

**Estimates of
National Expenditure
2024**

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The 2024 Estimates of National Expenditure is compiled with the latest available information from departmental and other sources. Some of this information is unaudited or subject to revision.

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The 2024 Estimates of National Expenditure e-publications for individual votes are available on www.treasury.gov.za. Also included are tables containing information on programme specific personnel expenditure, conditional grants to provinces and municipalities, public private partnerships and information on donor funding. Expenditure information at the level of site service delivery is included, where appropriate.

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2024

**National Treasury
Republic of South Africa**



Foreword

Following more than a decade of low growth, South Africa confronts difficult fiscal choices. The 2024 Budget outlines a balanced policy stance that protects frontline services and supports higher public and private investment while stabilising debt and reducing overall fiscal risks. Accordingly, it aims to address cost pressures and new policy priorities by reprioritising and reallocating budgets within departments and function groups.

Over the medium term, total consolidated spending is expected to increase nominally, from R2.4 trillion in 2024/25 to R2.6 trillion in 2026/27. Government's priority is to enhance spending quality and minimise inefficiency while ensuring sustainable public finances. Our overarching objective is to increase value for money.

Additional allocations amounting to R251.3 billion over the period ahead have been budgeted for in the health, education, social development, and peace and security functions. This is mainly to accommodate the 2023 public sector wage agreement and its carry-through costs, and the extension of the *COVID-19 social relief of distress grant*. However, this budget also proposes baseline reductions amounting to R206 billion over the medium term targeted at underperforming or underspending programmes across functions.

Over the next 3 years, the social wage accounts for an estimated 60.2 per cent of non-interest spending, covering programmes in the education, health, social protection, community development and employment functions.

The budgets presented in this publication are the result of extensive bilateral and function group engagements led by a committee of senior officials in central government departments, and in coordination with the Ministers' Committee on the Budget. There were also wide-ranging intergovernmental consultations on budgets at the provincial and local levels on issues of concurrent functions and the coordination of service delivery. Cabinet considered and ultimately approved the budgetary proposals emanating from these consultations.

I would like to extend special thanks to all contributors and government colleagues who helped to make this publication possible, particularly the advice of my colleagues in the Forum of South African Directors-General, the support of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Finance, and the excellent efforts of the National Treasury team.



Dr Duncan Pieterse
Director-General: National Treasury

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