

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE PERFORMANCE, ANALYSIS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF REVISIONS OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS**

1. The importance of statistical indicator revision (hereinafter referred to as “Revision”) policy formation and analysis of Revisions is largely recognised at both national and international levels. The establishment of a Revision policy is an important step towards greater rationality and better quality in the production and publication of statistical indicators.

2. Revisions should be considered as a normal practice, contributing to the gradual improvement in the quality of statistical indicators in general and their accuracy in particular. A Revision policy should be recognised as an important aspect of the proper management of the production of statistics, while the proper management of the production of statistics, in a broad sense, in turn, is a significant component of the transparency and accountability of the public sector.

3. The Revision policy followed by the Lithuanian Department of Statistics (hereinafter referred to as “Statistics Lithuania”) is reflected by the General Principles behind the Performance, Analysis and Announcement of Revisions of Statistical Indicators (hereinafter referred to as “Principles”).

4. The Principles encompass the classification of Revisions, description of the key preconditions and reasons for Revisions, and the procedure for the documentation of the performance, analysis and announcement of Revisions.

5. The Principles must be adhered to by the statistical survey and work managers and employees of Statistics Lithuania producing statistical information and indicators.

## **II. REGULATING LEGAL ACTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS**

6. The description of procedures (Principles) has been prepared based on the following legal acts and other documents:

6.1. Order No DĮ-79 of 14 March 2007 of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania on the approval of the Rules for the Preparation and Dissemination of Statistical Information.

6.2. Order No DĮ-216 of 12 November 2012 of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania on the approval of a scheme of statistical survey (indicator) metainformation.

6.3. European Statistics Code of Practice, adopted by the European Statistical System Committee on 28 September 2011.

6.4. ESS Guidelines on Revision Policy for Principal European Economic Indicators (PEEIs), adopted by the European Statistical System Committee in February 2012.

### III. CLASSIFICATION OF REVISIONS

7. In a general sense, Revisions are defined as any changes in the values of the officially published statistical indicators.

8. Revisions may be classified according to their anticipation and the period covered.

8.1. According to the anticipation of Revisions, they are divided into scheduled and unscheduled:

8.1.1. **Scheduled revision** is a revision conducted periodically, according to a schedule drawn up in advance. Such revisions are included in a Calendar of Scheduled Revisions of Statistical Indicators, published on the Official Statistics Portal.

8.1.2. **Unscheduled revision** is a revision which has not been anticipated, which may be conditioned by such reasons as significant errors detected after statistical indicators had been officially published, unanticipated changes in methodology, use of new statistical data sources, changes in administration and management systems. Users are informed about the upcoming unscheduled Revision and reasons thereof on the Official Statistics Portal. An unscheduled Revision is conducted and the results thereof are published within the shortest period possible from the moment of the occurrence of the need for an unscheduled Revision.

8.2. According to the period covered, Revisions are divided into short-term planned revisions and long-term planned revisions, which are included in the Calendar of Scheduled Revisions of Statistical Indicators:

8.2.1. **Short-term planned revisions** are conducted using new or more comprehensive data from regular statistical surveys or after a change in methodologies and subsequent recalculation of underlying statistical data. Such Revisions are usually conducted once a month, quarter or year after the first official publication of statistical indicators. Those are running Revisions because they influence monthly or quarterly statistical indicators. Short-term statistical indicators are often revised based on more comprehensive and accurate statistical survey results for the entire year.

8.2.2. **Long-term planned revisions** are conducted less often and have an impact on a longer period or an entire published time series of the values of a statistical indicator. They can also be called “comprehensive”, “very important” or “historical”. Such Revisions are usually conditioned by the occurrence of a new statistical data source, from which data are taken every five or ten years

(e.g. a census, structural surveys); update of base weights, which is usually conducted every five years; change in the concepts, definitions and/or classifications, international standards used in the production of statistical indicators; coming into force of new legal acts regulating the production of statistical information.

#### **IV. PRECONDITIONS AND REASONS FOR REVISIONS**

9. The performance of Revisions is conditioned by three main factors: satisfaction of user needs, ensuring of reliability and objectiveness, resource management.

9.1. To satisfy user needs, the following has to be ensured:

9.1.1. timeliness and punctuality of the first release and the subsequent Revision. State strategy drafters, investors, international organisations, the media pay assiduous attention to the timeliness of statistical information, which mainly manifests itself in fast publication, corresponding to particular user needs. It is therefore very important that the time of the first release and the subsequent Revision is known in advance and stable;

9.1.2. accuracy. The use of inaccurate statistical information may cause wrong decisions. Statistical information which is substantially corrected after a monthly or quarterly Revision is not suitable and misleads users; therefore, it is important to assess the change in the value of a statistical indicator obtained during the Revision;

9.1.3. consistency over time. It is important for users that, after Revisions have been conducted, the revised statistical indicators are published in all statistical data media simultaneously;

9.1.4. comparability and compatibility with other related statistical data time series. In the course of Revisions, to achieve statistical indicator compatibility, a comparability or balancing method is used.

9.2. When Revisions are conducted, efforts should be made to achieve cost-efficiency, by optimally balancing statistical information timeliness and accuracy needs with the costs incurred by Statistics Lithuania.

9.3. To reduce the adverse impact of Revisions, users need a clear documentation thereof. Statistical data have to be identified as provisional, non-final, estimated or revised; the reasons for Revisions and breaks in time series, when they are incoherent, have to be explained. Users must have access to the public Calendar of Scheduled Revisions of Statistical Indicators, information on the Revision procedure for the statistical indicators which are the subject of scheduled Revisions, and the results of the analysis of completed Revisions.

9.4. The established Revision procedure, professional performance of Revisions and keeping users informed about them ensure the proper supervision of the reliability of statistical information and user confidence in statistics.

10. The reasons for Revisions may be as follows:

10.1. supplementation and refinement of primary statistical data used for the calculation of the value of a statistical indicator. To satisfy the need for up-to-date statistical information, provisional statistical indicators (first estimate) are often released, which are later, after all the primary statistical data required for calculations have been received, revised and corrected. In the absence of all necessary statistical data and in the calculation of the first estimate, statistical indicator components are estimated using the method selected. Later, statistical indicators are refined based on the most up-to-date statistical data received;

10.2. routine recalculations – update of the base period; regular monthly and quarterly seasonal adjustments; refinement of monthly or quarterly statistical data based on annual statistical information; recalculations after the revision of the statistical survey population, weights (e.g. price indices);

10.3. updated methodology – changes in statistical methods, definitions, classifications;

10.4. correction of errors – errors in primary statistical data sources, data entry errors, etc.;

10.5. comparison or balancing – harmonisation of statistical indicators according to estimation methods and over time.

## **V. DOCUMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE, ANALYSIS AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF REVISIONS**

11. The Calendar of Scheduled Revisions of Statistical Indicators (hereinafter referred to as “Calendar”) is prepared following the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania and the European Union regulating the production of statistics, Official Statistics Work Programme, and annual activity plans of Statistics Lithuania. The Calendar distinguishes between short- and long-term scheduled revisions of statistical information.

11.1. The divisions of Statistics Lithuania prepare, on an annual basis, a list of statistical indicators to be revised next year. After the list is approved by the supervisor of the division, it is submitted to the Statistical Information Dissemination Division by October 15. The list also contains the date of the publication of the revised indicators, the revision period, and the status of statistical indicators.

11.2. The Statistical Information Dissemination Division prepares the Calendar and, by December 15, submits it for approval to the Director General of Statistics Lithuania. If needed, the Calendar may be revised and updated in the course of the year.

11.3. The approved Calendar for the current year is published on the Official Statistics Portal by January 1.

12. The Revision procedure for the statistical indicators which are the subject of scheduled Revisions is documented and publicly accessible:

12.1. Statistical survey and work managers and employees of Statistics Lithuania producing statistical information, following the recommended scheme, annually review the statistical indicator Revision procedures included in the Calendar, update them, when needed, by February 1, and submit to the Public Relations Division for the publication on the Official Statistics Portal.

12.2. Information on the statistical indicator Revision procedure is published within 3 working days of its submission to the Public Relations Division.

13. Statistical survey and work managers and employees of Statistics Lithuania producing statistical information, following available recommendations, analyse the revisions, their impact on the quality of statistical indicators, and publish the results of those analyses on the Official Statistics Portal, statistical survey (indicator) descriptions (metainformation), prepared according to the scheme approved by Order No DJ-216 of 12 November 2013 of the Director General of Statistics Lithuania:

13.1. A brief analysis of short-term revisions is conducted for the principal statistical indicators each time after revised statistical indicators have been published or at least twice a year, a detailed analysis – for the entire set of published statistical indicators at least once a year.

13.2. An analysis of long-term revisions is conducted after they have been conducted and covers the entire revision period.

14. Statistical survey and work managers and employees of Statistics Lithuania producing statistical information decide which Revision analysis results are important and have to be used in each specific case themselves.

15. The results of unscheduled Revisions are published immediately after they have been conducted, with an explanation of the reasons thereof, methodological changes, impact on the results.

16. Before publishing the revised statistical information, a statistical survey or work manager or an employee of Statistics Lithuania producing statistical information informs the top management of Statistics Lithuania about the unscheduled Revision, with an explanation of the reasons thereof.

17. If an error is detected in the values of published statistical indicators and the assessment of its significance shows that there is a need for an unscheduled Revision, the responsible statistical survey or work manager or an employee of Statistics Lithuania producing statistical information shall take all the necessary actions prescribed in this document.

18. If a technical error is detected in the values of published statistical indicators, the correction whereof does not require a Revision, it is immediately corrected, and users are informed about it in accordance with the procedure established in the Rules for the Preparation and Dissemination of Statistical Information.

## **VI. FINAL PROVISIONS**

19. Should the legal acts and other documents mentioned in this document change, the provisions of the most recent amendments shall apply.

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