

SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES
REPORT TO THE FINANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES – NOVEMBER 2013

RECENT TRENDS

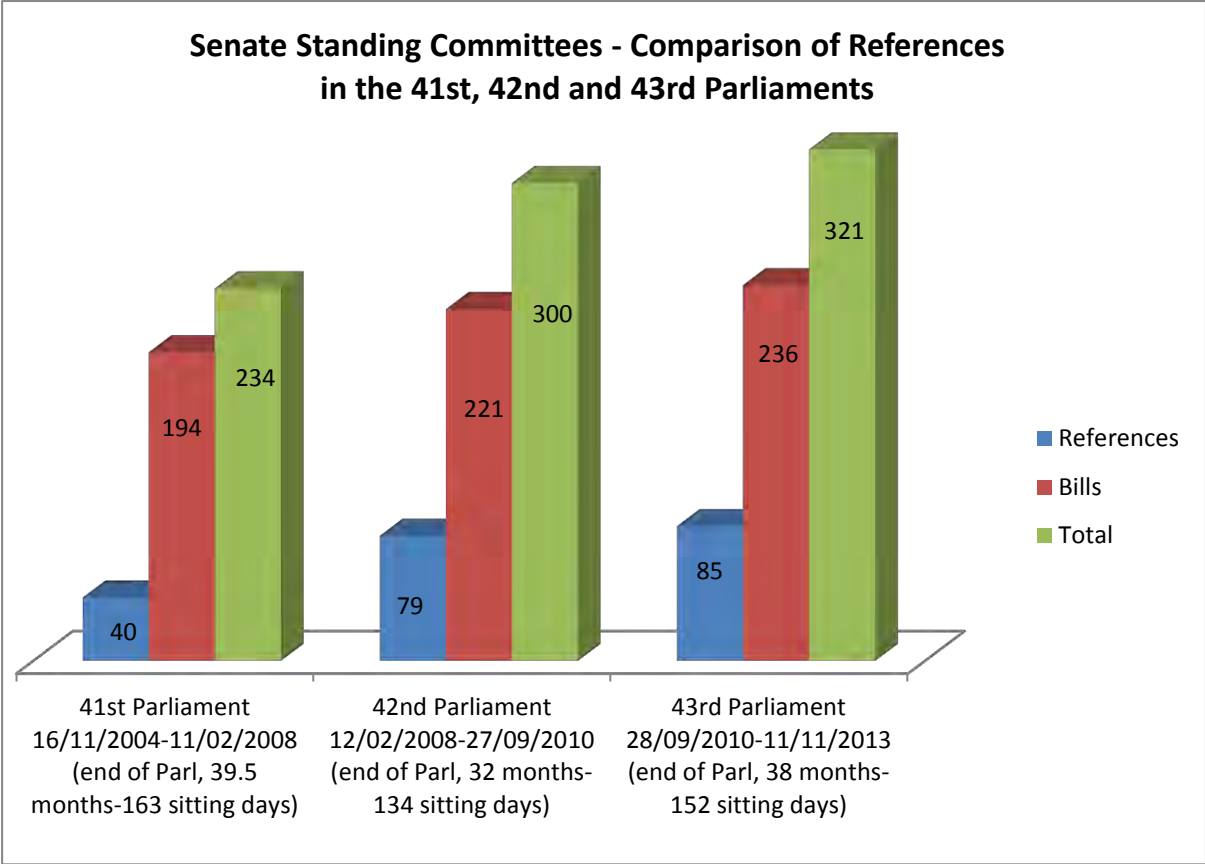
The following data shows trends and comparisons in the activities of Senate committees:

- The 43rd parliament experienced an increase in the total number of matters referred to standing committees. There were a total of 321 references to standing committees in the 43rd parliament compared to 300 references in the 42nd and 234 in the 41st respectively (**see graph 1**).
- During the 43rd parliament, there was also an increase in the number of committee reports tabled. A total of 507 reports were tabled in the last parliament, an increase from 462 reports in the 42nd parliament and 388 in the 41st parliament (**see graph 3**).
- The number of public hearings (excluding estimates hearings) increased in 2012-13 to 183. 144 public hearings were held in 2011-12 and 118 in 2010-11 (**see graph 4**).
- The busiest committees at any one time during the 43rd parliament have been the Legal and Constitutional Affairs committees, which have twice dealt with a maximum of 12 references at one time (in November 2010 and May 2011) and the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport committees, which managed 12 references simultaneously during March 2013.
- So far in this calendar year 2013, the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport committees have tabled 31 reports, the Legal and Constitutional Affairs committees have tabled 27 and the Environment and Communications committees 25.
- At present, there are no select or joint select committees administered by the Senate Department in operation.

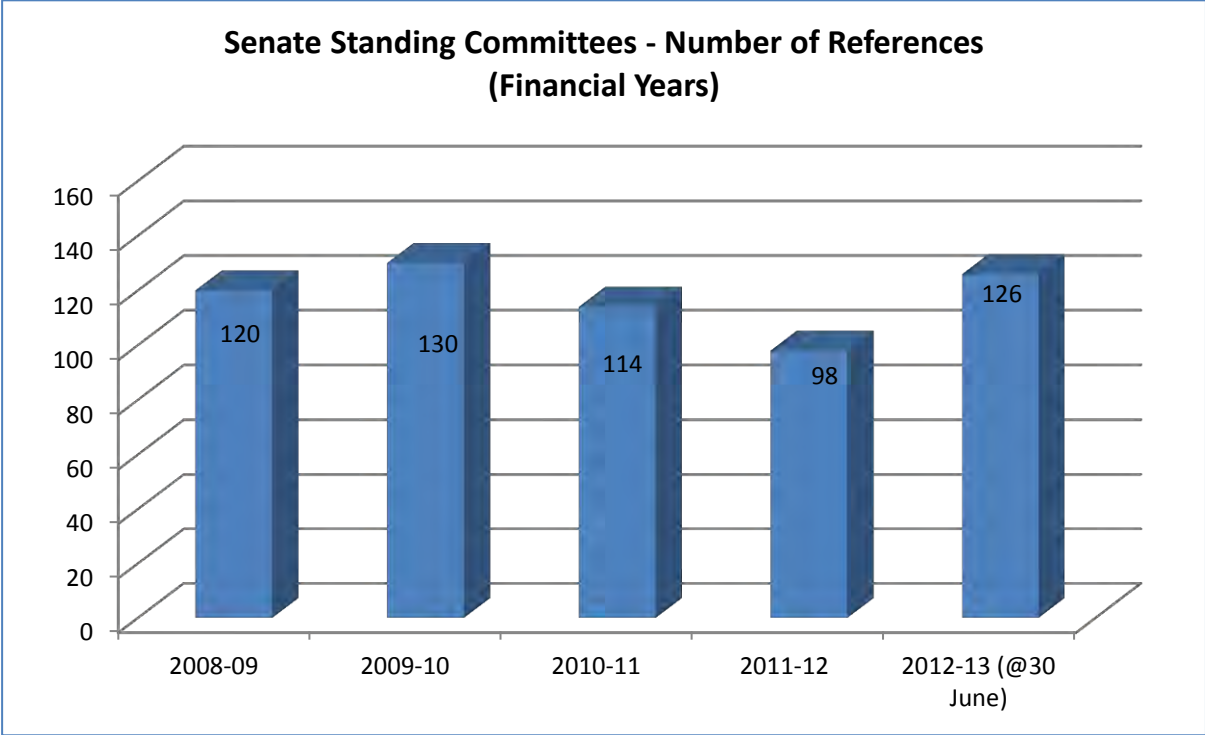
Staffing: at present, there are 57 Full Time Equivalent staff in the Committee Office (**see FTE graph**). A small amount of recruiting has been undertaken to ensure there is adequate support for Committees when the 43rd parliament resumes.

Cost of running Senate committee (budget 2013-14): operational costs for the Committee Office are expected to be \$7.4 million. This is an increase from the previous year's allocation of \$7 million, mainly due to the provision of funding to support the Joint Standing Committee on the Constitutional Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The attached financial summary includes costs incurred 'by category of committee' for the four years 2009-10 to 2012-13.

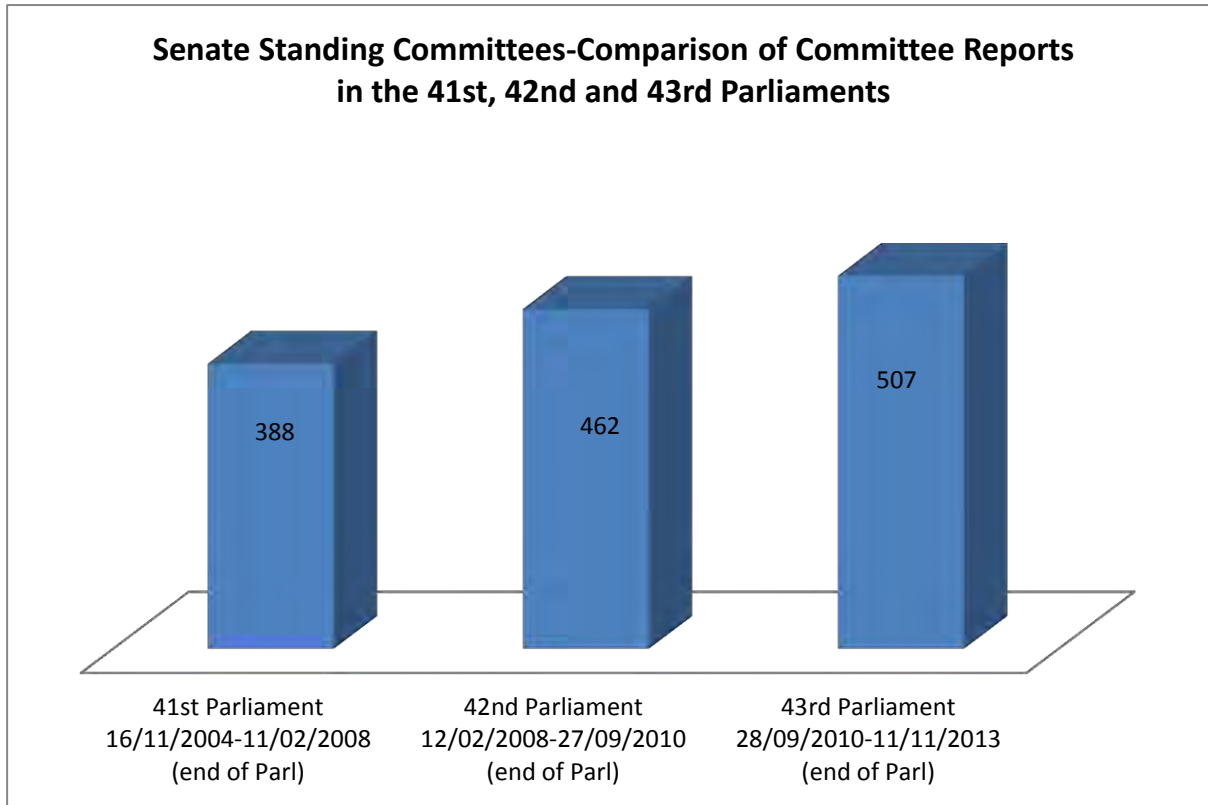
Graph 1



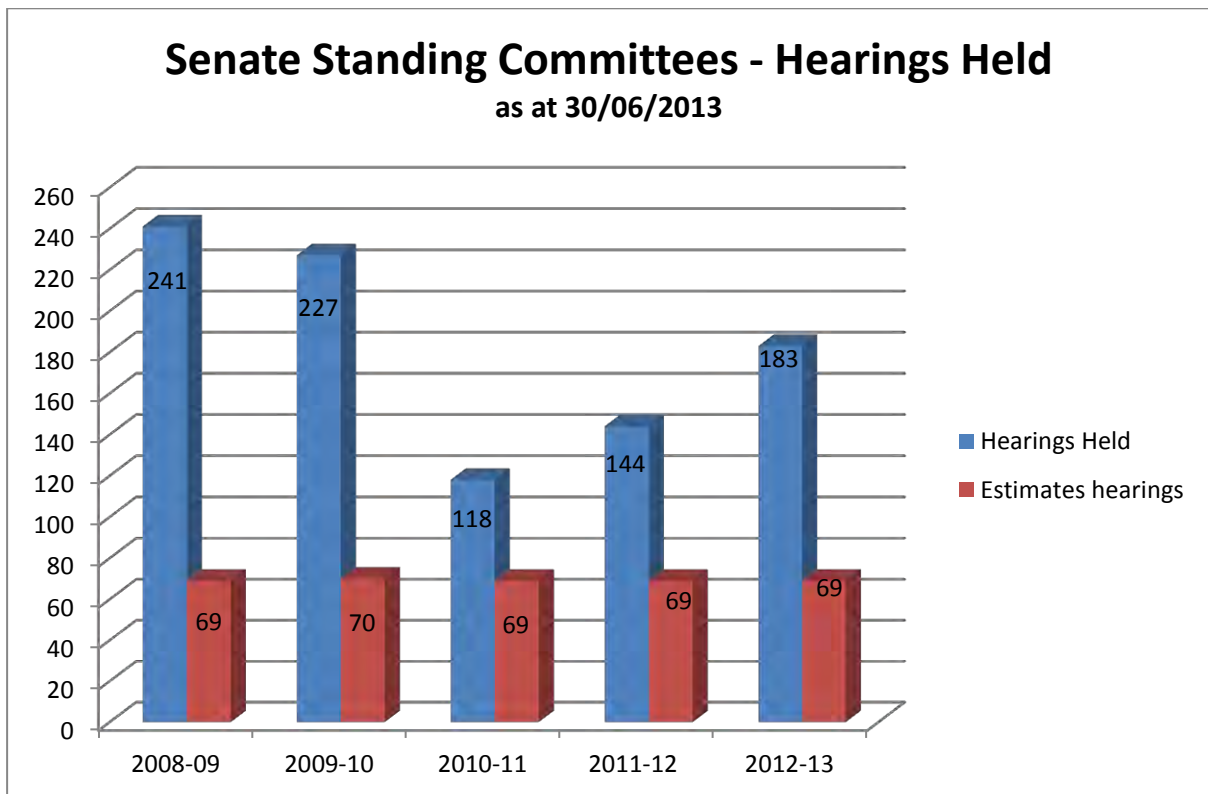
Graph 2



Graph 3



Graph 4



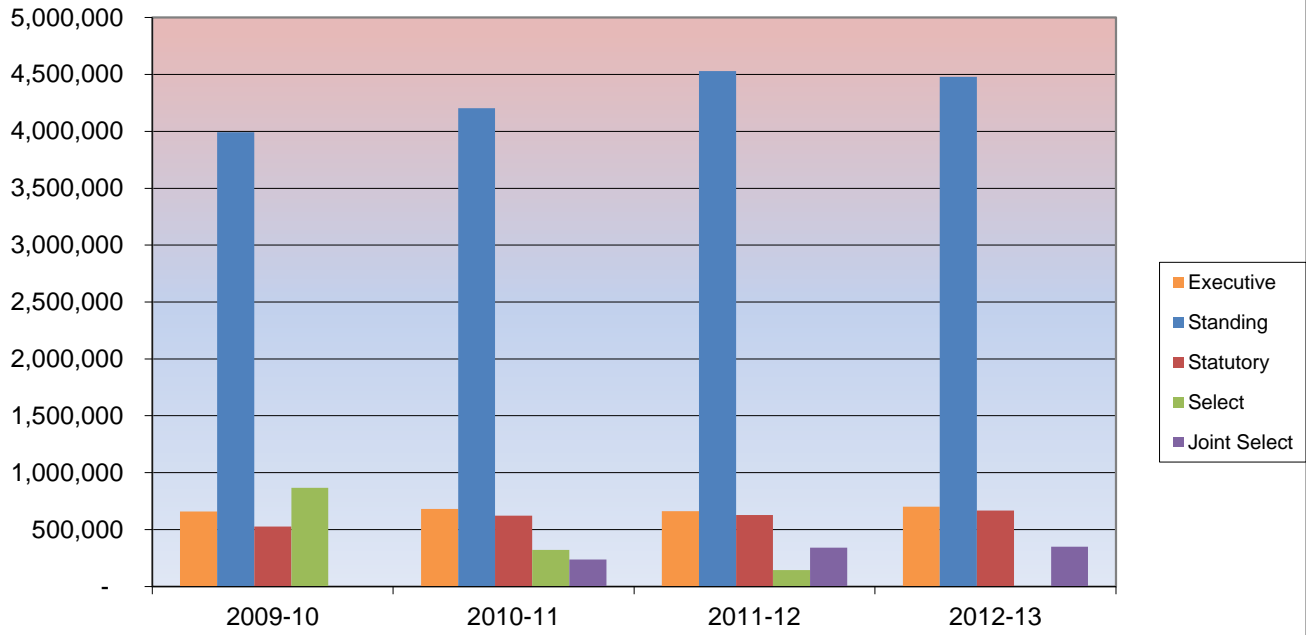
**SUMMARY COMPARISON OF COMMITTEE COSTS BY CATEGORY -
STANDING, SELECT AND JOINT COMMITTEES – 2009-10 TO 2012-13**

<i>Expenses</i>	<i>2009-10</i>	<i>2010-11</i>	<i>2011-12</i>	<i>2012-13</i>
<i>Executive</i>				
Staff Costs	659,811	680,982	662,744	699,960
Administrative Costs	26,418	22,767	18,944	21,876
<i>Total Expenses</i>	686,228	703,749	681,688	721,836
<i>Standing</i>				
Staff Costs	3,992,496	4,202,414	4,528,798	4,478,539
Administrative Costs	669,917	390,730	501,025	395,213
<i>Total Expenses</i>	4,662,413	4,593,144	5,029,823	4,873,753
<i>Statutory</i>				
Staff Costs	525,235	621,590	627,266	667,934
Administrative Costs	100,171	77,507	117,289	79,239
<i>Total Expenses</i>	625,407	699,097	744,555	747,173
<i>Select</i>				
Staff Costs	867,248	321,079	144,071	-
Administrative Costs	167,829	64,469	44,869	12,833
<i>Total Expenses</i>	1,035,077	385,549	188,940	12,833
<i>Joint Select</i>				
Staff Costs	-	238,050	339,533	350,391
Administrative Costs	-	49,769	110,244	29,045
<i>Total Expenses</i>	-	287,818	449,777	379,436
<i>Total Program Expense</i>	<u>7,009,125</u>	<u>6,669,357</u>	<u>7,094,783</u>	<u>6,735,030</u>

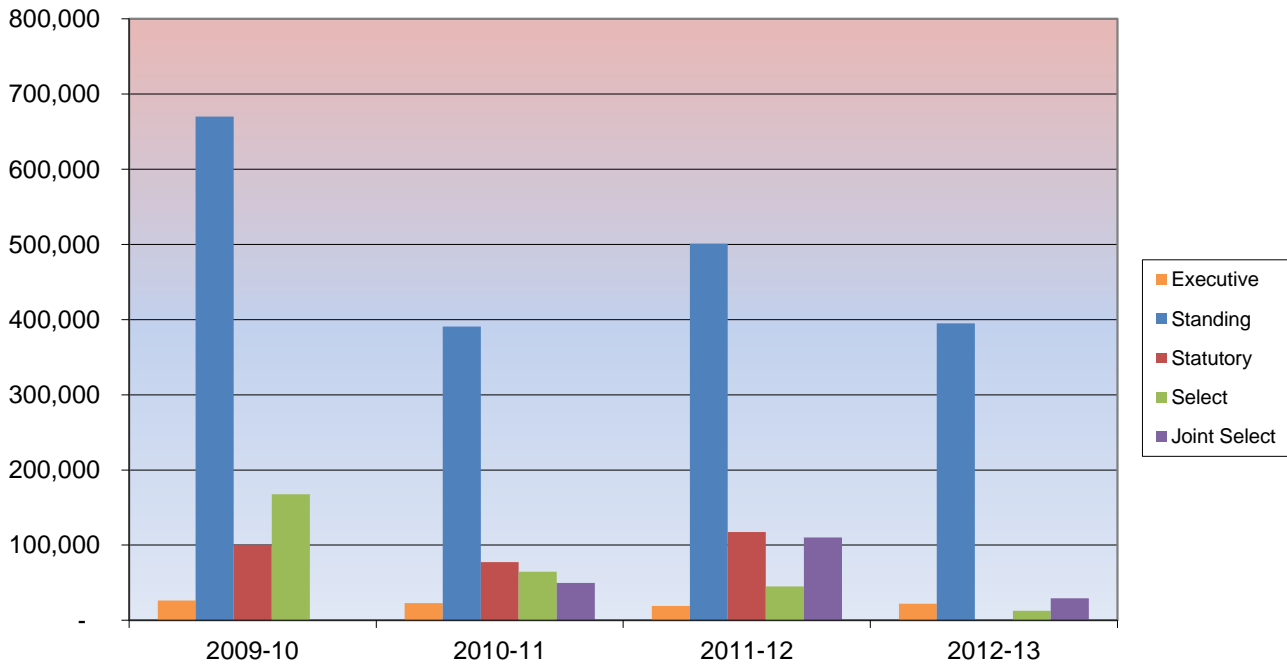
Staff costs - the salaries of Senate staff working within the secretariat.

Administrative costs – includes advertising inquiries, refreshments at hearings, hire of hearing venues, flights and aircraft charters to attend hearings, printing etc.

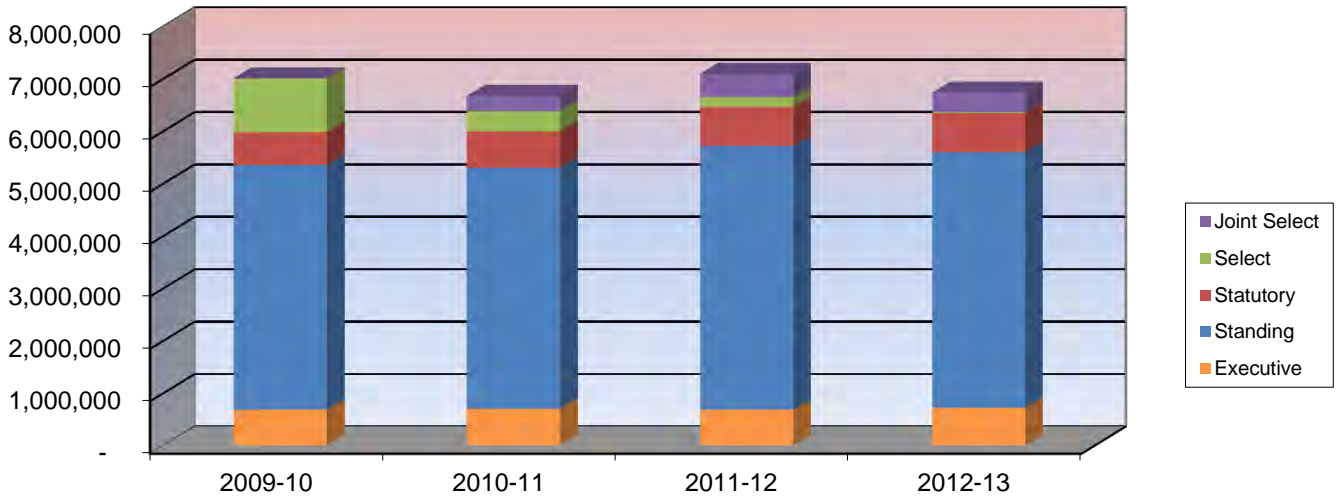
Committee Office - Staff Costs



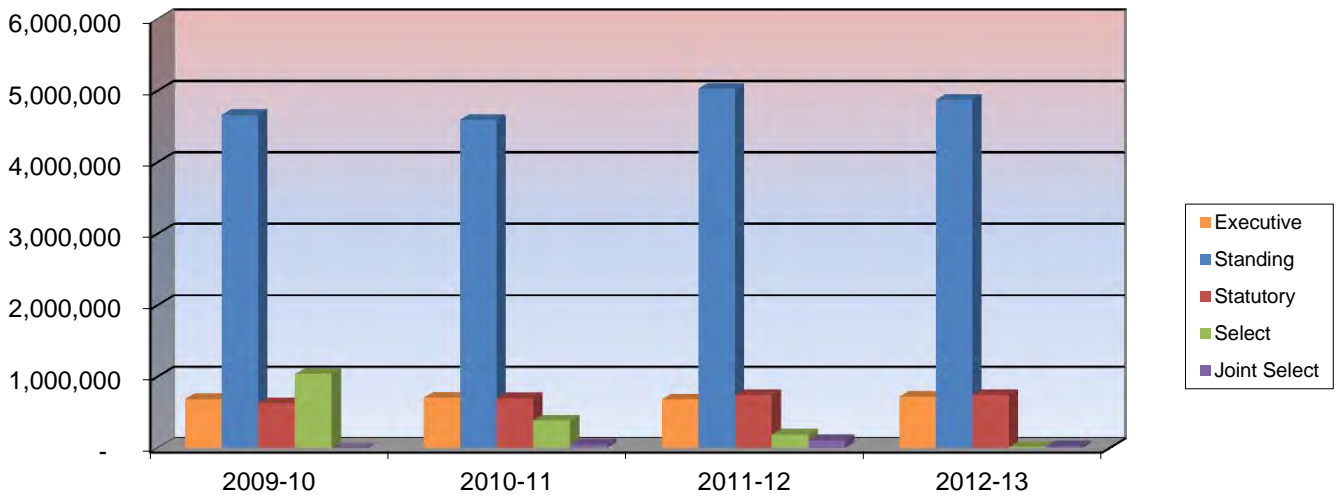
Committee Office - Administrative Costs



Committee Office - Total Expenditure



Committee Office - Total Expenditure



Committee Office FTE 2000/01 to 2012/13

