

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 assist statistical offices in an area that is complex and costly. By sharing "best practices" in this area, it is hoped that these practices will be adopted, improving the international comparability of the data and the associated analysis, especially in the areas of productivity measurement and growth accounting.

Main Developments for 2004

General aspects:

New activity

Information and Communication Technology

Information Communication Technology

Purpose

To develop indicators and analysis of the information society that provide 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, pragmatic way, 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 guidelines and model surveys. Examples are: the OECD definition of 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).

The data collection and the development of new indicators is carried out on an ad hoc basis in order to aid formulating policies and monitor progress related to the information society. Pilot 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 "STI Scoreboard: Towards a Knowledge-based Economy". A comprehensive overview of information society indicators based on official statistics is 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 has been published in the new edition of the STI Scoreboard (2003).

Main Developments for 2004

General aspects:

The OECD product/commodity definition of ICT goods has now been approved. Work will continue on a definition of ICT services. Work on measuring e-commerce is currently focusing on two areas: eFinance and development of a module on business processes. In 2004, it is hoped that work will begin on a new module for the household survey of "Trust and Security". A framework document is being drafted to compile the various methodological building blocks completed to date as well as to identify gaps in the need of future work. Outreach to non-member OECD countries will be strengthened both to disseminate the methodological work developed by the OECD and to collect data that adhere to these guidelines from non-members.

Information and Communication Technology

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.

Publications

Communications Outlook

OECD Telecommunication Database

Databases

Communications

OECD Telecommunication Database

Main Developments for 2004

General aspects:

Mo major changes.

Data collection:

We will include more detailed data for Broadband (breakdown by technologies)