

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Controlling officer: the Commissioner for Census and Statistics will account for expenditure under this Head.

Estimate 2001–02..... **\$825.7m**

Establishment ceiling 2001–02 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 1 558 non-directorate posts at 31 March 2001 reducing by 70 posts to 1 488 posts at 31 March 2002. **\$420.0m**

In addition there will be an estimated seven directorate posts at 31 March 2001 and at 31 March 2002.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1)a	Trade Statistics	This programme contributes to Policy Area 6: Commerce and Industry (Secretary for Commerce and Industry).
Programme (1)b	Trade Statistics	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Financial Services).
Programme (2)	Social Statistics	
Programme (3)	National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics	
Programme (4)	General Statistical Services	
Programme (5)	Price/Industry/Service Statistics	
Programme (6)	Labour Statistics	

Detail

Programme (1): Trade Statistics

	1999–2000 (Actual)	2000–01 (Approved)	2000–01 (Revised)	2001–02 (Estimate)
1(a) Financial provision (\$m)	136.7	137.4 (+0.5%)	131.6 (–4.2%)	148.8 (+13.1%)
1(b) Financial provision (\$m)	35.2	43.5 (+23.6%)	31.4 (–27.8%)	38.2 (+21.7%)
Total	171.9	180.9 (+5.2%)	163.0 (–9.9%)	187.0 (+14.7%)

Aim

2 The aim is to process trade declarations and cargo manifests, to safeguard Government's revenue from imports and exports declaration charges and to produce and analyse trade statistics.

Brief Description

3 The work involves:

- processing trade declarations submitted by traders and cargo manifests submitted by carriers;
- matching declarations and manifests to ensure full collection of imports and exports declaration charges;
- designing commodity classification systems and compiling trade statistics;
- developing systems for receiving cargo manifests by electronic means;
- conducting monthly surveys on trade related to outward processing in the Mainland;
- conducting surveys on re-export trade for estimating the rates of re-export margin;
- collecting data for adjusting imports statistics to a free-on-board basis to facilitate international comparison of trade data; and
- compiling port cargo statistics and container statistics.

4 All performance targets were achieved in 2000.

5 The key performance measures are:

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Targets

	Target	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action	1 working day	0.2	0.2	0.2
provision of photocopies or soft copies containing detailed information upon receipt of a firm order	5 working days	3	3	3
assistance in completion of trade declarations or cargo manifests				
simple enquiries by telephone or personal visit	10 minutes	6	4	5
complex enquiries by telephone or personal visit	3 working days	2	1	2
written enquiries	4 working days	3	1	3
time after reference period for release of monthly trade statistics	4 weeks	4	4	4

Indicators

	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Estimate)
trade declarations checked (m)	15.6	16.5	17.6
cargo manifests processed (m)	10.6	8.5 [†]	8.4
statistical reports/publications produced	9	9	9
no. of surveys conducted	3	3	3

[†] The number has declined as manifests for vehicles entering or leaving the territory by road without cargo are no longer required to be processed by the department as from April 2000.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001–02

6 The development of Phase 1 of the project for receiving cargo manifests by electronic means for all transport modes except road will be completed in 2001, with pilot run scheduled for the end of 2001. The development of Phase 2 of the project will begin to cater for back-end processing of electronic manifests by the Government. For road transport, a feasibility study for electronic submission of cargo manifests by electronic means will be carried out in 2001–02.

Programme (2): Social Statistics

	1999–2000 (Actual)	2000–01 (Approved)	2000–01 (Revised)	2001–02 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	87.9	169.9 (+93.3%)	153.9 (–9.4%)	332.4 (+116.0%)

Aim

7 The aim is to produce and analyse demographic, labour force and social statistics and to maintain a register of quarters as a sampling frame for conducting household surveys.

Brief Description

8 The work involves:

- conducting population censuses/by-censuses at 5-yearly intervals;
- compiling vital statistics and population statistics and making population projections;
- conducting a continuous General Household Survey with a core part to collect data on employment, unemployment and underemployment and a supplementary part to collect data on a variety of social topics;
- organising a series of thematic household surveys to meet the statistical data requirements of bureaux and departments under a contracting-out mode; and
- maintaining an up-to-date register of quarters.

9 The key performance measures are:

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Targets

	Target	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action	1 working day	1	1	1
provision of photocopies or soft copies containing detailed information upon receipt of a firm order	5 working days	5	4	4
time after reference period or time-point for release of				
half-yearly population statistics	2 months	1.6	1.6	1.6#
annual vital statistics	7.5 months	7.5	7.5	7.5
quarterly unemployment/ underemployment statistics	18 days	18	18	18

The plan for the release of the mid-2001 round population figure is 2 months in order to incorporate relevant data available from the 2001 Population Census results.

Indicators

	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Estimate)
quarters records updated	240 000	200 000	130 000§
households enumerated	111 200	106 000	2 200 000@
statistical systems maintained/enhanced/developed.....	10	10	10
statistical reports/publications produced	10	13	21
no. of surveys conducted	3	3†	4†

§ The reduction in 2001 is because updating of building records for the 2001 Population Census has been completed.

@ The significant increase is mainly due to the inclusion of households enumerated in the 2001 Population Census but excluding households enumerated in the thematic household surveys contracted out to private survey research firms.

† Including the thematic household surveys contracted out to private survey research firms.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02

10 The 2001 Population Census will be conducted in March 2001. The results will be disseminated in phases between the latter part of 2001 and mid-2002.

Programme (3): National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics

	1999-2000 (Actual)	2000-01 (Approved)	2000-01 (Revised)	2001-02 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	75.0	78.9 (+5.2%)	81.7 (+3.5%)	88.6 (+8.4%)

Aim

11 The aim is to produce and analyse Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Product (GNP) and Balance of Payments (BoP) statistics in a timely and accurate manner; and to assist in the preparation of Government's forecasts of various economic aggregates.

Brief Description

12 The work involves:

- compiling quarterly and annual GDP and GNP statistics based on the standard recommended in "A System of National Accounts" of the United Nations;
- compiling quarterly and annual BoP statistics in accordance with the standard stipulated in "The Fifth Edition of the Balance of Payments Manual" of the International Monetary Fund (IMF);
- conducting survey work for collecting data required for the compilation of annual external direct investment statistics and annual and quarterly GNP and BoP statistics; and
- performing econometric work related to the production of short-term and medium-term forecasts of economic aggregates.

13 In 2000, all performance targets were achieved.

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14 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action	1 working day	0.4	0.4	0.4
time after reference period for release of quarterly expenditure-based GDP	3 months	2.7	1.9	1.9
annual expenditure-based GDP	2.5 months	2.0	2.0	2.0
annual production-based GDP	12 months	12	11	11
quarterly GNP	6 months†	9	4.3@	3
annual GNP	6 months#	12	5.4	3
quarterly BoP statistics	6 months†	9	4.6@	3
annual BoP statistics	6 months#	14	5.6	3

† The target was 9 months for 1999.

The target was 12 months for 1999.

@ To comply with the IMF's SDDS requirement, the time lag for release of the statistics has been gradually reduced from about 6 months for the first quarter to less than 3 months as from the third quarter.

Indicators

	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Estimate)
statistical reports/publications produced	2	3	3
no. of surveys conducted	1	1	1

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02

15 In line with Government's commitment to meeting the requirements of the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), international investment position statistics will be compiled starting from the reference year 2001. In addition, Hong Kong will participate in the 2001 Coordinated Portfolio Investment Survey organised by the IMF.

Programme (4): General Statistical Services

	1999-2000 (Actual)	2000-01 (Approved)	2000-01 (Revised)	2001-02 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	17.6	17.5 (-0.6%)	21.9 (+25.1%)	22.9 (+4.6%)

Aim

16 The aim is to provide statistical consultancy services and to maintain quality standards in statistical work.

Brief Description

17 The work involves:

- providing professional assistance to policy bureaux and other departments in statistical work;
- co-ordinating statistical work to ensure data compatibility and to maintain quality standards;
- publishing general digests of statistics;
- maintaining and continuously enhancing the website of the department;
- co-ordinating and providing technical support for all end-user computer systems; and
- co-ordinating and providing support in information technology (IT) management areas such as software asset management and IT security.

18 In 2000, statistical services provided to policy bureaux and departments were generally maintained.

19 The key performance measures are:

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Targets

	Target	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action	1 working day	1	1	1

Indicators

	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Estimate)
assistance provided to policy bureaux/other departments projects undertaken	13	16	16
statistical reports/publications produced	6	5	6

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02

20 The need for objective, up-to-date and quality statistical information to facilitate policy planning in the Government and understanding and discussion of public issues by the community continues to increase. A system of internal quality assurance reviews on statistical services will be established to promote further the quality of statistical information compiled by the department. Efforts will be made to ensure that statistical services are oriented to the needs of users and also to co-ordinating statistical activities across government departments for ensuring data compatibility and maintaining quality standards.

21 In view of the ever-increasing use of statistics in society, attention will continue to be given to promoting statistical literacy in the community to ensure that statistical information is correctly interpreted and properly used.

22 In line with current developments in the community, importance is attached to the use of both the Chinese and the English languages in the department's statistical publications and in other communications with the public where applicable.

23 In line with global trend, the use of various electronic means for collection of data and dissemination of information and statistics has been a major area of development. Continuous efforts will be made to ensure that modern technology will be applied where appropriate to enhance efficiency not only for the department but also for raw data suppliers and statistics users.

24 In line with respective survey schedules, different survey-based computer systems will still be handling data which may be affected by the Y2K problem at different times in 2000 and 2001. Full efforts will be made to ensure that all computer systems can successfully handle the data in question.

Programme (5): Price/Industry/Service Statistics

	1999-2000 (Actual)	2000-01 (Approved)	2000-01 (Revised)	2001-02 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	118.0	114.6 (-2.9%)	121.4 (+5.9%)	130.6 (+7.6%)

Aim

25 The aim is to produce and analyse price, industry and service statistics.

Brief Description

26 The work involves:

- compiling consumer price indices (CPIs), index numbers relating to costs of labour and materials used in building and construction projects and import and export specification price indices on a monthly basis;
- conducting a household expenditure survey on a quinquennial basis to collect up-to-date information on household expenditure pattern for rebasing the CPIs;
- conducting a programme of annual economic surveys, covering all major economic sectors to collect detailed structural data;
- conducting monthly, quarterly and half-yearly surveys to collect data for compiling short-term indicators of the performance of selected economic sectors;
- conducting an annual survey to collect data on trade in services; and
- conducting an annual survey to collect data and opinions from regional headquarters and regional offices in Hong Kong.

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27 In 2000, ad hoc surveys were conducted to collect data on information technology usage and penetration in the business sector, and on employers' views on manpower training and job skills requirements. Research and development statistics for the business, higher education and government sector for 1998 were compiled. The annual survey on trade in services was enhanced to support compilation of statistics on offshore trading and related activities. Producer price indices for some selected service industries started to be published as from April 2000. Annual statistics on wholesale trade, the retail trade, the import/export trade, restaurants and hotels by more detailed business category breakdown were compiled.

28 Efforts were made to expedite the release of:

- (a) the results of the Annual Surveys of Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors by 3 months; of Transport and Related Services by 3 months; and of Storage, Communication, Financing, Insurance and Business Services by 2 months;
- (b) the quarterly business receipts indices for services industries and monthly retail sales statistics to within 3 months and 1.5 months respectively after the reference period.

29 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action	1 working day	1	1	1
provision of photocopies or soft copies containing detailed information upon receipt of a firm order	5 working days	5	4	4
time after reference period for release of results of				
Monthly Survey of Retail Sales	1.5 months#	1.8	1.5	1.2
Quarterly Survey of Industrial Production	3 months	3.0	2.9	2.9
Quarterly Survey of Restaurant Receipts and Purchases	2.9 months	2.9	2.9	1.9
Annual Survey of Industrial Production	14.5 months@	16.5	14.2	14.2
Annual Survey of Wholesale, Retail and Import and Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	15.9 months†	17.2	15.9	15.3
time after reference period for release of CPIs	24 days	23	22	22

The target was 1.8 months for 1999.

@ The target was 16.5 months for 1999.

† The target was 17.2 months for 1999.

Indicators

	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Estimate)
establishments enumerated	214 000	260 000§	262 000
households enumerated	1 600	4 500	—‡
price quotations collected	669 000	726 000	726 000
statistical reports/publications produced	19	21	21
no. of surveys conducted	35	35	31

§ Increase was mainly due to the implementation of three new surveys and the collection of base year prices for the new CPI.

‡ The Household Expenditure Survey was completed in October 2000.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001–02

30 Based on results of the Household Expenditure Survey, the new 1999/2000-based CPIs will be released in April 2001.

31 Release of the results of the Annual Survey on Wholesale, Retail and Import and Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels will be expedited by 2 months.

32 Preparatory work for establishing a system of science and technology statistics will begin and indicator series will be launched in phases from the second half of 2001–02.

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33 Monthly retail sales statistics by more detailed outlet type will be compiled.

34 Research into the compilation of productivity measures for the service industries and enhancement of productivity measures for the manufacturing sector will be carried out.

35 More product statistics of the service industries will be compiled.

36 The compilation of producer price indices will be expanded to cover more service industries.

Programme (6): Labour Statistics

	1999–2000 (Actual)	2000–01 (Approved)	2000–01 (Revised)	2001–02 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	57.1	61.6 (+7.9%)	57.1 (–7.3%)	64.2 (+12.4%)

Aim

37 The aim is to produce and analyse statistics on employment, vacancies, wage and manpower requirements and to maintain a central register of establishments as a sampling frame for conducting establishment surveys.

Brief Description

38 The work involves:

- compiling employment, vacancies and wage statistics;
- compiling statistics on manpower requirements and training needs; and
- maintaining the Central Register of Establishments.

39 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action	1 working day	1	1	1
provision of photocopies or soft copies containing detailed information upon receipt of a firm order	5 working days	5	5	5
time after reference period for release of results of quarterly surveys	13 weeks	14†	13	13

† The target was 16 weeks for 1999.

Indicators

	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Actual)	2001 (Estimate)
records of establishments updated	429 000	387 000#	387 000
establishments enumerated	666 000	691 000	706 000
statistical reports/publications produced	8	9	8
no. of surveys conducted	5	5	5

The drop in the number of establishments updated in 2000 was related to the improved economic conditions where there was less closing down of existent establishments and thus a smaller number of records requiring updating in the Central Register of Establishments.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001–02

40 To support the identification and classification of establishments in the information technology and telecommunications industries, the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification will be refined to allow a more precise classification of these businesses. This will facilitate the compilation of statistics specific to these industries.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	1999–2000 (Actual) (\$m)	2000–01 (Approved) (\$m)	2000–01 (Revised) (\$m)	2001–02 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Trade Statistics	171.9	180.9	163.0	187.0
(2) Social Statistics	87.9	169.9	153.9	332.4
(3) National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics.....	75.0	78.9	81.7	88.6
(4) General Statistical Services	17.6	17.5	21.9	22.9
(5) Price/Industry/Service Statistics	118.0	114.6	121.4	130.6
(6) Labour Statistics	57.1	61.6	57.1	64.2
	527.5	623.4 (+18.2%)	599.0 (–3.9%)	825.7 (+37.8%)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2001–02 is \$24.0 million (14.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2000–01. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for posts filled in 2000–01, salary increments for existing staff, a net creation of ten posts upon the expiry of the contracts of non-civil service contract staff and additional operating expenses for the Electronic Data Interchange for Manifest System, partly offset by a deletion of 14 posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2001–02 is \$178.5 million (116.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2000–01. This is due to the full-year provision for posts filled in 2000–01, salary increments for existing staff and additional operating expenses for the 2001 Population Census, partly offset by a net deletion of 75 posts mainly arising from the completion of the 2001 Population Census and a deletion of five posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2001–02 is \$6.9 million (8.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2000–01. This is due to the full-year provision for posts filled in 2000–01, salary increments for existing staff and a creation of four posts upon the expiry of the contracts of non-civil service contract staff, partly offset by a deletion of ten posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2001–02 is \$1.0 million (4.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2000–01. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for posts filled in 2000–01 and salary increments for existing staff.

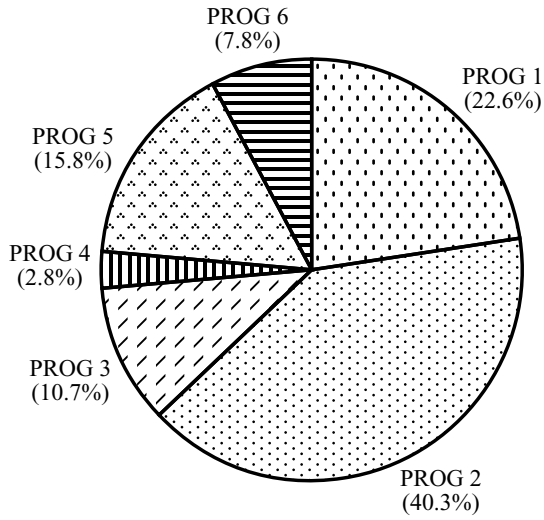
Programme (5)

Provision for 2001–02 is \$9.2 million (7.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2000–01. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for posts filled in 2000–01, salary increments for existing staff and a net creation of 20 posts upon the expiry of the contracts of non-civil service contract staff, partly offset by a deletion of 13 posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

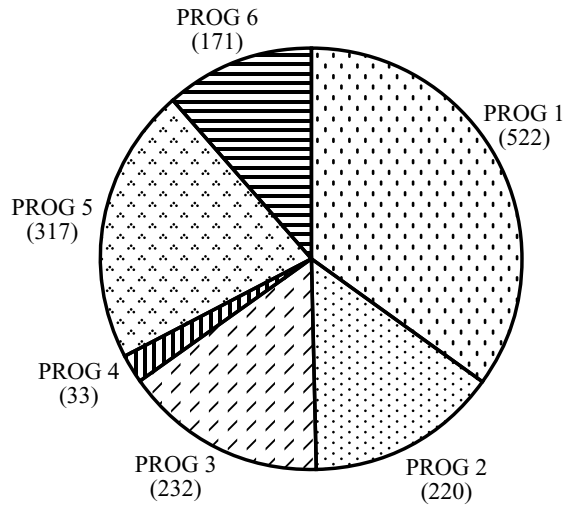
Programme (6)

Provision for 2001–02 is \$7.1 million (12.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2000–01. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for posts filled in 2000–01, salary increments for existing staff and a net creation of 20 posts upon the expiry of the contracts of non-civil service contract staff, partly offset by a deletion of seven posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

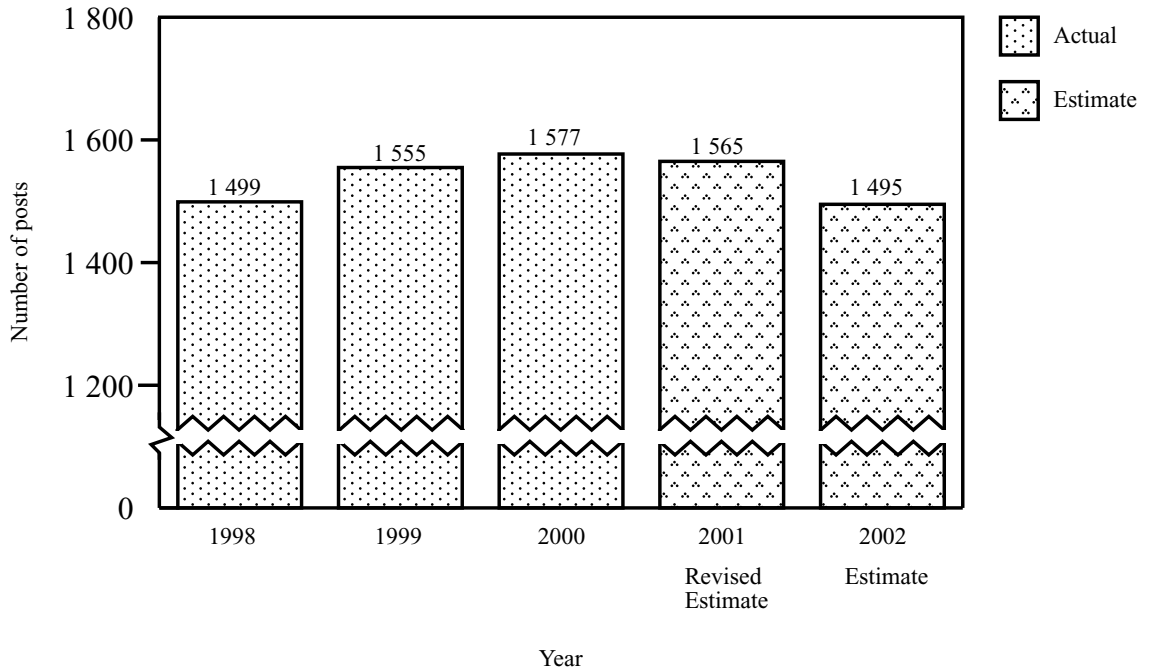
Allocation of provision to programmes (2001-02)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2002)



Changes in the size of the establishment (as at 31 March)



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 1999–2000	Approved estimate 2000–01	Revised estimate 2000–01	Estimate 2001–02
	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$'000
Recurrent Account				
000	Operational expenses	—	—	824,721
	Salaries.....	453,972	464,730	—
	Allowances.....	15,454	22,660	—
	Job-related allowances	16	16	—
	General departmental expenses.....	56,858	133,671	—
	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	233	234	—
	Total, Recurrent Account	526,533	621,311	824,721
Capital Account				
I — Plant, Equipment and Works				
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	946	2,065	963
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	946	2,065	963
	Total, Capital Account.....	946	2,065	963
	Total Expenditure	527,479	623,376	825,684

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2001–02 for the salaries and expenses of the Census and Statistics Department is \$825,684,000. This represents an increase of \$226,687,000 over the revised estimate for 2000–01 and of \$298,205,000 over actual expenditure in 1999–2000.

Recurrent Account

2 Provision of \$824,721,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries and allowances of staff of the Census and Statistics Department and its other operating expenses. Management and control of the department's operational expenses takes the form of a one-line vote. The controlling officer is given flexibility in the virement of funds within the subhead to facilitate the achievement of greater efficiency and enhanced productivity.

3 As a vote-funded department, the department is subject to establishment control. The establishment at 31 March 2001 will be 1 565 permanent posts. It is expected that a net 70 posts will be deleted in 2001–02. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated powers create or delete non-directorate posts during 2001–02, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$419,985,000 which will be reduced to \$392,524,000 upon the deletion of time-limited posts arising from the completion of the 2001 Population Census in the course of the year.

4 An analysis of financial provision under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is as follows:

	1999–2000 (Actual) (\$' 000)	2000–01 (Original Estimate) (\$' 000)	2000–01 (Revised Estimate) (\$' 000)	2001–02 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal emoluments				
- Salaries	453,972	464,730	464,730	485,342
- Allowances	15,454	22,660	16,919	19,396
- Job-related allowances	16	16	16	16
Departmental expenses				
- General departmental expenses	56,858	133,671	116,121	319,733
Subventions				
- Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	233	234	234	234
	526,533	621,311	598,020	824,721

5 Subject to the cash-limited ceiling of \$824,721,000 which will not be increased in the course of the year except for increases to the personal emoluments portion in line with the civil service pay adjustment, the controlling officer may deploy funds freely to meet requirements under each of the various expenditure components. The Administration will provide to Finance Committee quarterly financial reports showing actual spending and any redeployment of funds within *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* based on the above analysis.