

The day I took on Arthur Laffer - and won

<https://www.taxresearch.org.uk/Blog/2021/10/07/the-day-i-took-on-arthur-laffer-and-won/>

Published: January 12, 2026, 8:07 pm

I was reminded of this debate between Arthur Laffer (yes, him of the Laffer curve) and me that took place three years ago [by a post from the TaxCOOP](#) who organised it at the OECD in 2018.

The working language of the TaxCOOP is French - and if you don't speak it I am afraid you will have to skip some bits. Arthur Laffer and I spoke in English.

And I will provide a spoiler - I won by 58% to 33%, with the rest undecided, or by 64% to 36% amongst those who actually registered a vote one way or the other.

Arthur was not amused. He'd been all charm beforehand. He did not speak again afterwards.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4aetIRCfeSM>