

# GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT



**national treasury**

Department:  
National Treasury  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## INTRODUCTION

The Gender Budget Statement (GBS) sets out government gender priorities, highlights some of the observed gender gaps/inequalities and their associated trends and provides information on the government’s policies and resource allocations to address key gender gaps in selected departments. This document represents a pilot effort that will form the basis for a full rollout of the GBS in a later budget cycle. The data and observations made in the statement are meant to elicit feedback and discussion on the changes that have taken place over the last decade, the reports submitted by departments, and the practical evolution of South Africa’s gender budgeting reform.

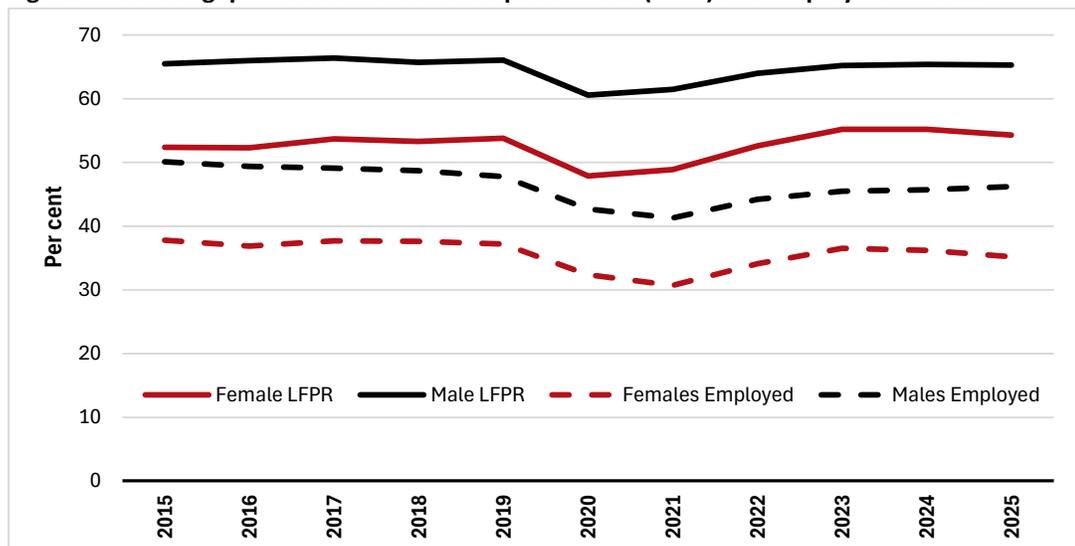
This GBS builds on the statement published during the 2025 Budget, by providing incremental data to show the active steps departments are taking to ensure their policies advance our national commitment to gender equality.

## STATUS OF ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Economic Empowerment is the capacity to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the economy in ways that recognize the value of their contributions, respect their dignity, and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. It includes:

- Closing gender gaps in economic opportunities: lifting constraints to increase the quantity and quality of jobs for females and closing gender earnings gaps.
- Improving female access and ownership in respect of businesses, property, among others.

**Figure 1: Gender gap in Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Employment Rates**



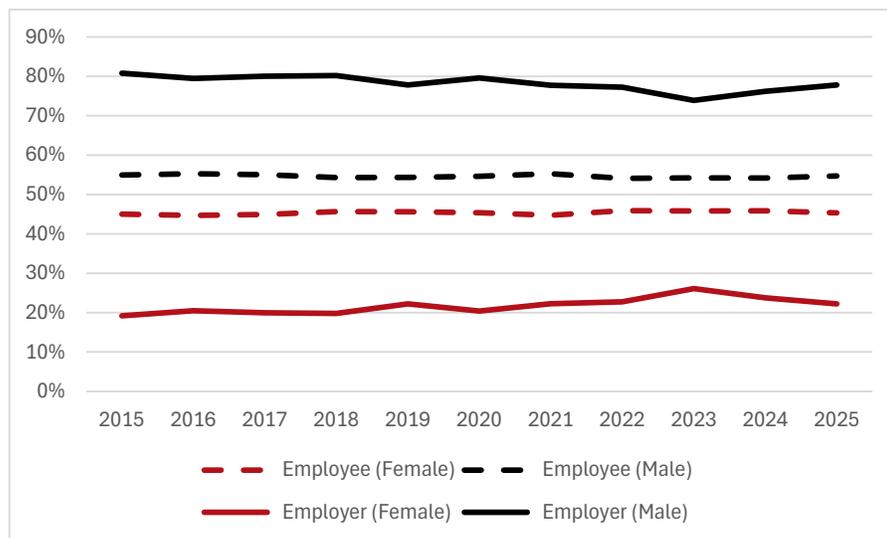
Source: Statistics South Africa [Quarterly Labor Force Survey]

The LFPR gap between male LFPR and female LFPR has not changed in the past 10 years and last year appears to be widening. This is also reflected in those actually employed, with male employment rates in South Africa over 10 percentage points higher than female employment.

## GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT

According to the government's Gender Series Report of 2025, the average LFPR among female is 52.7 per cent, compared to 64.7 percent for male. Additionally, where females do participate in the labour market, they are more likely to face lower employment rates - by a difference of 10.7 percentage points (see Figure 1).

**Figure 2: Employers by Sex (percentage of male vs. female employers)**



Source: Statistics South Africa [Quarterly Labor Force Survey]

While a 10 percentage point gap exists between male and female's employment, we can see female comprise only 20 per cent of total employers and this representation has stayed consistent over time.

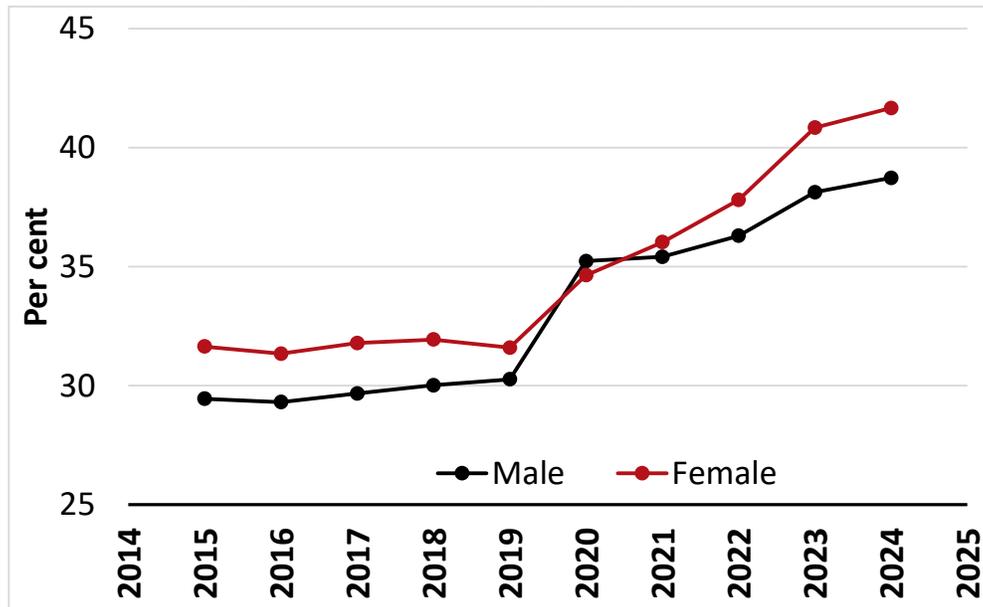
Finally, while there is a 10.7 percentage point employment gap between male and female, the gender gap in employers is significantly larger at 33 percentage points. That is, females make up only 20 per cent of all employers, a share that has remained the same over the past decade (Figure 2).

## STATUS OF HUMAN ENDOWMENT

Human Endowment refers to human capacities and abilities acquired naturally or socially that determines individuals' well-being and societal development. education, health, and social protection are key social determinants of well-being, influencing overall health outcomes and life opportunities. It includes:

- Improving access to education: improving literacy and enrolments, issues leading to school dropouts, and the uptake of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.
- Improving access to social protection: improving access to social grants and insights on the effects on women.

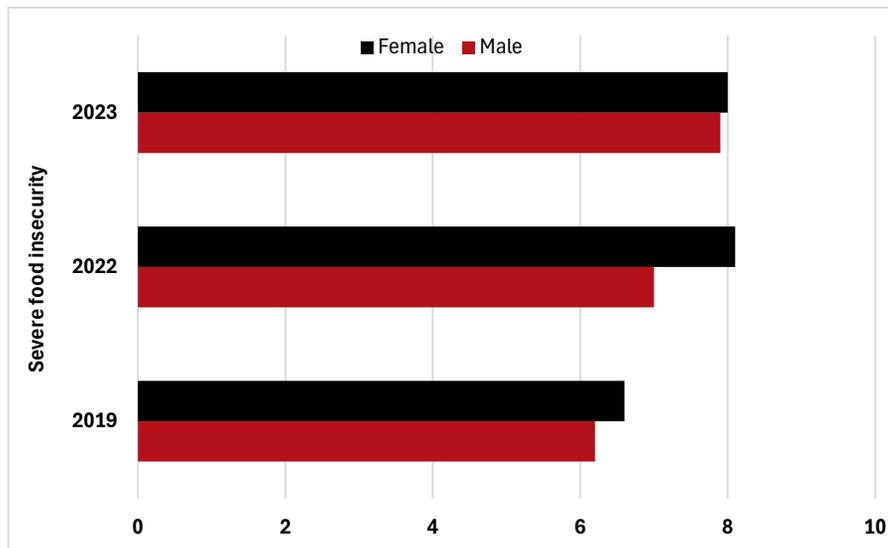
Figure 3: Proportion of persons that received social grants by sex, 2015-2024



Source: Statistics South Africa

The graph above illustrates that the proportion of people receiving social grants has increased significantly since 2022, and female still comprise the majority of those who receive these grants, likely reflecting their lower average incomes.

Figure 4: Proportion of households that experienced severe food insecurity by sex of the household head

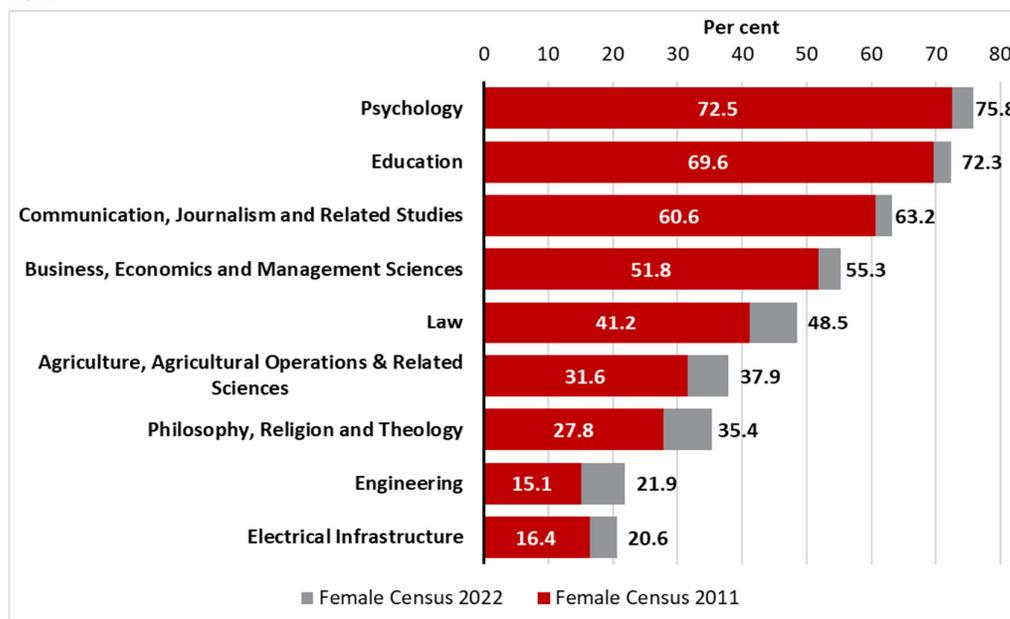


Source: Statistics South Africa

Figure 5: The graphic above illustrates the severity of food insecurity in female headed households being more than those in male headed households. However, there is a notable decline in food insecurity disparity between 2019 and 2023.

## GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT

Figure 5: Female Population aged 20 years and older by selected field of education, Census 2011 and 2022



Source: Statistics South Africa (Census 2011(Red), Census 2022(Grey))

The graphic illustrates increasing proportions of females studying in fields such as Engineering and Electrical Infrastructure, but still far below parity.

## PILOT DEPARTMENTS BUDGET INTERVENTIONS

### Activities advancing economic empowerment and human endowment

Twelve national departments<sup>1</sup> were selected to participate in the Gender Budget Statement pilot on budget interventions, which include activities related to economic empowerment and human endowment gender gaps. The total budget tagging associated with these interventions amounts to R342.1 billion in 2026/27, R319.6 billion in 2027/28, and R333.9 billion in 2028/29. Programmes linked to economic empowerment include support for women-owned companies and businesses, accelerated infrastructure programmes, social inclusion initiatives, and funding for females' enterprises and empowerment initiatives. In relation to human endowment, the interventions encompass learning and skills development initiatives, social services, community mobilisation programmes, and training and capacity-building programmes.

<sup>1</sup> Electricity and Energy, Basic Education, Higher Education, Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Agriculture, Employment and Labour, Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Social Development, Small Business Development, Sports, Arts and Culture, Tourism, as well as Trade, Industry and Competition

# GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT

**Table W3.1 Estimated allocation for gender priorities for pilot departments<sup>1</sup>**

R'000	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Electricity and Energy	541 857	565 896	589 997
Basic Education	12 011 237	12 563 739	13 117 180
Higher Education	32 277 339	33 736 673	35 251 157
Social Development	296 109 101	271 405 260	283 588 996
Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities	5 554	5 776	6 036
Agriculture	794 541	833 455	870 871
Employment and Labour	4 611	4 801	5 017
Mineral and Petroleum Resources	21 135	22 121	23 115
Small Business Development	117 325	110 722	115 686
Sport, Arts and Culture	15 220	15 927	16 642
Tourism	82 273	169 329	177 816
Trade, Industry and Competition	140 000	143 000	146 110
<b>Total</b>	<b>342 120 193</b>	<b>319 576 700</b>	<b>333 908 622</b>

1. Total allocation in Social Development, Higher Education and Employment and Labour include male and female, table W3.2 reflects the interventions details

Source: Data represent estimates of allocations to gender priorities by selected pilot departments

**Table W3.2 Summary of submissions from pilot departments**

Department	Program	Gender Gap	Interventions addressing gender priorities	R'000 2026/27	R'000 2027/28	R'000 2028/29
Electricity and Energy	Energy Programmes and Projects	Economic empowerment	Black women-owned companies have been recommended for appointment as service providers. (Energy Efficiency Demand Side programme)	27 121	28 348	29 621
			Black women-owned companies appointed as service providers and installers of off-grid units (Integrated National Electrification Programme Non-Grid programme)	74 254	77 207	79 607
			Women owned Companies involved in electrification under Integrated National Electrification Programme (Eskom & Municipalities)	405 857	424 211	443 254
			Appointment of qualified service providers for the installation and consultation services of solar water heaters under the social component of The National Solar Water Heater Programme	21 084	21 982	22 731
			Economic opportunities awareness programmes, capacity building programmes (workshops/conferences) and outreach programmes for mainly Women, Youth and persons in the Energy	13 540	14 148	14 784
			Girl learner and women Matric Second Chance Programme	42 351	44 537	46 536
			Girl learner Maths, Science and Technology grant as a programme at school level	474 251	495 697	517 950
Basic Education	Curriculum Policy, Support and Monitoring	Human endowment	National School Nutrition Programme benefiting girl learner	10 771 132	11 258 793	11 764 214
			Intake of women that are trained as Teachers for Funza Lushaka Bursary	723 503	764 713	788 480
Higher Education <sup>1</sup>	Teachers, Education Human Resources and Institutional Administration	Economic empowerment	Education through bursaries for both male and female	3 279	3 448	3 603
			Rest facilities and wellness support for pregnant employees and access to healthcare (and their children)	6 559	6 897	7 206
			Social inclusion workshops on Gender Equality and Gender-Based Violence in the Post-School Education and Training	52 378	54 500	56 947
	Planning, Policy and Strategy	Economic empowerment	Promotional materials and stationery for awareness and training activities for Gender and Disability mainstreaming	62 854	65 400	68 336
			Generation of Academics Programme positions to universities and provision of scholarship and internship opportunities (to promote gender equity and support women's participation in academia).	490 169	512 335	535 335
	University Education	Human endowment	Female students enrolled in higher education institutions	24 508 475	25 616 763	26 766 733
			Female students enrolled in Technical and Vocational Education and Training Colleges	6 846 394	7 156 068	7 477 312
Technical and Vocational Education and Training	Community Education and Training	Economic empowerment	Funding of women with Skills training and Gender Based Violence	180 276	188 510	196 972
			Female students enrolled in Community Education and Training Colleges	126 955	132 754	138 713

# GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT

Table W3.2 Summary of submissions from pilot departments (continued)

Department	Program	Gender Gap	Interventions addressing gender priorities	R'000 2026/27	R'000 2027/28	R'000 2028/29			
Social Development <sup>1</sup>	Social Assistance	Human endowment	Social assistance to eligible older persons - women	77 127 087	80 775 333	84 401 443			
			Social assistance to eligible older persons - men	45 296 861	47 439 481	49 569 102			
			Income support to people who fought in World War II or the Korean War - women	24	25	26			
			Income support to people who fought in World War II or the Korean War - men	36	38	40			
			Income support to people with permanent or temporary disabilities - women	15 698 578	16 430 636	17 168 228			
			Income support to people with permanent or temporary disabilities - men	16 339 337	17 101 274	17 868 973			
			Grants for children in foster care - women	2 985 744	2 841 761	2 969 331			
			Grants for children in foster care - men	224 733	213 896	223 498			
			Income support to children younger than 18 with permanent or temporary disabilities - women	4 882 999	5 103 811	5 332 928			
			Income support to children younger than 18 with permanent or temporary disabilities - men	203 458	212 659	222 205			
			Income support to children younger than 18 - women	46 658 119	48 768 055	50 957 316			
			Income support to children younger than 18 - men	46 658 119	48 768 055	50 957 316			
			Additional benefits to recipients of the old age grant, disability grant or war veterans grant who require regular care - women	2 106 941	2 202 218	2 301 079			
			Additional benefits to recipients of the old age grant, disability grant or war veterans grant who require regular care - men	1 037 747	1 084 675	1 133 367			
			Temporary income support, food parcels and other forms of relief to people experiencing undue hardship - women	19 920 232	250 206	261 438			
			Temporary provides temporary income support, food parcels and other forms of relief to people experiencing undue hardship - men	16 969 086	213 138	222 706			
			Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities	Advocacy and Mainstreaming for the Rights of Women	Economic empowerment	Agriculture, Women Trade fare, Manufacturing of sanitary dignity products and Green economy interventions.	1 000	1 000	1 045
				Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Coordination	Economic empowerment	Stakeholder engagements through a trade fare platform	2 230	2 377	2 484
					Human endowment	Community mobilisation through transportation of learners and stakeholder engagement sessions	421	449	469
Economic empowerment	Analysis of departmental strategic documents to assess gender responsiveness	898			920	961			
Agriculture	Administration	Economic empowerment	Assessing policy priorities and programs towards the transformation and empowerment	1 005	1 030	1 077			
			Events on the Promotion of Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality	3 677	3 847	4 020			
	Agricultural Production, Biosecurity and Natural Resources Management		Increase participation of women and youth in agriculture, Research and Development, and Technology transfer	222 112	232 209	242 633			
	Food Security and Support	Economic empowerment	Adherence to norms and standard requirement for 50% target for women beneficiaries in line with both the National Policy on Comprehensive Producer Development Support and Norms & Standards for the inclusion of Designated Groups as approved for farmer support	568 752	597 399	624 218			
Employment and Labour <sup>1</sup>	Public Employment Services	Economic empowerment	Registration, counselling and placement of female work-seekers in registered	2 306	2 401	2 508			
			Registration, counselling and placement of male work-seekers in registered employment opportunities	2 306	2 401	2 508			

# GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT

**Table W3.2 Summary of submissions from pilot departments (continued)**

Department	Program	Gender Gap	Interventions addressing gender priorities	R'000 2026/27	R'000 2027/28	R'000 2028/29
Mineral and Petroleum Resources	Administrataion	Economic empowerment	Promotion of Mining and Petroleum Sector Women Empowerment and Gender Equality Strategy through the implementation and hosting of promotional events for women, youth, and person with disability	2 561	2 655	2 774
	Minerals and Petroleum Regulation	Economic empowerment	Women Small Scale Miners financially supported through grants (financial assistance) paid via the IDC to qualifying applicants	18 574	19 466	20 341
Small Business Development	Integrated Cooperatives and Micro Enterprise Development	Economic empowerment	Women exposure to global market opportunities	11 900	7 000	7 350
			Products manufactured and services rendered by MSMEs linked to the domestic market are targeted toward women	700	700	700
			Informal businesses supported through IMEDP are targeted toward women	18 725	13 022	13 636
Sport, Arts, and Culture	Enterprise Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Economic empowerment	Township and rural MSMEs assisted with Asset Assist Support Programme are targeted toward women	86 000	90 000	94 000
		Human endowment	Mass Participation and Sport Development Grant: Women boxing	7 453	7 792	8 142
		Economic empowerment	Women's sports programs: rugby, netball, football, and cricket. Developing young female athletes through talent identification, training, competition	2 677	2 803	2 929
	Arts and Culture Promotion and Development	Economic empowerment	Participation and inclusion of ordinary women in the socio-economic development through cultural and creative arts programme platforms	2 092	2 194	2 292
			Human endowment	Woman writers programme: promotes and supports the work done by women writers	1 395	1 463
Tourism	Destination Development	Economic empowerment	Provision of financial support to initiatives that foster social cohesion	1 605	1 675	1 750
		Economic empowerment	Enrollment of women in Expanded Public Works Programme skills development programmes	80 273	168 329	174 816
	Tourism Sector Support Services	Economic empowerment	Hosting of the Women in Tourism Conference, gender based awareness sessions as well as Business Advisory Support programmes for women	2 000	1 000	3 000
Trade, Industry and Competition	Incentives	Economic empowerment	Funding to women-owned enterprises through the Black Industrialist Scheme Film and TV incentive	40 000	42 000	44 100
			Funding to male-owned enterprises through the Black Industrialist Scheme	100 000	101 000	102 010

1. These departments include male and female allocations

Source: Data represent estimates of allocations to gender priorities by selected pilot departments