

Planning Department

17.6.2016

CORRECTING ERRORS IN STATISTICS PUBLISHED BY THE FINNISH CENTRE FOR PENSIONS

The main goals with correcting errors occurring in statistics is to ensure that the data used is correct and that the incorrect data is put right as efficiently as possible. A transparent correcting praxis helps maintain the user's trust in the producer of the statistics.

This instruction on how to correct an error applies to the correction of an error both in *online* and *printed* statistical data. These instructions include the central principles and the situations in which a correction is required. The instructions specify the procedures of correcting *single minor* and *significant* errors in statistical products. A significant error means data that is significant in terms of the conclusions drawn based on the statistics. The error is also significant if a major part of the published data is erroneous, that is, if the statistics offers an incorrect view of the issue.

This instruction is based on the instruction on the correction of errors of the advisory board of the Official Statistics of Finland (OSF).

Main rule

Errors are to be corrected as soon as possible in all statistical products in which they occur. In the online service, errors are to be corrected with visibility and as soon as possible. If an online news release or bulletin is revised in retrospect, any corrections are to be specified separately at the end of the news release or bulletin.

A notification of single and small content or statistical errors is to be posted on the website. The error is to be corrected in the statistics and the possible original news release of the statistics. Typing errors may be corrected without separate notifications.

A major error that has been published is to be corrected by publishing a correction release. The release is to be distributed to the same audience as the erroneous data. If the erroneous data has received much publicity, the correction release is to be published to larger audiences and with more visibility than originally.

Information on the error must remain permanently visible, with the exception of tables in databases.

PDF publications

Errors are to be corrected as promptly as possible. When possible and appropriate, the reason for the correction is also to be stated. The revised data is to be indicated clearly in connection with the original data and publication so that the erroneous data can be easily located. A separate release is to be issued on a significant error.

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If the error occurs in a monthly statistics, the erroneous statistics is to be completely replaced by a new statistics, and a notification of the revised statistics is to be posted on the page. If a pdf publication is revised, the publication must include a statement to such effect. In addition, the date of correction is to be included on the revised pdf publication.

Printed products

A correction sheet is to be inserted into undistributed publications. A correction release is to be sent to the subscribers whose address is known. If there are several errors, a new edition of the publication is to be issued and distributed, together with a cover letter, to the subscribers of the publication.

Static tables (Excel, html)

The corrected data/changed item is to be indicated in the static table so that the correction can be located. What was corrected and the time of correction is to be specified in a footnote to the table.

Tables in databases

Optimally detailed information on the correction to a table in a database is to be attached to the table. The information is to be visible until the next update of the table.

Statistical data provided to an external online service

If errors are observed in statistical data that has already been submitted to an external online service, the customer is to be informed of the error immediately. At the same time, the expected time by which the error will be corrected is to be stated. The corrected data is to be delivered to the customer as soon as possible.

Tailor-made table delivered to a customer

If errors are observed in the data of a table that has already been delivered to the customer, the customer is to be informed of the error immediately. At the same time, the expected time by which the error will be corrected is to be stated. The corrected data is to be delivered to the customer as soon as possible