

W2

Website annexure to the 2014 Budget Review

Structure of the government accounts

■ Introduction

South Africa's national government accounts are presented in Annexure B of the 2014 *Budget Review*. The structure of the reporting tables is based on recommendations in the most recent version of *Government Finance Statistics*¹ (GFS), published in 2001, and the *System of National Accounts*² (SNA), published in 1993. Certain modifications to the structure of the accounts and the labelling of the receipt and payment items have been made to take into account specific features of the South African environment.

The GFS presentation also differs in some respects from the presentation in Chapter 2 of the *Budget Review*, which is based on the SNA. This annexure describes the presentation format and structure of the government accounts, and explains deviations between GFS recommendations and the way government statistics in the national accounts are compiled and presented. It also describes the salient characteristics of the SNA's section on government statistics.

■ Recording basis

Both the SNA and the GFS recommend that items should be recorded on an accrual basis, which means that all government transactions should be included in the government accounts. This includes transactions that do not give rise to cash flows, such as changes in inventories, depreciation and accrued interest.

In accrual accounting, the time of recording should coincide with the underlying economic event. The entry does not necessarily coincide with the timing of the resultant cash flow, but rather with the change of ownership, or when economic value is created, transformed or extinguished. For example, debt repayment

¹ International Monetary Fund, 2001, *Government Finance Statistics*. Washington, D.C. IMF.

² United Nations, 1993, *System of National Accounts*. Brussels, Luxembourg, New York, Paris, Washington, D.C. Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts.

should be recorded when the debt expires, regardless of whether this coincides with an actual repayment that gives rise to a cash flow.

The recommendation to use accrual accounting for government financial statements was first made in the 2001 GFS. Government intends to adopt this recommendation over time, but in the present, budget data continues to be presented on a cash basis. This means that the transaction is recorded when the cash flow occurs and therefore it does not match the timing of the underlying economic event. In some cases, modified cash principles are applied. This includes recording expenditure at the time of recording the transaction in the cash book (when the transaction is processed in the financial system and the payment is issued) and accruing interest on some types of government debt (zero-coupon bonds).

In strict cash accounting, the time of recording should coincide with the actual cash flow. In South Africa, entries for the national budget data are made during the time period in which transactions are captured by financial systems. After the financial year-end, books remain open so that all year-end procedures can be finalised, such as reconciling actual bank account balances with the revenue and expenditure reported, and correcting item classification. The year-end procedures do not influence revenue and expenditure levels, and consist primarily of:

- Late requests for funds by government departments to settle obligations relating to the specific financial year.
- Surrenders of unspent funds by government departments (funds requested but not used).
- Corrections to revenue, expenditure or financing transactions that were, for example, erroneously classified.
- Adjustments to expenditure data, for auditing and parliamentary purposes, to show only authorised expenditure for the particular financial year (excluding all unauthorised spending).

Economic reporting format

The economic reporting format (ERF) was introduced in the 2004 Budget. The ERF is based on the GFS, as adapted for South Africa's reporting requirements. The budget format is supported by a standard chart of accounts (SCOA), which is fully aligned with the ERF and provides for posting-level details of the budget within the financial systems.

In the ERF and the chart, each descriptive label reflects the actual content of the item. Opaque labels such as "other" or "miscellaneous" are avoided to improve transparency. This practice ensures that classifications are consistent across all national and provincial departments, improving the quality of information provided to legislatures, assisting in the policy-making process and enhancing accountability.

The evolution of accounting and reporting requirements, as well as the pending introduction of an integrated financial management system (IFMS), led to a review of the SCOA in 2008. These changes have improved government's ability to report on infrastructure spending, provided for better control over departmental programme budgets, enabled the identification of more appropriate spending items in the chart, enhanced asset management through better recording of asset transactions and enabled government to monitor regional spending.

To protect the integrity of the chart, the National Treasury helped departments meet the format requirements by developing a detailed training programme, and establishing a classification committee and call centre to support practitioners. Support initiatives aim to improve consistency in the application of the new classification rules and to recommend appropriate amendments to the SCOA and the financial system. The committee issues circulars that provide feedback to practitioners on changes made to the chart of accounts, ensuring a consistent approach to classification.

■ Structure of accounts

The reporting format organises all government transactions into three broad categories: receipts, payments and financing. The budget balance (deficit or surplus) is calculated as receipts less payments, which is equal to total financing, but with the opposite sign.

Receipts

Government receipts are divided into *taxes; sales; transfers; fines, penalties and forfeits; interest, dividends and rent on land; and transactions in financial assets and liabilities*. *Taxes* are classified according to the type of activity on which they are levied, including income, profits, consumption of domestic goods and services, and international trade. *Sales* are disaggregated into sales of capital assets and other sales. *Transfers* are unrequited receipts – the party making the transfer does not receive anything of similar value directly in return. These are classified according to unit, for example, other government units, private enterprises and public corporations, households and so on. *Fines, penalties and forfeits* consist of all compulsory receipts imposed by a court or quasi-judicial body. *Interest, dividends and rent on land* includes all receipts associated with ownership of financial assets and land.

Transactions in financial assets and liabilities covers three financial transactions. The first two transactions are the repayments of loans and advances previously extended to employees and public corporations for policy purposes, and the reduction of equity investments made by government in public corporations. These transactions are recorded as receipts because they are fundamentally different from other financial transactions, which are market oriented and appear as financing items. The third transaction is associated with stale cheques from previous accounting periods. The temporary increase in receipts before a new cheque is issued is recorded as a receipt, because the financial system does not allow for a payment for the current accounting period to be reduced due to the cancellation of a payment from a previous period. Remaining financial transactions, for example, borrowing and repayment of loans in the capital markets, are included under the financing category.

Payments

Payments are divided into four broad categories: *current payments, transfers and subsidies, payments for capital assets* and *payments for financial assets*.

Current payments

Current payments provides for funds directly spent by a department. Detail is provided on:

- *Compensation of employees*: This category includes all current personnel-related payments – all payments to government employees, both salaries and wages, and social contributions. Social contributions are service benefits that government pays for its employees, such as pension or medical scheme contributions. This category excludes *capitalised* compensation.
- *Goods and services*: All government payments in exchange for goods and services, but excluding capital assets and goods used by government for construction of and improvements to capital assets. Generally, this is the second-largest spending item for departments, after *transfers and subsidies*. The details of purchases of each department are provided, giving an indication of the largest spending items by department. For example, school books could be listed in an education department, while medicines might appear in a health department. This level of detail facilitates oversight and policy analysis.
- *Interest and rent on land*: This item is defined as payment for the use of borrowed money (interest on loans and bonds) and land (rent). It is distinguished from the repayment of borrowed money, which is classified under financing.

Transfers and subsidies

The second part of the payments table provides for funds that are transferred to other institutions, businesses and individuals, which do not constitute final expenditure by the department. This item includes

all unrequited, non-repayable payments by government – payments for which no goods or services are received in return.

The category *transfers and subsidies* is subdivided into the various targeted recipients or beneficiaries receiving funding from government, such as other levels of general government, households, non-profit institutions and public corporations. This allows for the separation of all transfers from payments controlled directly by departments.

Transfers and subsidies includes current and capital transfers. In the past, capital payments included capital transfers, which led to ambiguity because these numbers could overstate government's actual contribution to capital formation. Including capital transfers with other transfers ensures a clearer picture of government spending on capital.

Payments for capital assets

Capital payments are identified as a separate item. It captures government's contribution to capital formation and spending on new infrastructure, as well as upgrades, additions, rehabilitation and refurbishment of existing infrastructure. Capital assets are divided into seven categories:

- Buildings and other fixed structures
- Machinery and equipment
- Heritage assets
- Specialised military assets
- Biological assets
- Software and other intangible assets
- Land and sub-soil assets.

Payments for capital assets covers purchases of new assets, as well as upgrades, additions, rehabilitation and refurbishment of existing assets. This also includes own-account construction – when government units engage in capital projects on their own account, such as provincial works and roads departments constructing buildings and roads. In this case, certain payment categories are capitalised (compensation of employees and goods and services).

These two payment categories are not capitalised unless payments are directly associated with a *capital project*. A capital project is executed by the government unit to construct a new asset or upgrade, add to, rehabilitate or refurbish an existing capital asset. However, payments on *current projects*, namely maintenance and repair of existing capital assets, are not capitalised.

Payments for financial assets

This item consists mainly of lending to public corporations or making equity investments in them for policy purposes. This payment is expensed, rather than treating it as financing, because, unlike other financial transactions, the purpose of the transaction is not market oriented.

Financing

Financing is a broad classification category that encompasses all financial transactions other than *transactions in financial assets and liabilities* and *payments for financial assets*, which are included as part of receipts and payments. Items recorded under financing reflect funding to cover a government deficit or the use of funds available from a government surplus. Government's gross borrowing requirement, which represents the shortfall between revenue and expenditure plus the repayment of maturing loans, is included in the financing category. The gross borrowing requirement is financed in the domestic and international market through Treasury bills, fixed-income, inflation-linked and retail bonds, foreign loans and the use of government's cash deposits.

■ Functional classification

The GFS recommends that each government payment should be classified according to its functional and economic characteristics. The budget reporting format complies with this recommendation. The items in the economic classification have been described above, under payments. The main function of the economic classification is to categorise transactions according to the type of object or *input*, such as compensation of employees or interest payments. Data must be classified this way for calculation of the surplus or deficit, as well as government's contribution to the economy in the form of output, value added and final consumption.

The functional classification complements the economic classification. It serves to distinguish transactions by policy purpose or type of outlay. This is also referred to as expense by *output*. Its main purpose is to facilitate understanding of how funds available to government have been spent in health, education, general public services, public order and safety, and so on.

The broad categories in the functional classification are listed below:

- *General public services* refers to the administration, operation or support of executive and legislative organs, financial and fiscal affairs, and external affairs. It includes foreign economic aid to developing countries and economic aid through international organisations. The category also covers general services, such as personnel services, overall planning and statistical services, and basic research in the general public service. State debt cost is included in this category.
- *Defence* includes administration, operation and support of military and civil defence, and the operation of military aid missions accredited to foreign governments or attached to international military organisations. Applied research and development (R&D) related to defence is also included.
- *Public order and safety* covers police services, fire protection services, justice and law courts, prisons and related R&D.
- *Economic affairs* covers government spending associated with the regulation and more efficient operation of the business sector. This category incorporates general economic affairs, commercial and labour affairs, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, fuel and energy, mining, manufacturing and construction, transport, communication and related R&D.
- *Environmental protection* relates to the conservation of biodiversity and landscape – the protection of habitats, including the management of natural parks and reserves, waste management, wastewater management, pollution abatement and related R&D.
- *Housing and community amenities* includes the administration of housing and community development affairs and services, water supply, street lighting and related R&D.
- *Health* includes spending on services provided to individuals and on a collective basis, including medical products, appliances and equipment, outpatient services, hospital services, public health services and related R&D.
- *Recreation and culture* includes recreational and sporting services, cultural services, broadcasting and publishing services, and other community services. The function also covers related R&D.
- *Education* includes spending on services provided to individual pupils and students, as well as those provided on a collective basis. It includes pre-primary, primary, secondary and tertiary education, as well as subsidiary education services and related R&D.
- *Social protection* covers services supplied directly to communities, households or individuals, and includes transfers for sickness and disability, old age, survivors, family and children, unemployment, support to households to meet the cost of housing, and related R&D.

Expenditure in a particular budget vote may cover more than one function. For example, health expenditure may include spending on education for medical training.

■ The consolidated government account

The presentation format of the consolidated government account includes the accounts of national and provincial government, and the social security funds. In the 2014 *Budget Review*, the coverage of the government accounts is extended to include 169 national and provincial departments and 192 entities of central government, classified as extra-budgetary agencies. Some government business enterprises are also included in this number. Such enterprises either sell most of their goods and services to government institutions or departments at regulated prices, and are therefore not businesses in the true sense of the word, or they are directly involved in infrastructure financing and development. State-owned entities that provide goods at market prices, such as Transnet or Eskom, form part of the public-sector accounts and are excluded from the consolidation.

This presentation is broadly in line with the GFS requirement that the accounts of general government be presented on a consolidated basis. In the consolidation process, all relevant spheres of government are included and all intergovernmental transactions are eliminated. This ensures that only the interaction of the general government units with non-governmental units is recorded. As a result, the accounts accurately reflect government's financial position and the impact of its activity on the economy.

To present a true set of consolidated general government accounts, the accounts of both national and provincial departments must be consolidated with their associated public entities. The accounts of the social security funds and local authorities are then added to give the consolidated general government accounts.

As a final step, all government business enterprises should be included and consolidated with the general government units to create the consolidated public-sector account.

The following dimensions are considered during the consolidation process:

- *Coverage*: This refers to the choice of entities to be included in the consolidation. Entities belonging to the general government sector should be consolidated, followed by all business enterprises. The consolidation of the general government sector includes all entities that are mainly controlled and financed by government, and which provide goods and services at non-market prices. State-owned entities and local authority trading entities providing goods and services at market-related prices, which form part of the broader public sector, are excluded, as are privately owned entities.
- *Elimination of inter-entity transactions*: All inter-entity transactions are eliminated in the consolidation process. For this to be accurate, these transactions must be easily identifiable. However, in the accounting systems of government and many of its agencies, not all inter-entity transactions are identified. Elimination is impossible in many cases where goods and services are procured from other government units, because such transactions cannot be separated from other transactions in this category. However, all transactions involving transfers from one government unit to another can be identified and have been eliminated from the consolidation.
- *Basis of accounting*: Entity accounts can only be consolidated if they are compiled using the same basis of accounting. National and provincial governments are on a modified cash basis of accounting, while local authorities and public entities use accrual accounting. To provide data for consolidation, the public entities' accounts have been adjusted to cash accounts.

During consolidation, transfers and other identifiable goods and services were netted out, with the rest of the transactions being aggregated. In future budgets, the National Treasury will endeavour to include more entities to provide a full picture of public-sector spending. The consolidation in this budget includes all the entities listed in Table W2.1.

Table W2.1 List of public entities included in consolidation

Vote	Department	Public entity
1	The Presidency	Brand South Africa National Youth Development Agency
3	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	South African Local Government Association Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities Municipal Demarcation Board
4	Home Affairs	Film and Publication Board Government Printing Works Independent Electoral Commission
5	International Relations and Cooperation	African Renaissance and International Cooperation Fund
7	Public Works	Construction Industry Development Board Council for the Built Environment Independent Development Trust Property Management Trading Entity (PMTE)
8	Women, Children and People with Disabilities	Commission on Gender Equality
9	Government Communication and Information System	Media Development and Diversity Agency
10	National Treasury	Accounting Standards Board Financial Intelligence Centre Financial Services Board Government Pension Administration Agency Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors Office of the Ombud for Financial Services Providers Office of the Pension Funds Adjudicator Public Investment Corporation Limited South African Revenue Service Co-operative Banks Development Agency Financial and Fiscal Commission
12	Public Service and Administration	State Information Technology Agency
14	Arts and Culture	National Arts Council of South Africa National Film and Video Foundation of South Africa National Heritage Council of South Africa Robben Island Museum South African Heritage Resources Agency Pan South African Language Board Arts Institutions Consolidation Cultural Institutions Consolidation Libraries Consolidation

Table W2.1 List of public entities included in consolidation

Vote	Department	Public entity
15	Basic Education	Education Labour Relations Council South African Council for Educators uMalusi Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training
16	Health	Council for Medical Schemes Medical Research Council of South Africa National Health Laboratory Service
17	Higher Education and Training	Council on Higher Education National Skills Fund National Student Financial Aid Scheme Quality Council for Trades and Occupations South African Qualifications Authority SETAs Consolidation
18	Labour	Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration National Economic Development and Labour Council Productivity SA
19	Social Development	National Development Agency South African Social Security Agency
20	Sport and Recreation South Africa	Boxing South Africa The South African Institute for Drug-free Sport
22	Defence and Military Veterans	Armaments Corporation of South Africa Limited Castle Control Board
24	Justice and Constitutional Development	Legal Aid South Africa Special Investigation Unit Public Protector of South Africa South African Human Rights Commission
25	Police	Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority
26	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Agricultural Research Council Marine Living Resources Fund National Agricultural Marketing Council Ncera Farms (Pty) Ltd Onderstepoort Biological Products Limited Perishable Products Export Control Board
27	Communications	National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa Sentech Limited Independent Communications Authority of South Africa Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa Universal Service and Access Fund

Table W2.1 List of public entities included in consolidation

Vote	Department	Public entity
28	Economic Development	Competition Commission Competition Tribunal International Trade Administration Commission
29	Energy	National Energy Regulator of South Africa National Nuclear Regulator South African National Energy Development Institute South African Nuclear Energy Corporation Limited
30	Environmental Affairs	iSimangaliso Wetland Park South African National Biodiversity Institute South African National Parks South African Weather Service
31	Human Settlements	Community Schemes Ombud Service Estate Agency Affairs Board Estate Agents Fidelity Fund Housing Development Agency National Home Builders Registration Council National Housing Finance Corporation Limited National Urban Reconstruction and Housing Agency Rural Housing Loan Fund Social Housing Regulatory Authority
32	Mineral Resources	Council for Geoscience Council for Mineral Technology Mine Health and Safety Council South African Diamond and Precious Metals State Diamond Trader
33	Rural Development and Land Reform	Agricultural Land Holding Account Ingonyama Trust Board Registration of Deeds Trading Entity
34	Science and Technology	Academy of Science of South Africa Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Human Sciences Research Council National Research Foundation South African National Space Agency Technology Innovation Agency
35	Tourism	South African Tourism

Table W2.1 List of public entities included in consolidation

Vote	Department	Public entity
36	Trade and Industry	Companies and Intellectual Property Commission National Consumer Commission National Consumer Tribunal National Credit Regulator National Empowerment Fund National Gambling Board of South Africa National Lotteries Board National Lotteries Board Distribution Trust Fund National Metrology Institute of South Africa National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications SA Bureau of Standards Small Enterprise Development Agency South African National Accreditation System
37	Transport	Cross-Border Road Transport Agency Driving License Card Account Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa Ports Regulator of South Africa Railway Safety Regulator Road Traffic Infringement Agency Road Traffic Management Corporation South African Civil Aviation Authority South African Maritime Safety Authority The South African National Roads Agency Limited
38	Water Affairs	Breede River Catchment Management Agency Inkomati Catchment Management Agency The Water Services Trading Entity Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority Water Research Commission Water Boards Consolidation
42	National School of Government	National School of Government

■ Main adjustments to the consolidated government account

The National Treasury regularly reviews the data presented in the consolidated government account to improve the scope and classification of data. To this end, a more detailed database of departmental financial information has been compiled for the 2014 Budget as part of a broader, long-term initiative to improve the quality of the financial and budget data.

Classification is now done at a more detailed level within the accounts of national and provincial departments and public entities. In reclassifying the data, activity-level information was collected and used to inform the functional classification. As a result, some functional breakdowns have been disaggregated into more detail, with some of this detail reclassified into other functions. In addition, detailed analyses of provincial spending and public-entity revenue revealed further inter-entity transactions that can now be eliminated in the consolidation process. This is a result of improved information collected and clarity on the flow of transactions between the different spheres of government.

The historical data presented in the statistical tables in Annexure B has been updated with these classification adjustments, but care should be taken when comparing these numbers with previous budget publications because the data is not strictly comparable.

The functional classification published in Annexure B is now more closely aligned to the classification prescribed in the GFS. However, the stricter application of this classification requires a level of disaggregation of the departmental spending data, which complicates the use of the GFS functional data for budget preparation. As a result, the *Budget Review* spending data is presented by key spending categories, which group departments and programmes engaged in similar activities. This provides a classification that is similar to the functional classification presented in Annexure B.

■ A new format for the consolidated government account

This year the consolidated government account is presented in the new format shown in Table W2.2. This more transparent and user-friendly presentation clearly distinguishes between government's operating activities and its plans to invest in capital infrastructure.

The balance on the operating account shows the outcome of government's operating activities, which is a measure of the cost of continuing operations. It is calculated as the difference between current revenue and current expenditure, and the resulting balance shows how much government needs to borrow to run its operations. The current balance demonstrates the sustainability of government operations – a long-term operating deficit is unsustainable, while a positive operating balance allows for investment in future productive capacity.

Capital investment activities are presented in the capital account. Government's capital financing requirement is the outcome of this account, which is calculated as the difference between capital revenue and capital expenditure. This account will mainly be in deficit due to continuous investment in infrastructure and substantial capital outlays.

The new format separates all transactions in financial assets and liabilities, mainly including loans extended to public corporations.

If cash generated from operations is insufficient to finance investment requirements, government has to borrow. The borrowing requirement is calculated by adding the operating balance, capital financing requirement, financial transactions and any unallocated expenditure, such as the contingency reserve. This results in the budget balance, or net financing requirement, which is the main outcome of the budget.

In the main budget presentation, the main difference between the new balance and the previous version is the category "extraordinary receipts and payments", which is now referred to as National Revenue Fund

receipts and payments. The introduction of the operating account and capital account makes extraordinary items obsolete – these are now included in the main transaction categories. The classification principles and categories used in this new format will be the same as those used for classifying government transactions.

Table W2.2 Consolidated revenue, expenditure and financing

R billion	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
	Medium-term estimates		
Operating account			
Current receipts	1 099.1	1 201.1	1 324.5
Tax receipts (net of SACU ¹ transfers)	997.7	1 097.7	1 213.2
Non-tax receipts (including departmental receipts)	93.9	96.7	106.0
Transfers received	7.5	6.7	5.4
Current payments	1 093.8	1 176.5	1 254.2
Compensation of employees	439.4	468.7	498.9
Goods and services	189.7	199.6	211.4
Interest and rent on land	121.2	133.5	145.1
Transfers and subsidies	343.5	374.7	398.7
Current balance	5.3	24.7	70.4
<i>Percentage of GDP</i>	<i>0.1%</i>	<i>0.6%</i>	<i>1.5%</i>
Capital account			
Capital receipts	0.2	0.2	0.2
Transfers and subsidies	60.6	66.9	73.2
Payments for capital assets	91.3	98.9	105.9
Capital financing requirement	-151.7	-165.6	-179.0
<i>Percentage of GDP</i>	<i>-4.0%</i>	<i>-4.0%</i>	<i>-3.9%</i>
Transactions in financial assets and liabilities	3.6	3.3	0.3
Contingency reserve	3.0	6.0	18.0
Budget balance	-153.1	-150.3	-126.9
<i>Percentage of GDP</i>	<i>-4.0%</i>	<i>-3.6%</i>	<i>-2.8%</i>
Primary balance²	-31.9	-16.8	18.2
<i>Percentage of GDP</i>	<i>-0.8%</i>	<i>-0.4%</i>	<i>0.4%</i>
Financing			
Change in loan liabilities			
Domestic short- and long-term loans (net)	156.8	160.4	145.7
Foreign loans (net)	3.4	11.2	1.9
Change in cash and other balances (- increase)	-7.1	-21.3	-20.6
Borrowing requirement (net)	153.1	150.3	126.9
<i>GDP</i>	<i>3 789.6</i>	<i>4 150.5</i>	<i>4 552.9</i>

1. Southern African Customs Union

2. Includes National Revenue Fund receipts and payments (previously extraordinary receipts and payments)

Budget data by key spending categories

The spending framework outlined in Chapter 6 of the *Budget Review* is based on the allocation of financial resources of departmental programmes and entities to key spending areas. This improves engagement on budget allocations, because programmes and entities with a similar purpose are grouped together into a single budget decision-making process. To support this approach, data at programme and entity level is aggregated into spending categories, which provides for a higher level of aggregation than in the functional classification.

These spending categories are different from the functional classification published in Annexure B, which is more closely aligned to that prescribed in the GFS. The level of disaggregation of the departmental

spending data required by the GFS functional data complicates budget preparation. As a result, the *Budget Review* spending data is presented by key spending categories that group departments and programmes engaged in similar activities. For example, all science and technology activities were grouped together in a separate category, which, in terms of the stricter functional classification presented in Annexure B, is included in various functions. The classification framework for the presentation of fiscal data does not exclusively direct budgeting. Fiscal statistics are an outcome of the allocations process and are used as a guide to categorise expenditure for budgeting purposes. Listed below are a few of the more important differences between the key spending categories presented in Chapter 6 and the more detailed functional classification presented in the statistical tables in Annexure B:

- *Science and technology* – This category groups together various science-related activities. For example, the expenditure estimates of the Medical Research Council, included in the health function in Annexure B, are presented as part of this spending category.
- *Recreation and culture* – This category includes the expenditure estimates of the National Lotteries Distribution Trust, because a major portion of its expenditure is allocated to recreational and cultural activities. However, in the statistical tables in Annexure B, a more detailed functional breakdown of the trust's expenditure is completed and allocated to various functions.
- *Economic services and environmental protection* – This excludes economic infrastructure, which is identified as a separate spending category, and includes environmental protection. Estimates relating to communication, transport, and fuel and energy have been included in the economic infrastructure spending category. Environmental-protection public entities involved in science and technology activities (like the South African Weather Service) are included in the science and technology group, while in Annexure B they are classified within this function.
- *Health* – Payments made to nursing colleges are included in the health spending category, but classified as an education function in Annexure B. The Medical Research Council is also excluded from the health function because it falls under science and technology for budget preparation.
- *Defence* – Military health services is included in the defence spending category for budget preparation, but classified under the health function in Annexure B.
- *Local government, housing and community amenities* – Includes contributions to the South African Local Government Association and the Municipal Demarcation Board, classified as general public services in the statistical tables.
- *General public services* – In the budget's key spending categories, transfers made to international organisations are classified within the category of the paying department. In Annexure B, they are classified under general public services.

■ Consolidated budget data versus GFS recommendations

GFS principles are used for the detailed classification of all transactions. However, there are important differences in the final presentation of the consolidated budget data and the GFS. This explains why the presentation of the government accounts in this publication differs from that published in the Reserve Bank's *Quarterly Bulletin*, which adheres strictly to GFS recommendations.

The differences between the formats used by the National Treasury and the Reserve Bank are mainly in the structure of the accounts presented compared to that of the GFS, as well as the use of different labelling for some items. It is possible, however, to accurately convert the South African government tables into a GFS table for international comparison, given that the same classification basis is used at a detailed level.

The most important structural difference is that the receipts and payments tables include both current and capital transactions in the South African reporting format. In the GFS presentation of government accounts, current and capital transactions are presented in separate sub-accounts.

Differences in item labelling include the following:

- The South African presentation does not include unclear terms such as “other” and “miscellaneous”.
- The term “grant” is not used in the South African budget presentation format. In the GFS, grants include all funds flowing from one level of government to another. However, in the local context, the majority of funds flowing to other levels of government are not appropriated as grants. They are identified as direct charges against the National Revenue Fund and are therefore included under transfers.
- More detail is provided on various transfer categories in the South African presentation to enhance transparency and facilitate the monitoring process, especially on the payment side.
- In the South African presentation, certain items are labelled more clearly than in the GFS version. For example, instead of using the term “sales of goods and services” for sales of goods and services produced by government, the label used is “sales of goods and services produced by a department”.

■ National budget data versus the national accounts presentation

The SNA is a coherent, consistent and integrated set of macroeconomic accounts, balance sheets and tables based on a set of internationally agreed concepts, definitions, classifications and accounting rules. It provides a comprehensive accounting framework that enables economic data to be compiled and presented in a format designed for economic analysis, making decisions and formulating policy. The national accounts are compiled for a succession of periods, providing a continuous flow of information for monitoring, analysis and evaluation of economic performance.

The SNA provides a framework for calculating GDP, gross national income, savings, capital formation and other key economic variables. National accounts data covers all resident units in a given economy, which is divided into five sectors (including government).

In the national accounts, entries reflect all resident economic units, whereas government accounts reflect government only. This inevitably leads to some differences between the two accounting frameworks. For example, own-account construction is recorded as payments for capital assets in government accounts, with a counter-entry to reflect the use of financial assets or incurrence of a financial liability to finance the transaction. In the national accounts, the recording of the transaction is not complete until entries have also been made to reflect the production of a capital asset and the input in the asset production process. The productive activity is shown as output in the national accounts and compensation of employees and goods and services is the input. The values for output and compensation of employees/goods and services can be derived from the government accounts for national accounts purposes, but these are not directly shown in government’s financial statements. This implies that there is a difference between the values of compensation of employees and goods and services in the government accounts, and services payable by government in the national accounts.

The GFS government accounts differ in many ways from the national accounts, which form the basis for the statistics presented in Chapter 2 of the *Budget Review*. The most important differences are highlighted in Table W2.3.

Table W2.3 Differences between South African reporting format and government statistics in the 1993 SNA and 2001 GFS

Difference	Budget data	GFS	SNA
Basis of reporting	Mainly cash basis; i.e. mainly cash transactions are included in the account. Estimates for consumption of fixed capital and remuneration-in-kind are not included in the account. In addition, the time of recording reflects the cash flow.	Accrual basis; i.e. including all non-cash transactions, for example, remuneration-in-kind and consumption of fixed capital. In addition, the time of recording reflects the underlying economic event, not the cash flow.	Accrual basis
	For example, goods and services are recorded when they are purchased.	For example, goods and services are recorded when they are used in the production process, not when they are purchased.	
Compensation of employees	Does not include compensation of employees paid out to government employees who are engaged in government own-account construction in association with a capital project, but included as part of the capitalised project cost.	Does not include compensation of employees payable to government employees who are engaged in government own-account construction in association with a capital project.	Includes compensation of employees payable to government employees, who are engaged in government own-account construction in association with a capital project.
Goods and services	Does not include purchases of goods and services used in connection with a capital project within the context of government own-account construction, but included as part of the capitalised project cost.	Does not include the value of goods and services used in connection with a capital project within the context of government own-account construction.	Includes the value of goods and services used in connection with a capital project within the context of government own-account construction.
Sales by government	This item is explicitly shown in the government accounts.	This item is explicitly shown in the government accounts.	This item is not shown anywhere in the national accounts. Instead it is used to estimate final consumption by government.
Output, final consumption, savings, disposable income	These variables are not explicitly shown in the government accounts, but the account can be used as a framework to derive values for them.	These variables are not explicitly shown in the government accounts, but the accounts can be used as a framework to derive values for them.	These variables are explicitly shown in the accounts. Estimates for these variables have been made from data in the government accounts.