

# GENDER BUDGET STATEMENT



**national treasury**

Department:  
National Treasury  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## INTRODUCTION

The Gender Budget Statement (GBS) is included in the budget publication as a review of how gender disparities in the economy and society are being addressed within government's overall budget policy. The GBS sets out government gender equality priorities, the observed gender gaps/inequalities and their associated trends, and information on the government's policies and resource allocations proposed in the budget to address gender gaps/inequalities. This document represents a pilot effort that will form the basis for a full GBS in a later budget cycle. The data and observations made here are meant to illicit feedback and discussion on the changes that have taken place over the last decade, the reports submitted by departments, and the practical evolution of the framework that informs the contents of the GBS.

The gender expenditure tagging pilot launched during the 2024 budget process focuses on the Women Economic Empowerment gap as a start to reflect government's commitment to advance gender equality. This is the first step to having a gender responsive budget by identifying existing measures. Departments have identified initiatives for their impacts on economic empowerment of women using available resources. Through an iterative process a selection of interventions have been identified by the five departments, a summary of interventions of the five pilot tagged during the 2025 MTEF process is therefore included here.

## STATUS OF WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA

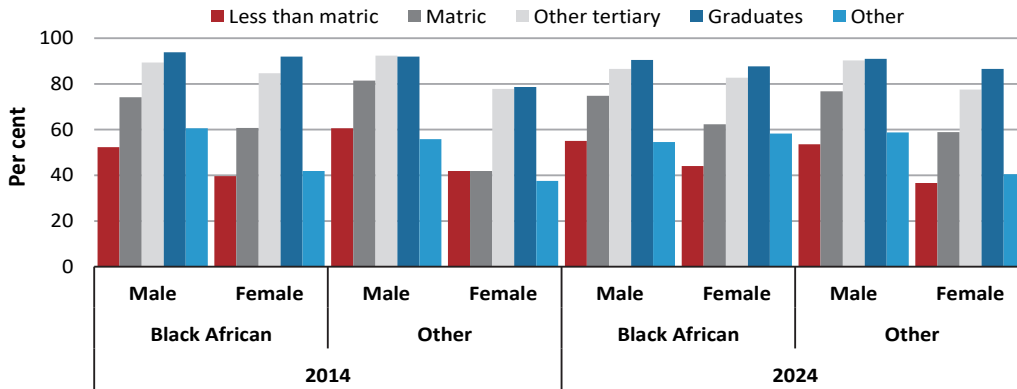
*Women Economic Empowerment (WEE)* is the capacity of women to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from the economy in ways that recognize the value of their contributions, respect their dignity, and make it possible to negotiate a fairer distribution of the benefits of growth. It includes:

- Closing gender gaps in economic opportunities: lifting constraints to increase the quantity and quality of jobs of women and closing gender earnings gaps.
- Improving women's access and ownership in respect of businesses, property, among others.

Government's Gender Series Report of 2024 revealed that women are more likely to face unemployment and less likely to participate in the labor market compared to men. Nevertheless, the report highlights that the country continues to make some progress in this area. Between 2014 and 2024, male labor force participation rates increased by 1,7 percentage points, while female rates saw a 4,9-percentage point rise in the same period.

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Figure 1. Labour force participation rate by sex, population group and educational attainment

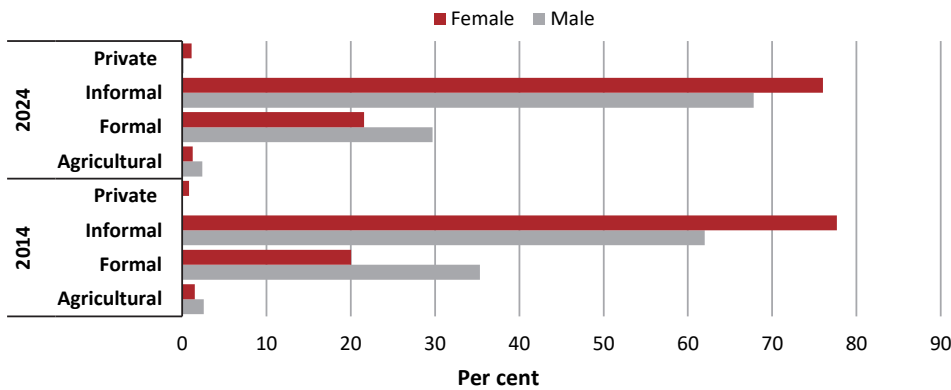


Source: Stats SA, 2024

The table above shows labour force participation rates by sex, population group and educational attainment. The category 'other' comprise whites, coloured and Indian/Asian population groups.

In total participation rates for both males and females have declined over the period reviewed. However, for the graduates there is a slight decline for black Africans while an increase is recorded for other racial groups.

Figure 2. Share of employers and self-employed by sex and sector



Source: Stats SA, 2024

This graph shows the distribution of male and females business enterprise by sector, with females dominating the informal sector.

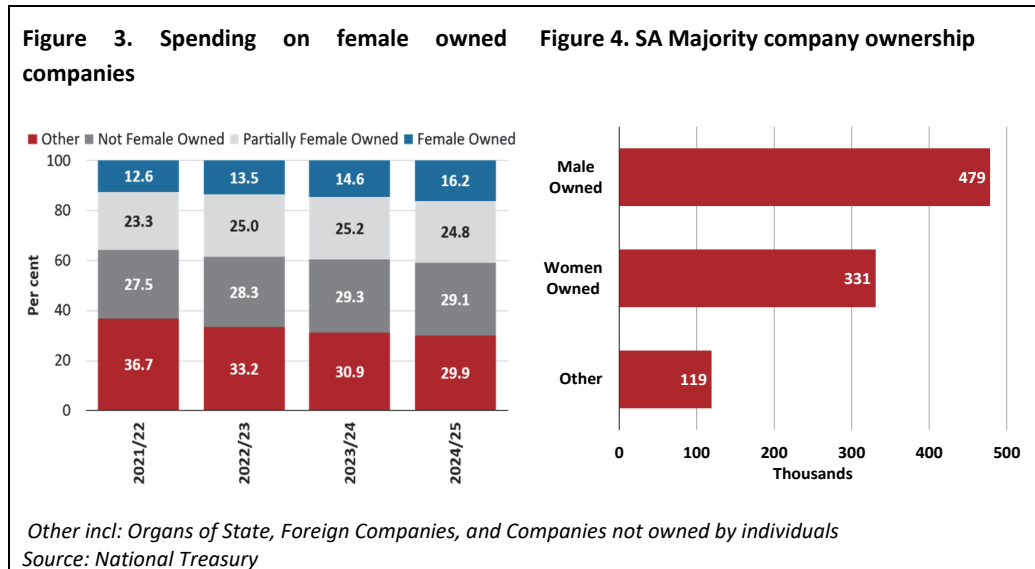
## GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES FOR ADVANCING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

### PROCUREMENT REGULATION

The Procurement Act 28 of 2024 in section 17 requires that procuring institution must set aside in preference of a category of persons previously disadvantaged including women. The data below shows majority ownership for companies on the central supplier database as well as past few years spending for female owned companies.

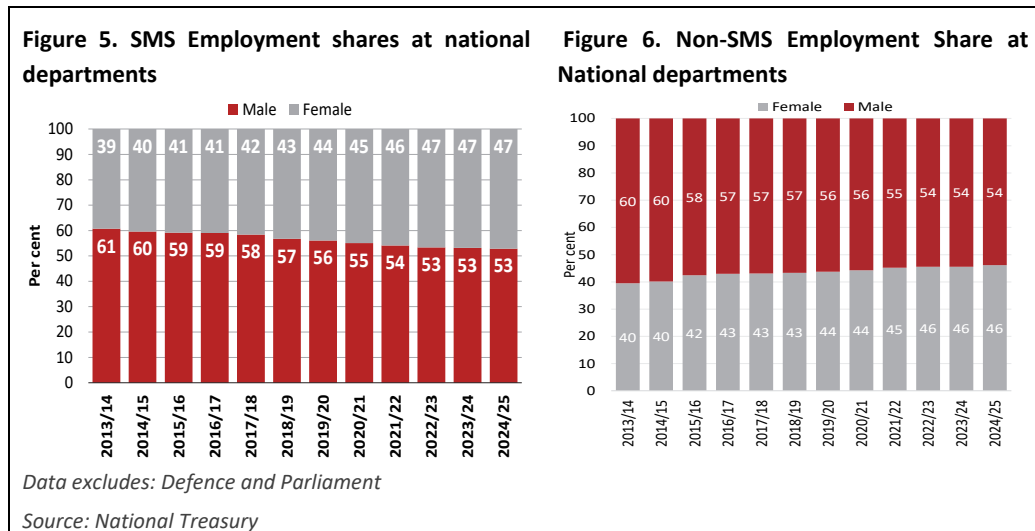
This section addresses the ownership gap as eluded under status of women economic empowerment. It is important to note that government spending on female owned businesses depends on the number of businesses registered on the Central Supplier Database (CSD).

### OWNERSHIP AND SPENDING FOR COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS WITH GOVERNMENT



### EMPLOYMENT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

There has been a steady increase in the female share of employment for both non-Senior Management Service (SMS) and in Senior Management in national departments over the past decade this growth has stagnated since 2022/23.



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### PILOT DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET INTERVENTIONS – ACTIVITIES ADVANCING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

**Table 1. Summary of mainstream expenditure for activities relating to Women's Economic Empowerment**

R'000	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
Department of Higher Education and Training	31 994 287	33 464 112	34 979 471
Department of Employment and Labour	3 644	3 826	4 017
Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture	27 939	27 973	28 003
Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition	200 000	250 000	300 000
Department of Women, Youth and Person with Disabilities	418	437	457
<b>Total</b>	<b>32 226 288</b>	<b>33 746 348</b>	<b>35 311 948</b>

Source: Data represent estimates of allocations to WEE interventions by selected pilot departments

**Table 2. Summary of submissions from pilot departments**

Department	Program	Initiatives/Interventions supporting women's economic empowerment	R'000 2025/26	R'000 2026/27	R'000 2027/28
Department of Employment and Labour	Public Employment Services	Registration, counselling and placement of female work-seekers in registered employment opportunities	3 644	3 826	4 017
Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities	Advocacy and Mainstreaming for the Rights of Women	Coordinates business skills training programme in agriculture to benefit SMMEs/Co-operatives in partnership with DALRRD and Thembeisile Local municipality	104	109	114
		SDP Programme - coordinates market access program in partnership with DSBD and Lindiwe Sanitary Pads to benefit SMME's/Co-operatives	104	109	114
		Women in Trade Workshop – partner with WECONA national office to facilitate provincial rollout	105	109	114
		Green Economy – partner with DFFE to coordinate business skills training program to benefit SMMEs/ Co-operatives in waste, recycling and cleaning services	105	110	115
Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture	Recreation Development and Sport Promotion	Mass Participation and Sport Development Grant: Women boxing support provided	2 700	2 700	2 700
		Sport federations various women's sports programs, including rugby, netball, football, and cricket, focus on developing young female athletes through talent identification, training, competition	19 000	19 000	19 000
	Arts and Culture Promotion and Development	Women in Cultural & Creative Industries: This initiative encourages active participation and inclusion of ordinary women in the socio-economic development through cultural and creative arts programme platforms	3 500	3 500	3 500
		Sisters Working in Film & Television (SWIFT) is a non-profit championing empowerment and access to equal opportunities for women	639	673	703
		Woman writers programme: Projects that promote and support the work done by women writers	2 100	2 100	2 100

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**Table 2. Summary of submissions from pilot departments (continued)**

Department	Program	Initiatives/Interventions supporting women's economic empowerment	R'000 2025/26	R'000 2026/27	R'000 2027/28
Department of Trade, Industry, and Competition	Incentives	Incentive funding to women-owned enterprises through the Manufacturing incentives, Innovation Incentives and Film and TV incentive	200 000	250 000	300 000
Department of Higher Education and Training	University Education	University Subsidies: Achieving 50% of female students enrolling in higher education institutions	23 501 391	24 508 475	25 616 763
	Technical and Vocational Education and Training	Technical and Vocational Education and Training System Planning and Institutional Support: Achieving 50% of female students enrolling in TVET Colleges	6 944 870	7 318 896	7 651 658
	Community Education and Training	Community Education and Training System Planning, Institutional Development and Support: Achieving 50% of female students enrolling in CET Colleges	1 548 026	1 636 742	1 711 050

*Source: Data represent estimates of allocations to WEE interventions by selected pilot departments*