



Department  
of Energy &  
Climate Change

# UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions Statistics: Revisions Policy

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## Introduction

All DECC Official Statistics publications on UK greenhouse gas emissions are produced to the high professional standards as set out in the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Each organisation responsible for producing National Statistics is required by the Code to publish a Revisions Policy for those outputs that are subject to scheduled revisions.

## Definitions

The **UK greenhouse gas inventory for year X** is the time series of UK greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 to year X. The inventory can be broken down into a range of sectors and gases. The inventory for year X is normally published in February of the year X+2 (so for example National Statistics on the 2013 inventory will be published in February 2015).

## Annual revisions to the UK GHG inventory

In order to comply with UN reporting requirements for greenhouse gas inventories, the time series of UK greenhouse gas emissions going back to 1990 is revised on an annual basis when the new greenhouse gas inventory is published. Any methodological improvements or new sources of emissions that have been applied to the latest year of data are also applied to the full time series going back to 1990.

This means that all of our annual National Statistics on greenhouse gas emissions (*Final UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, *Provisional UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, and *Local Authority Carbon Dioxide Emissions*) will have a fully revised historical time series of emissions every year, and the historical time series of emissions shown in the *Quarterly Emissions Statistics* will be fully revised once a year in the April publication.

The annual Final UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions statistics contains a section discussing the annual revisions to the historical emissions time series.

## Revisions to data published in greenhouse gas emissions statistics

It is intended that any revisions to UK greenhouse gas emissions statistics will only be made at the time of publication of future editions of those statistics. In exceptional circumstances DECC can amend data between publication dates, in which case any revisions made will be clearly marked and an explanation of the revisions will be added to the publication.

Valid reasons for revising data (including routine revisions at time of next publication) include:

- Annual revisions to UK GHG inventory data, as explained above.
- Amendments to UK GHG inventory data between publication as National Statistics in February each year and final submission to the UN in April.
- Errors identified with numbers in the publication, either due to inaccurate data being provided by data suppliers or to data processing errors.
- Revisions to underlying energy data statistics in the *Digest of UK Energy Statistics* or *Energy Trends*.

## Revisions indicator

Revisions made on an annual basis to the historical greenhouse gas emissions time series will not be marked in Official Statistics publications, as this affects the whole time series each year.

Revisions that are made between publication dates will be indicated by an 'r'.

## Provisional and final data

UK greenhouse gas emissions data are considered to be final once the corresponding greenhouse gas inventory has been submitted to the UN. Provisional estimates are calculated based on UK energy data for up to 7 quarters of more recent emissions than are included in the latest UK GHG inventory. This means that:

- All data in the *Final UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions* and *Local Authority Carbon Dioxide Emissions* are considered to be final (though the historical time series from 1990 onwards will continue to be revised annually).
- In the *Provisional Greenhouse Gas Emissions* publication, the latest year of emissions data presented is considered provisional, while earlier years are consistent with the latest greenhouse gas inventory and are considered final.
- In the *Quarterly Emissions Statistics*, data up to the latest inventory year are consistent with the greenhouse gas inventory and are considered final, while data for more recent quarters are considered provisional.

Data tables will be clearly labelled to indicate any data that are provisional. The *Final UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions* includes a section comparing the provisional emissions previously published for the latest inventory year with the final emissions estimate for that year.

## Archiving of greenhouse gas emissions statistics

Because the entire greenhouse gas inventory timeseries is revised each year, only the most recent edition of each publication will contain up to date and relevant data. Previous editions will be archived on the gov.uk website, but should not be used unless the user is specifically interested in data from old greenhouse gas inventories.

Note that the first publication of data from each new greenhouse gas inventory is in the publication of *Final UK Greenhouse Gas Emissions* in February each year. Other statistics will not be made consistent with the new inventory until their first publication after that date.

## UN reviews of the UK GHG inventory

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) carries out an annual review of the UK's greenhouse gas inventory each autumn and publishes a report, which can include making adjustments to the UK inventory. UK greenhouse gas emissions statistics will not normally be revised to reflect any such adjustments, as these adjustments are normally not finalised until the next year's greenhouse gas inventory and corresponding National Statistics have already been published. However, the UNFCCC reports are made publically available on the UNFCCC website.

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