Units, significant figures and maximum decimal places

In the user FCT/FCDB it is recommended that the **maximal number of decimal places** per nutrient and the **significant figures** are fixed. No decimal places should be added but values with higher decimal places should be truncated to maximal number of decimal points.

Units, significant figures and maximum decimal places

Units, significant figures and maximum number of decimal points to be used for food composition values in user databases (per 100 g edible portion of food)			
Component	Unit	Number of significant figures	Maximal number of decimal places
Energy	kJ (kcal)	3	0
Major constituents (water, protein, fat, carbohydrates, dietary fibre, alcohol)	g	3	Water, dietary fibre, alcohol: 1 Others: 2
Amino acids	mg	3	0
Fatty acids (sum)	g	3	2
Individual fatty acids	g	3	3
Cholesterol	mg	3	2
Inorganic constituents			
Zinc, Iron	mg	3	2
Copper, Manganese	mg	3	3
Calcium, Magnesium, Phosphor, Potassium, Sodium	mg	3	0
Selenium, Iodine	mcg	2	2
Vitamins			
Retinol	mcg	3	0
Carotenes	mcg	3	0
Vitamin D	mcg	2	2
Tocopherols	mg	2	2
Vitamin K	mcg	2	2
Thiamin	mg	2	3
Riboflavin	mg	2	3
Niacin	mg	2	3
Vitamin B$_6$	mg	2	3
Pantothenic acid	mg	2	3

Biotin	mcg	2	2
Vitamin B$_{12}$	mcg	2	2
Folates	mcg	2	0
Vitamin C	mg	3	2

Adopted from Greenfield and Southgate (2003, pp. 165) and the FAO/INFOODS Compilation Tool (available at http://www.fao.org/infoods/software_en.stm).

FAO (2012). FAO/INFOODS Guidelines for Checking Food Composition Data prior to Publication of a User Table/Database - Version 1.0 (2012). FAO, Rome. Available at: http://www.fao.org/infoods/infoods/standards-guidelines/en/