Statement provided by:
United Kingdom

Statement:
The UK Office for National Statistics (ONS) acknowledge the difficulties in collecting not only ICT but wider statistics using surveys during the course of the pandemic, particularly where these are still paper based and have had an adverse impact on response rates.

For the UK and specifically our ICT related statistics, the surveys used to collect these variables were either under redevelopment during the course of the pandemic or had responded by removing ICT questions to measure more the impacts of COVID.

ONS’ approach at redeveloping its e-commerce and ICT survey has closely followed the guidance as laid out in the OECD manual on Measuring Digital Trade (mentioned in para. 27 of the report). The redeveloped ONS survey will now collect actual sales and purchases values in monetary terms whereas previously percentages of total turnover were collected only and apportioned using industry level turnover data from the Annual Business Survey.

OECD are aware of the ONS work on redeveloping the UK’s E-commerce and ICT survey and are keen to use ONS as a case study in their handbook highlighting the UK’s approach at collecting data in line with their guidelines.

Submitted on: 2/22/2022