The structural breakdown of government revenues shows how revenues are raised and helps identify the relative contribution of citizens and/or sectors of the economy to paying for public expenditures.

Across OECD countries, taxes represented the largest part of all government revenues, with an average of 59.3% in 2015, while one quarter were collected through net social contributions, with the remaining revenues distributed between grants (8.5%) and sales (7.3%). The share of revenues collected from taxes range from 87.8% in Denmark to 42.4% in the Slovak Republic, while net social contributions represent 37% in Germany to 1.9% in Denmark. Revenues derived from sales ranged from 14% in Switzerland to 0.3% in Mexico; Mexico, in turn, received the largest share of revenues from grants and other revenues with 33.2%, while France only collects 2.9% of its revenues from these sources.

Between 2007 and 2015, on average, taxes represented -1.2 p.p. less within all government revenues, counterbalanced by increases in net social contributions (0.6 p.p.), sales (0.3 p.p.) and grants and other revenues (0.2 p.p.). During this period the ratio of taxes vis-à-vis non tax revenues were reduced the most by the Slovak Republic (8.1 p.p.), replaced by increased sales (1.7 p.p.) and grants and other revenues (7.5 p.p.). In contrast, Mexico increased taxes in almost a similar proportion as for the reduction of grants and other revenues between 2007 and 2015 (+8.1 p.p. and -7.3 p.p. respectively).

Many policy makers define taxes to include social security contributions. Indeed this is the basis of tax revenue measures in the OECD Revenue Statistics (see “Methodology and definitions”). In 2014, income and profit taxes accounted on average (unweighted) for 33.7% of tax revenues, taxes on goods and services, such as value added tax (VAT), represented 32.6%, social security 26.2% and the remaining 7.4% distributed between payroll, property and other taxes. The countries that collected most of their taxes through income and profit taxation were Denmark (64.9%), Australia (57.9%) and New Zealand (55.4%), while the ones that collected the lowest proportion were Hungary (17.7%) and Slovenia (17.9%). In contrast, the countries with the highest share of tax revenue collected from goods and services were Chile (55.3%), Hungary and Turkey (around 44%) and the lowest was the United States (17.4%).

Comparing 2007 with 2014, on average income and profit taxes decreased by 2.3 p.p., while increases occurred in social security (1.4 p.p.) and goods and services (0.7 p.p.). The largest changes during this period occurred in Chile, where income and profit taxes decreased by 12.7 p.p. and goods and services taxes increased by 11.5 p.p. With regards to social security, Korea and Turkey increased by 6.1 p.p. and 6.8 p.p. respectively their share of total tax revenues.

### Methodology and definitions

Revenues data are derived from the OECD National Accounts Statistics (database), which are based on the System of National Accounts (SNA), a set of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, classifications and rules for national accounting. The updated 2008 SNA framework has been now implemented by all OECD countries (see Annex A for details on reporting systems and sources). Revenues encompass taxes (e.g. taxes on consumption, income, wealth, property and capital), net social contributions (e.g. contributions for pensions, health and social security; net means after deduction of social insurance scheme service charges, where applicable), sales of goods and services (e.g. market output of establishments in government, entrance fees) and grants and other revenues (e.g. current and capital grants, property income and subsidies). These aggregates were constructed using sub-account line items (see Annex B). The data presented in Figure 2.23 are from OECD Revenue Statistics. The OECD Revenue Statistics and the SNA differ in their definitions of tax revenues. In the SNA, taxes are compulsory unrequited payments, in cash or in kind, made by institutional units to the government. Net social contributions are actual or imputed payments to social insurance schemes to make provision for social benefits to be paid. These contributions may be compulsory or voluntary and the schemes may be funded or unfunded. OECD Revenue Statistics treat compulsory social security contributions as taxes whereas the SNA considers them net social contributions because the receipt of social security benefits depends, in most countries, upon appropriate contributions having been made, even though the size of the benefits is not necessarily related to the amount of the contributions.

### Further readings


### Figure notes

2.21 and 2.22: Data for Chile are not available. Australia does not collect revenues via social contributions because it does not operate government social insurance schemes. Data for Costa Rica and Russia are for 2014 rather than 2015.

2.21: Data for Turkey and are not included in the OECD average due to missing time-series.

2.22: Data for Turkey are not available.

2.23: For the OECD countries part of the European Union total taxation includes custom duties collected on behalf of the European Union. 2014 is the latest available year for which data are available for all OECD countries. OECD average is unweighted.

Information on data for Israel: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888932315602.

Source: OECD National Accounts Statistics (database).

2.22. Change in the structure of general government revenues, 2007 to 2015

Source: OECD National Accounts Statistics (database).

2.23. Breakdown of tax revenues as a percentage of total taxation, 2007 and 2014

Source: OECD Revenue Statistics (2016)