

# Revision Note

DATE: 13 May 2016

Coverage: United Kingdom  
Theme: Economy

## Revisions to Pensioners' Incomes Series 2012/13 and 2013/14

A number of small errors have been identified in the Pensioners' Incomes (PI) Series publications for the years 2012/13 and 2013/14. This Revision Note advises users of these errors, the revisions which have been made to address them, and the implications of these revisions for the data.

The following publications and tables have been revised.

Year	Document	Table	
2012/13	Main Tables	3.2	
2013/14	Pensioners' incomes series: an analysis of trends in pensioner incomes 1979 to 2013/14, United Kingdom	5.4	
		Tables: Pensioners' incomes series 2013/14	2.2
		3.2	
		4.5	
		5.6	

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These revisions were made and the relevant documents updated on 13 May 2016. The updated documents can be found on the relevant publication websites:

- 2012/13  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/pensioners-incomes-series-2012-to-2013>
- 2013/14  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/pensioners-incomes-series-financial-year-201314>

If you have any questions or comments on these changes please send them to: [pensioners-incomes@dwp.gpn.gov.uk](mailto:pensioners-incomes@dwp.gpn.gov.uk)

## Revision 1

In the 'Tables: Pensioners' incomes series 2013/14' document the third column from the left in Table 2.2. (publication and online) has an incorrect heading. Instead of having the heading 2012/13 the heading should be 2013/14. The data presented in this column is for 2013/14. There is therefore **no change in the data**. The table is also **correctly presented in the text publication**.

## Revision 2

In both 2012/13 and 2013/14 Online Table 3.2 has been given an incorrect title. The title 'The proportion of pensioner units with more than 50% of income from *state benefits*, 1994/95 –' should instead be 'The proportion of pensioner units with more than 50% of income from *private sources*, 1994/95 – year'. Prior to 2012/13 this table had been correctly labelled.

Although the title is incorrect for the online tables, the data is referred to correctly within the publication in both 2012/13 (page 31) and 2013/14 (page 49). **The commentary in the text publications is therefore correct and the underlying story as presented does not change.**

## Revision 3

In the 'Tables: Pensioners' incomes series 2013/14' document the wrong data has been entered for 'Pensioners Couples Before Housing Costs' for the following components of income:

- Income-related benefits;
- Disability benefits;
- Investment income;
- Occupational pension;
- Personal pension;
- Earnings.

**The correct data does not alter the overall trends of the net income distribution, and the underlying story remains the same. This error does not affect any data in the text publication.**

## Revision 4

Table 5.4 in the 2013/14 text publication and Table 5.6 in the 'Tables: Pensioners' incomes series 2013/14' document presents data for 'The components of mean gross income of pensioner units, and the proportion in receipt by ethnic group'.

Due to small sample sizes the table presents three year averages. In the 2013/14 tables the wrong data for the total population figures has been presented. This is due to a mistake in calculating the average. Instead of using the years 2011-14, the years 2010 -13 were used instead.

As a result of this a number of changes can be seen in the population numbers of the individual categories. This is particularly the case for the 'Other' category which falls from 120,000 to 64,000.

These changes can be explained by changes in how the ethnic groups are categorised. In 2011/12 Chinese were moved from the 'Other group' to the 'Asian' group, with Arab and Traveller added to the 'Other' group. This is in accordance with the FRS England and Wales questionnaire which has adopted the harmonised ethnic group question.

As the original calculation used the years 2010-13, only two of the three years used were affected by this categorisation change. The revised figure calculates the average using the years 2011-14. This means that all three years in this calculation use the new categorisation. This causes the changes in population figures seen. These new figures are more rigorous as they use three years of comparable data.

**The correct data has a minimal effect on the overall total population numbers – this changes from the 8,650,000 published to 8,680,000 using the correct data.**

## Lessons Learned

Revisions 1 and 2 are the result of human error. In order to address this each of the tables has been reviewed and a new template developed. Additional quality assurance processes have also been put in place.

Revisions 3 and 4 are the result of the production process for the Pensioners' Incomes Series. In the past this has involved a complex process, increasing the likelihood of errors occurring. In order to address this the process has been reviewed and simplified. The scope for error in future publications has therefore been reduced.