



INFORMATION NOTE

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) provides users with the following clarifications as regards the discrepancy observed between the first estimate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the 1st quarter of 2017, released on 15/5/2017, and the provisional data announced in the Press Release dated 2/6/2017:

1. The flash estimate is announced only 45 days after the end of the reference quarter and therefore it is based on limited data sources.

More specifically, the data which are available for the three months of the reference period are as follows: the Industrial Production Index (IPI), the Producer Price Index in Industry (PPI) and the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The turnover and volume indices in retail trade, data on imports-exports of goods and services and the Labour Force Survey data are available only for two out of the three months of the aforementioned period.

Furthermore, the data on final consumption expenditure of General Government are based on estimates. Moreover, for the first estimate the following data are not available: short-term turnover indices for services, quarterly employment data, quarterly data on balance of payments and accrual data on taxes.

The aforementioned data are integrated as soon as they become available; this inclusion is often resulting to a significant revision of the estimates announced 60 days after the end of the reference quarter. On the other hand, the specific characteristics of the Greek economy hamper the production of estimation models. These include, inter alia, capital controls, amendments in legislation on earnings and taxes, etc.

2. Significant revisions are often made in other countries too. Indicatively, taking an example among EU Member States, such revisions between the GDP flash estimate and the provisional results for the fourth quarter of 2016, may result to a difference amounting to 0.2 percentage points of GDP (for the Czech Republic and UK), 0.3 percentage points (for Lithuania) or 0.6 percentage points (for Latvia) and even up to 1 percentage point of GDP (for Finland). The relevant Press Releases of Eurostat can be found at the following links:

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7868348/2-14022017-BP-EN.pdf/da0c1c33-2d80-4cc2-9f34-de2dab92aac5>

and

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7895028/2-07032017-AP-EN.pdf/a2cd0972-84a9-43a5-bfd1-a75b25faede8> .

It is also worth noting the recent revision (26 May 2017) made for the y-o-y change of the quarterly GDP of the USA, for the 1st quarter 2017, which was revised from 0.7% (as announced in April 2017) to 1.2 %. (https://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/national/gdp/2017/gdp1q17_2nd.htm)

3. The announcement of flash estimates is not mandatory under the European legislation and not included in the transmission programme stipulated in Annex B of Council Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 (ESA 2010). Several EU Member States (including Ireland, Luxembourg, and Sweden) do not publish such estimates. At present, ELSTAT is among the National Statistical Institutes that publish flash estimates.