

B. Alternative aggregation for the information economy

217. In recent years, there has been a growing demand for data related to the information economy, that is, information and communication technologies (ICT) and so-called “content”. While all activities related to the information economy have been described by, or been part of, ISIC classes in a number of ISIC divisions, the interpretation of classes belonging to the information economy and its boundaries have been subject to discussion. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has taken a leading role in standardizing the definition of the ICT and “content” sectors. Previously used definitions have been reviewed by the Working Party on Indicators for the Information Society and new recommendations have been developed using the extended detail available in ISIC, Rev.4.²⁹ The tables set out below are consistent with the recommendations made by the Working Party.

1. ICT sector definition

218. The definition of this sector provides a statistical basis for the measurement, in an internationally comparable way, of that part of economic activity that is generated by the production of ICT goods and services.

219. The following general principle (definition) is used to identify ICT economic activities (industries):

“The production (goods and services) of a candidate industry must primarily be intended to fulfill or enable the function of information processing and communication by electronic means, including transmission and display”.

220. The activities (industries) in the ICT sector can be grouped into ICT manufacturing industries, ICT trade industries and ICT services industries. The ISIC, Rev.4 industries that comply with the above definition are provided in table 4.3.

Table 4.3

ICT sector

ICT manufacturing industries	
2610	Manufacture of electronic components and boards
2620	Manufacture of computers and peripheral equipment
2630	Manufacture of communication equipment
2640	Manufacture of consumer electronics
2680	Manufacture of magnetic and optical media
ICT trade industries	
4651	Wholesale of computers, computer peripheral equipment and software
4652	Wholesale of electronic and telecommunications equipment and parts
ICT services industries	
5820	Software publishing
61 Telecommunications	
6110	Wired telecommunications activities
6120	Wireless telecommunications activities

²⁹ See *Information Economy – Sector Definitions based on the International Standard Industry Classification (ISIC 4)*, OECD document DSTI/ICCP/IIS(2006)2/FINAL.

6130	Satellite telecommunications activities
6190	Other telecommunications activities
62	Computer programming, consultancy and related activities
6201	Computer programming activities
6202	Computer consultancy and computer facilities management activities
6209	Other information technology and computer service activities
631	Data processing, hosting and related activities; web portals
6311	Data processing, hosting and related activities
6312	Web portals
951	Repair of computers and communication equipment
9511	Repair of computers and peripheral equipment
9512	Repair of communication equipment

2. Content and media sector definition

221. The following general principle (definition) is used for the identification of activities in the content and media sector:

“The production (goods and services) of a candidate industry must primarily be intended to inform, educate and/or entertain humans through mass communication media. These industries are engaged in the production, publishing and/or the distribution of content (information, cultural and entertainment products), where content corresponds to an organized message intended for human beings.”

222. The list of ISIC, Rev.4 industries that comply with this definition is provided in table 4.4.

Table 4.4

Content and media sector

581	Publishing of books, periodicals and other publishing activities
5811	Book publishing
5812	Publishing of directories and mailing lists
5813	Publishing of newspapers, journals and periodicals
5819	Other publishing activities
591	Motion picture, video and television programme activities
5911	Motion picture, video and television programme production activities
5912	Motion picture, video and television programme post-production activities
5913	Motion picture, video and television programme distribution activities
5914	Motion picture projection activities
592	Sound recording and music publishing activities
60	Programming and broadcasting activities
6010	Radio broadcasting
6020	Television programming and broadcasting activities
639	Other information service activities
6391	News agency activities
6399	Other information service activities n.e.c.