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

Source: OECD Tax Database 1st January 2019

VAT Revenue Ratio

Consumption Tax Trends* - New Zealand

GST rate 2019
The New Zealand's standard GST rate is 15.0%, which is below 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 New Zealand was 12.5% in 2009. It changed to the current level in 2010. New Zealand applies a reduced rate of 0% to a number of goods and services. GST was introduced in New Zealand in 1986 at a standard rate of 10.0%. Since then the minimum and maximum standard rates have been at 10.0% and 15.0% respectively.

VAT/GST¹ standard rates in 2019 and 2015

VAT/GST¹ standard rates over time

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

Source: OECD Tax Database 1st January 2019

VAT Revenue Ratio

The VAT Revenue Ratio (VRR) for New Zealand was 0.95 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 (0.95), the New Zealand's VRR position has remained the same. New Zealand's VRR remained stable at 0.95 between 2014 and 2016. The lowest VRR was recorded in the year 1988 at 0.89 and the highest level in 2010 at 1.09.

VAT Revenue Ratio

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
Consumption Tax Trends 2018
VAT/GST and Excise Rates, Trends and Policy Issues

Consumption Tax Trends provides information on 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

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).

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