Revenue Statistics in Africa 2018 — South Africa

Tax revenues: tax-to-GDP ratio

Tax-to-GDP ratio over time

The tax-to-GDP ratio in South Africa decreased by 0.3 percentage points, from 28.9% in 2015 to 28.6% in 2016. In comparison, the average for the 21 African countries in Revenue Statistics in Africa 2018 remained at 18.2% over the same period. The tax-to-GDP ratio in South Africa has increased since 2000, when it was 22.4%. Over the same period, the average for the 21 African countries increased from 13.1% in 2000 to 18.2% in 2016. Across this period, the highest tax-to-GDP ratio in South Africa was 28.9% in 2015, with the lowest being 22.4% in 2000.

Tax-to-GDP ratio, 2016

South Africa's tax-to-GDP ratio in 2016 (28.6%) was higher than the average of the 21 African countries in Revenue Statistics in Africa (18.2%) by 10.4 percentage points and also higher than the LAC average (22.7%).

In the OECD classification the term “taxes” is confined to compulsory unrequited payments to general government. Taxes are unrequited in the sense that benefits provided by government to taxpayers are not normally in proportion to their payments. Non-tax revenues are all other government revenues that are not classified as taxes.


The LAC average refers to the Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean 2018 publication. oe.cd/revenue-statistics-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean
**Tax revenues: structure**

Tax structure refers to the share of each tax in total tax revenues. The highest share of tax revenues in South Africa in 2016 was contributed by personal income tax (34%). The second-highest share of tax revenues in 2016 was derived from value added taxes (24%).

- **South Africa**: Personal income tax (34%), Corporate income tax (16%), Social security contributions (24%), Value added taxes (16%)
- **Africa (21)**: Personal income tax (16%), Corporate income tax (15%), Social security contributions (8%), Value added taxes (29%)
- **LAC**: Personal income tax (10%), Corporate income tax (15%), Social security contributions (16%), Value added taxes (29%)
- **OECD**: Personal income tax (24%), Corporate income tax (9%), Social security contributions (15%), Value added taxes (26%)

*The data for the OECD are for 2015 as the data for 2016 are not available.*

**Non-tax revenues**

In 2016, South Africa's non-tax revenues amounted to 0.5% of GDP. This was lower than tax revenues (28.6% of GDP). Rents and royalties represented the largest share of non-tax revenues in 2016, amounting to 0.1% of GDP and 29.4% of non-tax revenues.