

## SIZE OF THE ICT SECTOR

Information and communication technologies (ICT) have been at the heart of economic changes for more than a decade. ICT-producing sectors play an important role, notably by contributing to rapid technological progress and productivity growth.

### Definition

In 1998, the OECD countries reached agreement on an industry-based definition of the ICT sector based on Revision 3 of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC Rev. 3). The principles underlying the definition are the following.

For manufacturing industries, the products of a candidate industry must be intended to fulfill the function of information processing and communication including transmission and display, must use electronic processing to detect, measure and/or record physical phenomena or control a physical process.

For services industries, the products of a candidate industry must be intended to enable the function of information processing and communication by electronic means.

### Long-term trends

The ICT sector grew strongly in OECD countries over the 1990s. For the 1995-2003 period the share of ICT services has grown most in the Ireland, Finland, Hungary and Sweden. In 2003, Finland's ICT manufacturing sector's share of manufacturing value added represented 22% of total manufacturing value added. In 2003, the ICT manufacturing sector represented between 1.2% and 22.2% of total manufacturing value added in OECD countries. The average share for the 25 OECD countries for which data are available was about 6.5%.

The Telecommunication services sector is largest, as a percentage of business services value added, in Hungary, Portugal, Australia and Finland. It is smallest in Greece, Korea and the Netherlands.

### Comparability

The existence of a widely accepted definition of the ICT sector is the first step towards making comparisons across time and countries possible. However, the definition is not as yet consistently applied and data provided by member countries have been combined with different data sources to estimate ICT aggregates compatible with national accounts totals. For this reason, statistics presented here may differ from figures contained in national reports and in previous OECD publications.

### Source

- OECD (2007), *OECD Science, Technology and Industry: Scoreboard 2007*, OECD, Paris.

### Further information

#### Analytical publications

- OECD (2003), *ICT and Economic Growth: Evidence from OECD countries, industries and firms*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2005), *Guide to Measuring the Information Society*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2006), *OECD Information Technology Outlook 2006*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2006), *OECD Reviews of Risk Management Policies – Norway: Information Security*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2007), *OECD Communications Outlook 2007*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2007), *OECD e-Government Studies*, OECD, Paris.

#### Statistical publications

- OECD (2004), *Understanding Economic Growth A Macro-level, Industry-level, and Firm-level Perspective*, OECD, Paris.

#### Online databases

- Telecommunications Database.

#### Websites

- OECD Science, Technology and Industry, [www.oecd.org/sti](http://www.oecd.org/sti).
- OECD Telecommunications and Internet Policy, [www.oecd.org/sti/telecom](http://www.oecd.org/sti/telecom).



## Share of ICT in value added

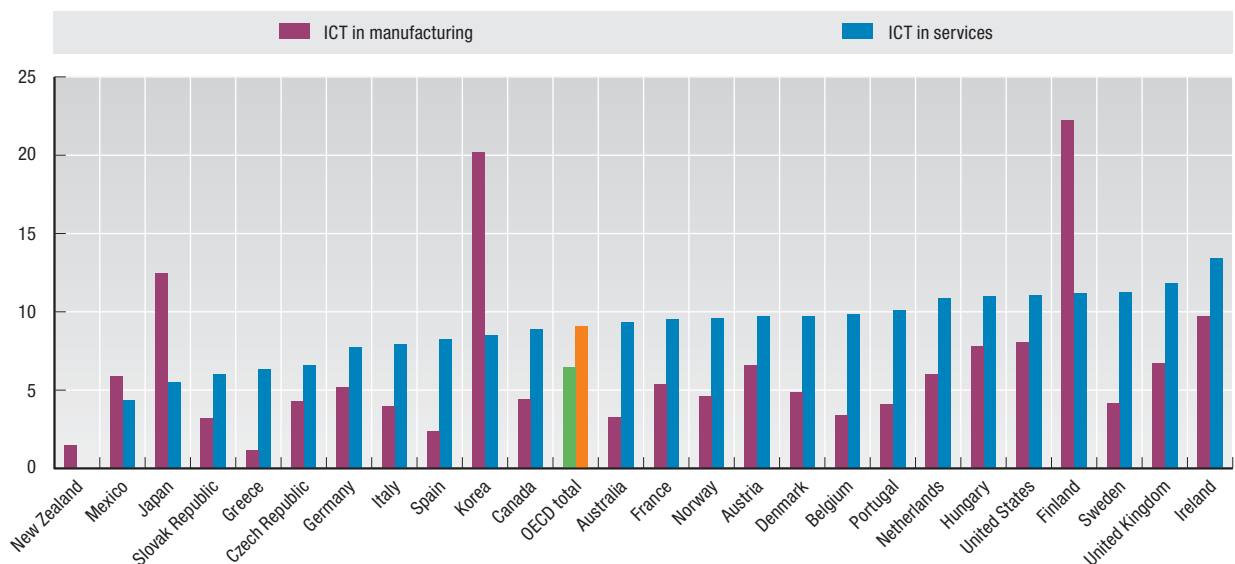
Year 2003

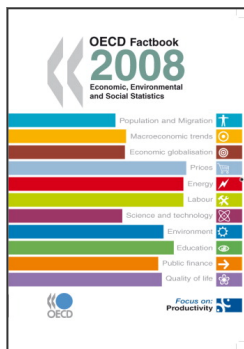
	Share of ICT manufacturing in total manufacturing value added		Share of ICT services in total business services value added		
	ICT manufacturing	Percentage point change 1995-2003	Telecommunication services	Other ICT services	Percentage point change 1995-2003
Australia	3.3	..	4.9	4.4	..
Austria	6.6	-0.7	3.1	6.6	0.9
Belgium	3.4	-0.6	3.3	6.5	1.5
Canada	4.4	-1.9	4.2	4.7	1.5
Czech Republic	4.3	1.3	4.6	1.9	0.2
Denmark	4.9	0.5	2.9	6.9	0.1
Finland	22.2	13.4	4.7	6.5	3.3
France	5.4	-1.3	2.9	6.6	1.0
Germany	5.2	0.3	3.7	4.0	1.6
Greece	1.2	0.2	0.4	6.0	0.5
Hungary	7.8	3.0	6.8	4.1	3.3
Ireland	9.7	-7.1	2.7	10.7	6.9
Italy	4.0	-0.2	2.7	5.2	1.1
Japan	12.5	-0.3	3.2	2.2	1.0
Korea	20.2	4.2	0.5	8.0	1.8
Mexico	5.9	0.7	3.2	1.1	0.3
Netherlands	6.0	-1.2	2.1	8.8	1.5
New Zealand	1.5	..	..	..	..
Norway	4.6	0.3	3.4	6.2	1.7
Portugal	4.1	4.1	5.8	4.3	0.4
Slovak Republic	3.2	-0.1	4.3	1.7	0.5
Spain	2.4	-1.3	4.5	3.7	1.0
Sweden	4.2	-3.5	3.5	7.8	2.9
United Kingdom	6.7	-1.6	4.0	7.9	1.6
United States	8.1	-1.1	4.2	6.9	1.4
OECD total	6.5	0.3	3.6	5.5	1.6

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/274620321533>

## Share of ICT in value added

Share of ICT manufacturing and ICT services value added, 2003

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/268880111213>



**From:**  
**OECD Factbook 2008**  
Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics

**Access the complete publication at:**  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2008-en>

**Please cite this chapter as:**

OECD (2009), "Size of the ICT sector", in *OECD Factbook 2008: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2008-54-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to [rights@oecd.org](mailto:rights@oecd.org). Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at [info@copyright.com](mailto:info@copyright.com) or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at [contact@cfcopies.com](mailto:contact@cfcopies.com).