



Data Revision Policy

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Preface

Accurate and reliable data and statistics play important role in formulating policies, driving decision-making processes, and fostering development across various sectors of a country. Cognizant of this critical importance, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has developed a Revision Policy for official statistics to ensure the integrity and quality of data across the National Statistical System (NSS). The policy outlines a structured approach to review, verify, and improve existing data. This approach not only safeguards the credibility of Kenya's data but also enhances the trust of users in the statistics produced by the KNBS.

The development of the Revision Policy is part of the implementation of the Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (KeSQAF) which is used to continuously guide, monitor and assess the quality of statistics produced across the NSS. This Revision Policy will promote transparency and accountability in the data revision process. It emphasizes clear documentation of revisions, methodologies employed, and justifications behind changes, ensuring that the statistical revision process is transparent and comprehensible to all stakeholders. This commitment to transparency fosters trust and confidence in the data, empowering policymakers, researchers, and citizens to make informed decisions based on the most accurate and reliable information available. It provides the flexibility to accommodate emerging data requirements and evolving data sources. This adaptive approach allows for the inclusion of emerging trends and new datasets, ensuring that the data remains relevant and responsive to the country's evolving needs.

The KNBS pursues the enhancement of data quality across the NSS to drive evidenced base decision-making in the country. The Revision Policy exemplifies this commitment to continuously improve the quality and reliability of disseminated data and statistics. I invite all stakeholders, especially data producers within the NSS, to embrace this Policy as they continue to produce statistics. By harnessing the power of reliable statistics, together, we can drive informed decision-making, foster inclusive development, and chart a prosperous future for Kenya.

This policy will undoubtedly contribute to the generation of accurate, reliable, and up-to-date data in the evolving data ecosystem that will serve as a solid foundation for progress and development in the years to come.



Stephen Wainaina, MBS
CHAIRMAN/BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Acknowledgements

The Revision Policy for official statistics was prepared by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) for the National Statistical System (NSS) as part of the implementation of the Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (KeSQUAF). The policy is a demonstration of the Bureau's continued effort to champion quality in the production of statistics.

My gratitude goes to the Board of Directors for providing the strategic direction and guidance throughout the process. I am indebted to the support by the Management at KNBS, particularly Directors heading statistics functions, for reviewing this Policy.

I wish to thank the stakeholders for further reviewing the Policy. Your work to this process is priceless and underpins the closer cooperation and collaboration within the data ecosystem in Kenya. I also extend my sincere gratitude to institutions in the NSS that contributed in finalization of this Policy.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the Revision Policy Technical Committee that prepared the policy. Your research that went into this work was invaluable. Lastly, I extend my deep appreciation to every employee who helped with this outstanding endeavour that guarantees continuous data quality improvement.



Macdonald G. Obudho, MBS
DIRECTOR GENERAL

About Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

The Statistics Act, No. 4 of 2006 established the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics for the collection, compilation, analysis, publication and dissemination of statistical information, and the co-ordination of the national statistical system, The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics is a body corporate with professional independence observing the fundamental principles relating to statistics as set out in the Fourth Schedule of the Act. Specifically, the functions of KNBS are:—

1. Planning, authorising, co-ordinating and supervising all official statistical programmes undertaken within the national statistical system;
2. Establishing standards and ensuring the use of best practices and methods in the production and dissemination of statistical information across the national statistical system;
3. Collecting, compiling, analyzing, abstracting and disseminating statistical information on the matters specified in the First Schedule;
4. Conducting the Population and Housing Census every ten years, and such other censuses and surveys as the Board may determine;
5. Maintaining a comprehensive and reliable national socio-economic database.
6. Developing and maintaining sampling frames of the Bureau;
7. Collaborating with and assisting the county governments or any other institutions in the production of official statistics;
8. Providing technical advice on statistics to other state entities;
9. Promoting co-ordination among producers, users and suppliers of official statistics by forming appropriate sector committees; and
10. Designating statistics produced by national statistical system as official statistics on being satisfied that the necessary criteria have been followed.

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

Vision

Quality Statistics for better lives

Mission

Provide, Manage and Promote Quality statistics through utilization of best practices for public use

Core Values and Principles

1. **Professionalism:** We shall maintain high standards while discharging our duties by abiding to professional considerations on the methods, standards and procedures in our work.
2. **Integrity:** We shall uphold high standards of integrity in all our dealings
3. **Confidentiality:** We shall treat all information provided by stakeholders with strict confidentiality and use it exclusively for statistical purposes.
4. **Customer focus:** We are committed to always placing the customer at the core of the Bureau business and ensuring high quality of service at all times.
5. **Innovation:** We shall continuously embrace creativity and innovation for value-addition in our business processes
6. **Teamwork:** We shall uphold the team spirit in all our work and we shall endeavor to promote teamwork

Slogan/Rallying Call

Takwimu za Kuaminika

Definitions of Key Terms

Bureau refers to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics.

Coordination includes technical advice to ensure that standards and methods are met and adherence to the code of practice in statistical production and dissemination.

Data Revision is a statistical process that changes the value of published data. Revision or correction is any change in the information made available to the public.

Errors are incorrect statistical data and information as a result of erroneous processing of data, which had not been detected before their publication and which could have been corrected, had they been found in due time.

National Statistical System includes producers, suppliers and users of official statistics working under the supervision and co-ordination of the Bureau including government ministries, State Departments and Agencies, and county governments.

Official Statistics means statistics produced by the Bureau and any other statistics designated as official by the Director-General KNBS.

Professional Independence means independence of production and dissemination of statistics from interference or influence by any individual, interest group or political authority.

Preliminary Statistics refers to the first released version of a series of published data.

Provisional Statistics is statistics that will be subject to planned revision due to the inclusion of a more complete/additional data source or due to seasonal adjustment and/or elimination of calendar effects.

Production of Statistics the process of data collection, compilation, and analysis.

Revised Statistics refer to revised provisional data or the final version of published data that will not be subject to any planned revision.

Statistical Data are numerical data obtained through procedures of statistical observations or statistical data processing.

Statistics refers to any quantity collected as summary of data.

Statistical Metadata refers to data that has been recorded, classified, organized, related, or interpreted within a context to explain a phenomenon. It includes statistical symbols, comments, tables, graphs, diagrams, figures, definitions, methodological explanations and other texts that explain the content and significance of statistical data.

Acronyms and abbreviations

KeSQAF Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework

KeSCoP Kenya Statistics Code of Practice

KNBS Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

NSS National Statistical System

NSO National Statistical Organisation

Enl

Data Revision Policy Elements

1. Introduction

The objective for the establishment the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) is to be the principal agency of the Government for collecting, analysing and disseminating statistical data in Kenya and the custodian of official statistical information. In executing these responsibilities, the KNBS is guided by the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics as set out in the Fourth Schedule of the Statistics Act, 2006. This is aimed at retaining trust in official statistics which are critical in evidence-based planning and policy formulation for improving socio-economic development in the country.

The Bureau developed Kenya Statistical Quality Assurance Framework (KeSQAF) that sets out the standards and guidelines in the production and dissemination of official statistic. One of the guidelines in the KeSQAF is the development of data revision policy, that is intended to correct published data when the need arises.

2. Purpose of the Policy

This policy stipulates a set of practices for the revision of official statistics in Kenya aimed at ensuring the transparency of disseminated data that are later revised when more and better source data become available. The data revision policy describes the revision procedures in a transparent and comprehensible manner to data users to increase their trust in official statistics and enhance the usability of statistics. The policy serves as an important element of communication with users of official statistics.

3. Scope of the Policy

The data revision principles set out in this policy are applicable to all sets of statistics at KNBS and may be adopted within the National Statistical System (NSS). The principles are flexible enough to handle the data specificities as well as different subject matter statistics.

4. Rationale for the Policy

A revision in official statistics is an amendment of published statistics to improve data quality dimensions of accuracy, relevancy and comprehensiveness. Data revisions are a routine part of the dissemination of quality data, and therefore inherent to statistical production. Revisions may be made for various reasons including due to changes or misapplication of statistical conceptual framework or as a result of correction errors.

Data revision may be made arising from statistical conceptual framework or to incorporate better/complete/additional source data. These follows availability of new and more reliable information; changes in the methodological framework; classifications and definitions updates; or changes in base periods. Revisions may also be made to correct errors arising from source data or computation that are detected in the already disseminated data. Many different types of errors may occur in the production of official statistics ranging from simple mathematical and recording errors to misclassifications and mistakes in coverage. It is critical for the integrity of a country's statistical system that any revisions are not only reported to users as soon as possible, but also explained in a way that gives assurance that the revisions are done purely as a good practice in production and dissemination of official statistics.

5. Objectives of the Policy

The key objective of Data Revision Policy is to promote transparency and accountability in the data revision process. It emphasizes clear documentation of revisions, methodologies employed, and justifications behind changes. The specific objectives of this Policy therefore are to:

- i. Provide for a transparent and consistent process of revision of data that has been disseminated.
- ii. Adopt the international standards in the process of data revision.
- iii. Provide a tool of communication of the revision process to users.

6. Policy Implementation

6.1 Types of Revisions

There are three major types of revisions namely; planned/routine, unplanned/ad-hoc and major/benchmark revisions.

6.1.1 Planned (Routine) Revisions

These are revisions which are related to the regular data production process (e.g. estimated values for missing responses are replaced by reported figures). Normally, these routine revisions follow a revision policy and are published according to a publicly available pre-announced release/revision calendar (e.g. each time a new data point is published, the revised result for the previous month is also published). These revisions are in principle based on the availability of new information. Routine revisions have the following elements:

- i. Are publicly available, and pre-announced (release/revision calendar with the date).
- ii. The length of the revision period (e.g. last data point, values of the current year).
- iii. The depth of revisions (all positions of an indicator or only a subset of positions).

Due to user needs for timely information, data are published as soon as they meet the criteria for the quality of official statistical data.

6.1.2 Unplanned (ad-hoc) Revisions

These are unscheduled revisions that are not foreseen since they are a result of unforeseeable events such as errors or accidents. It is caused by events that were not possible to predict, such as significant unforeseen subsequent changes in the data sources due to revisions/modification of data or subsequently determined errors in previously submitted data. It occurs due to unpredictable changes in the methodology, unpredictable emergence of new and better-quality data, unforeseen changes in reporting units that transmit their data to the Statistical Office and unforeseen obstacles and errors in data processing and publishing.

Exceptionally, if the changes in data are not large, the revised data may be disseminated within the next regular revision or with the next dissemination of the same data, with the indication that it is the case of the revised data. In any case, it is necessary to clarify the reasons for such a revision. When significant mistakes occur, the communication of the mistake should be frank and the revised data should be published at the earliest possible date.

6.1.3 Major/benchmark Revisions

These are substantial changes in published data, often due to significant changes in concepts, classifications, definitions, methodologies, base period, update of the weights of the base year of an index series, new Act, development of new sources and methods or availability of new statistical data. Major revisions are conducted in time intervals of 5 years or more. Major revisions are announced in advance to inform users of the release dates, the reasons for conducting a major revision and, if possible, the probable impact on the most important indicators. Major revisions include the provision of longer data series by recalculation, to the extent possible to minimize the negative effects of breaks in data series.

After dissemination of the revised data, the analysis of the impact of changes to the data will be also disseminated. Since major revisions affect a large part of the time series and sometimes even the complete time series, back-cast the series will be undertaken to avoid breaks and inconsistencies in the time series.

6.2 General principles of the Revision Policy

The KNBS is committed to provide statistical information of the highest quality to users of statistical data. This Policy is anchored on the KeSQAF and the Kenya Statistics Code of Practice (KeSCOP), which provide thresholds of quality, stability and consistency in the production and dissemination of statistics. In undertaking revisions, the KNBS will consider:

- i. **Synchronization between Advance Release Calendars and Data Revision Calendar:** Scheduling of routine and annual revisions will be published in the framework of well defined, synchronized and publicly available release calendars covering, where possible, the whole year.
- ii. **Accessibility of historical data:** Data should be stored to correspond to each data release and, where possible, implement and maintain a real-time database.
- iii. **Regular monitoring of revisions:** Revisions must be constantly monitored and regularly analysed. Revision analysis should be carried out as far as possible based on a harmonized analytical framework.
- iv. **Major and unexpected revisions:** Reasons for major revisions should be clearly explained to users, providing comprehensive information on the reason for revision.
- v. **Process improvement:** A revision analysis will be used as a tool for assessing the quality of the statistical compilation process.

In applying these rules, the KNBS will be consistent with the fundamental principles of official statistics. This Policy is anchored on the following principles: Impartiality and objectivity; Methodological soundness; Stability and predictability; Accuracy and reliability; Accessibility and clarity; and Transparency.

6.2.1 Impartiality and Objectivity

Errors will be corrected and users informed of the correction. Revision will be undertaken as prescribed in this Policy. This is to assure users that revisions are conducted within a framework and a predetermined schedule.

6.2.2 Methodological Soundness

Revisions follow normalized, consolidated and transparent procedures which include, appropriate standards, guidelines, practices and procedures to be put in place to ensure statistical confidentiality. Analyses of revisions to be carried out will be used to improve data sources, statistical processes and outputs.

6.2.3 Stability and Predictability

This Revision Policy should be stable to enable consistency which is necessary for planning.

6.2.4 Accuracy and Reliability

Data revisions are necessary for meeting user needs for accurate and reliable and timely statistics. Revisions will be analysed periodically, to improve statistical processes. Accuracy and reliability will be ensured by following these criteria:

- i. Indicators of statistical output quality will be regularly measured, monitored, published and followed up to improve statistical products and processes.
- ii. Explanations about the timing, reasons for and the nature of revisions will be made available.
- iii. Preliminary results will be released when their accuracy and reliability are acceptable.

6.2.5 Accessibility and Clarity

The Data Revision Policy will be publicly available, easily accessible to the public, on the relevant knowledge hubs including KNBS website and via other communication channels for all users to be able to access.

6.2.6 Transparency

Revisions of statistics follow standard and transparent procedures. Towards this end, KNBS will undertake the following:

- i. Ensure international standards and recommendations are adhered to and made public to users.
- ii. Adhere to the guidelines provided for in this Policy.
- iii. Revision of published statistics to be accompanied by metadata.
- iv. Ensure indicators expressing the amount and types of revisions are computed and evaluated for improvement.
- v. Provide and make public information on the magnitude and direction of revisions for key indicators.
- vi. Declare any methodological modifications made to the aspects of statistics that have been revised before the publishing of results.
- vii. Encourage peer review of the revisions.

7. Monitoring And Evaluation

7.1 Commitments

In compliance with these principles and implementing revision policy, KNBS commits to meet the following requirements:

- i. Ensure general criteria regulating data revisions follow international standards and recommendations and are available and easily accessible to all users.
- ii. Define and document the specific principles which are implemented depending on the type of revision.

- iii. Ensure errors are corrected as soon as possible and the corrections are communicated to users.
- iv. Dissemination and communication of the revised results to the public.
- v. Documentation of errors leading to revisions will be undertaken.
- vi. The Data Revision Policy will be aligned with the Data Dissemination Policy and Communication Policy, to ensure consistency in data revision and dissemination of revised data.
- vii. Revision analysis will be performed regularly to improve the process of producing statistical data.
- viii. Users will be notified about forthcoming revisions in time and indicates their date and time in the revision calendar.

7.2 Revisions Calendar

International good practise for dissemination of statistics indicate that dissemination of revised statistics must be accompanied by a revision calendar. A Data Revisions Calendar will be developed to inform users on KNBS intention to revise statistics. The calendar will provide an overview of the statistics to be revised and indicate the revisions cycle. The summary of the revisions cycle presents a publishing timeline for preliminary, provisional, and revised estimates, as well as the cycle for methodological revisions. The summary of revisions will explain the reasons for the revisions and the period for which data are revised.

7.3 Policy Start and Review

The policy will take effect from 5th July 2023, and it will be reviewed after every five years or when the need arises.

7.4 Policy Start and Review

The Data Revision Policy has been approved by the KNBS Board of Directors.

KNBS Board Chairman Signature  Date... 20/08/2023