

ITU - International Telecommunication Union

3. Environment and multi-domain statistics (ITU)

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3.3 Multi-domain statistics and indicators (ITU)

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3.3.3 Information society (ITU)

ICT statistics

Data collection:

- ITU collects time series on telecommunication and ICT statistics for over 100 indicators, through several annual questionnaires, which are sent to national government telecommunication authorities, as well as through online research. It also collects household ICT statistics, based on the internationally agreed core list of indicators developed by the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, through an annual questionnaire sent to National Statistical Offices. The data are carefully checked, verified and harmonized, before being disseminated, to enhance international comparability.

Dissemination:

- The ITU Yearbook of Statistics has been published annually for almost three decades and is widely recognized as the world's leading source of ICT statistics. The electronic database, the World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (WTI) database, is available on a user-friendly CD-ROM and by electronic download at the ITU electronic bookshop. It provides annual time series dating back to 1960 for over 100 indicators and some 200 economies.

- On the ITU website www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/, some key statistics are available for free downloading, through the ICT Eye online portal. Data are also disseminated via statistical publications and newsletters and the Google public data explorer, and via ITU's analytical reports, including the Measuring the Information Society (MIS) Report, the World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report (WTDR) and regional reports.

- Part of the data are published in ICT sections of publications of other international organizations, such as the World Bank's World Development Indicators, the United Nations Statistical Yearbook, the UN Data portal and the MDG indicators available online.

Key Statistics and Analysis: see <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/statistics/>

Publications: see <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/>

Events/Meetings and technical assistance

- ITU organizes meetings, such as the annual World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS), which is the main global forum to discuss ICT statistics and methodologies, bringing together representatives from Ministries, regulatory agencies, telecommunication operating companies, national statistical offices as well as experts from international organizations, academia and the business community. ITU also works with national statistics offices and relevant regional bodies in organizing national and regional capacity building workshops on Information Society measurements.

Cooperation/Collaboration

- ITU cooperates with regional and international organizations in the exchange of data and collaboration on joint publications. ITU is involved in international forums to measure the information society and to coordinate ICT statistics.

- ITU is the lead agency responsible for defining and monitoring ICT indicators for the UN Millennium Development Goals project and the MDG Gap Task Force. ITU provides three specific indicators for measuring access to ICTs (fixed telephone lines, mobile cellular subscriptions and Internet use), on an on-going basis.

- ITU is an active member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, launched in June 2004. Current partners include the ITU, the OECD, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNESCO Institute for Statistics, the UN Regional Commissions (UNECLAC, UNESCWA, UNESCAP, UNECA), the World Bank, the UNEP Secretariat for the Basel Convention and EUROSTAT. ITU is also a member of the Partnership's Steering Committee.

- ITU provides the data for measuring the four targets agreed by the Broadband Commission for Digital Development. See: <http://www.broadbandcommission.org/>

International cooperation:

See: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/intlcoop.html>

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/partnership/index.html>

Ongoing methodological work

- ITU contributes actively to the development and revisions of the Partnership core list of ICT indicators. The latest version of the core list, which includes a new set of indicators on e-government, was endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in February 2012.

- ITU is leading the Partnership Task Group on Measuring the WSIS targets. In this context, a methodological framework has been developed in 2011, which includes a set of indicators to measure progress towards achieving the targets. At the end of 2012, a metadata questionnaire on the WSIS targets was sent to countries, based on the methodological framework. In 2013, a questionnaire will be sent to countries to collect data on the indicators identified for measuring progress towards the WSIS targets.

- The ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) is responsible for reviewing existing telecommunication indicators and defining new indicators. It works through an online discussion forum and holds an annual face-to-face meeting. In 2013, the EGTI will meet during the fourth quarter.
- The ITU Expert Group on Household statistics (EGH) was created in May 2013, to revise the core indicators on ICT access by households and on ICT usage by individuals. The work will continue through 2013.
- The updated ITU ICT Development Index (IDI), a benchmarking tool for countries, and a tool for tracking developments of the global digital divide, will be published in the second half of 2013, along with the updated ICT Price Basket, which combines three key ICT indicators (prices for fixed and mobile telephony, and Internet broadband).

New work to be undertaken in 2013

- The EGTI will continue its work in 2013 and address a number of new indicators that have emerged recently and which need to be defined. The results will be presented at the 11th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) in the fourth quarter of 2013.
- The process of revising the ITU Manual for Measuring ICT Access and Use by Households and Individuals has started in 2012 and will continue throughout 2013. This includes a revision of the core ICT indicators on ICT access by households and individual use of ICTs. The EGH will meet during 2013 and will report its results to the WTIS in the fourth quarter of 2013.
- Following the recommendation of the 10th WTIS, new work on measuring gender and ICT has been launched, in collaboration with the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development. The results will be presented to the 11th WTIS in the fourth quarter of 2013.

Meetings to be organized in 2013

- The 11th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Symposium (WTIS) will be held in the fourth quarter of 2013. This global event brings together representatives from telecommunication authorities and National Statistical Offices responsible for collecting ICT statistics.
 - The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum 2013 will take place in Geneva from 13-17 May. As a member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, ITU will co-organize an event on ICT measurement.
 - The fall meeting of the Inter-Agency Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG indicators will be hosted by ITU at the end of October 2013.
 - A number of national and regional capacity building events will be organized throughout the year. See <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/events/>
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