PROCUREMENT PAYMENTS DASHBOARD (BAS): USER GUIDE

national treasury

Department:
National Treasury
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Procurement payments dashboard (BAS)

1.   BACKGROUND

The National Treasury has launched the Procurement Payments Dashboard (BAS), a digital platform that enables the public to explore how government spends public funds on goods and services. This represents a significant step toward enhancing transparency and public accountability, in line with the recommendations of the 2024 Methodology for Assessing Procurement Systems (MAPS) Assessment Report for South Africa.

An Instruction Note on Procurement Information Transparency has been issued to support the publication of the dashboard and guide the collection of procurement information from various systems. Data will be drawn from the Basic Accounting System (BAS) supplemented by supplier data from the Central Supplier Database (CSD). Published data will include supplier and ownership details, as well as the nature, value, and quantity of procurement transactions and payments.

The dashboard provides citizens, civil society, and stakeholders with access to key procurement payment data across national and provincial departments, with future expansions planned to include LOGIS, public entities and municipalities data. Presenting procurement information at a transactional level promotes transparency and offers a valuable tool for oversight. The dashboard's interactive views illustrate the scope of public procurement, spending patterns, and supplier the government's progress in empowering designated groups.

This launch represents the National Treasury's first public release of detailed procurement payment data, with quarterly updates planned to maintain transparency and reflect evolving trends. By enhancing visibility into public expenditure, the dashboard will strengthen trust in the procurement system while promoting economic inclusivity and efficiency.

2.   HOW TO ACCESS THE DASHBOARD

You can access the dashboard online through the National Treasury eTenders website (https://data.etenders.gov.za/). At present the dashboard has not been optimized for mobile view; a web browser on a computer or tablet is recommended. To interact with the dashboard, click the link to browse them using a web-browser such as Microsoft Edge (recommended). You do not need to download Power BI.

WARNING: the dashboard is large – about 1gb. When accessing on web services the full database is not downloaded. However, if you do try download the full .pbix file, this will use a lot of network resources. So, don't do this on a mobile data connection for example.

3. UNDERSTANDING THE DATA

3.1. Data overview

All procurement related payments of National and Provincial government departments are recorded on the Basic Accounting System (BAS) during the payment process. The Procurement payments dashboard provides data on these payments. The payments are recorded against the Standard Chart of Account (SCOA), specifically in the Item segment. Only transactions classified as procurement payments are included in the dashboard.

This focused scope excludes other BAS transactions such as salaries, grants, sundry payments and transfers, ensuring that the dashboard reflects only procurement spend.

The dashboard currently excludes data from State owned entities, Municipalities and the following National and Provincial departments:

- Department of Defence
- South African Policy Service
- South African Revenue Service
- State Security Agency
- Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature
- Free State Provincial Legislature
- Gauteng Provincial Legislature
- KwaZulu Natal Provincial Legislature
- Limpopo Provincial Legislature
- Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature
- Northern Cape Provincial Legislature
- North-West Provincial Legislature
- Western Cape Provincial Legislature

As such the current dashboard constitutes approximately 25% of the total government spend. However, as mentioned, new dashboards and data flows will be added to the current dashboard as they mature.

Despite these limitations, the National Treasury believes the current dashboard to be an accurate representation of aggregate public service procurement expenditure at the National and Provincial levels. The data in the dashboard are not subject to extrapolation and are based on actual spend transactions. Further, information produced by the systems is regularly compared to figures published by Vulindlela and the underlying BAS dataset, for accuracy and completeness.

That said, it is important to note that the views rely on the integrity of the data extracted from the various underling data systems which feed into the OCPO Data warehouse. Known integrity issues have been corrected where necessary but unknown issues may exist. Further, the procurement payments dashboard (BAS) contains information on suppliers that benefit directly from government spending; subcontractors cannot be identified through the government payment process.

For the procurement payments dashboard (BAS) information from the central supplier database (CSD) has been merged with BAS data, to provide more detailed information on suppliers.

The CSD is a national system that records information about all suppliers registered to do business with the South African government. The CSD serves as the single source of supplier information for all spheres of government — national, provincial, and local. It connects directly to other key systems, including:

- CIPC for company registration details,

- SARS for tax compliance, and

- Banking institutions for verified bank details.

The Procurement Payments Dashboard uses CSD data to provide demographic and business information linked to government payment transactions. This includes:

Ownership type:

- Woman-owned, Youth-owned, Disabled-owned, Black-owned, and Military Veteran-owned – suppliers with 51% or more ownership by the designated group.

- Partially owned – suppliers with 1%–50% ownership.

- Not owned – suppliers with 0% ownership.

Ownership classification and calculation:

Ownership information used in the Procurement Payments Dashboard is derived from the B-BBEE certificates issued by the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) or affidavits provided directly by suppliers. The classifications of "woman-owned," "youth-owned," and "disabled-owned" are therefore based on Black women, Black youth, and Black persons with disabilities, respectively, in line with the definitions applied under the B-BBEE framework.

While these ownership categories provide important insights into supplier empowerment, it is important to note that ownership can also be based on directorship information but presents several challenges. Many suppliers with significant procurement spend are partially owned by other organisations, trusts, or companies listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE), where ownership structures are complex or not fully transparent. As a result, ownership data for such suppliers may not always reflect the ultimate beneficial ownership.

Note: Not all spend transactions can be classified in terms of the demographic classifications because of the supplier types government is doing business with. Some suppliers are "Government owned", "Listed companies" or the information is "Not supplied" etc. Therefore, a figure of 48% Woman ownership implies 52% non-Woman ownership that comprise of various other ownership structures; it does not imply that 52% of the spend was paid to companies exclusively owned by men.

Company turnover:

- EME – R0 to R10 million;

- QSE – R10 million to R50 million;

- GE – Above R50 million

Supplier type and location: Whether the supplier is a CIPC registered supplier, government-owned, or a non-profit organisation, and where they are based.

The following types of suppliers are currently made provision for in CSD:

<u>CIPC Companies</u>

- Foreign Companies;
- Public Companies (LTD);
- Private companies (PTY LTDs);
- Non-Profit Companies;
- Personal Liability Companies (INC);
- State Owned Companies (SOC LTD)
- Closed Corporations;
- Co-operatives;
- Non-Profit External Companies;
- Section Companies.

<u>Non-CIPC Suppliers</u>

- Individuals;
- Partnerships;
- Government Entities (e.g. National departments, Provincial Administration, Metropolitan municipalities, District municipalities, Local municipalities);
- State Owned Entities (e.g. PFMA schedule entities);
- Joint Ventures;
- Sole Proprietors;
- Statutory Bodies;Consortiums;
- Voluntary Associations;Trusts; and
- Retirement Funds.

Note: The difference between State Owned Entities (SOE) and State Owned Companies (SOC) is that SOCs are companies incorporated in terms of the Companies Act .

3.2. Definitions

Company size classifications. The classification of companies in sizes "GE", "EME" and "QSE" refers to Generic Enterprises, Exempted Micro Exempted Micro Enterprises, and Qualifying Small Enterprises, respectively. For analytical purposes EMEs and QSEs are sometimes grouped as Small to Medium Enterprises (SMMEs).

Designated groups. These are groups targeted for preferential procurement under the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act (PPPFA). These include: black people, women, youth, military veterans and people with disabilities who are citizens of the Republic of South Africa.

NT clusters. Sometimes the data are split into "NT clusters". National Treasury (NT) clusters are groupings of similar government departments with cross-cutting programmes namely: Economic Services; Urban Development and Infrastructure; Education and Related Services; Central Government and Administration; Justice and Protection Services; Health and Social Development.

SCOA item type. This is a way of classifying items that have incurred a procurement spend. This is a classification system from within SCOA that uses a multi-level system to classify spend items, also called item type.

Turnover is the total amount of money the business receives from the sale of goods and services.

UNSPSC family title. The dashboard also includes a classification taxonomy for goods and services called the United Nations Standard Products and Services (UNSPSC) codes. The four level schema comprises of: segment (highest), family (second), class (third) and commodity (fourth, lowest).

Procurement spend, also known as spend data, is an organisation's total expenditures on goods and services purchased from external suppliers.

4. HOW TO USE THE DASHBOARD

The dashboard is interactive. You can click, filter, and explore the data using drop-down menus and charts.

When you open the dashboard, you will see a series of interactive views. Each view provides a different perspective on government spending.

In all views it is possible to filter the data so that only certain subsets are displayed. For example, you may only want to see the data for the latest year, so you filter using fiscal_year=2024/2025.

Below is a list of the available filters that appear on the dashboard.

Filter	Description	Range	Example categories (non-exhaustive)
Fiscal year	The fiscal year	From 2017/2018	2024/2025, 2020/2021

Sphere	Government level	National and Provincial	National or Provincial
Province	The nine provinces	All	Western Cape, Gauteng, etc.
Department	Government departments	All	Department of Home Affairs

Note that Variations in department names (e.g., "Agriculture" vs "Agriculture and Rural Development") exist due to restructuring over time. Current references use the latest official name for consistency. Due to this inconsistency, it is necessary to be careful when filtering by department.

There are extensive **tooltips** which appear when you hover over an item, providing additional information or the value of a data point.

On some views it is possible to **drill down** to see additional information. This can be accessed via right-clicking an appropriate item.

Notes also exist: additional information and instructions exist for some views.

Chart data can easily be exported using these steps:

1. Hover over the chart.
2. Click the three dots (ellipses) in the top-right corner.
3. Select "Export" and choose a file format (Excel/CSV).
4. Save the file to your desired location.

Lastly, the transaction level data can be downloaded on the supplier transactions view using these steps:

1. Click on link to download file "Procurement_Spend_Transaction_List.csv".
2. Save the file to your desired location.

5.   DASHBOARD VIEWS EXPLAINED

The following are interpretation notes in support of the various views that are published in the dashboard. Data contained in the dashboard is for the period 1 April 2017 to date.

View	Description of Contents
Overview 1	• Procurement spend allocation by SCOA Item level 3. • Top 10 procurement spend by UNSPSC family titles • Procurement spend distribution by province and National Treasury clusters.
Overview 2	• Top 20 commodities procured (UNSPSC level 4) • Proportional view of the total spend by province.

Spend Trends over Time	• Year on year trends for total procurement (all years) • Stacked line chart showing the composition of total spend across UNSPSC segments, by month.
Departmental Spend	• Spend allocation per department and province. • Spend allocation per UNSPSC Segment level.
Company and Commodity	• Spend by enterprise/business size. • Spend by company turnover category. • Spend by commodity title – breakdown of total spend per segment level of the UNSPSC classification structure. Note that you can drill down into company size by selecting one of the UNSPSC segments.
Supplier trends 1	• Spend by supplier type (e.g. Individuals, CIPC companies, state owned entities, etc.) • Spend per supplier sub type. • Suppliers by service location (province level). • Top 10 suppliers.
Supplier trends 2	• Number of new suppliers by year • Distribution of new suppliers by designated group. • Provincial distributions of total spend (all suppliers).
Designated Groups	This view allows users to focus in on the designated groups identified in the PPPFA in terms of their ownership. It contains the following figures which update depending on the selection: • Top ten suppliers – Top ten suppliers from the designated group in terms of payments received. • Provincial location of the top ten suppliers for the selected group. • Top ten commodities (by total spend) for the selected group. • Total spend by department towards the selected group. Note: The spend percentages and amounts reflected in the dashboard views are a true reflection of the actual amount that was paid to e.g. Woman owned companies (52%) but that it does not imply that 48% therefore went to companies that are owned by men but rather that the 48% comprise of a combination of companies owned by men, companies partially owned by woman, government owned companies etc.
Designated Groups - Quarterly	• Total spend on Woman, Youth and People with disabilities by fiscal period – Provides a spend breakdown per demographic group and per quarter within a selected fiscal period. • A stacked bar version of quarterly spend by designated group. Note: The percentages will not add up to 100% as some of the demographics are excluded from the bar chart e.g. Military veterans, Local/Township owned etc.
SCOA mapping	• The view is compiled by linking the UNSPSC classification structure to SCOA Item Level 3. The view provides drill down functionality on all the nodes in the display, therefore providing detailed spend information that can be approached from different entry points e.g.

	consolidated view, departmental view, commodity view, supplier view etc.
Spend Efficiencies and Anomalies	- Top 20 procurement spend per transaction by UNSPSC Family title. - Procurement spend versus transactions – the amount of spend and the number of transactions per UNSPSC Family title. - UNSPSC commodity spend over time – Providing a trend view of the amount of spend and the number of transactions per UNSPSC Family title, across years.
Supplier Transactions	A transactional level search functionality for expenditure and supplier enquiries.

6.   CONTACT DETAILS

For assistance or feedback, contact the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer (OCPO) at: CPO@treasury.gov.za