

UAE National Statistical System Transformation Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

As part of the National Statistical System Transformation Program, the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre (FCSC) is currently implementing the **National Comprehensive Review of the GDP and National Accounts**, which includes updating the base year and reconstructing the GDP time series. This initiative reflects the significant economic transformations witnessed by the UAE and aims to enhance the comprehensiveness and reliability of official economic statistics in line with the latest international statistical standards and best practices.

This page presents the most frequently asked questions about the Program, its objectives, methodology, and its impact on published statistical data.

What is the "Comprehensive Review " of GDP and why was it announced now?

It is a major periodic statistical process conducted every 5 to 10 years to update the "base year," which serves as the benchmark for measuring the prices of goods and services. The announcement made by the Prime Minister reflects the UAE's commitment to adopting the highest standards of statistical transparency. It also aims to incorporate emerging economic sectors such as the digital economy, renewable energy and small businesses that were not fully covered under the old system.

Does the comprehensive review mean there were errors in the previous data?

No, not at all. The comprehensive Review (Benchmark Revision) is a standard practice followed by all advanced statistical offices worldwide. Its goal is not to correct errors, but rather to replace preliminary and estimated indicators with comprehensive field surveys, as well as final administrative and tax data that have now become available.

How will this Comprehensive Revision affect previously published economic growth figures?

It is normal for historical economic growth figures to undergo minor revisions, either upward or downward. In most international cases, comprehensive revisions result in a larger estimated size of the economy, as they capture emerging economic activities that were not previously included. To ensure consistent and meaningful comparisons across years, FCSC will publish a revised historical time series reflecting these changes retrospectively.

What is the expected timeline for the release of the revised results?

FCSC is currently leveraging its full technical capabilities to complete the preparatory phase of the Comprehensive Revision Program. The preliminary results will be published followed by technical workshops to explain the updated methodology to analysts and other interested stakeholders.

I am a researcher/investor. Can I rely on the current data?

Yes, you may use the current data for general purposes, if you indicate in your research or analysis that the data are currently undergoing a Comprehensive Revision. For long-term comparisons, we recommend waiting for the revised historical time series, which FCSC will make available in open formats (CSV and Excel) to support accurate financial and economic analysis.