

Head 26 — CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT

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

Estimate 2020–21 **\$921.7m**

Establishment ceiling 2020–21 (notional annual mid-point salary value) representing an estimated 1 314 non-directorate posts as at 31 March 2020 rising by 50 posts to 1 364 posts as at 31 March 2021 **\$626.0m**

In addition, there will be an estimated seven directorate posts as at 31 March 2020 and as at 31 March 2021.

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 | These programmes contribute to Policy Area 27: Intra-Governmental Services (Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury). |
| Programme (3) National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics | |
| Programme (4) General Statistical Services | |
| Programme (5) Price/Industry/Service Statistics | This programme contributes to Policy Area 17: Information Technology and Broadcasting (Secretary for Innovation and Technology) 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

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	178.5	188.6	186.4 (–1.2%)	204.3 (+9.6%)
				(or +8.3% on 2019–20 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 monthly surveys on trade related to outward processing in the Mainland;
 - conducting surveys on re-export trade for estimating the rates of re-export margin;
 - conducting supplementary surveys to track the latest developments in the trade structure of Hong Kong;

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- collecting data for adjusting import statistics to a free-on-board basis to facilitate compilation of national income and balance of payments (BoP) statistics and international comparison of trade data;
- compiling import/export specification price indices;
- compiling port cargo statistics and container statistics;
- conducting an annual survey 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	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (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
written enquiries (working days)	1	1	1	1
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

Indicators

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
import/export declarations checked (million)	20.6	19.6	19.6
cargo manifests processed (million).....	8.0	7.4	7.4
statistical reports/publications produced	8	8	8
surveys conducted	6	6	6

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21

5 During 2020–21, the Department will continue to support the use of electronic submission services for import/export declarations and cargo manifests.

Programme (2): Social Statistics

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	103.3	209.8	158.9 (–24.3%)	258.8 (+62.9%)
				(or +23.4% on 2019–20 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.

Brief Description

7 The work involves:

- conducting population censuses/by-censuses at five-yearly intervals;
- compiling vital statistics and population statistics and making population projections;

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- 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	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (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	1.5	1.6	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

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
quarters records updated	113 000	195 000#	318 000#
households enumerated¶	82 000	85 000δ	115 000‡
statistical systems maintained/enhanced/developed	10	10	10
statistical reports/publications producedφ.....	11@	9@	9
surveys conductedΨ	3	5Λ	5§

More quarters records were updated in 2019 and will be updated in 2020 arising from the special updating exercise for the 2021 Population Census (21C).

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

δ Including households enumerated in the Survey on Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases and the Small-scale Test Survey of 21C.

‡ Including households enumerated in the Survey on Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases and the Pilot Survey of 21C.

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.

@ Including statistical reports/publications on the 2016 Population By-census results.

Ψ Including household surveys contracted out to private survey research firms.

Λ Including the Survey on Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases and the Small-scale Test Survey of 21C.

§ Including the Survey on Persons with Disabilities and Chronic Diseases and the Pilot Survey of 21C.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21

9 The Department will continue with the planning for the 21C. A Small-scale Test Survey was conducted in late 2019 to test the questionnaire design and operational arrangements of the 21C and consult households on related arrangements. A Pilot Survey of larger scale will be conducted in mid-2020 to test various aspects of the operation and evaluate the design of the 21C.

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

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	92.5	96.6	95.1 (–1.6%)	101.8 (+7.0%)
				(or +5.4% on 2019–20 Original)

Aim

10 The aim is to produce and analyse Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross National Income (GNI), BoP and related statistics in a timely and accurate manner, and to assist in the preparation of 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	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (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	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.0
annual GDP by expenditure component	2.5	2.0	2.0	1.1
quarterly GDP by economic activity	3.0	2.7	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

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
statistical reports/publications produced	4	4	4
surveys conducted	1	1	1

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Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21

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

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	36.4	37.7	34.0 (–9.8%)	37.6 (+10.6%)
				(or –0.3% on 2019–20 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;
- 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; and
- 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.

16 The key performance measures are:

Target

	Target	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Plan)
provision of statistics requiring simple action (working days)	1	1	1	1

Indicators

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (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 2020–21

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 organising seminars to facilitate correct interpretation and proper use of statistics.

19 The Department will continue to use modern technologies in the dissemination of statistical information and enhance its website to make it more convenient for users to obtain statistical information.

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Programme (5): Price/Industry/Service Statistics

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	159.5	186.8	187.5 (+0.4%)	210.7 (+12.4%)
				(or +12.8% on 2019–20 Original)

Aim

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

Brief Description

21 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) on a quinquennial basis to collect up-to-date information on household expenditure pattern for rebasing the 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.

22 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (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	1.0
Quarterly Survey of Service Industries	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3
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	21

Indicators

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
establishments enumerated.....	260 000	256 100	272 200
households enumerated	—	1 980 ^ψ	5 100^ψ
price quotations collected.....	604 700 [#]	593 900	622 200[#]

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	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
statistical reports/publications produced.....	23	23	23
surveys conducted.....	15	17 ^α	16 ^β

ψ Including the number of households to be enumerated in the 2019–20 HES.

Including price quotations collected for an ad hoc programme of price study.

α Including the 2019–20 HES conducted once every five years and an ad hoc survey, namely Survey on Information Technology Usage and Penetration in the Business Sector for 2019.

β Including the 2019–20 HES conducted once every five years.

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21

23 The Department will:

- continue to enhance the compilation framework in respect of the innovation and technology statistics to meet the increasing data demands; and
- conduct the 2019–20 HES for updating the weights of the CPIs.

Programme (6): Labour Statistics

	2018–19 (Actual)	2019–20 (Original)	2019–20 (Revised)	2020–21 (Estimate)
Financial provision (\$m)	95.3	98.3	98.7 (+0.4%)	108.5 (+9.9%)
				(or +10.4% on 2019–20 Original)

Aim

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

Brief Description

25 The work involves:

- compiling employment, vacancies, wage and labour earnings statistics;
- compiling statistics on manpower requirements and training needs; and
- maintaining the CRE.

26 The key performance measures are:

Targets

	Target	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (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

	2018 (Actual)	2019 (Actual)	2020 (Estimate)
records of establishments updated	851 000	864 000	864 000
establishments enumerated.....	760 000	760 000	760 000
statistical reports/publications produced.....	5	5	5
surveys conducted.....	5	5	5

Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2020–21

27 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; and
- maintain and update the CRE, and to upkeep the Hong Kong Standard Industrial Classification so as to foster international comparability and to reflect the economic activities of Hong Kong.

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ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL PROVISION

Programme	2018–19 (Actual) (\$m)	2019–20 (Original) (\$m)	2019–20 (Revised) (\$m)	2020–21 (Estimate) (\$m)
(1) Trade Statistics.....	178.5	188.6	186.4	204.3
(2) Social Statistics.....	103.3	209.8	158.9	258.8
(3) National Accounts and Balance of Payments Statistics.....	92.5	96.6	95.1	101.8
(4) General Statistical Services.....	36.4	37.7	34.0	37.6
(5) Price/Industry/Service Statistics.....	159.5	186.8	187.5	210.7
(6) Labour Statistics.....	95.3	98.3	98.7	108.5
	665.5	817.8	760.6 (–7.0%)	921.7 (+21.2%)
				(or +12.7% on 2019–20 Original)

Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision

Programme (1)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$17.9 million (9.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to the increased salary provision for filling of vacancies and staff changes.

Programme (2)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$99.9 million (62.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to the additional provision for preparation of the 21C, as well as the increased salary provision for creation of posts, filling of vacancies and staff changes. There will be a net increase of 55 posts in 2020–21.

Programme (3)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$6.7 million (7.0%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to the increased salary provision for filling of vacancies and staff changes.

Programme (4)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$3.6 million (10.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to the increased salary provision for the creation of two posts in 2020–21, filling of vacancies and staff changes.

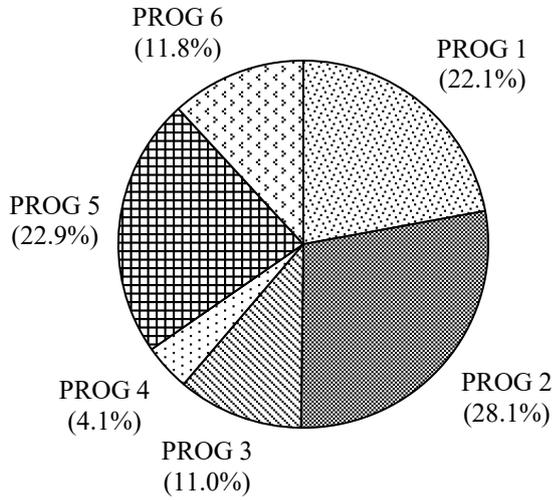
Programme (5)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$23.2 million (12.4%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to the additional provision for conducting the 2019–20 HES, as well as the increased salary provision for filling of vacancies and staff changes, partly offset by the deletion of seven posts in 2020–21 upon completion of the fieldwork of the 2019–20 HES.

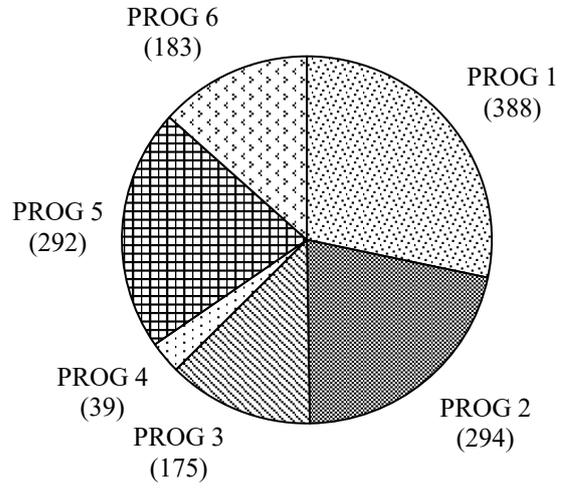
Programme (6)

Provision for 2020–21 is \$9.8 million (9.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2019–20. This is mainly due to the increased salary provision for filling of vacancies and staff changes.

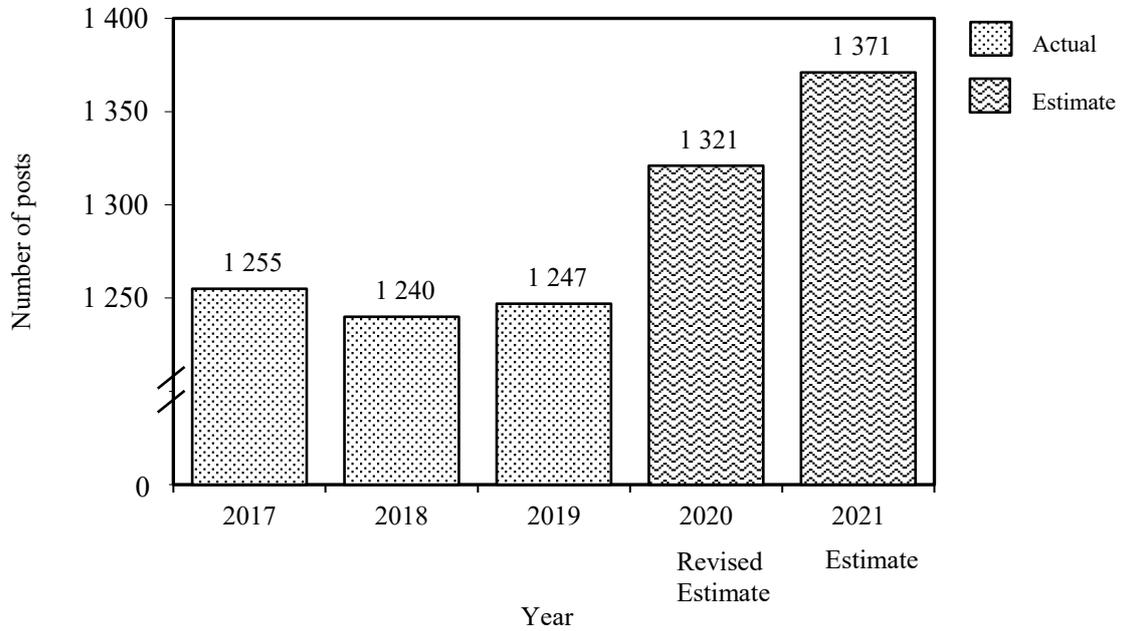
Allocation of provision to programmes (2020-21)



Staff by programme (as at 31 March 2021)



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



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Sub-head (Code)	Actual expenditure 2018–19	Approved estimate 2019–20	Revised estimate 2019–20	Estimate 2020–21	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	
Operating Account					
Recurrent					
000	Operational expenses	665,242	817,289	760,634	921,201
	Total, Recurrent.....	665,242	817,289	760,634	921,201
	Total, Operating Account	665,242	817,289	760,634	921,201
<hr/>					
Capital Account					
Plant, Equipment and Works					
661	Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote).....	280	500	—	500
	Total, Plant, Equipment and Works.....	280	500	—	500
	Total, Capital Account.....	280	500	—	500
<hr/>					
	Total Expenditure	665,522	817,789	760,634	921,701
		<u>665,522</u>	<u>817,789</u>	<u>760,634</u>	<u>921,701</u>

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Details of Expenditure by Subhead

The estimate of the amount required in 2020–21 for the salaries and expenses of the Census and Statistics Department is \$921,701,000. This represents an increase of \$161,067,000 over the revised estimate for 2019–20 and \$256,179,000 over the actual expenditure in 2018–19.

Operating Account

Recurrent

2 Provision of \$921,201,000 under *Subhead 000 Operational expenses* is for the salaries, allowances and other operating expenses of the Census and Statistics Department. The increase of \$160,567,000 (21.1%) over the revised estimate for 2019–20 is mainly due to the provision for preparing the 2021 Population Census and conducting the 2019–20 Household Expenditure Survey, as well as increased salary provision for filling of vacancies and staff changes.

3 The establishment as at 31 March 2020 will be 1 321 permanent posts. It is expected that there will be a net increase of 50 permanent posts in 2020–21. Subject to certain conditions, the controlling officer may under delegated power create or delete non-directorate posts during 2020–21, but the notional annual mid-point salary value of all such posts must not exceed \$626,004,000.

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

	2018–19 (Actual) (\$'000)	2019–20 (Original) (\$'000)	2019–20 (Revised) (\$'000)	2020–21 (Estimate) (\$'000)
Personal Emoluments				
- Salaries.....	560,118	627,673	591,900	669,428
- Allowances.....	3,837	5,110	10,899	12,204
- Job-related allowances.....	—	1	1	1
Personnel Related Expenses				
- Mandatory Provident Fund contribution.....	1,806	2,817	1,958	2,804
- Civil Service Provident Fund contribution.....	20,264	23,869	24,768	30,320
Departmental Expenses				
- General departmental expenses	78,981	157,579	130,871	206,207
Other Charges				
- Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific	236	240	237	237
	665,242	817,289	760,634	921,201

Capital Account

Plant, Equipment and Works

5 Provision of \$500,000 under *Subhead 661 Minor plant, vehicles and equipment (block vote)* is for purchase of equipment.