Standard documentation
Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Statistics on the ICT usage in enterprises

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Executive Summary

The surveys on the usage of information and communication technologies (ICT) in enterprises provide 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, ownership of a website and use of e-government offers[1], as well as indicators on e-commerce sales or e-business processes.

From 2021 onwards, this statistic is carried out following a new framework regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and the Council) which is complemented by annual Commission regulations. Prior, this statistic was based on the framework regulation on the information society (Regulation (EC) No 808/2004, amended by Regulation (EC) No 1006/2009). Annual Commission regulations (Implementing acts) have complemented the survey since 2006. The survey is part of the statistics on the information society, which also includes the annual surveys on ICT usage of households and individuals. To this end, Eurostat and the working group of statistics on the information society collaborate to develop a standardised questionnaire 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 as part of action plans regarding the information society in order to monitor the progress of each member country in spreading and using information and communication technologies. These action plans ("eEurope 2002", "eEurope 2005", "i2010", „Digital Agenda for Europe", "Digital Single Market", "Digital Decade") form a strategic framework, setting political guidelines, that emphasise the significance of the information society for society and for the economy or rather for gaining a sustainable benefit.

The survey on ICT usage in enterprises in Austria is conducted under the framework of a sample survey, commissioned by Eurostat and the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF, since 2022; before Federal Ministry of Digital and Economic Affairs, BMDW, 2018–2022; before Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, BMWFW, 2014–2018; before Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth, BMWFJ, 2009–2014; before Federal Ministry of Economy and Labour, BMWA, 2000–2009). It is conducted annually in the first half of the calendar year since 2001 and includes enterprises with a least ten persons employed from selected industries. In the survey 2022, enterprises from the following industries according to Austria's industrial classification system (ÖNACE 2008) based on the European Union's industrial classification system (NACE Rev. 2) were surveyed: C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M, N und S (only 95.1).

The gross sample comprises approximately 6 200 enterprises with at least ten persons employed. Statistical unit is the enterprise which is systematically classified according to its legal headquarter/main office. Regional breakdowns are problematic because of the following reasons: Due to the way the regional classification is done, enterprises with establishments or local units in different regions (concerns mostly larger enterprises) would be particularly prone to a biased presentation. Additionally, the sample

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[1] The module on the use of e-government was included in the survey until 2014.

size does not suffice for a regional breakdown; furthermore the regional component was not taken into account in the stratification of the sample.

Enterprises' participation in the survey is voluntary. Austrian results are annually transmitted to Eurostat in October of the survey year, and are then published nationally. EU-wide results are published by Eurostat, usually in December of the survey year.

The list of questions is divided into core questions which are asked regularly and are not or only slightly changed over the years, and special topics which change every year. The purpose is to cover a wide range of topics regarding the information society, while also accommodating the rapid developments in this area. The core questions focus on the use of computers and the internet in enterprises as well as on e-business and e-commerce. Special topics which comprise in-depth questions on the respective topic of the year were integrated annually into the questionnaire from 2007:

- Skills (2007)
- E-business (2008)
- E-commerce (2009)
- E-security (2010)
- E-government (2011)
- Mobile internet usage (2012)
- Social media (2013)
- Cloud computing services (2014)
- ICT security (2019)
- Big data analysis (2020)
- Artificial Intelligence (AI; 2021)
- ICT security (2022)

In 2015, 2016 and 2017 no separate special topic was included; instead a summary of special topics from the previous years were integrated into the questionnaire. In 2018 questions on new topics like use of 3D printing, use of robotics and big-data analysis were included but not summarised under a special topic. They were asked in addition to selected questions of special topics of the previous years. In 2021, questions on the special topic "Artificial Intelligence" were added as well as COVID-19-related questions which were added EU-wide on a voluntary basis.

Besides the distinction between core questions and special topics, the European model questionnaire also 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 each country voluntarily or they can be collected on a compulsory basis under the framework of a grant.

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 ensure 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.

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Graph 1 Overview of the surveys on the information society

Statistics on information society		
Survey	**ICT usage in enterprises**	**ICT usage in households and individuals**
Core indicators	➢ Internet usage ➢ E-commerce ➢ Cloud computing services ➢ ICT specialists	➢ ICT equipment in households ➢ Computer and internet usage by individuals ➢ Online shopping
Special topics	➢ 2007: Skills ➢ 2008: E-business ➢ 2009: E-commerce ➢ 2010: E-security ➢ 2011: E-government ➢ 2012: Mobile internet usage ➢ 2013: Social media ➢ 2014: Cloud computing services ➢ 2019: ICT security ➢ 2020: Big-data analysis ➢ 2021: Artificial intelligence ➢ 2022: ICT security	➢ 2007: Skills and digital literacy ➢ 2008: Advanced services ➢ 2009: E-commerce and trust ➢ 2010: E-security ➢ 2011: E-skills ➢ 2012: Mobile internet usage ➢ 2013: E-government ➢ 2014: Cloud computing services ➢ 2018: ICT at work ➢ 2019: ICT security ➢ 2020: Internet of things; Trust, security and privacy ➢ 2021: Privacy and protection of personal data ➢ 2022: Internet of things, sustainability

ICT usage in enterprises – Key Points	
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 Rev. 2 sectors (Status: Survey 2022): C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M, N and S (only 95.1) Size 2022: approx. 41 100 enterprises
Type of statistics	Primary sample survey also using administrative data (turnover, persons employed); stratified sample by main economic activity (NACE Rev. 2) and by three size classes Sample size 2022: approx. 6 200 enterprises
Data sources/Survey techniques	Indicators on ICT usage originate from a primary survey. Turnover and persons employed come from data of the umbrella organisation of the Austrian social security institutes, SBS or Short-term Statistics, if not available, from the business register.
Reference period or due day	Until 2013: In general, January of the survey years; Since 2014: In general, 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 is based on a EU framework regulation which obliges Austria to deliver data every year since 2004 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. From 2021 onwards, the survey is based on a new framework regulation (Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on European business statistics, repealing 10 legal acts in the field of business statistics. 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 2013 onwards no paper questionnaire was sent to the enterprises anymore; instead, data reporting via web questionnaire was promoted.