

Information and Communication Technology

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Purpose

To develop statistical methodology, indicators and analysis of the information society that provides insight for policy making.

Objectives and outputs

Statistics for the information society are developed following a "building block" approach. Methodological work and data collection have proceeded in several areas at different speeds, in a step-by-step fashion, by looking first at supply side statistics for the information society (statistics on the ICT sector), and then at the demand side (ICT usage statistics). The methodological work entails the development of the following guidelines and model surveys: the OECD definition of the ICT sector (1998), the OECD definitions of electronic commerce transactions (2000) and their guidelines for implementation (2001), the OECD Model survey on ICT usage in business (2005), the OECD Model survey on ICT usage by households/individuals (2005), the OECD ICT goods definition (2003), and the Guide to Measuring the Information Society (2005, revised in 2007).

The measurement work involves the production of internationally comparable and policy relevant indicators for measuring the supply and demand for ICT infrastructure, related services, content, applications and, in particular, electronic commerce. Data collection and the development of new indicators are carried out on an ad hoc basis in order to aid policy formulation and enable monitoring of progress related to the information society. Data collections of ICT indicators related to the ICT sector (supply statistics) and to ICT use and electronic commerce (demand statistics) are ongoing and metadata information on methodologies and survey vehicles used by member countries is being collected.

The indicators are used in periodical OECD publications such as the "Information Technology Outlook", the "Communications Outlook", and the biennial "STI Scoreboard" as well as "OECD Key ICT indicators" available online and updated on a rolling basis. A comprehensive overview of information society indicators based on official statistics was provided in "Measuring the Information Economy 2002" (MIE 2002), available online free of charge. MIE 2002 is a Web book and one can click on the data in excel spreadsheets underlying the charts and figures, or print the pdf file. An update of some of these indicators was published in the new edition of the STI Scoreboard (2007), also available free of charge online and in the "OECD Key ICT indicators".

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Brazil, China, India, Israel, Russian Federation, Singapore

Databases

ICT Database

Main Developments for 2008

General aspects:

OECD Statistical Programme of Work 2008, Part II

The methodological work will focus on: new definition of ICT products based on CPC; trust and security; Internet as a data source; software innovation.

The measurement work will focus on: Statistical Compendium for the Ministerial Meeting on "The Future of the Internet Economy".

The analytical work will focus on: the contribution of the ICT sectors to economic growth; the determinants of ICT expenditures; ICT-driven innovation in non-ICT sectors.

Outreach to non-member OECD countries will be strengthened during 2008, in particular with China and India.