

Standard-documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Statistics on the ICT usage in enterprises

This documentation is valid from the reference period:

2005

Status: **04.03.2021**



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Executive Summary

The surveys on the usage of information and communication technologies (ICT) in enterprises refer to the provision of annual, standardised, meaningful and internationally comparable data about the adoption and use of ICT in Austrian enterprises with at least ten employed persons in selected industries. Data on various ICT-related topics are collected: Internet usage, use of broadband connections, existence of a firm web site and usage of e-government¹ offers, as well as indicators on e-commerce sales or e-business processes.

This statistics is carried out due to a framework regulation on information society² (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 households and individuals belong also. Therefore, 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.

The results of the surveys are an important part of the benchmarking process which is carried out by the European Commission in the framework of the action plans referring to information society in order to supervise the single member countries in its development to spread and use information and communication technologies. These action plans (“eEurope 2002”, “eEurope 2005”, “i2010” and since May 2010 „Digital Agenda for Europe“) were adopted in the framework of the Lisbon strategy and the Strategy Europe 2020 to determine political guidelines to underline the significance of the information society for society and economy resp. to gain a sustainable benefit from a digital internal market.

The survey about the ICT usage in enterprise in Austria is conducted in the framework of a sample survey, commissioned by Eurostat and the Federal Ministry on Digital and Economic affairs (BMDW since 2018; before: Federal Ministry on Science, Research and Economy (BMWFW; 2014-2018); before: Federal Ministry for Economy, Family and Youth (BMWFJ; 2009-2014); before: Federal Ministry for Economy and Labour (BMWA; 2000-2009)) since 2001 annually in the first half of the calendar year among enterprises with a least ten persons employed. In the survey 2020, enterprises of the following industries according to the NACE Rev. 2 classification were asked: C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M (except 75), N und S (only 95.1).

In the years 2005 to 2010 financial and insurance activities were surveyed with a short questionnaire as on the European level it could be observed that some modules of the ICT questionnaire do not apply to the financial and insurance industry. Financial and insurance activities were from the surveying year 2011 onwards determined by Eurostat as an industry to be surveyed optionally, and have not been surveyed anymore since then in Austria. The reasoning for this decision is that experiences from the previous years have shown that financial and insurance activities as regards ICT usage is that specific that is difficult to cover with a uniform questionnaire for all industries.

The gross sample comprises approximately 6,200 enterprises with at least ten persons employed. Statistical unit is the enterprise which would systematically be classified according to its main location. Especially enterprises with establishments or local units in different regions (concerns mostly larger enterprises) would be prone to a biased presentation. Additionally, the sample size does not suffice for a regional breakdown; furthermore, in the stratification of the sample no regional component was taken into account.

For the enterprises participation in the survey is voluntary. Austrian results are transmitted annually in October of the survey year to Eurostat, and are published nationally. The results of the EU are mostly usually published in December of the survey year.

¹ The module on usage of eGovernment-services was included in the model questionnaire until the survey year 2014.

² Information society: A society in which scientific and intellectual activities 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)

The list of questions is divided into core questions which are asked regularly and are not or only slightly changed over the years, and modules which change every year; on the one hand, in order to be able to cover a wide range of topics of the information society, and on the other hand, to accommodate the rapid developments in this area. The core questions focus on the usage of computer and Internet in the enterprise, but also on core questions on e-business and e-commerce. Modules which comprise in-depth questions on the respective topic were integrated annually into the questionnaire:

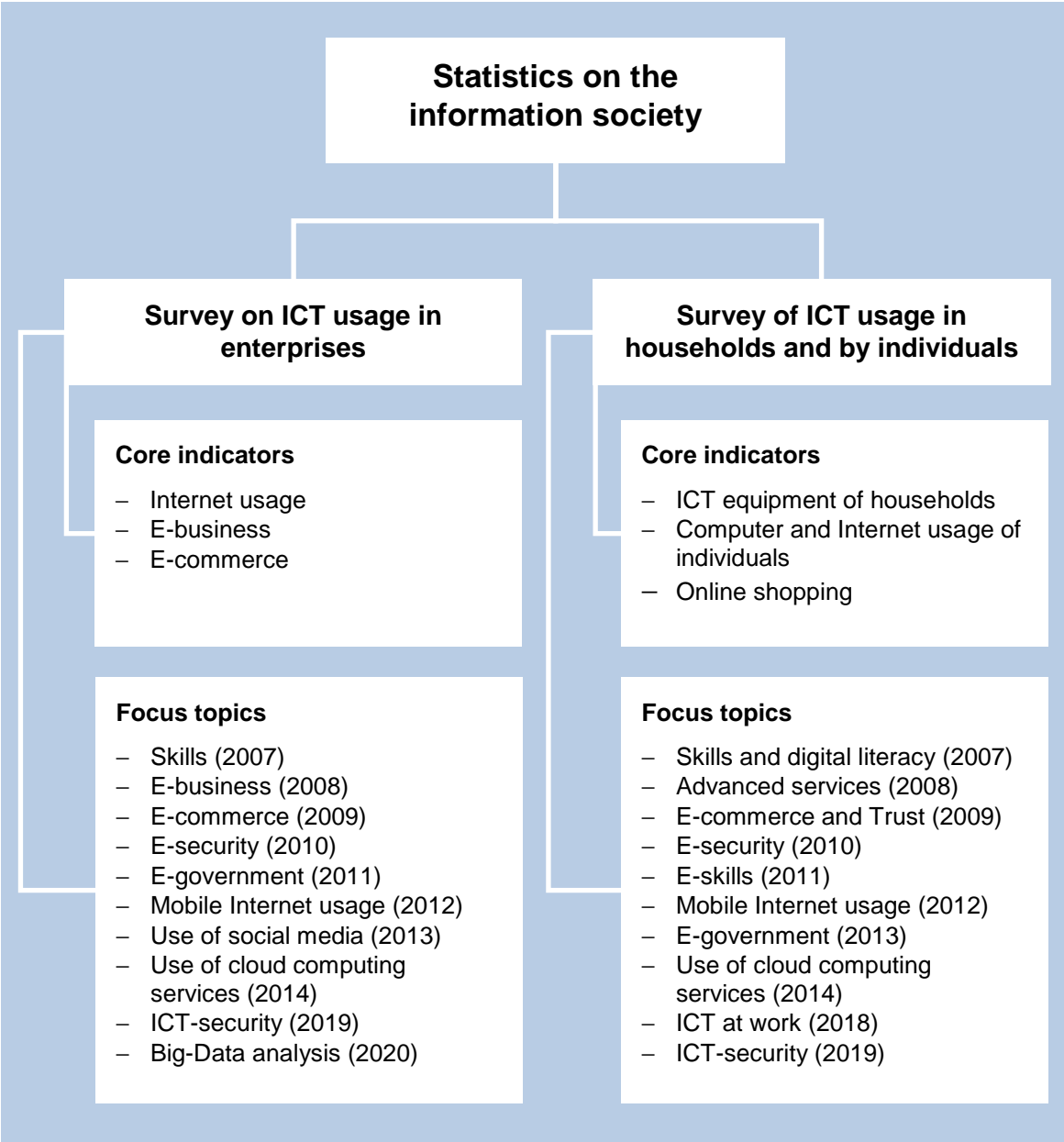
- 2007 – Skills
- 2008 – E-business
- 2009 – E-commerce
- 2010 – E-security
- 2011 – E-government
- 2012 – Mobile Internet usage
- 2013 – Usage of social media
- 2014 – Use of cloud computing services
- 2019 – ICT security
- 2020 – Big-Data analysis

For the survey in 2015, 2016 and 2017 a summary of the focus topics of the previous years were foreseen. 2018 in addition to the selected questions of focus topics of the previous years, there were questions on new topics like use of 3D printing, use of robotics, big-data analysis. These topics were not summarised under a special focus topic.

Additionally, the European model questionnaire differentiates between compulsory and optional questions. The results of the compulsory questions must be transmitted to Eurostat by all EU member countries. Optional questions can be asked by the single countries voluntarily resp. can be collected on a compulsory basis for data transmission in the framework of grant applications.

In 2009, the transition from industry classification ÖNACE 2003 to ÖNACE 2008 was implemented. In this survey year results were calculated for both industry classifications. From the survey year 2010 onwards, results are only available broken down by ÖNACE 2008. In order to guarantee data comparability with previous surveys, selected indicators were subject to a back-casting to ÖNACE 2008 until survey year 2003, based on a micro-approach.

Table 1: Overview on statistics on the information society



ICT usage in enterprises – Main features	
Subject Matter	Usage of information and communication technologies in Austrian enterprises with at least ten persons employed in selected industries
Population	Enterprises with at least ten persons employed in selected industries of the following NACE sectors (NACE Rev. 2; Status: Survey 2019): C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M (except 75 Veterinary activities), N and S (only 95.1 Repair of computers and communication equipment) Size 2020: approx. 43,100 enterprises
Type of statistics	Primary sample survey also using administrative data (turnover, employed persons); stratified sample by main economic activity (NACE Rev. 2) and three size classes Sample size 2020: approx.. 6,200 enterprises
Data sources/Survey techniques	Indicators on ICT usage originate from a primary survey. Turnover and employed persons come from data of the umbrella organisation of the Austrian social security institutes, SBS (Structural Business Survey), or STS (Short-term Statistics), if not available, from the business register
Reference period or due day	Until 2013: In general January of the survey years, for selected questions the year before the survey year Since 2014: The time of the survey period, for selected questions the year before the survey year.
Periodicity	Annual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Voluntary
Main legal acts	The survey on ICT usage in enterprises 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
Availability of results	Final data: t + 9 months
Other	In 2009 the transition from ÖNACE 2003 to ÖNACE 2008 was implemented. In this survey year data were double-reported by both NACE classifications. Additionally, selected indicators were subject to a back-casting back to 2003. From survey year 2003 onwards no paper questionnaire was sent to the enterprises anymore; instead, data reporting via web questionnaire was emphasised.