

Collecting Taxes Database (CTD)- United States Agency for International Development



Objective and features

1. Objective

CTD aims to provide policymakers, practitioners, and researchers with the means to conduct cross-country analysis on national tax systems.

2. Institutional coverage

National governments.

3. Technical coverage

The dimensions covered by the framework are:

1. revenue management and tax administration; and
2. fiscal framework and policy.

4. Application method

Custodian.

Methodology



5. Methodology

CTD is a compilation of comparable cross-country data on taxation. The 2017/18 edition contains 20 indicators for 200 countries and territories spanning all regions and income groups. The data is collected by USAID from publicly available sources. It complements several other publicly available revenue datasets (such as IMF and World Bank World Development Indicators) that present cross-country statistics on revenue collection and the structural features of national tax systems.

The database is organized around two themes, which are further divided into clusters and indicators:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Tax Performance (11 indicators) | 2. Tax Administration (9 indicators) |
| ● Tax capacity and tax effort | ● Institutional characteristics |
| ● Tax buoyancy | ● Electronic services |
| ● VAT productivity | ● Resource efficiency |

The database covering the tax administration theme includes nine cross-sectional indicators that describe or measure the main features of the government bodies responsible for collecting tax revenue. Current entries in this dataset are for 2015 and 2017. The performance dataset includes 11 time series indicators on measures such as efficiency, buoyancy (the extent to which total taxes increase as GDP rises), and effort (for tax departments) for major taxes between 2000 and 2019.

6. Benchmarking system

The database does not provide for a ranking or benchmarking system, but it presents the data in a range of formats including a “Yes/No” to certain indicators or a numerical value.

7. Linkage to PEFA framework

The database covers aspects related to the following PEFA performance indicators: fiscal strategy (PI-15), budget preparation process (PI-17), and revenue administration (PI-19).

8. Complementarity with PEFA framework

The tool provides information that could be used to allow a more substantive review of areas relevant to PEFA pillars - Policy-based Fiscal Strategy and Budgeting (Pillar IV) and Predictability and Control in Budget Execution (Pillar V).

Development and use



9. Development and coordination

The first edition of Collecting Taxes was launched in 2008. From its inception until 2013, the annually updated CTD dataset has featured more than 30 tax and tax-related variables and has represented the only publicly accessible dataset of its kind.

The dataset underwent an overhaul between 2014 and 2015, with refinements and improvements made to the indicators, methodology, sources, and data. The team reviewed and considered more than 40 relevant indicators from the literature and also consulted tax experts from the IMF, World Bank, and governments to determine robustness as well as perceived popularity of usage, resulting in a total of 20 indicators today. The construction of the 2017/18 CTD was based on the compilation of data from multiple existing data sources, in order to arrive at a complete and comprehensive dataset.

The tool was developed in consultation with the IMF and World Bank.

10. Assessment management

USAID collects internationally available data to compile the database. The CTD contains a program document that describes the database and how to use it.

USAID is responsible for compiling and reviewing the data before publishing it to its database. Collected data is reviewed for outliers and sense-checked using summary statistics. Data may also be reviewed using secondary sources. Where concerns are raised over the quality of the data, USAID is open to reviewing and revising it as needed.

11. Uses by the government and members of the PFM community

CTD is part of a wider agenda of the international community to help countries strengthen their tax systems and improve domestic revenue mobilization (DRM). The database is designed for relevant stakeholders (e.g., policymakers, practitioners, and researchers) worldwide to conduct analysis on DRM. CTD is available to the public and allows stakeholders to use the data in conducting relevant analysis.

12. Sequencing with other tools

Data collected can be used by partner organizations to conduct both analysis of national tax systems and to make cross-country comparisons between different administrations.

13. PFM capacity building

No PFM capacity development function is envisaged for the tool.

14. Tracking of changes and frequency of assessments

Changes are not specifically tracked, but users of the database can compare previous scores using past data of countries.

USAID updates the CTD annually but the precise timing of updates can vary. The CTD source data are also updated.

15. Resource requirements

There is no cost to the database user, but it costs about US\$50,000 to US\$100,000 per year for USAID to update and maintain the CTD.

It takes approximately three months for USAID to update the database (60 days of staff time).

Transparency



16. Access to methodology

Methodology (2022) is [available](#). The CTD contains a program document that outlines how to use the database, which is published on its website.

17. Access to assessment results

The CTD does not provide a separate report for each country, but releases data on all countries that it possesses data for in its database tool.

The CTD posts a full [database](#), including a technical note describing each indicator, and allows users to query specific countries and indicators via USAID's International Data & Economic Analysis (IDEA) platform.