



РЕПУБЛИКА МАКЕДОНИЈА
ДРЖАВЕН ЗАВОД ЗА СТАТИСТИКА

REVISION POLICY

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1. Introduction

The application of the Revision Policy in different statistical areas is a key aspect of the "good governance practice" in official statistics and its importance is equal both at the national and at the international level.

The revision is a complementary part of the regular production process of many statistics, which contributes to the quality of produced statistical data as well as their accuracy.

Bearing in mind that the mission of the State Statistical Office is production of high-quality and comparable statistical data, the Revision Policy constitutes an important instrument for improving the quality of statistical data.

The main objective of the Revision Policy is to achieve broader transparency of the overall procedure of data revision, which we believe will increase the confidence in official statistics and usability of statistical data.

The Revision Policy was discussed and assessed by the Management Board of the State Statistical Office and the Methodological Council of the State Statistical Office. The Policy was approved by the Director of the State Statistical Office.

2. Bases for preparation of the Revision Policy

2.1. In the preparation of the Revision Policy (hereinafter: Policy) the following documents were consulted:

2.1.1. Law on State Statistics („Official Gazette of RM“ No. 54/97, 21/07, 51/11, 104/13, 42/14, 192/15 and 27/16) - the principles of Article 4-a (professional independence, neutrality, objectivity, reliability and cost-effectiveness).

2.1.2. The Strategic Plan of the State Statistical Office for the period 2017-2019.

2.1.3. The Eurostat document "ESS Guidelines on revision policy for PEEIs", and especially „Principles for a common revision policy for European Statistics“, were used for defining the structure and the content of the Revision Policy.

2.1.4. The European Statistics Code of Practice - principle 6 "impartiality and objectivity", principle 8 "appropriate statistical procedures" and principle 12 "accuracy and reliability".

3. Definition of the term "Data Revision"

„Data revision is a statistical process where modification of values of already published data are made. These changes can occur as a result of availability of new, improved information, methodological changes and classifications, recommendations of international statistical institutions, changes in legislation and others reasons. An essential condition for conducting a data revision is to have one or more rational reasons for revision.

The data revision is part of the process for ensuring quality of statistical data and it can not be identified with the correction of errors in published data."

4. Possible causes for data revision

4.1. Data revision can be done due to the following reasons:

4.1.1. Occurrence of new data for the past, which could not be incorporated in time during the previous release of data;

4.1.2. Application of new classifications and statistical definitions in accordance with European and international standards. These changes seek to redefine the statistical survey, resulting in a difference between old and new indicators. In order to ensure comparability of data, there is a need to revise the statistical data series;

4.1.3. Change in the data sources. For example, the transition from a sample survey toward a survey based on administrative sources can be a cause for revision of the data series;

4.1.4. Change of the base year, which together with new weighting systems can also be a reason for data revision;

4.1.5. Changes in data, which stem from changes made by reporting units in reports. If the reporting unit discovers an error in already submitted data and if this error could not be removed in the process of data processing, then, depending on the scope and importance of the change, it will be necessary to revise the already published statistical data;

4.1.6. The adjustment of monthly and quarterly data to annual data which are available after the end of the calendar year can also be a reason for revision of data series.

5. Types of revisions

The data revisions can be classified according to several criteria. The State Statistical Office classifies the revisions according to Eurostat recommendations.

5.1. Regular revisions

5.1.1. Regular revisions are changes in published data which are related to the regular process of statistical production. Normally, these revisions follow the Revision Policy and are publicly available in the Revision Calendar.

5.1.2. The reasons for regular revisions include additional delivery of statistical reports, correction of already sent statistical reports by reporting units or correction of previously estimated data.

5.1.3. The revision of seasonally adjusted data is also part of the category of regular revisions if they are caused by revisions of unadjusted data in time series or inclusion of additional (unadjusted) values in time series. In general, each change in the value of unadjusted time series will result in change in seasonally adjusted values.

5.1.4. In relation to the length of the series with revised data, all aggregates and components of the series for a particular indicator should be revised for the same time and with same length of revision period.

5.2. Major revisions

5.2.1. Major revisions are substantial changes in published data due to one of the following reasons:

5.2.2. Availability of a new structural source that is only collected at long intervals (ex. 5 or 10 years), such as censuses and other large statistical surveys.

5.2.3. An update of weights of the base year of an index series, often every five years.

5.2.4. A change in the concepts, definitions and classifications used to produce the statistical data. An example of these changes is the adoption of a new classification or change in international statistical standards.

5.2.5. The entry into force of a new legal act.

5.2.6. Usually, these revisions are used for introducing major methodological improvements in statistical surveys. Major revisions are not determined by a single cause, but are a combination of several ones. Major revisions affect a large part of the time series and sometimes even the complete time series. Therefore, it is necessary to back-cast the series, otherwise the revisions will produce breaks in the time series.

5.2.7. Major revisions are expected and planned well in advance. The users should be informed in advance of the forthcoming major revisions and warned that changes in the time series are to be expected.

5.2.8. The major revisions ensure the commitment of the State Statistical Office to quality and relevance of statistical data.

6. Non-scheduled revisions

6.1. Non-scheduled revisions are those revisions that are not announced in advance because they are a result of unforeseeable events, significant errors or because of the lack of a scheduling procedure. The term "non-scheduled" does not refer to the cause of the revision due to timing. They are not included in relevant release calendars of the dissemination products.

6.2. Because non-scheduled revisions can confuse the users, the State Statistical Office will be committed, as much as possible, to avoid these revisions.

7. Communication strategy for data revisions

7.1. In order to ensure user confidence in the long term, it is essential for the State Statistical to make the revision procedure transparent and inform the users in time about all forthcoming revisions. The various types of revisions require different communication strategies.

8. Communication strategy for regular revisions

8.1. The regular revisions occur regularly and at fixed dates. The public should be notified of revision dates in due time and using adequate form.

8.2. These revisions are published when sufficient information is provided for performing the revision.

8.3. In accordance with the publication standards, the dissemination products include an indication of the type of data: estimated, provisional, final or revised data.

8.4. The quality reports will contain information about the reasons and the scope of the revision.

9. Communication strategy for major revisions

9.1. Major revisions are generally planned well in advance and should be pre-announced to the public.

9.2. The announcement of major revisions should be done by adhering to the following deadlines: major revisions of annual data are announced at least three months beforehand, and major revisions of monthly data are announced at least one month in advance. The announcement should briefly sum up the major reasons for the revision, the scheduled publication date of the revised data, the set of statistics concerned by the revision and the periods back in time that are revised.

9.3. Together with the release of data that are subject to major revisions, background information will be published which helps users to understand and assess the revised data.

9.4. This background information will be published on the website of the State Statistical Office.

9.5. With the Advance Release Calendar, the public is informed about the publications where the results of major revisions are published.

10. Communication strategy for non-scheduled revisions

10.1. When the need arises to perform a non-scheduled data revision, the date of publication will be announced on the website of the State Statistical Office.

10.2. Background information will be issued when the data subject to non-scheduled revision are published. The purpose of this information is to explain the reason for the revision and the measures taken. If possible, the impact of the revision should also be analysed.

11. Revision Calendar

11.1. The Revision Policy is closely linked with the Revision Calendar. It gives an overview of the statistical data sets that are subject to revision and the dates of publication of revised data.

12. Publicity

12.1. The content of the Policy is publicly available (free access) and will be published on the website of the State Statistical Office.

Director

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