



An Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí
Department of Social Protection

Department of Social Protection Statistics Publication and Dissemination Statement





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Overview

This document outlines the basic principles for the dissemination and revision of statistical outputs under the responsibility of the Department of Social Protection (DSP) on the Register of Official Statistics¹.

This document should be read in conjunction with the DSP Statistics Quality Statement, Statistical Release Calendar, the DSP Statistical Work Programme, and other relevant documents which sets out the standards for the production and dissemination of official statistics by this Department. These documents are available on the Department's statistics website².

Any queries in relation to the procedures outlined in this document should be sent to StatsUnit@welfare.ie.

¹ Available at <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/registerofofficialstatistics/>

² Available at <https://www.gov.ie/dsp/statistics>



Publication and Dissemination policy

The Department's statistics website³ shall be the main location for the publication of Official Statistics by this Department.

All statistical releases will be published by 11.00 am on the date of the release.

Statistical reports are in PDF format, and supporting data is provided in Excel and/or CSV format. In line with Government policy, the DSP is committed to publishing open data so that its outputs are accessible to and reusable by the widest possible audience. A release calendar will be displayed on the Department's statistics website, and this will be reviewed each month. Changes made to a pre-announced date of release will be recorded on the calendar.

User requirements will be considered when deciding on the publication of statistics and how frequently they are updated. The Department is open to considering requests for additional data, or more timely data subject to resource capacity. Any such requests can be sent to StatsUnit@welfare.ie.

Notification of new or updated statistical releases will also be announced on the Department's social media accounts.

The Department may issue press releases for more detailed publications which will highlight the main features of the results.

³Available at <https://www.gov.ie/dsp/statistics>



Revisions policy

For the purposes of this document, a revision refers to changes made to an Official Statistic that has already been released to the public by the Department's Statistics Unit.

Revisions may occur as a result of changes in methodology, an update to a series (due to seasonal adjustment or adjustments to preliminary estimates etc.), or errors in the original data.

Before a revision is implemented, an assessment of the risk and cost implications will take place. For example, the revised figure may lead to potential statistical disclosure risk or the change in the revised figures may be considered as insignificant. A judgement will be made as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a revised statistical release as soon as possible or to include the revision in the next planned release.

Any changes in methodology will be footnoted in the release where possible, and will describe the reason for the change and its impact on comparability (.i.e. with other schemes or over time).

Revisions due to errors will be footnoted in the release where possible, and the erroneous figure will be removed. The date when the error was corrected will also be recorded in the footnote.