

Science, Technology and Innovation¹

Adjusted budget summary

R thousand	Appropriation	2024/25 Adjustments appropriation		Adjusted appropriation
		Decrease	Increase	
Amount to be appropriated	9 468 497	(70 933)	43 580	9 441 144
of which:				
Current payments	603 894	–	40 972	644 866
Transfers and subsidies	8 854 050	(70 933)	–	8 783 117
Payments for capital assets	10 553	–	2 608	13 161
Executive authority	Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation			
Accounting officer	Director-General of Science, Technology and Innovation			
Website	www.dst.gov.za			

1. Formerly Science and Innovation. The name of the department was amended in terms of proclamation 188 of 2024 published in the Government Gazette on 27 September 2024. The amendment takes effect from the date on which the Adjustments Appropriation Act (2024) is published.

Vote purpose

Realise the full potential of science and technology in social and economic development by developing human resources, research and innovation.

Performance

Indicator	Programme	MTSF priority	Annual performance		
			Projected for 2024/25 as published in the 2024 ENE	Achieved in the first half of 2024/25 (April to September)	Changed target for 2024/25
Number of commercial outputs in designated areas per year	Technology Innovation	Priority 2: Economic transformation and job creation	5	– ¹	–
Number of technology demonstrations, prototypes, products and services developed per year	Technology Innovation		30	– ¹	–
Funds invested by international partners in their own organisations and initiatives targeted at cooperation with South African partners in the areas of research, innovation, science, technology and innovative human capital development as part of cooperation initiatives implemented by the department per year	International Cooperation and Resources	Priority 7: A better Africa and world	R400m	– ¹	–
Number of doctoral students awarded bursaries per year, as reflected in reports from the National Research Foundation and relevant entities	Research, Development and Support	Priority 3: Education, skills and health	2 000	1 805	–
Number of pipeline postgraduate students (BTech, honours and master's students) awarded bursaries per year, as reflected in reports from the National Research Foundation and relevant entities	Research, Development and Support		4 000	3 957	–
Number of researchers awarded research grants per year through programmes managed by the National Research Foundation, as reflected in the foundation's project reports	Research, Development and Support		3 300	2 095	–
Number of knowledge and innovation products added to the industrial development and green economy intellectual property portfolio per year through fully funded or co-funded research initiatives	Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships	Priority 2: Economic transformation and job creation	60	14	–
Number of knowledge products on innovation for inclusive development published per year	Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships		4	2	–

1. Data will only be available in the second half of 2024/25.

Progress

By mid-year, there was no progress on the target for funds invested by international partners in their own organisations and initiatives targeted at cooperation with South African partners. Progress on this indicator is determined only at the end of the financial year, by when the department expects to have achieved the target. Similarly, the targeted number of knowledge and innovation products added to the industrial development and green economy intellectual property portfolio is calculated at the end of the financial year when comprehensive reports become available, as per the agreed milestones on research initiatives.

As at 30 September 2024, the department awarded bursaries to 1 805 doctoral students against an annual target of 2 000 and to 3 957 pipeline postgraduate students through programmes managed by the National Research Foundation against a targeted 4 000 for the year. These high achievements were due to an increase in applications during the first half of 2024/25.

Adjusted estimates

Programme		2024/25							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Amounts announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Use of funds in emergency situations	Other adjustments ¹		
Administration	359 325	–	–	67 107	–	–	(27 353)	39 754	399 079
Technology Innovation	1 923 219	–	–	(14 920)	–	–	–	(14 920)	1 908 299
International	146 218	–	–	(6 013)	–	–	–	(6 013)	140 205
Cooperation and Resources									
Research Development and Support	5 413 584	–	–	(50 000)	–	–	–	(50 000)	5 363 584
Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships	1 626 151	–	–	3 826	–	–	–	3 826	1 629 977
Total	9 468 497	–	–	–	–	–	(27 353)	(27 353)	9 441 144
Economic classification									
Current payments	603 894	–	–	70 933	–	–	(29 961)	40 972	644 866
Compensation of employees	386 794	–	–	18 000	–	–	(19 421)	(1 421)	385 373
Goods and services	217 100	–	–	52 933	–	–	(10 540)	42 393	259 493
Transfers and subsidies	8 854 050	–	–	(70 933)	–	–	–	(70 933)	8 783 117
Departmental agencies and accounts	6 983 082	–	–	(65 025)	–	–	–	(65 025)	6 918 057
Public corporations and private enterprises	1 492 110	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 492 110
Non-profit institutions	378 858	–	–	(6 013)	–	–	–	(6 013)	372 845
Households	–	–	–	105	–	–	–	105	105
Payments for capital assets	10 553	–	–	–	–	–	2 608	2 608	13 161
Machinery and equipment	10 553	–	–	–	–	–	2 608	2 608	13 161
Total	9 468 497	–	–	–	–	–	(27 353)	(27 353)	9 441 144

1. Other adjustments include the shifting of funds between votes, the shifting of funds within a vote following a function shift, self-financing expenditure, declared unspent funds, and significant and unforeseeable economic and financial events.

Programme 1: Administration

Subprogramme		2024/25							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Amounts announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Use of funds in emergency situations	Other adjustments		
Ministry	6 002	–	–	–	–	–	(2 400)	(2 400)	3 602
Institutional	177 084	–	–	18 000	–	–	(24 953)	(6 953)	170 131
Planning and Support									
Corporate Services	170 258	–	–	49 107	–	–	–	49 107	219 365
Office	5 981	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5 981
Accommodation									
Total	359 325	–	–	67 107	–	–	(27 353)	39 754	399 079
Economic classification									
Current payments	332 340	–	–	67 107	–	–	(29 961)	37 146	369 486
Compensation of employees	183 681	–	–	18 000	–	–	(19 421)	(1 421)	182 260
Goods and services	148 659	–	–	49 107	–	–	(10 540)	38 567	187 226
Transfers and subsidies	16 432	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16 432
Non-profit institutions	16 432	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16 432
Payments for capital assets	10 553	–	–	–	–	–	2 608	2 608	13 161
Machinery and equipment	10 553	–	–	–	–	–	2 608	2 608	13 161
Total	359 325	–	–	67 107	–	–	(27 353)	39 754	399 079

Programme 2: Technology Innovation

Subprogramme		2024/25							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Amounts announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Use of funds in emergency situations	Other adjustments		
Space Science	550 286	–	–	(4 920)	–	–	–	(4 920)	545 366
Hydrogen and Energy	192 160	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	192 160
Bio-innovation	221 542	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	221 542
Innovation Priorities and Instruments	898 616	–	–	(10 000)	–	–	–	(10 000)	888 616
National Intellectual Property Management Office	55 532	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	55 532
Office of the Deputy Director-General: Technology Innovation	5 083	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5 083
Total	1 923 219	–	–	(14 920)	–	–	–	(14 920)	1 908 299
Economic classification									
Current payments	78 946	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	78 946
Compensation of employees	55 788	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	55 788
Goods and services	23 158	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	23 158
Transfers and subsidies	1 844 273	–	–	(14 920)	–	–	–	(14 920)	1 829 353
Departmental agencies and accounts	1 418 041	–	–	(14 920)	–	–	–	(14 920)	1 403 121
Public corporations and private enterprises	125 609	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	125 609
Non-profit institutions	300 623	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	300 623
Total	1 923 219	–	–	(14 920)	–	–	–	(14 920)	1 908 299

Programme 3: International Cooperation and Resources

Subprogramme		2024/25							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Amounts announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Use of funds in emergency situations	Other adjustments		
Multilateral Cooperation and Africa	34 563	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	34 563
International Resources	71 559	–	–	(6 013)	–	–	–	(6 013)	65 546
Overseas Bilateral Cooperation	34 719	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	34 719
Office of the Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources	5 377	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5 377
Total	146 218	–	–	(6 013)	–	–	–	(6 013)	140 205
Economic classification									
Current payments	76 402	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	76 402
Compensation of employees	57 491	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	57 491
Goods and services	18 911	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	18 911
Transfers and subsidies	69 816	–	–	(6 013)	–	–	–	(6 013)	63 803
Departmental agencies and accounts	8 013	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8 013
Non-profit institutions	61 803	–	–	(6 013)	–	–	–	(6 013)	55 790
Total	146 218	–	–	(6 013)	–	–	–	(6 013)	140 205

Programme 4: Research Development and Support

Subprogramme		2024/25							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Amounts announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Use of funds in emergency situations	Other adjustments		
Human Capital and Science Promotions	2 593 469	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2 593 469
Science Missions	236 703	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	236 703
Basic Science and Infrastructure	1 223 481	–	–	(50 000)	–	–	–	(50 000)	1 173 481
Astronomy	1 355 672	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 355 672
Office of the Deputy Director-General: Research, Development and Support	4 259	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4 259
Total	5 413 584	–	–	(50 000)	–	–	–	(50 000)	5 363 584
Economic classification									
Current payments	58 368	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	58 368
Compensation of employees	41 959	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	41 959
Goods and services	16 409	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16 409
Transfers and subsidies	5 355 216	–	–	(50 000)	–	–	–	(50 000)	5 305 216
Departmental agencies and accounts	5 072 408	–	–	(50 105)	–	–	–	(50 105)	5 022 303
Public corporations and private enterprises	282 808	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	282 808
Households	–	–	–	105	–	–	–	105	105
Total	5 413 584	–	–	(50 000)	–	–	–	(50 000)	5 363 584

Programme 5: Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships

Subprogramme		2024/25							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Amounts announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Use of funds in emergency situations	Other adjustments		
Sector Innovation and Green Economy	1 009 802	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 009 802
Innovation for Inclusive Development	363 794	–	–	3 826	–	–	–	3 826	367 620
Science and Technology Investment	24 442	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	24 442
Technology Localisation, Beneficiation and Advanced Manufacturing	224 478	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	224 478
Office of the Deputy Director-General: Socioeconomic Innovation Partnership	3 635	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3 635
Total	1 626 151	–	–	3 826	–	–	–	3 826	1 629 977
Economic classification									
Current payments	57 838	–	–	3 826	–	–	–	3 826	61 664
Compensation of employees	47 875	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	47 875
Goods and services	9 963	–	–	3 826	–	–	–	3 826	13 789
Transfers and subsidies	1 568 313	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 568 313
Departmental agencies and accounts	484 620	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	484 620
Public corporations and private enterprises	1 083 693	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 083 693
Total	1 626 151	–	–	3 826	–	–	–	3 826	1 629 977

Details of adjustments to the 2024 Estimates of National Expenditure**Virements and shifts within the vote**

Programmes					
1. Administration					
2. Technology Innovation					
3. International Cooperation and Resources					
4. Research Development and Support					
5. Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships					
From:			To:		
Programme by economic classification	Motivation	R thousand	Programme by economic classification	Motivation	R thousand
Programme 2		(14 920)	Programme 1		14 920
Departmental agencies and accounts	Innovation projects ¹	(14 920)	Compensation of employees	Salaries and wages for Ministry subprogramme ¹	14 920
Shifts within the programme as a percentage of the programme budget		0%			
Virements to other programmes as a percentage of the programme budget		0.8%			
Programme 3		(6 013)	Programme 1		6 013
Non-profit institutions	Global science international resources ²	(2 933)	Goods and services	Computer services ²	2 933
	Global science international resources ²	(3 080)	Compensation of employees	Salaries and wages for Ministry subprogramme ¹	3 080
Shifts within the programme as a percentage of the programme budget		0%			
Virements to other programmes as a percentage of the programme budget		4.1%			

Virements and shifts within the vote (continued)

From:			To:		
Programme by economic classification	Motivation	R thousand	Programme by economic classification	Motivation	R thousand
Programme 4		(50 105)	Programme 1		46 174
Departmental agencies and accounts	Research and development infrastructure ²	(43 566)	Goods and services	Audit fees, lease payments, property payments ²	43 566
	Research and development infrastructure ²	(2 608)	Goods and services	Computer services ²	2 608
	Research and development infrastructure ²	(105)	Programme 4		105
			Households	Gifts and donations ¹	105
	Research and development infrastructure ²	(3 826)	Programme 5		3 826
			Goods and services	Business and advisory services ²	3 826
Shifts within the programme as a percentage of the programme budget		0%			
Virements to other programmes as a percentage of the programme budget		0.9%			
Total		(71 038)			71 038

1. National Treasury approval has been obtained.

2. Only Parliament may approve this virement.

Other adjustments – R27.353 million**Funds shifted between votes****Programme 1: Administration**

R19.421 million is transferred to the Department of Higher Education and Training to cover the shortfall for compensation of employees for filled and prioritised positions in the *Ministry* subprogramme as part of the national macro organisation of government process.

Programme 1: Administration

R7.932 million is transferred to the Department of Higher Education and Training to cover the shortfall on goods and services in the *Ministry* subprogramme as part of the national macro organisation of government process.

Gifts, donations and sponsorships – R105 000**Programme 4: Research Development and Support**

The department will donate R105 000 to Professor Zukiswa Zingela (Nelson Mandela University) for the South African Women in Science Awards.

Expenditure outcome for 2023/24 and actual expenditure for 2024/25

Programme	2023/24					2024/25			
	Adjusted appropriation	Outcome		Apr 23 - Mar 24	adjusted appropriation	Adjusted appropriation	Adjusted appropriation/ Total (%)	Actual expenditure	
		Apr 23 - Sep 23	Apr 23 - Sep 23 % of adjusted appropriation					Apr 24 - Sep 24	Apr 24 - Sep 24 % of adjusted appropriation
R thousand									
Administration	427 173	202 310	47.4	399 172	93.4	399 079	4.2	201 167	50.4
Technology	2 490 533	520 724	20.9	2 441 703	98.0	1 908 299	20.2	455 807	23.9
Innovation									
International	146 080	68 265	46.7	144 520	98.9	140 205	1.5	59 992	42.8
Cooperation and Resources									
Research	5 767 855	3 762 014	65.2	5 763 206	99.9	5 363 584	56.8	2 758 801	51.4
Development and Support									
Socioeconomic	1 731 350	963 744	55.7	1 723 454	99.5	1 629 977	17.3	915 629	56.2
Innovation Partnerships									
Total	10 562 991	5 517 057	52.2	10 472 056	99.1	9 441 144	100.0	4 391 396	46.5
Economic classification									
Current payments	676 400	336 146	49.7	648 334	95.9	644 866	6.8	325 240	50.4
Compensation of employees	389 517	185 678	47.7	367 294	94.3	385 373	4.1	191 569	49.7
Goods and services	286 883	150 468	52.4	281 040	98.0	259 493	2.7	133 672	51.5
Transfers and subsidies	9 876 079	5 175 753	52.4	9 810 991	99.3	8 783 117	93.0	4 058 334	46.2
Departmental agencies and accounts	7 970 914	4 199 343	52.7	7 136 218	89.5	6 918 057	73.3	2 854 911	41.3
Higher education institutions	–	125 861	–	343 354	–	–	–	121 428	–
Public corporations and private enterprises	1 517 047	651 552	42.9	1 972 698	130.0	1 492 110	15.8	890 427	59.7
Non-profit institutions	387 234	198 328	51.2	356 221	92.0	372 845	3.9	190 908	51.2
Households	884	669	75.7	2 500	282.9	105	0.0	659	627.9
Payments for capital assets	10 412	5 158	49.5	12 680	121.8	13 161	0.1	7 822	59.4
Machinery and equipment	10 412	5 158	49.5	12 680	121.8	13 161	0.1	7 822	59.4
Payments for financial assets	100	–	–	51	50.9	–	–	–	–
Total	10 562 991	5 517 057	52.2	10 472 056	99.1	9 441 144	100.0	4 391 396	46.5

Expenditure trends

Total expenditure in 2023/24 was R10.5 billion, 99.1 per cent of the adjusted appropriation for the year. Mid-year expenditure in 2023/24 was R5.5 billion, 52.2 per cent of the adjusted appropriation, whereas expenditure in the first half of 2024/25 was R4.4 billion, 46.5 per cent of the adjusted appropriation of R9.4 billion. Compared to the first half of 2023/24, expenditure over the same period in 2024/25 decreased by R1.1 billion, 20.4 per cent. This was mainly due to slow spending by implementing agencies because of administrative delays on contracts.

Departmental receipts

R thousand	2023/24					2024/25				
	Adjusted estimate	Outcome				Budget estimate	Adjusted estimate	Adjusted receipts estimate/ Total (%)	Actual receipts	
		Apr 23 - Sep 23	Apr 23 - Sep 23 % of adjusted estimate	Apr 23 - Mar 24	Apr 23 - Mar 24 % of adjusted estimate				Apr 24 - Sep 24	Apr 24 - Sep 24 % of adjusted estimate
Departmental receipts	2 111	1 740	82.4	6 438	305.0	733	3 152	100.0	3 438	109.1
Sales of goods and services produced by the department	70	37	52.9	76	108.6	60	60	1.9	31	51.7
Sales of scrap, waste, arms and other used current goods	6	3	50.0	4	66.7	3	3	0.1	1	33.3
Interest, dividends and rent on land	35	17	48.6	57	162.9	20	21	0.7	21	100.0
Sales of capital assets	500	407	81.4	407	81.4	–	–	–	–	–
Transactions in financial assets and liabilities	1 500	1 276	85.1	5 894	392.9	650	3 068	97.3	3 385	110.3
Total	2 111	1 740	82.4	6 438	305.0	733	3 152	100.0	3 438	109.1

Revenue trends

Mid-year revenue in 2023/24 was R1.7 million, 82.4 per cent of the adjusted estimate, whereas revenue for the first half of 2024/25 was R3.4 million, 109.1 per cent of the adjusted estimate of R3.2 million. Compared to the first half of 2023/24, revenue over the same period in 2024/25 increased by R1.7 million, 97.6 per cent. This was mainly due to an increase in surplus funds refunded to the department from projects run by public entities.

Changes to transfers and subsidies, including conditional grants

Summary of changes to transfers and subsidies per programme

		2024/25							
R thousand	Appropriation	Adjustments appropriation						Adjusted appropriation	
		Amounts announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Use of funds in emergency situations	Other adjustments		Total adjustments appropriation
Technology Innovation Departmental agencies and accounts Departmental agencies (non-business entities)									
Current	675 478	–	–	(14 920)	–	–	–	(14 920)	660 558
Various institutions: Innovation projects research	329 148	–	–	(10 000)	–	–	–	(10 000)	319 148
Various institutions: Space science research: Space Infrastructure Hub	346 330	–	–	(4 920)	–	–	–	(4 920)	341 410
International Cooperation and Resources Non-profit institutions									
Current	50 508	–	–	(6 013)	–	–	–	(6 013)	44 495
Various institutions: Global science: International multilateral agreements	50 508	–	–	(6 013)	–	–	–	(6 013)	44 495

Summary of changes to transfers and subsidies per programme (continued)

		2024/25							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Amounts announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Use of funds in emergency situations	Other adjustments		
Research Development and Support									
Departmental agencies and accounts									
Departmental agencies (non-business entities)									
Current	924 495	–	–	(105)	–	–	–	(105)	924 390
National Research Foundation: Human resources development for science and engineering	924 495	–	–	(105)	–	–	–	(105)	924 390
Capital	894 983	–	–	(50 000)	–	–	–	(50 000)	844 983
Various institutions: Infrastructure projects for research and development	894 983	–	–	(50 000)	–	–	–	(50 000)	844 983
Households									
Other transfers to households									
Current	–	–	–	105	–	–	–	105	105
Households	–	–	–	105	–	–	–	105	105

