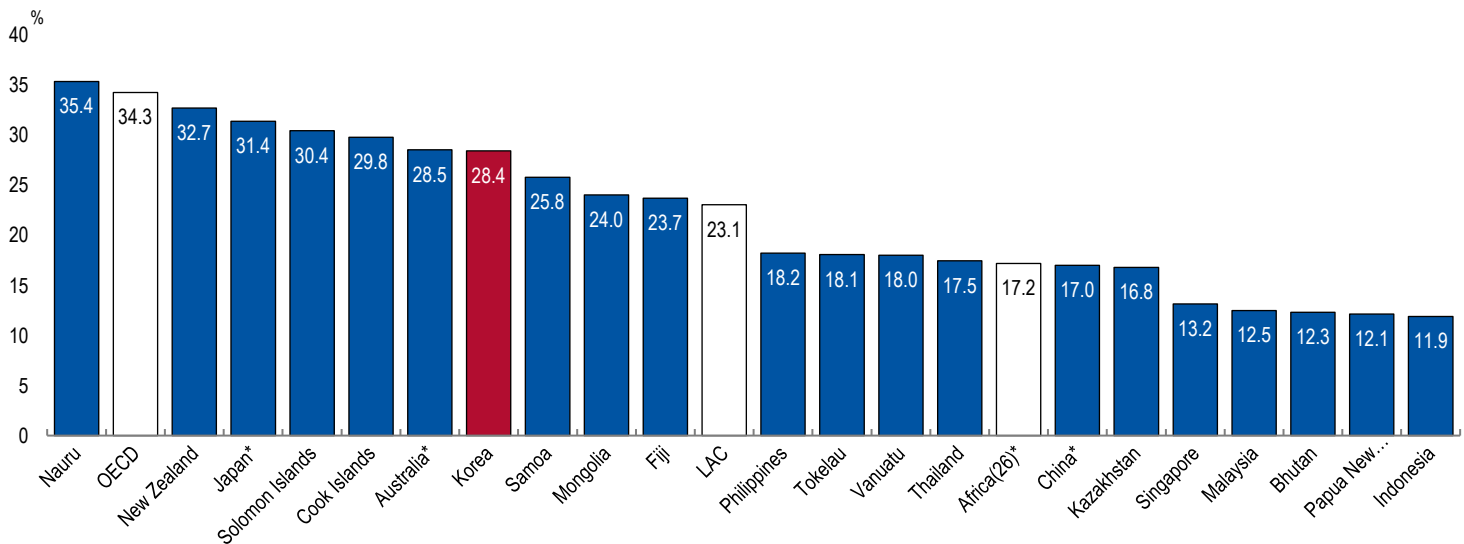


Revenue Statistics in Asian and Pacific Economies 2020 – Korea

Tax-to-GDP ratio

Tax-to-GDP ratio compared to other Asian and Pacific economies and regional averages, 2018

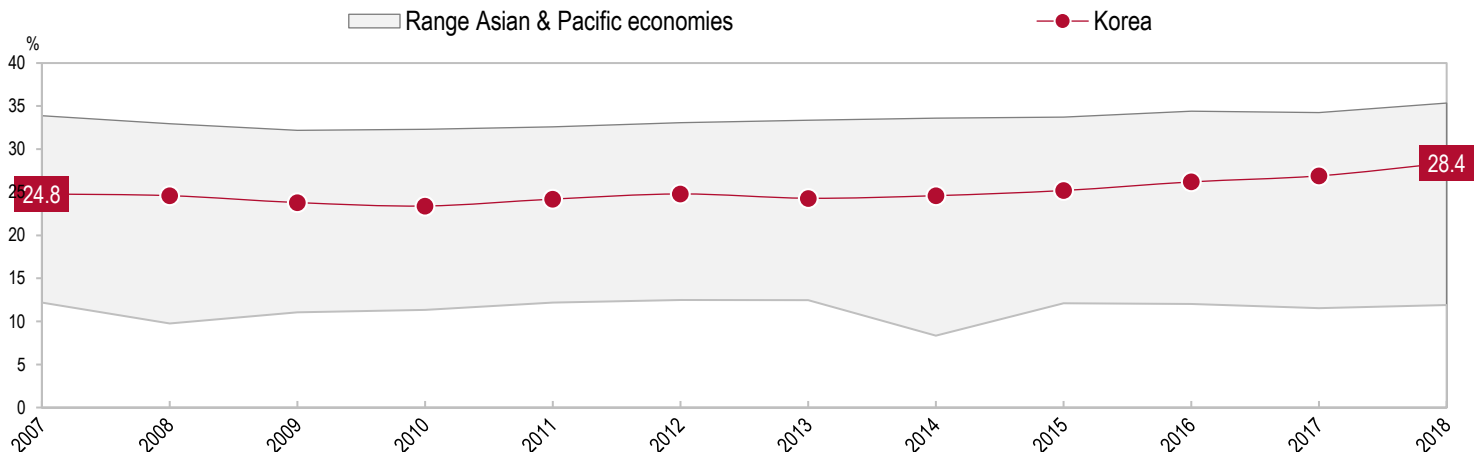
Korea's tax-to-GDP ratio was 28.4% in 2018, below the OECD average (34.3%) by 5.8 percentage points, and above the LAC and Africa (26)* averages (23.1% and 17.2%, respectively).



* Data for 2017 are used for the Africa (26) average, Australia and Japan as the 2018 data are not available. The tax-to-GDP ratio for China does not include revenue from social security contributions (SSCs) as detailed data were not available.

Tax-to-GDP ratio over time

The tax-to-GDP ratio in Korea increased by 1.5 percentage points from 26.9% in 2017 to 28.4% in 2018. From 2007 to 2018, the tax-to-GDP ratio in Korea increased by 3.6 percentage points from 24.8% to 28.4%. The highest tax-to-GDP ratio in this period was 28.4% in 2018, and the lowest 23.4% in 2010.



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. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/tax-policy/oecd-classification-taxes-interpretative-guide.pdf>

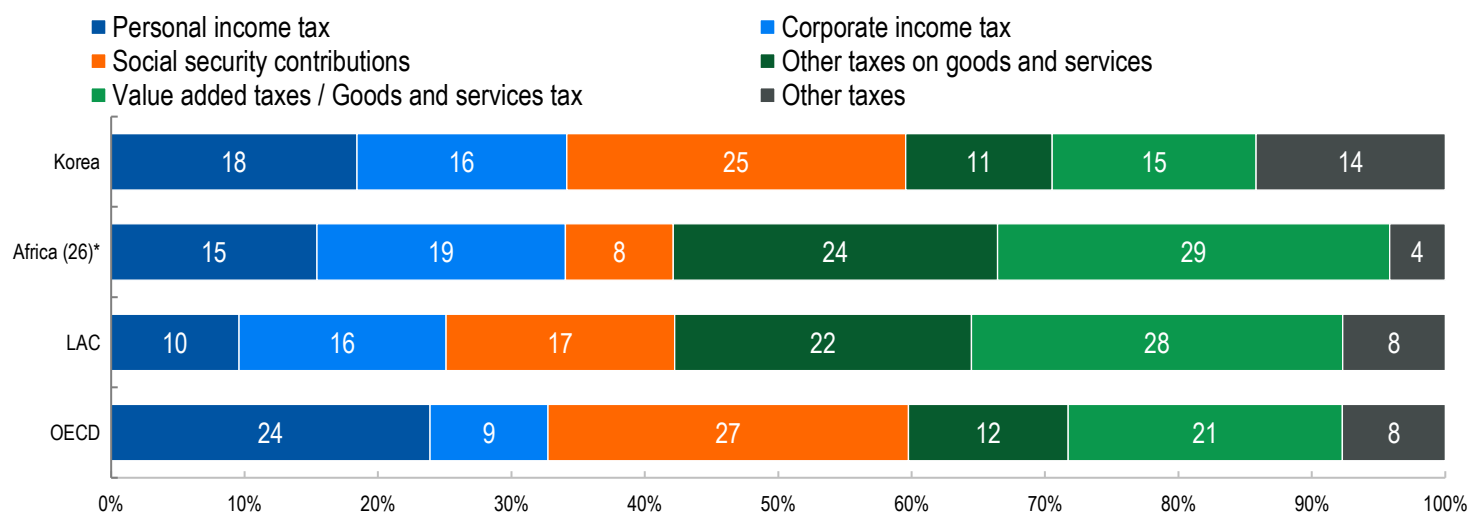
Regional averages (OECD, LAC, AFRICA (26)) refer to the 2020 edition for Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to the 2019 editions of the Revenue Statistics (OECD), and Revenue Statistics in Africa. [oe.cd/global-rev-stats-database](http://www.oecd.org/global-rev-stats-database)



Tax structures

Tax structure compared to the regional averages

Tax structure refers to the share of each tax in total tax revenues. The highest share of tax revenues in Korea in 2018 was derived from social security contributions (25.4%). The second-highest share of tax revenues in 2018 was derived from personal income tax (18.4%).



* Data for 2017 are used for the Africa (26) average as the 2018 data are not available. All figures within the chart are rounded.

Summary of the tax structure in Korea

	Tax Revenues in national currency			Tax structure in Korea		
	Korean Won, Billions			% in GDP		
	2018	2017	Δ	2018	2017	Δ
Taxes on income, profits and capital gains	172 976	149 420	+ 23 556	9.7	8.6	+ 1.1
<i>of which</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Personal income, profits and gains	93 274	83 121	+ 10 153	5.2	4.8	+ 0.4
Corporate income and gains	79 702	66 299	+ 13 403	4.5	3.8	+ 0.6
Social security contributions	128 660	119 676	+ 8 984	7.2	6.9	+ 0.3
Taxes on goods and services	133 095	129 065	+ 4 030	7.5	7.5	+ 0.0
<i>of which</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Value added taxes / Goods and services tax	77 471	74 361	+ 3 110	4.3	4.3	+ 0.1
Taxes on specific goods and services	47 736	46 932	+ 804	2.7	2.7	- 0.0
<i>of which</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Excises	36 218	35 779	+ 439	2.0	2.1	- 0.0
Customs and import duties	9 213	8 938	+ 275	0.5	0.5	-
Other taxes	71 817	67 309	+ 4 508	4.0	3.9	+ 0.1
TOTAL	506 548	465 470	+ 41 078	28.4	26.9	+ 1.5

Tax revenue includes net receipts for all levels of government; figures in the table may not sum to the total indicated due to rounding.

In this country note, "other taxes" is calculated as total tax minus taxes on income, profits and capital gains, social security contributions and taxes on goods and services. It includes taxes on payroll and workforce, taxes on property and other taxes (as defined in the OECD Interpretative Guide).

For further information, please see: oe.cd/revenue-statistics-in-asia-and-pacific

