

General Directorate of Strategy, People, and Data

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Error Correction and Communication Policy

Guidelines for Action Upon Detection of Errors in Published Statistical Products

Statistics Department

1 Motivation

At the Bank of Spain, we are concerned about the rigor of all our publications. In the event of possible errors, we are committed to offering a prompt response in their correction and to transparency regarding the actions taken. This note explains our policy in this regard when it comes to errors in published statistical products.

The Bank of Spain is an institution subject to the Transparency Law concerning those activities it performs under administrative law. Regarding its statistical activity, this is developed within a **quality framework**, based on the **Public Commitment on European Statistics of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB)**. Among the principles included in this commitment is "Accessibility and Clarity." This principle is based, among other things, on keeping users of statistics informed about all aspects that may be relevant to them. One of these aspects is the Error Correction and Communication Policy.

Statistical work, like any human activity, is subject to errors. Problems in data sources, their reception, processing, and the publication of final results are not frequent but do occur. Generally, these errors or problems are detected in the statistical process. However, exceptionally, some of them materialize in the published data.

This note presents the guidelines that the Bank of Spain follows in these situations where errors are detected in published data. This note does not cover the scheduled revision policy applied to each statistic, which is detailed in its methodological notes.

2 Error Correction

Actions in case of error detection in data will be determined by the significance of the detected error.

2.1 Minor errors

Minor errors are understood as those that:

- Do not affect the understanding of the data
- Affect less relevant items, provided the error is of a reasonable magnitude.

In these cases, the procedure will consist of correcting the error in the next publication of the relevant statistic, according to the established schedule. Exceptionally, and under certain circumstances, the Bank of Spain may opt for an extraordinary publication outside the usual schedule, correcting the error as soon as possible.

In both cases, given the minor relevance of the error, these changes will not be notified to users.

2.2 Significant errors

If the error is significant, meaning it has or may have an appreciable effect on the interpretation of the data, it **will be corrected as soon as possible**. If the correction is expected to be delayed, the corresponding table may be withdrawn from the publication and replaced with the message "Under preparation" until the table with the correct data is published.

In all cases, changes will be notified to users. If the error is present in a press release, it will be withdrawn and replaced with a new one (indicating the substitution).

3 User communication

Error correction notifications will be made through two channels:

- Via the «[News](#)» section within the Statistics section of the Bank of Spain's website. These announcements:
 - Will contain detailed information about the detected error, identifying which statistics and specific products are affected.
 - Will be permanently maintained on the Bank of Spain's website, allowing users to consult corrections made both in the present and the past.
- Through [Banco de España newsletters](#), for users subscribed to the *Statistics* topic.