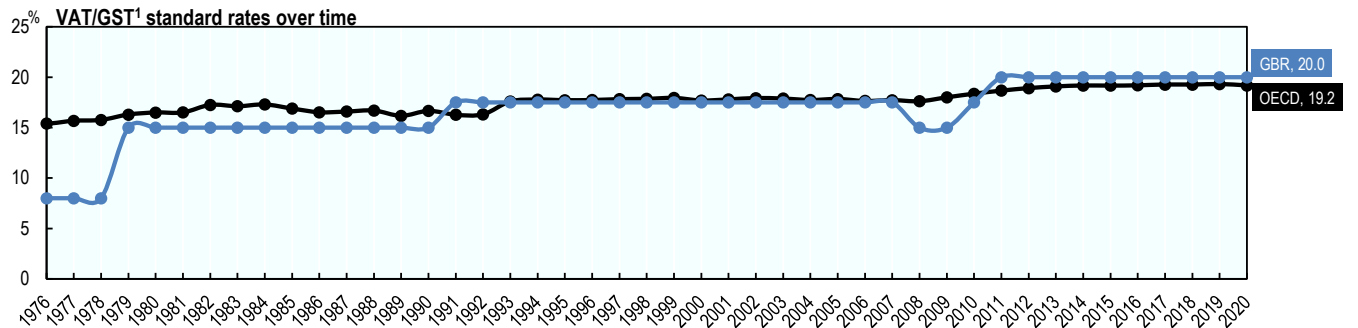
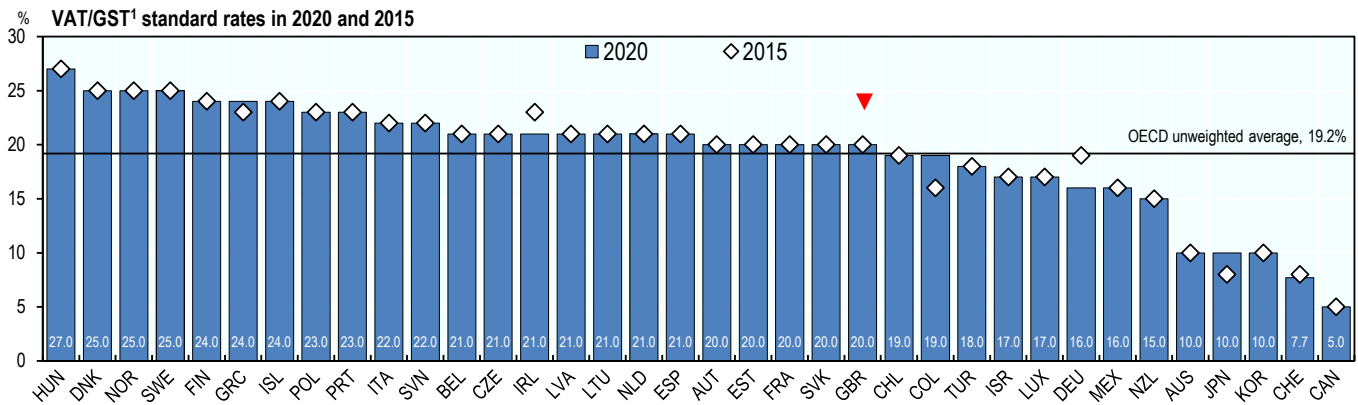


Consumption Tax Trends* - United Kingdom

VAT rate 2020

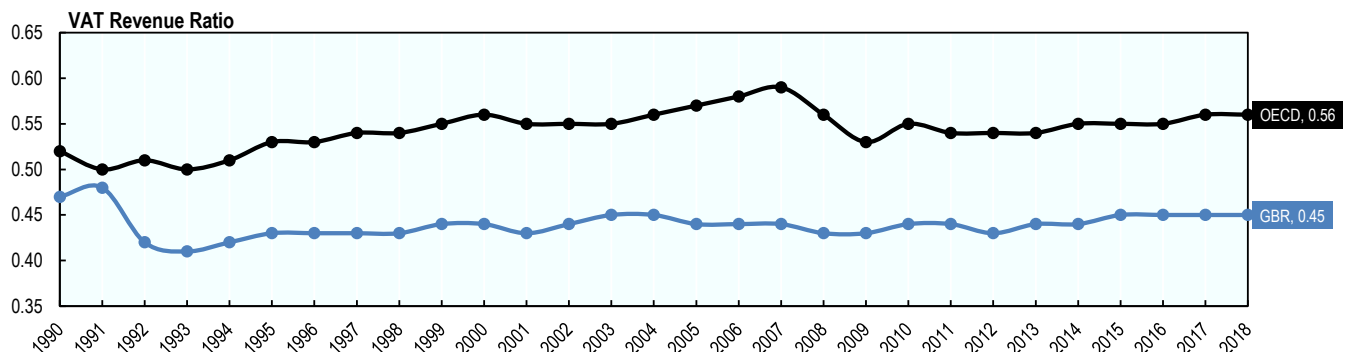
The United Kingdom's standard VAT rate is 20.0%, which is above the OECD average. The average VAT/GST¹ standard rate in the OECD was 19.2% as of 31 December 2020. The previous standard VAT rate in the United Kingdom was 17.5% in 2010. It changed to the current level in 2011. The United Kingdom applies reduced VAT rates of 0% and 5% to a number of goods and services. Specific reduced VAT rates apply in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. VAT was introduced in United Kingdom in 1973 at a standard rate of 10.0%. Since then the minimum and maximum standard rates have been at 8.0% and 20.0% respectively.



1. VAT/GST refers to value added tax/goods and services tax
 Source: OECD Tax Database 1st January 2020

VAT Revenue Ratio

The VAT Revenue Ratio (VRR) for the United Kingdom was 0.45 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 United Kingdom's VRR remained stable at 0.45 between 2016 and 2018. The lowest VRR was recorded in the year 1993 at 0.41 and the highest level in 1991 at 0.48.



The figures may not present the difference to the second decimal point accurately due to rounding
 * 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/vatgst-trends; OECD Tax Database oe.cd/tax-database



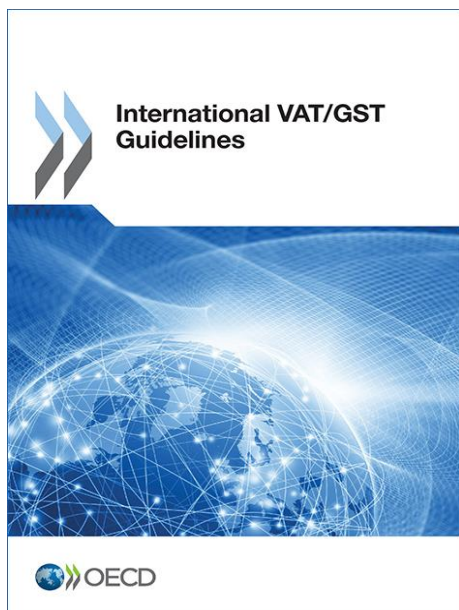
Consumption Tax Trends 2020

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).

Source: OECD Consumption Tax Trends 2020 <http://www.oecd.org/tax/consumption-tax-trends-19990979.htm>

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