



HUNGARIAN
CENTRAL
STATISTICAL
OFFICE 

PRINCIPLES TO REVIEW STATISTICAL DATA IN HCSO, 2014

Preamble

The basic task of HCSO is to produce and publish high quality statistical data as well as to provide data and meta-data for its users.

Under its quality policy, HCSO commits itself to regularly measure the quality of its statistical products and their production processes and on this basis takes care of the continuous improvement of its products and its activities of data production.

Considering the recommendations of the international organizations - including the UN and the Eurostat - on statistical quality and data revision¹ policy, HCSO keeps in mind the application of the below listed revision principles in its statistical activities and disclosure practice. When drafting its principles, HCSO took into account its experiences gained during the last decades in those areas where the data revision principles had been used and where these principles were put into writing and applied in practice.

The revision principles are in accordance with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (http://www.ksh.hu/docs/szolgaltatasok/pressroom/news_2014/fundamental_principles.pdf), as well as with the European Statistics Code of Practice (http://www.ksh.hu/european_statistics_code_of_practice), the Eurostat, ESS Revision policy directives² and the HCSO's quality guidelines, the Error Correction Code of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office and the Principles of Dissemination, in addition, HCSO takes into account the specifications resulting from the deadlines for international dissemination.

- We consider any changes in the value of the already released and published data as a data review.³ The fundamental aim of the data revision is to **improve data quality** and thereby to be more accurate when reflecting the reality. Therefore, the review of the data is a normal phenomenon in the statistical work.
- During its work, HCSO strives to produce and publish high-quality data while collecting and processing data but accepts that in some cases the subsequent amendment of the published data may be necessary. Possible reasons can be the reception of information after the date of publication; furthermore any change in the domestic or international methodological standards. Data reviews are performed according to regulated procedures and in a **transparent manner**.
- HCSO distinguishes the following types of revisions:
 - **Planned revisions:**
 - Routine revision: such change in the published data, which comes from the regular data production process (e.g. replacing the estimated value of missing data with later received, reported actual data or replacing preliminary data with final data).
 - Larger revision: substantial modifications, revisions in the already published data due to changes in concepts, classifications and methodologies. It also includes the retrospective revision of time series based on censuses implemented in every fifth or tenth year as well as the replacement of weighting factors in indices.

¹ Hereinafter data review and (data) revision will be used interchangeably.

² ESR Commission adopted its ESR Revision policy guidelines in its meeting held on February 9, 2012. Available at: (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/product_details/publication?p_product_code=KS-RA-13-016).

³ A separate description was made on the general revision of the seasonally adjusted data, the relevant information can be accessed here: http://www.ksh.hu/apps/shop.kiadvany?p_kiadvany_id=12500&p_temakor_kod=KSH&p_session_id=216426607560868&p_lang=HU.

- **Unplanned revision:** previously unannounced data review, which was necessitated by an unanticipated event (e.g. data errors, technical problems).
- HCSO applies these principles in all of its statistical data series. In the particular areas of expertise, the data review may have special features, but they are also **in accordance with the general principles of data review**.
- HCSO considers it fundamental that the revision policies of the specialized statistics should be **consistent** and the best possible coordinated not only in the respect of the different areas but of the annual and interim data which concern a single area.
- HCSO makes the general principles of data review and the data revision principles of each specialized statistics **publicly** available for its users.
- HCSO informs its users on the planned revisions **before the publication of data** as well as indicates the date of revision in its statistical publication calendars.
- HCSO strives to keep its revisionist policy **stable** over the longest possible time.
- HCSO considers it fundamental that the **unplanned revisions** also should be managed in a transparent way. These are e.g. the **corrections of those errors** which were detected - perhaps only many years - after the publication.
- HCSO develops an adequate **marking system** and uses it in its **publications**, which allows users to **easily identify** the revised data. In addition, if possible, it **indicates the fact of revision** in a textual note in its publications.
- HCSO, in order to ensure transparency, also preserves the **real time (originally published) data sets** in the archives of HCSO.

HCSO publishes the revision policy and practice of each specialized statistics in the methodological documentation of specialized statistics in the HCSO website. In the methodological documentation of specialized statistics, HCSO publishes the scheduling of revisions, the frequency of revisions and the length of the revision time horizon.

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