

# Statistics South Africa

## Aim

*Statistics South Africa aims to provide timely, accurate and accessible official statistics to help advance economic growth, development and democracy in the new South Africa.*

## Policy developments

Statistics SA collects, captures, processes, analyses and publishes economic and social statistics needed by Government and the nation to formulate policy, monitor economic and social development, and conduct economic and social research. Statistics SA has no direct policy responsibility, but its electronic and printed products support policy, planning and monitoring by Government and other users in the private sector and civil society.

The new Statistics Act passed in April 1999 emphasises interdepartmental cooperation on the collation of statistics. Statistics SA is compliant with new United Nations and International Monetary Fund statistical standards.

In June 1999, Statistics SA and the Reserve Bank rebased the National Accounts in line with the System of National Accounts 1993 (SNA93) standards, and completed the 5-yearly revision of the GDP. The base year was changed from 1990 to 1995 and the methodology was improved.

South Africa is one of 47 countries that subscribes to the IMF Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS). The SDDS were established to guide countries in the provision of their economic and financial data, enhancing the availability of timely and comprehensive statistics to support sound macroeconomic policies. The SDDS set standards in four areas of dissemination:

- The coverage, periodicity and timeliness of data
- Access by the public
- Integrity of disseminated data
- Quality of disseminated data.

Statistics SA is also spearheading various interdepartmental statistics projects, including business and population registers and statistics on tourism. Statistics SA is involved in a SADC statistical initiative on issues related to censuses, prices, poverty indicators, trade and migration.

The scale and timing of the next population census are under discussion for consideration by Cabinet. Statistics SA is allocated an additional R250,0 million in 2001/02 and R70,0 million in 2002/03 for the forthcoming population census.

## Expenditure estimates

**Table 13.1 Expenditure by programme**

R million	Expenditure outcome			Revised estimate 1999/00	Medium-term expenditure estimate		
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99		2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Administration	33,2	38,1	22,9	26,8	39,2	39,7	41,2
Statistical services	35,1	53,9	64,1	71,7	103,9	97,8	101,4
Population census	303,2	83,2	7,4	45,0	95,9	349,1	99,6
Auxiliary and associated services	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,2	0,2
<b>Total</b>	<b>371,7</b>	<b>175,3</b>	<b>94,6</b>	<b>143,6</b>	<b>239,2</b>	<b>486,8</b>	<b>242,2</b>
Change to 1999 Budget estimate				0,1	35,9	279,3	–

- *Administration* provides financial management, personnel and legal support services for top management.
- *Statistical services* provides an official statistical service, as well as certain support and advisory services.
- *Population census* involves planning and conducting the census, as well as processing and publishing results.
- *Auxiliary and associated services* involves support services, including the Statistical Council that advises the Minister of Finance.

**Table 13.2 Economic classification of expenditure**

R million	Expenditure outcome			Revised estimate 1999/00	Medium-term expenditure estimate		
	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99		2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
Current							
Personnel	259,2	92,4	55,8	80,5	98,1	89,5	93,9
Transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other	106,6	66,0	32,4	47,4	113,2	377,4	135,3
Capital							
Transfer payments	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acquisition of capital assets	5,9	16,9	6,4	15,7	27,8	19,9	13,1
<b>Total</b>	<b>371,7</b>	<b>175,3</b>	<b>94,6</b>	<b>143,6</b>	<b>239,2</b>	<b>486,8</b>	<b>242,2</b>

Spending on personnel is the main cost driver in Statistics SA. Personnel spending amounted to R259,2 million or 69,7 per cent of total expenditure in 1996/97 owing to the employment of 122 436 personnel during Census 1996. The number can be subdivided into 120 000 enumerators, 1 599 processors and 837 demarcation personnel. Personnel expenditure fell to R92,4 million or 52,7 per cent of total expenditure in 1997/98.

Employment for the 2001 Census is still in planning phase. No specific employment figures can be given at this stage.

Other current spending comprised R106,6 million or 28,6 per cent of total spending in 1996/97, mainly for professional services related to field surveys and the remuneration of temporary staff. This fell to R66,0 million in 1997/98 and R32,4 million in 1998/99, but rises sharply to R113,2 million in 2000/01 and R377,4 million in 2001/02, to accommodate several planned new surveys.

## Programme 1: Administration

**Table 13.3 Programme expenditure**

R million	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation 1999/00	Revised estimate	Medium-term expenditure estimate		
				2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
1999 Budget	26,7	26,8	26,8	29,1	29,4	–
<b>2000 Budget</b>	–	–	–	<b>39,2</b>	<b>39,7</b>	<b>41,2</b>
Change to 1999 Budget estimate	–	0,1	0,1	10,1	10,3	–

*Administration* comprises financial management, personnel and provisioning administration, legal and other office support services and the formulation of policy by management.

The increase in the medium-term estimates to R39,2 million in 2000/01, R39,7 million in 2001/02 and R41,2 million in 2002/02 provides for the cost of administration of additional personnel working on new surveys.

## Programme 2: Statistical services

**Table 13.4 Programme expenditure**

R million	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation 1999/00	Revised estimate	Medium-term expenditure estimate		
				2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
1999 Budget	71,7	71,7	71,7	78,2	78,9	–
<b>2000 Budget</b>	–	–	–	<b>103,9</b>	<b>97,8</b>	<b>101,4</b>
Change to 1999 Budget estimate	–	–	–	25,7	18,9	–

*Statistical services* provides economic statistics and national accounts, and collates and analyses population, demographic, household and vital statistics.

Medium-term estimates for *Statistical services* are revised upwards to R103,9 million in 2000/01, R97,8 million in 2001/02 and R101,4 million in 2002/03 owing to an expansion of *Statistical services* in 2000/01. The programme intends undertaking an income and expenditure survey to reweight the consumer price index; a survey of earnings and employment by occupation, gender and race; an informal sector survey; calculation of GDP at provincial level; and compilation of tourism and migration statistics. During 2000 the first labour force survey will be issued; these are to become a critical monitor of labour market dynamics, especially regarding employment and unemployment.

**Table 13.5 Statistical services: Key activities and outputs**

Key activities	Outputs
Conduct user-friendly surveys based on user needs	Conduct surveys Publish statistical releases Publish reports Aim for a reasonable response rate
Demographic statistics	Comply with international standards Maintain the Geographical Information System
Household surveys and vital statistics	Conduct labour force and poverty surveys

## Outputs and service delivery trends

*Statistical services* comprises the following subprogrammes:

- Economic statistics and national accounts produce official economic statistics on many aspects of the economy. Economic surveys of the major sectors assist Government and other stakeholders in planning and monitoring socio-economic policies and performance. Most of these economic series were re-engineered to comply with international reporting obligations, such as the SDDS of the IMF, the Government Financial Statistics (GFS) requirements of the IMF and the UN SNA93 guidelines. Quarterly and annual government statistics and national accounts are compiled in collaboration with the Reserve Bank and adhere to the international standards of the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund.
- This programme is also responsible for the development and maintenance of a business address register, which serves as a sampling frame for economic statistics and labour surveys. The South African Revenue Service and the Departments of Trade and Industry and Labour are cooperating on improving the register and integrating common information.
- Demographic statistics includes the Geographical Information System (GIS). The GIS comprises 90 000 enumerator areas and is used as a planning tool for the census and household surveys, and as a reference for the business address register. It is widely used by Government for planning purposes, for instance by the Independent Electoral Commission for managing the election boundaries. At approximately R530 per enumerator area, the GIS allows savings in demarcation and cartography activities in census and household surveys.
- Household surveys and vital statistics collects, processes and analyses information on social development through household surveys and vital registrations. The programme conducts two annual labour force surveys, several “user-pay” surveys and a periodic poverty monitoring survey, all based on a master sample. Statistics on births, deaths, marriages and divorces are prepared quarterly, in conjunction with the Department of Home Affairs. Life tables and population projections are distributed annually.
- The User service subprogramme is responsible for the publication, marketing and dissemination of Statistics SA’s products, as well as a user information service.

During 1999/00 Statistics SA met all the targets set in terms of its outputs: 160 surveys were conducted with a minimum response rate of 70 per cent and 210 statistical releases and five reports were published.

## Programme 3: Population census

**Table 13.6 Programme expenditure**

R million	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation 1999/00	Revised estimate	Medium-term expenditure estimate		
				2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
1999 Budget	45,0	45,0	45,0	95,9	99,1	–
<b>2000 Budget</b>	–	–	–	<b>95,9</b>	<b>349,1</b>	<b>99,6</b>
Change to 1999 Budget estimate	–	–	–	–	250,0	–

The *Population census* programme collects social and demographic information for the entire country at 5-year intervals, to monitor changes and development. Results are provided within two years; this is half the average for developing countries and approximately 1,33 times the average for developed countries. The cost of the last census was R10 per head, which is less than in Botswana (R15) and Canada (R29).

The increase in estimated expenditure in 2001/02 is due to the additional allocation for the census that will be undertaken during that year.

### Outputs and service delivery trends

**Table 13.7 Population census: Key activities and outputs**

Key activities	Outputs
Census taking	Reasonable undercount Provide results within an accepted time frame Affordable expenditure per head High response rate Free census brochures to schools, communities and NGOs

The 2001 Census is currently being planned and the following outputs are expected:

- No more than a 10 per cent underscore at an expected cost of R12 per head; this is R2 more than the previous census
- Results published in two years
- A response rate of 90 per cent
- 30 000 free census brochures distributed to schools, communities and Non-governmental organisations.

The population census is a 5-year undertaking and performance results can only be measured at the end of the period.

### Policy developments

Medium-term expenditure estimates initially provided for a scaled-down sample census, which is about 50 per cent of the cost of a full census. Broad-based consultations with experts concluded that a full-scale census is still required, and R620 million is allocated to Statistics SA over the next four years.

## Programme 4: Auxiliary and associated services

**Table 13.8 Programme expenditure**

R million	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation 1999/00	Revised estimate	Medium-term expenditure estimate		
				2000/01	2001/02	2002/03
1999 Budget	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	–
<b>2000 Budget</b>	–	–	–	<b>0,2</b>	<b>0,2</b>	<b>0,2</b>
Change to 1999 Budget estimate	–	–	–	0,1	0,1	–

*Auxiliary and associated services* includes the statutory Statistical Council (supported administratively by Statistics SA) that advises the Minister and Government on statistical matters. The Council consists of representatives of Government, research institutions and business, and the statistical discipline. It operates independently of Statistics SA and, therefore, provides an objective review of the Department's activities, ensuring that statistics are used optimally within Government and the larger research community. The Council was expanded in 1997 to include provincial representation.

