Revenue Statistics in Africa 2020 — Botswana

Tax revenues: tax-to-GDP ratio

Tax-to-GDP ratio over time

The tax-to-GDP ratio in Botswana¹ decreased by 0.2 percentage points from 12.3% in 2017 to 12.1% 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 Botswana has decreased by 3.5 percentage points, from 15.6% to 12.1%. 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, 2018

Botswana's¹ tax-to-GDP ratio in 2018 (12.1%) was lower than the average of the 30 African countries in Revenue Statistics in Africa 2020 (16.5%) by 10.9 percentage points and also lower than the Latin America and the Caribbean (23.1%).

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1 The Africa (30) average was 16.5% in both 2017 and 2018 due to rounding. 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.

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
Tax structure refers to the share of each tax in total tax revenues. The highest share of tax revenues in Botswana\(^1\) in 2018 was contributed by taxes on income, profits and capital gains (65%). The second-highest share of tax revenues in 2018 was derived from value added taxes (VAT) (31%).

![Graph showing tax revenues structure]

| Source: Revenue Statistics in Africa 2020 |

Non-tax revenues

In 2018, Botswana's non-tax revenues amounted to 15.6% of GDP. This was higher than the average non-tax revenues for the 30 African countries (6.5% of GDP). Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue\(^2\) represented the largest share of non-tax revenues in 2018, amounting to 7.7% of GDP and 49.4% of non-tax revenues.

![Graph showing non-tax revenues]

\(^{1}\) 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 in OECD Interpretative Guide.  
\(^{2}\) The majority of the 'Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue' category comes from the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) revenue-sharing agreement.