

Quality level guidelines based on the CV of a particular estimate

Quality Level of Estimate	Guidelines
1) Acceptable	<p>Estimates have: A sample size of more than 5 and coefficients of variation in the range of 0.0% to 16.5%.</p> <p>No warning is required.</p>
2) Marginal	<p>Estimates have: A sample size of more than 5 and coefficients of variation in the range of 16.6% to 33.3%. Estimates should be flagged with the letter M (or some similar identifier). They should be accompanied by a warning to caution subsequent users about the high level of error associated with the estimates.</p>
3) Unacceptable	<p>Estimates with a sample size of five or less should not be released, in order to respect Agency policies regarding confidentiality.</p> <p>For estimates with a sample size of more than five, but with very high coefficients of variation in excess of 33.3%, Statistics Canada recommends not releasing these estimates, due to their unacceptable level of quality. However, if the user chooses to do so, then these estimates should be flagged with the letter U (or some similar identifier) and the following warning should accompany the estimates:</p> <p>“Please be warned that these estimates [flagged with the letter U] do not meet Statistics Canada’s quality standards. Conclusions based on these data will be unreliable and, most likely, invalid. These data and any consequent findings should not be published. If the user chooses to publish these data or findings, then this disclaimer must be published with the data.”</p>
