

Information Sector

1. The expressions "information age" and "global information economy" are used with considerable frequency today. The general idea of an "information economy" includes both the notion of industries primarily producing, processing, and distributing information, as well as the idea that every industry is using available information and information technology to reorganize and make themselves more productive.

2. The Information sector comprises units engaged in the following processes: (a) producing and distributing information and cultural products, (b) providing the means to transmit or distribute these products as well as data or communications, and (c) processing data.

3. The main components of this sector are the publishing industries, including software publishing, the motion picture and sound recording industries, the broadcasting and telecommunications industries, and the information services and data processing industries. Thus activities included in this sector cut across traditionally defined areas in the economy, such as manufacturing, telecommunications, motion picture production and some service areas.

4. The distribution modes for information products produced in this sector may either eliminate the necessity for traditional manufacture, or reverse the conventional order of manufacture-distribute: A newspaper distributed on-line, for example, can be printed locally or by the final consumer. Similarly, it is anticipated that packaged software, which today is mainly bought through the traditional retail channels, will soon be available mainly on-line. The Information sector is designed to make such economic changes transparent as they occur, or to facilitate designing surveys that will monitor the new phenomena and provide data to analyze the changes.

5. Many of the industries in the Information sector are engaged in producing products protected by copyright law, or in distributing them (other than distribution by traditional wholesale and retail methods). Examples are traditional publishing industries, software and database publishing industries, and film and sound industries. Broadcasting and telecommunications industries and information providers and processors are also included in the Information sector, because their technologies are so closely linked to other industries in the Information sector.

6. The Information sector defined here is compatible to the Information Sector of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), Sector 51.

7. The Information sector as whole can be defined through the following ISIC classes.

| Group | Class | Description |
|-------|-------|---|
| | | PUBLISHING, PRINTING AND REPRODUCTION OF RECORDED MEDIA |
| | 2211 | Publishing of books, brochures and other publications |
| | 2212 | Publishing of newspapers, journals and periodicals |
| | 2213 | Publishing of music |
| | 2219 | Other publishing |
| | | POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS |
| 642 | 6420 | Telecommunications |
| | | COMPUTER AND RELATED ACTIVITIES |
| | 7221 | Software publishing |
| 723 | 7230 | Data processing |
| 724 | 7240 | Data base activities and on-line distribution of electronic content |
| | | RECREATIONAL, CULTURAL AND SPORTING ACTIVITIES |
| | 9211 | Motion picture and video production and distribution |
| | 9212 | Motion picture projection |
| | 9213 | Radio and television activities |
| 922 | 9220 | News agency activities |
| | 9231 | Library and archives activities |

8. The list above corresponds to the definition of NAICS sector 51. Representing more detailed categories of this sector will usually require subdividing of existing ISIC classes. However, the following correlations can be established by using complete ISIC classes.

| NAICS group | | ISIC class | |
|-------------|---|--------------------|---|
| 511 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 2211 | Publishing of books, brochures and other publications |
| | | 2212 | Publishing of newspapers, journals and periodicals |
| | | 2219 | Other publishing |
| | | 7221 | Software publishing |
| 512 | Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries | 2213 | Publishing of music |
| | | 9211 | Motion picture and video production and distribution |
| | | 9212 | Motion picture projection |
| 515 | Broadcasting (except Internet) | 9213 | Radio and television activities |
| 516 | Internet Publishing and Broadcasting | 6420 | Telecommunications |
| +517 | | Telecommunications | 7230 |
| +518 | Internet Service Providers, Web Search | 7240 | Data base activities and on-line distribution of electronic content |
| | Portals and Data Processing Services | | |
| +519 | Other Information Services | 9220* | News agency activities |
| | | | 9231 |

* - Independent journalists and photographers need to be excluded from this correspondence