Digitalisation has reshaped competition in traditional markets, and has led to the creation of many new markets. This can create challenges for competition policy. Digital markets often involve platform-based business models, multi-sided markets, network effects, non-price competition and economies of scale, all of which render competition analysis more complex. New forms of digital misconduct, such as algorithmic pricing, may also emerge. Further, high rates of investment and innovation in digital markets have led to rapid change and disruption in established, and often regulated, markets.

In this context, governments and competition authorities are devoting more attention to digital markets. The OECD has developed a range of resources to help.

Work on the digital economy, innovation and competition within the OECD Competition Committee

The OECD Competition Committee has been bringing together the leaders of the world’s major competition authorities since 1961. It is the pre-eminent international body promoting the regular exchange of views and analysis regarding key competition policy issues. The Committee is also at the cutting edge of debates about the impact of digitalisation on competition law and policy.

Technology and innovation-related topics have been a focus of the Committee since 2002, and the Digital Economy and Innovation has been selected as one of the Committee’s long-term priority themes. The key topics being addressed include:

1. Adapting competition law enforcement tools to digitalisation
2. Assessing new forms of competition harm in markets
3. Examining the impact of digitalisation on the broader economy
4. Reviewing sector regulation to determine whether changes are needed to adapt to digitalisation
This work contributes to the OECD Going Digital project which provides policy makers with tools to help economies and societies prosper in an increasingly digital and data-driven world. For more information, visit www.oecd.org/going-digital.