, following partial conclusions are lead, based on data in Tab. 3, 4:

Recording the deferred income tax implicit has an influence on the amount of available income accounted for in the set of commercial insurance companies concerned. It depends on the character of deferred income tax; if the deferred income tax is debited to costs, the profit/loss accounted for is lowered; or, vice versa, the available income is increased.

Concerning testing of the hypothesis 2, following conclusions are lead, based on data in Tab. 5, 6:

Recording the deferred income tax in insurance companies has not any significant influence on the amount of ratio indicators describing the economic performance.

Partial conclusions from testing of the hypothesis 3 and its evaluating are synthesized in following point:

Recording the deferred income tax has an influence on the amount of effective income tax rate and the relation to the nominal rate. One of the main objectives of accounting for the deferred tax is to remove the discrepancy between the effective income tax rate⁴ and real rate (nominal)⁵. Ideally, accounting for the deferred income tax would lead to the same amounts of effective income tax rate and the real income tax rate (Svoboda and Bohušová, 2005). This situation, however, can not come into existence due to the current regulations governing taxes and accounting in the Czech Republic, as the difference between the profit/loss accounted for and the income tax base is not only created by the temporary differences, but also by long-term differences.

To the interpretation of results we can notify, that testing of the general hypothesis, based on the theoretical literature background in the publication Jílek and Svobodová (2006), implies that the effort dedicated to recording and accounting for deferred income tax is inadequate to the respective change of values of indicators and ratio indicators describing the economic performance of a commercial insurance company. On the other hand, it is necessary to record the deferred income tax in accordance with acknowledged accounting principles.

⁴ Effective income tax rate can be expressed as a quotient of the income tax and the amount of profit/loss before taxation.

⁵ Rate in accordance with the Income Tax Act.

The current procedure to calculate and record the deferred income tax in the Czech Republic is compatible with methodological procedures regulated by international accounting standards, in particular, by IAS 12 - Income Taxes. In the IAS 12 - Income Taxes, there is attention paid especially to the procedure of calculation and recording of the deferred income tax. However, in the Czech legislation is the procedure of calculation of the deferred income tax not described to the details.

The authors plan to prosecute on the focus of deferred income tax more in the future, and their future research will be oriented on deferred income tax and its influence on indicators describing economic performance not only in commercial insurance companies, but in other financial institutions and business entities, too, i.e. banks and SME. This field of study and research seems to be of high interest for a future research.

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