



The Code of Practice for Official Statistics requires official statistics producers to inform users about the quality of statistical outputs using the European Statistical System's Dimensions of Quality. These dimensions aim to give a broad understanding of quality, as represented by how fit for purpose a statistical output is:

- **Relevance** - The degree to which the statistical product meets user needs in both coverage and content.
- **Accuracy & Reliability** - Accuracy is the proximity between an estimate and the unknown true value. Reliability is the closeness of early estimates to subsequent estimated values.
- **Timeliness and Punctuality** - Timeliness refers to the time gap between publication and the reference period. Punctuality refers to the gap between planned and actual publication dates.
- **Accessibility and Clarity** - Accessibility is the ease with which users are able to access the data, also reflecting the format in which the data are available and the availability of supporting information. Clarity refers to the quality and sufficiency of the metadata, illustrations and accompanying advice.
- **Comparability and Coherence** - Comparability is the degree to which data can be compared over time and domain. Coherence is the degree to which data that are derived from different sources or methods, but refer to the same topic, are similar.

More recently, [Eurostat](#) has added four principles on which official statistics producers are asked to comment on when reporting quality. These originate from the [ESS Code of Practice](#) and cover:

- Trade-offs between output quality components.
- Assessment of user needs and perceptions.
- Balance between performance, cost and respondent burden.
- Confidentiality, transparency and security.

These are not dimensions of quality, but are useful principals to consider when reporting on quality.