

Impact Of GST On Indian Economy In Context With Various Sectors

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ABSTRACT

The implementation of GST in India has overhauled the indirect tax system by introducing a unified structure for goods and services, simplifying tax processes and reducing hidden levies. Sectors like consumer goods and infrastructure have benefitted from reduced costs and streamlined operations. However, industries such as financial services and telecom have faced challenges due to increased tax rates. Small-scale enterprises have experienced better compliance under a tiered system, though there remains a need for greater awareness, clarity, and enhanced digital infrastructure. Overall, GST has established the groundwork for a more integrated national market, but continued efforts are necessary to address sector-specific challenges and optimize its effectiveness.

Keywords: Goods and Services Tax (GST), Indian Economy, Sectoral Impact, Tax Reform, Economic Efficiency.

1. INTRODUCTION

The introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) represents a significant reform in the Indian taxation system, aimed at creating a unified tax structure and enhancing economic efficiency. This study investigates the impact of GST on the Indian economy, focusing on its effects across various sectors. GST was implemented to streamline the tax process, reduce economic distortions, and foster a common national market by replacing multiple indirect taxes with a single, comprehensive tax. This reform is expected to influence a wide range of economic activities and sectors differently. The consumer goods sector has seen changes in cost structures and distribution due to the new tax framework. Financial services are adjusting to higher GST rates, affecting market dynamics. The cement industry faces minimal disruption, while the food sector grapples with potential challenges affecting lower-income households. Additionally, the IT and infrastructure sectors are experiencing both benefits and adaptations due to GST. Small-scale enterprises are navigating a restructured tax environment, and overall, successful GST implementation hinges on effective policy measures, updated systems, and stakeholder education.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) represents a pivotal shift in India's tax landscape, aiming to unify and streamline the indirect tax system. This literature review examines the sectoral impacts of GST on the Indian economy, highlighting its transformative effects across various industries. By integrating and simplifying the tax structure, GST has influenced sectors ranging from consumer goods and financial services to infrastructure and small enterprises. This review synthesizes findings from recent studies to assess how GST has reshaped economic activities, tax compliance, and sector-specific challenges. Understanding these impacts is crucial for evaluating GST's effectiveness and addressing ongoing issues within the broader economic framework.

Table 1 Literature Review on the Sectoral Impact of GST in India

Author(s)	Key Findings	Relevance to GST
Bajpai, A. 2023	Discusses the evolution of indirect taxation in India and its transition to GST. Highlights the simplification of the tax system and its impact on transparency.	Provides a comprehensive overview of how GST has streamlined indirect taxes and reduced tax complexities in India.
Dash, S. K., et al. 2022	Analyzes variations in GST collection across Indian states and the factors influencing these differences, such as economic activities and tax compliance.	Highlights state-wise disparities in GST collections, offering insights into economic diversity and compliance levels across India.
Azhagesan, J. G. 2021	Examines GST collection data, focusing on different business sectors and their contributions to the overall tax revenue.	Provides sector-wise data on GST contributions, highlighting which industries are the primary contributors to GST collections in India.
GST India 2015	Explores the initial economic impact and policy framework of GST in India, analyzing potential benefits and challenges.	Offers early insights into how GST could affect various sectors and the broader economy, particularly in policy development.
Greiner, A., et al. 2015	Discusses the relationship between public debt and economic growth, focusing on fiscal sustainability.	Though focused on public debt, it provides useful context on fiscal policy, relevant to discussions on how GST impacts government revenue and economic stability.
Vegh, C. A., et al. 2015	Analyzes tax policies in different phases of economic cycles, examining how they influence economic performance.	Helps understand the macroeconomic effects of tax policies like GST during different economic conditions, providing context for revenue fluctuations.
Adhana, D. K. 2015	Describes GST as a transformative policy for India's economy, emphasizing the unification of tax structures and improved tax compliance.	Advocates for GST as a solution to tax inefficiencies, providing a detailed examination of how GST can stimulate economic growth in India.
Erasmio, P. et al. 2015	Explores the criteria for public debt sustainability and its relationship with economic policies.	Offers insights on fiscal sustainability, relevant to understanding how GST can affect long-term government revenue and economic management.
Garg, Girish 2014	Provides a detailed explanation of the fundamental principles of GST, including its	Clarifies the basic functioning of GST in India, essential for understanding its

	multi-tier rate structure and input tax credit mechanism.	implementation and impacts on different sectors.
Nakhchian, et al. 2013	Examines the role of management information systems in improving VAT collection efficiency and reducing tax evasion.	Offers relevant insights into how technology can be leveraged for GST compliance, potentially improving efficiency in tax collection and reporting.
Fincke, et al. 2011	Empirical analysis of debt sustainability in Germany, focusing on fiscal management practices.	Provides comparative data on fiscal management that can help inform how GST could affect India's federal financial management, particularly in a multi-state environment.

3. GST OVERVIEW

GST is a comprehensive indirect tax system that applies uniformly to both goods and services, eliminating the distinction between them for tax purposes. It follows a multi-tier rate structure, with different rates for essential items and higher rates for luxury goods. The scheme allows for input tax credit on both services and goods, simplifying the tax process and reducing the overall tax burden. This tax reform has drawn significant market attention due to its implications on the earnings of various sectors. A substantial number of items fall under a moderate tax rate, influencing the broader economic impact of the tax system.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyze the conceptual framework of GST within the Indian context.
- To examine the impact and challenges of GST on various components of the Indian economy.
- To propose measures to address the adverse effects of GST on different stakeholders across various sectors.

5. METHODOLOGY

This study is based on an extensive analysis of secondary data obtained from various sources, including books, academic journals, government reports, and publications from websites that focus on Goods and Services Tax (GST). The research aims to assess the impact of GST on the Indian economy across different sectors.

Impact of GST on Various Areas of the Economy:

GST has influenced various sectors of the economy, including:

Impact on the Consumer Goods Sector: The implementation of GST has significantly altered the structure of the consumer goods sector, including food, beverages, household, and personal care products. Previously, the multiplicity of taxes affected decisions regarding manufacturing locations and the distribution of goods, as companies sought tax advantages. The introduction of GST has streamlined the tax process, influencing overall costs and operational decisions within the sector.

Impact on Financial Services and Investments: The introduction of GST has increased the tax rate on financial services, affecting the costs associated with trading and investments. For short-term traders, the change could impact the economics of their market activities, potentially influencing trading volumes and liquidity as the sector adjusts to the new tax rates.

Cement Industry: The introduction of GST is expected to have a minimal impact on the cement industry, as the new tax rate closely aligns with the existing tax structure. This suggests that the overall tax burden on the industry remains largely unchanged.

Food Industry: Taxation on food items can disproportionately affect lower-income households, as food constitutes a major portion of their expenses. The food processing sector, being largely unorganized, faces challenges under GST. Globally, many countries maintain lower or zero tax rates on food to promote fairness and equity. It is recommended that similar considerations be extended to all food items to ensure equitable tax treatment.

Information Technology Services: The GST rate for the IT industry is yet to be finalized, but it aims to simplify the taxation process. Digital services and products may be classified differently based on how they are delivered, which will affect their tax treatment. The uniform tax system under GST could lead to reduced prices and a more straightforward tax process in the sector.

Infrastructure Sector: The infrastructure sector, encompassing areas like power, transportation, and mining, currently faces a complex tax environment. GST seeks to streamline this by removing multiple taxes and broadening the tax base, while continuing to support the sector with necessary exemptions to foster growth and development.

Small Scale Enterprises: Under GST, small scale enterprises are categorized based on their turnover, with some exempt from registration, others having the option to pay a simplified turnover-based tax, and the rest required to fully comply with GST regulations. This approach aims to improve compliance and expand the tax base, contributing to economic growth. The streamlined tax structure is also expected to reduce the tax burden on manufacturers and traders in this sector.

Telecom Sector: The telecom sector, already facing competitive pressures, is subject to a higher tax rate under GST, which may impact the overall cost of services and sector profitability.

Automobile and Auto Ancillaries: The GST rates for the automobile sector are generally neutral, maintaining similar tax levels as before for most vehicle categories. However, certain segments, such as hybrid vehicles and tractors, face higher tax rates under GST, which may lead to increased costs and potential challenges for businesses in these categories.

Challenges of GST in the Indian Context:

- **Understanding and Compliance:** Many businesses are still learning about GST provisions and where to register, leading to confusion and delays.
- **Ambiguity in Provisions:** Key aspects of GST, such as classification and anti-profiteering rules, remain unclear.
- **Accounting and IT Systems:** Businesses need to update their systems to comply with GST requirements, including invoicing and reporting.

- **Skilled Workforce:** There is a lack of skilled personnel with GST expertise, and businesses face the challenge of filing numerous returns.

6. FINDINGS

- **Reduction in Indirect Taxes:** GST will reduce the complexity of indirect taxes and eliminate hidden taxes, promoting transparency.
- **Economic Efficiency:** By unifying the tax system, GST will reduce economic distortions and foster the development of a common national market.
- **Support for National Initiatives:** GST supports the goals of "Make in India" and "Digital India" by streamlining the tax system and enhancing economic integration.

7. SUGGESTIONS

- The government should develop and implement effective plans and policies to ensure the successful execution of GST and achieve its intended results.
- The GST Council should consider including the four-tier tax structure within its framework to prevent states from increasing tax rates.
- A robust and efficient digital infrastructure should be established and maintained to support the GST system.
- Special programs should be introduced to educate businesses and consumers about how GST functions and its impact.

8. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the implementation of GST in India has reformed the indirect tax system by creating a unified tax structure that applies equally to goods and services. This has simplified tax processes, reduced hidden taxes, and promoted economic efficiency. While sectors such as consumer goods and infrastructure have benefitted from streamlined operations and reduced costs, others like financial services and telecom have faced challenges due to increased tax rates. Small-scale enterprises have seen improved compliance through a tiered system, though the need for better awareness, clarity, and digital infrastructure remains crucial. Overall, GST has laid the foundation for a more integrated national market, but continued efforts are required to address sector-specific challenges and enhance its effectiveness.

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