

Employment and Labour

Adjusted budget summary

2025/26					
R thousand	Appropriation	Special appropriation	Adjustments appropriation		Adjusted appropriation
			Decrease	Increase	
Amount to be appropriated	4 153 137	–	(19 738)	151 767	4 285 166
<i>of which:</i>					
Current payments	2 293 196	–	(19 738)	–	2 273 458
Transfers and subsidies	1 738 908	–	–	134 162	1 873 070
Payments for capital assets	121 033	–	–	4 605	125 638
Payments for financial assets	–	–	–	13 000	13 000
Executive authority	Minister of Employment and Labour				
Accounting officer	Director-General of Employment and Labour				
Website	www.labour.gov.za				

Vote purpose

Reduce unemployment, poverty and inequality by pursuing the objectives of decent work for all through: employment creation and enterprise development; the setting of standards and protection of rights at work, including the facilitation of equal opportunities and social dialogue; and the provision of social protection.

Performance

Indicator	Programme	MTDP outcome	Annual performance		
			Projected for 2025/26 as published in the 2025 ENE	Achieved in the first half of 2025/26 (April to September) ¹	Changed target for 2025/26
Number of employers inspected per year to determine compliance with employment law	Inspection and Enforcement Services	Outcome 1: Increased employment and work opportunities	298 104	161 816	–
Percentage of noncompliant employers of those inspected served with a notice in terms of the law within 14 calendar days of the inspection per year	Inspection and Enforcement Services		95%	99.9% (39 280/ 39 282)	–
Percentage of noncompliant employers who failed to comply with the served notice referred for prosecution within 30 calendar days per year	Inspection and Enforcement Services		65%	88% (3 173/ 3 625)	–
Number of work seekers registered on the Employment Services of South Africa system per year	Public Employment Services		1 000 000	492 711	–
Number of registered work seekers provided with employment counselling per year	Public Employment Services		270 000	162 192	–
Number of employment opportunities registered on the Employment Services of South Africa database per year	Public Employment Services		120 000	156 570	–
Number of registered employment opportunities filled by registered work seekers per year	Public Employment Services		70 000	52 524	–
Percentage of collective agreements assessed and verified within the specified number of calendar days of receipt per year	Labour Policy and Industrial Relations		100% within 60 days	50% (7/14)	–
Percentage of labour organisation applications for registration approved or refused within 90 calendar days of receipt per year	Labour Policy and Industrial Relations		100%	100% (78)	–

1. Mid-year achievements are unaudited.

Progress

In the first half of 2025/26, the department exceeded its targets of serving notices within 14 calendar days to 95 per cent of noncompliant employers inspected, and referring 65 per cent of noncompliant employers who failed to comply with served notices for prosecution within 30 calendar days. These overachievements were mainly due to improved planning; blitz and high-impact inspections; and the improved use of the case management system, which led to fewer cases being discounted or left unassigned.

By mid-year, the department registered 156 570 employment opportunities on the Employment Services of South Africa system against an annual target of 120 000. The overachievement was mainly due to the large number of employment opportunities registered through the Unemployment Insurance Fund's labour activation programme.

Over the same period, the department placed 52 524 registered work seekers in employment opportunities against an annual target of 70 000. This high mid-year achievement was mainly attributed to employment counsellors providing work readiness programmes in projects related to the labour activation programme.

Adjusted estimates

Programme		2025/26							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments ¹		
Administration	1 098 733	–	–	40 000	–	–	–	40 000	1 138 733
Inspection and Enforcement Services	664 352	–	–	(40 000)	–	–	–	(40 000)	624 352
Public Employment Services	1 056 556	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 056 556
Labour Policy and Industrial Relations	1 333 496	132 029	–	–	–	–	–	132 029	1 465 525
Total	4 153 137	132 029	–	–	–	–	–	132 029	4 285 166
Economic classification									
Current payments	2 293 196	–	–	(19 738)	–	–	–	(19 738)	2 273 458
Compensation of employees	1 598 407	–	–	(42 029)	–	–	–	(42 029)	1 556 378
Goods and services	694 789	–	–	22 291	–	–	–	22 291	717 080
Transfers and subsidies	1 738 908	132 029	–	2 133	–	–	–	134 162	1 873 070
Provinces and municipalities	804	–	–	24	–	–	–	24	828
Departmental agencies and accounts	1 423 955	132 029	–	–	–	–	–	132 029	1 555 984
Foreign governments and international organisations	25 456	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25 456
Public corporations and private enterprises	45 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	45 000
Non-profit institutions	243 225	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	243 225
Households	468	–	–	2 109	–	–	–	2 109	2 577
Payments for capital assets	121 033	–	–	4 605	–	–	–	4 605	125 638
Buildings and other fixed structures	74 917	–	–	(6 000)	–	–	–	(6 000)	68 917
Machinery and equipment	46 116	–	–	10 605	–	–	–	10 605	56 721
Payments for financial assets	–	–	–	13 000	–	–	–	13 000	13 000
Total	4 153 137	132 029	–	–	–	–	–	132 029	4 285 166

1. Other adjustments include the shifting of funds between votes, the shifting of funds within a vote following a function shift, declared unspent funds, significant and unforeseeable economic and financial events, and expenditure of an exceptional nature in terms of section 6(1)(b) of the Appropriation Act (2025).

Programme 1: Administration

Subprogramme		2025/26							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments		
Ministry	50 305	–	–	5 000	–	–	–	5 000	55 305
Management	332 394	–	–	3 300	–	–	–	3 300	335 694
Corporate Services	302 553	–	–	19 700	–	–	–	19 700	322 253
Office of the Chief Financial Officer	139 610	–	–	18 000	–	–	–	18 000	157 610
Office Accommodation	273 871	–	–	(6 000)	–	–	–	(6 000)	267 871
Total	1 098 733	–	–	40 000	–	–	–	40 000	1 138 733
Economic classification									
Current payments	993 577	–	–	23 013	–	–	–	23 013	1 016 590
Compensation of employees	517 798	–	–	(221)	–	–	–	(221)	517 577
Goods and services	475 779	–	–	23 234	–	–	–	23 234	499 013
Transfers and subsidies	1 116	–	–	277	–	–	–	277	1 393
Provinces and municipalities	804	–	–	24	–	–	–	24	828
Households	312	–	–	253	–	–	–	253	565
Payments for capital assets	104 040	–	–	3 710	–	–	–	3 710	107 750
Buildings and other fixed structures	74 917	–	–	(6 000)	–	–	–	(6 000)	68 917
Machinery and equipment	29 123	–	–	9 710	–	–	–	9 710	38 833
Payments for financial assets	–	–	–	13 000	–	–	–	13 000	13 000
Total	1 098 733	–	–	40 000	–	–	–	40 000	1 138 733

Programme 2: Inspection and Enforcement Services

Subprogramme		2025/26							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments		
Management and Support Services:	26 116	–	–	(103)	–	–	–	(103)	26 013
Inspection and Enforcement Services									
Registration: Inspection and Enforcement Services	85 094	–	–	(39 897)	–	–	–	(39 897)	45 197
Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Services	529 141	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	529 141
Training of Staff: Inspection and Enforcement Services	6 740	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6 740
Statutory and Advocacy Services	17 261	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	17 261
Total	664 352	–	–	(40 000)	–	–	–	(40 000)	624 352
Economic classification									
Current payments	662 957	–	–	(40 793)	–	–	–	(40 793)	622 164
Compensation of employees	550 531	–	–	(40 745)	–	–	–	(40 745)	509 786
Goods and services	112 426	–	–	(48)	–	–	–	(48)	112 378
Transfers and subsidies	93	–	–	793	–	–	–	793	886
Households	93	–	–	793	–	–	–	793	886
Payments for capital assets	1 302	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 302
Machinery and equipment	1 302	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 302
Total	664 352	–	–	(40 000)	–	–	–	(40 000)	624 352

Programme 3: Public Employment Services

Subprogramme		2025/26							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments		
Management and Support Services:	370 852	–	–	(300)	–	–	–	(300)	370 552
Public Employment Services									
Employer Services	122 795	–	–	300	–	–	–	300	123 095
Work Seeker Services	265 688	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	265 688
Designated Groups	22 718	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	22 718
Special Services Supported	195 545	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	195 545
Employment Enterprises									
Productivity South Africa	64 123	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	64 123
Unemployment Insurance Fund	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Compensation Fund	13 247	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	13 247
Training of Staff: Public Employment Services	1 587	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 587
Total	1 056 556	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 056 556
Economic classification									
Current payments	450 853	–	–	(700)	–	–	–	(700)	450 153
Compensation of employees	404 011	–	–	(700)	–	–	–	(700)	403 311
Goods and services	46 842	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	46 842
Transfers and subsidies	590 697	–	–	700	–	–	–	700	591 397
Departmental agencies and accounts	327 371	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	327 371
Public corporations and private enterprises	45 000	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	45 000
Non-profit institutions	218 263	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	218 263
Households	63	–	–	700	–	–	–	700	763
Payments for capital assets	15 006	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15 006
Machinery and equipment	15 006	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15 006
Total	1 056 556	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 056 556

Programme 4: Labour Policy and Industrial Relations

Subprogramme		2025/26							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments		
Management and Support Services:	19 272	–	–	953	–	–	–	953	20 225
Labour Policy and Industrial Relations									
Strengthen Civil Society	24 962	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	24 962
Collective Bargaining	20 368	–	–	(363)	–	–	–	(363)	20 005
Employment Equity	14 649	–	–	364	–	–	–	364	15 013
Employment Standards	20 728	–	–	(1 264)	–	–	–	(1 264)	19 464
Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration	1 016 475	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 016 475
Research, Policy and Planning	11 533	–	–	(364)	–	–	–	(364)	11 169
Labour Market Information and Statistics	56 954	–	–	651	–	–	–	651	57 605
International Labour Matters	68 446	–	–	23	–	–	–	23	68 469
National Economic Development and Labour Council	80 109	132 029	–	–	–	–	–	132 029	212 138
Total	1 333 496	132 029	–	–	–	–	–	132 029	1 465 525
Economic classification									
Current payments	185 809	–	–	(1 258)	–	–	–	(1 258)	184 551
Compensation of employees	126 067	–	–	(363)	–	–	–	(363)	125 704
Goods and services	59 742	–	–	(895)	–	–	–	(895)	58 847
Transfers and subsidies	1 147 002	132 029	–	363	–	–	–	132 392	1 279 394
Departmental agencies and accounts	1 096 584	132 029	–	–	–	–	–	132 029	1 228 613
Foreign governments and international organisations	25 456	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	25 456
Non-profit institutions	24 962	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	24 962
Households	–	–	–	363	–	–	–	363	363
Payments for capital assets	685	–	–	895	–	–	–	895	1 580
Machinery and equipment	685	–	–	895	–	–	–	895	1 580
Total	1 333 496	132 029	–	–	–	–	–	132 029	1 465 525

Details of adjustments to the 2025 ENE**Appropriation of funds for expenditure announced by the minister during the tabling of the annual budget – R132.029 million****Programme 4: Labour Policy and Industrial Relations**

R132.029 million is allocated to the National Economic Development and Labour Council for the national dialogue, which brings together citizens, communities, sectors and government in a people-centred, solutions-oriented process designed to build a shared vision for the country's future, foster a new social compact, and address key challenges such as economic inequality, job creation and social cohesion.

Virements and shifts within the vote

Programmes

1. Administration
2. Inspection and Enforcement Services
3. Public Employment Services
4. Labour Policy and Industrial Relations

From:			To:		
Programme by economic classification	Motivation	R thousand	Programme by economic classification	Motivation	R thousand
Programme 1		(7 059)	Programme 1		7 059
Provinces and municipalities	Motor vehicle licences	(36)	Goods and services	Property payments	36
Goods and services	Advertising, audit fees, stationery, training	(60)	Provinces and municipalities	Motor vehicle licences	60
	Advertising, audit fees, stationery, training	(710)	Machinery and equipment	Audiovisual equipment, laptops	710
	Advertising, audit fees, stationery, training	(32)	Households	Claims against the state	32
Compensation of employees	Vacant posts	(221)		Leave gratuities	221
Buildings and other fixed structures	Provincial offices and head office	(6 000)	Machinery and equipment	Office furniture	6 000
Shifts within the programme as a percentage of the programme budget		0.6%			
Virements to other programmes as a percentage of the programme budget		0%			
Programme 2		(40 793)	Programme 1		40 000
Compensation of employees	Vacant posts	(24 000)	Goods and services	Photocopy machine lease, staff bursaries, travel and subsistence	24 000
	Vacant posts	(3 000)	Machinery and equipment	CCTV cameras for Laboria House	3 000
	Vacant posts	(13 000)	Payments for financial assets	Debt write-off	13 000
Goods and services	Stationery	(48)	Programme 2		793
			Households	Claims against the state	48
Compensation of employees	Vacant posts	(745)		Leave gratuities	745
Shifts within the programme as a percentage of the programme budget		0.1%			
Virements to other programmes as a percentage of the programme budget		6%			
Programme 3		(700)	Programme 3		700
Compensation of employees	Vacant posts	(700)	Households	Leave gratuities	700
Shifts within the programme as a percentage of the programme budget		0.1%			
Virements to other programmes as a percentage of the programme budget		0%			
Programme 4		(1 258)	Programme 4		1 258
Goods and services	Catering, printers, travel and subsistence	(895)	Machinery and equipment	Laptops	895
Compensation of employees	Vacant posts	(363)	Households	Leave gratuities	363
Shifts within the programme as a percentage of the programme budget		0.1%			
Virements to other programmes as a percentage of the programme budget		0%			
Total		(49 810)			49 810

Expenditure outcome for 2024/25 and actual expenditure for 2025/26

Programme	2024/25					2025/26			
	Adjusted appropriation	Outcome			Adjusted appropriation/Total (%)	Actual expenditure			
		Apr 24 - Sep 24	Apr 24 - Sep 24 % of adjusted appropriation	Apr 24 - Mar 25		Apr 24 - Mar 25 % of adjusted appropriation	Adjusted appropriation	Adjusted appropriation/Total (%)	Apr 25 - Sep 25
R thousand									
Administration	1 037 293	507 656	48.9	1 065 150	102.7	1 138 733	26.6	540 427	47.5
Inspection and Enforcement Services	637 832	275 378	43.2	548 008	85.9	624 352	14.6	295 823	47.4
Public Employment Services	917 526	426 509	46.5	929 991	101.4	1 056 556	24.7	1 099 724	104.1
Labour Policy and Industrial Relations	1 262 191	607 065	48.1	1 259 227	99.8	1 465 525	34.2	675 831	46.1
Total	3 854 842	1 816 608	47.1	3 802 376	98.6	4 285 166	100.0	2 611 805	60.9
Economic classification									
Current payments	2 142 277	1 029 479	48.1	2 086 292	97.4	2 273 458	53.1	1 789 265	78.7
Compensation of employees	1 486 793	685 440	46.1	1 344 185	90.4	1 556 378	36.3	1 376 423	88.4
Goods and services	655 484	344 039	52.5	742 107	113.2	717 080	16.7	412 842	57.6
Transfers and subsidies	1 615 204	768 524	47.6	1 629 402	100.9	1 873 070	43.7	798 990	42.7
Provinces and municipalities	866	386	44.6	899	103.8	828	0.0	404	48.8
Departmental agencies and accounts	1 295 673	577 406	44.6	1 305 200	100.7	1 555 984	36.3	627 823	40.3
Foreign governments and international organisations	23 192	–	–	20 764	89.5	25 456	0.6	–	–
Public corporations and private enterprises	57 500	57 500	100.0	57 500	100.0	45 000	1.1	45 000	100.0
Non-profit institutions	230 233	121 730	52.9	230 032	99.9	243 225	5.7	123 958	51.0
Households	7 740	11 502	148.6	15 007	193.9	2 577	0.1	1 805	70.0
Payments for capital assets	97 361	18 583	19.1	77 648	79.8	125 638	2.9	23 539	18.7
Buildings and other fixed structures	39 513	5 198	13.2	10 878	27.5	68 917	1.6	1 794	2.6
Machinery and equipment	57 499	12 652	22.0	55 885	97.2	56 721	1.3	21 745	38.3
Software and other intangible assets	349	733	210.0	10 885	3 118.9	–	–	–	–
Payments for financial assets	–	22	–	9 034	–	13 000	0.3	11	0.1
Total	3 854 842	1 816 608	47.1	3 802 376	98.6	4 285 166	100.0	2 611 805	60.9

Expenditure trends

Total expenditure in 2024/25 was R3.8 billion, 98.6 per cent of the adjusted appropriation for the year. Mid-year expenditure in 2024/25 was R1.8 billion, 47.1 per cent of the adjusted appropriation, whereas expenditure in the first half of 2025/26 was R2.6 billion, 60.9 per cent of the adjusted appropriation of R4.3 billion. Compared to the first half of 2024/25, expenditure over the same period in 2025/26 increased by R795.2 million, 43.8 per cent. This was mainly due to increased spending on compensation of employees because of challenges with the financial systems interface that resulted in duplicate payments being recorded but not paid, G20-related ministerial foreign travel, the procurement of office furniture for new labour centres and provincial offices, and increased transfers to the National Economic Development and Labour Council for the national dialogue and to the Compensation Fund for injury-on-duty claims by civil servants.

Departmental receipts

	2024/25					2025/26				
	Outcome					Budget estimate	Adjusted estimate	Adjusted receipts estimate/ Total (%)	Actual receipts	
	Adjusted estimate	Apr 24 - Sep 24	Apr 24 - Sep 24 % of adjusted estimate	Apr 24 - Mar 25	Apr 24 - Mar 25 % of adjusted estimate				Apr 25 - Sep 25	Apr 25 - Sep 25 % of adjusted estimate
R thousand										
Departmental receipts	29 676	14 286	48.1	33 020	111.3	32 221	31 002	100.0	13 176	42.5
Sales of goods and services produced by the department	16 039	7 364	45.9	12 806	79.8	17 179	14 660	47.3	6 008	41.0
Sales of scrap, waste, arms and other used current goods	37	13	35.1	23	62.2	42	42	0.1	18	42.9
Fines, penalties and forfeits	1 500	611	40.7	2 028	135.2	1 550	5 000	16.1	2 395	47.9
Interest, dividends and rent on land	1 500	1 222	81.5	3 661	244.1	2 300	1 800	5.8	702	39.0
Sales of capital assets	3 550	1 949	54.9	4 425	124.6	4 000	3 500	11.3	1 380	39.4
Transactions in financial assets and liabilities	7 050	3 127	44.4	10 077	142.9	7 150	6 000	19.4	2 673	44.6
Total	29 676	14 286	48.1	33 020	111.3	32 221	31 002	100.0	13 176	42.5

Revenue trends

Mid-year revenue in 2024/25 was R14.3 million, 48.1 per cent of the adjusted estimate, whereas revenue for the first half of 2025/26 was R13.2 million, 42.5 per cent of the adjusted estimate of R31 million. Compared to the first half of 2024/25, revenue over the same period in 2025/26 decreased by R1.1 million, 7.8 per cent. This was mainly due to the renewal of fewer occupational health and safety licences and the sale of fewer fleet vehicles at public auctions.

Changes to transfers and subsidies, including conditional grants

Summary of changes to transfers and subsidies per programme

2025/26									
	Appropriation	Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
		Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments		
R thousand									
Administration									
Provinces and municipalities									
Provinces									
Provincial agencies and funds									
Current	804	–	–	24	–	–	–	24	828
Vehicle licences	804	–	–	24	–	–	–	24	828
Households									
Social benefits									
Current	312	–	–	221	–	–	–	221	533
Employee social benefits	312	–	–	221	–	–	–	221	533
Households									
Other transfers to households									
Current	–	–	–	32	–	–	–	32	32
Claims against the state	–	–	–	32	–	–	–	32	32

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

		2025/26							Adjusted appropriation
		Adjustments appropriation						Total adjustments appropriation	
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments		
Inspection and Enforcement Services									
Households									
Social benefits									
Current									
	93	–	–	745	–	–	–	745	838
Employee social benefits	93	–	–	745	–	–	–	745	838
Households									
Other transfers to households									
Current									
	–	–	–	48	–	–	–	48	48
Claims against the state	–	–	–	48	–	–	–	48	48
Public Employment Services									
Households									
Social benefits									
Current									
	63	–	–	700	–	–	–	700	763
Employee social benefits	63	–	–	700	–	–	–	700	763
Labour Policy and Industrial Relations									
Departmental agencies and accounts									
Departmental agencies (non-business entities)									
Current									
	56 609	132 029	–	–	–	–	–	132 029	188 638
National Economic Development and Labour Council	56 609	132 029	–	–	–	–	–	132 029	188 638
Households									
Social benefits									
Current									
	–	–	–	363	–	–	–	363	363
Employee social benefits	–	–	–	363	–	–	–	363	363

