Example 1: Communicating why the data are perturbed

*Background information for statistics producers*

*From a user perspective, the completeness of tables is the main selling point. But please note that the suppression method is in fact not manageable and therefore unsafe in the case of many linked tables: the standard publication set, tailor made tables, revisions, tables at the European level.*

The privacy of data providers and the confidentiality of the information they provide is guaranteed by law [refer to the relevant articles in national or European law]. In [statistics XY], privacy is protected by adding some random noise to statistical tables and graphs, based on the “cell key method”.  This protection technique is different from traditional protection methods based on the suppression of cells with a disclosure risk. For the users of statistics the advantage is that they will receive complete tables.

Random noise methods protect data through slight changes applied to the results. The small ambiguities introduced by these changes ensure that no information on individual persons (or companies) can be derived from the tables.

The size and probability of each change is fixed; it is controlled to ensure that the same result is produced for the same information, even if it appears in different tables.