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

Source: OECD Tax Database 1st January 2019

**VAT rate 2019**

The Japanese standard VAT (CT) rate is 8.0%, which is below the OECD average. The average VAT/GST\(^1\) standard rate in the OECD was 19.3% as of 1 January 2019. The previous standard VAT rate in Japan was 5% in 2013. It changed to the current level in 2014. Japan does not have any reduced rates. VAT (CT) was introduced in Japan in 1989 at a standard rate of 3.0%. Since then the minimum and maximum standard rates have been at 3.0% and 8.0% respectively.

**VAT Revenue Ratio**

The VAT Revenue Ratio (VRR) for Japan was 0.71 in 2016, above 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 (0.68), the Japanese VRR position has increased by 0.03 percentage points. The Japanese VRR increased from 0.69 in 2014 to 0.71 in 2016. The lowest VRR was recorded in the year 2009 at 0.66 and the highest level in 2015 at 0.73.

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\(^1\) VAT/GST refers to value added tax/goods and services tax

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

The International VAT/GST Guidelines now present a set of internationally agreed standards and recommended approaches to address the issues that arise from the uncoordinated application of national VAT systems in the context of international trade.

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 and Erosion and Profit Shifting (the BEPS Project).