

Asia Pacific Financial Services

Tax Highlights

February – April 2025

Our Asia Pacific Financial Services Tax Highlights, draws your attention to the latest developments and hottest issues facing the industry in the region.

If you wish to discuss anything further, please get in touch with any one of our listed contacts, or your usual PwC contact.

Australia

- The Federal Treasurer delivered the 2025-26 Federal Budget on 25 March 2025.

This Budget was always going to be shaped by the political reality of a Federal election that must be held by no later than 17 May 2025. As such, a focus on cost of living (e.g. energy cost relief), strengthening Medicare, and health were key initiatives. On the tax front, new personal tax cuts and an increase in the Medicare levy low-income thresholds for some groups maintained the focus on cost of living. There was also additional funding to extend or expand various tax compliance programs, as well as the deferral of some previously announced measures. Detailed analysis of the tax measures can be found [here](#).

Hong Kong

- The 2025/26 Hong Kong Budget was delivered by the Financial Secretary on 26 February 2025. Please click [here](#) for a summary of the key proposals, including [industry viewpoints](#) from our tax leaders.

India

- The 2025-26 India Union Budget was presented by the Finance Minister on 1 February 2025. Please click [here](#) for the highlights, key announcements, and impact.

Indonesia

- Updated tax audit procedures were issued on 14 February 2025 (PMK-15), adopting most of the existing rules, but also making some amendments and setting a uniform approach for the Land and Building Tax. These new procedures apply to tax audits for which Tax Audit Notification Letter is delivered starting 14 February. For highlights of the updates, please click [here](#).

Macau

- On 16 December 2024, the Macau SAR Legislative Assembly approved the new Tax Code, modernizing the tax system to align with international standards. The legislation, signed by the Chief Executive on 28 December and published on 30 December 2024, primarily takes effect on 1 January 2026, though provisions on tax residency and stamp duty amendments are effective from 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2024, respectively.

The new Tax Code consolidates existing laws, introduces transfer pricing regulations, and incorporates international tax concepts like permanent establishment, tax agents, and tax residents, adhering to the territorial principle. Drawing from OECD guidelines with localised adjustments, it aims to meet Macau's economic needs while aligning with global norms.

Taxpayers should monitor explanatory sessions by the Macau Finance Bureau and assess the legislation's impact, as uncertainties remain in its interpretation and application.

Please click [here](#) for more.

Malaysia

- Please click [here](#) for the latest TaXavvy issues on updated e-Invoice guidelines and FAQs, the Stamp Duty Audit Framework (effective from 1 January 2025), and more.

New Zealand

- The February Tax Bulletin is available [here](#), outlining the latest developments, including a decrease in Use of Money Interest rates.

Philippines

- Please click [here](#) for the latest tax alerts.



Singapore

- The Prime Minister and Minister for Finance announced Singapore's FY2025 Budget Statement on 18 February 2025 in Parliament. Themed "Onward Together for a Better Tomorrow", Budget 2025 is focused on tackling cost pressures, advancing our growth frontier, equipping workers throughout life, building a sustainable city, nurturing a caring and inclusive society and rallying as one united people. Click [here](#) for insights into the various measures announced in Budget 2025.
- As announced in the Budget 2025, the GST remission for S-REITS and Singapore-listed Registered Business Trusts in the infrastructure business, ship leasing and aircraft leasing sectors will be extended to 31 Dec 2030. The IRAS has since updated its e-tax guide 'GST: Concession for REITS and Qualifying Registered Business Trusts Listed in Singapore (Seventh Edition)' on 18 February 2025 to reflect this extension and make other editorial changes. Click [here](#) for details.

South Korea

- In line with the National Tax Service's (NTS) ongoing efforts to ensure compliance during tax audits, a proposed amendment to the Basic National Tax Law (BNTL) aims to introduce enforcement fines for taxpayers who fail to submit requested information and documents. The amendments are expected to be promulgated in March 2025. Click [here](#) for more details.
- Click [here](#) for more Korean tax updates in March, including tax news, changes in tax laws and rulings updates.

Vietnam

- On 3 January 2025, Vietnam signed the multilateral competent authority agreement on the exchange of country-by-country reports (MCAA CbCR). Click [here](#) for what this means for companies and groups in Vietnam which fall within the CbCR rules.

International

- **US:** Since taking office on January 20, President Trump has introduced several policies and executive orders. On his first day in office, he issued the [America First Trade Policy](#), which launched an investigation into unfair trade practices, expected to conclude on 1 April 2025. A key component of this investigation, "Unfair and Unbalanced Trade," targets countries with significant annual trade deficits in goods, potentially subjecting them to country-specific tariffs. This includes several European Union nations (e.g., Germany, Ireland, and Italy), Asian jurisdictions (e.g., Vietnam, Japan, and Taiwan), and other global trade partners. A review of unfair trade practices by other countries and a consultation with respect to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) also are key components of the investigation. Click [here](#) to read the analysis on the impact of the tariffs to the private equity industry.
- Drawing on our experience of tax policy issues and insight from relationships with organisations such as the OECD, we have put together a new series of **tax policy bulletins**. With analysis and insight on policy changes around the world, these bulletins are designed to help you stay up-to-date with the latest developments and explain what these changes mean for you and your business. Click [here](#) for the latest issues.
- For more international tax insights, click [here](#).

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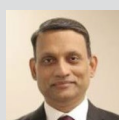
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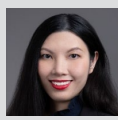
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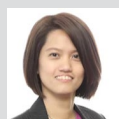
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