Revenue Statistics in Africa 2019 — South Africa

Tax revenues: tax-to-GDP ratio

Tax-to-GDP ratio over time

The tax-to-GDP ratio in South Africa decreased by 0.1 percentage points from 28.5% in 2016 to 28.4% in 2017. In comparison, the average for the 26 African countries in Revenue Statistics in Africa 2019 remained at 17.2% over the same period. Over a longer time period, the average for the 26 African countries has increased by 1.5 percentage points, from 15.7% in 2008 to 17.2% in 2017. Over the same period, the tax-to-GDP ratio in South Africa has increased by 0.6 percentage points, from 27.8% to 28.4%. Since 2000, 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, 2017

South Africa's tax-to-GDP ratio in 2017 (28.4%) was higher than the average of the 26 African countries in Revenue Statistics in Africa 2019 (17.2%) by 11.2 percentage points and also higher than the LAC average (22.8%).

*The data for the OECD are for 2016 as the data for 2017 are not available.

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. http://www.oecd.org/tax/tax-policy/oecd-classification-taxes-interpretative-guide.pdf

The LAC average refers to the Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean 2019 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 2017 was contributed by personal income tax (34%). The second-highest share of tax revenues in 2017 was derived from value added taxes (22%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Personal income tax</th>
<th>Corporate income tax</th>
<th>Social security contributions</th>
<th>Value added taxes</th>
<th>Other taxes on goods and services</th>
<th>Other taxes</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>South Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa (26)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Non-tax revenues**

In 2017, South Africa’s non-tax revenues amounted to 0.5% of GDP. This was lower than tax revenues (28.4% of GDP). Rents and royalties represented the largest share of non-tax revenues in 2017, amounting to 0.2% of GDP and 36.1% of non-tax revenues.


For further information, please see: [oe.cd/revenue-statistics-in-africa](http://oe.cd/revenue-statistics-in-africa)