

Office of the Chief Justice

Budget summary

	2025/26				2026/27	2027/28
	Current payments	Transfers and subsidies	Payments for capital assets	Total	Total	Total
R million						
MTEF allocation						
Administration	286.4	0.0	10.1	296.5	317.4	336.8
Superior Court Services	1 059.8	1.0	79.2	1 140.0	1 209.4	1 286.1
Judicial Education and Support	78.2	—	0.4	78.6	82.5	90.4
Subtotal	1 424.4	1.0	89.7	1 515.1	1 609.2	1 713.3
Direct charge against the National Revenue Fund						
Judges' salaries	1 136.5	101.3	—	1 237.8	1 294.5	1 352.9
Total expenditure estimates	2 560.9	102.3	89.7	2 752.9	2 903.7	3 066.1
Executive authority	Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development					
Accounting officer	Secretary-General of the Office of the Chief Justice					
Website	www.judiciary.org.za					

The Estimates of National Expenditure is available at www.treasury.gov.za. Additional tables in Excel format can be found at www.treasury.gov.za and www.vulekamali.gov.za.

Vote purpose

Strengthen judicial governance and independence by rendering effective support to the Chief Justice in executing administrative and judicial powers and duties as both head of the Judiciary and the Constitutional Court.

Mandate

The Office of the Chief Justice renders support to the Chief Justice as the head of the judiciary, as provided for in section 165(6) of the Constitution, read together with the Superior Courts Act (2013). The Office of the Chief Justice is also required to: provide and coordinate legal and administrative support to the Chief Justice; provide communication and relationship management services and intergovernmental and internal coordination; develop policies, norms and standards for the administration of courts; support the development of judicial policy, norms and standards; support the judicial function of the Constitutional Court; and support the Judicial Service Commission and South African Judicial Education Institute in the execution of their mandates.

Selected performance indicators

Table 27.1 Performance indicators by programme and related outcome

Indicator	Programme	MTDP outcome	Audited performance			Estimated performance	MTEF targets		
			2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Percentage of default judgments finalised by registrars within 12 court days of the last date of receipt of application per year	Superior Court Services	Outcome 20: Safer communities and increased business confidence	— ¹	— ¹	— ¹	— ¹	90%	91%	92%
Percentage of taxations of opposed legal bills of costs finalised within 60 court days of the date of being set down per year	Superior Court Services		— ¹	— ¹	— ¹	— ¹	98%	98%	98%
Percentage of taxations of unopposed legal bills of costs finalised within 40 court days of the date of being set down per year	Superior Court Services		— ¹	— ¹	— ¹	— ¹	99%	99%	99%
Percentage of warrants of liberation (J1 forms) delivered within 1 day of the release being issued per year	Superior Court Services		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number of judicial education courses conducted per year	Judicial Education and Support		168	124	155	120	80	80	80

1. No historical data available.

Expenditure overview

Over the medium term, the Office of the Chief Justice will focus on modernising superior courts to improve access to justice, and providing judicial education and training courses to judicial officers, as well as secretarial and administrative support to the Judicial Service Commission for the appointment of judicial officers.

The department's budget is set to increase at an average annual rate of 5.6 per cent, from R2.6 billion in 2024/25 to R3.1 billion in 2027/28, with compensation of employees accounting for an estimated 79 per cent (R6.8 billion) of total expenditure over the next 3 years. An additional R821.2 million is allocated over the medium term to enhance capacity in superior courts and fill a targeted 178 vacant posts, address the historical funding shortfall on compensation of employees and cover operational costs, including judges' vehicles. The additional funding will also support the implementation of an online court system, called Court Online, to improve judicial efficiency. The department has also been allocated an additional funding of R59.6 million to provide for the cost of living adjustment over the medium term.

Modernising superior courts through digitisation

To improve access to justice, the department plans to modernise processes in the superior courts over the next 3 years through the implementation of cloud-based digital infrastructure. This will enable the department to initiate and manage cases online, and present evidence. The Court Online system is expected to be implemented in all superior courts in 2025/26, with an additional R98.2 million over the medium term allocated in the *Administration* programme to roll out and operationalise the system.

The criminal module of the system is expected to be developed further and automated from 2025/26 onwards, allowing the courts to fully digitise their processes, including civil and criminal court proceedings. This is expected to result in an increase in the finalisation of default judgments from 90 per cent in 2025/26 to 92 per cent in 2027/28, and the finalisation of 98 per cent of taxations of opposed legal bills of costs and 99 per cent of taxations of unopposed legal bills of costs over the MTEF period. These activities are funded in the *Superior Court Services* programme, which is allocated R3.6 billion over the MTEF period, accounting for 40.4 per cent of the department's total budget.

Providing judicial education and training, and secretarial and administrative support

The department plans to offer 80 judicial education and training courses each year over the medium term through the South African Judicial Education Institute to develop the skills of current and prospective judicial officers. The Judicial Service Commission's public procedure for appointing judicial officers to replace retired or deceased judges will continue to receive secretarial and administrative support from the department at a projected cost of R30.2 million over the MTEF period. This funding is within the *Judicial Service Commission* subprogramme's budget of R251.5 million over the MTEF period in the *Judicial Education and Support* programme.

Expenditure trends and estimates

Table 27.2 Vote expenditure trends by programme and economic classification¹

Programmes											
1. Administration											
2. Superior Court Services											
3. Judicial Education and Support											
Programme											
R million	Audited outcome			Adjusted appropriation	Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)	Medium-term expenditure estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28		
Programme 1	210.1	281.8	253.6	280.0	10.0%	10.4%	296.5	317.4	336.8	6.4%	10.9%
Programme 2	902.6	963.6	1 029.7	943.8	1.5%	39.0%	1 140.0	1 209.4	1 286.1	10.9%	40.4%
Programme 3	43.4	49.4	56.1	50.0	4.9%	2.0%	78.6	82.5	90.4	21.8%	2.7%
Subtotal	1 156.2	1 294.9	1 339.4	1 273.8	3.3%	51.5%	1 515.1	1 609.2	1 713.3	10.4%	53.9%
Direct charge against the National Revenue Fund	1 063.3	1 154.6	1 218.8	1 333.2	7.8%	48.5%	1 237.8	1 294.5	1 352.9	0.5%	46.1%
Judges' salaries	1 063.3	1 154.6	1 218.8	1 333.2	7.8%	48.5%	1 237.8	1 294.5	1 352.9	0.5%	46.1%
Total	2 219.5	2 449.4	2 558.2	2 607.0	5.5%	100.0%	2 752.9	2 903.7	3 066.1	5.6%	100.0%
Change to 2024 Budget estimate				–			259.5	288.6	332.7		
Economic classification											
Current payments	2 054.0	2 223.3	2 385.8	2 407.0	5.4%	92.2%	2 560.9	2 713.9	2 881.7	6.2%	93.2%
Compensation of employees	1 791.5	1 869.8	2 011.6	2 111.7	5.6%	79.2%	2 153.6	2 280.5	2 415.6	4.6%	79.1%
Goods and services ¹	262.5	353.5	374.2	295.3	4.0%	13.1%	407.4	433.4	466.1	16.4%	14.1%
of which:					0.0%	0.0%				0.0%	0.0%
Communication	12.6	13.4	11.8	10.9	-4.8%	0.5%	14.8	15.9	17.9	18.0%	0.5%
Computer services	63.2	91.5	82.6	84.5	10.2%	3.3%	106.9	115.3	112.7	10.0%	3.7%
Fleet services (including government motor transport)	19.4	26.1	27.7	15.6	-7.0%	0.9%	26.5	30.2	30.9	25.6%	0.9%
Consumables: Stationery, printing and office supplies	10.0	11.0	11.9	13.6	10.9%	0.5%	14.4	15.7	17.6	9.0%	0.5%
Operating leases	28.6	25.3	20.9	6.6	-38.6%	0.8%	20.1	20.2	20.3	45.2%	0.6%
Travel and subsistence	68.4	114.0	139.8	82.7	6.5%	4.1%	133.8	141.9	158.2	24.1%	4.6%
Interest and rent on land	0.0	–	–	–	-100.0%	0.0%	–	–	–	0.0%	0.0%
Transfers and subsidies¹	75.4	92.5	83.1	143.1	23.8%	4.0%	102.3	110.5	119.7	-5.8%	4.2%
Provinces and municipalities	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	-4.8%	0.0%	0.1	0.1	0.1	13.9%	0.0%
Public corporations and private enterprises	0.0	0.0	–	0.0	14.5%	0.0%	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.6%	0.0%
Households	75.4	92.4	83.1	143.1	23.8%	4.0%	102.2	110.5	119.6	-5.8%	4.2%
Payments for capital assets	89.7	132.4	89.2	56.9	-14.1%	3.7%	89.7	79.3	64.7	4.4%	2.6%
Buildings and other fixed structures	–	0.0	0.1	–	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–	0.0%	0.0%
Machinery and equipment	88.9	121.7	88.8	56.9	-13.8%	3.6%	89.7	79.3	64.7	4.4%	2.6%
Software and other intangible assets	0.9	10.6	0.3	–	-100.0%	0.1%	–	–	–	0.0%	0.0%
Payments for financial assets	0.3	1.3	0.0	–	-100.0%	0.0%	–	–	–	0.0%	0.0%
Total	2 219.5	2 449.4	2 558.2	2 607.0	5.5%	100.0%	2 752.9	2 903.7	3 066.1	5.6%	100.0%

1. Tables with expenditure trends, annual budget, adjusted appropriation and audited outcome are available at www.treasury.gov.za and www.vulekamali.gov.za.

Transfers and subsidies expenditure trends and estimates

Table 27.3 Vote transfers and subsidies trends and estimates

R thousand	Audited outcome			Adjusted appropriation	Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)	Medium-term expenditure estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28		
Households											
Social benefits											
Current	73 684	91 672	82 868	143 067	24.8%	99.3%	102 218	110 475	119 649	-5.8%	99.9%
Employee social benefits	4 364	5 317	5 325	2 141	-21.1%	4.4%	954	1 110	1 534	-10.5%	1.2%
Judges' salaries	69 320	86 355	77 543	140 926	26.7%	94.9%	101 264	109 365	118 115	-5.7%	98.7%
Other transfers to households											
Current	1 702	758	210	–	-100.0%	0.7%	–	–	–	–	–
Other transfers	1 702	758	210	–	-100.0%	0.7%	–	–	–	–	–
Provinces and municipalities											
Provincial agencies and funds											
Current	50	40	9	44	-4.2%	–	59	60	65	13.9%	–
Vehicle licences	50	40	9	44	-4.2%	–	59	60	65	13.9%	–
Municipal agencies and funds											
Current	1	1	48	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vehicle licences	1	1	48	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Public corporations and private enterprises											
Other transfers to public corporations											
Current	6	1	–	9	14.5%	–	9	13	15	18.6%	–
Communication licences	3	1	–	9	44.2%	–	9	13	15	18.6%	–
Communication	3	–	–	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	75 443	92 472	83 135	143 120	23.8%	100.0%	102 286	110 548	119 729	-5.8%	100.0%

Personnel information

Table 27.4 Vote personnel numbers and cost by salary level and programme¹

Programmes																			
1. Administration																			
2. Superior Court Services																			
3. Judicial Education and Support																			
Number of posts estimated for 31 March 2025			Number and cost ² of personnel posts filled/planned for on funded establishment												Average growth rate (%)	Average: Salary level/ Total (%)			
Number of funded posts	Number of posts additional to the establishment	Actual			Revised estimate			Medium-term expenditure estimate											
		2023/24			2024/25			2025/26			2026/27			2027/28					
		Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number			Cost	Unit cost	
Office of the Chief Justice			Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost					
Salary level	2 555	103	2 854	2 011.6	0.7	2 817	2 111.7	0.7	2 738	2 153.6	0.8	2 787	2 280.5	0.8	2 824	2 415.6	0.9	0.1%	100.0%
1 – 6	1 296	93	1 161	327.9	0.3	1 051	311.8	0.3	1 070	337.5	0.3	1 099	366.4	0.3	1 116	391.8	0.4	2.0%	38.8%
7 – 10	799	10	771	394.1	0.5	817	444.3	0.5	861	499.4	0.6	881	538.0	0.6	900	582.5	0.6	3.3%	31.0%
11 – 12	98	–	101	90.2	0.9	104	97.8	0.9	112	112.4	1.0	113	119.5	1.1	117	131.2	1.1	4.0%	4.0%
13 – 16	359	–	573	1 175.9	2.1	568	1 230.3	2.2	520	1 185.7	2.3	515	1 236.5	2.4	508	1 288.6	2.5	-3.7%	18.9%
Other	3	–	248	23.4	0.1	275	27.5	0.1	174	18.5	0.1	179	20.1	0.1	182	21.6	0.1	-12.9%	7.3%
Programme	2 555	103	2 854	2 011.6	0.7	2 817	2 111.7	0.7	2 738	2 153.6	0.8	2 787	2 280.5	0.8	2 824	2 415.6	0.9	0.1%	100.0%
Programme 1	192	28	200	121.9	0.6	221	143.9	0.7	204	139.0	0.7	213	149.6	0.7	218	161.2	0.7	-0.4%	7.7%
Programme 2	1 809	75	1 830	721.5	0.4	1 748	746.6	0.4	1 839	850.2	0.5	1 881	915.7	0.5	1 912	987.3	0.5	3.0%	66.1%
Programme 3	45	–	47	27.0	0.6	51	28.9	0.6	46	27.9	0.6	45	30.0	0.7	49	32.3	0.7	-1.0%	1.7%
Direct charges	509	–	777	1 141.2	1.5	797	1 192.3	1.5	649	1 136.5	1.8	648	1 185.1	1.8	645	1 234.8	1.9	-6.8%	24.5%

1. Data has been provided by the department and may not necessarily reconcile with official government personnel data.

2. Rand million.

Departmental receipts

Table 27.5 Departmental receipts by economic classification

R thousand	Audited outcome			Adjusted estimate	Revised estimate	Average growth rate (%)	Average: Receipt item/ Total (%)	Medium-term receipts estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average: Receipt item/ Total (%)
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24					2025/26	2026/27	2027/28		
Departmental receipts	3 320	3 909	2 714	4 354	4 354	9.5%	100.0%	4 400	4 526	4 577	1.7%	100.0%
Sales of goods and services produced by department	581	590	633	628	628	2.6%	17.0%	650	750	790	7.9%	15.8%
Sales by market establishments of which:	37	39	633	96	96	37.4%	5.6%	100	110	120	7.7%	2.4%
Sales by market establishment	37	39	38	96	96	37.4%	1.5%	100	110	120	7.7%	2.4%
Other sales	–	–	595	–	–	–	4.2%	–	–	–	–	–
Administrative fees of which:	–	–	–	33	33	–	0.2%	35	40	45	10.9%	0.9%
Telecommunication services	–	–	–	33	33	–	0.2%	35	40	45	10.9%	0.9%
Other sales of which:	544	551	–	499	499	-2.8%	11.1%	515	600	625	7.8%	12.5%
Services rendered: Commission on insurance and garnishees	452	388	–	344	344	-8.7%	8.3%	350	380	390	4.3%	8.2%
Services rendered: Photocopies and faxes	61	133	–	141	141	32.2%	2.3%	150	200	210	14.2%	3.9%
Sales of assets less than R5 000	21	30	–	14	14	-12.6%	0.5%	15	20	25	21.3%	0.4%
Replacement of lost office property	1	–	–	–	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sales: Department publications and productions	8	–	–	–	–	-100.0%	0.1%	–	–	–	–	–
Other Sales	1	–	–	–	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Sales of scrap, waste, arms and other used current goods of which:	6	–	3	9	9	14.5%	0.1%	9	10	11	6.9%	0.2%
Sales: Scrap	6	–	3	9	9	14.5%	0.1%	9	10	11	6.9%	0.2%
Fines, penalties and forfeits	50	110	189	280	280	77.6%	4.4%	–	–	–	-100.0%	1.6%
Interest, dividends and rent on land	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	–	–
Interest	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	1	–	–
Sales of capital assets	280	9	492	200	200	-10.6%	6.9%	–	–	–	-100.0%	1.1%
Transactions in financial assets and liabilities	2 403	3 200	1 397	3 237	3 237	10.4%	71.6%	3 740	3 765	3 775	5.3%	81.3%
Total	3 320	3 909	2 714	4 354	4 354	9.5%	100.0%	4 400	4 526	4 577	1.7%	100.0%

Programme 1: Administration

Programme purpose

Provide strategic leadership, management and support services to the department.

Expenditure trends and estimates

Table 27.6 Administration expenditure trends and estimates by subprogramme and economic classification

Subprogramme				Adjusted appropriation	Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)	Medium-term expenditure estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)
Audited outcome			2024/25				2021/22 - 2024/25	2025/26	2026/27		
R million	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2021/22 - 2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2024/25	2027/28	
Management	36.9	40.7	39.3	39.3	2.2%	15.2%	38.7	40.5	42.3	2.5%	13.1%
Corporate Services	115.9	183.0	154.9	176.5	15.1%	61.5%	194.1	210.2	224.9	8.4%	65.5%
Financial Administration	35.0	35.8	36.4	38.4	3.1%	14.2%	37.9	39.6	41.4	2.5%	12.8%
Internal Audit	22.4	22.3	23.0	25.7	4.7%	9.1%	25.9	27.1	28.3	3.3%	8.7%
Total	210.1	281.8	253.6	280.0	10.0%	100.0%	296.5	317.4	336.8	6.4%	100.0%
Change to 2024				–			16.5	23.0	29.2		
Budget estimate											
Economic classification											
Current payments	201.2	234.2	239.7	263.1	9.4%	91.5%	286.4	307.4	324.6	7.2%	96.0%
Compensation of employees	107.8	109.9	121.9	143.9	10.1%	47.1%	139.0	149.6	161.2	3.9%	48.2%
Goods and services	93.4	124.3	117.8	119.2	8.5%	44.3%	147.4	157.8	163.3	11.1%	47.8%
of which:						–					–
Minor assets	1.1	0.1	0.3	1.7	16.7%	0.3%	3.5	3.7	5.3	46.0%	1.1%
Audit costs: External	8.5	7.5	7.0	6.8	-7.1%	2.9%	7.3	7.6	6.6	-0.9%	2.3%
Computer services	61.2	90.3	81.0	81.8	10.1%	30.6%	104.9	113.1	111.0	10.7%	33.4%
Contractors	1.0	0.7	1.8	2.0	24.7%	0.5%	3.2	3.4	5.2	37.0%	1.1%
Travel and subsistence	7.6	10.1	11.9	9.5	7.6%	3.8%	11.4	11.9	13.4	12.1%	3.8%
Training and development	3.4	3.6	1.9	3.8	3.9%	1.2%	4.7	4.9	5.1	10.2%	1.5%
Interest and rent on land	0.0	–	–	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Transfers and subsidies	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.1	-57.7%	0.3%	0.0	0.0	0.0	-63.2%	–
Provinces and municipalities	0.0	0.0	0.0	–	-100.0%	–	0.0	0.0	0.0	–	–
Households	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.1	-57.7%	0.3%	–	–	–	-100.0%	–
Payments for capital assets	7.9	46.8	13.2	16.8	28.3%	8.3%	10.1	9.9	12.3	-9.9%	4.0%
Machinery and equipment	7.1	36.2	12.9	16.8	33.4%	7.1%	10.1	9.9	12.3	-9.9%	4.0%
Software and other intangible assets	0.9	10.6	0.3	–	-100.0%	1.1%	–	–	–	–	–
Payments for financial assets	–	0.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	210.1	281.8	253.6	280.0	10.0%	100.0%	296.5	317.4	336.8	6.4%	100.0%
Proportion of total programme expenditure to vote expenditure	18.2%	21.8%	18.9%	22.0%	–	–	19.6%	19.7%	19.7%	–	–
Details of transfers and subsidies											
Households											
Social benefits											
Current	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.1	-57.7%	0.3%	–	–	–	-100.0%	–
Employee social benefits	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.1	-57.7%	0.3%	–	–	–	-100.0%	–
Provinces and municipalities											
Provincial agencies and funds											
Current	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.0	0.0	0.0	–	–
Vehicle licences	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.0	0.0	0.0	–	–
Municipal agencies and funds											
Current	0.0	0.0	0.0	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vehicle licences	0.0	0.0	0.0	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–

Personnel information

Table 27.7 Administration personnel numbers and cost by salary level¹

Number of posts estimated for 31 March 2025			Number and cost ² of personnel posts filled/planned for on funded establishment												Average growth rate (%)	Average: Salary level/ Total (%)			
Number of funded posts	Number of posts additional to the establishment		Actual			Revised estimate			Medium-term expenditure estimate										
			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26		2026/27		2027/28				2024/25 - 2027/28		
			Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost					
Administration			Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost					
Salary level	192	28	200	121.9	0.6	221	143.9	0.7	204	139.0	0.7	213	149.6	0.7	218	161.2	0.7	-0.4%	100.0%
1 – 6	61	25	56	15.4	0.3	61	17.4	0.3	55	16.3	0.3	66	21.0	0.3	68	22.8	0.3	3.8%	29.2%
7 – 10	79	3	83	44.6	0.5	90	51.3	0.6	87	52.6	0.6	85	54.7	0.6	87	59.2	0.7	-1.1%	40.8%
11 – 12	31	–	37	30.9	0.8	42	36.9	0.9	38	35.3	0.9	38	37.3	1.0	39	40.6	1.0	-2.4%	18.4%
13 – 16	20	–	24	31.0	1.3	28	38.3	1.4	24	34.7	1.5	24	36.6	1.5	24	38.7	1.6	-5.2%	11.6%
Other	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

1. Data has been provided by the department and may not necessarily reconcile with official government personnel data.

2. Rand million.

Programme 2: Superior Court Services

Programme purpose

Provide court administration services to the superior courts.

Objectives

- Improve court efficiency by:
 - increasing the percentage of default judgments finalised by registrars within 12 court days from 90 per cent in 2025/26 to 92 per cent in 2027/28
 - ensuring that 98 per cent of taxations of opposed bills of costs are finalised within 60 court days over the MTEF period
 - ensuring that 99 per cent of unopposed bills of costs are finalised within 40 court days over the MTEF period
 - delivering all warrants of liberation (J1 forms) within 1 day over the MTEF period
 - producing 4 judicial case flow management performance reports per year.

Subprogrammes

- Administration of Superior Courts* provides administrative and technical support to the superior courts, monitors their overall performance and enhances judicial stakeholder relations.
- Constitutional Court* funds the activities and operations of the Constitutional Court, which has jurisdiction over constitutional matters and any matter of public importance.
- Supreme Court of Appeal* funds the activities and operations of the Supreme Court of Appeal, which adjudicates appeals in any matters arising from the high courts or courts of similar status.
- High Courts* funds the activities and operations of the various high court divisions, which have jurisdiction over defined geographical areas.
- Specialised Courts* funds the activities and operations of the Labour Court, the Labour and Labour Appeal Court, the Land Court, the Competition Appeals Court and the Electoral Court. These courts adjudicate over various types of matters excluded from the jurisdiction of the various high court divisions and lower courts.

Expenditure trends and estimates

Table 27.8 Superior Court Services expenditure trends and estimates by subprogramme and economic classification

Subprogramme	Audited outcome			Adjusted appropriation	Average growth rate (%)	Average Expenditure/ Total (%)	Medium-term expenditure estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average Expenditure/ Total (%)
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24				2025/26	2026/27	2027/28		
R million				2024/25	2021/22 - 2024/25					2024/25 - 2027/28	
Administration of Superior Courts	12.9	12.6	13.9	18.9	13.5%	1.5%	23.2	26.8	30.4	17.2%	2.2%
Constitutional Court	49.9	57.4	77.9	77.4	15.8%	6.8%	94.4	102.3	111.5	12.9%	8.4%
Supreme Court of Appeal	41.5	47.4	49.7	40.2	-1.1%	4.7%	50.3	53.0	59.7	14.1%	4.4%
High Courts	737.6	776.3	815.2	742.5	0.2%	80.0%	895.3	945.5	997.0	10.3%	78.2%
Specialised Courts	60.6	69.8	72.9	64.8	2.2%	7.0%	76.8	81.8	87.4	10.5%	6.8%
Total	902.6	963.6	1 029.7	943.8	1.5%	100.0%	1 140.0	1 209.4	1 286.1	10.9%	100.0%
Change to 2024				–			204.3	224.7	256.9		
Budget estimate											
Economic classification											
Current payments	816.2	872.8	950.2	902.3	3.4%	92.2%	1 059.8	1 139.3	1 232.8	11.0%	94.7%
Compensation of employees	664.0	669.0	721.5	746.6	4.0%	72.9%	850.2	915.7	987.3	9.8%	76.4%
Goods and services	152.1	203.8	228.7	155.8	0.8%	19.3%	209.6	223.6	245.5	16.4%	18.2%
of which:						–					–
Communication	10.9	10.6	9.5	9.1	-5.8%	1.0%	11.8	12.8	14.3	16.3%	1.1%
Consultants: Business and advisory services	9.3	8.4	7.1	6.1	-13.0%	0.8%	8.1	8.1	8.0	9.1%	0.7%
Fleet services (including government motor transport)	19.4	25.9	27.6	15.5	-7.2%	2.3%	26.2	29.8	30.6	25.5%	2.2%
Consumables: Stationery, printing and office supplies	8.4	9.4	10.2	11.9	12.3%	1.0%	12.2	13.4	15.2	8.7%	1.2%
Operating leases	28.5	25.2	20.9	6.6	-38.5%	2.1%	20.1	20.2	20.3	45.2%	1.5%
Travel and subsistence	54.6	93.3	115.0	64.3	5.6%	8.5%	89.7	96.2	107.9	18.8%	7.8%
Transfers and subsidies	4.6	5.3	4.7	2.1	-22.8%	0.4%	1.0	1.2	1.6	-8.7%	0.1%
Provinces and municipalities	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	-4.2%	–	0.1	0.1	0.1	11.5%	–
Public corporations and private enterprises	0.0	0.0	–	0.0	14.5%	–	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.6%	–
Households	4.5	5.2	4.6	2.1	-23.1%	0.4%	1.0	1.1	1.5	-9.4%	0.1%
Payments for capital assets	81.6	85.3	74.8	39.3	-21.6%	7.3%	79.2	68.9	51.7	9.5%	5.2%
Buildings and other fixed structures	–	0.0	0.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Machinery and equipment	81.6	85.3	74.7	39.3	-21.6%	7.3%	79.2	68.9	51.7	9.5%	5.2%
Payments for financial assets	0.3	0.2	0.0	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–
Total	902.6	963.6	1 029.7	943.8	1.5%	100.0%	1 140.0	1 209.4	1 286.1	10.9%	100.0%
Proportion of total programme expenditure to vote expenditure	78.1%	74.4%	76.9%	74.1%	–	–	75.2%	75.2%	75.1%	–	–
Details of transfers and subsidies											
Households											
Social benefits											
Current	2.8	4.5	4.4	2.1	-10.0%	0.4%	1.0	1.1	1.5	-9.4%	0.1%
Employee social benefits	2.8	4.5	4.4	2.1	-10.0%	0.4%	1.0	1.1	1.5	-9.4%	0.1%
Other transfers to households											
Current	1.7	0.8	0.2	–	-100.0%	0.1%	–	–	–	–	–
Other transfers	1.7	0.8	0.2	–	-100.0%	0.1%	–	–	–	–	–
Provinces and municipalities											
Provincial agencies and funds											
Current	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-4.2%	–	0.1	0.1	0.1	11.5%	–
Vehicle licences	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	-4.2%	–	0.1	0.1	0.1	11.5%	–
Municipal agencies and funds											
Current	–	–	0.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Vehicle licences	–	–	0.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Public corporations and private enterprises											
Other transfers to public corporations											
Current	0.0	0.0	–	0.0	14.5%	–	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.6%	–
Communication licences	0.0	0.0	–	0.0	44.2%	–	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.6%	–
Communication	0.0	–	–	–	-100.0%	–	–	–	–	–	–

Personnel information

Table 27.9 Superior Court Services personnel numbers and cost by salary level¹

Number of posts estimated for 31 March 2025			Number and cost ² of personnel posts filled/planned for on funded establishment												Average growth rate (%)	Average: Salary level/ Total (%)			
Number of funded posts	Number of posts additional to the establishment		Medium-term expenditure estimate																
			Actual			Revised estimate													
			2023/24			2024/25			2025/26		2026/27		2027/28				2024/25 - 2027/28		
Superior Court Services			Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost					
Salary level	1 809	75	1 830	721.5	0.4	1 748	746.6	0.4	1 839	850.2	0.5	1 881	915.7	0.5	1 912	987.3	3.0%	100.0%	
1 – 6	1 029	68	1 090	308.5	0.3	973	290.0	0.3	998	316.6	0.3	1 018	340.8	0.3	1 029	363.6	1.9%	54.4%	
7 – 10	701	7	666	338.4	0.5	702	378.6	0.5	753	434.2	0.6	775	470.1	0.6	792	509.4	4.1%	40.9%	
11 – 12	61	–	59	55.2	0.9	58	57.5	1.0	70	73.5	1.0	70	77.5	1.1	73	85.6	1.2	7.9%	3.7%
13 – 16	16	–	15	19.4	1.3	15	20.5	1.4	18	25.8	1.4	18	27.3	1.5	18	28.8	1.6	6.3%	0.9%
Other	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

1. Data has been provided by the department and may not necessarily reconcile with official government personnel data.

2. Rand million.

Programme 3: Judicial Education and Support

Programme purpose

Provide education programmes to judicial officers, support services to the Judicial Service Commission, and policy development and research services to the department and the Judiciary for the optimal administration of justice.

Objectives

- Enhance judicial performance by conducting 80 judicial education courses per year over the MTEF period.
- Enhance judicial governance by producing 3 judicial education newsletters per year over the MTEF period.
- Ensure enhanced judicial performance by producing 5 litigation monitoring reports per year over the MTEF period.
- Improve judicial performance over the MTEF period by:
 - producing 3 reports per year on judicial appointments and complaints
 - producing 2 reports per year on the status of disclosures for judges' registrable interests.

Subprogrammes

- *South African Judicial Education Institute* provides strategic and administrative support for the training of judicial officers and aspirant judicial officers.
- *Judicial Policy, Research and Support* provides advisory opinions on policy development, undertakes research and offers legal support services to enhance the functioning of the judiciary.
- *Judicial Service Commission* provides secretariat and administrative support services to the Judicial Service Commission so that it can effectively fulfil its constitutional and legislative mandates.

Expenditure trends and estimates

Table 27.10 Judicial Education and Support expenditure trends and estimates by subprogramme and economic classification

Subprogramme			Adjusted appropriation		Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)	Medium-term expenditure estimate			Average growth rate (%)	Average: Expenditure/ Total (%)
Audited outcome			2024/25		2021/22 - 2024/25		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2024/25 - 2027/28	
R million	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2021/22 - 2024/25		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2024/25 - 2027/28	
South African Judicial Education Institute	17.9	23.2	29.7	24.2	10.6%	47.7%	52.2	55.0	59.8	35.1%	63.4%
Judicial Policy, Research and Support	16.2	14.3	14.8	14.2	-4.5%	29.9%	17.0	17.6	19.8	11.9%	22.8%
Judicial Service Commission	9.2	11.9	11.6	11.6	8.0%	22.3%	9.5	9.9	10.8	-2.6%	13.8%
Total	43.4	49.4	56.1	50.0	4.9%	100.0%	78.6	82.5	90.4	21.8%	100.0%
Change to 2024 Budget estimate				–			28.8	30.4	36.0		
Economic classification											
Current payments	42.7	49.1	54.8	49.3	4.9%	98.4%	78.2	82.1	89.6	22.1%	99.2%
Compensation of employees	25.7	23.7	27.0	28.9	4.0%	53.0%	27.9	30.0	32.3	3.8%	39.5%
Goods and services	17.0	25.4	27.7	20.3	6.2%	45.5%	50.3	52.0	57.2	41.2%	59.7%
of which:											
Catering: Departmental activities	0.5	0.6	1.5	1.1	29.6%	1.8%	1.6	1.7	2.4	30.6%	2.2%
Consultants: Business and advisory services	1.1	1.0	1.4	0.7	-14.9%	2.1%	1.4	1.5	1.8	36.3%	1.8%
Legal services	4.8	7.6	4.2	3.8	-8.1%	10.3%	6.0	5.5	5.5	13.7%	6.9%
Travel and subsistence	6.2	10.6	12.8	8.8	12.5%	19.3%	32.7	33.8	36.8	61.0%	37.2%
Operating payments	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.5	-2.6%	1.1%	1.5	1.6	1.8	57.3%	1.8%
Venues and facilities	1.9	3.7	4.7	4.5	34.7%	7.4%	4.4	4.9	5.5	6.5%	6.4%
Transfers and subsidies	0.5	0.1	0.2	–	-100.0%	0.4%	–	–	–	–	–
Households	0.5	0.1	0.2	–	-100.0%	0.4%	–	–	–	–	–
Payments for capital assets	0.2	0.2	1.2	0.8	51.7%	1.2%	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.7%	0.8%
Machinery and equipment	0.2	0.2	1.2	0.8	51.7%	1.2%	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.7%	0.8%
Total	43.4	49.4	56.1	50.0	4.9%	100.0%	78.6	82.5	90.4	21.8%	100.0%
Proportion of total programme expenditure to vote expenditure	3.8%	3.8%	4.2%	3.9%	–	–	5.2%	5.1%	5.3%	–	–
Details of transfers and subsidies											
Households											
Social benefits											
Current	0.5	0.1	0.2	–	-100.0%	0.4%	–	–	–	–	–
Employee social benefits	0.5	0.1	0.2	–	-100.0%	0.4%	–	–	–	–	–

Personnel information

Table 27.11 Judicial Education and Support personnel numbers and cost by salary level¹

Number of posts estimated for 31 March 2025		Number and cost ² of personnel posts filled/planned for on funded establishment												Average growth rate (%)	Average: Salary level/ Total (%)				
Number of funded posts	Number of posts additional to the establishment	Actual			Revised estimate			Medium-term expenditure estimate											
		2023/24			2024/25			2025/26		2026/27		2027/28				2024/25 - 2027/28			
		Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost	Number	Cost	Unit cost			
Judicial Education and Support																			
Salary level	45	—	47	27.0	0.6	51	28.9	0.6	46	27.9	0.6	45	30.0	0.7	49	32.3	0.7	-1.0%	100.0%
1 – 6	14	—	14	3.9	0.3	16	4.3	0.3	16	4.6	0.3	14	4.5	0.3	18	5.4	0.3	4.1%	33.7%
7 – 10	19	—	22	11.1	0.5	26	14.4	0.6	21	12.6	0.6	21	13.3	0.6	21	14.0	0.7	-6.4%	46.3%
11 – 12	6	—	5	4.2	0.8	4	3.4	0.8	4	3.6	0.9	5	4.7	0.9	5	5.0	1.0	7.7%	9.5%
13 – 16	6	—	6	7.8	1.3	5	6.8	1.4	5	7.2	1.4	5	7.6	1.5	5	8.0	1.6	—	10.5%

1. Data has been provided by the department and may not necessarily reconcile with official government personnel data.

2. Rand million.

