Glossary

Adjustments estimate Presentation to Parliament of the amendments to be made to the

appropriations voted in the main budget for the year.

Appropriation The approval by Parliament of spending from the National Revenue Fund,

or by a provincial legislature from the Provincial Revenue Fund.

Balance of payments A summary statement of all the international transactions of the residents of

a country with the rest of the world over a particular time period.

Baseline The initial allocations used during the budget process, derived from the

previous year's forward estimates.

Budget deficit The amount by which budgeted expenditure exceeds budgeted revenue.

Capital gains tax Tax levied on the profits realised from the disposal of capital assets or

investments by a taxpayer. A capital gain is the excess of the selling price

over the original purchase price of a capital asset.

Capital inflow The receipt of money for investment or financing purposes from one or

more foreign countries.

Conditional grants Allocations of money from one sphere of government to another, conditional

on certain services being delivered or on compliance with specified

requirements.

Consolidated expenditure Total expenditure by national and provincial government, social security

funds and transfers to municipalities and public entities.

CPIX A measurement of the price increases of a basket of consumer goods and

services. This measure differs from the consumer price index in that it

excludes mortgage costs.

within a short period of time, usually a year.

Contingency reserve An amount set aside and not allocated in advance, in order to accommodate

changes to the economic environment and to meet unforeseen spending

pressures.

Controlled foreign

corporation

An entity in which South Africans hold a greater than 50 per cent interest,

usually of the share capital of a company.

Current account The difference between total imports and total exports, also taking into

account service payments and receipts, interest, dividends and transfers.

Debt service costs The cost of interest on government debt.

Depreciation (exchange rate) A reduction in the external value of the rand.

Dissaving An excess of current expenditure, including the depreciation of fixed capital,

over current income.

Division of revenue The allocation of funds between the spheres of government as required by

the Constitution.

Equitable shares The allocation of revenue to the national, provincial and local spheres of

government as required by the Constitution.

Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC)

An independent body established by the Constitution to make recommendations to Parliament and provincial legislatures about financial

issues affecting the three spheres of government.

Financial account This is also known as the capital account and forms part of the balance of

payments.

Fiscal policy Policy on tax, spending and borrowing by Government.

Foreign direct investment (FDI)

Direct investments in productive assets by a company incorporated abroad, as opposed to investments in shares of local companies by foreign entities.

GDP inflation A measure of the total increase in prices in the whole economy. Unlike CPI

inflation, GDP inflation includes price increases in goods that are exported and intermediate goods such as machines, but excludes imported goods.

Gross domestic product (GDP)

A measure of the total national output, income and expenditure in the economy. GDP per head is the simplest overall measure of welfare, although it does not take account of the distribution of income, nor of goods and services that are produced outside the market economy, such as work

within the household.

Gross fixed capital formation

(GFCF)

The addition to a country's fixed capital stock during a specific period, before provision for depreciation.

Inflation A sustained increase in the general price level.

Inflation targeting A monetary policy framework intended to achieve price stability. The

Reserve Bank and Government agree on a target rate or range to be

maintained over a stipulated period.

Joint Services Board Levy See Regional Services Council levy.

Medium term expenditure framework (MTEF)

The three-year spending plans of national and provincial governments

published at the time of the Budget.

Money supply The total stock of money in an economy.

Mzansi initiative A programme that extends basic banking facilities to low-income earners on

affordable terms.

National budget The projected revenue and expenditures that flow through the National

Revenue Fund. It does not include spending by provinces or local

government from their own revenues.

National Revenue Fund

(NRF)

All money received by the national government must be paid into the NRF. This includes all taxes, fees and charges collected by SARS. Departmental

revenue is also included.

Net open forward position Gold and foreign exchange reserves minus oversold forward book. The

figure is expressed in dollars.

Nominal exchange rates The current rate of exchange between the rand and foreign currencies. The

"effective" exchange rate is a trade-weighted average of the rates of

exchange with other currencies.

Non-interest expenditure Total expenditure by government less debt service (interest) costs.

Primary sector The agricultural and mining sectors of the economy.

Primary surplus The difference between revenue and non-interest expenditure

Public Private Partnerships

(PPPs)

A contractual arrangement whereby a private party performs part of a government function and assumes the associated risks. In return, the private

party receives a fee according to predefined performance criteria.

Public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR)

The consolidated cash borrowing requirement of general government and public enterprises.

Private sector credit extension Credit provided to the private sector by banks. This includes all loans, credit

cards and leases.

Real effective exchange rate A measure of the rate of exchange of the rand relative to a trade-weighted

average of South Africa's trading partners' currencies, adjusted for price

trends in South Africa and the countries included.

Real expenditure The level of expenditure after taking account of inflation.

Regional Services Council

(RSC) levy

The Regional Services Council levy (referred to as the Joint Services Board levy in KwaZulu-Natal) was introduced in 1985 to fund the local provision

of basic services.

Repurchase (repo) rateThe rates of interest that the Reserve Bank pays on repurchase agreements

with money market participants.

Reserves

(foreign exchange)

Holdings of foreign exchange, either of the Reserve Bank only or of the

Reserve Bank and domestic banking institutions.

Seasonally adjusted and

annualised

The process of removing the seasonal volatility (monthly or quarterly) from a time series. This allows one to concentrate on the annual trend in the data.

Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Agreement

An agreement that allows for the unrestricted flow of goods and services between South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Swaziland.

Cinon (SACC) Agreement

Southern African Development Community (SADC) A regional governmental organisation that promotes collaboration, economic integration and technical cooperation throughout Southern Africa.

Trade balance The monetary record of a country's net imports and exports of physical

merchandise.

Unit labour costs The cost of labour per unit of output. Calculated by dividing average wages

by productivity (output per worker per hour).