

Revisions and Seasonal Adjustments – Labour Force Survey

Data revision from January 1987 to December 2005 - On January 25, 2006, there was a revision affecting all Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates from January 1987 to December 2005.

There are three reasons for this revision. First, the revision enables the use of improved population benchmarks in the LFS estimation process. These improved benchmarks provide better information on the number of non-permanent residents. Second, there were changes to the data for the public and private sectors from 1987 to 1999. Previously, the data on the public and private sectors for this period were based on an old definition of the public sector. The revised data better reflect the current public sector definition, and therefore result in a longer time series for analysis. Finally, the geographic coding of several small Census Agglomerations (CA) were updated historically from 1996 urban centre boundaries to 2001 CA boundaries. This affects data from January 1987 to December 2004. This is further described in the research paper 'Improvements in 2006 to the Labour Force Survey (LFS)', Catalogue no. 71F0031XIE200603.

It is important to note that the changes to almost all estimates are very minor, with the exception of the public sector series and some associated industries from 1987 to 1999. Rates of unemployment, employment and participation are essentially unchanged, as are all key labour market trends.