



stats sa

Department:
Statistics South Africa
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa, ISibalo House, Koch Street, Salvokop, Pretoria, 0002
www.statssa.gov.za, info@statssa.gov.za, Tel +27 12 310 8911

STATISTICAL RELEASE

P9103.1

Financial statistics of higher education institutions

2025

This release provides an analysis of revisions. If you have any questions or comments, please send them to Elizabeth Makhafola, elizabethma@statssa.gov.za.

Embargoed until:
29 October 2026
11:00

ENQUIRIES:
Elizabeth Makhafola
Tel: (012) 310 8977

FORTHCOMING ISSUE:
2026

EXPECTED RELEASE DATE:
October 2027



Dipalopalo tsa Aforikaborwa • Dipalopalo tsa Aforika Borwa • Ezazibalo zaseNingizimu Afrika • Tshitatistika Afrika Tshipembe • Tinhlayo Afrika-Dzonga

Statistieke Suid-Afrika • Dipalopalo tsa Aforika Borwa • Telubalo zaseNingizimu Afrika • EzeeNkcukacha maNani zoMzantsi Afrika • Iimbalobalo zeSewula Afrika

IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH DATA ECOSYSTEMS



Contents	Page
Key findings	2
Table A Economic classification of statement of sources and uses of cash of higher education institutions for the 2024 and 2025 financial years (summary).....	4
Table B Economic classification of cash outflows (purchases) from investment in non-financial assets for the 2024 and 2025 financial years (summary).....	7
Annexure A Information on disaggregated tables is available on the Stats SA website	8
Annexure B Statement of sources and uses of cash for the individual higher education institutions for the 2025 financial year	9
Analysis of revisions	10
Table C Total higher education institutions revenue: revision details.....	11
Explanatory notes	12
Glossary	16
Technical enquiries	19
General information	20

Key findings

The net change in the stock of cash from higher education institutions amounted to a cash surplus of R2 726 million for the 2025 financial year.

The revenue cash flows from operating activities amounted to R116 636 million and the expense cash flows for operating activities amounted to R102 671 million, resulting in a net cash inflow from operating activities of R13 965 million for the financial year ended 31 December 2025. The net cash outflow from transactions in non-financial assets amounted to R10 168 million for the 2025 financial year. The cash surplus for 2025 was R3 797 million. The net acquisition of financial assets other than cash amounted to a cash outflow of R756 million for the 2025 financial year. The net incurrence of liabilities amounted to a cash outflow of R315 million. This resulted in a net cash outflow of R1 071 million from financing activities for the 2025 financial year. The net change in the stock of cash for higher education institutions amounted to a cash surplus of R2 726 million – see Table A on page 4.

In contrast to national and provincial government departments, which keep their accounts on a modified cash basis of recording, the accounts of higher education institutions are kept on an accrual basis of recording, i.e. revenues and expenses are recorded in the period to which the transactions relate, and surpluses, deficits, assets and liabilities resulting from these transactions are carried over to the next financial year. However, the figures in this statistical release have been converted from an accrual basis to a cash basis of recording.

Revenue cash flows from operating activities, the contribution of expense cash flows for operating activities and net cash flows from investment in non-financial assets by economic classification

The revenue cash flows from operating activities increased by R4 616 million from R112 020 million in 2024 to R116 636 million in 2025. This increase was mainly due to an increase in grants received.

The increase of R3 336 million in grants received from R46 102 million in 2024 to R49 438 million in 2025 was mainly due to increased capital grants received from the Department of Higher Education and Training by the University of Mpumalanga and the Sol Plaatje University, and current transfer payments to the University of Pretoria.

The increase of R1 281 million in other receipts from R65 918 million in 2024 to R67 199 million in 2025 was mainly due to increases in cash received from tuition fees and research contracts received by the University of South Africa, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and the Stellenbosch University.

Economic classification of expenditure is generally a measure of the nature and economic effect of government operations on a country's economy. There are seven main economic classification categories of expense cash flows for operating activities: compensation of employees; purchases of goods and services; interest; subsidies; grants; social benefits; and other payments.

Expense cash flows from operating activities increased by R4 911 million from R97 760 million in 2024 to R102 671 million in 2025. The increase was mainly due to increases in compensation of employees and purchases of goods and services.

The increase of R4 106 million in compensation of employees from R58 710 million in 2024 to R62 816 million in 2025 was mainly due to increases in cash payments by the University of South Africa, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the University of Johannesburg.

The increase of R903 million in purchases of goods and services from R32 999 million in 2024 to R33 902 million in 2025 was mainly due to increases in cash payments by the Durban University of Technology, the University of Johannesburg and the Tshwane University of Technology.

The decrease of R95 million in other payments from R5 471 million in 2024 to R5 376 million in 2025 was mainly due to decreases in cash payments to households (bursaries) by the Stellenbosch University, the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and the University of the Witwatersrand.

The decrease of R4 million in interest paid from R580 million in 2024 to R576 million in 2025 was mainly due to decreases in finance costs paid by the University of KwaZulu-Natal, the Vaal University of Technology and the University of the Witwatersrand.

The net cash outflow from investment in non-financial assets increased by R822 million from R9 346 million in 2024 to R10 168 million in 2025, mainly due to increased capital expenditure on buildings other than dwellings by the Stellenbosch University, the North West University and the University of the Witwatersrand.

Table A – Economic classification of statement of sources and uses of cash of higher education institutions for the 2024 and 2025 financial years (summary)¹

GFS 2014 code	Economic classification of sources and uses of cash	2024 ²	2025	Difference between 2024 and 2025
		R million		
	Cash flows from operating activities:			
	Revenue cash flows a	112 020	116 636	4 616
11	Taxes	0	0	0
12	Social contributions	0	0	0
13	Grants	46 102	49 438	3 336
14	Other receipts ³	65 918	67 199	1 281
	Expense cash flows b	97 760	102 671	4 911
21	Compensation of employees	58 710	62 816	4 106
22	Purchases of goods and services	32 999	33 902	903
24	Interest	580	576	-4
25	Subsidies	0	0	0
26	Grants	0	0	0
27	Social benefits	0	0	0
28	Other payments	5 471	5 376	-95
	<i>Net cash flow from operating activities: inflow / (outflow)</i> (a-b) = c	14 260	13 965	-295
	Cash flows from transactions in non-financial assets:			
	Net cash outflow from investments in non-financial assets⁴ d	9 346	10 168	822
611	Fixed assets	9 221	10 092	871
612	Inventories	0	0	0
613	Valuables	79	76	-3
614	Non-produced assets	46	0	-46
	<i>Cash surplus / (deficit)⁵</i> (c-d) = e	4 914	3 797	
	Cash flows from financing activities:			
	Net acquisition of financial assets other than cash: outflow / (inflow) f	4 713	756	
321	Domestic	5 927	606	
322	Foreign	-1 214	150	
	Net incurrence of liabilities: cash inflow / (outflow) g	-1 163	-315	
331	Domestic	-1 163	-315	
332	Foreign	0	0	
	<i>Net cash flow from financing activities: inflow / (outflow)</i> (g-f) = h	-5 876	-1 071	
	Net change in the stock of cash (e+h) = i	-962	2 726	

¹ The sum of the data may not necessarily add up to totals due to rounding-off of figures.

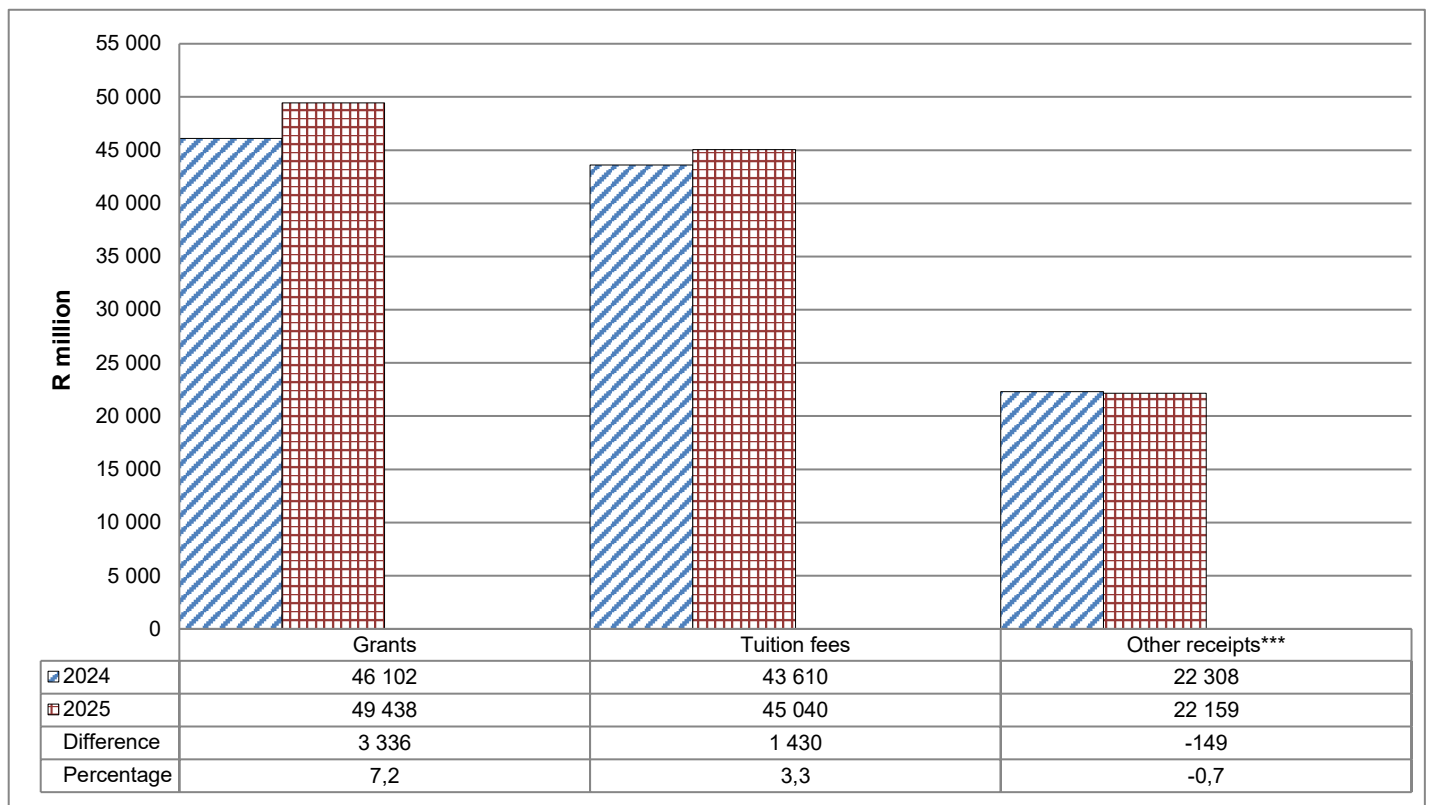
² Some of the figures have been revised since the previous publication.

³ Other receipts include tuition fees for 2024 (R43 610 million) and 2025 (R45 040 million). Tuition fees is shown in the disaggregated tables available on the Stats SA website. website: www.statssa.gov.za.

⁴ The net cash outflow from investment in non-financial assets (R10 168 million) is equal to purchases of non-financial assets (R10 205 million) minus sales of non-financial assets (R37 million).

⁵ Cash surplus might include committed funds that were received but not yet expensed by the end of the 2025 financial year.

Figure 1 – Economic classification of revenue cash flows for operating activities for the 2024* and 2025 financial years**



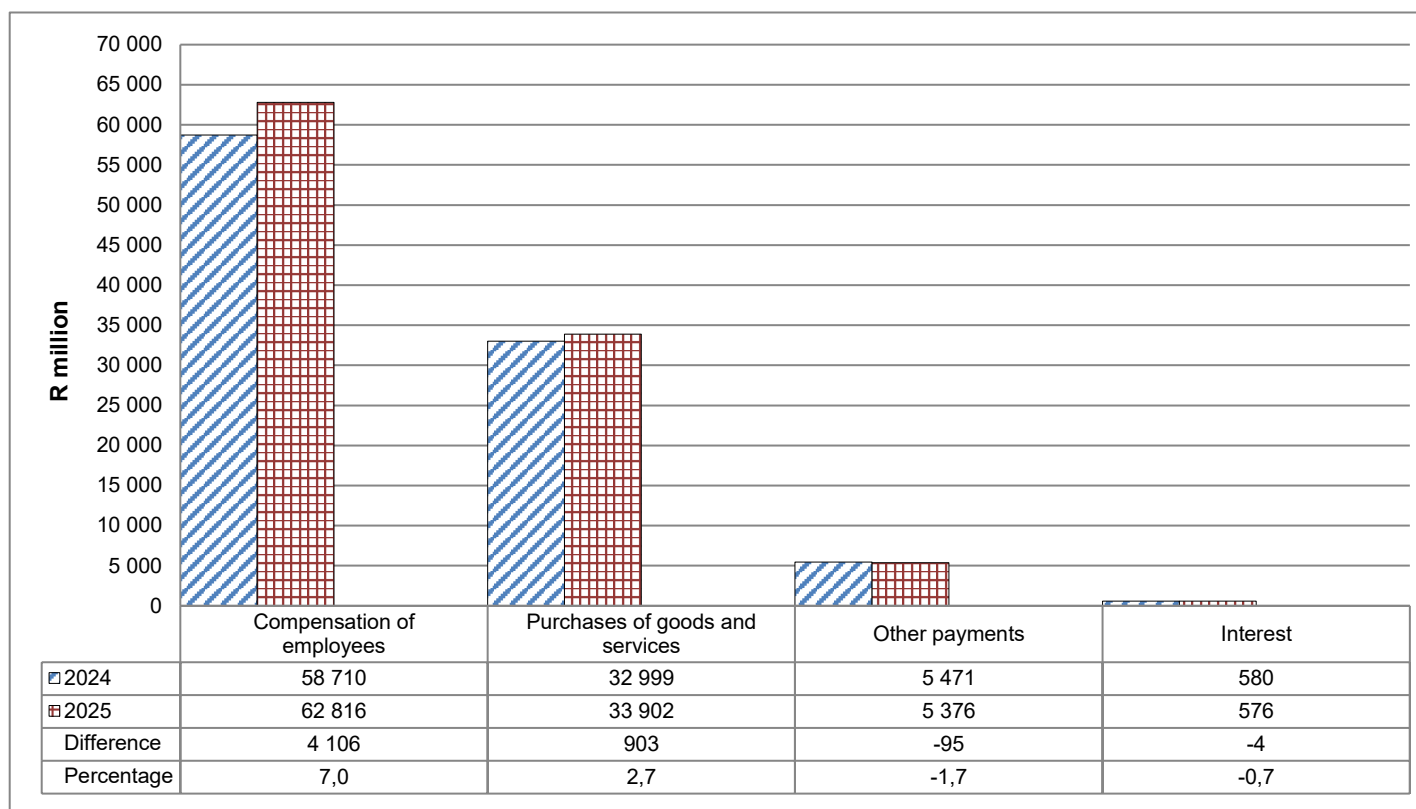
* Some of the figures have been revised since the previous publication.

** The breakdown can be found in the disaggregated tables available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

*** Other receipts exclude tuition fees.

Figure 1 shows the economic classification of revenue cash flows for operating activities for the 2024 and 2025 financial years. In 2025, grants accounted for the largest proportion of revenue cash flows (R49 438 million), followed by tuition fees (R45 040 million) and other receipts (R22 159 million).

Figure 2 – Economic classification of expense cash flows for operating activities for the 2024* and 2025 financial years**



* Some of the figures have been revised since the previous publication.

** The breakdown can be found in the disaggregated tables available on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Figure 2 shows the economic classification of expense cash flows for operating activities for the 2024 and 2025 financial years. In 2025, compensation of employees accounted for the largest proportion of expense cash flows (R62 816 million), followed by purchases of goods and services (R33 902 million). Other payments (R5 376 million) and interest (R576 million) accounted for the smallest proportions.

Table B – Economic classification of cash outflows (purchases) from investment in non-financial assets for the 2024 and 2025 financial years (summary)¹

GFS 2014 code	Cash flows from transactions in non-financial assets	2024 ²	2025	Difference between 2024 and 2025
		R million		
61	Purchases of non-financial assets: (b+r+s+t) = a	9 600	10 205	605
611	Fixed assets: (c+d+i+q) = b	9 475	10 128	653
6111	Buildings and structures: c	6 027	6 961	934
61111	Dwellings	0	0	0
61112	Buildings other than dwellings	5 747	6 809	1 062
61113	Other structures	252	127	-125
61114	Land improvements	29	25	-4
6112	Machinery and equipment: (e+f) = d	3 295	3 028	-267
61121	Transport equipment e	175	148	-27
61122	Machinery and equipment other than transport equipment: (g+h) = f	3 120	2 880	-240
611221	Information, computer and telecommunications equipment g	1 117	876	-241
611222	Machinery and equipment not elsewhere classified: h	2 003	2 004	1
6112221	Office furniture (and domestic furniture)	1 307	1 312	5
6112222	Other machinery and equipment	664	675	11
6112223	Books	32	17	-15
6113	Other fixed assets: (j+k) = i	154	140	-14
61131	Cultivated biological resources: j	1	1	0
611311	Animal resources yielding repeat products	1	1	0
611312	Tree, crop, and plant resources yielding repeat products	0	0	0
61132	Intellectual property products: (l+m+n+o+p) = k	153	139	-14
611321	Research and development l	0	0	0
611322	Mineral exploration and evaluation m	0	0	0
611323	Computer software and databases: n	152	136	-16
6113231	Computer software	118	106	-12
6113232	Databases	34	30	-4
611324	Entertainment, literary, and artistic originals o	0	0	0
611325	Other intellectual property products p	0	3	3
6114	Weapons systems q	0	0	0
612	Inventories r	0	0	0
613	Valuables s	79	76	-3
614	Non-produced assets t	46	0	-46

¹ The sum of the data may not necessarily add up to totals due to rounding-off of figures.

² Some of the figures have been revised since the previous publication.


Risenga Maluleke
 Statistician-General

Annexure A: Information on disaggregated tables is available on the Stats SA website:
<http://www.statssa.gov.za/?s=P9103.1&sitem=publications>

Tables

Table 1	Economic classification of revenue cash flows from operating activities for the 2025 financial year
Table 2	Economic and functional classification of expense cash flows for operating activities for the 2025 financial year
Table 3	Economic and functional classification of the cash outflows (purchases) from investment in non-financial assets for the 2025 financial year
Table 4	Economic classification of the cash inflows (sales) from investment in non-financial assets for the 2025 financial year
Table 5	Economic classification of the net acquisition of financial assets other than cash for the 2025 financial year
Table 6	Economic classification of the net incurrence of liabilities for the 2025 financial year
Table 7	Economic and functional classification of expense cash flows for operating activities for the 2025 financial year: Government consumption cash payments divided between individual and collective services
Table 8	Economic and functional classification of expense cash flows for operating activities for the 2025 financial year: Subsidies paid divided between subsidies on products and subsidies on production

Annexure B – Statement of sources and uses of cash of higher education institutions for the 2025 financial year¹

Higher education institutions	Grants received	Tuition fees	Other receipts ²	Compensation of employees	Purchases of goods and services	Interest paid	Other payments ³	Purchases of non-financial assets	Sales of non-financial assets	Financial assets ⁴	Financial liabilities ⁵
	R million										
Cape Peninsula	1 621	1 627	211	2 495	1 065	200	18	118	0	206	259
Cape Town	2 383	2 533	3 223	5 094	2 280	24	610	278	2	-321	-55
Central	896	553	377	973	714	3	8	189	0	-146	0
Durban	1 134	2 359	499	1 544	2 051	4	0	503	0	-2 629	-10
Fort Hare	886	957	151	881	784	29	73	132	6	5	-11
Free State	1 855	2 028	794	2 338	1 445	16	111	464	2	270	-11
Johannesburg	3 055	2 845	944	4 207	1 932	0	546	285	2	0	-8
KwaZulu-Natal	2 798	2 257	1 655	3 045	1 708	42	399	374	0	887	-191
Limpopo	1 309	903	639	1 569	1 080	0	0	1 108	0	-1 777	-2
Mangosuthu	778	802	118	562	762	5	4	131	0	1	-17
Mpumalanga	1 231	423	376	593	318	0	95	633	0	378	0
Nelson Mandela	1 534	1 695	950	1 974	1 215	29	225	121	0	280	-49
North West	2 636	2 844	1 602	3 634	1 662	31	298	1 046	4	363	-62
Pretoria	3 773	3 395	2 649	4 988	3 150	0	165	462	2	768	-3
Rhodes	920	757	238	1 055	601	1	186	241	0	28	-2
Sefako Makgatho	1 088	634	14	1 030	666	8	0	187	0	297	-7
Sol Plaatje	967	311	112	458	301	1	6	203	0	206	-4
Stellenbosch	2 611	2 227	2 356	3 733	1 325	61	1 214	1 136	16	-84	156
Tshwane	2 993	2 537	648	3 796	1 733	4	148	325	1	-875	-19
Unisa	5 704	5 964	1 434	7 868	2 667	4	176	367	0	2 315	-29
Vaal	965	730	56	931	482	0	23	74	0	556	-93
Venda	907	749	123	1 036	693	19	184	234	0	8	-20
Walter Sisulu	1 619	1 448	257	1 892	1 380	1	43	191	0	-22	-2
Western Cape	1 693	1 035	597	1 902	1 151	41	180	211	0	267	-82
Wits	2 885	2 887	2 015	4 427	2 023	52	658	577	1	-81	-47
Zululand	1 196	540	123	792	714	1	6	615	0	-145	-8
Total	49 438	45 040	22 159	62 816	33 902	576	5 376	10 205	37	756	-315

¹ The sum of the data may not necessarily add up to totals due to rounding-off of figures.

² Other receipts include interest, dividends, sales of goods and services and transfers not elsewhere classified.

³ Other payments mainly consist of transfers to households (bursaries). These are bursaries from the higher education institutions to students.

⁴ Net acquisition of financial assets other than cash; cash outflow / (inflow).

⁵ Net incurrence of financial liabilities; cash inflow / (outflow).

Analysis of revisions

Introduction

Preliminary estimates for the *Financial statistics of higher education institutions* survey are published approximately 10 months after the end of the financial year. For example, preliminary estimates for the 2024 financial year were published in October 2025. The preliminary estimates are revised due to updated administrative and audited information received from higher education institutions.

Analysis

Revisions may be analysed in terms of several dimensions, including differences between preliminary and revised values (measured as rand values or percentages), differences in growth rates, and revisions to aggregates and components.

The analysis presented below is confined to the following:

- Total revenue of higher education institutions, at current prices, unadjusted.
- The basis for the analysis is the difference between the revised revenue and the preliminary revenue, measured as a percentage of preliminary revenue, where preliminary revenue refers to the first published estimate for the reference period concerned.
- Time period: 2006 to 2024.

Figure 3 below shows the preliminary and revised total higher education institutions revenue (line chart, left vertical axis) and the percentage difference between them (bar chart, right vertical axis, where difference = revised – preliminary, expressed as a percentage of preliminary revenue). Table 1 provides key results relating to revisions.

Figure 3 – Total higher education institutions revenue: preliminary and revised estimates

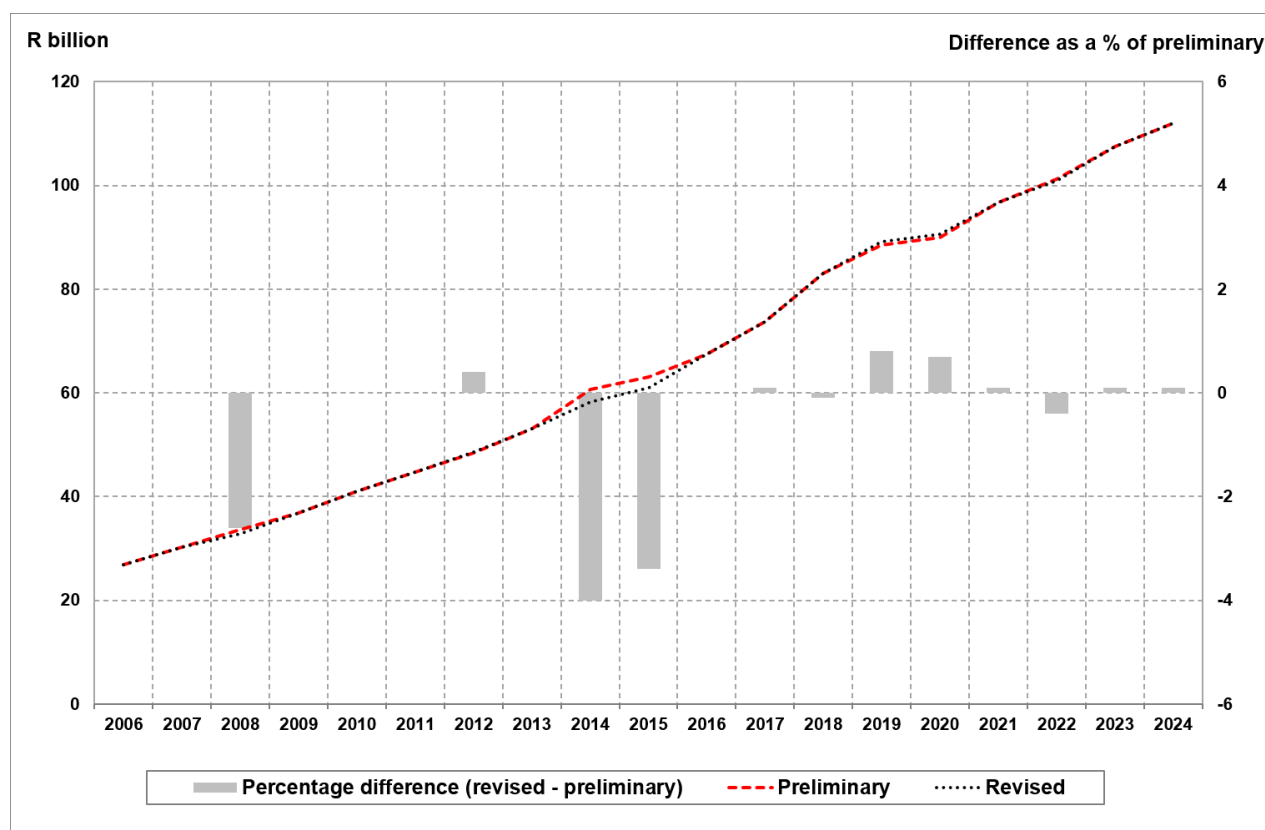
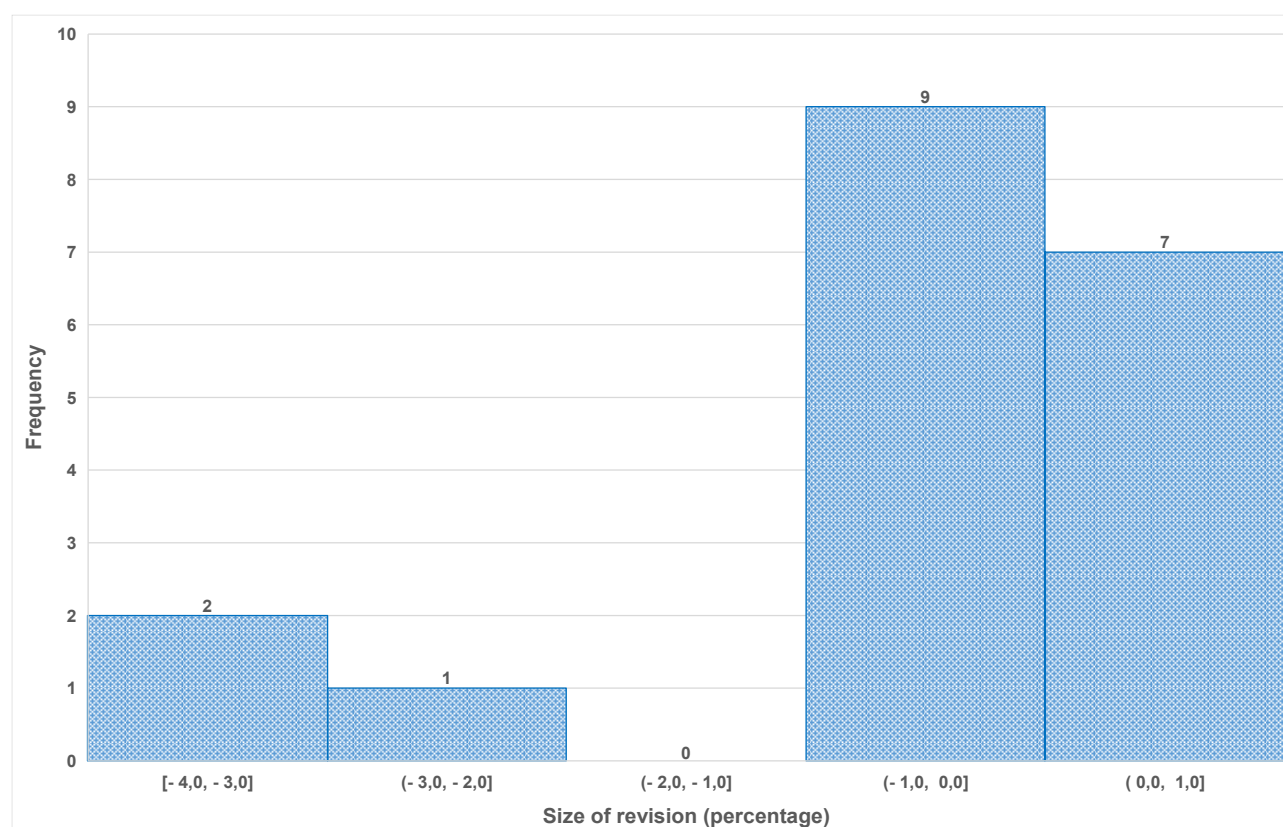


Table C – Total higher education institutions revenue: revision details

Description	Value / outcome	Comment
Mean revision	-0,43%	This represents the average of the revisions.
Mean absolute revision	0,67%	Average of the revisions, based on the absolute value of each revision (positive revisions and negatives do not cancel each other).
Largest upward revision	0,8%	The preliminary 2019 estimate was revised from R88 428 million up to R89 092 million, representing a 0,8% revision.
Largest downward revision	-4,0%	The preliminary 2014 estimate was revised from R60 598 million down to R58 190 million, representing a -4,0% revision.
Range for all revisions	-4,0% to 0,8%	
Range within which 80% of the revisions lie	-3,4% to 0,7%	This may be regarded as the normal range for revisions, with revisions outside this range considered outliers.
Number of upward revisions	7 or 36,8% of total observations	
Number of downward revisions	5 or 26,3% of total observations	
Number of zero revisions	7 or 36,8% of total observations	
Standard deviation of revisions	1,3%	Standard deviation measures the dispersion of revisions around the mean revision – see the row below.
Percentage of revisions within one standard deviation of the mean	84,2%	This is the percentage of revisions that lie between -1,8% and 0,9%; the higher the percentage, the lower the dispersion around the mean revision – see Figure 4.

Figure 4 shows the revisions in terms of a histogram. There were 9 revisions between -1,0% and 0,0% ($-1,0\% < \text{revision} \leq 0,0\%$) and 7 revisions between 0,0% and 1,0% ($0,0\% < \text{revision} \leq 1,0\%$).

Figure 4 – Total higher education institutions revenue: histogram of revisions

Explanatory notes

Introduction This statistical release provides economic and functional classifications of financial transactions of higher education institutions for the 2025 financial year. Higher education institutions consist of 20 universities and 6 universities of technology for the 2025 financial year (see pages 12 and 13 for the list of higher education institutions used in this publication).

Purpose of this statistical release This statistical release provides financial statistics of cash transactions of higher education institutions. Cash receipts and payments converted from an accrual basis of recording to cash basis of recording for operating activities and transactions in non-financial assets for the 2025 financial year were classified economically and functionally.

Disaggregated data Disaggregated data (Tables 1 to 8) are on the Stats SA website: www.statssa.gov.za.

Methodology Government finance statistics are used to (i) analyse and evaluate the outcomes of fiscal policy decisions, (ii) determine the impact on the economy, and (iii) compare national and international outcomes. The government finance statistics reporting framework was developed specifically for public-sector input to other macroeconomic datasets.

The publication does not include other economic flows (e.g. revaluations). Separating all these 'other economic flows' is viewed as useful for fiscal analysis, on the basis that revaluations and changes in volume do not represent fiscal policy decisions directly within the control of government. Government finance statistics distinguishes between value changes and volume changes.

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) receives financial statements of higher education institutions annually from the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). However, the figures in this statistical release have been converted from an accrual basis of recording to a cash basis of recording. Financial statements were received for 25 higher education institutions. The information is processed from draft and audited financial statements of the higher education institutions.

GFS Manual (2014) The manual describes an integrated statistical system that is harmonised, to the extent possible, with the 2008 edition of the System of National Accounts (2008 SNA). The GFSM 2014 is intended to be a reference volume describing the GFS system. The GFSM 2014 provides a harmonised systematic basis for reporting and analysing government finances.

Scope of the financial statistics of higher education institutions The cash payment transactions of the following higher education institutions were classified economically and functionally.

Universities

- 1) Cape Town
- 2) Fort Hare
- 3) Free State
- 4) Johannesburg
- 5) KwaZulu-Natal
- 6) Limpopo
- 7) Mpumalanga
- 8) Nelson Mandela
- 9) North-West
- 10) Pretoria
- 11) Rhodes
- 12) Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences
- 13) Sol Plaatje
- 14) South Africa

- 15) Stellenbosch
- 16) Venda
- 17) Walter Sisulu
- 18) Western Cape
- 19) Witwatersrand
- 20) Zululand

Universities of Technology

- 21) Cape Peninsula
- 22) Central
- 23) Durban
- 24) Mangosuthu
- 25) Tshwane
- 26) Vaal

Classifications

Economic and functional classifications

Cash flows from operating activities and transactions of non-financial assets in this statistical release are classified economically and functionally according to the standard classification of the GFSM 2014 of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Economic classification

Economic classification is in general a measure of the nature and economic effect of government operations on the economy of the country.

Revenue cash flows and expense cash flows for operating activities, cash flows from transactions in non-financial assets, net acquisition of financial assets other than cash and net incurrence of liabilities were classified economically as follows:

- **Revenue cash flows**

Taxes
Social contributions
Grants
Other receipts

- **Expense cash flows**

Compensation of employees
Purchases of goods and services (excluding capitalised goods and services)
Interest
Subsidies
Grants
Social benefits
Other payments

- **Cash outflows (purchases) from investment in non-financial assets (including capitalised goods and services)**

Fixed assets
Inventories
Valuables
Non-produced assets

- **Cash inflows (sales) from investment in non-financial assets**

Fixed assets
Inventories
Valuables
Non-produced assets

- **Net acquisition of financial assets other than cash**

Domestic
Foreign

- **Net incurrence of liabilities**

Domestic
Foreign

Functional classification

Functional classification measures the purpose for which transactions are undertaken. It is generally used to measure the allocation of resources of government to promote various services and objectives rendered to the community.

Expense cash flows from operating activities and purchases of non-financial assets are classified functionally as follows:

- **Education**

Tertiary education

Comparability with the previous year

The 2024 classified information is generally comparable with the 2025 information. Additional details in terms of the GFSM 2014 are available on the Stats SA website or on request.

Imputation

An imputation was performed for the following institution due to non-submission of information by the cut-off date of collection:

1) University of Zululand.

The Public Sector Classification Committee (PSCC)

The PSCC consists of the South African Reserve Bank (SARB), the National Treasury (NT) and Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). The purpose of the PSCC is to coordinate the economic institutional classification of the public-sector units and subsectors for purposes of reporting to national and international stakeholders. The classification lists are made public by the SARB to inform stakeholders of the scope of the public sector and sub-sectors. Currently, the PSCC is classifying the public-sector institutions for the 2025/2026 fiscal year (i.e. for the year ended 31 March 2026).

Limitations of the PSCC list

The PSCC list has the following limitations:

- implementation of changes to the list takes time;
- the list does not include private sector institutions; and
- it also excludes units without a complete set of financial statements.

Revised figures

Revised figures are mainly due to improved classification of data and additional information becoming available after the initial publication. Figures for 2025 are preliminary and subject to revision.

Rounding-off of figures	The figures in the tables have been rounded off to the nearest digit shown, and as a result there may be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.	
Response rate	The response rate for 2025 was 96,2%.	
Under-coverage rate	The under-coverage rate is 0%.	
Over-coverage rate	The over-coverage rate is 0%.	
Duplication error rate	The duplication error rate is 0%.	
Related publications	Stats SA also publishes information on the transactions of the following levels of the general government in statistical releases:	
	P0441	<i>Gross domestic product;</i>
	P9101	<i>Capital expenditure by the public sector;</i>
	P9102	<i>Financial statistics of extra-budgetary accounts and funds;</i>
	P9114	<i>Financial census of municipalities;</i>
	P9119.3	<i>Financial statistics of national government;</i>
	P9119.4	<i>Financial statistics of consolidated general government; and</i>
	P9121	<i>Financial statistics of provincial government.</i>
Symbols and abbreviations	DHET	Department of Higher Education and Training
	GFSM	Government Finance Statistics Manual, 2014
	IMF	International Monetary Fund
	n.e.c.	Not elsewhere classified
	NT	National Treasury
	PSCC	Public Sector Classification Committee
	SA	South Africa
	SARB	South African Reserve Bank
	SNA	System of National Accounts
	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa

Glossary

Accrual basis of recording	Flows recorded at the time economic value is created, transformed, exchanged, transferred, or extinguished.
Buildings other than dwellings	Buildings other than dwellings include whole buildings or parts of buildings not designated as dwellings. Context: Fixtures, facilities, and equipment that are integral parts of the structures are included. Examples of types of buildings included in this category are office buildings, schools, hospitals, buildings for public entertainment, warehouses and industrial buildings, commercial buildings, hotels, and restaurants.
Capital expenditure	Any expenditure incurred or incidental to the acquisition or improvement of land, buildings, engineering structures and machinery and equipment. Context: The expenditure normally confers a lasting benefit and results in the acquisition of or extends the life of a fixed or long-term work, irrespective of whether payments were made to outside contractors or concerns, or the work was done by the enterprise itself. Capital expenditure includes vehicles, office furniture and equipment, but excludes minor items that are generally regarded as being expendable even though in some instances their useful lives may extend beyond one year.
Capital transfer	Transactions, either in cash or in kind, in which the ownership of an asset (other than cash and inventories) is transferred from one institutional unit to another, or in which cash is transferred to enable the recipient to acquire another asset, or in which the funds realised by the disposal of another asset are transferred.
Cash basis of recording	Flows are recorded when cash is received or disbursed.
Collective service	Service provided simultaneously to all members of the community or all members of a particular section of the community, such as all households living in a particular region. Context: Services such as general administration, public order or safety and economic services.
Compensation of employee	Total remuneration, in cash or kind, payable by an employer to an employee in return for work done by the latter during the accounting period. Note: It is recorded on a gross basis, i.e. before any deduction for income taxes, pensions, unemployment insurance and other social insurance schemes. It also includes other forms of compensation, namely commissions, tips, bonuses, directors' fees and allowances such as those for holidays and sick leave, as well as military pay and allowances. It excludes employers' social contributions.
Coverage error	Error caused by a failure to adequately cover all components of the population being studied.
Cultivated biological resource	Cover animal resources yielding repeat products and tree, crop, and plant resources yielding repeat products whose natural growth and regeneration are under the direct control, responsibility, and management of institutional units.
Duplication error rate	Occurrence of an element more than one time on a sampling frame.
Dwelling	Structure intended or used for human habitation. Context: including any associated structures, such as garages, and all permanent fixtures customarily installed in residences.
Economic classification	Measure of the nature and economic effect of government operations on the economy of the country.
Expense	Transaction that results in a decrease in net worth.
Extra-budgetary account	Accounts and funds of national and provincial governments not included in normal budget totals and which do not operate through normal budgetary procedures. Context: Trading accounts and general government accounts.
Financial asset	Asset that derives value because of a contractual claim. Context: Stocks, bonds, bank deposits, and the like are all examples of financial assets.

Fixed asset	Produced asset that is used continuously in process of production for more than one year.
Functional classification	Classification used to identify the purpose or socioeconomic objective for which an expense is incurred or a non-financial asset was acquired.
Government consumption expenditure	Expenditure on all goods and services that are used (without further transformation) by government units for the direct satisfaction of individual needs or wants or the collective needs of members of the community.
Grant	Transfers receivable by government units, from other resident or non-resident government units or international organisations, and that do not meet the definition of a tax, subsidy, or social contribution.
Higher education	All learning programmes which must be registered in accordance with the provisions of the National Qualification Framework, 2008 (Act No. 67 of 2008).
Higher education institution	Institution that provides learning programmes on a full-time, part-time or distance basis, and which is established, deemed to be established or declared as a public higher education institution or registered or conditionally registered as a private higher education institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No.101 of 1997).
Household	Group of people who live together at least four nights a week, eat together and share resources, or a single person who lives alone.
Individual consumption service	Goods or service acquired by a household and used to satisfy the needs or wants of the members of that household.
Information, computer, and telecommunications equipment	Devices using electronic controls and also the electronic components forming part of these devices. Context: television and radio transmitters, television, video, and digital cameras, and telephone sets are all examples of information, computer, and telecommunications.
Intellectual property product	The result of research, development, investigation, or innovation leading to knowledge that the developers can market or use to their own benefit in production for which the use of the knowledge is restricted by means of legal or other protection.
Inventories	Goods and services held by producers for sale, use in production or other use at a later stage.
Land improvement	Result of actions that lead to major improvements in the quantity, quality or productivity of land, or prevent its deterioration.
Liability	Obligations to provide economic benefits to the units holding the corresponding financial claims.
Misclassification	Subject is falsely classified into a category in which the subject does not belong.
Modified cash basis accounting	Method recognising revenues in the period they become available and measurable and recognise expenditures in the period the associated liability is incurred.
Municipality	Unit of government in the third sphere responsible for the provision of government services in a geographically demarcated area. Context: It includes district, local and metropolitan municipalities.
National government	First level of government which controls a nation and has power to set and maintain foreign policy and the ability to collect taxes. Context: Government in South Africa is divided into three spheres: National, Provincial and Local. Each sphere's responsibility is outlined in the Constitution. The governments of each sphere have a political and administrative arm. The powers of the national government are circumscribed by the national constitution.

Non-financial public corporations	Public corporation that produces goods and/ or non-financial services for the market. Context: Public non-financial corporations in South Africa include all corporations, quasi-corporations, and non-profit institutions (NPIs) principally engaged in financial intermediation or in auxiliary financial activities closely related to financial intermediation.
Non-produced asset	Assets needed for production that have not themselves been produced. Context: Land, sub-soil assets, mineral resources and certain intangible assets.
Non-profit institution serving households (NPISH)	NPIs which are not financed and controlled by government, and which provide goods or services to households free or at prices that are not economically significant.
Other economic flow	Changes in the volume or value of assets or liabilities that do not result from transactions.
Other structures	Structures other than buildings. Inclusions: Highways, streets, roads, bridges, etc.
Provincial government	Second level of government, between the national government and the municipalities. Context: The powers of the provincial governments are circumscribed by the national constitution.
Public financial corporation	Public corporation principally engaging in financial intermediation or in auxiliary financial activities closely related to financial intermediation. Context: Financial institutions may be entirely or mainly owned and/or controlled by the government in which case they are regarded as public financial institutions. It is the prime function of public financial institutions to act as intermediaries.
Response rate	Proportion of eligible respondents who completed a questionnaire with usable information to total number of eligible respondents.
Revenue	Increase in net worth resulting from a transaction.
Social benefit	Transfers in cash or in kind to protect the entire population or a specific segment of it against certain social risks.
Social contributions paid	Actual or imputed payment made by general government units to social insurance schemes to obtain entitlement to social benefits for their employees, including pensions and other retirement benefits.
Social contributions received	Actual or imputed receipts from either employers on behalf of their employees or from employees, self-employed, or non-employed persons on their own behalf that secure entitlement to social benefits for the contributors, their dependents or their survivors.
Statutory appropriations	Amounts appropriated to be spent in terms of statutes and not requiring appropriation by vote.
Subsidies on production	Payments made to resident enterprises as a consequence of engaging in production.
Subsidies on products	Payable per unit of a good or service.
Subsidy	Current unrequited payments that government units, including non-resident government units make to enterprises on the basis of the level of production activities or the quantities or values of the goods or services that they produce, sell or export.
Tax revenue	Government income due to taxation.
Transfer	Transaction in which one institutional unit provides a good, service, or asset to another unit without receiving from the latter any good, service, or asset in return as a direct counterpart.
Transport equipment	Equipment for moving people and objects. Inclusions: Motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers, ships, railway locomotives and rolling stock, aircraft, motorcycles, and bicycles.

Valuable Produced assets of considerable value that are not used primarily for purposes of production or consumption but are held primarily as stores of value over time.

Technical enquiries

Elizabeth Makhafola Telephone number: (012) 310 8977
Email: ElizabethMa@statssa.gov.za

Sydney Mbowane Telephone number: (012) 310 2161
Email: SydneyM@statssa.gov.za

General information

Stats SA publishes approximately 300 different statistical releases each year. It is not economically viable to produce them in more than one of South Africa's 12 official languages. Since the releases are used extensively, locally and by international economic and social-scientific communities, Stats SA releases are published in English only.

Stats SA has copyright on this publication. Users may apply the information as they wish, provided that they acknowledge Stats SA as the source of the basic data wherever they process, apply, utilise, publish or distribute the data; and also that they specify that the relevant application and analysis (where applicable) result from their own processing of the data.

Advance release calendar

An advance release calendar is disseminated on www.statssa.gov.za.

Stats SA products

A complete set of Stats SA publications is available at the Stats SA Library and the following libraries:

National Library of South Africa, Pretoria Division
National Library of South Africa, Cape Town Division
Natal Society Library, Pietermaritzburg
Library of Parliament, Cape Town
Bloemfontein Public Library
Johannesburg Public Library
Eastern Cape Library Services, Qonce
Central Regional Library, Polokwane
Central Reference Library, Mbombela
Central Reference Collection, Kimberley
Central Reference Library, Mmabatho

Stats SA also provides a subscription service.

Electronic services

A large range of data is available via online services. For more details about our electronic services, contact Stats SA's user information service at: (012) 310 8600.

Forthcoming issue	Expected release date
-------------------	-----------------------

Financial statistics of higher education institutions for 2026	October 2027
--	--------------

You can visit us on the internet at: www.statssa.gov.za.

General enquiries

User information services	Telephone number: (012) 310 8600 Email: info@statssa.gov.za
---------------------------	---

Postal address	Private Bag X44, Pretoria, 0001
----------------	---------------------------------

Produced by Stats SA