

Preface

For the last decade or so, developments in information and communication technology (ICT) have attracted increasing attention. The need for statistics and analysis to support and inform policy making in this area has grown in parallel. Since 1999, the OECD Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society (WPIIS) has been providing statistical standards and comparable data to member countries and to the wider international community. Furthermore, WPIIS has analysed these statistics in order to assess the impact of ICT on growth, productivity, innovation and education.

The WPIIS provides a forum for national experts on ICT statistics to come together, share national experiences and agree on standards for measuring the information society in a comparable way across countries. In particular, the WPIIS has developed definitions of ICT sectors and products, electronic commerce and ICT infrastructures. The WPIIS has also established two model surveys to collect statistics on ICT access and use by households and individuals and another for ICT use by businesses. These statistical standards have been adopted not only by OECD members but also by the European Union and the United Nation Statistical Commission.

As a pioneer in the field of ICT indicators and statistics, the WPIIS has contributed to establishing a co-ordinated system of international fora in which this work now takes place. In this context, the *Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development* brings together the main international organisations in the field of ICT, such as Eurostat, ITU, UNCTAD, the World Bank and several UN Regional Economic Commissions. The *Partnership* helps countries beyond the OECD area to adopt the same statistical standards and to build the capacity and infrastructures to collect these statistics. As a result, the *Partnership's ICT Core Indicators* allow us to monitor the development of the information society worldwide.

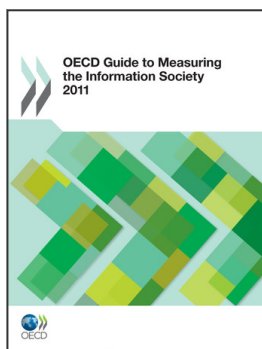
The *OECD Guide to Measuring the Information Society* summarises the main outcomes of this work and provides a standard reference for statisticians, analysts and policy-makers in the field. In particular, the *Guide* should assist newly participating countries to start or develop statistical programmes to measure the information society.

The *Guide* was firstly released in 2005 and has been updated every second year to reflect changes in the information society. The 2011 *Guide* is the first print edition. Its main additions include: the revised definition of e-commerce (Chapter 5); the revised classification for measuring ICT goods (Annex 2.A1); an update of the international scene (Chapter 8); an update on measurement in non-member economies (Annex 8.A2); and the revision of the *Partnership* core ICT indicators (Annex 8.A3).

Previous editions of the *Guide* are available online at www.oecd.org/sti/measuring-infoeconomy/guide.

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