Revenue Statistics in Africa 2020 — Rwanda

Tax revenues: tax-to-GDP ratio

Tax-to-GDP ratio over time

The tax-to-GDP ratio in Rwanda increased by 0.7 percentage points from 16.4% in 2017 to 17.1% 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 Rwanda has increased by 4.2 percentage points, from 12.9% to 17.1%. The highest tax-to-GDP ratio in Rwanda was 17.1% in 2018, with the lowest being 10.2% in 2000.

Tax-to-GDP ratio, 2018

Rwanda’s tax-to-GDP ratio in 2018 (17.1%) was lower than the average of the 30 African countries in Revenue Statistics in Africa 2020 (16.5%) by 5.9 percentage points but higher than the Latin America and the Caribbean (23.1%).

*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 Rwanda in 2018 was contributed by value added taxes (VAT) (30%). The second-highest share of tax revenues in 2018 was derived from taxes on goods & services other than VAT (23%).

Non-tax revenues

In 2018, Rwanda's non-tax revenues amounted to 7.9% of GDP. This was lower than the average non-tax revenues for the 30 African countries (6.5% of GDP). Grants¹ represented the largest share of non-tax revenues in 2018, amounting to 4.9% of GDP and 61.3% of non-tax revenues.

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¹ Miscellaneous and unidentified revenue could not be disaggregated to allocate them to the relevant non-tax revenue categories.

Source: Revenue Statistics in Africa 2020