Revenue Statistics in Africa 2020 — Ghana

Tax revenues: tax-to-GDP ratio

Tax-to-GDP ratio over time

The tax-to-GDP ratio in Ghana increased by 0.3 percentage points from 13.8% in 2017 to 14.1% in 2018. In comparison, the average* for the 30 African countries increased by just under 0.1 percentage points over the same period, and was 16.5% in 2018. Since 2010, the average for the 30 African countries has increased by 1.4 percentage points, from 15.1% in 2010 to 16.5% in 2018. Over the same period, the tax-to-GDP ratio in Ghana has increased by 3.2 percentage points, from 10.9% to 14.1%. The highest tax-to-GDP ratio in Ghana was 14.1% in 2018, with the lowest being 7.8% in 2000.

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

The LAC average refers to the Revenue Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020 publication. oe.cd/revenue-statistics-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean

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.

Ghana's tax-to-GDP ratio in 2018 (14.1%) was lower than the average of the 30 African countries in Revenue Statistics in Africa 2020 (16.5%) by 2.5 percentage points and also lower than the Latin America and the Caribbean (23.1%).
**Tax revenues: structure**

Tax structure refers to the share of each tax in total tax revenues. The highest share of tax revenues in Ghana in 2018 was contributed by taxes on goods & services other than VAT (29%). The second-highest share of tax revenues in 2018 was derived from value added taxes (VAT) (27%).

**Non-tax revenues**

In 2018, Ghana's non-tax revenues amounted to 3.2% of GDP. This was lower than the average non-tax revenues for the 30 African countries (6.5% of GDP). Sales of goods and services represented the largest share of non-tax revenues in 2018, amounting to 1.2% of GDP and 39.2% of non-tax revenues.

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*The data for the OECD are for 2017 as the data for 2018 are not available.*

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Source: Revenue Statistics in Africa 2020