

Information and Communication Technology

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Handbook on Quality Adjustment of Price Indexes for Information and Communication Technology Products

Purpose

Produce a handbook to assist national statistical offices in the development of hedonic price indexes for information and communication technologies (ICT) that experience significant quality changes over time.

Objectives and outputs

The main focus of this work is to review methods employed in the construction of price indexes to adjust for changes in quality, comparing and contrasting the use of conventional and hedonic methods.

The handbook has several objectives, including contributing to a better understanding of the merits and shortcomings of the conventional and hedonic methods, providing an analytical basis for choosing one of the methods, identify principles for "best practice" hedonic indexes and presenting and analysing objections to hedonic indexes.

Main Developments for 2005

General aspects:

This work was finalised in 2004 with the publication of a STI Working paper (2004/9) "Handbook on Hedonic Indexes and Quality Adjustments in Price Indexes: Special Application to Information Technology Products."

In 2005, this will be published as an OECD publication.

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Purpose

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

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 (2001), the OECD Model survey on ICT usage by households/individuals (2002), and the OECD ICT goods definition (2003).

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". 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 (2003), also available free of charge online.

Non-member countries involved in the activity:

Israel, Russian Federation, Singapore

Main Developments for 2005

General aspects:

On the supply side, work will continue on a definition of ICT services. Work on measuring usage of ICT is ongoing, with current activities consisting of revising the OECD model surveys of ICT Use by Businesses and Households/Individuals. The aim is to improve harmonisation with European and other member countries' ICT usage surveys, as well as to re-orient the surveys towards areas of

high policy-relevance such as digitised products, mobile access, IT security, e-business and e-government.

Other work in 2005 will include research into measurement of trust and security (including adding relevant questions to the model surveys as outlined above) and compilation of a guide to measuring the Information Society. This document will serve as a repository for the statistical guidelines produced by WPIIS and will also include metadata information on Member and non-member country work in the field of ICT statistics. It will form a major OECD contribution to the work programme established after the 2004 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and is expected to be completed by the next WSIS meeting in 2005.

Outreach to non-member OECD countries will be strengthened during 2005 as part of OECD's role in the WSIS work programme.

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Telecommunications Indicators

Purpose

To provide data on the evolution of the characteristics of the Telecommunications sector to analysts and policy makers in OECD Member governments and contribute to building a framework for indicators on the global information society. Work on this aspect involves the development of statistical standards and the compilation of reliable and internationally comparable indicators for the production and use of Communications technologies in businesses, households and governments.

Objectives and outputs

Work on Communication Indicators provides data for analysts and policy makers in OECD Member governments and contributes to the indicators framework for global information society. Basic performance indicators and the communication tariff comparison methodology are reviewed every two years. This database provides 90 time series of indicators on telecommunications such as network infrastructure, revenues, expenses and investment of operators, Internet indicators, trade in telecommunications equipment, etc.

Databases

Communications

OECD Telecommunication Database

Main Developments for 2005

General aspects:

Data on Internet subscribers will be detailed by the following access technologies : Dial-up subscribers, DSL services, Cable Modem services and a 4th category called Other Broadband access technologies (Including: Satellite broadband Internet, Fibre-to-the-home Internet access, Ethernet LANs, Fixed wireless subscribers).

Data collection:

More detailed data for Broadband (breakdown by technologies) will be included.