

ANNUAL SURVEY OF HOURS AND EARNINGS STATISTICS

Revisions Policy

This revisions policy, which describes how both planned and unplanned revisions will be published in the first release of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) statistical bulletins, has been developed to comply with the National Statistics revisions protocol:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/general_consultations/downloads/Protocol_on_Revisions_Consn_Draft.pdf

Background

Because of the costs to those who complete statistical returns, earnings statistics from ASHE are estimates of what they are measuring, rather than being complete counts. Reliance on surveys to collect information with which to produce statistics means that events and socio-economic trends cannot be measured in their entirety, but are instead based on incomplete information which is adjusted to take account of biases which arise in survey taking, and other available information, such as the emergence of new seasonal patterns.

Over time, as more information becomes available, estimates can be revised to improve quality and accuracy, which will provide a better picture of that being measured. Users require data that are timely and can be accessed as close to the event which the data measures as possible, and data of good quality, where the picture painted of that event is most accurate. A policy of accepting revisions enables statisticians to provide users with data close to the event, but also improve the accuracy of that data as other information becomes available. Revisions are therefore a standard practice when producing official statistics.

Planned revisions

Each ASHE First Release will contain details of all significant revisions in that particular release, both planned and unplanned and, if there are none, a statement to that effect. Routinely, previous year's ASHE estimates are updated in the subsequent year's first release bulletin.

Unplanned revisions

From time to time revisions need to be made outside of this timetable. Examples of such revisions include improvements to methodology, revisions to data that feed into ASHE data sets and the discovery of incorrect data through our quality assurance procedures.

If revisions arising through improvements to methodology or changes to administrative data are found to be insignificant, they will be introduced in the next planned set of revisions. However, if these revisions are thought to affect economic analysis or are sufficiently large, they will be introduced more quickly. All such revisions will be pre-announced at least one month in advance of their releases.

If incorrect data are discovered after publication, these too will be examined for their impact. Where the changes are significant, a corrigendum will be issued as soon as is practicable, whilst minor corrections will be included in the next planned release. In all cases a full explanation will be included in the release.

Analyses of revisions

The below table shows first release ASHE statistics compared to the revised statistics in the subsequent year's first release bulletin, along with a measurement of the difference between the two.

ASHE estimates of Hours and Earnings metrics for all NI employees at April 2008

	MEDIAN ESTIMATE OF 2008 HOURS/EARNINGS PUBLISHED FROM ASHE 2008	MEDIAN ESTIMATE OF 2008 HOURS/EARNINGS PUBLISHED FROM ASHE 2009	CHANGE (+/-)
Weekly pay - gross ¹	£346.5	£345.0	-£1.5
Weekly pay - excluding overtime ¹	£326.3	£325.4	-£0.9
Basic pay - including other pay ¹	£318.0	£315.7	-£2.3
Overtime pay ^{1, 2}	£53.1	£53.1	£0.0
Hourly pay - gross ¹	£9.59	£9.55	-£0.04
Hourly pay - excluding overtime ¹	£9.50	£9.47	-£0.03
Paid hours worked - total ¹	37.1	37.1	0.0
Paid hours worked - basic ¹	37.0	37.0	0.0
Paid hours worked - overtime ^{1, 2}	4.8	4.8	0.0
Annual pay - gross ³	£18,319	£18,192	-£127
Annual pay - incentive ^{2, 3}	£984	£984	£0

¹ Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.

² Estimates of the median exclude zero responses.

³ Employees on adult rates who have been in the same job for more than a year.