ITU - International Telecommunication Union

ICT statistics

Data collection:

ITU collects time series data on telecommunication and ICT statistics for over 100 indicators, through an annual questionnaire, which is 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 a 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.

Part of the data are also published in ICT sections of publications of other international organizations, such as the UNDP Human Development Report, the World Bank World Development Indicators, the United Nations Statistical Yearbook, the UN Data portal and the MDG indicators available online.
Data are also disseminated via ITU's analytical reports, including the World Telecommunication/ICT Development Report (WTDR), regional reports and benchmarking publications, such as those featuring the ITU ICT Development Index (IDI) and ICT Price Basket.

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 meeting (WTIM), which is 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.

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

2. ITU is an active member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, launched during UNCTAD XI 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 and EUROSTAT. The ITU is also a member of the Partnership's Steering Committee.

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 has contributed actively to the revisions of the Partnership core list of ICT indicators on infrastructure and access, and on access to, and use of, ICTs in households. The latest version of the core list was presented to the UN Statistical Commission in February 2009 and was published in early 2010. It is currently being enhanced to include a set of core indicators on e-government. The work will be finished in 2011 and presented to the UNSC in 2012.

ITU is leading the Partnership Task Group on Measuring the WSIS targets. In this context, a methodological framework is being developed, which will include a set of indicators to measure progress towards achieving the targets. The document will be finished during the first half of 2011.

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 2011. The publication will also feature the updated ICT Price Basket, which has been calculated for three key ICT indicators (fixed and mobile telephony and Internet broadband).

New work to be undertaken in 2011

The definitions of ICT infrastructure and access indicators included in the ITU Handbook are continuously being revised by the ITU Expert Group

on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI). Based on the revisions, a new version of the ITU Handbook is under preparation and will be released during the first half of 2011. The EGTI will continue its work in 2011 and address a number of new indicators that have emerged recently and which need to be defined. They results will be presented at the 9th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting (WTIM) at the end of 2011.

Meetings to be organized in 2011

The 9th World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Meeting (WTIM) will be held in the fourth quarter of 2011. 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 2011 will take place in Geneva from 16-20 May. As a member of the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, ITU will co-organize an event on ICT measurement.

A number of national and regional capacity building events will be organized throughout the year.
See http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/events/