

VOTE Statistics

VOTE Statistics

OVERVIEW

Appropriations sought for Vote Statistics in 1998/99 total \$58.919 million. This is intended to be spent as follows:

- \$1.050 million (1.8% of the Vote) on coordinating government statistical activities.
- \$29.140 million (49.5% of the Vote) on purchasing population, social and labour force statistics.
- \$28.729 million (48.7% of the Vote) on purchasing economic and business statistics.

Details of how the appropriations are to be spent appear in Parts B1, C and E of this Vote.

Vote Statistics does not contain any Crown revenue or Crown expenditure.

Footnotes

Note 1	<i>Not applicable as Crown revenue is not appropriated.</i>
Note 2	<i>Appropriations are stated GST inclusive (where applicable).</i>

VOTE Statistics

VOTE MINISTER: MINISTER OF STATISTICS

ADMINISTERING DEPARTMENT: STATISTICS NEW ZEALAND

The Minister of Statistics is the Responsible Minister for Statistics New Zealand

Part A - Statement of Objectives and Trends

Part A1 - Objectives for Vote Statistics

The appropriations sought for Vote Statistics will fund activities that will inform the Government and the community about the nature of the society we live in, the state of the economy, and our position in the world.

More specifically, the outputs funded by appropriations will:

- enhance planning and decision-making by both the Government and business
- facilitate electoral and political processes, and promote both the public accountability of central and local government and the effective discussion and debate of public issues
- promote the efficient operation of information, financial and other markets
- meet the information needs of international organisations and businesses, and of other nations that compare their position to that of New Zealand.

The Minister of Statistics will purchase outputs in Vote Statistics that will contribute to the Government's strategic result areas by:

- providing authoritative official statistics, independent of government influence, that measure progress towards those objectives
- informing effective public policy formulation, programme implementation, policy presentation and programme evaluation
- providing information on the nature of New Zealand society and on New Zealand's position in the world, which determines the context of the public programmes directed at the nine strategic result areas.

Links Between Output Classes and the Government's Outcomes

The link between the Department's three output classes and the Government's outcomes is as follows:

Output Class	Related Outcomes
Coordination of Government Statistical Activities	Contributes to the Government's enterprise and innovation strategy by ensuring that all government statistical activities are coordinated to minimise respondent burden, avoid duplication of effort and permit the linking of statistics from a variety of data sources. This contributes to stronger downward pressure on costs by reducing compliance costs.
Population, Social and Labour Force Statistical Information Services	<p>Contributes to the Government's education and training strategy by providing essential information for educational planning purposes, and on the relationship between educational attainment, qualifications, training and employment.</p> <p>Contributes to the Government's strategy of economic and social participation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Household Economic Survey, which is a key data source for measuring standard of living, wellbeing, income adequacy, and the nature of behavioural changes over time, in order to monitor the effectiveness of social programmes

Output Class	Related Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the projection of mortality trends, fertility trends and migration behaviour, which provides a reliable basis for developing a sustainable long-term social policy • the five-yearly Census of Population and Dwellings, which is a major source of information for the provision of social assistance • the programme of social reporting, which provides in-depth analysis of the circumstances of major subgroups of the population. <p>Contributes to the Government's Treaty of Waitangi strategy through the Census of Population and Dwellings, Household Economic Survey and Household Labour Force Survey, which provide information on Māori economic opportunity and social outcomes, and permit the monitoring of progress towards the goal of social and economic parity between Māori and non-Māori.</p>
Economic and Business Statistical Information Services	<p>Contributes to the Government's strategy of strong economic growth through a wide range of statistics that provides information necessary to facilitate and monitor economic activity and growth, employment, price stability, and employment relationships.</p> <p>Contributes to the Government's enterprise and innovation strategy through the provision of statistics on small business, research and development, capital investment and productivity. Other business and economic statistics enable markets to be well informed.</p>

Output Class	Related Outcomes
	Contributes to the Government's strategy of external linkages by measuring New Zealand's transactions with the rest of the world, and by providing international comparisons.

Part A2 - Trends in Vote Statistics

The time series of departmental flows for Vote Statistics reflects the fluctuations in the level of outputs purchased by the Crown.

Output Trends: 1993/94 to 1998/99

Appropriation trends for departmental output classes can be characterised by three major activities:

- cycles of statistical activity that impact on appropriations, the most visible being the Census of Population and Dwellings (see the following table). The most recent population census was held in March 1996, and the 1995/96 year saw an increase in appropriations of \$20.8 million to cover this activity. The next census in March 2001 will have a similar increase. The year immediately following the census sees a major reduction to the Vote (\$17.4 million), followed by minor reductions until the next census. With several notable exceptions, most other statistical activity has either monthly, quarterly or annual cycles that do not cause changes to appropriations from one year to the next. The exceptions that do impact on the Vote, but to a much lesser extent than the population census, are the seven-yearly cycle of the Inter-industry Study, the five-yearly cycle of the revision to the Consumers Price Index, and the three-yearly cycle of the Household Economic Survey

	1993/94 \$000	1994/95 \$000	1995/96 \$000	1996/97 \$000	1997/98 \$000	1998/99 \$000
Funding for the five-yearly Census of Population and Dwellings	3,278	3,789	24,597	7,127	1,877	3,278

Note: Funding for 1997/98 includes \$0.596 million expense transfer.

- information technology upgrade. Although this commenced in 1994/95, the significant impact was in 1995/96 with an increase of \$7.7 million. Since then the appropriation requirements for the upgrade increased slightly before slowly reducing, with the overall impact being a permanent increase to Vote Statistics of \$6.5 million
- increases for one-off contracted statistics that are funded via third parties. This trend commenced in 1995/96 with an increase of \$1.0 million. Since then the level of appropriation required for this activity has increased to around \$2.4 million and is expected to remain about this level.

Trends in Capital Contributions and Other Expenses: 1993/94 to 1998/99

Variations in these tend to reflect one-off rather than ongoing transactions.

Capital contributions

For Vote Statistics, capital contributions principally reflect three short-term trends:

- The first, covering 1993/94, 1994/95, and 1996/97, was capital to offset operating deficits owing to third-party revenue shortfalls in each of those years. The 1993/94 year also included a one-off cash injection of \$2.0 million for working capital.
- The second is a two-year trend for the capital cost of upgrading the Department's computing facilities and information systems. These costs were \$13.590 million in 1994/95 and \$4.430 million in 1995/96.
- The third trend is a small additional investment required in both 1995/96 and 1996/97 for carrying out the 1996 Census of Population and Dwellings.
- A capital contribution was also received in 1994/95 for the establishment of a Retiring Leave Provision.

Other expenses

- The 1994/95 amount included both the establishment of a retirement provision, and losses from the sale of assets as the Department upgraded its computing environment.

Analysis by Appropriation Type: 1998/99 and 1997/98 Compared

Departmental output classes

The 1998/99 annual appropriations for the purchase of departmental outputs are expected to total \$58.919 million, a net increase of \$1.060 million relative to 1997/98. The output classes are generally consistent with 1997/98, except for the factors outlined below (see Part B2 for further details).

[Census of Population and Dwellings \(output class D2\)](#)

Increases owing to the cycle of the Census of Population and Dwellings contributed \$1.401 million of the total change to the Vote. This five-yearly exercise, last undertaken in March 1996, provides much of the information necessary for the Government's future planning of social and economic services.

[Additional statistics for third-party clients](#)

Appropriations for output classes D2 and D3 have been adjusted for costs recovered from third parties for the supply of additional, short-term, contracted statistics. Appropriations for this type of activity have increased by \$0.129 million from \$2.123 million in 1997/98 to \$2.252 million in 1998/99. Output class D2 has increased by \$0.198 million while output class D3 has decreased by \$0.069 million. Although these short-term surveys are commissioned and funded by third-party clients, the resulting outputs are publicly available.

[Development of a longitudinal survey of incomes](#)

The appropriation for output class D2 has decreased by \$0.090 million for the continuation of the development only of a longitudinal survey of individuals' incomes. This survey covers income and the variables that affect income, and income adequacy for family or individual needs. The funding for this development work is via a vote transfer from Vote Research, Science and Technology and is for a three-year period.

[Minor changes \(all output classes\)](#)

In addition to the major changes above, a number of minor changes have occurred, including:

- a net decrease of \$0.395 million as a flow-on effect of the 1996/97 review of Statistics New Zealand's outputs (including expense reductions from reducing the third-party revenue target)
- a decrease of \$0.259 million for the seven-year cycle of the Inter-industry Study
- a decrease of \$0.185 million for savings necessary to fund the 1997/98 increase in appropriations for business continuity following the major power failure in Auckland's central business district
- an increase of \$0.395 million for the development phase of the Gross Domestic Product upgrade that was deferred from 1997/98
- \$0.039 million of increases covering an adjustment consequential to the 1997/98 change to the capital charge rate, and a small increment for the fourth full-year of the upgrade programme to the Department's computing facilities and information systems.

Trends in Vote Statistics - Summary of Appropriations and Crown Revenue

Types of Appropriation	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98		1998/99 Appropriations to be Used				Total \$000
	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Budget \$000	Estimated	By the Department Administering the Vote		For Non-Departmental Transactions		
						Actual \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000	
Operating Flows											
Classes of Outputs to be Supplied	46,848	46,232	75,412	59,985	57,859	57,859	58,919	-	-	-	58,919
Benefits and Other Unrequited Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	615	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Flows											
Capital Contributions	4,855	15,666	4,807	4,040	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase or Development of Capital Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-
Repayment of Debt	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	51,703	62,513	80,219	64,025	57,859	57,859	58,919	-	-	-	58,919
Total Crown Revenue and Receipts (see note 1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-

Part B - Statement of Appropriations

Part B1 - Details of 1998/99 Appropriations (see note 2)

	1997/98				1998/99		Description of 1998/99 Appropriations
	Vote		Estimated Actual		Vote		
Appropriations	Annual \$000	Other \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000	Annual \$000	Other \$000	
Departmental Output Classes (Mode B Gross)							
D1 Coordination of Government Statistical Activities	1,024	-	1,024	-	1,050	-	Fulfilment of the statistical coordination requirements of the Statistics Act 1975.
D2 Population, Social and Labour Force Statistical Information Services	30,222	-	30,222	-	29,140	-	Provision of statistics on population and demography, social policy, household economics, the labour market, Census of Population and Dwellings, and the environment; publication of statistical compendia; and maintaining the Streets Directory.
D3 Economic and Business Statistical Information Services	26,613	-	26,613	-	28,729	-	Provision of statistics on business, on international trade and finance, and on the government sector, and publication of the National Accounts.
Total Appropriations for Departmental Output Classes (Mode B Gross)	57,859	-	57,859	-	58,919	-	Refer to Part C1 for a full description.
Total Appropriations	57,859	-	57,859	-	58,919	-	

Part C - Explanation of Appropriations for Output Classes

Part C1 - Departmental Output Classes

Output Class D1 - Coordination of Government Statistical Activities

Description

The Minister of Statistics will purchase outputs to fulfil the statistical coordination requirements of the Statistics Act 1975, including:

- defining and facilitating the use of standard statistical concepts, procedures, definitions and classifications
- advising government departments on statistical matters
- conducting systematic reviews of the collection, compilation, analysis, abstraction and publication of official statistics
- providing assessments for ministerial approval of survey proposals submitted by government departments for surveys of major significance to the official statistical system.

Quantity, quality, timeliness and cost

Where appropriate, comparative figures for the previous year are shown in parentheses.

Quantity

The Minister of Statistics will expect to purchase one (one) report during the year. Six (six) survey proposals for surveys developed by Statistics New Zealand are expected for assessment.

Quality

The Minister of Statistics will expect outputs to be peer-assessed within the Department to ensure that they meet the quality standards as specified in the Purchase Agreement.

Timeliness

The Minister of Statistics will expect:

- assessments of survey proposals from within Statistics New Zealand seeking ministerial approval to be completed within 10 working days of receipt of the required documentation

- a further six approved departmental standards to be published for statistical concepts, definitions, classifications and questions in the *Directory of Concepts and Standards* by 30 June 1999.

Cost

This output class will be provided within the appropriated sum of \$1.050 million (inclusive of GST).

Year	Cost GST incl \$000	Cost GST excl \$000	Total Revenue GST excl \$000	Revenue Crown GST excl \$000	Revenue Other GST excl \$000
1998/99	1,050	934	934	917	17
1997/98	1,024	910	910	893	17

Output Class D2 - Population, Social and Labour Force Statistical Information Services

Description

The Minister of Statistics will purchase statistical and related outputs in the following categories:

Population and demography

Analysis of changes to the population base, including the preparation of population estimates and demographic projections.

Social policy

Information on social conditions in New Zealand.

Household economics

Statistics relating to individual and household income and expenditure, and the Consumers Price Index.

Labour market

Analysis of the labour force, including labour supply, wage rates, work stoppages, earnings and hours worked, employment contracts, and Labour Cost Index statistics.

Census of Population and Dwellings

Statistics and reports from the five-yearly census.

Statistical compendia

Publication of the biennial *New Zealand Official Yearbook*, *New Zealand in Profile*, and *Key Statistics*.

Environment

Maintaining an inventory of environment statistics.

Quantity, quality, timeliness and cost

Where appropriate, comparative figures for the previous year are shown in parentheses.

Quantity

The Minister of Statistics will expect 74 (82) unique statistical information releases and 23 (50) publications and reports to be published during the year. Full details are specified in the Purchase Agreement.

Quality

The Minister of Statistics will expect outputs in this class to be delivered in accordance with the following quality standards:

Coverage

An achieved survey sample should faithfully represent the intended survey population. The coverage standard for a survey specifies that population. For example, the coverage standard for the Household Economic Survey is the non-institutionalised, usually resident New Zealand population aged 15 years and over living in permanent, private dwellings. Full details are specified in the Purchase Agreement.

Of the six (six) surveys with response rate targets, three (three) will achieve a response rate of between 90% and 100%, one (one) will achieve a response rate of at least 85%, and two (two) will achieve a response rate of between 75% and 80%. Full details are specified in the Purchase Agreement.

Accuracy

Data will be free of computational and other processing errors, and will be able to meet reasonable independent scrutiny.

Integration

Survey information will be consistently classified to promote integration and comparison with statistics from other comparable data sources.

Presentation

Tables and graphs in *Hot Off The Press* releases and publications will meet the presentation standards set by the Office of the Government Statistician, as specified in the Purchase Agreement.

Timeliness

Monthly surveys

Food Price Index statistics will be released between 11 (11) days and 27 (20) days after the reference month, depending on the month. Final migration statistics, which were previously released quarterly, will be released three or five weeks after the reference month, depending on the month. Work stoppage statistics will be released four (four) months after the reference month.

Quarterly surveys

Statistics from eight (nine) quarterly surveys will be released as follows:

- for one (one) survey: less than five weeks after the reference quarter
- for four (five) surveys: between five weeks and less than 10 weeks after the reference quarter
- for three (three) surveys: between 10 weeks and 18 weeks after the reference quarter.

Annual surveys

Statistics from five (seven) annual surveys will be released between four (two) months and six (eight) months after the reference year, depending on the survey, and personal income and income tax statistics for 1995/96 will be released three years after the reference year.

Five-yearly surveys

Five (30) publications from the 1996 Census of Population and Dwellings will be published by 18 December 1998.

Full details are specified in the Purchase Agreement.

Cost

This output class will be provided within the appropriated sum of \$29.140 million (inclusive of GST).

Year	Cost GST incl \$000	Cost GST excl \$000	Total Revenue GST excl \$000	Revenue Crown GST excl \$000	Revenue Other GST excl \$000
1998/99	29,140	25,902	25,902	20,700	5,202
1997/98	30,222	26,864	26,864	21,951	4,913

Output Class D3 - Economic and Business Statistical Information Services

Description

The Minister of Statistics will purchase statistical and related outputs in the following categories:

[Business statistics](#)

Statistics relating to the productive base of the economy, including (a) business price indexes, (b) retail, wholesale, manufacturing and building activity, and (c) information technology.

[International trade and finance](#)

Statistics measuring changes in the value and volume of imports and exports of merchandise trade; statistics showing the flows of resources between all New Zealand businesses, government and individuals on the one hand, and the rest of the world on the other; overseas debt statistics; and New Zealand's International Investment Position statement.

[Government sector](#)

Statistics relating to the financial activities of central and local government.

[National Accounts](#)

Statistics analysing the past and current macro-performance of the New Zealand economy according to international standards, and describing the interdependence between industries.

Quantity, quality, timeliness and cost

Where appropriate, comparative figures for the previous year are shown in parentheses.

[Quantity](#)

The Minister of Statistics will expect 127 (123) unique statistical information releases and three (five) publications to be published during the year. Full details are specified in the Purchase Agreement.

[Quality](#)

The Minister of Statistics will expect outputs in this class to meet the following quality standards:

Coverage

An achieved survey sample should faithfully represent the intended survey population. The coverage standard for a survey specifies that population. For example, the coverage standard for the Quarterly Balance of Payments Survey is all companies and government organisations known to have overseas affiliations or transactions with non-residents. Full details are specified in the Purchase Agreement.

Of the 14 (14) surveys with overall response rate targets, eight (eight) will achieve a response rate of between 90% and 100%, three (three) will achieve a response rate of at least 85%, and three (three) will achieve a response rate of at least 75%. Full details are specified in the Purchase Agreement.

Accuracy

Data will be free of computational and other processing errors, and will be able to meet reasonable independent scrutiny.

Integration

Survey information will be consistently classified to promote integration and comparison with statistics from other comparable data sources.

Presentation

Tables and graphs in *Hot Off The Press* releases and publications will meet the presentation standards set by the Office of the Government Statistician, as specified in the Purchase Agreement.

Timeliness

Monthly surveys

Statistics from five (five) monthly surveys will be released between three (two) weeks and nine (nine) weeks after the reference month, depending on the survey.

Quarterly surveys

Statistics from 14 (12) quarterly surveys will be released as follows:

- for six (six) surveys: between five weeks and less than 10 weeks after the reference quarter
- for eight (six) surveys: between 10 weeks and 14 weeks after the reference quarter.

Six-monthly surveys

Provisional statistics from one (one) six-monthly survey will be released one (one) month after the reference period.

Annual surveys

Statistics from 10 (14) annual surveys will be released as follows:

- for five (six) surveys: between two months and less than 10 months after the reference year
- for four (five) surveys: between 10 months and 12 months after the reference year
- for one (three) survey: 19 months after the reference year.

Full details are specified in the Purchase Agreement.

Cost

This output class will be provided within the appropriated sum of \$28.729 million (inclusive of GST).

Year	Cost GST incl \$000	Cost GST excl \$000	Total Revenue GST excl \$000	Revenue Crown GST excl \$000	Revenue Other GST excl \$000
1998/99	28,729	25,537	25,537	22,454	3,083
1997/98	26,613	23,656	23,656	20,446	3,210

Part D - Explanation of Appropriations for Other Operating Flows

Part D1 - Benefits and Other Unrequited Expenses

There is no appropriation for Part D1.

Part D2 - Borrowing Expenses

There is no appropriation for Part D2.

Part D3 - Other Expenses

There is no appropriation for Part D3.

Part E - Explanation of Appropriations for Capital Flows

Part E1 - Capital Contributions

There are no capital contributions in the 1998/99 financial year.

Net Worth of Entities Owned

Statement of Estimated and Forecast Net Worth

Entities Owned	Balance Date	Estimated Net Worth 1997 \$ million	Forecast Net Worth 1998 \$ million
Statistics New Zealand	30 June	19.386	19.386

Part E2 - Purchase or Development of Capital Assets of the Crown

There is no appropriation for Part E2.

Part E3 - Repayment of Debt

There is no appropriation for Part E3.