



## **The core principles of revision policy of the Central Bureau of Statistics of Israel**

The following core principles describe the revision policy of the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS), which is intended to be transparent, and accessible to the users of the statistics.

### **1. The general revision policy applies to all series published by the ICBS**

The ICBS defines and publishes a general revision policy, which is applicable to all the statistical series prepared by the ICBS. The policy includes concurrent seasonal adjustments of all series.

### **2. The specific characteristics of revisions in each domain of statistics**

**For each domain of statistics the specific characteristics of revisions, which are harmonized with the general revision policy, are published.**

According to the revision policy, which takes into account the characteristics of the data and the constraints to revisions derived, for example, from legal acts, for each statistical domain the following characteristics of revisions are published: the time of revision, the frequency of the data, the types of data, the frequency of publication, the frequency of revisions, periods revised and causes of revision.

### **3. Documentation and publication of revisions**

The general revision policy, as well as the specific revision policy for each domain, are disseminated to the general public on the web site of the ICBS and in the ICBS library. A printout of the policy is also available upon demand from the information unit of the ICBS.

The information on the specific policy for each statistical domain is documented in a standard format. This information is disseminated to the media and the public through: press releases, announcements on the internet, advertisements etc.

### **4. Consistency and stability over time of domain specific revision policies**

**The domain specific revision policies remain consistent for long periods.**

As a principle, the domain specific revision policies are kept consistent over long periods, in order to allow the users to know in advance, when revisions may be expected. If, nevertheless, changes in policy of a certain domain are needed, those changes are pre-announced, documented and explained to the general public.

## **5. Revisions and publication of advance release/revision calendars**

**Advance release/revision calendars (for routine and annual revisions) are published in synchronized tables available to the public – for a defined period. The calendars are updated on a current basis.**

The schedule of revisions is also part of the metadata for the statistical series. It should be noted that Israel has subscribed to the Special Data Dissemination Standard. According to this standard, a release calendar has to be disseminated 4 months in advance, and any updates in the calendar have to be made at least a week before the publication. The same rules apply for the publication of revision calendars.

## **6. Accessibility to past data**

Historical information relating to every publication included in the release/revision calendar is stored and is accessible to the public, either in publications which are stored in the archives of the ICBS, or on the ICBS web site or in vintage series which are kept in the ICBS data files. These are available upon demand from the information unit at the ICBS.

## **7. Regular monitoring of revisions**

**The ICBS monitors and analyzes revisions on a regular basis using a harmonized analytical framework .**

Revision studies are performed and made available to users. The studies concern the size, frequency, regularity and causes of the revisions.

For the analysis, a framework prepared by the OECD is used, so that the results may be compared to results of similar analyses performed in other countries.

## **8. Major revisions**

**Major revisions are only performed in larger intervals. These kinds of revisions are announced in advance, implemented backwards and coordinated across the various statistical domains of the ICBS.**

Major revisions are usually linked to changes in definitions, classifications etc. They are usually performed at intervals of 5 years or more. As far as possible, the major revisions are announced in advance and are included in advance release/revision calendars for the whole ICBS. The reasons for major revisions are explained to the public together with an explanation of their impact on the main indicators that are affected by the revision.

After the revision is completed, an analysis of the main changes is published. Major revisions are implemented backwards far enough in order to avoid a break in the recent series, which might make the use of the series in analysis and modeling difficult.

## **9. Unexpected revisions**

**As far as possible, unexpected revisions are made only in the case of errors and unforeseeable problems in the process of producing data. They are published as soon as possible without waiting for scheduled revisions.**

When an error or an unforeseeable event occurs, its impact on the data is assessed before taking a decision about the revision. Information on the reason for the unexpected revision is published alongside the revision publication.