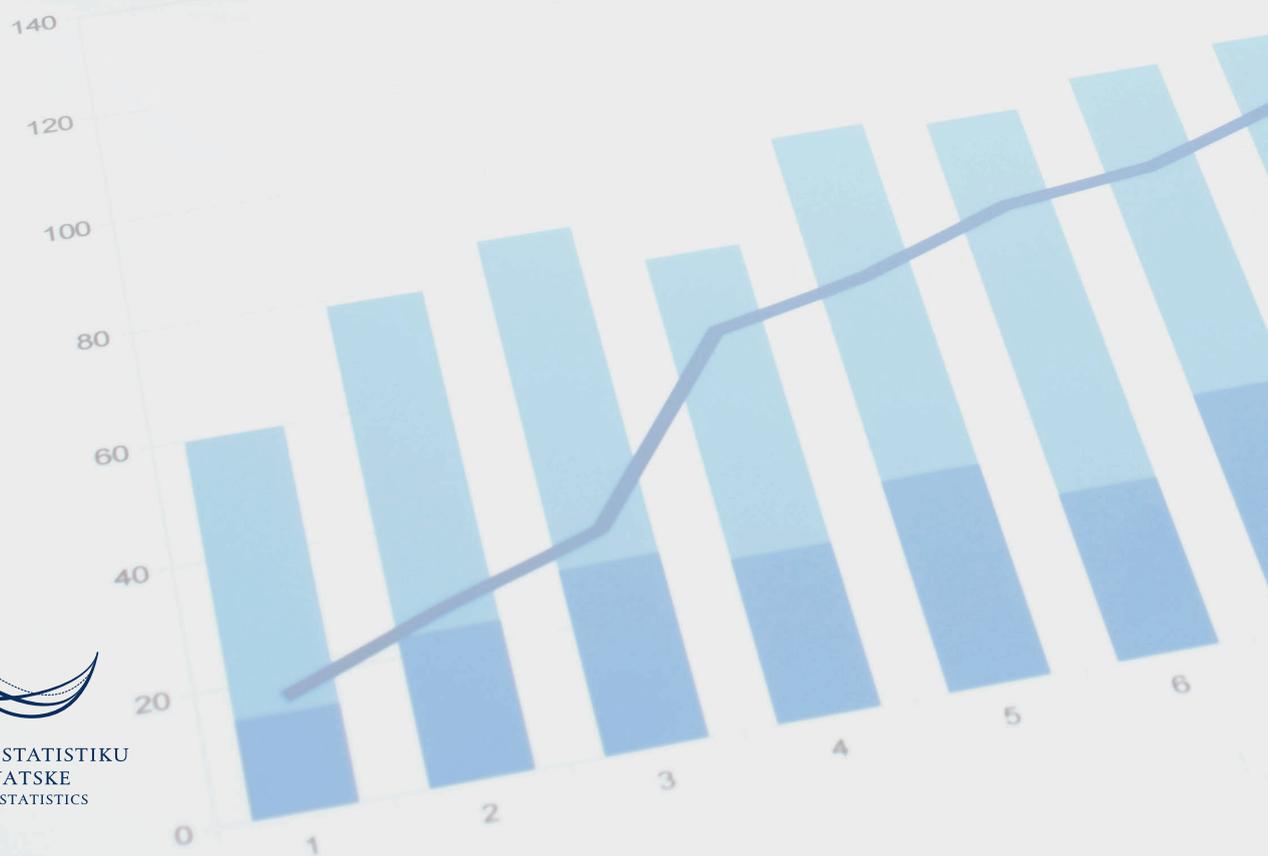
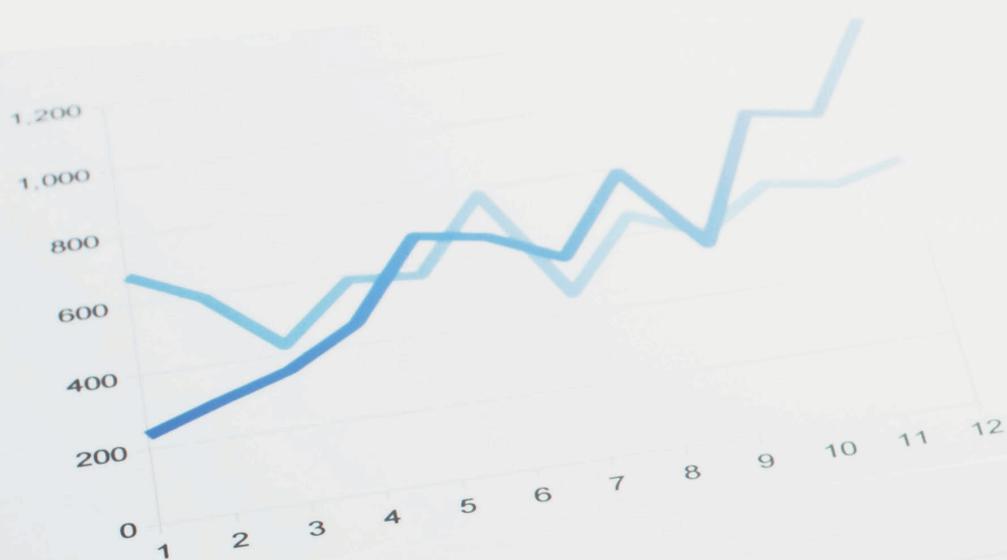


# GENERAL REVISION POLICY OF THE CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Official statistical data need to be of good quality and meet user needs. Given that users very often ask for the latest data, but also require them to be accurate and reliable, statistical institutes very often have to reconcile these two principles of quality – timeliness and accuracy of statistical data. On the one hand, it is important to provide users with timely data as soon as possible, while on the other hand, provisional data, which are published for that purpose, can later be replaced by more recent data of better quality. In order to harmonise the needs

for timeliness and accuracy of data, the employees of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics continuously put enormous efforts as well as a lot of time and, if necessary, revise already published data.

The General Revision Policy of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, which applies to all statistical domains, describes in a transparent and comprehensive manner the revision procedures that further improve the accuracy and reliability of data and increase confidence in official statistics. Therefore, a comprehensive revision policy is an important element in communication with users of statistical data.

## 2. REVISION POLICY FRAMEWORK

The General Revision Policy of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics is based on the following documents:

- European Statistics Code of Practise
- Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System
- ESS Guidelines on Revision Policy for PEEIs.

The European Statistics Code of Practice includes the principles directly related to data revision, as follows: Principle 6 Impartiality and Objectivity, Principle 8 Appropriate Statistical Procedures, and Principle 12 Accuracy and Reliability. The following indicators should be pointed out:

- Advance notice is given on major revisions or changes in methodologies (indicator 6.6)
- Revisions follow standard, well-established and transparent procedures (indicator 8.5)
- Revisions are regularly analysed in order to improve source data, statistical processes and outputs (indicator 12.3).

The Quality Assurance Framework of the European Statistical System and the ESS Guidelines on Revision Policy for PEEIs describe in detail the main guidelines on which data revision is based.

### 3. DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF STATISTICAL DATA REVISION

**Data revision** is an activity carried out by an authorised producer of official statistics in order to change the previously published data that are already available to users.

**The purpose of statistical data revision** is to provide users with high-quality and accurate statistical data.

One of the integral parts of the process of production and dissemination of statistical data is the revision of the published statistical data. It is important to point out that any change in the published data can be considered a revision, except for corrections of published data caused by technical errors, calculation errors, linguistic and other similar errors.

Data revision is performed in order to include new information and data that could not be used in the production and publication of official statistics, regardless of whether they are completely new data or previously submitted, already processed and published data, changes in classifications, definitions, methodologies, etc. In most cases, revisions can be planned. However, sometimes events that cannot be predicted can affect the need to conduct an unplanned revision.

The corrections of published data caused by technical errors, calculation errors, linguistic and other similar errors are not the subject of the Revision Policy of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics. When disseminating changes to already published statistical data, it is necessary to clearly indicate whether they are corrected data (due to technical or calculation errors) or revised data.

In order to ensure the transparency and availability of data, following the publication of the revised data, the Croatian Bureau of Statistics provides users with the previously published (original) data in the publishing media in which it is possible.

## 4. BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REVISION POLICY OF THE CROATIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

The revision policy of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics is based on the principles of the [European Statistics Code of Practise](#).

The General Revision Policy, which applies to all statistical domains of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, should serve as a reference framework for developing revision policies that apply to individual statistical domains. Such revision policies of individual statistical domains may contain specific provisions or elaborate in more detail the framework conditions and specific user needs associated with individual sets or series of data of particular statistical domains.

The General Revision Policy describes revision procedures in a transparent and comprehensible manner in order to improve further the quality of statistics. Users need to be informed about the performed revision in order to increase confidence in official statistics.

The subject of the revision may be series of data within individual statistical domains, but it may also cover entire statistical domains. Due to the interdependence of different statistical domains, it is necessary to take into account the impact of revisions of one statistical domain on others and to assess whether the revision is necessary in other statistical domains as well.

The purpose of statistics is to provide high-quality and timely information to users of statistical data. As new information become continuously available, when establishing the revision policy of individual statistical domains, it should be considered that new statistical data are made available to users as soon as possible, but also that too many revisions do not aggravate the understanding of data and communication with the public. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the impact of changes and choose the optimal manner and time of dissemination of the revised data.

Timeliness and punctuality as well as accuracy and reliability are the principles of official statistics that should be particularly emphasised in the context of statistical data quality. Revisions are one of the ways in which official statistics try to meet user needs for up-to-date and quality data. Furthermore, the principle of accessibility and clarity points to the need for presenting statistical data in a form that enables correct interpretation and meaningful comparisons of data, and it is therefore particularly important to provide users with all the necessary information regarding the purpose, cause/causes and procedures of data revision, periods to which data revisions refer and revision results, depending on the nature and type of revision.

## 5. TYPES OF REVISION

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics distinguishes between the following types of revision.

### 5.1. Planned data revisions

#### ➤ Regular revisions

The usual process of producing certain statistics implies a regular revision of published statistical data.

Guided by the principle of timeliness and punctuality, in some cases, in order to make statistical data available to users as soon as possible, it is necessary to calculate and publish statistical data before the complete set of data and information needed for the final calculation is available. Regardless of whether the subject matter are completely new input data, regular subsequent changes of the previously submitted data or additional analyses are necessary, the published statistical data need to be revised and additional/new data and analysis results should be included in the calculation.

Data are also revised when harmonising the series of identical data with different publication periods (e.g. monthly or quarterly data according to annual ones).

Furthermore, extending the original data series by adding new monthly or quarterly data may, due to the nature of the applied seasonal and working-day adjustment method<sup>1</sup>, cause subsequent changes in seasonally and working-day adjusted series and trend-cycles for previous periods, even when the original series data from previous periods did not change. The process of seasonal and working-day adjustment of data is described in quality reports for individual statistical domains.

When disseminating data, it must be clearly indicated which data series are subject to regular revisions.

### ➤ Major revisions

Major revisions are significant changes in data due to changes in classifications, definitions, methodologies, changes in the base period, the development of new sources and methods, or the availability of new statistical data, such as census data.

Major revisions are conducted at longer intervals. They are announced in advance in order to inform users about the publication deadlines, the reasons for their implementation and, if possible, about their potential impact on the most important indicators.

In major revisions, it is necessary to back-cast longer data series, as much as possible, in order to minimise negative effects of the break in time series. After the publication of the revised data, the analysis of the effect of changes in the data can also be disseminated.

## 5.2. Unplanned data revisions

Unplanned revisions are caused by events that could not be predicted and could not be influenced in advance, such as, for example, significant unforeseen subsequent changes in data sources due to revisions/changes in data, etc., or subsequently identified errors made by reporting units in previously submitted data.

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<sup>1</sup> ESS Guidelines on Seasonal Adjustment, Zagreb, 2011  
[https://www.dzs.hr/Hrv\\_Eng/Other/ESS\\_smjernice.pdf](https://www.dzs.hr/Hrv_Eng/Other/ESS_smjernice.pdf)

In general, data resulting from such revisions are disseminated as soon as possible. Exceptionally, if the changes in data are not extensive, it is allowed to disseminate the changes as part of the next regular revision or other publication of the same data, with a notice that these are revised data. In any case, the reasons for the data revision should be explained.

## **6. REVISION POLICY OF INDIVIDUAL STATISTICAL DOMAINS**

The revision policy of individual statistical domains is described in the relevant quality reports for statistical surveys. The revision policies of individual statistical domains are based on the General Revision Policy of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics and must be in accordance with its basic principles.

## **7. INFORMING THE PUBLIC**

To ensure confidence in official statistics, data revisions, whenever possible, should be announced and presented to users in a timely and transparent manner. Therefore, major data revisions are announced in advance at user councils for certain statistical domains and at sessions of the Statistical Council of the Republic of Croatia and the Committee for the Official Statistical System of the Republic of Croatia. Users are informed about data revisions of individual statistical domains on the website of the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, in the Calendar of Statistical Data Issues. The publication of revised data is announced no later than three working days before the day of publishing.

In order to ensure user satisfaction, statistical data should be presented and published in a clear and understandable way, and users should be informed about data revisions in a timely and detailed manner. Depending on the type of revision, an appropriate communication strategy should be applied.