Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

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

Estimate 2026–27 .... **$960.0m**

Establishment ceiling 2026–27 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 1 224 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 reducing by 27 posts to 1 197 posts as at 31 March 2027 .... **$606.5m**

In addition, there will be an estimated seven directorate posts as at 31 March 2026 and 31 March 2027.

Controlling Officer's Report

Programmes

Programme (1) Trade Statistics	This programme contributes to Policy Area 6: Commerce and Industry (Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development) and Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury).
Programme (2) Social Statistics **Programme (3) National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics** **Programme (4) General Statistical Services**	These programmes contribute to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury).
Programme (5) Price/Industry/Service Statistics	This programme contributes to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry) and Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury).
Programme (6) Labour Statistics	This programme contributes to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury).

Detail

Programme (1): Trade Statistics

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	**2026–27 (Estimate)**
Financial provision ($m)	179.9	205.8	206.3 (+0.2%)	**192.0** (–6.9%)

(or –6.7% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

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

Brief Description

3   The work involves:

- processing import/export declarations submitted by importers/exporters and cargo manifests submitted by carriers;

- matching import/export declarations and cargo manifests to ensure full collection of import/export declaration charges;

- designing commodity classification systems and compiling trade statistics;

- conducting surveys and using data analytics models to collect and estimate supplementary data on imports and exports, including cost of freight and insurance of imports and rates of margin of re-exports;

- compiling port cargo statistics and container statistics;

- conducting surveys to collect data on trade in services and offshore trade in goods; and

- compiling inward foreign affiliates statistics of Hong Kong.

4   The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Plan)**
provision of statistics requiring simple action (working days)	0.5	0.2	0.2	**0.2**
provision of photocopies or softcopies containing detailed information upon receipt of a firm order (working days)	2	2	2	**2**
assistance in completion of import/export declarations or cargo manifests				
simple enquiries by telephone or personal visit (minutes)	4	4	4	**4**
complex enquiries by telephone or personal visit (working days)	1	1	1	**1**
simple written enquiries (working days)δ	1	1	1	**1**
complex written enquiries (working days)‡	3	—	3	**3**
time after reference period for release of monthly trade statistics (weeks)	4	4	4	**4**
time required for issuing notices for outstanding import/export declarations (months)	1.5	1.2	1.2	**1.2**

δ   Revised description of the previous target "written enquiries" as from 2025 to include only simple written enquiries.

‡   New target as from 2025. Written enquiries have been classified as "simple" and "complex" with effect from 1 January 2025.

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Estimate)**
import/export declarations checked (million)	19.1	18.1	**18.1**
cargo manifests processed (million)	5.4	5.6	**5.6**
statistical reports/publications produced	6	6	**6**
surveys conducted	4	4	**3#**

\#   Monthly Survey on Insurance and Freight Costs for Import Trade will be discontinued starting from the survey reference period of 2026 in view of availability of statistics estimated from other data sources.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

5   During 2026–27, the Department will continue to support the use of electronic submission services for import/export declarations and cargo manifests.

Programme (2): Social Statistics

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	**2026–27 (Estimate)**
Financial provision ($m)	177.0	232.4	240.1 (+3.3%)	**290.9** (+21.2%)

(or +25.2% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

6   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.

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Brief Description

7   The work involves:

- conducting population censuses at five-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 the labour force, employment, unemployment and underemployment and a supplementary part to collect data on a variety of social topics;

- organising the Thematic Household Survey (THS) series to meet the statistical data requirements of bureaux and departments under a contracting-out mode; and

- maintaining an up-to-date register of quarters.

8   The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Plan)**
provision of statistics requiring simple action (working days)	1	1	1	**1**
provision of photocopies or softcopies containing detailed information upon receipt of a firm order (working days)	4	4	4	**4**
time after reference period or time-point for release of				
half-yearly population statistics (months)	1.7	1.6	1.5	**1.5**
annual vital statistics (months)	7.5	7.5	7.5	**7.5**
unemployment and underemployment statistics for three-month periods (days)	18	18	18	**18**

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Estimate)**
quarters records updated	159 000Δ	196 000Δ	**103 000**
households enumerated¶	84 000	92 000§	**351 000λ**
statistical systems maintained/enhanced/developed	10	10	**9ω**
statistical reports/publications producedφ	8	8	**9**
surveys conductedε	3	4ə	**3◊**

Δ   More quarters records were updated in 2024 and 2025 arising from the special updating exercise for the 2026 Population Census (26C).

¶   Excluding households enumerated in surveys contracted out to private market research firms.

§   Including households enumerated in the Small-scale Test Survey of the 26C.

λ   Including households expected to be enumerated in the 26C.

ω   A system for data pertaining to Hong Kong residents applying visas of foreign countries would be discontinued due to availability of alternative source data.

φ   The figures vary according to the requirements of bureaux and departments for conducting THS series as well as the scale and complexity of the surveys concerned.

ε   Including household surveys contracted out to private market research firms.

ə   Including the Small-scale Test Survey of the 26C.

◊   Including the 26C.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

9   The Department will conduct the 26C in the whole year of 2026 to obtain up-to-date benchmark information on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the Hong Kong population and on its geographical distribution. It involves a provision of $151,300,000 in 2026–27, which mainly covers the salary provision for civil service posts, engagement of contract staff, and payment of office rent.

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

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	**2026–27 (Estimate)**
Financial provision ($m)	104.1	108.5	102.1 (–5.9%)	**104.1 (+2.0%)**

(or –4.1% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

10 The aim is to produce and analyse Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Income (GNI), balance of payments (BoP) and related statistics in a timely and accurate manner, and to assist in the preparation of the Government's forecasts of various economic aggregates.

Brief Description

11 The work involves:

• compiling quarterly and annual GDP and GNI statistics based on international statistical standards recommended in the "System of National Accounts" of the United Nations;

• compiling quarterly and annual BoP, international investment position and external debt statistics in accordance with the standards stipulated in the "Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual" of the International Monetary Fund;

• conducting survey work for collecting data required for the compilation of annual external direct investment statistics as well as quarterly and annual GNI, BoP and related statistics; and

• providing data and professional support for performing econometric modelling related to the production of short-term and medium-term forecasts of economic aggregates.

12 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Plan)**
provision of statistics requiring simple action (working days)	1.0	0.4	0.4	**0.4**
time after reference period for release of various statistics (months)				
quarterly GDP by expenditure component	1.2	1.0	1.0	**1.1**
annual GDP by expenditure component	1.2	1.0	1.1	**1.0**
quarterly GDP by economic activity	3.0	2.6	2.6	**2.6**
annual GDP by economic activity	11	11	11	**11**
quarterly GNI	3.0	2.5	2.5	**2.5**
annual GNI	3.0	2.5	2.5	**2.5**
quarterly BoP statistics	3.0	2.7	2.7	**2.7**
annual BoP statistics	3.0	2.7	2.7	**2.7**
annual external direct investment statistics	12	12	12	**12**
quarterly statistics on international investment position	3.0	2.7	2.7	**2.7**
annual statistics on international investment position	3.0	2.7	2.7	**2.7**
quarterly external debt statistics	3.0	2.7	2.7	**2.7**
annual external debt statistics	3.0	2.7	2.7	**2.7**

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Estimate)**
statistical reports/publications produced..................................	5	5	**5**
surveys conducted	1	1	**1**

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

13 The Department will continue to enhance the methodology and compilation framework in respect of national accounts, BoP and related statistics to take account of the latest international standards and local economic developments.

Programme (4): General Statistical Services

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	**2026–27 (Estimate)**
Financial provision ($m)	42.8	43.9	44.7 (+1.8%)	**54.2** (+21.3%)

(or +23.5% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

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

Brief Description

15 The work involves:

• providing professional assistance to bureaux and departments in statistical work;

• providing data science advisory and analysis services to bureaux and departments;

• promoting statistical literacy and application of statistics in the community;

• co-ordinating statistical work to ensure data compatibility and maintain quality standards;

• publishing general digests of statistics;

• promoting and facilitating further improvement of statistical services under the Department's e-government strategy, including continuous enhancement of the Department's website;

• promoting the use of official statistics through dissemination in an open data approach;

• developing the overall information technology (IT) strategy of the Department, co-ordinating IT applications in statistical work and providing related business analysis and technical support; and

• promoting and facilitating the use of data science in statistical work.

16 The key performance measures are:

Target

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Plan)**
provision of statistics requiring simple action (working days)	1	1	1	**1**

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Estimate)**
projects of bureaux and departments for which the Department has provided assistance	10	10	**10**
statistical reports/publications produced..................................	5	5	**5**

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

17 The need for objective, up-to-date and quality statistical information to facilitate policy planning in the Government as well as community understanding and discussion of public issues continues to increase. To meet this need, the Department will continue to upgrade the quality of statistical services in terms of timeliness, relevance and user serviceability. It will continue to co-ordinate statistical activities across government departments to ensure data compatibility and maintain quality standards.

18 The Department will continue to promote statistical literacy and applications of statistics in the community through such activities as organising public seminars and supporting competitions for students to facilitate correct interpretation and proper use of statistics.

19 The Department will continue to use IT and data science to enhance its statistical services.

20 The Department will expand its data science advisory and anylsis services to support bureaux and departments to identify business pain points through data and develop corresponding solutions.

Programme (5): Price/Industry/Service Statistics

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	**2026–27 (Estimate)**
Financial provision ($m)	205.7	216.4	223.1 (+3.1%)	**206.9** (**–7.3%**)

(or –4.4% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

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

Brief Description

22 The work involves:

• compiling on a monthly basis Consumer Price Indices (CPIs) and index numbers relating to costs of labour and materials used in building and construction projects;

• conducting a Household Expenditure Survey (HES) at five-yearly intervals to collect up-to-date information on household expenditure pattern as important inputs for updating the expenditure weights of CPIs;

• conducting an annual economic survey covering all major industry sectors to collect detailed data in respect of the business performance and operating characteristics of these sectors;

• conducting monthly and quarterly economic surveys to collect data for compiling short-term indicators of the business performance of selected industry sectors;

• conducting an annual survey to collect both data and views of companies in Hong Kong with parent companies located outside Hong Kong;

• conducting an annual survey to collect data on innovation activities, including research and development, in the business sector; and

• conducting an ad hoc survey to collect data on IT usage and penetration in the business sector.

23 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Plan)**
provision of statistics requiring simple action (working days)	1	1	1	**1**
provision of photocopies or softcopies containing detailed information upon receipt of a firm order (working days)	4	4	4	**4**
time after reference period for release of results of various surveys (months)				
Monthly Survey of Retail Sales	1.1	1.0	1.0	**1.1**
Quarterly Survey of Service Industries	2.4	2.3	2.3	**2.3**

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Plan)**
Quarterly Survey of Restaurant Receipts and Purchases....................	1.2	1.1	1.1	**1.1**
Annual Survey of Economic Activities..	11	11	11	**11**
time after reference period for release of CPIs (days)	22	21	21	**22**

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Estimate)**
establishments enumerated...	286 300	274 900	**271 300**
households enumerated	1 800Ψ	5 700Ψ	**—**
price quotations collected...	697 700	665 300	**665 500**
statistical reports/publications produced..................................	23α	22	**22γ**
surveys conducted	17β	17μ	**15φ**

Ψ   Including the number of households enumerated in the 2024–25 HES.
α   Including the "Report on the Survey on Information Technology Usage and Penetration in the Business Sector".
γ   Including the "Report on the Survey on Information Technology Usage and Penetration in the Business Sector" and the report "2024–25 Household Expenditure Survey". The "Statistical Digest of the Services Sector" and the "Hong Kong Energy Statistics Quarterly Report" are discontinued as from 2026.
β   Including the 2024–25 HES conducted at five-yearly intervals and the Annual Survey of Premises Owned and Occupied by Private Non-profit Bodies conducted biennially.
μ   Including the Survey on Information Technology Usage and Penetration in the Business Sector for 2025 and the 2024–25 HES conducted at five-yearly intervals.
φ   Including the Annual Survey of Premises Owned and Occupied by Private Non-profit Bodies conducted biennially but excluding the Monthly Survey on Payment Card and Stored Value Facility Schemes which is discontinued as from 2026.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

24   The Department will review the compilation framework of statistics relating to digital economy to meet the needs of data users.

Programme (6): Labour Statistics

	2024–25 (Actual)	2025–26 (Original)	2025–26 (Revised)	**2026–27 (Estimate)**
Financial provision ($m)	112.1	117.8	107.9 (−8.4%)	**111.9 (+3.7%)**

(or −5.0% on 2025–26 Original)

Aim

25   The aim is to produce and analyse statistics on persons engaged, vacancies, wage and labour earnings and to maintain a Central Register of Establishments (CRE) as a sampling frame for conducting establishment surveys.

Brief Description

26   The work involves:

•   compiling persons engaged, vacancies, wage and labour earnings statistics; and

•   maintaining the CRE.

27 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Plan)**
provision of statistics requiring simple action (working days)	1	1	1	**1**
provision of photocopies or softcopies containing detailed information upon receipt of a firm order (working days).....	4	4	4	**4**
time after reference period for release of results of quarterly surveys (weeks)	13	13	13	**13**

Indicators

	2024 (Actual)	2025 (Actual)	**2026 (Estimate)**
records of establishments updated	809 000	877 000∧	**877 000∧**
establishments enumerated...	840 000	935 000∧	**920 000∧**
statistical reports/publications produced.................................	4	4	**4**
surveys conducted	4	4	**4**

∧ The increases as compared with 2024 were mainly due to more applications for change in business registration particulars received from the Business Registration Office and more records of establishments updated as a result of the Special Updating Exercise conducted by the Department in preparation for the implementation of the new Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification (HSIC).

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27

28 The Department will continue to enhance the labour statistics compilation framework so that comprehensive, timely and reliable statistics can be made available to facilitate related policy reviews and formulation.

29 The Department will modify the HSIC, taking into account the changes in local economic structure and improvements brought about by the "International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 5", which was endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2024. The new HSIC will be used progressively in different surveys of the Department starting from 2027.

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2024–25 (Actual) ($m)	2025–26 (Original) ($m)	2025–26 (Revised) ($m)	2026–27 (Estimate) ($m)
(1) Trade Statistics	179.9	205.8	206.3	**192.0**
(2) Social Statistics	177.0	232.4	240.1	**290.9**
(3) National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics	104.1	108.5	102.1	**104.1**
(4) General Statistical Services	42.8	43.9	44.7	**54.2**
(5) Price/Industry/Service Statistics	205.7	216.4	223.1	**206.9**
(6) Labour Statistics	112.1	117.8	107.9	**111.9**
	821.6	924.8	924.2 (–0.1%)	**960.0 (+3.9%)**

(or +3.8% on 2025–26 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2026–27 is $14.3 million (6.9%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decrease in operating expenses and a decrease of 21 posts in 2026–27, partly offset by the increased salary provision for filling vacancies and staff changes.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2026–27 is $50.8 million (21.2%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the additional provision for conducting the 26C and the increased salary provision for filling vacancies and staff changes, partly offset by the decrease in operating expenses and a decrease of one post in 2026–27.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2026–27 is $2.0 million (2.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased salary provision for filling vacancies and staff changes, partly offset by the decrease in operating expenses.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2026–27 is $9.5 million (21.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increase in operating expenses to support the expansion of data science advisory and analysis services to bureaux and departments.
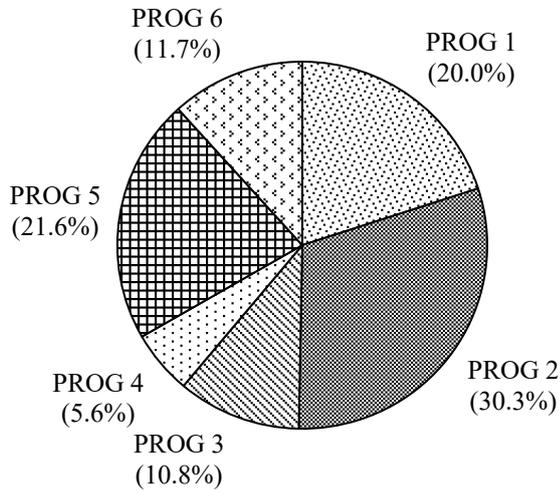
Programme (5)

Provision for 2026–27 is $16.2 million (7.3%) lower than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the decreased operating expenses for conducting the 2024–25 HES and a net decrease of five posts in 2026–27.
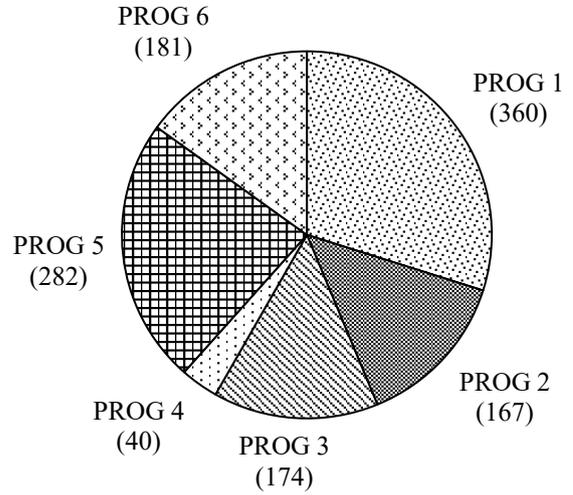
Programme (6)

Provision for 2026–27 is $4.0 million (3.7%) higher than the revised estimate for 2025–26. This is mainly due to the increased salary provision for filling vacancies and staff changes, partly offset by the decrease in operating expenses.
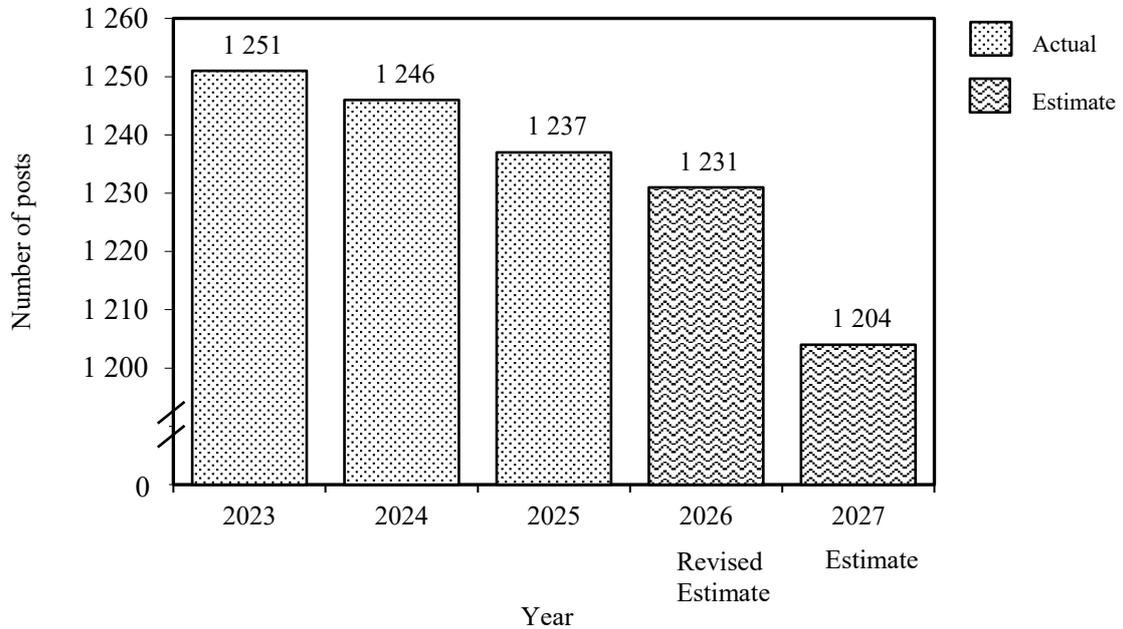
*Allocation of provision
to programmes
(2026-27)*

PROG 6
(11.7%)

PROG 1
(20.0%)

PROG 5
(21.6%)

PROG 4
(5.6%)

PROG 3
(10.8%)

PROG 2
(30.3%)

*Staff by programme
(as at 31 March 2027)*

PROG 6
(181)

PROG 1
(360)

PROG 5
(282)

PROG 4
(40)

PROG 3
(174)

PROG 2
(167)

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

Number of posts

1 260

1 250

1 240

1 230

1 220

1 210

1 200

0

1 251

1 246

1 237

1 231

1 204

2023

2024

2025

2026
Revised
Estimate

2027
Estimate

Year

Actual

Estimate

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Sub-head (Code)		Actual expenditure 2024–25	Approved estimate 2025–26	Revised estimate 2025–26	Estimate 2026–27
		$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
	Operating Account				
	Recurrent				
000	Operational expenses	820,922	924,332	923,684	**959,965**
	Total, Recurrent.....................................	820,922	924,332	923,684	**959,965**
	Total, Operating Account	820,922	924,332	923,684	**959,965**
	Capital Account				
	Plant, Equipment and Works				
	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)..	707	500	500	—
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works........	707	500	500	—
	Total, Capital Account.............................	707	500	500	—
	Total Expenditure	821,629	924,832	924,184	**959,965**

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2026–27 for the salaries and expenses of the Census and Statistics Department is $959,965,000. This represents an increase of $35,781,000 over the revised estimate for 2025–26 and $138,336,000 over the actual expenditure in 2024–25.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2   Provision of $959,965,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Census and Statistics Department.

3   The establishment as at 31 March 2026 will be 1 231 posts. It is expected that there will be a net decrease of 27 posts in 2026–27. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2026–27, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed $606,542,000.

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

	2024–25 (Actual) ($'000)	2025–26 (Original) ($'000)	2025–26 (Revised) ($'000)	**2026–27 (Estimate) ($'000)**
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries	613,893	646,975	616,033	**639,808**
- Allowances	8,737	9,411	11,181	**14,291**
- Job-related allowances	—	1	1	**1**
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution	1,935	2,400	1,667	**1,869**
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution	47,451	53,797	52,707	**59,173**
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	148,672	211,511	241,860	**244,586**
Other Charges				
- Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	234	237	235	**237**
	820,922	924,332	923,684	**959,965**