



International Telecommunication Union

4th World Telecommunication Indicators Meeting
10-11 February 2005
Geneva, Switzerland

ITU World Telecommunication Indicators: Data Collection and Dissemination

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Topics - ITU statistics

- Why? - (Reasons for ITU data collection)
- How? - (How do ITU collect statistics)
- What? - (Indicators ITU collects)
- Dissemination - demand for ITU data
- Analysis
- Usefulness of the data (who gets what?)
- Other ITU statistical activities
- Conclusion



The ITU - Helping the world to communicate

- The UN-specialized agency for telecommunications: where governments and the private sector coordinate global telecom networks and services
- Founded in 1865
- 189 Member States and over 700 private sector members



Market Economics and Finance Unit (MEF) ITU/BDT/PSF/MEF

- **Information sharing:** tracking the global diffusion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
 - Telecom/ICT Data collection and dissemination
 - Analysis
 - International cooperation
- The ITU, through its **Indicators**, is the main source of internationally comparable data on ICT/telecommunications



ITU Statistical Obligation: Why?

- As a United Nations agency, the ITU has an obligation to produce statistics covering its sector. This is in line with other specialized agencies that publish statistics covering their respective field of operations. This forms part of the global statistical system of the UN.
- Inside ITU, Resolution No. 8 (Istanbul, 2002) calls on the Director of the BDT *"...to survey countries and produce world and regional reports, in particular on...world telecommunication development."*



Data collection

HOW?

- Two Telecommunication Indicator Questionnaires per year addressed to government agencies responsible from ICT/telecom *or* operators
- Online research
- Annual reports

WHAT?

- Telephone network
- Mobile services
- Traffic
- Staff
- Quality of Service
- Tariffs
- Revenues & Investment
- Broadcasting
- Information Technology



Storage - ITU data



Data are entered into the
World Telecommunication Indicators Database

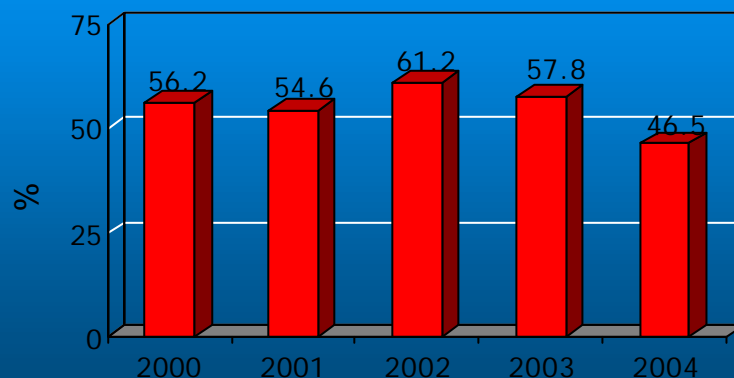
- o Data stored include:
 - annual numerical data (indicators)
 - industry/country operators' information (contact details, operators functions, short description, etc.)
- o Updated regularly to cope with the fast changing telecom/ICT environment
 - New indicators added
 - "Old" indicators kept in the database for future use



Data Collection - Challenges

1. Not every country returns/answers questionnaire

ITU Telecom Questionnaires - Replies

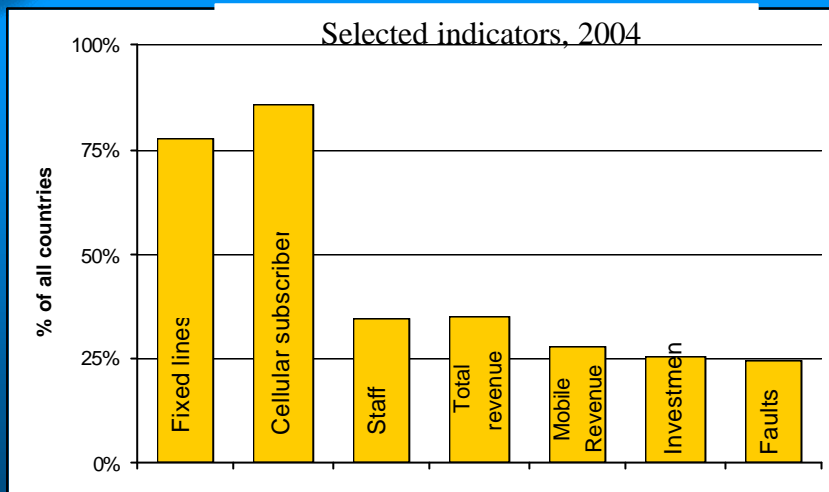


Source: ITU World Telecommunication Indicators database



Data Collection - Challenges

2. Incomplete data: Not all questions get answered



Source: ITU World Telecommunication Indicators database



Data Collection - Challenges (Other)

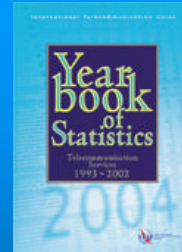
3. More work to aggregate operators' data since the fall of monopoly
4. Operators data or annual reports sometimes not available
5. Newer telecom/ICT data hard to obtain from developing countries
6. Some information collected doesn't meet the ITU definition



Data dissemination

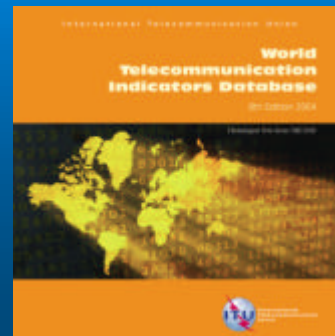
1. Yearbook of Statistics

- Published annually for almost 3 decades
- Covers 80 ICT/telecom indicators for almost 200 economies



2. World Telecommunication Indicators Database

- Time series data for the years 1960, 1965, 1970 and annually from 1975-2003
- Covers 80 ICT/telecom indicators for almost 200 economies



Dissemination - World Telecommunication Indicators

The screenshot shows the WinSTARS v4.2 software interface. The title bar reads "WinSTARS v4.2: ITU World Telecommunication Indicators 2002". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Format", "Options", "Help", and "Information". Below the menu bar are buttons for "Query", "Result", "Map", "Tables", and "Show Data". The "Select" section has three tabs: "Countries", "Series", and "Years".

209 of 209 countries/groups selected

Alghanistan	1993
Albernia	1994
Algeria	1995
American Samoa	1996
Andora	1997
Angola	1998
Antigua and Barbuda	1999
Argentina	2000
Armenia	2001

42 of 42 years selected

85 of 85 series selected

- % automatic main lines
- % digital main lines
- % of main lines in urban areas
- % residential main lines
- Annual telecommunication investment
- Annual telecommunication investment (US\$)
- Average annual exchange rate per US\$
- Business telephone connection charge
- Business telephone connection charge (US\$)
- Business telephone monthly subscription
- Business telephone monthly subscription (US\$)

Availability



3. Regional Publications



- Specifically prepared for regional Telecom events
- Contains 3 parts: Overview, regional statistics, directory of telecommunication operators
- **Africa Telecom Indicators 2004** released during Telecom Africa 2004
- Latest is **Asia Telecom Indicators 2004** released September 2004



4. World Telecommunication Development Report



- World Telecommunication Development Report
- Contains overview of world telecom indicators
- Highlights topics relevant to global issues
- Latest released December 2003 during WSIS, Geneva
- Includes the first release of Digital Access Index (DAI)

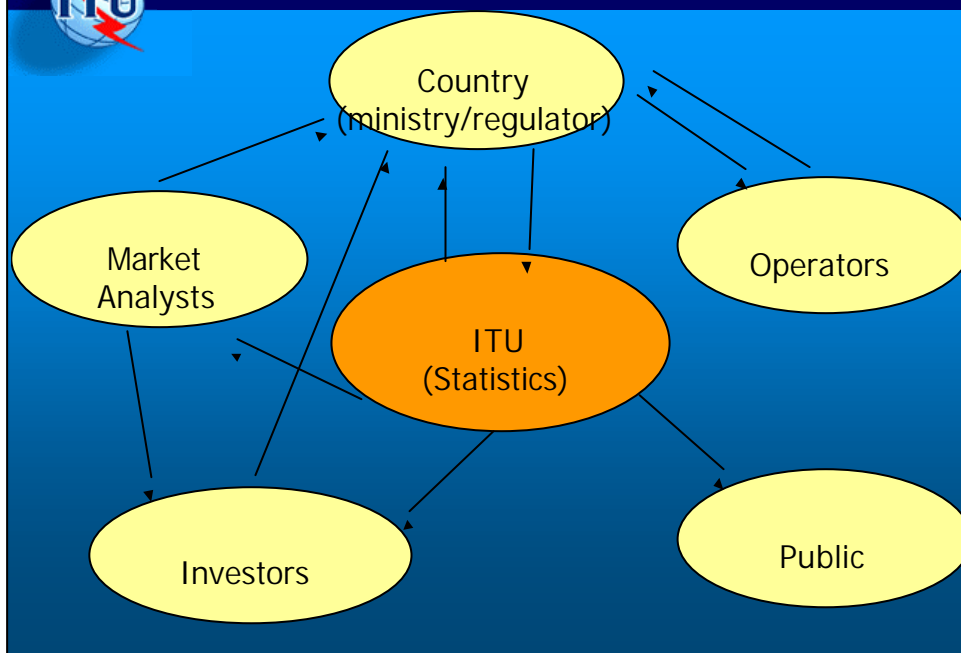


5. Other forms of dissemination

- o Free statistics published in our ICT website for basic indicators, cellular subscribers, information technology and data for top operators
[\(http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/statistics/\)](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/statistics/)
- o Requests made by users either by phone, fax or email



Who gets what?





Other activities: International cooperation & coordination

- The Millennium Development Goals: ITU tracks target 18 of the MDGs
 - Main telephone lines, cellular subscribers, Internet users (for UN MDG database)
 - Prepares story-lines for UN Secretary General's report on MDG
- Partnerships: "Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development" (ITU, UNCTAD, UNESCO, OECD, World Bank, UN ICT Task Force, EUROSTAT, UN Regional Commissions, NSOs)



Botswana workshop - recommendations October 27-29, 2004

- Collaboration between different ICT players is crucial in the collection and dissemination of telecom/ICT data. The ministry, regulator and NSO should continue dialogue on what are the indicators appropriate for their country policy needs.
- Internationally agreed indicators and definitions should be used as basis of data collection to increase comparability between countries.
- Countries should increase efforts to complete and submit ITU questionnaires.



Botswana (cont.)

- Information and knowledge should be disseminated to ALL stakeholders.
- Confidentiality of operators data in some countries hamper data collection of regulators. Operators should be assured that company data won't be published if considered confidential but data will only be used to aggregate country level data.



Botswana (cont.)

- There is a need to build capacity in the collection of telecom data in some agencies. Training of staff in the area of data collection, verification and dissemination is needed.
- Regulators/ministries may want to consider engaging an in-house statistician to be the focal point and responsible for telecom/data collection and dissemination. NSOs should help train and guide the focal point in area of data collection and dissemination.
- Regional workshop such as the one held in Botswana is considered important in building capacity in data collection and should also involve operators.



Botswana (cont.)

- ITU should develop standardized application (software) to help ministries/regulators data collection and dissemination.

ITU Information and Communication Technology - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Google

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ICT Indicators

The ITU's Telecommunication Indicator Reports present an analysis of trends and developments in the global telecommunications sector, backed by official statistics from the world's leading source of telecommunication information. These reports and databases are available online.

- Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development
- UN Millennium Development Goals
- WMI/IDI Database
- ICT MDG Storyline -
- ICT and MDG Chapter 4 of the WDR2001 -
- Register for notification of new publications
- Information sharing: a synopsis of our work

What's New

Publications

- Asia-Pacific Telecommunication Indicators 2004 [New!](#)
- World Telecommunication Indicators Database - Last update 19 October 2004 - JUST RELEASED
- Yearbook of Statistics - Chronological Time Series 1993-2002
- African Telecommunication Indicators 2004 - Press Release
- World Telecommunication Development Report 2003: Access Indicators for the Information Society (WDR) - Press Release

[Digital Access Index \(DAI\)](#)

Events

- ▶ World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (WITI) Meeting (Monday, 24 October 2004, 14:00 - 17:00)

<http://www.itu.int/ict>



Thank you for your attention!