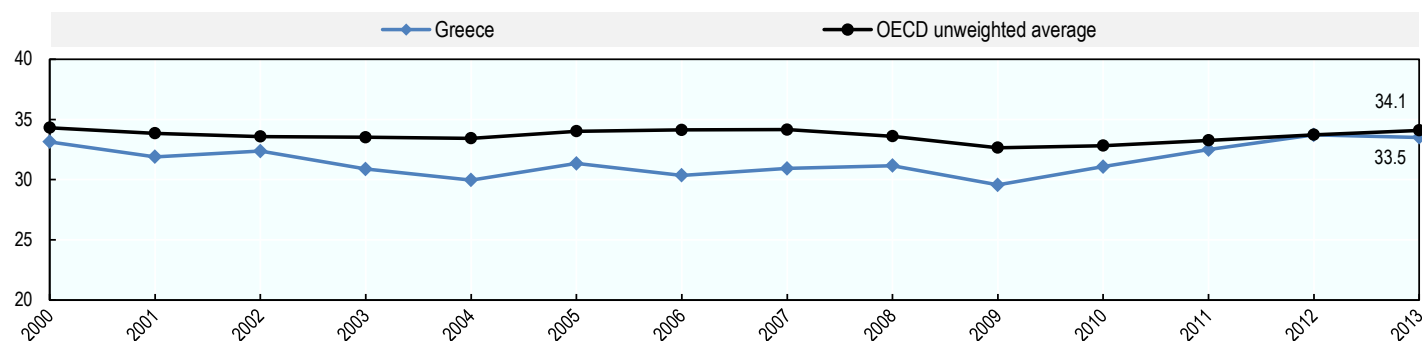


Revenue Statistics 2014 - Greece

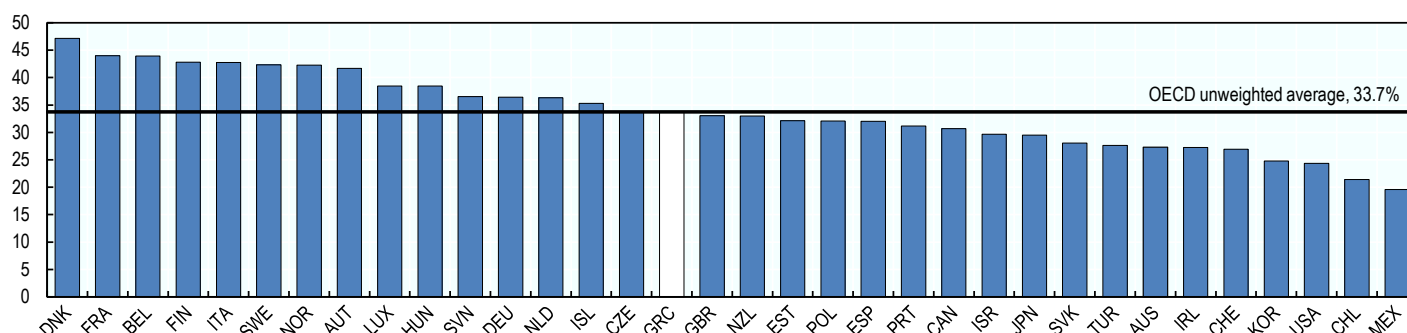
Tax burden over time

The OECD's annual *Revenue Statistics* report found that the tax burden in Greece declined by 0.2 percentage points from 33.7% to 33.5% in 2013. The corresponding figure for the OECD average was an increase of 0.4 percentage points from 33.7% to 34.1%. Since the year 2000, the tax burden in Greece has increased from 33.1% to 33.5%. Over the same period, the OECD average in 2013 was slightly less than in 2000 (34.1% compared with 34.3%).



Tax burden compared to the OECD

Greece ranked 16th out of 34 member countries in terms of the tax to GDP ratio in 2012 (the latest year for which tax revenue data is available for all OECD countries). In that year Greece had a tax to GDP ratio of 33.7% compared with the OECD average of 33.7%.



Tax structure

The structure of tax receipts in Greece compared with the OECD average is characterised by:

- Higher revenues from taxes on goods and services, and social security contributions.
- A lower proportion of revenues from taxes on personal income and corporate income.
- Taxes on property equal to the OECD average.
- No revenues from payroll taxes.

	Greece		OECD unweighted average (%)
	Millions EUR	%	
Taxes on personal income, profits and gains	13,497	21	25
Taxes on corporate income and gains	2,174	3	9
Social security contributions	21,972	32	26
Payroll taxes	-	0	1
Taxes on property	3,681	6	6
Taxes on goods and services	24,750	38	33
Of which VAT is	13,877	21	20
Other	399	0	1
TOTAL	65,473	100	100

[Tax revenue includes net receipts for all levels of government; figures in the table may not sum to the total indicated due to rounding]
Source: OECD Revenue Statistics 2014 <http://www.oecd.org/tax/tax-policy/revenue-statistics.htm>

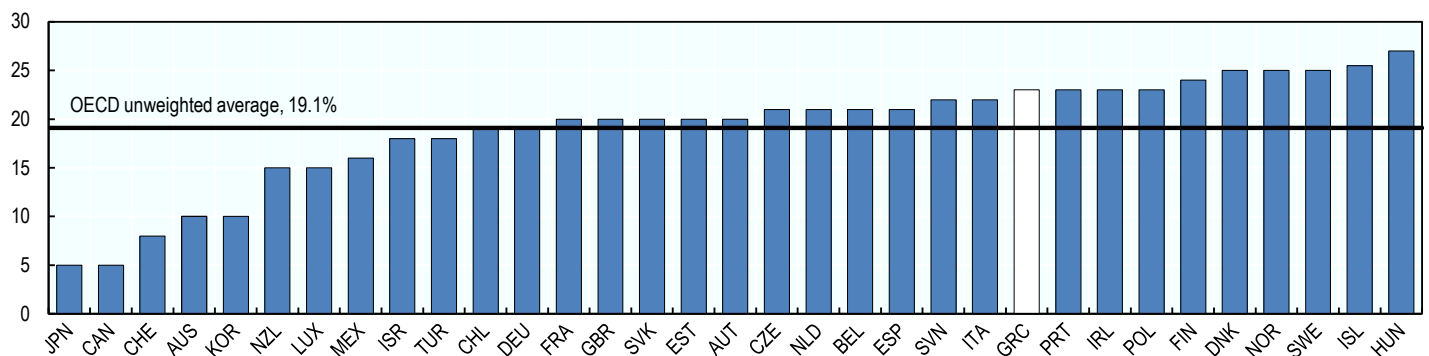
Consumption Tax Trends 2014 - Greece

VAT share of total tax revenues

The OECD's biennial *Consumption Tax Trends* report found that VAT revenues in Greece accounted for 21.2% of total tax revenue in 2012, above the OECD average of 19.5%.

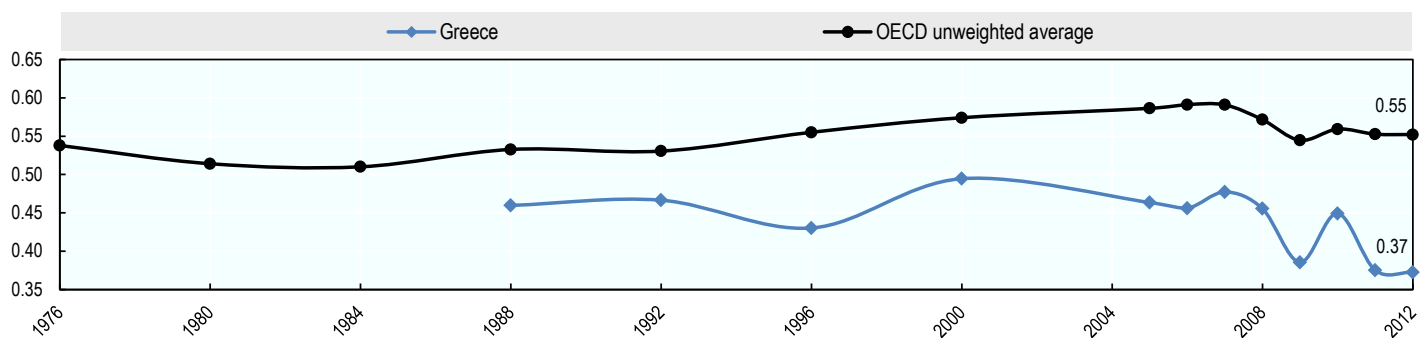
VAT rates

The Greek standard VAT rate is 23%, which is well above the OECD average. The average VAT/GST standard rate in the OECD was 19.1% on 1 January 2014, up from 17.6% on 1 January 2009. Reduced VAT rates of 6.5% and 13% apply to many goods and services. In the last five years, 20 of the 34 OECD countries have raised their standard VAT/GST rate at least once. In line with this trend, Greece increased its standard VAT rate from 19% to 23% in 2010 and its reduced rates from 4.5% to 6.5% and 9% to 13% respectively.



VAT Revenue Ratio

The VAT Revenue Ratio (VRR) for Greece was 0.37 in 2012, one of the lowest in the OECD and well below the OECD average of 0.55. The VRR is a measure of the revenue raising performance of a VAT system. A ratio of 1 would reflect a VAT system that applies a single VAT rate to a comprehensive base of all expenditure on goods and services consumed in an economy - with perfect enforcement of the tax. This ratio fell in Greece in 2008 and 2009 coinciding with the advent of the global economic crisis. It has now stabilised below the pre-crisis level. The temporary increase to 0.45 in 2010 occurs, in part, because the standard VAT rate increased from 19% to 23% in July 2010, whereas the VRR (following a consistent methodology) is calculated based on the VAT rate as at 1 January.



[VAT: value added tax. GST: goods and services tax]

Source: OECD Consumption Tax Trends 2014 <http://www.oecd.org/tax/consumption/consumption-tax-trends-19990979.htm>

Contacts

David Bradbury
Centre for Tax Policy and Administration
Head, Tax Policy and Statistics Division
David.Bradbury@oecd.org

OECD Revenue Statistics
Maurice Nettley
Centre for Tax Policy and Administration
Head, Tax Data & Statistical Publications
Maurice.Nettley@oecd.org

OECD Consumption Tax Trends
Stéphane Buydens
Centre for Tax Policy and Administration
VAT Policy Advisor
Stephane.Buydens@oecd.org