

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

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

Estimate 2000–01 **\$623.4m**

Establishment ceiling 2000–01 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 1 615 non-directorate posts at 31 March 2000 reducing by 40 posts to 1 575 posts at 31 March 2001.. **\$448.3m**

In addition there will be an estimated seven directorate posts at 31 March 2000 and at 31 March 2001.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1)a	Trade Statistics	This programme contributes to Policy Area 6: Trade and Industry (Secretary for Trade 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

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)	2000–01 (Estimate)
1(a) Financial provision (\$m)	149.1	142.9 (–4.2%)	138.1 (–3.4%)	137.4 (–0.5%)
1(b) Financial provision (\$m)	38.4	41.4 (+7.8%)	41.5 (+0.2%)	43.5 (+4.8%)
Total	187.5	184.3 (–1.7%)	179.6 (–2.6%)	180.9 (+0.7%)

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;
- receiving trade declarations by means of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI);
- developing the use of EDI for cargo manifests;
- 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 1999.

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

5 The key performance measures in respect of trade statistics are:

Targets

Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action.....	0.3	0.2	0.2
provision of photocopies or soft copies upon receipt of a firm order.....	4	3	3
assistance in completion of trade declarations or cargo manifests			
simple enquiries by telephone or personal visit	8	6	6
complex enquiries by telephone or personal visit	1	2	2
written enquiries.....	3	3	3
time after reference period for release of monthly trade statistics.....	4	4	4

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
trade declarations checked (m)	15.0	15.6	16.1
cargo manifests processed (m).....	10.2	10.6	10.9
statistical reports/publications produced	9	9	9
no. of surveys conducted.....	3	3	3

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01

6 Following the full implementation of EDI for submitting trade declarations as from April 2000, another major area of development in the processing of trade documents for the Government is that of electronic manifests. Development of Phase 1 of the latter project, which is due to be implemented in mid-2001, will be in full swing in 2000.

Programme (2): Social Statistics

	1998-99 (Actual)	1999-2000 (Approved)	1999-2000 (Revised)	2000-01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	66.5	113.9 (+71.3%)	92.8 (-18.5%)	169.9 (+83.1%)

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 "omnibus" 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 in respect of social statistics are:

Targets

Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action.....	1	1	1

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
provision of photocopies or soft copies upon receipt of a firm order	5 working days	5	5	4
time after reference period for release of half-yearly population statistics.....	2.5 months	2.5	1.5	1.5
annual vital statistics	7.5 months	7.5	7.5	7.5
quarterly unemployment/ underemployment statistics.....	18 days	18	18	18

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
quarters records updated.....	119 000	240 000	200 000
households enumerated	90 000	111 200	106 000
statistical systems maintained/enhanced/developed	10	10	10
statistical reports/publications produced	9	10	10
no. of surveys conducted	2	3	2

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01

10 Preparation and planning of the 2001 Population Census is underway.

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

	1998-99 (Actual)	1999-2000 (Approved)	1999-2000 (Revised)	2000-01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	48.1	78.9 (+64.0%)	77.2 (-2.2%)	78.9 (+2.2%)

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 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 All performance targets were achieved. To meet the requirements of the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS), the time lag for releasing the quarterly expenditure-based GDP statistics was reduced to within three months (2.7 months) in 1999.

14 The key performance measures in respect of national accounts and BoP statistics are:

Targets

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (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#	3.8	2.7	1.9
annual expenditure-based GDP	2.5 months	1.6	2.0	2.0
annual production-based GDP.....	15 months	13	12	12
quarterly GNP	9 months	—	9	6

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
annual GNP.....	12 months†	15	12	6
quarterly BoP statistics	9 months	—	9	6
annual BoP statistics	15 months	—	14	6

The target was 4.5 months for 1998.

† The target was 20 months for 1998.

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
statistical reports/publications produced	2	2	3
no. of surveys conducted.....	1	1	1

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

15 In line with Government's commitment to meeting the requirements of the IMF's SDDS, detailed annual and quarterly BoP accounts will be compiled with the statistical system newly established in 1999–2000. BoP statistics with detailed breakdowns will be first available in the year 2000 starting with the reference year 1998.

Programme (4): General Statistical Services

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)	2000–01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	16.3	17.1 (+4.9%)	17.3 (+1.2%)	17.5 (+1.2%)

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;
- co-ordinating and providing technical support for ensuring the Year 2000 (Y2K) compliance status of all computer systems; and
- co-ordinating and providing technical support for reviewing the Y2K Contingency Plans, implementing the preparatory and preventive measures, and ensuring a smooth roll-over into the next millennium.

18 Statistical services provided to policy bureaux and Government departments were generally maintained.

19 The key performance measures in respect of general statistical services are:

Targets

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action.....	1 working day	1	1	1

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
assistance provided to policy bureaux/other departments projects undertaken	16	13	13
statistical reports/publications produced.....	5	6	5

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000–01

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. Efforts will be given to ensuring 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 increasingly common use of statistics in society, attention will 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 in this regard to ensure that modern technology will be applied where appropriate to enhance efficiency and expediency 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 handle data which may be affected by the Y2K problem at different times in the year 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

	1998–99 (Actual)	1999–2000 (Approved)	1999–2000 (Revised)	2000–01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	107.8	117.3 (+8.8%)	115.0 (–2.0%)	114.6 (–0.3%)

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; and
- conducting an annual survey to collect data on trade in services.

27 The existing quarterly and annual surveys on service industries has been enhanced for compilation of new statistics on service products and producer prices.

28 Efforts were made to expedite the release of the results of the Annual Survey of Industrial Production by three months.

29 The key performance measures in respect of price, industry and service statistics are:

Targets

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action.....	1 working day	1	1	1
provision of photocopies or soft copies upon receipt of a firm order	5 working days	5	5	4
time after reference period for release of results of				
Monthly Survey of Retail Sales.....	1.8 months	1.8	1.8	1.5
Quarterly Survey of Industrial Production.....	3 months§	3.3	3.0	2.9

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
Quarterly Survey of Restaurant Receipts and Purchases.....	2.9 months	2.9	2.9	2.9
Annual Survey of Industrial Production	16.5 months@	16.7	16.5	14.2
Annual Survey of Wholesale, Retail and Import and Export Trades, Restaurants and Hotels	17.2 months†	17.8	17.2	15.8
time after reference period for release of CPIs	24 days	22	23	22

§ The target was 3.3 months for 1998.

@ The target was 16.7 months for 1998.

† The target was 17.8 months for 1998.

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
establishments enumerated	216 000	214 000	234 000
households enumerated	N.A.#	1 600	4 500
price quotations collected	632 000	669 000	711 000
statistical reports/publications produced	19	19	18
no. of surveys conducted.....	35	35	33

Not applicable since the Household Expenditure Survey was only started in October 1999.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01

30 The Household Expenditure Survey started in October 1999 will last until September 2000. The results will be used for updating the weights for compiling CPIs.

31 More and better statistics on trade in services will be compiled.

32 Release of the results of the Annual Survey of Building, Construction and Real Estate Sectors and the Annual Survey of Transport and Related Services will be expedited by three months.

33 Monthly retail sales statistics by more detailed outlet type will be compiled. Release of the statistics will also be expedited to within 1.5 months after the reference month.

34 Release of the quarterly business receipts indices for service industries will be expedited to within three months after the reference quarter.

35 Annual wholesale trade, retail trade, import/export trade, restaurants and hotels industries statistics by more detailed outlet type will be compiled.

36 Enhanced statistics on offshore trading and related activities will be compiled.

37 Research into the compilation of productivity measures for the service industries will continue.

Programme (6): Labour Statistics

	1998-99 (Actual)	1999-2000 (Approved)	1999-2000 (Revised)	2000-01 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	62.4	68.3 (+9.5%)	59.3 (-13.2%)	61.6 (+3.9%)

Aim

38 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

39 The work involves:

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

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

40 All performance targets were achieved. The slight drop in the number of establishments enumerated in 1999 was related to the slower economic activities in the year when less new establishments were formed to carry out business.

41 The key performance measures in respect of labour statistics are:

Targets

	Target	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action.....	1 working day	1	1	1
provision of photocopies or soft copies upon receipt of a firm order	5 working days	5	5	4
time after reference period for release of results of quarterly surveys	16 weeks	15	14	13

Indicators

	1998 (Actual)	1999 (Actual)	2000 (Estimate)
records of establishments updated.....	424 000	429 000	420 000
establishments enumerated.....	720 000	666 000	661 000
statistical reports/publications produced	8	8	8
no. of surveys conducted	6	5	4

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2000-01

42 The Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification will be refined in respect of the information-related industries and telecommunication industries to accommodate the rapid development of these industries in the recent years.

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	1998–99 (Actual) (\$m)	1999–2000 (Approved) (\$m)	1999–2000 (Revised) (\$m)	2000–01 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Trade Statistics.....	187.5	184.3	179.6	180.9
(2) Social Statistics.....	66.5	113.9	92.8	169.9
(3) National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics.....	48.1	78.9	77.2	78.9
(4) General Statistical Services.....	16.3	17.1	17.3	17.5
(5) Price/Industry/Service Statistics	107.8	117.3	115.0	114.6
(6) Labour Statistics	62.4	68.3	59.3	61.6
	488.6	579.8 (+18.7%)	541.2 (–6.7%)	623.4 (+15.2%)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2000–01 is \$1.3 million (0.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is due to the full-year provision for posts filled in 1999–2000 and salary increments for existing staff, partly offset by a net deletion of 18 posts mainly arising from the implementation of the EDI project and a deletion of two posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2000–01 is \$77.1 million (83.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is due to a net creation of 36 posts and additional operating expenses mainly for the 2001 Population Census.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2000–01 is \$1.7 million (2.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for posts filled in 1999–2000 and salary increments for existing staff, partly offset by a deletion of eight posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2000–01 is \$0.2 million (1.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to salary increments for existing staff and a net creation of one post for operational needs.

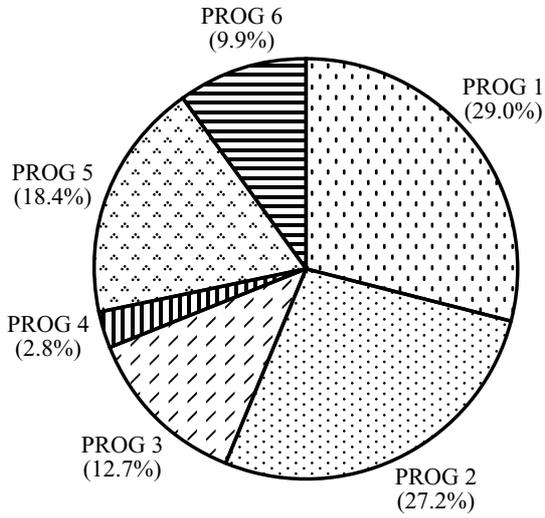
Programme (5)

Provision for 2000–01 is \$0.4 million (0.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to a net deletion of 40 posts mainly arising from the completion of the 1999–2000 Household Expenditure Survey and a deletion of five posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme, partly offset by the full-year provision for posts filled in 1999–2000 and salary increments for existing staff.

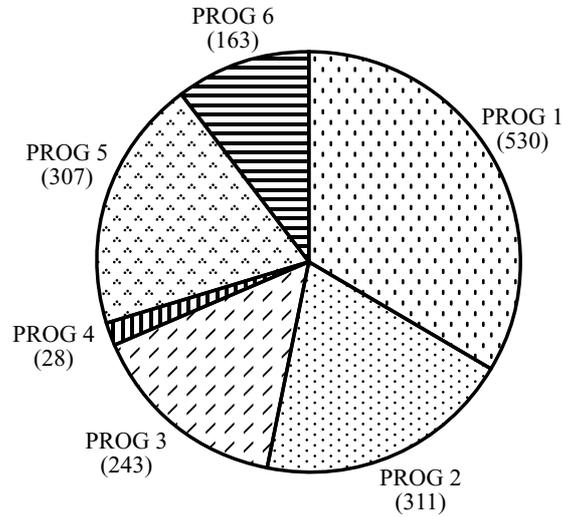
Programme (6)

Provision for 2000–01 is \$2.3 million (3.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to the full-year provision for posts filled in 1999–2000 and salary increments for existing staff, partly offset by a deletion of four posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme.

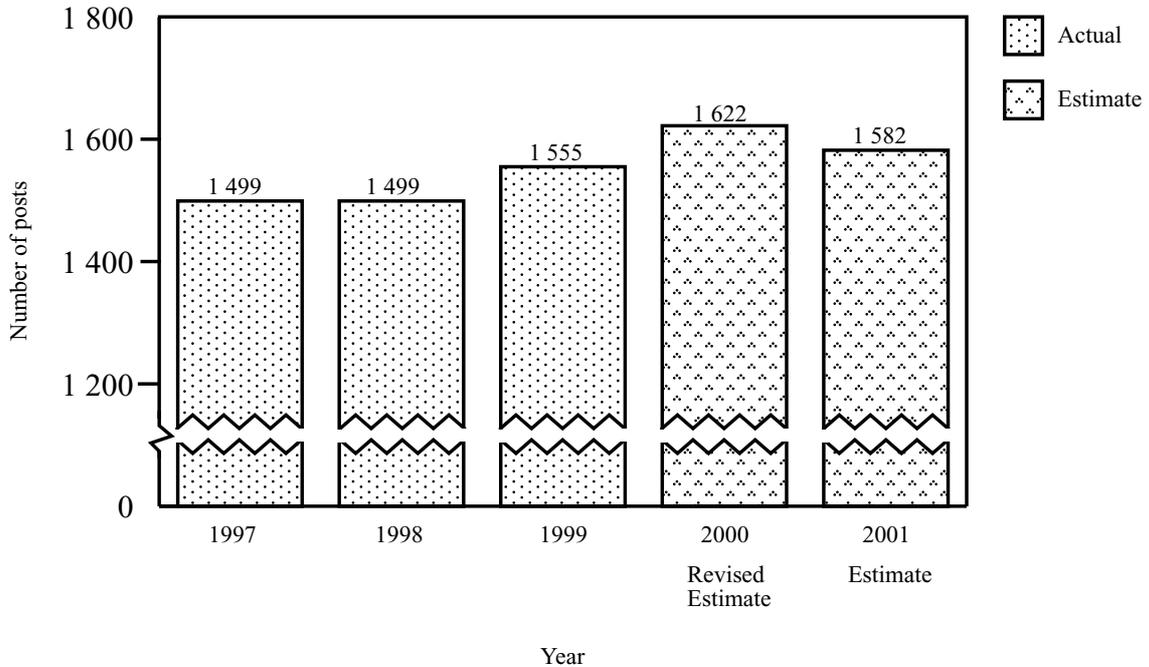
Allocation of provision to programmes (2000-01)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2001)



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



Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 1998–99	Approved estimate 1999–2000	Revised estimate 1999–2000	Estimate 2000–01	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Recurrent Account					
I — Personal Emoluments					
001	Salaries	433,299	495,914	458,300	464,730
002	Allowances	17,966	23,004	19,870	22,660
007	Job-related allowances	18	16	16	16
	Total, Personal Emoluments	<u>451,283</u>	<u>518,934</u>	<u>478,186</u>	<u>487,406</u>
III — Departmental Expenses					
149	General departmental expenses	35,881	58,496	60,852	133,671
	Total, Departmental Expenses	<u>35,881</u>	<u>58,496</u>	<u>60,852</u>	<u>133,671</u>
V — Subventions					
453	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	233	234	234	234
	Total, Subventions	<u>233</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>234</u>
	Total, Recurrent Account	<u>487,397</u>	<u>577,664</u>	<u>539,272</u>	<u>621,311</u>
Capital Account					
I — Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)	—	2,130	1,970	2,065
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works	<u>—</u>	<u>2,130</u>	<u>1,970</u>	<u>2,065</u>
II — Other Non-Recurrent					
	General other non-recurrent	1,188	—	—	—
	Total, Other Non-Recurrent	<u>1,188</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	Total, Capital Account	<u>1,188</u>	<u>2,130</u>	<u>1,970</u>	<u>2,065</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u><u>488,585</u></u>	<u><u>579,794</u></u>	<u><u>541,242</u></u>	<u><u>623,376</u></u>

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2000–01 for the salaries and expenses of the Census and Statistics Department is \$623,376,000. This represents an increase of \$82,134,000 over the revised estimate for 1999–2000 and of \$134,791,000 on actual expenditure in 1998–99.

Recurrent Account

Personal Emoluments

2 Provision of \$487,406,000 for personal emoluments represents an increase of \$9,220,000 over the revised estimate for 1999–2000 and takes into account salary increments for existing staff and full-year provision for posts filled in 1999–2000.

3 The establishment at 31 March 2000 will be 1 622 permanent posts. Taking into account creation of 26 posts mainly for the 2001 Population Census and meeting additional staffing requirements, deletion of 47 posts mainly due to completion of projects and deletion of 19 posts under the Enhanced Productivity Programme, it is expected that a net 40 posts will be deleted in 2000–01.

4 Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated powers create or delete non-directorate posts during 2000–01, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$448,255,000 which will be reduced to \$443,121,000 upon the lapse of 20 posts arising from the completion of two projects in the course of the year.

5 Provision of \$22,660,000 under *Subhead 002 Allowances* is for standard allowances. The increase of \$2,790,000 (14.0%) over the revised estimate for 1999–2000 is mainly due to additional requirements of overtime allowance and honoraria for the conduct of the 2001 Population Census.

6 Provision of \$16,000 under *Subhead 007 Job-related allowances* is for standard job-related allowances.

Departmental Expenses

7 Provision of \$133,671,000 under *Subhead 149 General departmental expenses* represents an increase of \$72,819,000 (119.7%) over the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to additional requirements arising from the 1999–2000 Household Expenditure Survey and the 2001 Population Census, particularly for employing temporary field workers and meeting printing and postage expenses.

Subventions

8 Provision of \$234,000 under *Subhead 453 Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific* is to meet the annual contribution of US\$30,000 to the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific. The institute organises training courses in social and economic statistics for personnel from countries/territories which are members/associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

9 Provision of \$2,065,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* represents an increase of \$95,000 (4.8%) over the revised estimate for 1999–2000. This is mainly due to the purchase of a new equipment for the 2001 Population Census, partly offset by reduced requirement for replacement of existing equipment.