Consumption Tax Trends* - Norway

VAT rate 2020
The Norwegian standard VAT rate is 25.0%, which is above the OECD average. The average VAT/GST¹ standard rate in the OECD was 19.2% as of 31 December 2020. The previous standard VAT rate in Norway was 24% in 2004. It changed to the current level in 2005. Norway applies reduced VAT rates of 0%, 12% and 15% to a number of goods and services. Specific reduced VAT rates apply in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. VAT was introduced in Norway in 1970 at a standard rate of 20.0%. Since then the minimum and maximum standard rates have been at 20.0% and 25.0% respectively.

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

The VAT Revenue Ratio (VRR) for Norway was 0.58 in 2018, 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. The Norwegian VRR increased from 0.57 in 2016 to 0.58 in 2018. The lowest VRR was recorded in the year 2009 at 0.55 and the highest level in 1999 and 2000 at 0.67.

Source: OECD Consumption Tax Trends 2020; oe.cd/vatgst-trends; OECD Tax Database oe.cd/tax-database

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

The figures may not present the difference to the second decimal point accurately due to rounding.
Consumption Tax Trends 2020
VAT/GST and Excise Rates, Trends and Policy Issues

oe.cd/vatgst-trends

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

oe.cd/international-vat-gst-guidelines

The International VAT/GST Guidelines 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).


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