Vote 35

Science, Technology and Innovation

Adjusted budget summary

	2025/26				
		Special	Adjustments appropriation		Adjusted
R thousand	Appropriation	appropriation	Decrease	Increase	appropriation
Amount to be appropriated	**9 063 745**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**9 397 745**
of which:					
Current payments	685 716	–	–	9 750	695 466
Transfers and subsidies	8 357 214	–	–	324 250	8 681 464
Payments for capital assets	20 815	–	–	–	20 815
Executive authority	Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation				
Accounting officer	Director-General of Science, Technology and Innovation				
Website	www.dsti.gov.za				

Vote purpose

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

Performance

			Annual performance		
Indicator	Programme	MTDP outcome	Projected for 2025/26 as published in the 2025 ENE	Achieved in the first half of 2025/26 (April to September)	Changed target for 2025/26
Number of commercial outputs in designated areas per year	Technology Innovation	Outcome 8: A dynamic science, technology and innovation for growth	6	–[1]	–
Number of technology demonstrations, prototypes, products and services developed per year	Technology Innovation		30	–[1]	–
Funds invested by international partners in their own organisations and initiatives targeted at cooperation with South African partners in the areas of research, innovation, science, technology and innovative human capital development as part of cooperation initiatives implemented by the department per year	International Cooperation and Resources		R400m	–[2]	–
Number of doctoral students awarded bursaries per year, as reflected in reports from the National Research Foundation and relevant entities	Research, Development and Support	Outcome 14: Skills for the economy	2 580	1 752	1 800[3]
Number of pipeline postgraduate students (BTech, honours and masters students) awarded bursaries per year, as reflected in reports from the National Research Foundation and relevant entities	Research, Development and Support		4 500	3 817	3 600[3]
Number of researchers awarded research grants per year through programmes managed by the National Research Foundation, as reflected in the foundation's project reports	Research, Development and Support		4 800	2 178	2 500[2]

Performance (continued)

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)	Changed target for 2025/26
Number of knowledge and innovation products added to the industrial development and green economy intellectual property portfolio per year through fully funded or co-funded research initiatives	Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships	Outcome 9: Economic transformation for a just society	80	9	60[3]
Number of knowledge products on innovation for inclusive development published per year	Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships		60	–[2]	–

1. Data will be available only in the second half of 2025/26.
2. Indicator phased out and no longer reported on as per the department's 2025/26 annual performance plan.
3. Target reduced to ensure alignment with available budget.

Progress

Progress on the indicators related to the number of commercial outputs in designated areas and technology demonstrations, prototypes, products and services developed can be determined only by the end of the year. The department expects to achieve the targets by then. Initial phases typically focus more on research and development.

By mid-year, the department awarded bursaries to 1 752 doctoral students against an annual target of 1 800 and to 3 817 pipeline postgraduate students through the National Research Foundation against a target of 3 600 for the year. Overachievements on these targets were due to a high number of applications in the first half of 2025/26.

Adjusted estimates

Programme	2025/26								
		Adjustments appropriation							
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments[1]	Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
Administration	435 596	–	–	9 750	–	–	–	9 750	445 346
Technology Innovation	1 606 116	–	–	–	334 000	–	–	334 000	1 940 116
International Cooperation and Resources	152 787	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	152 787
Research Development and Support	5 170 610	–	–	(20 750)	–	–	–	(20 750)	5 149 860
Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships	1 698 636	–	–	11 000	–	–	–	11 000	1 709 636
Total	**9 063 745**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**9 397 745**
Economic classification									
Current payments	**685 716**	**–**	**–**	**9 750**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**9 750**	**695 466**
Compensation of employees	386 677	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	386 677
Goods and services	299 039	–	–	9 750	–	–	–	9 750	308 789
Transfers and subsidies	**8 357 214**	**–**	**–**	**(9 750)**	**334 000**	**–**	**–**	**324 250**	**8 681 464**
Departmental agencies and accounts	6 425 346	–	–	(20 750)	334 000	–	–	313 250	6 738 596
Public corporations and private enterprises	1 558 974	–	–	11 000	–	–	–	11 000	1 569 974
Non-profit institutions	372 894	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	372 894
Payments for capital assets	**20 815**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**20 815**
Machinery and equipment	20 815	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	20 815
Total	**9 063 745**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**9 397 745**

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								
		Adjustments appropriation							
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments	Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
Ministry	6 315	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6 315
Institutional Planning and Support	172 037	–	–	9 750	–	–	–	9 750	181 787
Corporate Services	250 995	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	250 995
Office Accommodation	6 249	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	6 249
Total	**435 596**	**–**	**–**	**9 750**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**9 750**	**445 346**
Economic classification									
Current payments	**397 613**	**–**	**–**	**9 750**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**9 750**	**407 363**
Compensation of employees	172 864	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	172 864
Goods and services	224 749	–	–	9 750	–	–	–	9 750	234 499
Transfers and subsidies	**17 168**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**17 168**
Non-profit institutions	17 168	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	17 168
Payments for capital assets	**20 815**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**20 815**
Machinery and equipment	20 815	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	20 815
Total	**435 596**	**–**	**–**	**9 750**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**9 750**	**445 346**

Programme 2: Technology Innovation

Subprogramme	2025/26								
		Adjustments appropriation							
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments	Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
Space Science	210 166	–	–	–	334 000	–	–	334 000	544 166
Hydrogen and Energy	185 075	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	185 075
Bio-innovation	205 940	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	205 940
Innovation Priorities and Instruments	941 352	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	941 352
National Intellectual Property Management Office	58 246	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	58 246
Office of the Deputy Director-General: Technology Innovation	5 337	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5 337
Total	**1 606 116**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**1 940 116**
Economic classification									
Current payments	**82 377**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**82 377**
Compensation of employees	58 729	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	58 729
Goods and services	23 648	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	23 648
Transfers and subsidies	**1 523 739**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**1 857 739**
Departmental agencies and accounts	1 101 369	–	–	–	334 000	–	–	334 000	1 435 369
Public corporations and private enterprises	131 236	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	131 236
Non-profit institutions	291 134	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	291 134
Total	**1 606 116**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**1 940 116**

Programme 3: International Cooperation and Resources

Subprogramme	2025/26								
		Adjustments appropriation							
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments	Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
Multilateral Cooperation and Africa	36 040	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	36 040
International Resources	74 873	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	74 873
Overseas Bilateral Cooperation	36 225	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	36 225
Office of the Deputy Director-General: International Cooperation and Resources	5 649	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5 649
Total	**152 787**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**152 787**
Economic classification									
Current payments	**79 831**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**79 831**
Compensation of employees	60 519	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	60 519
Goods and services	19 312	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	19 312
Transfers and subsidies	**72 956**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**72 956**
Departmental agencies and accounts	8 364	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	8 364
Non-profit institutions	64 592	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	64 592
Total	**152 787**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**152 787**

Programme 4: Research Development and Support

Subprogramme	2025/26								
		Adjustments appropriation							
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments	Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
Human Capital and Science Promotions	2 667 203	–	–	(11 750)	–	–	–	(11 750)	2 655 453
Science Missions	254 650	–	–	(59 000)	–	–	–	(59 000)	195 650
Basic Science and Infrastructure	1 245 973	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1 245 973
Astronomy	998 309	–	–	50 000	–	–	–	50 000	1 048 309
Office of the Deputy Director-General: Research, Development and Support	4 475	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4 475
Total	**5 170 610**	**–**	**–**	**(20 750)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**(20 750)**	**5 149 860**
Economic classification									
Current payments	**60 926**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**60 926**
Compensation of employees	44 168	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	44 168
Goods and services	16 758	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16 758
Transfers and subsidies	**5 109 684**	**–**	**–**	**(20 750)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**(20 750)**	**5 088 934**
Departmental agencies and accounts	4 807 965	–	–	(20 750)	–	–	–	(20 750)	4 787 215
Public corporations and private enterprises	301 719	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	301 719
Total	**5 170 610**	**–**	**–**	**(20 750)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**(20 750)**	**5 149 860**

Programme 5: Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships

Subprogramme	2025/26								
		Adjustments appropriation							
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments	Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
Sector Innovation and Green Economy	1 046 763	–	–	11 000	–	–	–	11 000	1 057 763
Innovation for Inclusive Development	376 396	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	376 396
Science and Technology Investment	30 090	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	30 090
Technology Localisation, Beneficiation and Advanced Manufacturing	241 567	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	241 567
Office of the Deputy Director-General: Socioeconomic Innovation Partnership	3 820	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3 820
Total	**1 698 636**	**–**	**–**	**11 000**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**11 000**	**1 709 636**
Economic classification									
Current payments	**64 969**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**64 969**
Compensation of employees	50 397	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	50 397
Goods and services	14 572	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	14 572
Transfers and subsidies	**1 633 667**	**–**	**–**	**11 000**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**11 000**	**1 644 667**
Departmental agencies and accounts	507 648	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	507 648
Public corporations and private enterprises	1 126 019	–	–	11 000	–	–	–	11 000	1 137 019
Total	**1 698 636**	**–**	**–**	**11 000**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**11 000**	**1 709 636**

Details of adjustments to the 2025 ENE

Virements and shifts within the vote

Programmes

1. Administration
2. Technology Innovation
3. International Cooperation and Resources
4. Research Development and Support
5. Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships

From:			To:		
Programme by economic classification	**Motivation**	**R thousand**	**Programme by economic classification**	**Motivation**	**R thousand**
Programme 4		**(70 750)**	**Programme 1**		**9 750**
Departmental agencies and accounts	Strategic science platforms for research and development[1]	(9 000)	Goods and services	Travel and subsistence[1]	9 000
	Science awareness initiatives and research to encourage youth participation[1]	(750)		Travel and subsistence[1]	750
			Programme 4		**50 000**
	Strategic science platforms for research and development[1]	(50 000)	Departmental agencies and accounts	National Research Foundation: Square Kilometre Array capital contribution to research funding[1]	50 000

Virements and shifts within the vote (continued)

From:			To:		
Programme by economic classification	**Motivation**	**R thousand**	**Programme by economic classification**	**Motivation**	**R thousand**
Programme 4			**Programme 5**		**11 000**
Departmental agencies and accounts	Science awareness initiatives and research to encourage youth participation[1]	(11 000)	Public corporations and private enterprises	Foundational research in artificial intelligence[1]	11 000
Shifts within the programme as a percentage of the programme budget		1%			
Virements to other programmes as a percentage of the programme budget		**0.4%**			
Total		**(70 750)**			**70 750**

1. National Treasury approval has been obtained.

Rollovers – R334 million

Programme 2: Technology Innovation

R9.9 million is rolled over for space science research and support for the South African National Agency's Space Weather Centre.

Programme 2: Technology Innovation

R324.1 million is rolled over for space science research for the development of satellite infrastructure, satellite-based augmentation systems and earth observation satellites.

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

Programme	2024/25					2025/26			
		Outcome						Actual expenditure	
R thousand	Adjusted appropriation	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	Apr 25 - Sep 25 % of adjusted appropriation
Administration	399 079	201 167	50.4	398 510	99.9	445 346	4.7	235 193	52.8
Technology Innovation	1 908 299	455 807	23.9	1 553 287	81.4	1 940 116	20.6	577 487	29.8
International Cooperation and Resources	140 205	59 992	42.8	138 658	98.9	152 787	1.6	69 691	45.6
Research Development and Support	5 363 584	2 758 801	51.4	5 363 652	100.0	5 149 860	54.8	3 511 021	68.2
Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships	1 629 977	915 629	56.2	1 618 600	99.3	1 709 636	18.2	918 831	53.7
Total	**9 441 144**	**4 391 396**	**46.5**	**9 072 707**	**96.1**	**9 397 745**	**100.0**	**5 312 223**	**56.5**

Expenditure outcome for 2024/25 and actual expenditure for 2025/26 (continued)

Economic classification	2024/25					2025/26			
		Outcome						Actual expenditure	
R thousand	Adjusted appropriation	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	Apr 25 - Sep 25 % of adjusted appropriation
Current payments	**644 866**	**325 241**	**50.4**	**628 421**	**97.4**	**695 466**	**7.4**	**361 886**	**52.0**
Compensation of employees	385 373	191 569	49.7	374 324	97.1	386 677	4.1	194 045	50.2
Goods and services	259 493	133 672	51.5	254 097	97.9	308 789	3.3	167 841	54.4
Transfers and subsidies	**8 783 117**	**4 058 333**	**46.2**	**8 428 220**	**96.0**	**8 681 464**	**92.4**	**4 940 320**	**56.9**
Departmental agencies and accounts	6 918 057	2 854 911	41.3	5 929 365	85.7	6 738 596	71.7	3 746 191	55.6
Higher education institutions	–	121 428	–	334 986	–	–	–	71 520	–
Foreign governments and international organisations	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4 729	–
Public corporations and private enterprises	1 492 110	890 427	59.7	1 800 459	120.7	1 569 974	16.7	1 020 382	65.0
Non-profit institutions	372 845	190 908	51.2	360 805	96.8	372 894	4.0	96 698	25.9
Households	105	659	627.6	2 605	2 481.0	–	–	800	–
Payments for capital assets	**13 161**	**7 822**	**59.4**	**16 055**	**122.0**	**20 815**	**0.2**	**10 017**	**48.1**
Machinery and equipment	13 161	7 822	59.4	16 055	122.0	20 815	0.2	10 017	48.1
Payments for financial assets	**–**	**–**	**–**	**11**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**
Total	**9 441 144**	**4 391 396**	**46.5**	**9 072 707**	**96.1**	**9 397 745**	**100.0**	**5 312 223**	**56.5**

Expenditure trends

Total expenditure in 2024/25 was R9.1 billion, 96.1 per cent of the adjusted appropriation for the year. Mid-year expenditure in 2024/25 was R4.4 billion, 46.5 per cent of the adjusted appropriation, whereas expenditure in the first half of 2025/26 was R5.3 billion, 56.5 per cent of the adjusted appropriation of R9.4 billion. Compared to the first half of 2024/25, expenditure over the same period in 2025/26 increased by R920.8 million, 21 per cent, mainly due to contracts for various projects being finalised on time, including for the biotechnology strategy, the innovation hub, aerospace support and earth observation.

Departmental receipts

	2024/25					2025/26				
		Outcome							Actual receipts	
R thousand	Adjusted estimate	Apr 24 - Sep 24	Apr 24 - Sep 24 % of adjusted estimate	Apr 24 - Mar 25	Apr 24 - Mar 25 % of adjusted estimate	Budget estimate	Adjusted estimate	Adjusted receipts estimate/ Total (%)	Apr 25 - Sep 25	Apr 25 - Sep 25 % of adjusted estimate
Departmental receipts	**3 152**	**3 438**	**109.1**	**5 361**	**170.1**	**783**	**883**	**100.0**	**92**	**10.4**
Sales of goods and services produced by the department	60	31	51.7	78	130.0	60	60	6.8	41	68.3
Sales of scrap, waste, arms and other used current goods	3	1	33.3	–	–	3	–	–	–	–
Interest, dividends and rent on land	21	21	100.0	46	219.0	20	45	5.1	20	44.4
Transactions in financial assets and liabilities	3 068	3 385	110.3	5 237	170.7	700	778	88.1	31	4.0
Total	**3 152**	**3 438**	**109.1**	**5 361**	**170.1**	**783**	**883**	**100.0**	**92**	**10.4**

Revenue trends

Mid-year revenue in 2024/25 was R3.4 million, 109.1 per cent of the adjusted estimate, whereas revenue for the first half of 2025/26 was R92 000, 10.4 per cent of the adjusted estimate of R883 000. Compared to the first half of 2024/25, revenue over the same period in 2025/26 decreased by R3.3 million, 97.3 per cent. This was mainly due to a decrease in unspent funds refunded to the department by implementing agencies.

Changes to transfers and subsidies, including conditional grants

Summary of changes to transfers and subsidies per programme

		2025/26							
		Adjustments appropriation							
R thousand	Appropriation	Expenditure announced in the budget	Unforeseeable /Unavoidable	Virements and shifts	Roll-overs	Self-financing	Other adjustments	Total adjustments appropriation	Adjusted appropriation
Technology Innovation									
Departmental agencies and accounts									
Departmental agencies (non-business entities)									
Current	**27 300**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**–**	**–**	**334 000**	**361 300**
Various institutions: Space science research: Economic competitiveness and support package	27 300	–	–	–	9 900	–	–	9 900	37 200
Various institutions: Space science research: Space Infrastructure Hub	–	–	–	–	324 100	–	–	324 100	324 100
Research Development and Support									
Departmental agencies and accounts									
Departmental agencies (non-business entities)									
Current	**339 372**	**–**	**–**	**(70 750)**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**(70 750)**	**268 622**
Various institutions: Science awareness, research and initiatives to encourage youth participation in science	101 185	–	–	(11 750)	–	–	–	(11 750)	89 435
Various institutions: Strategic science platforms for research and development	238 187	–	–	(59 000)	–	–	–	(59 000)	179 187
Capital	**946 312**	**–**	**–**	**50 000**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**50 000**	**996 312**
National Research Foundation: Square Kilometre Array: Capital contribution to research	946 312	–	–	50 000	–	–	–	50 000	996 312
Socioeconomic Innovation Partnerships									
Public corporations and private enterprises									
Public corporations									
Other transfers									
Current	**24 546**	**–**	**–**	**11 000**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**11 000**	**35 546**
Various institutions: ICT	24 546	–	–	11 000	–	–	–	11 000	35 546