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 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: Computer and Internet usage, use of broadband connections, existence of a firm web site and usage of e-government offers, as well as indicators on e-commerce purchases and sales or e-business processes.

This statistics is carried out due to a framework regulation on information society\(^1\) (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 is in Austria conducted in the framework of a sample survey, commissioned by Eurostat and the Federal Ministry for Science, Research and Economy (BMWF: before: Federal Ministry for Economy, Family and Youth (BMWFJ)) since 2001 annually in the first half of the calendar year among enterprises with at least ten employed persons. In the survey 2013 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 5,100 enterprises with at least ten employed persons. 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.

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

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1 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)
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

A future module will concentrate on “cloud computing” (2014). For the survey in 2015 a summary of the focus topics of the previous years is foreseen. 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

**Statistics on the information society**

- **Survey on ICT usage in enterprises**
  - **Core indicators**
    - Computer usage
    - Internet usage
    - E-business
    - E-commerce
  - **Modules**
    - Skills (2007)
    - E-business (2008)
    - E-commerce (2009)
    - E-security (2010)
    - E-government (2011)
    - Mobile Internet usage (2012)
    - Usage of social media (2013)

- **Survey on ICT usage of households and by individuals**
  - **Core indicators**
    - Equipment of households with ICT
    - Computer and Internet usage of individuals
    - Online shopping
  - **Modules**
    - Skills and digital literacy (2007)
    - Advanced services (2008)
    - E-commerce and Trust (2009)
    - E-security (2010)
    - E-skills (2011)
    - Mobile Internet usage (2012)
    - E-government (2013)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Subject Matter</strong></th>
<th>Usage of information and communication technologies in Austrian enterprises with at least ten employed persons in selected industries</th>
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| **Population**     | Enterprises with at least ten employed persons in selected industries of the following NACE sectors (NACE Rev. 2; Status: Survey 2013): 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 2013: approx. 36,400 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: approx.. 5,100 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** | In general January of the survey years, for selected questions the year before the survey year |
| **Periodicity** | Annual |
| **Survey participation (in case of a survey)** | Voluntary |
| **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 were sent to the enterprises anymore; instead, data reporting via web questionnaire was emphasised. |