

INDEX OF SERVICES (IOS) - REVISIONS POLICY

This revisions policy, which describes how both planned and unplanned revisions will be published in the quarterly Index of Services (IOS) statistical bulletins, has been developed to comply with the National Statistics revisions protocol:

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/revisions/index.html>

Background

In an attempt to limit the costs to those who complete statistical returns, the majority of economic and labour market statistics are estimates of what they are measuring, rather than being complete counts. Reliance on surveys to collect information with which to produce statistics means that events and socio-economic trends cannot be measured in their entirety, but are instead based on incomplete information which is adjusted to take account of biases which arise in survey taking, and other available information, such as the emergence of new seasonal patterns.

Over time, as more information becomes available, estimates can be revised to improve quality and accuracy, which will provide a better picture of that being measured. Users require good quality data that are timely and can be accessed as close to the event which the data measures as possible. A policy of accepting revisions enables statisticians to provide users with data close to the event, but also improve the accuracy of that data as other information becomes available. Revisions are therefore a standard practice when producing official statistics.

Scope

This policy describes how both planned and unplanned revisions will be published and covers each release of the Index of Services.

Communications

It is vital that we communicate effectively with our users when dealing with revisions to our data. We must ensure that users are aware of the pattern of regular revisions to our data, their usual time-span and likely magnitude. Users should also be confident we will introduce unplanned revisions in a structured and transparent way.

The Index of Services statistical bulletins contain details of all significant revisions in that particular release, both planned and unplanned. If there are none, there will be a statement to that effect.

The cycle of planned revisions

The following table describes the quarters in which the Index of Services index is normally revised, the usual period of revisions, and the reasons why the data need to be revised. If in the course of these regular revisions it is necessary to revise data for a longer time period, this information will be included in the accompanying notes.

<u>Frequency / Date of revision</u>	<u>Period(s) covered</u>	<u>Reasons</u>
Quarterly.	Variable - Data can be revised back for up to four quarters and finalised once comparisons have been made with the current year ABI returns Variable – full quarterly series	Inclusion of late data. Inclusion of revised more accurate data. Reconciliation of returns between different surveys. Seasonal adjustment.
April 2007 – Seasonal adjustment	Variable – full quarterly series	Introduction of standard seasonal adjustment procedure using X-11-ARIMA software package.
October 2009 - Revisions to base year	Variable – full quarterly series	Rebasing to new base year 2005 =100

October 2009 - Using GVA estimates derived from regional accounts	Variable – full quarterly series	Introduction of annually chain-linking series using weights based on regional accounts rather than Northern Ireland Annual Business Inquiry data
October 2010 - Revisions to base year	Variable – full quarterly series	Rebasing to new base year 2006 =100
October 2010 – Seasonal adjustment	Variable – full quarterly series	Move to standard seasonal adjustment procedure using X-12-ARIMA software package from X-11-ARIMA
July 2011 – New chain link methodology	Variable – full quarterly series	Introduction of new improved annual chain-linking methodology, identical to that adopted by ONS
October 2011 – Publish results of new IOS sample based on SIC07	Variable – full quarterly series	IOS sample refreshed and drawn on a SIC07 basis in line with ONS. Historical results converted to SIC07
October 2011 - Revisions to base year	Variable – full quarterly series	Rebasing to new base year 2008 =100
October 2012 - Revisions to base year	Variable – full quarterly series	Rebasing to new base year 2009=100
July 2013 – Revisions to base year	Variable – full quarterly series	Rebasing to new base year 2010=100
October 2013 - Estimation	Variable – full quarterly series	Change to estimation process for non-response
September 2014 – Seasonal Adjustment	Variable – full quarterly series	Move to using X-13-ARIMA-SEATS software package from X-12-ARIMA
May 2015 – Revisions to base year	Variable – full quarterly series	Rebasing to new base year 2011=100
May 2015 – Publish results of new, boosted IOS sample	Variable – full quarterly series	IOS sample refresh to increase the size of sample and introduce quarterly sample rotation
December 2015 – Annual Seasonal Adjustment Review	Variable – full quarterly series	Annual seasonal adjustment review of all series – December each year
December 2015 – Revisions to base year	Variable – full quarterly series	Rebasing to new base year 2012=100 – December each year
December 2015 – Revisions to deflators from ONS	Variable – full quarterly series	Revisions to deflators provided by ONS as a result of revisions to their source data
March 2016 – updates to GVA estimates derived from regional accounts	Variable – full quarterly series	Regional GVA estimates are revised on an annual basis – March each year

Unplanned revisions

From time to time revisions may need to be made outside of this timetable. Examples of such revisions include improvements to methodology, revisions to data that feed into IOS data sets and the discovery of incorrect data through our quality assurance procedures.

If revisions arising through improvements to methodology or changes to administrative data are found to be insignificant, they will be introduced in the next planned set of revisions according to the timetable above. However, if these revisions are thought to affect economic analysis or are sufficiently large, they will be introduced more quickly. All such revisions will be pre-announced at least one month in advance of their releases.

If incorrect data are discovered after publication, these too will be examined for their impact. Where the changes are significant, a corrigendum will be issued as soon as is practicable, whilst minor corrections will be included in the next planned release. In all cases a full explanation will be included in the release.