



STATISTICAL DATA REVISION POLICY

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Statistical Data Revision Policy



Purpose

This policy establishes the governing boundaries for the revision of official statistical outputs disseminated by the Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi (SCAD) and other Producers of Official Statistics (OPOS). It ensures that revisions are conducted transparently, consistently, and in accordance with internationally recognized statistical standards. The purpose is to enhance the credibility, reliability, and accuracy of statistical outputs and to maintain user confidence in the data products issued by SCAD.

Scope

This policy is applicable to all statistical data and outputs produced by SCAD & Other Producers of Official Statistics (OPOS) and disseminated by SCAD, regardless of format (electronic or print). It governs the revision of any data previously published, including but not limited to routine, major, and unscheduled revisions. The policy applies across the entire statistical production lifecycle.

Definition of Revision

A revision refers to any post-publication amendment made to previously disseminated statistical information. Revisions are a standard component of high-quality statistical production and are undertaken to reflect improved data accuracy, updated methodologies, corrected errors, or newly available information.



Types of Revisions

Revisions are categorized into three types based on their nature, scope, and trigger.

Routine Revisions:

- **Routine revisions** are scheduled and expected updates that occur as part of the regular statistical production process. These revisions are integrated into the workflow and are driven by availability of updated or more complete data.
- **Routine revisions involve:**
 - Routine updates to preliminary estimates, by incorporating source data, which is considered more updated, complete and/or of better quality.
 - Revisions arising from seasonal adjustments.
- **Routine revisions** aim at incorporating improved source data and shall not involve significant changes in the methodologies and definitions used.

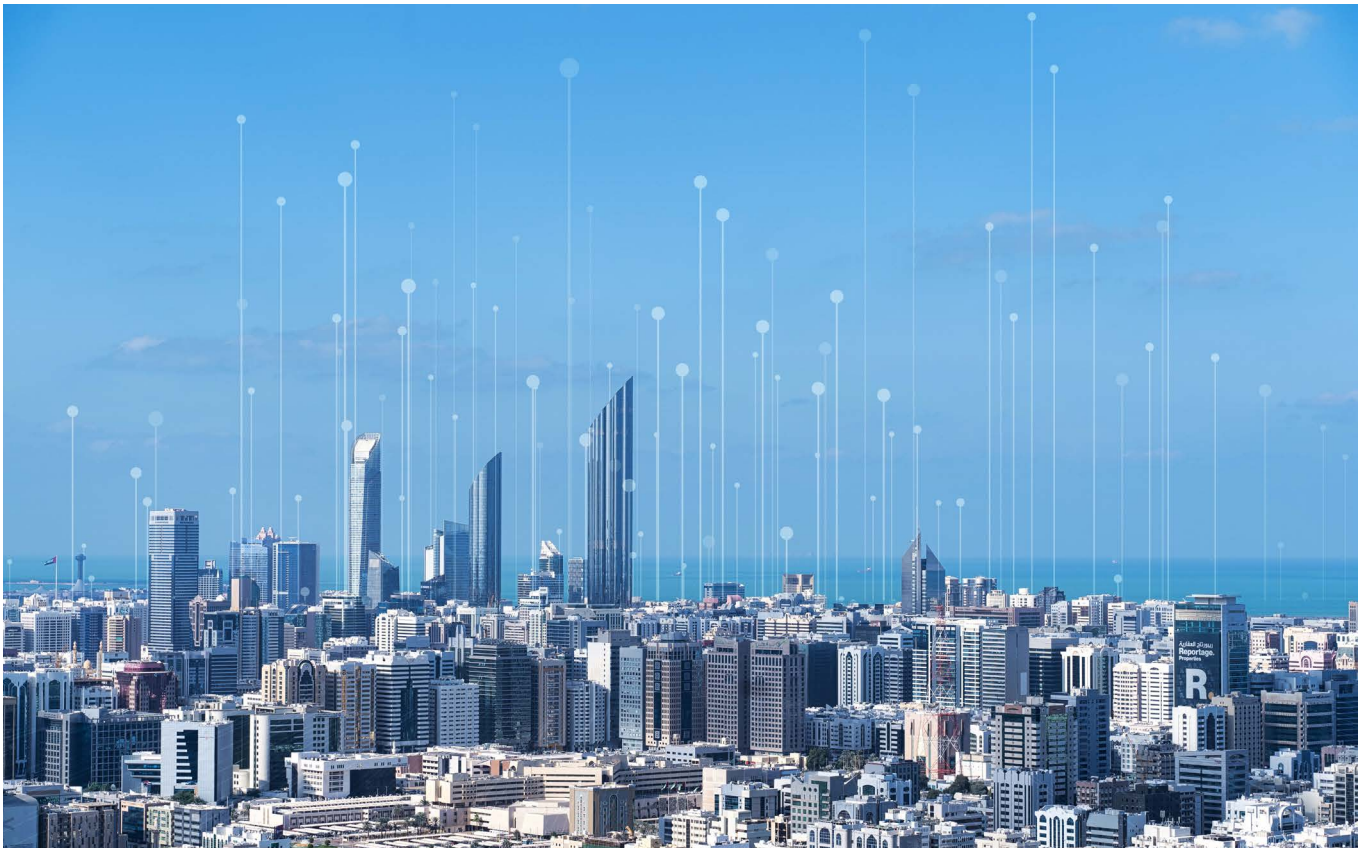
Major Revisions:

- **Major revisions** include significant changes to data sources, statistical methodologies, classifications, or estimation frameworks. These are typically infrequent and are planned in advance to maintain coherence and comparability over time.
- **Major revisions involve:**
 - Implementation of new statistical standards or classifications, changes to definitions, classifications, concepts and/or methodology.
 - Re-referencing by updating the index reference period, re-weighting and chain-linking .
 - Incorporating results of changes in basic data sources (surveys and censuses) and/or new estimation methods.
 - Discontinuation of current data sources.
 - Availability of new data sources resulting in more significant changes than those outlined in routine revisions.
 - Benchmark revisions.
- **All major revisions** shall include backward revisions where relevant and require thorough user notification, including documentation of rationale, expected impact, and methodological explanation.
- **Major revisions** shall be the result of a combination of factors rather than an outcome of a single cause.
- **Major revisions** are subject to advance communication by SCAD to its users.

Unscheduled Revisions:

- **Unscheduled** revisions are reactive and occur when errors, inconsistencies, or substantial new information are discovered post-publication. These are not part of regular operations and must be addressed promptly to correct the statistical record.
- **Unscheduled revisions involve:**
 - Corrections due to respondent reporting errors.
 - Updates from revised administrative records.
 - Identification of significant processing or calculation errors.
 - Statistics that are initially considered final may need to be revised upon receipt of updated data which significantly affects the figures.
 - Improved estimated data made available from alternative sources.
- **SCAD** and **OPOS** provide appropriate explanations for any unplanned revisions that greatly influence the final result

Note: In statistical work, errors in source data and computations occasionally occur. While every effort is made to minimize errors, SCAD has a long-standing policy to correct errors as soon as they are detected and to inform users by means of a correction of a published text.





Revision Governance & Calendar

Calendar Integration:

- **All Routine and Major revisions** must be reflected in SCAD's and OPOS's Revision Calendar. The calendar serves as a transparent communication tool for users, providing clarity on upcoming updates and revision timelines:
 - **Routine revisions:** Pre-scheduled and annotated as 'preliminary', 'revised', or 'final' in publications, with supporting methodological notes.
 - **Major revisions:** Announced in advance, with accompanying technical documentation, timelines, and impact analysis.
 - **Unscheduled revisions:** Not pre-listed; shall be added retroactively to the calendar upon detection and correction. Users must be notified promptly.
- **User Communication**
 - All revisions must be accompanied by clear and timely user notifications via SCAD's standard dissemination platforms. For major and unscheduled revisions, additional communication mechanisms (e.g., explanatory notes, correction statements) must be used to preserve transparency and data integrity.
- **User Impact**
 - Revisions applied to one component of a statistical output may have an impact on other components. Accordingly, any modification shall be assessed for its broader implications, as changes in one area may necessitate corresponding revisions elsewhere to ensure coherence and integrity of the overall output.

Archiving

All revised statistical outputs, including their prior versions, shall be archived in accordance with SCAD's Data Retention, Archiving & Disposal Policy (DAG-POL-12). The archiving process ensures traceability, transparency, and accountability of all revisions made post-dissemination.

Compliance

- SCAD and OPOS involved in statistical production must comply with this policy.



Statistics Centre - Abu Dhabi (SCAD) was established by Law No. (7) of 2008 to organise and develop statistical work in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. The Centre was reorganised by Law No. (5) of 2021, which placed SCAD under the Abu Dhabi Executive Office. In April 2023, in accordance with The Executive Council Decree No. (39) of 2023, SCAD's affiliation was transferred to the Department of Government Enablement – Abu Dhabi.

SCAD is entrusted with the responsibility of supporting government decision-makers by adopting a decentralised approach to statistical work. The Centre has an independent legal personality, full financial independence, and legal capacity to act in proportion to the Emirate's vision towards sustainable development and strategic planning.

Pursuant to its mandate, SCAD is responsible for establishing and developing an integrated statistical ecosystem in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi. This is achieved by organising, unifying, and managing all aspects of the Emirate's statistical work, including building and regulating statistical frames for all activities and sectors, and updating them periodically. The Centre provides technical supervision of statistics and statistical data systems for government entities, and collects, classifies, stores, analyses, processes, archives, publishes, and protects Abu Dhabi's statistical data obtained from data sources. In addition, the Centre is vested with the responsibility of making, developing, and disseminating estimates, projections, analytics, and forecasts and supporting government entities with reliable statistics. SCAD is authorised to contract with any entity or company within or outside the Emirate to undertake data collection and other statistical activities.



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