Tax-to-GDP ratio over time

The tax-to-GDP ratio in Namibia\(^1\) decreased by 0.9 percentage points from 20.3% in 2017 to 19.4% in 2018. In comparison, the average* for the 30 African countries increased by just under 0.1 percentage points over the same period, and was 16.5% in 2018. Since 2010, the average for the 30 African countries has increased by 1.4 percentage points, from 15.1% in 2010 to 16.5% in 2018. Over the same period, the tax-to-GDP ratio in Namibia has increased by 1.1 percentage points, from 18.3% to 19.4%. The highest tax-to-GDP ratio in Namibia was 21.2% in 2015, with the lowest being 16.2% in 2006.

Tax-to-GDP ratio, 2018

Namibia’s\(^1\) tax-to-GDP ratio in 2018 (19.4%) was higher than the average of the 30 African countries in Revenue Statistics in Africa 2020 (16.5%) by 2.8 percentage points but lower than the Latin America and the Caribbean (23.1%).

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\(^1\) The tax-to-GDP ratio of Namibia excludes social security contributions as the data 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 2020 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 Namibia¹ in 2018 was contributed by personal income tax (40%). The second-highest share of tax revenues in 2018 was derived from value added taxes (VAT) (33%).

Non-tax revenues

In 2018, Namibia’s non-tax revenues amounted to 12.0% of GDP. This was lower than the average non-tax revenues for the 30 African countries (6.5% of GDP). Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue¹ represented the largest share of non-tax revenues in 2018, amounting to 9.8% of GDP and 81.4% of non-tax revenues.

¹ The tax-to-GDP ratio of Namibia excludes social security contributions as the data are not available. *The data for the OECD are for 2017 as the data for 2018 are not available.