Revenue Statistics in Africa 2021 — Botswana

**Tax-to-GDP ratio over time**

The tax-to-GDP ratio in Botswana\(^1\) increased by 0.5 percentage points from 12.1% in 2018 to 12.6% in 2019. In comparison, the average\(^*\) for the 30 African countries increased by 0.3 percentage points over the same period, and was 16.6% in 2019. Since 2010, the average for the 30 African countries has increased by 1.8 percentage points, from 14.8% in 2010 to 16.6% in 2019. Over the same period, the tax-to-GDP ratio in Botswana has decreased by 3.0 percentage points, from 15.6% to 12.6%. The highest tax-to-GDP ratio in Botswana was 17.1% in 2008, with the lowest being 12.1% in 2018.

**Tax-to-GDP ratio, 2019**

Botswana's\(^1\) tax-to-GDP ratio in 2019 (12.6%) was lower than the average of the 30 African countries in Revenue Statistics in Africa 2021 (16.6%) by 4.0 percentage points.

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*The Africa (30) average is not available before 2009 due to missing data in some countries. In 2009, it is calculated based on estimated tax-to-GDP ratios for Chad and Nigeria in that year, as data were not available prior to 2010 in these countries.

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Social security contributions for Botswana are deemed to be null as they do not meet the criteria to be classified as social security contributions set out in in OECD Interpretative Guide

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

**Tax revenues: structure**

Tax structure refers to the share of each tax in total tax revenues. The highest share of tax revenues in Botswana¹ in 2019 was contributed by taxes on income, profits and capital gains (63%). The second-highest share of tax revenues in 2019 was derived from value added taxes (VAT) (33%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Taxes on income, profits and capital gains</th>
<th>Value added taxes (VAT)</th>
<th>Other taxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Africa (30)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>Asia-Pacific (24)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>OECD²</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ The breakdown of revenue from income tax by 1100 personal income tax and 1200 corporate income tax is not available. Social security contributions for Botswana are deemed to be null as they do not meet the criteria to be classified as social security contributions set out in OECD Interpretative Guide.² The data for the OECD are for 2018 as the data for 2019 are not available.

**Non-tax revenues**

In 2019, Botswana’s non-tax revenues amounted to 15.4% of GDP. This was higher than the average non-tax revenues for the 30 African countries (6.3% of GDP). Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue² represented the largest share of non-tax revenues in Botswana in 2019, amounting to 7.2% of GDP and 46.9% of non-tax revenues.

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¹ The data for Senegal are for 2018 as the data for 2019 are incomplete.

² The majority of the ‘Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue’ category comes from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenue-sharing agreement.