The story
Details claiming to reveal the amount of income tax US billionaires pay have been leaked to a news website.

Useful vocabulary

detected – discovered; found
nonuplets – set of nine babies
specialist – having detailed knowledge of skills
Caesarean section – surgical delivery of babies
complications – problems
outcome – result of a situation
concerned – worried about something
welfare – health and wellbeing
intervene – get involved or make decisions which change a situation
fascination – wonder and intrigue in something
septuplets – seven children
brood – informal word to mean group of children
More about the story...

What has happened?

ProPublica, a news website, says it has seen the tax returns of some of the world's richest people. These people include Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk and Warren Buffett.

The website alleges Amazon's Mr Bezos paid no tax in 2007 and 2011, and that Tesla's Mr Musk paid nothing in 2018.

A White House spokeswoman called the leak "illegal", and the FBI and tax authorities are investigating.

The BBC has not been able to confirm the claims.

What were the findings?

ProPublica said that the richest 25 Americans pay less in tax than most mainstream US workers.

The website said that "using perfectly legal tax strategies, many of the uber-rich are able to shrink their federal tax bills to nothing or close to it". The was despite the fact wealth soared over the past few years.

The wealthy, as with many ordinary citizens, are able to reduce their income tax bills doing such things as making charitable donations and drawing money from investment income rather than wage income.

ProPublica, using data collected by Forbes magazine, said the wealth of the 25 richest Americans collectively increased by $401bn from 2014 to 2018. However, they had paid $13.6bn in income tax during the same time.

What steps have the government taken regarding taxation?

President Joe Biden has vowed to increase tax on the richest Americans. This is part of a mission to improve equality and raise money for his massive infrastructure investment programme.

He wants to increase the top rate of tax, double the tax on what high earners make from investments, and change inheritance tax.
However, ProPublica's analysis concluded: “While some wealthy Americans, such as hedge fund managers, would pay more taxes under the current Biden administration proposals, the vast majority of the top 25 would see little change.”

**What other reaction has there been?**

According to reports in the US, Michael Bloomberg, a former mayor of New York whose tax details were among the documents, said he would use "legal means" to uncover the source of the leak and the disclosure raised privacy concerns.

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said that "any unauthorised disclosure of confidential government information" is illegal.

Treasury Department spokeswoman Lily Adams said in an emailed statement to Reuters that the matter has been referred to the FBI, federal prosecutors and two internal Treasury Department watchdogs, "all of whom have independent authority to investigate."

Find out more: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-57383869](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-57383869)

**Questions**

1. Where did Ms Cisse give birth to the nine babies?
2. How many girls and boys did Ms Cisse give birth to?
3. How long did Ms Cisse spend in the Moroccan clinic before giving birth?
4. How many children did doctors initially think Ms Cisse was carrying?
5. When are mother and babies expected to return home?
Answers

1. Why was Ms Cisse moved to Morocco to give birth?
   A decision was made because doctors in the West African nation of Mali had been concerned for her welfare and the chances of the babies' survival.

2. How many girls and boys did Ms Cisse give birth to?
   There were five girls and four boys.

3. How long did Ms Cisse spend in the Moroccan clinic before giving birth?
   After five weeks at the Moroccan clinic, she gave birth on Tuesday.

4. How many children did doctors initially think Ms Cisse was carrying?
   It was thought she was carrying septuplets.

5. When are mother and babies expected to return home?
   The mother and her new brood are expected to return home in several weeks.