

14:STATISTICS SOUTH AFRICA

AIM

The aim of Statistics South Africa is to collect, process and make statistics available.

EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES

Table 14.1 Expenditure by programme

R million	Expenditure outcomes			Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Administration	28,7	33,2	38,1	23,1	26,7	29,1	29,4
Statistical service ²	30,3	35,1	53,9	68,4	71,7	78,2	78,9
Population census ³	21,7	303,2	83,2	5,0	45,0	95,9	99,1
Auxiliary and associated services	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1
Total	80,8	371,7	175,3	96,5	143,5	203,3	207,5

¹ includes authorised losses of R1,4 million.

² Spending by programme has been reclassified where possible to correspond to the current programme structure.

³ The increase in 1996/97 is associated with the cost of the undertaking of the census.

- ◆ *Administration* comprises financial management, personnel and provisioning administration, legal and other office support services and the formulation of policy by the management of the department.
- ◆ *Statistical service* provides an official statistical service as well as certain support and advisory services.
- ◆ *Population census* involves planning and taking the census, and processing and publishing the results.
- ◆ *Auxiliary and associated services* involves support services, including the Statistics Council that advises the Minister.

Table 14.2 Economic classification of expenditure

R million	Expenditure outcomes			Preliminary outcome 1998/99	Medium term expenditure estimates		
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Current							
Personnel expenditure ¹	47,1	259,2	92,4	61,1	80,5	100,4	85,5
Other current expenditure	29,3	106,6	66,0	29,5	47,3	84,1	110,1
Capital							
Acquisition of capital assets	4,4	5,9	16,9	5,9	15,7	18,8	11,9
Total	80,8	371,7	175,3	96,5	143,5	202,3	207,5

¹ Departmental personnel expenditure includes employer's contributions to pension funds at a rate of 17 per cent of basic salary in 1998/99 and 15 per cent of basic salary in subsequent years.

OUTPUTS AND SERVICE DELIVERY TRENDS

Statistics SA's core business is to collect, capture, process, analyse and publish key economic and social statistics needed by the Government and the nation to formulate policy, monitor economic and social development and conduct economic and social research. This involves computer processing as the main means of production by line functions. To provide users with shorter turn-around times, reliable service, better analysis and presentations and new electronic formats, Statistics SA has improved its information technology capacity.

Economic statistics

Statistics SA produces official economic statistics on economic and social trends, based on around a hundred regular surveys a year. Results are presented in the form of indicators such as the consumer price index (CPI), the production price index (PPI) and the gross domestic product (GDP) and in the form of distributions of production, sales, financial, employment and earnings statistics tabulated by various key and background variables.

Social and demographic statistics

Statistics SA also produces social and demographic statistics based on information from household surveys and vital statistics from administrative records, eg on births.

New projects include:

- ◆ A rural survey focusing on access to agricultural land and other resources in so-called "deep rural areas" that are characterised by low levels of economic and infrastructural development.
- ◆ A survey on victims of crime for the Department of Safety and Security.
- ◆ An improved questionnaire for the annual October Household Survey.
- ◆ Training staff in the provincial offices to implement the regular labour-force surveys that are part of the Government's undertaking to the IMF.

Table 14.3 Quantitative indicator of staff training

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Number of permanent staff	582	581	635	627
Number of staff trained ¹	291	61	685	790

¹Some staff members were trained more than once

Special Data Dissemination Standard

In August 1996, South Africa subscribed to the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the International Monetary Fund. The standard is intended to guide member countries in providing comprehensive, timely, accessible and reliable economic and financial statistics in a world of increasing economic and financial integration. It includes data coverage, periodicity, timeliness, public access and quality of disseminated data as well as the independence and integrity of the statistical service. South Africa will have achieved compliance with most of the requirements of the SDDS during the 1998/99 financial year.

Business Register

The Business Register, covering public and private agriculture, mining, manufacturing, trade, services and other economic activities is fundamental to the quality of economic statistics. It is the source of structural statistics that describe the entire economy and the sampling frame for surveys on production, turnover, sales employment and payrolls.

Key users of economic statistics include the government, business sector employee associations, special interest groups, the National Accounts, the IMF and other organisations.

Table 14.4 Quantitative output indicators for statistical services

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Surveys	162	160	158	122 ¹
Releases	352	352	312	236 ¹
Reports	12	7	21	25
New surveys started	5	3	0	2
Surveys re-engineered	0	1	2	10

¹The decrease in the number of surveys and releases is mainly due to the integration of small surveys into more comprehensive ones. For instance seventeen sectoral labour surveys were integrated into two comprehensive all-industry surveys.

National and Government accounts

The National and Government Accounts, including supply and use tables (replacing the old input-output tables), are important to:

- ◆ Provide background information for the formulation of national economic policies.
- ◆ Monitor and support Government's macroeconomic strategy.
- ◆ Serve as an input to the annual national budget.
- ◆ Fulfil some of the SDDS requirements.
- ◆ Keep international investors informed.

United Nations System of National Accounts

Statistics SA is implementing the United Nations 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA 93), re-basing several economic series and implementing new ones to provide additional economic and financial information.

Key users of these accounts are the government, the South African Reserve Bank, the international investment community, the business sector, labour unions and other special interest groups.

Table 14.5 Quantitative output indicators for National and Government accounts

	1995	1996	1997	1998
Surveys	13	10	10	9
Releases	28	16	20	17
Reports	2	0	0	0
Series re-based	0	0	0	150
Surveys started	1	0	0	2

Five-yearly population census

Statistics SA conducts a population census every five years. The 1996 census covered the whole of South Africa, including rural areas and informal settlements. The results of the 1996 census are a basis for development planning and services provision by national, provincial and local government departments and agencies.

Household surveys

Between the population censuses, periodic household surveys are conducted to monitor social and economic development, including health, income, employment and education trends.

Geographic Information System

The census provided the impetus to develop a Geographic Information System (GIS), which can now supply the Independent Electoral Commission with maps for demarcation purposes. Though GIS technology requires large initial investments in equipment and time, its versatility ensures that it is increasingly becoming a standard user requirement.

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

Statistics SA has no direct policy responsibility, but its work supports policy and planning in the rest of government.

The transformation of Statistics SA since mid-1995, spanning its structure, staffing, activities and products, has been carefully aligned with three major initiatives:

- ◆ Statistics SA has re-engineered over 100 economic series and introduced several new labour surveys to provide more comprehensive and timely information.
- ◆ The management of the census was overhauled to improve output quality.

- ◆ The organisational structure has been transformed, including recruitment and training, human resource management and strategic budgeting and activity planning, in keeping with the transformation framework of the Department of Public Service and Administration.

Statistics Bill

The Interim Statistics Council drew up a policy paper on statistics and a new Statistics Bill in collaboration with Statistics SA. The extensive consultation process included various working sessions with representatives from the Australian, Canadian and Swedish national statistical services.

Economic statistics and national accounts

The implementation of the UN SNA93 and the IMF SDDS marks a significant policy shift as meeting these targets is a prerequisite for access to international financial markets.

Statistics SA took several steps to improve the quality, timeliness and reliability of information:

- ◆ A new annual Economic Activity Survey was designed and introduced during 1998.
- ◆ A local government census was implemented to provide financial information for the national accounts.
- ◆ Quarterly financial surveys were re-engineered and financial statistics of the construction and business services sectors included in the new surveys.
- ◆ The conceptual framework for the new Business Address Register, has been finalised and work on this project is under way in co-operation with SARS.

Provincial offices

Statistics SA's new provincial offices are starting to provide statistical information services to provincial governments and to form a regional infrastructure for the census and household survey programmes.

DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMMES

Programme 1: Administration

	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
R million		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	23,4	23,3	23,1	23,9	25,6	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	26,7	29,1	29,4

During the five-yearly population census, the permanent workforce of about 600 persons is augmented with about 100 000 temporary employees. The Department's Corporate Services section has to recruit, train, transport, provide accommodation for and pay wages and subsistence costs to all of these employees.

The administrative offices similarly have to deal with thousands of temporary workers during household surveys three or four times a year.

Programme 2: Statistical service

	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
R million		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	66,8	69,0	68,4	81,5	91,5	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	71,7	78,2	78,9

The sub-programmes of the *Statistical service* programme include:

- ◆ Economic statistics, entailing the planning of economic surveys and providing statistics that reflect economic trends.
- ◆ Demographic and social statistics, reflecting the demographic and social activities of the population.
- ◆ National accounts, estimating the different components of national and geographical accounts and providing statistics on public finance.
- ◆ Household surveys and vital statistics.
- ◆ Research and development, involving analysis of statistics and integrated statistical reviews.
- ◆ Provincial services, overseeing core provincial activities.

Programme 3: Population census

	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
R million		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	5,0	5,0	5,0	0,005	0,005	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	45,0	95,9	99,1

To take a population census and process the results, census activities must be planned, a GIS developed and enumerator areas digitised. This process is supported by an administration function that includes management, administrative and general office and auxiliary services.

Programme 4: Auxiliary and associated services

	Budget estimate	Adjusted appropriation	Preliminary outcome	Medium term expenditure estimates		
R million		1998/99		1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
1998 Budget	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,1	–
1999 Budget	–	–	–	0,1	0,1	0,1

Statistics Council

The Statistics Council advises the Minister and Government on statistical matters. The Council consists of representatives of Government, research institutions and business as well as of the statistical discipline. It is independent of Statistics SA and can therefore institute independent

reviews of the latter body's work. The Council generally provides guidance to promote the optimal utilisation of statistics both within government and in the community at large. In 1997 the Council was enlarged to allow representation from the provinces. Statistics SA provides secretarial support to the Council.

