

Vote Statistics

APPROPRIATION MINISTER(S): Minister of Statistics (M67)

DEPARTMENT ADMINISTERING THE VOTE: Statistics New Zealand (A38)

RESPONSIBLE MINISTER FOR STATISTICS NEW ZEALAND: Minister of Statistics

Overview of the Vote

Vote Statistics is a \$275 million investment to enable Statistics NZ, as New Zealand's national statistical organisation to:

- increase the efficiency of data collection to reduce the reliance on direct contact with individuals and increasingly utilise administrative data
- deliver data and statistical information, insights, and analysis to enable evidence-based decisions that improve the lives of current and future generations
- ensure enduring and resilient technology systems and capabilities
- prepare for the delivery of the future census of population and dwellings.

The Vote also gives effect to the role as functional leader of the government data system, formalised through the Government Chief Data Steward mandate. Through this role Statistics NZ will lead the data system to achieve the following shifts:

- an inclusive and integrated data system that supports the safe and ethical use of data as a resource across government
- compliance with Data and Statistical Act 2022
- increased public trust and confidence in how government agencies collect, manage and use data.

The Minister for Statistics is responsible for appropriations in the Vote for the 2026/27 financial year comprising:

- nearly \$69 million for the delivery of data and statistical information services relating to business and the economy
- over \$74 million for the delivery of data and statistical information services relating to the population, household economics, social conditions (including child poverty), the labour market, and the environment
- over \$48 million for the coordination of statistical and data services for government, through System Leadership of the Official Statistics System (OSS) and Stewardship of the Government Data System; statistical and data management advice; provision of access to official statistics; oversight of the IDI; and the provision of ministerial services
- a total of \$45 million for the delivery of population and social statistics in accordance with the requirement for the delivery of a census in line with New Zealand and international obligations
- a total of \$22 million for departmental capital expenditure, and
- nearly \$17 million for Services to Other Agencies including lead agency in shared accommodation with other Crown tenants in Wellington and Christchurch.

Details of these appropriations are set out in Parts 2-4.

Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections

Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations

Titles and Scopes of Appropriations by Appropriation Type	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Departmental Output Expenses			
Services to Other Agencies RDA (M67) (A38) This appropriation is limited to the provision of services by Stats NZ to other agencies, where those services are not within the scope of another departmental output expense appropriation in Vote Statistics.	16,364	16,364	16,607
Total Departmental Output Expenses	16,364	16,364	16,607
Departmental Capital Expenditure			
Statistics New Zealand - Capital Expenditure PLA (M67) (A38) This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of Statistics New Zealand, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.	22,000	22,000	22,000
Total Departmental Capital Expenditure	22,000	22,000	22,000
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure			
Official Statistics MCA (M67) (A38) The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to ensure availability, and promote the use, of the highest priority data and official statistical information to add value to decision making both in New Zealand and overseas jurisdictions.	185,656	185,656	191,097
Departmental Output Expenses			
<i>Economic and Business Data and Statistical Information Services</i> This category is limited to the delivery of data and statistical information services relating to business, the economy and overseas jurisdictions.	70,413	70,413	68,517
<i>Population, Social and Labour Market Data and Statistical Information Services</i> This category is limited to delivery of data and statistical information services relating to the population, household economics, social conditions (including child poverty), the labour market, and the environment for New Zealand and overseas jurisdictions.	75,971	75,971	74,259
<i>Stewardship of Government Data and Statistical Leadership</i> This category is limited to coordination of statistical and data services for government, through System Leadership of the Official Statistics System (OSS) and Stewardship of the Government Data System; statistical and data management advice; provision of access to official statistics; oversight of the IDI; and the provision of ministerial services.	39,272	39,272	48,321
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure	185,656	185,656	191,097
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	224,020	224,020	229,704

Multi-Year Appropriations

Type, Title, Scope and Period of Appropriations	Appropriations, Adjustments and Use	\$000
Departmental Output Expenses		
Delivery of population and social statistics (M67) (A38)	Original Appropriation	227,120
This appropriation is limited to the delivery of population and social statistics in accordance with the requirement for the delivery of a census in line with New Zealand and international obligations.	Adjustments to 2024/25	-
	Adjustments for 2025/26	-
Commences: 01 July 2024	Adjusted Appropriation	227,120
Expires: 30 June 2029	Actual to 2024/25 Year End	21,875
	Estimated Actual for 2025/26	32,000
	Estimate for 2026/27	45,000
	Estimated Appropriation Remaining	128,245

Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations	224,020	224,020	229,704
Total Forecast MYA Departmental Output Expenses	32,000	32,000	45,000
Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations	256,020	256,020	274,704

Capital Injection Authorisations

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Statistics New Zealand - Capital Injection (M67) (A38)	1,420	1,420	7,374

Supporting Information

Part 1 - Vote as a Whole

1.1 - New Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Appropriation	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Modernising the Integrated Data Infrastructure to Support Social Investment and Government Decision-making	Official Statistics (MCA)					
	Stewardship of Government Data and Statistical Leadership	-	11,599	12,602	11,974	8,588
	Departmental Output Expense					
	Departmental Capital Injection	-	5,954	5,982	1,018	-
Baseline Savings - Statistics New Zealand	Official Statistics (MCA)					
	Economic and Business Data and Statistical Information Services	-	(800)	(1,100)	(1,100)	(1,100)
	Population, Social and Labour Market Data and Statistical Information Services	-	-	(2,100)	(2,100)	(2,100)
	Stewardship of Government Data and Statistical Leadership	-	(1,700)	(1,700)	(1,700)	(1,700)
	Departmental Output Expense					
Total Initiatives			15,053	13,684	8,092	3,688

1.2 - Trends in the Vote

Summary of Financial Activity

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		2026/27			2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Actual \$000	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Non- Departmental Transactions Budget \$000	Total Budget \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000	Estimated \$000
Appropriations												
Output Expenses	56,779	191,555	54,375	32,006	48,364	48,364	61,607	-	61,607	83,851	78,096	62,275
Benefits or Related Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Borrowing Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Expenditure	19,842	14,171	14,755	14,494	22,000	22,000	22,000	-	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
Intelligence and Security Department Expenses and Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure (MCA)												
<i>Output Expenses</i>	171,474	190,349	190,866	173,026	185,656	185,656	191,097	-	191,097	187,034	185,865	182,479
<i>Other Expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Appropriations	248,095	396,075	259,996	219,526	256,020	256,020	274,704	-	274,704	292,885	285,961	266,754
Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts												
Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Tax Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-
Total Crown Revenue and Capital Receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	-	-	-	-	-

Note - where restructuring of the vote has occurred then, to the extent practicable, prior years information has been restated as if the restructuring had occurred before the beginning of the period covered. In this instance Total Appropriations for the Budgeted and Estimated Actual year may not equal Total Annual Appropriations and Forecast Permanent Appropriations and Multi-Year Appropriations in the Details of Appropriations and Capital Injections.

Adjustments to the Summary of Financial Activity Table Due to Vote Restructuring

There have been no restructuring adjustments to prior year information in the Summary of Financial Activity table.

1.3 - Analysis of Significant Trends

Output Expenses

Output expenses fluctuate over time in line with expenditure on censuses over the 9-year period. In 2022/23, the actual expenditure is higher than in other years because of an extended 2023 Census operation in response to the impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle. The Delivery of population and social statistics MYA commenced in 2024/25 to deliver the next census. Phasing of expenditure will be reviewed to deliver the next census successfully.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure in 2021/22 was mainly due to the completion of the 8 Willis Street office fit out. Capital expenditure in 2025/26 is mainly related to digital projects and is estimated to remain steady from 2026/27 as Stats NZ invests in modernising its core IT and statistical production systems.

Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

Output expenses have risen between 2021/22 and 2023/24, in line with new initiatives and cost pressure funding received to ensure that Stats NZ can continue to produce official statistics. Output expenses have decreased between 2023/24 and 2024/25 due to cost saving initiatives to help achieve a 7.5% reduction in baseline. Output expenses in 2025/26 and 2026/27 are higher because of the implementation of monthly Consumers Price Index (CPI) reporting and improvements to the Integrated Data Infrastructure to support Social Investment. From 2027/28 onwards, output expenses are expected to decline as funding levels for these initiatives decrease.

Part 2 - Details of Departmental Appropriations

2.1 - Departmental Output Expenses

Delivery of population and social statistics (M67) (A38)

Scope of Appropriation and Expenses

Type, Title, Scope and Period of Appropriations	Appropriations, Adjustments and Use	\$000
Delivery of population and social statistics (M67) (A38) This appropriation is limited to the delivery of population and social statistics in accordance with the requirement for the delivery of a census in line with New Zealand and international obligations. Commences: 01 July 2024 Expires: 30 June 2029	Original Appropriation	227,120
	Adjustments to 2024/25	-
	Adjustments for 2025/26	-
	Adjusted Appropriation	227,120
	Actual to 2024/25 Year End	21,875
	Estimated Actual for 2025/26	32,000
	Estimate for 2026/27	45,000
	Estimated Appropriation Remaining	128,245

Revenue

	Budget \$000
Revenue from the Crown to end of 2026/27	98,875
Revenue from Others to end of 2026/27	-
Total Revenue	98,875

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the management and conduct of New Zealand's Future Census of Population and Dwellings and the completion of the 2023 Census.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
<i>2025-2026 Measures for Census</i>			
Summary of the final content for the first iteration of the Census Attribute Survey Report (see Note 1)	To be reported in 2025/26 Annual Report	To be reported in 2025/26 Annual Report	Retired and replaced measure
Summary of the key elements of the high-level design for the next census (see Note 1)	To be reported in 2025/26 Annual Report	To be reported in 2025/26 Annual Report	Retired and replaced measure
The Integrated Statistical Data System required for the 2026 operational readiness test for the next census is in an adequate state for the test (see Note 1)	To be reported in 2025/26 Annual Report	To be reported in 2025/26 Annual Report	Retired and replaced measure

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
<i>2026-2027 Measures for Census</i>			
Independent Quality Assurance rating of Stats NZ's ability to deliver a successful Census (see Note 2)	New measure 2026/27	New measure	Target set once IQA assessment sets baseline
Gateway Review delivery confidence rating for the Census Programme (see Note 2)	New measure 2026/27	New measure	Target set once Gateway assessment sets baseline
Transitional admin population outputs released by the planned date (see Note 3)	New measure 2026/27	New measure	Released by December 2026

Note 1 - The previous measures were established as transitional initiation indicators before Cabinet decisions on the future Census approach. They reflected programme set-up activity and are no longer appropriate for ongoing service performance reporting. The new measures replace these with independent assessments of programme readiness and programme outputs.

Note 2 - These two new measures are independent assessments of programme readiness. They draw on external Gateway Review delivery confidence ratings and Independent Quality Assurance ratings, providing an expert and comparable assessment of strategic oversight, programme planning, risk management, governance and operational readiness for the 2030 Census. This approach enables progress in delivery confidence to be tracked over time.

The initial Independent Quality Assurance (IQA) assessment will occur after the publication of the Estimates. As these assessments are conducted externally and no prior rating exists, it is not possible to establish a baseline in advance. Consequently, a target cannot be set for 2026/27. The resulting rating will establish the baseline for future reporting.

The initial Gateway Review assessment will occur after the publication of the Estimates. As these assessments are conducted externally and no prior rating exists, it is not possible to establish a baseline in advance. Consequently, a target cannot be set for 2026/27. The resulting rating will establish the baseline for future reporting.

Note 3 - This new measure reflects the achievement of key programme outputs during the financial year. Given the early phase of the programme and absence of official Census outputs in 2026/27 and 2027/28, readiness and milestone indicators provide the most relevant performance information for this period.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by Stats NZ in the 2026/27 Annual Report.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Current Government						
Reduction in Back Office Functions (Administration and Contractors and Consultants) - Statistics New Zealand	2024/25	(4,300)	(4,300)	(4,300)	(4,300)	-

Services to Other Agencies RDA (M67) (A38)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the provision of services by Stats NZ to other agencies, where those services are not within the scope of another departmental output expense appropriation in Vote Statistics.

Expenses and Revenue

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	16,364	16,364	16,607
Revenue from Others	16,364	16,364	16,607

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the provision of shared services with other government agencies for the efficient and effective management of the Crown estate, such as the provision of shared accommodation in Christchurch and Wellington.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
The provision of shared services with other government agencies (see Note 1)	Provision of shared services to agreed standard	Achieved	Retire and Replace
Average annual lease cost per square metre of shared accommodation managed by Stats NZ compared with market benchmark (% difference) - Wellington (see Note 2)	New measure 2026/27	+6%	No more than 10% difference
Average annual lease cost per square metre of shared accommodation managed by Stats NZ compared with market benchmark (% difference) - Christchurch (see Note 2)	New measure 2026/27	+11%	No more than 10% difference
Percentage of partner agencies rating the shared services provided by Stats NZ as meeting or exceeding agreed quality and reliability standards (see Note 3)	New measure 2026/27	86%	90%

Note 1 - This measure is retired as it does not meet reporting standard for comparability and relevance. Three new measures provide a better assessment of service efficiency and customer satisfaction.

Note 2 - The average annual lease cost measure has been split into two (Wellington and Christchurch). This reflects materially different contexts, contracts and market benchmarks. A target of 'no more than +10% (of midpoint)' provides an appropriate tolerance band for normal benchmarking variability while maintaining an expectation of broad alignment with government market rates. These measures assess cost efficiency relative to office accommodation leased by other Government agencies.

Note 3 - The partner agency satisfaction measure reflects the effectiveness and reliability of shared services provided by Stats NZ.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Performance information for this appropriation will be reported by Stats NZ in the 2026/27 Annual Report.

2.3 - Departmental Capital Expenditure and Capital Injections

Statistics New Zealand - Capital Expenditure PLA (M67) (A38)

Scope of Appropriation

This appropriation is limited to the purchase or development of assets by and for the use of Statistics New Zealand, as authorised by section 24(1) of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Forests/Agricultural	-	-	-
Land	-	-	-
Property, Plant and Equipment	-	2,301	-
Intangibles	22,000	19,699	22,000
Other	-	-	-
Total Appropriation	22,000	22,000	22,000

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the creation and replacement of assets to support the achievement of Stats NZ's strategy.

How Performance will be Assessed and End of Year Reporting Requirements

Stats NZ's capital investment will deliver technology to enable a transition to an administration data first organisation, upgrade and replace existing technology, fleet and hardware and improve our premises.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Contextual qualitative information that specifies how the funding is used to achieve Stats NZ's strategy provides a more meaningful performance picture than quantitative capital indicators for this appropriation and will be reported by Stats NZ in the 2026/27 Annual Report.

*Capital Injections and Movements in Departmental Net Assets***Statistics New Zealand**

Details of Net Asset Schedule	2025/26 Estimated Actual \$000	2026/27 Projected \$000	Explanation of Projected Movements in 2026/27
Opening Balance	78,494	79,914	
Capital Injections	1,420	7,374	The increase in capital injections for 2026/27 is due to an increase of \$5.954 million to modernise the Integrated Data Infrastructure to support Social Investment and government decision-making.
Capital Withdrawals	-	-	
Surplus to be Retained (Deficit Incurred)	-	-	
Other Movements	-	-	
Closing Balance	79,914	87,288	

Part 4 - Details of Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

4 - Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure

Official Statistics (M67) (A38)

Overarching Purpose Statement

The single overarching purpose of this appropriation is to ensure availability, and promote the use, of the highest priority data and official statistical information to add value to decision making both in New Zealand and overseas jurisdictions.

Scope of Appropriation

Departmental Output Expenses

Economic and Business Data and Statistical Information Services

This category is limited to the delivery of data and statistical information services relating to business, the economy and overseas jurisdictions.

Population, Social and Labour Market Data and Statistical Information Services

This category is limited to delivery of data and statistical information services relating to the population, household economics, social conditions (including child poverty), the labour market, and the environment for New Zealand and overseas jurisdictions.

Stewardship of Government Data and Statistical Leadership

This category is limited to coordination of statistical and data services for government, through System Leadership of the Official Statistics System (OSS) and Stewardship of the Government Data System; statistical and data management advice; provision of access to official statistics; oversight of the IDI; and the provision of ministerial services.

Expenses, Revenue and Capital Expenditure

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Total Appropriation	185,656	185,656	191,097
Departmental Output Expenses			
Economic and Business Data and Statistical Information Services	70,413	70,413	68,517
Population, Social and Labour Market Data and Statistical Information Services	75,971	75,971	74,259
Stewardship of Government Data and Statistical Leadership	39,272	39,272	48,321

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted \$000	Estimated Actual \$000	Budget \$000
Funding for Departmental Output Expenses			
Revenue from the Crown	176,643	176,643	182,084
Economic and Business Data and Statistical Information Services	67,677	67,677	65,781
Population, Social and Labour Market Data and Statistical Information Services	72,167	72,167	70,455
Stewardship of Government Data and Statistical Leadership	36,799	36,799	45,848
Revenue from Others	9,013	9,013	9,013
Economic and Business Data and Statistical Information Services	2,736	2,736	2,736
Population, Social and Labour Market Data and Statistical Information Services	3,804	3,804	3,804
Stewardship of Government Data and Statistical Leadership	2,473	2,473	2,473

What is Intended to be Achieved with this Appropriation

This appropriation is intended to achieve the outcome of ensuring decision makers have the right data to make the right decisions by adding value to New Zealand's most important data. Stats NZ will do this by engaging with our customers and developing partnerships with iwi to ensure we are meeting their data needs. We will also be working to build trust with New Zealanders through operating in an open and transparent manner.

How Performance will be Assessed for this Appropriation

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Website accessibility and quality: The overall satisfaction with the experience on Stats.govt.nz (see Note 1)	60%	75% to 78%	Retired measure
Increase the number of views of each Stats NZ data tool (as an average across each tool) (see Note 1)	Increase from baseline of 1.36 million	above 2,900,000	Retired measure
Increase the number of total users of each data tool (as an average across each tool) (see Note 1)	Increase from baseline of 260,000	above 880,000	Retired measure
Number of promoters is high for services provided by Customised Data Requests and the Information Centre (see Note 1)	75% or above	85%	Retired measure
Number of detractors is low for services provided by Customised Data Requests and the Information Centre (see Note 1)	15% or below	10%	Retired measure
Digital Relevance Indicator (see Note 2)	New measure 2026/27	40	45

Note 1 - These indicators are channel-specific and not directly linked to the three appropriation categories. They also no longer reflect how people access data, as AI-driven search and aggregation have disrupted traditional web analytics. Survey response rates are increasingly too low and polarised to provide reliable insights. Their coverage is replaced with category-level Digital Relevance Indicator measures for the Economic and Business, and Population, Social and Labour Market categories, which will provide a more meaningful and enduring view of data accessibility and relevance consistent with the reporting standard.

Note 2 - Digital Relevance Indicator (DRI) is a new measure which provides a more meaningful and enduring measurement of data accessibility and relevance in a modern, multi-channel environment. This measure replaces the 'improve relevance of official statistics' measures from the Economic and Business Data and Statistical Information Services and Population, Social and Labour Market Data and Statistical Information Services categories.

What is Intended to be Achieved with each Category and How Performance will be Assessed

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Departmental Output Expenses			
Economic and Business Data and Statistical Information Services			
This category is intended to achieve the statistical releases that are free of high errors, meet release dates and enable New Zealand businesses to engage with Stats NZ utilising digital technologies.			
<i>How performance will be assessed:</i>			
Improve the relevance of economic and business official statistics by increasing the frequency, quality, accessibility, timeliness, and/or coverage of at least [X number] of releases (see Note 1)	2	2	Retire and replaced measure
Statistical releases are free from errors classified as high for Economic and Business Data (see Note 2)	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of critical economic and business data releases published on the advertised date (see Note 2)	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of other economic and business data releases published on the advertised date (see Note 2)	95%	95 to 98%	95%
Percentage of business survey responses provided to Stats NZ in digital format (see Note 3)	60%	82-85%	Retire and replaced measure
Percentage of total business survey responses submitted through a digital survey mode (CAWI, SAEQ, SCER) (see Note 3)	New measure 2026/27	86%	93%
Percentage of Stats NZ business survey responses with online (CAWI) questionnaires available (see Note 3)	30% or above	22.9%	28%
Improvement in overall customer satisfaction in Stats NZ's information releases and our data tools (see Note 1)	5.70 or above	6.35	Retire and replaced measure
Improvement in the customer experience of data findability (see Note 1)	5.30 or above	5.85	Retire and replaced measure
Increase in the total users of Stats NZ information releases (see Note 1)	137,548 or above	139,000	Retire and replaced measure

	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Assessment of Performance			
Population, Social and Labour Market Data and Statistical Information Services			
This category is intended to achieve the non-census related population, social, labour market and environmental data statistical releases that are free of high errors and meet release dates.			
<i>How performance will be assessed:</i>			
Improve the relevance of population, labour market, environment or society official statistics by increasing the frequency, quality, accessibility, timeliness, and/or coverage of at least [X number] of releases (see Note 1)	2	2	Retire and replaced measure
Statistical releases free from errors classified as high for population, social and labour market and environment data (see Note 2)	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of critical population, social and labour market releases published on the advertised date (see Note 2)	100%	100%	100%
Percentage of other population, social and labour market releases published on the advertised date (see Note 2)	95%	95 to 98%	95%
Timely delivery of all child poverty measures required under the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018 (see Note 4)	100%	100%	Retired measure
Improvement in overall customer satisfaction in Stats NZ's information releases and our data tools (see Note 1)	5.78 or better	7.20	Retire and replaced measure
Improvement in the customer experience of data findability (see Note 1)	5.17 or better	6.45	Retire and replaced measure
Increase in the total users of Stats NZ information releases (see Note 1)	113,736 or above	above 78,000	Retire and replaced measure
Stewardship of Government Data and Statistical Leadership			
This category is intended to achieve leadership of the New Zealand data ecosystem, facilitation of awareness and use of statistical information and the provision of effective and efficient ministerial services to enable Ministers to discharge their statistics portfolio responsibilities.			
<i>How performance will be assessed:</i>			
Number of Data Lab project applications completed within 6 working weeks of receipt (see Note 5)	80%	85%	Retire and replaced measure
Time for Stats NZ to complete Data Lab project applications (excluding time awaiting customer response) (see Note 5)	New measure 2026/27	80%	80% of projects are completed in < 25 working days
High priority simple or medium complexity Data Lab output checks completed within 5 working days (see Note 5)	85%	97%	Retire and replaced measure
Percentage of High priority Data Lab output checks completed within 5 working days (see Note 5)	New measure 2026/27	75%	80%
Percentage of Normal priority Data Lab output checks completed within 10 working days (see Note 5)	New measure 2026/27	75%	75%
Percentage of IDI releases published by the target date	100%	100%	100%
Enhancing the government data system by building and strengthening partnerships and relationships to foster improved stewardship, sharing, accessibility, and utilisation of government data (see Note 6)	Case studies reported in 2024/25 Annual Report	Case studies reported in 2024/25 Annual Report	Retire and replaced measure

Assessment of Performance	2025/26		2026/27
	Final Budgeted Standard	Estimated Actual	Budget Standard
Percentage of key admin datasets compliant with data standards (see Note 6)	New measure 2026/27	0%	100%
Percentage of agencies with data standards implementation plans in place (see Note 6)	New measure 2026/27	36%	100%
Percentage of draft written Parliamentary questions, Ministerial briefings, and Officials Information Act replies provided to Ministers that meet agreed quality and timeliness standards be no less than 95% (see Note 7)	95%	99%	95%
Percentage of assessed policy advice papers that score 3 or higher out of 5 (see Note 7)	New measure 2026/27	80%	80%
Percentage of assessed policy advice papers that score 4 or higher out of 5 (see Note 7)	New measure 2026/27	40%	50%
Ministerial satisfaction with the policy advice service, as measured through the common satisfaction survey (see Note 7)	New measure 2026/27	4/5	4/5

Note 1 - Lower-level relevance and satisfaction measures are being retired and replaced with the Digital Relevance Indicator (DRI), as they no longer provide meaningful or reliable insight into customer experience. Changes in how users access data, including via AI-driven tools, have reduced the usefulness of traditional usage and satisfaction metrics.

The DRI provides a more meaningful and enduring measure of data accessibility and relevance in a modern, multi-channel environment.

Note 2 - A data release is timely if it is available to customers within the period in which it remains useful. Planned timeliness is a design decision, based on trade-offs with accuracy, response rates and cost. The calendar of release dates for periodical statistical releases is published on the Stats NZ website at least six months in advance, and the achievement of the planned release dates is monitored as a timeliness performance measure. Timeliness releases have been split into critical and other releases to reflect the performance of each release priority.

Note 3 - The previous measure has been replaced with two measures that together provide better coverage of uptake and availability of digital collection channels. One measure is new, and one updates the previous measure for clarity:

- percentage of total business responses submitted through digital survey modes (CAWI, SAEQ, SCER) (new) captures the extent to which businesses are using digital channels, and
- percentage of Stats NZ business surveys with online (CAWI) questionnaires available (updated wording of the previous measure) reflects system readiness and the migration of surveys onto the new online platform.

Together, these measures provide complementary coverage of both use and capability of digital collection, offering a more meaningful and decision-useful view of progress in enabling digital engagement.

Note 4 - 'Timely delivery of all child poverty measures required under the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018' is retired as it duplicates coverage provided by the measure 'Percentage of critical population, social and labour market releases published on the advertised date', which includes child poverty indicators.

Note 5 - The updated measures improve coverage of the end-to-end Data Lab and IDI service across application processing, confidentiality (output) checks and releases.

The Data Lab application measure has been revised to report the time taken for Stats NZ to complete applications, excluding time awaiting customer response, as processing cannot proceed while customer information is outstanding. The output check measure has been split to report high-priority and normal-priority checks separately, reflecting the different service levels applied to these requests and providing clearer visibility of performance.

Note 6 - This qualitative case study measure was used as an interim indicator while admin data supply initiatives were being established. This measure is being replaced with two new measures that capture both the extent of compliance (datasets meeting standards) and the progress toward compliance (agencies with implementation plans). This provides a balanced view of current system maturity and forward momentum in improving data interoperability and quality across government.

Note 7 - These measures relate to the ministerial servicing and policy advice functions within this category's intent: to provide efficient and effective ministerial services to enable Ministers to discharge their statistical portfolio responsibilities. They assess both the timeliness and quality of written advice and responses and the effectiveness of the policy advice function through independent assessment and Ministerial feedback. The measures provide balanced coverage across all key aspects of ministerial and policy servicing: delivery timeliness, technical quality and client satisfaction. They capture both quantitative (timeliness, quality scores) and qualitative (Ministerial satisfaction) dimensions of performance.

End of Year Performance Reporting

Final performance information for this appropriation will be reported by Stats NZ in the 2026/27 Annual Report.

Current and Past Policy Initiatives

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Current Government						
Modernising the Integrated Data Infrastructure to Support Social Investment and Government Decision-making	2026/27	-	11,599	12,602	11,974	8,588
Baseline Savings - Statistics New Zealand	2026/27	-	(2,500)	(4,900)	(4,900)	(4,900)
Monthly Consumers Price Index (CPI) and More Regular Reporting of Inflation	2025/26	6,576	5,246	2,610	2,100	2,100
Return of Funding for Internal Learning and Capability	2025/26	(1,505)	(1,536)	(1,566)	(1,597)	(1,597)
Reduction in Back Office Functions (Administration and Contractors and Consultants) - Statistics New Zealand	2024/25	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)
Return of funding from discontinuation of the Living in Aotearoa Survey	2024/25	(4,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)	(6,000)
Reduction in office space operating and lease costs - Statistics New Zealand	2024/25	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
Shared Approach to Back-office Transformation	2024/25	(130)	(130)	(130)	(130)	(130)

Policy Initiative	Year of First Impact	2025/26 Final Budgeted \$000	2026/27 Budget \$000	2027/28 Estimated \$000	2028/29 Estimated \$000	2029/30 Estimated \$000
Previous Government						
Data Collection for Key Surveys - Cost Pressures	2024/25	4,232	4,232	4,232	4,232	4,232
Public Sector Pay Adjustment - Statistics Remuneration Cost Pressure	2023/24	8,973	8,973	8,973	8,973	8,973
Stats NZ Infrastructure and Systems to Deliver Core Data and Statistics	2023/24	4,517	5,220	5,220	5,220	5,220
Methodological changes to the longitudinal Living in Aotearoa survey to improve timeliness and relevance of child poverty statistics	2022/23	4,883	4,883	4,883	4,883	4,883
Providing sustainable, quality data for generation to come	2021/22	5,954	5,954	5,954	5,954	5,954

Reasons for Changes in Appropriation

The increase in this appropriation for 2026/27 is mainly due to:

- an increase of \$11.599 million to modernise the Integrated Data Infrastructure to support Social Investment and government decision-making
- an increase of \$703,000 to fund cost pressures from past initiatives.

Partially offset by:

- a decrease of \$4.531 million for cost saving initiatives such as:
 - baseline savings via modernising data collection methods, consolidating functions and reviewing funding agreements (\$2.500 million)
 - discontinuation of the Living in Aotearoa survey (\$2 million)
 - discontinuation of an internal learning and capability programme (\$31,000)
- a decrease of \$1.330 million to provide monthly Consumers Price Index (CPI) and more regular reporting of inflation
- a decrease of \$1 million for an expense transfer from 2024/25 to 2025/26 to improve the Integrated Data Infrastructure for Social Investment.