

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF MONTENEGRO

REVISION POLICY

Podgorica, December 2024

Introduction

The document “*Revision Policy*” has been prepared by the Statistical Office, based on the *European Statistical System Guidelines on Revision Policy for Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs¹)*.

The application of this document in practice contributes to improving the quality of statistical products.

The revision policy follows the principles of the *European Statistics Code of Practice²*, in particular:

- **Principle 6: Impartiality and Objectivity**
 - **Indicator 6.6:** Major revisions and changes in methodologies are announced in advance;
- **Principle 8: Appropriate Statistical Procedures**
 - **Indicator 8.6:** Revisions follow standard, precisely established and transparent procedures;
- **Principle 12: Accuracy and Reliability**
 - **Indicator 12.3:** Revisions are regularly analysed in order to improve statistical processes.

By this document, the Statistical Office adopts the basic principles for revising statistical data in the national statistical system defined by Eurostat, which are harmonised with European principles of statistical revision.

Basic principles for revising statistical data in the national statistical system are:

- **Principle 1:** General and revision policy for statistical domains;
- **Principle 2:** Consistency and stability of the revision policy for statistical domains;
- **Principle 3:** Dissemination and publication of revisions.

Principles related to the data production process, i.e. domains/statistical areas:

- **Principle 4:** Regular revisions;
- **Principle 5:** Major revisions (caused by changes in definitions and classifications; refer to longer time periods);

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5935517/KS-RA-13-016-EN.PDF>

² <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/4031688/8971242/KS-02-18-142-EN-N.pdf/e7f85f07-91db-4312-8118-f729c75878c7?t=1528447068000>

- **Principle 6:** Unplanned revisions (caused by errors or unforeseen events occurring during the data production process; unplanned revisions must have an adequate explanation of why they occurred);
- **Principle 7:** Definition of domain-specific revision policies;
- **Principle 8:** Data sources and monitoring of revisions.

These principles should be applied both at the institutional level, and at the level of individual domains, taking into account the specificities of the production process within a given domain. In this context, each domain may develop its own revision policy, which must be harmonised with this document.

1. Definition of revisions of official statistical results

Revisions are any changes in the value of published statistical results.

They occur when:

- new observations become available (monthly or quarterly), and
- current or past values are modified.

Data are generally revised in order to incorporate new, improved information³.

Revisions of official statistics results are carried out by official statistical producers defined by the Law on Official Statistics and the Official Statistical System, in accordance with revision standards prescribed by international regulations/methodologies of Eurostat.

Revisions of official statistics data are carried out by employed civil servants and state employees of official statistical producers for their respective domain, i.e. statistical area.

2. Types of revisions

The revision policy of the Statistical Office distinguishes three types of revisions:

- regular revisions;
- major revisions;
- unplanned revisions.

³ Eurostat, (2013), *ESS Guidelines on revision policy for PEEIs*, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, p. 5

2.1 Regular revisions

Regular revisions are those applied when harmonising data series with different publication periodicities (e.g. monthly or quarterly data aligned with annual data).

All statistical data may be subject to regular revisions if this is defined in the Statistical Data Release Calendar.

Statistical data that may be regularly revised are:

- preliminary data.

Statistical data are considered preliminary (subject to change during statistical processing) as long as they are subject to regular revisions.

Final statistical data cannot be regularly revised.

2.1.1 Reasons for introducing regular revisions

In a number of domains/statistical areas, it is very important for users that data be published before it is possible to collect the complete dataset used to calculate the statistical indicator. Such data are referred to as “*preliminary data*”. To calculate final data, a complete dataset must be available, as methodologically prescribed for the calculation of the statistical indicator.

Extending an index series by adding new monthly or quarterly data may, due to the applied seasonal and calendar adjustment methods, cause subsequent changes to seasonally and calendar-adjusted trend indices for previous periods in cases when the seasonal and calendar unadjusted data of previous periods have not been changed. Methods of seasonal and calendar adjustment are defined in line with methodologies of surveys, and individual quality reports.

2.1.2 Dissemination of statistical data subject to regular revisions

When disseminating statistical data, it must be indicated whether preliminary or final statistical data are being published.

Preliminary data must contain the symbol “(p)”.

The quality report must include an explanation/justification for statistical data.

The explanation/justification must include: the date of publication of preliminary and final data, the length of the period subject to revision, and the depth of revision (level of revision by indicators).

2.2 Major revisions

Major revisions involve significant changes in data. Major revisions ensure longer time series of data in order to minimise the negative impact of breaks in data series. In the case of major revisions, it is necessary to analyse their impact on other related and unrelated statistical indicators.

2.2.1 Reasons for introducing major revisions

Reasons for applying major revisions include changes due to:

- changes in classifications and definitions,
- methodological changes,
- changes in the base period,
- development of new sources and methods,
- availability of new statistical data.

2.2.2 Publication of data subject to major revisions

Major revisions are carried out at longer time intervals. They are announced in advance with an explanation/justification, in the Statistical Data Release Calendar, so that users are informed about publication deadlines, reasons for major revisions, and their possible impact on other statistical data.

After dissemination of revised data, it is also necessary to disseminate an analysis of the impact of changes in the data.

2.3 Unplanned revisions

Unplanned revisions are caused by events that could not be foreseen or influenced in advance.

2.3.1 Reasons for introducing unplanned revisions

Unforeseen changes in data sources due to data amendments or subsequently identified errors in previously delivered data are the most common reasons for introducing unplanned revisions.

In such cases, it is necessary to complete the standard form *Report on Unplanned Revisions of Statistical Data*, which is an integral part of the Rule on Unplanned Revisions.

The procedure for responding in cases requiring unplanned revisions is defined by the Rule on Unplanned Revisions.

2.3.2 Publication of data subject to unplanned revisions

Unplanned revisions are not foreseen in the Statistical Data Release Calendar. As a rule, they are disseminated as soon as possible, and their publication is announced in the Statistical Data Release Calendar in accordance with the rule.

However, if changes in the data are not significant, data dissemination is carried out during the next regular revision or subsequent publication of the same type of data, with a mandatory indication that the data are corrected, accompanied by an explanation/justification of the reasons for the revision.

3. Revision policy for individual domains/statistical areas

Each type of revision is applied to a specific domain/statistical area. The description of the revision must be stated in the quality report for the domain/statistical area to which the revision applies.

If a domain/statistical area is assessed as being of particular importance, the development of a revision policy must be carried out in accordance with this document.

4. Termination and entry into force

By the adoption of this internal rule, the Revision pPolicy No 01-2329 of 25 July 2017 ceases to be valid.

This rule enters into force on the date of its adoption.

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