

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency: Economic and Labour
Market Statistics Branch (ELMS) STATISTICS REVISIONS POLICY

This revisions policy has been developed in accordance with the [National Statistics revisions protocol](#).

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 data that are timely and can be accessed as close to the event which the data measures as possible. They also require data that is of good quality, where the picture painted of that event is most accurate. A policy of accepting revisions enables ELMS 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.

Outputs covered

This policy describes how both planned and unplanned revisions will be published. This policy covers all ELMS releases classified as National Statistics, along with those treated as National Statistics.

Communications

It is vital that ELMS communicates effectively with users when dealing with revisions to data. We must ensure that users are aware of the pattern of regular revisions to data, their usual time span and likely magnitude. Users should also be confident that unplanned revisions will be introduced in a structured and transparent way. ELMS publishes, as part of this policy, a planned cycle of revisions. This is available to all users of our data.

The cycle of planned revisions

The following table describes the months in which each of the data sets are 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>Data set (and frequency of publication)</u>	<u>Frequency and date of revision</u>	<u>Period covered</u>	<u>Reasons</u>
<u>Claimant count (Monthly)</u> NSA series SA series Rates Proportions	Not revised Monthly Annually in April Annually (usually in April) Annually in October	Not revised Previous Month Previous 3 years Previous three years Previous three years	Not revised Standard Seasonal adjustment Procedure Seasonal adjustment review Revisions to workforce jobs + CC denominators for national and regional rates Revised population denominators for sub-regional data
<u>Redundancies</u>	Ad-hoc	As required	New information provided by company / HR staff
<u>Labour Force Survey (Monthly)</u>	Annually in Autumn	Usually previous three years	Seasonal adjustment review and new population estimates
<u>Employee jobs (Quarterly)</u> NSA series SA series	Quarterly Quarterly	Previous 4 quarters Each quarter	Inclusion of late data. Inclusion of revised, more accurate data. Standard seasonal adjustment procedure
Employee Jobs (Annual)	Not revised	Not revised	Not revised
Business Demography (Deaths)	Annually (December)	Previous 3 years	Businesses reactivation

<u>Research and Development (R&D)</u>	Annual	Previous year	Late data
<u>Index of Production (IOP)</u>	Quarterly	Each quarter	Inclusion of late data. Inclusion of revised, more accurate data. Seasonal adjustment procedures
<u>Index of Services (IOS)</u>	Quarterly	Each quarter	Inclusion of late data. Inclusion of revised, more accurate data. Seasonal adjustment procedures
<u>Quarterly Construction Enquiry (QCE)</u>	Quarterly	Each quarter	Inclusion of late data. Inclusion of revised, more accurate data. Standard seasonal adjustment procedure
<u>Annual Business Inquiry (ABI)</u>	Annually in December	Previous year	Inclusion of late and revised data
<u>Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)</u>	Annually in November	Previous year	Inclusion of late and revised data
<u>Broad Economy Sales and Exports Statistics (BESES)</u>	Annually in December	Previous year	Inclusion of late and revised data
<u>Northern Ireland Composite Economic Index (NICEI)</u>	Quarterly	Each Quarter	Inclusion of most up to date IoS, IoP, QCE, QES and LFS data when they are revised as above.
<u>Structure and Performance of the NI Economy</u>	Adhoc- Will become annual	Each Year	Inclusion of most up to date data including ABI data, Regional Accounts data, UK Supply and Use Table data, BESES data Agricultural data, GERD/HERD data, Population estimates.

As can be seen from the above table, many series are subject to revision when data from other sources are revised. For example, changes to population estimates will affect LFS and Claimant Count Figures.

Seasonally Adjusted claimant count figures are provisional when published and subject to revision, mainly the following month and are only available at Northern Ireland level. Seasonally Adjusted totals are subject to an annual update, which revises back for 3 years (usually April) to take account of latest assessment trends. The magnitudes of the revisions are relatively small, with the change of the monthly total claimants within +/- 0.8%.

Unplanned revisions

From time to time revisions need to be made outside of this timetable. Examples of such revisions include improvements to methodology, revisions to data that feed into Labour Market data sets and the discovery of incorrect data through our quality assurance procedures. Each of these revisions will be examined to see if the effects are significant in terms of the degree of change or whether the changes affect the story the data portray.

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.

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.