Consumption Tax Trends* - Italy

VAT rate 2020
The Italian standard VAT rate is 22.0%, which is above the OECD average. The average VAT/GST\(^1\) standard rate in the OECD was 19.2% as of 31 December 2020. The previous standard VAT rate in Italy was 21% in 2012. It changed to the current level in October 2013. Italy applies reduced VAT rates of 4%, 5% and 10% to a number of goods and services. Specific reduced VAT rates apply in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. VAT was introduced in Italy in 1973 at a standard rate of 12.0%. Since then the minimum and maximum standard rates have been at 12.0% and 22.0% respectively.

![Graph showing VAT/GST rates over time](graph_url)

VAT Revenue Ratio
The VAT Revenue Ratio (VRR) for Italy was 0.38 in 2018, below 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 Italian VRR increased from 0.37 in 2016 to 0.38 in 2018. The lowest VRR was recorded in the year 2009 at 0.36 and the highest level in 1994 and 2000 at 0.43.

![Graph showing VAT Revenue Ratio](graph_url)

*Information presented on this page is only a summary of more detailed information available in the Tax Database and Consumption Tax Trends publication.

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


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