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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Corruption and Firm Tax Evasion

Research Highlights

- Although corruption and tax evasion are distinct and separate problems, they can easily become intertwined and reinforcing.
- This paper examines how the potential for bribery of tax officials affects a firm's tax evasion decisions.
- We use firm-level information on reporting obtained from the World Enterprise Survey and the Business Environment and Enterprise Performance Survey of the World Bank.
- Our estimation results indicate that the presence of tax inspectors who request bribes results in a reduction of sales reported for taxes of between 4 and 10 percentage points, and also that larger bribes result in higher levels of evasion.
- Overall, these results indicate that it is corruption that largely drives higher levels of evasion, so that governments seeking to decrease tax evasion must work first to ensure an honest tax administration.

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