Consumption Tax Trends* - Finland

VAT rate 2019
The Finnish standard VAT rate is 24.0%, which is above the OECD average. The average VAT/GST¹ standard rate in the OECD was 19.3% as of 1 January 2019. The previous standard VAT rate in Finland was 23% in 2012. It changed to the current level in 2013. Finland applies reduced VAT rates of 0%, 10% and 14% to a number of goods and services. VAT was introduced in Finland in 1994 at a standard rate of 22.0%. Since then the minimum and maximum standard rates have been at 22.0% and 24.0% respectively.

VAT Revenue Ratio
The Finnish VAT Revenue Ratio (VRR) was 0.54 in 2016, below the OECD average of 0.56. 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. Relative to the pre-crisis level of 2007 (0.60), the Finnish VRR position has decreased by 0.06 percentage points. The Finnish VRR remained stable at 0.54 between 2014 and 2016. The lowest VRR was recorded in the year 2015 at 0.53 and the highest level in 2000 at 0.61.

The figures may not present the difference to the second decimal point accurately due to rounding.

Source: OECD Consumption Tax Trends 2018 oe.cd/consumption-tax-2018; OECD Tax Database oe.cd/tax-database

* Information presented on this page is only a summary of more detailed information available in the Tax Database and Consumption Tax Trends publication

1. VAT/GST refers to value added tax/goods and services tax

Source: OECD Tax Database 1st January 2019
Consumption Tax Trends 2018

Value Added Tax/Goods and Services Tax (VAT/GST) and excise duty rates in OECD member countries. It also contains information about international aspects of VAT/GST developments and the efficiency of this tax. It describes a range of other consumption taxation provisions on tobacco, alcoholic beverages and motor vehicles.

International VAT/GST Guidelines

OECD/G20 Project on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (the BEPS Project).

They focus in particular on trade in services and intangibles, which poses increasingly important challenges for the design and operation of VAT systems worldwide.

They notably include the recommended principles and mechanisms to address the challenges for the collection of VAT on cross-border sales of digital products that had been identified in the context of the OECD/G20 Project on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (the BEPS Project).

Contacts

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

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