



countries, reduced VAT rates have been expanded to address fairness concerns or to support specific industry sectors, although evidence shows that these tend to be poorly targeted policy instruments.

- New excise taxes are being introduced to deter harmful consumption, in addition to continued increases in excise duty rates on tobacco and alcohol. Some of the most notable reforms include new taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages in Ireland, South Africa and the United Kingdom, and the introduction of a tax on cannabis in Canada.
- Environmentally-related tax reforms have continued to focus on energy taxes but efforts have been made to go beyond road transport. While these changes go in the right direction, they have occurred only in a few countries and more significant reforms will be needed to align energy tax rates with environmental costs and generate additional tax revenues. Changes to vehicle taxes to encourage the use of cleaner vehicles have continued, but experience has shown that – while effective – they can be a costly emissions reduction policy. Finally, despite their large potential to generate environmental improvements, tax reforms outside of energy and vehicles, such as taxes on waste, plastic bags or chemicals, have been much less frequent.
- Finally, 2018 has seen the introduction of a few significant property tax reforms. Compared to previous years, characterised by limited reforms both in number and in scope, a few notable property tax reforms were introduced in 2018, including the doubling of the exemption threshold for the estate and gift tax in the United States, the introduction of a tax on securities accounts in Belgium, as well as France’s repeal of the housing tax for 80% of households and the elimination of its net wealth tax which was replaced by a tax on real estate wealth.

The report is structured as follows: Chapter 1 gives an overview of the macroeconomic background; Chapter 2 presents the latest trends in tax revenues and tax mixes; and Chapter 3 gives an overview of the latest tax reform trends.

© OECD

This summary is not an official OECD translation.

Reproduction of this summary is allowed provided the OECD copyright and the title of the original publication are mentioned.

**Multilingual summaries are translated excerpts of OECD publications originally published in English and in French.**



**[Read the complete English version on OECD iLibrary!](#)**

© OECD (2018), *Tax Policy Reforms 2018: OECD and Selected Partner Economies*, OECD Publishing.

doi: 10.1787/9789264304468-en