

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Statistics on the ICT usage in households

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STATISTICS AUSTRIA
Bundesanstalt Statistik Österreich
A-1110 Vienna, Guglgasse 13
Phone: +43-1-71128-0
www.statistik.at

Directorate Social Statistics
Organizational unit Science, Technology, Education

Contact person:
Mag. Nina Djahangiri
Phone +43-1-71128-7522
E-Mail: nina.djahangiri@statistik.gv.at

Executive Summary

Statistics on the usage of information and communication technologies (ICT) focus on the one hand on the necessary equipment of Austrian households for ICT usage and, on the other hand, on the type and extent of ICT usage by individuals living in private households. Its aim is the provision of annual, standardised, meaningful and internationally comparable data for this topic. The target population consists of all private households with a least one person between 16 and 74 years, and all individuals belonging to this age group. Data on the various ICT-related topics are collected: Equipment of households with computer and Internet access, individual computer and Internet usage, use of e-government and online shopping, e-skills, and e-security.

This statistics is carried out due to a framework regulation on information society¹ (Regulation (EC) No 808/2004, amended by Regulation (EC) No 1006/2009) and since the survey 2006, based on an annual Commission regulation (Implementing acts). It is part of the statistics on information society, to which among others the annual surveys on the ICT usage of enterprises belong also. Every year, in cooperation between Eurostat and the Working group on Statistics for the information society, a uniform questionnaire is developed which is implemented in all member states of the European Union.

Main data source is a sample survey, which is voluntary for respondents, and is carried out in the framework of an EU regulation; it has been conducted annually from 2002 onwards among households with at least one member between 16 and 74 years. The grossed-up Austrian results are annually sent to Eurostat and published nationally in October of the survey years. The publication of results for the EU (from Eurostat) is mostly due in December of the survey year.

The survey on the ICT usage of household is an ad-hoc module based on voluntary participation, attached to the micro-census survey for which participation is compulsory. The sample is a sub-sample of the household surveyed in the micro-census in the second quarter of the respective survey year. Only those households which were already surveyed once are included in the sample in the framework of the micro-census (therefore only households subject to a consecutive interview). The gross sample size for 2014 is 5,400 households.

The list of questions is divided into core questions, which are asked regularly and not or only slightly changed over the years, and modules which change annually. Thus it is possible to cover a broad array of topics in the field of information society on the one hand, and to accommodate the rapid developments in this area on the other hand. Core questions include, amongst others, the equipment of households with computer and Internet, computer and Internet usage of individuals and on-line shopping. Focus topics which regularly include in-depth questions on the respective topic, were annually integrated into the questionnaire (mobile Internet usage, e-government, cloud services).

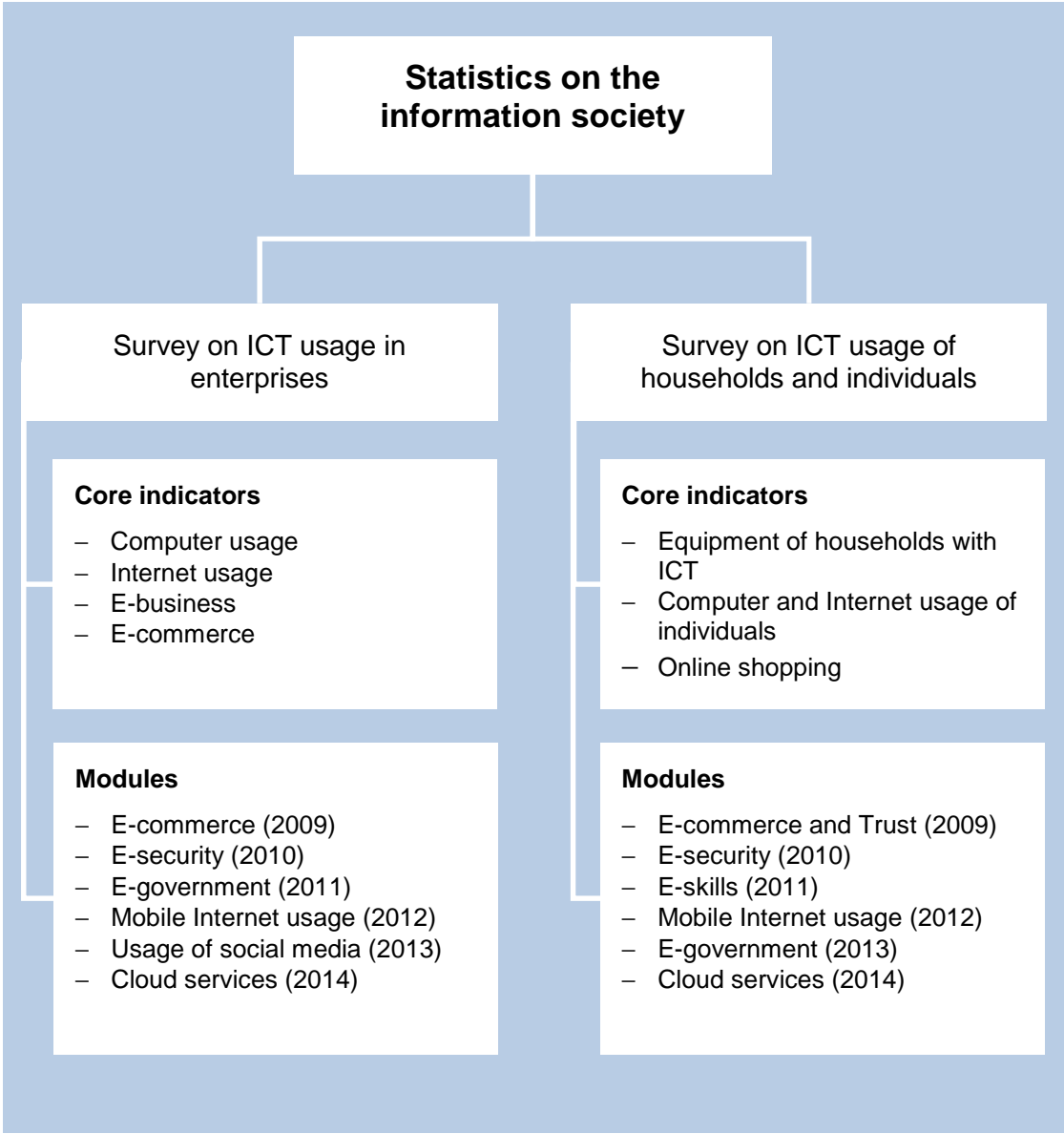
The survey in 2015 foresees a summary of the focus topics of the previous years. Additionally, the European harmonised model questionnaire distinguishes between harmonised questions which are compulsory and voluntary for the member states. Results of compulsory questions must be transmitted to Eurostat by all EU member states. Optional questions can be asked by the single countries on a voluntary basis resp. can be collected as compulsory for data transmission in the framework of grant applications.

The results of the surveys are an important component of the benchmarking process which is carried out by the European Commission in the framework of the action plans regarding the information society in order to supervise the single member states in its development of spreading and using information and communication technologies. Those action plans ("eEurope 2002", "eEurope 2005", "i2010", and since May 2010 "Digital Agenda for Europe") which were adopted in the framework of the "Lisbon strategy" resp. the strategy "Europe 2020"

¹ Information society: A society in which scientific and intellectual activity of all kinds, economic transactions and the whole pattern of daily life are based on a subtle network of information which is promoted by modern information and communication technologies. (European Commission, 1979 - *European Society Faced with the Challenge of New Information Technologies: A Community Response*. COM(1979) 650 final, 26 November 1979. Brussels)

constitute a strategic frame for the setting of political guidelines to emphasise the significance of the information society for society and economics resp. to gain a sustainable benefit from a digital single market.

Table 1: Overview on statistics on the information society



ICT usage in households – Main features	
Subject Matter	Usage of information and communication technologies, especially the Internet, in Austrian in households with at least one member between 16 and 74 years as well as computer and Internet use of individuals in this age group
Population	Households with at least one member between 16 and 74 years (2014: 3.4 million households). Population between 16 and 74 years (2014: 6.5 million people)
Type of statistics	Primary sample survey (CATI interviews) including administrative data
Data sources/Survey techniques	Sample survey among 5,400 households (CATI interviews)
Reference period or due day	Household-related questions: Time of the survey. Individual-related questions: last three resp. last 12 months before the time of the survey.
Periodicity	Annual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary.
Main legal acts	The survey on ICT usage of households and individuals is based on a EU framework regulation which obliges Austria since 2004 to deliver data every year regarding this topic: Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society, amended by Regulation (EC) No 1006/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 808/2004 concerning Community statistics on the information society. Additionally, since 2006 there is an annual Implementing Act of the Commission which lists the requested indicators in detail.
Most detailed regional breakdown	Austria. Länder for some main indicators.
Availability of results	Final data: t + 4 months
Other	Sub-sample of the micro-census