Revenue Statistics 2023 - Australia

Tax-to-GDP ratio

Tax-to-GDP ratio over time

The OECD’s annual Revenue Statistics report found that the tax-to-GDP ratio in Australia increased by 1.1 percentage points from 28.4% in 2020 to 29.5% in 2021*. The corresponding figures for the OECD average were an increase of 0.6 percentage points from 33.6% to 34.2% over the same period. The tax-to-GDP ratio in Australia has decreased from 30.4% in 2000 to 29.5% in 2021. Over the same period, the OECD average in 2021 was above that in 2000 (34.2% compared with 32.9%). During that period the highest tax-to-GDP ratio in Australia was 30.4% in 2000, with the lowest being 25.2% in 2010.

Tax-to-GDP ratio compared to the OECD, 2022

The chart below shows tax-to-GDP ratios for 2022. As Australia is unable to provide 2022 data, the latest available data from 2021 has been used. Australia's 2021 tax-to-GDP ratio ranked it 30th¹ out of 38 OECD countries in terms of the tax-to-GDP ratio compared with the 2022 figures. In 2021 Australia had a tax-to-GDP ratio of 29.5%, compared with the OECD average of 34.0% in 2022 and 34.2% in 2021.

* Australia and Japan are unable to provide provisional 2022 data, therefore their latest 2021 data are presented within this country note.

1. In this note, the country with the highest level or share is ranked first and the country with the lowest level or share is ranked 38th.

Note: In the OECD classification the term “taxes” is confined to compulsory unrequited payments to general government or to a supranational authority. Taxes are unrequited in the sense that benefits provided by government to taxpayers are not normally in proportion to their payments.
Tax structures

Tax structure compared to the OECD average, 2021

The structure of tax receipts in Australia compared with the OECD average is shown in the figure below.

Relative to the OECD average, the tax structure in Australia is characterised by:

» Substantially higher revenues from taxes on personal income, profits & gains and taxes on corporate income & gains, and higher revenues from payroll taxes; property taxes; and goods & services taxes (excluding VAT/GST).

» A lower proportion of revenues from goods and services tax.

» No revenues from social security contributions.

The structure of tax receipts in Australia compared with the OECD average is shown in the figure below.

Relative to the OECD average, the tax structure in Australia is characterised by:

» Substantially higher revenues from taxes on personal income, profits & gains and taxes on corporate income & gains, and higher revenues from payroll taxes; property taxes; and goods & services taxes (excluding VAT/GST).

» A lower proportion of revenues from goods and services tax.

» No revenues from social security contributions.

The structure of tax receipts in Australia compared with the OECD average is shown in the figure below.

Relative to the OECD average, the tax structure in Australia is characterised by:

» Substantially higher revenues from taxes on personal income, profits & gains and taxes on corporate income & gains, and higher revenues from payroll taxes; property taxes; and goods & services taxes (excluding VAT/GST).

» A lower proportion of revenues from goods and services tax.

» No revenues from social security contributions.

The structure of tax receipts in Australia compared with the OECD average is shown in the figure below.

Relative to the OECD average, the tax structure in Australia is characterised by:

» Substantially higher revenues from taxes on personal income, profits & gains and taxes on corporate income & gains, and higher revenues from payroll taxes; property taxes; and goods & services taxes (excluding VAT/GST).

» A lower proportion of revenues from goods and services tax.

» No revenues from social security contributions.