

Head 01: Office of the President

A summary of the Office of the President's Expenditure, Divisions and Projects.
Financial Scrutiny Unit, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure of the Office of the President for the period 2012 – 2018. It provides Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Department's responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate information contained in the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Office of the President. This guide is based primarily on the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure.

Head 01 – President

Department Overview

The President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is elected by the Electoral College¹ in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The President is the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces (TT Defence Force: TT Regiment, TT Coast Guard, TT Air Guard, TT Defence Force Reserves). The roles and functions of the Office are entrusted to the President via the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. In addition to being the Head of State, the President is also granted various other responsibilities under the Constitution². The President is required to assent to Bills passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate before they can become law.

The Office of the President is the Department in the Public Service responsible for providing support services to His Excellency the President in executing his functions and duties as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. This group of public service professionals, headed by the Secretary to His Excellency the President, who is the Accounting Officer, is responsible for the management of the public funds at the Office of the President.³

President: His Excellency Anthony Thomas Aquinas Carmona, SC

Accounting Officer: Mr. Gregory Serrette – Secretary to His Excellency

¹ In accordance with section 28(1) of the Constitution, the Electoral College is a unicameral body consisting of all the members of the Senate and all the members of the House of Representatives assembled together: <http://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/Laws2/Constitution.pdf>.

² Office of the President, Role and Functions, accessed on August 23, 2016: <https://otp.tt/the-president/roles/>

³ Oral Evidence by the Secretary to His Excellency at a Public Hearing of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee held on January 12, 2017: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG0Nj_ip_AM&feature=youtu.be

Where the Office spends its money

2017-2018 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation for the Office of the President is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **\$18,000,000.00**.

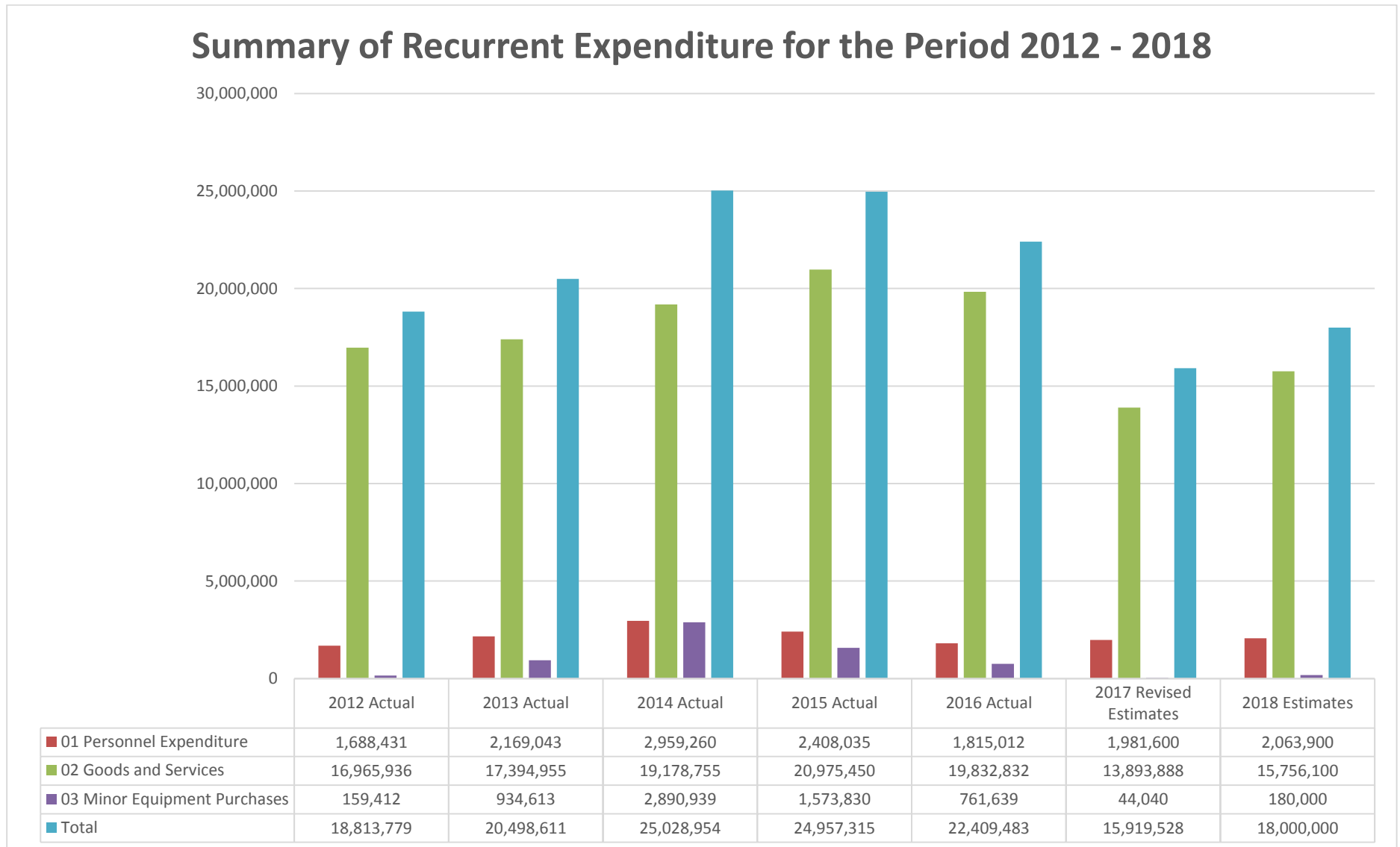
The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure - **\$ 2,063,900**;
- 02 Goods and Services - **\$ 15,756,100**; and
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases **\$ 180,000**.

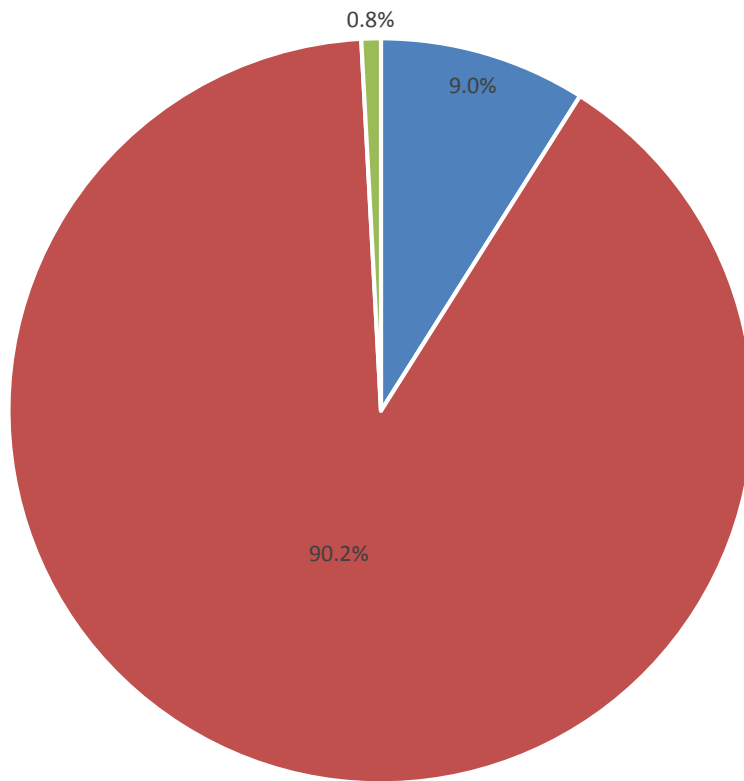
The Office of the President's:

- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is **0.03%**.

Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the Period 2012 - 2018

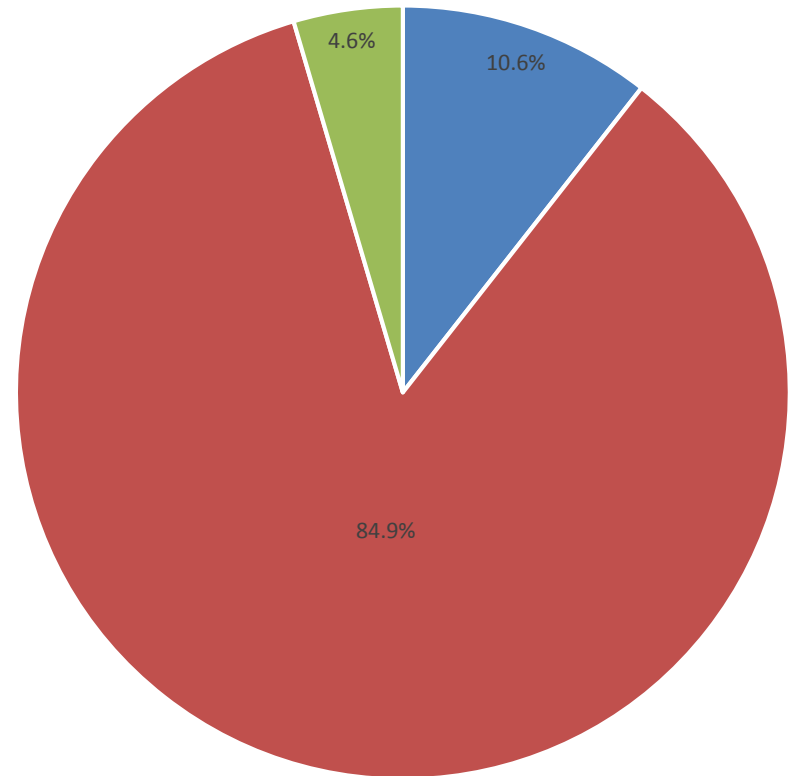


2012 Actual



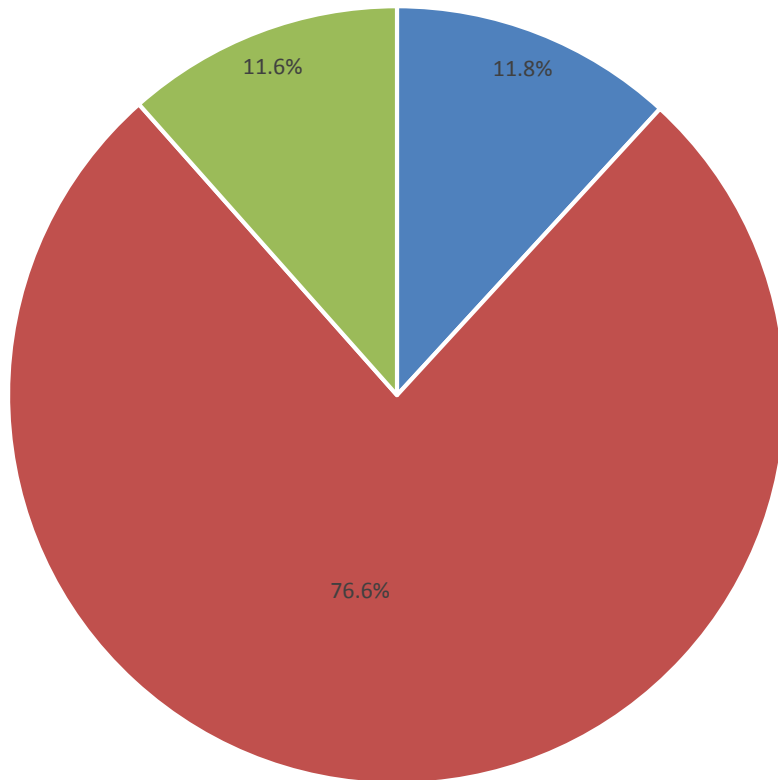
■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services
■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

2013 Actual



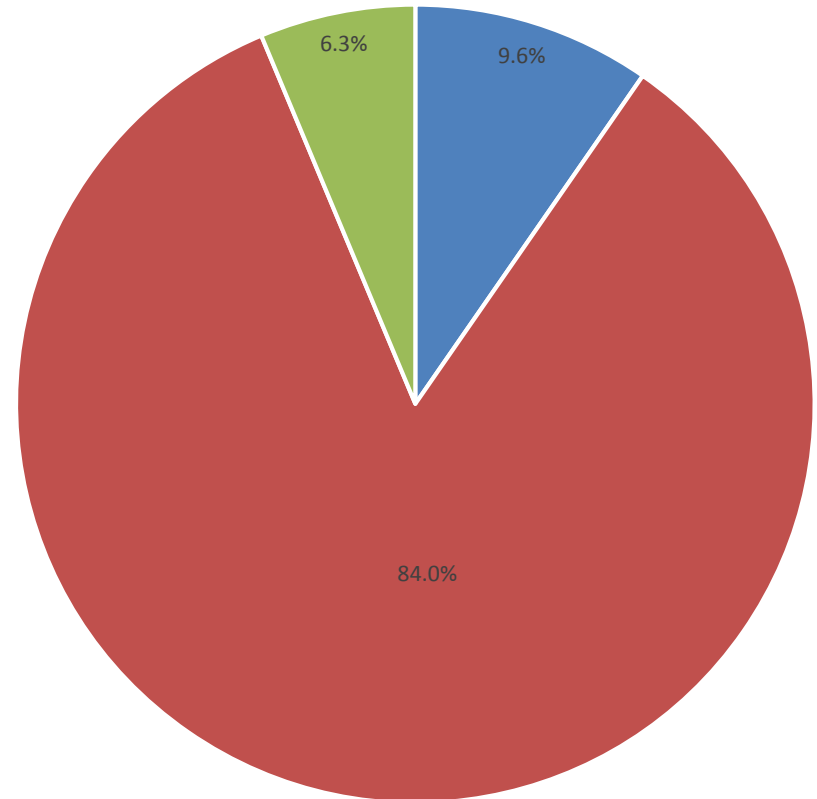
■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services ■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

2014 Actual



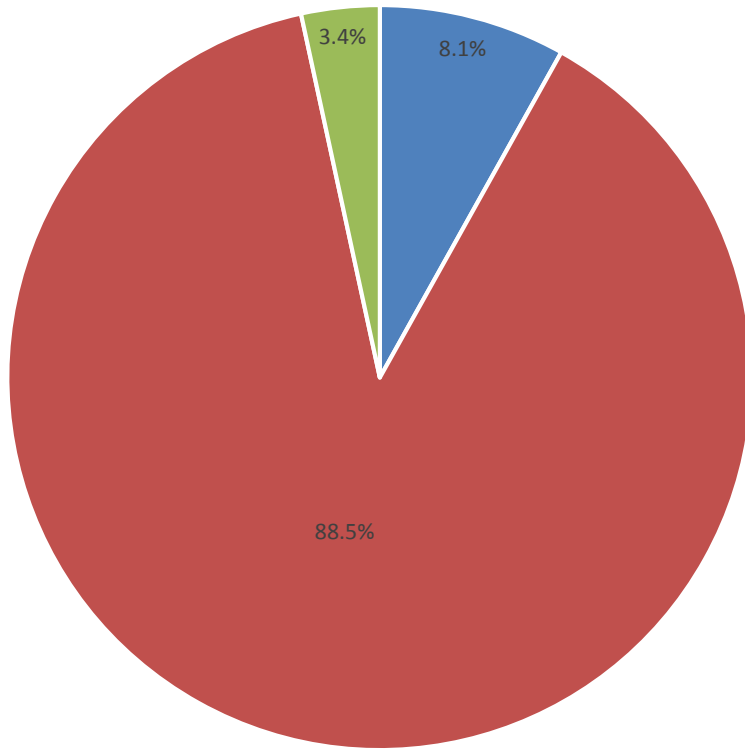
■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services ■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

2015 Actual



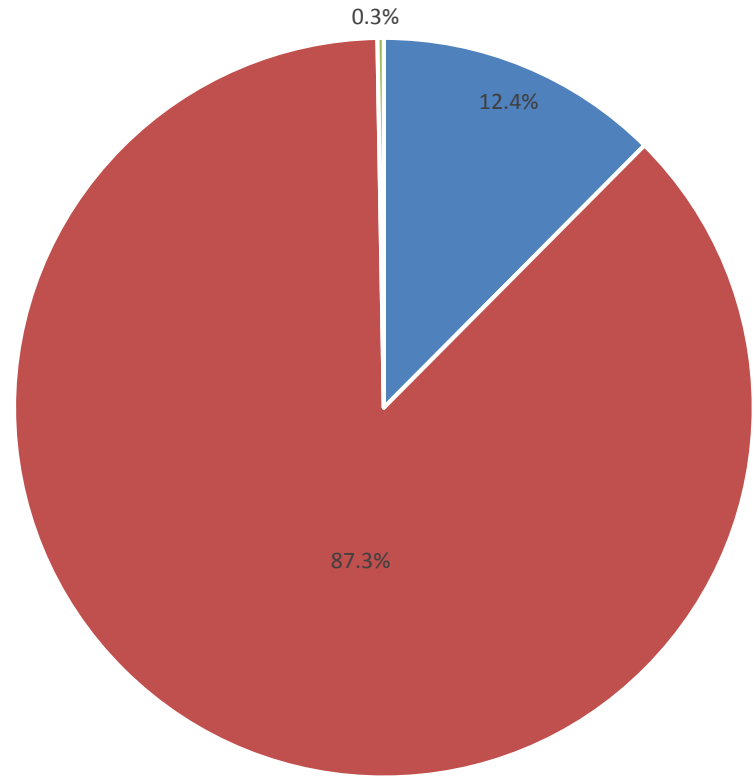
■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services
■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

2016 Actual



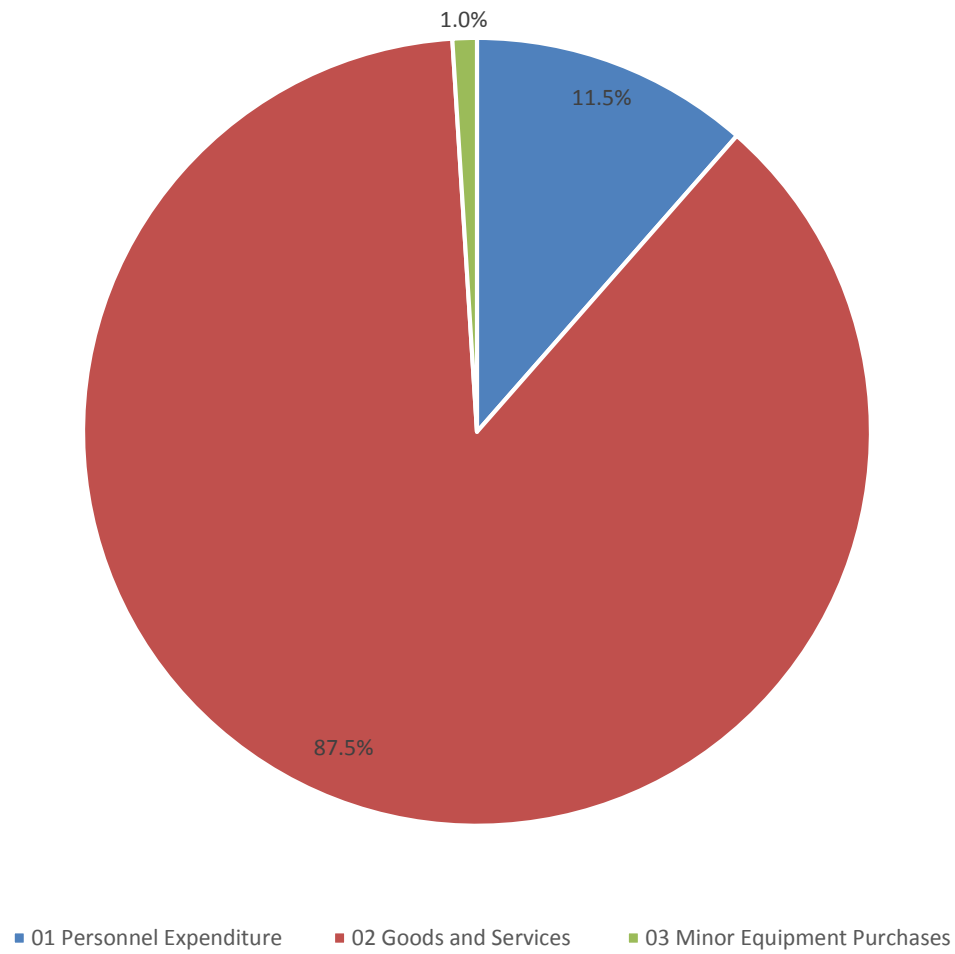
■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services
■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

2017 Revised Estimates



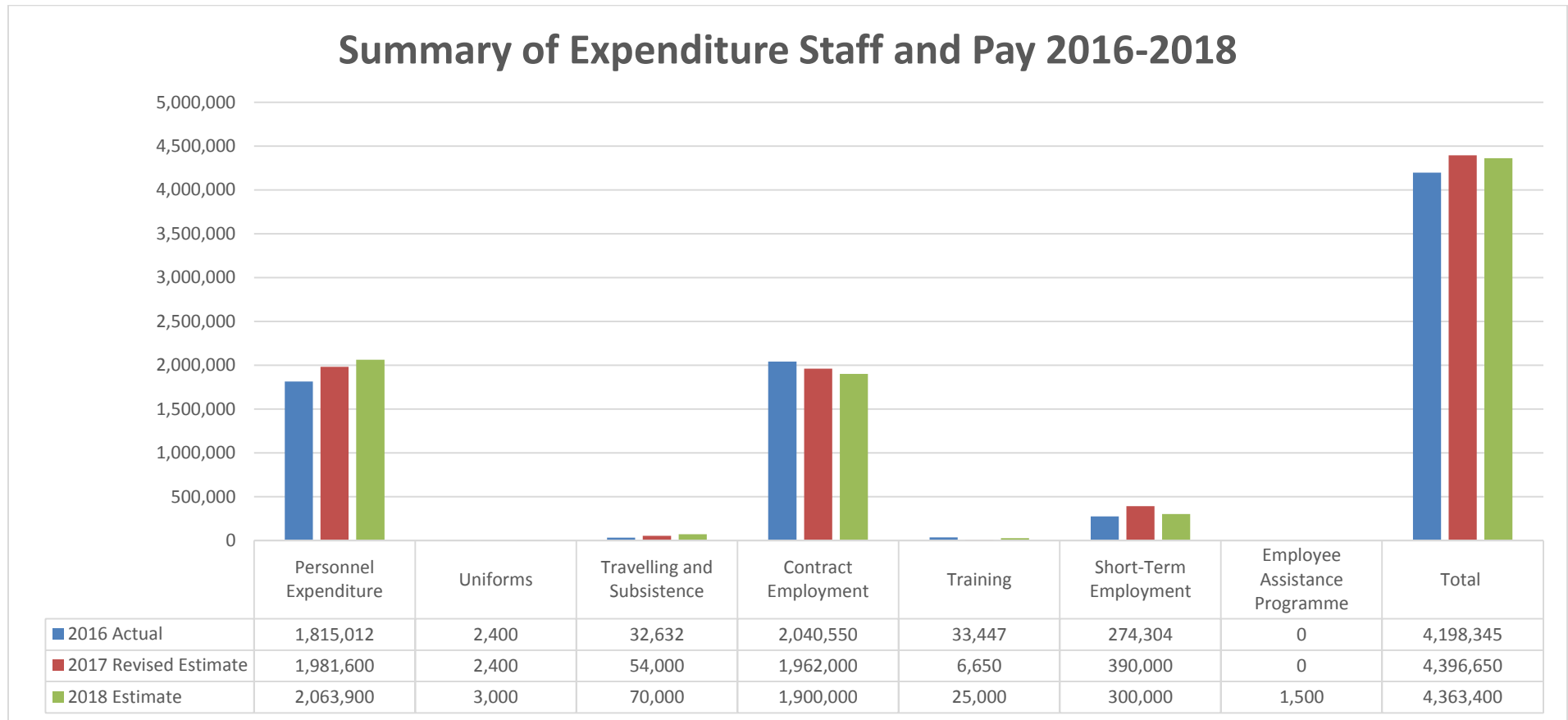
■ 01 Personnel Expenditure ■ 02 Goods and Services
■ 03 Minor Equipment Purchases

2018 Estimates



Staff and Pay⁴

The allocation of staff expenditure for the year 2018 is **\$4,363,400.00** which represents a decrease of approximately **0.8%** from the last fiscal year 2017. The diagram below provides a breakdown of all staff related expenditure from 2016-2018.



⁴ Draft Estimates for Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2018 <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Recurrent-Expenditure-2018.pdf>

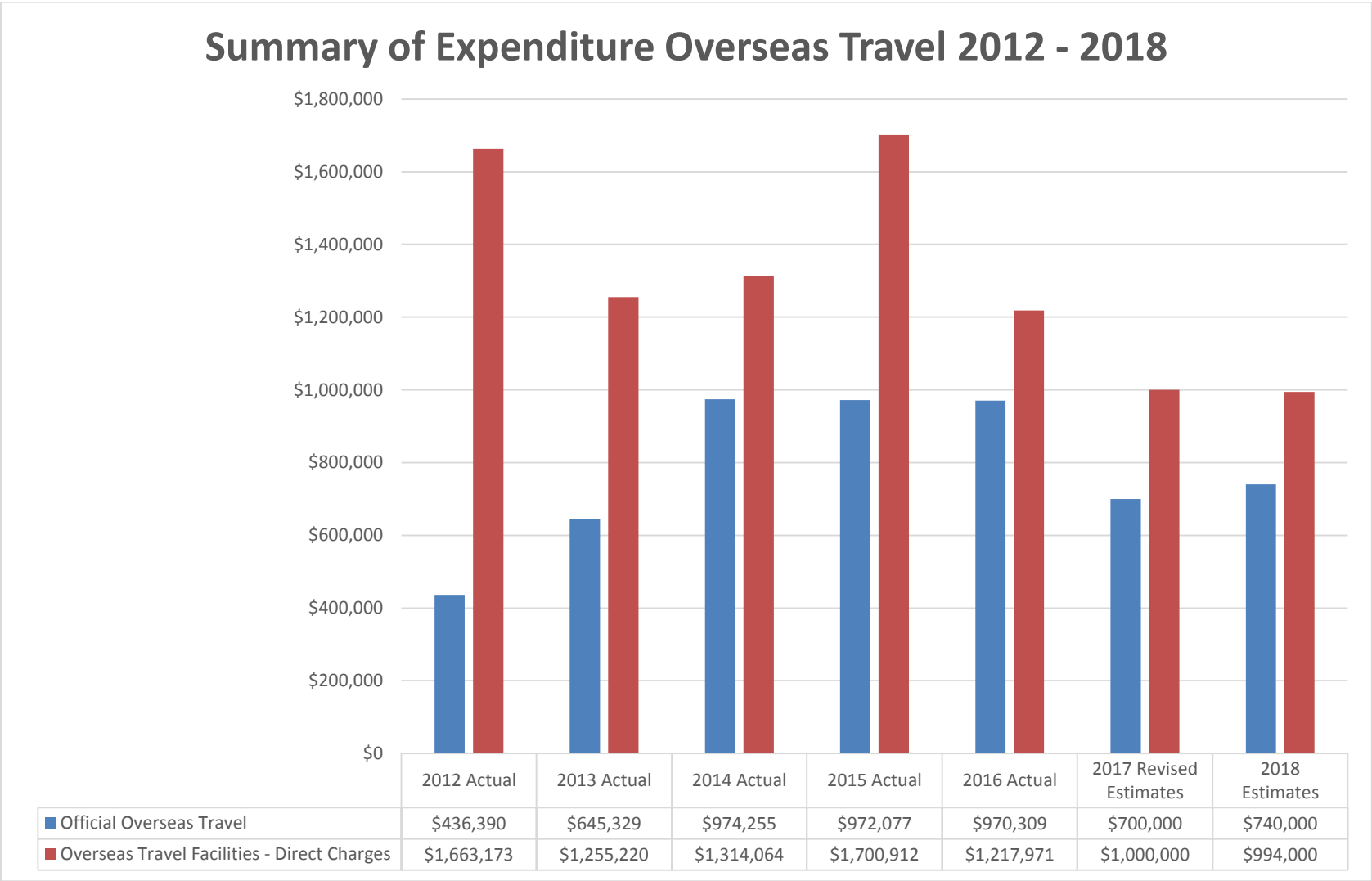
Analysis and Summary of Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Department for Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services and Minor Equipment Purchases. Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 is \$18,000,000.

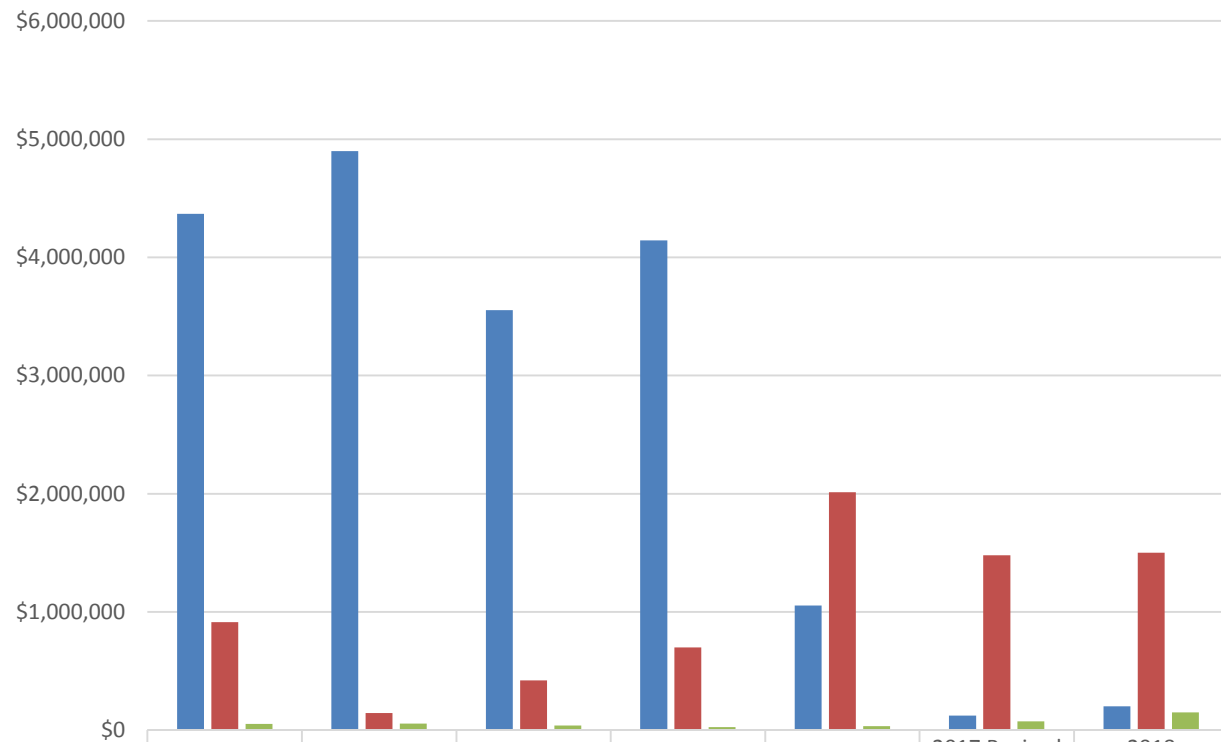
- Recurrent Expenditure (**Revised**) for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 was \$ **15,919,528**. Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year 2017/2018, there is an increase of \$**2,080,472** or **13.1%**.
- The **largest** portion of the allocation has consistently gone to Sub-Head 02 **Goods and Services**. This figure has been fluctuating over the period 2012-2018, accounting for approximately **87.5%** of total funding for the Department for fiscal year 2017/2018, and receiving \$ **15,756,100** for the day to day operations of the Ministry.
- **Minor Equipment Purchases** received the **lowest** portion of the total allocation for the Department over the period 2012 to 2018.
- **Personnel Expenditure** received the **second largest** portion of the allocation and has been fluctuating over the period 2012 – 2018. Comparing 2016/2017 to 2017/2018, there was an increase in the allocation by **4.15%**.
- The actual/estimated expenditure for the three (3) Sub-Heads has been fluctuating over the seven (7) year period, from a low of \$ **15,919,528** in 2017 to a high of \$ **25,028,954** in 2014.

Analysis of Expenditure Unique to the Office of the President

Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Office of the President that may not feature in other ministries or departments.



Summary of Expenditure for Entertainment, Conferences & Publicity 2012 - 2018



	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Revised Estimates	2018 Estimates
Official Entertainment	\$4,366,626	\$4,899,360	\$3,552,298	\$4,142,980	\$1,054,535	\$121,509	\$200,000
Hosting of Conferences, Seminars and Other Functions	\$912,512	\$144,766	\$421,107	\$699,714	\$2,011,965	\$1,480,000	\$1,500,000
Promotions Publicity and Printing	\$50,892	\$54,635	\$38,577	\$25,935	\$32,644	\$75,000	\$150,000

The Ministry's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2012 to 2018.

Year ⁵	Total Allocation ⁶	National Budget ⁷	Percentage of National Budget
2012	\$ 18,813,779.00	\$ 55,718,271,573.00	0.03%
2013	\$ 20,498,611.00	\$ 59,174,226,196.00	0.03%
2014	\$ 25,028,954.00	\$ 65,020,886,424.00	0.04%
2015	\$ 24,957,315.00	\$ 61,966,922,675.00	0.04%
2016	\$ 22,409,483.00	\$ 56,573,913,053.00	0.04%
2017	\$ 15,919,528.00	\$ 55,598,436,912.00	0.03%
2018	\$ 18,000,000.00	\$ 54,955,041,591.00	0.03%

- Total allocation for the Office of the President as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated a constant trend in the allocation to the Office of **0.03%** between the period 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

⁵ For the Fiscal Years 2012-2016, actual figures were used to calculate the Ministry's total allocation. However, estimates were used to determine the Ministry's total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018.

⁶ Total Allocation for the Office of the President= Recurrent Expenditure

⁷ The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Total Development Programme Consolidated Fund

Committee Inquires Related to the Office of the President

Inquiry	Report Status	Ministerial Response	Key Recommendations ⁸
1. <i>The Second Report of The Committee on Public Administration and Appropriations, Second Session of the Eleventh Parliament: An Examination of the Current Expenditure and Internal Controls of the Office of the President</i>	Report Presented: 05.05.17	Outstanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Accounting Officer should utilise the Public Service Academy to provide training for the relevant staff in Inventory Management. • The OTP must ensure that the Internal Audit Unit at the Department is adequately staffed both in persons and with the necessary skill sets to properly conduct audits. • The Public Service Commission must ensure each department is adequately staffed with persons to perform Internal Audit Functions. • In light of the current economic situation, the Committee endorses the measures being undertaken by the OTP to reduce cost and consequently save money. • Trips should be prioritised and budgeted within the allocation of \$900,000.00 for Official Overseas Travel.

⁸ Key Recommendations relate to recommendations that may have a financial impact on the Ministry

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee endorses the reduction in cost for the use of the VIP lounge in London from \$44,400.00 to a lower cost of \$12,507.00, a 71% decrease. • The OTP must review purchases and how the funds allocated are spent. • The OTP must review purchasing in line with the allocation received. • The OTP must ensure that value for money is being obtained from purchases by performing a market analysis on the item to ensure market price and quality is being obtained.
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General Useful Information

- The President of India, INDIA: <http://presidentofindia.nic.in/>
- The Governor General of Canada, CAN: <https://www.gg.ca/index.aspx>
- Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, AUS : <https://www.gg.gov.au/>