

# **CARICOM ICT STATISTICS AND INDICATORS**

2000 – 2012

*STATISTICS SUB-PROGRAMME*

*CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) SECRETARIAT*

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**CARICOM ICT Statistics and Indicators**

2000-2012

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## PREFACE

This publication, “CARICOM ICT Statistics and Indicators”, is the first publication on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Statistics and Indicators in CARICOM Member States and Associate Members prepared by the Regional Statistics Programme of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat. This report presents data from nineteen (19) countries<sup>1</sup> for the period 2000-2012 and was sourced mainly from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) ICT Indicator database, from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) including the 2000 and 2010 Rounds of Censuses, and other data sources from the NSOs and other national agencies. It also includes data presented at the CARICOM Regional ICT workshop in 2011 at which NSOs and National ICT agencies participated.

The publication provides statistics and indicators on ICT infrastructure, access and usage by individuals and households in the Caribbean Community and includes some highlights of the data presented for each country and at the level of CARICOM as a whole. More specifically the report presents data on:

- Number of fixed line telephones, mobile cellular phones, internet subscriptions (as well as the sub-category broadband internet subscriptions) per 100 inhabitants for each category;
- Number of Internet users per 100 inhabitants
- Proportion of households with a radio, television, fixed line telephone, mobile cellular phone, internet access, computer and electricity.

In economic terms the scope of the ICT sector as it relates to production includes its contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Merchandise Trade, International Trade in Services, Employment in ICT Occupations and Industries; and Investment in ICT. In this regard an initial attempt was also made in the publication to measure the economic

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<sup>1</sup> The list of all countries reported on is on page ix

contribution of the ICT sector with respect to GDP, trade in goods, trade in services and employment. Finally the report also includes some global estimates and highlights and shows where the region is positioned globally with respect to its ICT infrastructure.

The CARICOM Secretariat therefore welcomes any suggestions from users and producers that will guide and improve on this initial effort in order to enable improved accuracy in the compilation of statistics and indicators in this area of statistics.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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Further The CARICOM Secretariat also wishes to acknowledge and make special mention of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) from whose website some of the data for this publication was sourced.

Special thanks also to the staff of the Regional Statistics Programme for producing this report. Given the size of this publication it required intensive and laborious data-gathering and compiling as well as deliberations on the concepts, definitions and data sources and interpretation.

## **SYMBOLS**

... means Data not available

- means Nil

Mn Million

\$US United States dollars

0.00 less than US\$10,000

C 2000 / 2010 Round of Population and Housing Census

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CET	Common External Tariff
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
ECCB	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HS	Harmonised Commodity and Description Coding System
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification
ISCO	International Standard Classifications of Occupations
ISP	Internet Service Provider
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
LDCs	Less Developed Countries
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
MDCs	More Developed Countries
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PSTN	Public switched telephone network
SLC	Survey of Living Conditions
SNA	System of National Accounts
TCP/IP	Transport Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol

## **COUNTRY ABBREVIATIONS**

AG	Antigua and Barbuda
BB	Barbados
BS	The Bahamas
BZ	Belize
DM	Dominica
GD	Grenada
GY	Guyana
JM	Jamaica
MS	Montserrat
KN	St. Kitts and Nevis
LC	Saint Lucia
SR	Suriname
VC	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
TT	Trinidad and Tobago
AI	Anguilla
BM	Bermuda
BVI	British Virgin Islands
KY	Cayman Islands
TC	Turks and Caicos Islands



## **SOURCES OF DATA**

Bermuda Telephone Company (BTC)

Core Welfare Indicators Survey (CWIQ)

Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL)/ Operators

National ICT Household Survey

Labour Force Survey

Landline, Internet, Mobile and Entertainment (LIME)

Belize Poverty Assessment Survey

National Statistics Office (NSO)

Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR)

Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Technology Benchmark Survey S

Survey of Living Conditions (SLC)

Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT)

Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC)

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## CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS<sup>2</sup>

### **Fixed Telephone Lines**

Fixed telephone lines refer to telephone lines connecting a business or household's terminal equipment (e.g. telephone set, facsimile machine) to a public switched telephone network (PSTN) and which have a dedicated port on a telephone exchange.

Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants is calculated by dividing the number of fixed telephone lines by the population and multiplying by 100.

### **Mobile Cellular Subscribers**

Mobile cellular subscribers refer to users of portable telephones subscribing to an automatic public mobile telephone service using cellular technology, which provides access to the PSTN. Users of both post-paid subscriptions and pre-paid accounts are included.

Mobile cellular subscribers per 100 inhabitants is obtained by dividing the number of mobile cellular subscribers by the population and multiplying by 100.

### **Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants**

An Internet subscriber refers to anyone who pays for access to the internet (a dialup, leased line and fixed broadband internet service), or anyone who pays for access to the public Internet (a Transport Control Protocol/ Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) connection). The statistic is measured irrespective of the type or speed of access, the type of device used to access the Internet, or the method of payment.

Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants is obtained by dividing the number of Internet subscribers by the population and multiplying by 100.

It should be noted that the number of subscribers measures all those who are paying for Internet use, including the so-called 'free Internet' used by those who pay via the cost of their telephone call, those who pay in advance for a given amount of time (pre-paid) and those who pay for a subscription (either flat-rate or volume/usage based).

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<sup>2</sup> Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development (2005a), *Core ICT Indicators*, New York/Geneva, <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/partnership/material/CoreICTIndicators.pdf>

### **Broadband Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants (subset of Internet subscriptions)**

A Broadband Internet subscriber is someone who pays for high-speed access to the public Internet (a TCP/IP connection). High speed access is defined as being equal to, or greater than 256 kbit/s, as the sum of the Capacity in both directions. The statistic is measured irrespective of the type of access, or the type of device used to access the Internet, or the method of payment. Broad-band Internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants is obtained by dividing the number of Broadband Internet subscribers by the population and multiplying by 100.

### **Internet users per 100 inhabitants<sup>3</sup>**

Internet users per 100 inhabitants is obtained by dividing the number of Internet users (*estimated*) by the population and multiplying by 100.

The estimated number of Internet users out of total population includes those using the Internet from any device (including mobile phones) in the last 12 months. In countries where household surveys are available, this estimate should correspond to the estimated number derived from the percentage of Internet users collected. (If the survey covers percentage of the population for a certain age group (e.g., 15-74 years old, the estimated number of Internet users should be derived using this percentage, and note indicating the scope and coverage of the survey should be provided).

Data on percentage of individuals using the Internet are collected through an annual questionnaire that ITU sends to national statistical offices (NSOs). If the NSO provides survey-based data for the number of individuals using the Internet, ITU uses these data. If the NSO has not collected any Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) data, then ITU estimates the percentage of individuals using the Internet using a statistical model that includes several indicators such as the number of fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions, fixed-telephone

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/material/TelecomICT\\_Indicators\\_Definition\\_March2010\\_for\\_web.pdf](http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/material/TelecomICT_Indicators_Definition_March2010_for_web.pdf)

subscriptions, active mobile-broadband subscriptions and the income of the country.

The data are verified to ensure consistency with previous years' data. For most developed and an increasing number of developing countries, percentage of individuals using the Internet data are based on methodologically sound household surveys conducted by national statistical agencies. For countries where household surveys do not include information on this indicator, and where countries do not provide their own estimates, ITU estimates the percentage of individuals using the Internet based on a statistical model<sup>4</sup> that includes several indicators such as the number of fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions, fixed-telephone subscriptions, active mobile broadband subscriptions and the income of the country.

Data are usually not adjusted, but discrepancies in the definition, reference period or the break in comparability between years are noted in a data note. For this reason, data are not always strictly comparable.

Discrepancies between global and national figures may arise when countries use a different definition than the one used by ITU. Discrepancies may also arise in cases where the age scope of the surveys differs, or when the country only provides data for a certain age group and not the total population. Since there are major data gaps for this indicator at the country level, ITU estimates many of these data.

### **Proportion of Households with a radio**

A radio is a device capable of receiving broadcast radio signals, using popular frequencies, such as FM, AM, LW and SW<sup>7</sup>. Radios also include: those combined with other equipment such as cassette players/recorders, portable radios such as transistor radios, and radios in motor vehicles. The proportion of households with a radio is calculated by dividing the number of households in the target population during the reference period with a radio by the total number of households.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://lrneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Indicator-paper-for-Expert-Forum\\_02\\_10\\_2012.pdf](http://lrneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Indicator-paper-for-Expert-Forum_02_10_2012.pdf) (pages 7-9)

<sup>7</sup> Refers to Frequency Modulation (FM); Amplitude Modulation (AM); Long Wave(LW) and Short Wave(SW) respectively.

### **Proportion of Households with a television**

A television (TV) is a device capable of receiving broadcast television signals, using popular access means such as over-the-air, cable and satellite. A television set may be a standalone device, or it may be integrated into another device, such as a computer or a mobile phone. The proportion of households with a TV is calculated by dividing the number of households in the target population with a TV by the total number of households.

### **Proportion of Households with a fixed telephone line**

The proportion of households with a fixed line telephone is calculated by dividing the number of households in the target population with a fixed line telephone by the total number of households. Sub-indicators may be constructed using the household classificatory variables, household composition and household size.

### **Proportion of Households with a mobile cellular telephone**

The proportion of households with a mobile cellular telephone is calculated by dividing the number of in-scope households with a mobile cellular telephone by the total number of in-scope households.

### **Proportion of Households with a computer**

The proportion of households with a computer is calculated by dividing the number of in-scope households with a computer by the total number of in-scope households. Sub-indicators may be constructed using the household classificatory variables, household composition and household size.

### **Proportion of Households with internet access at home**

The Internet is a world-wide public computer network. It provides access to a number of communication services including the World Wide Web and carries email, news, entertainment and data files. Access is not assumed to be only via a computer - it may also be by mobile phone, games machine, digital TV etc. The proportion of households with Internet access at home is calculated by dividing the number of in-scope households with Internet access by the total number of in-scope households.

## **The ICT Sector<sup>8</sup>**

The ICT sector is defined as those activities in which the production (goods and services) of a candidate industry must primarily be intended to fulfil or enable the function of information processing and communication by electronic means, including transmission and display.

It includes the *retail trade in ICT goods*, (that is accompanied by services incidental to the sale of those goods), and *other incidental ICT enabling activities*. (OECD/ CARICOM Secretariat)

## **Trade in ICT Goods<sup>9</sup>**

Trade in ICT goods refer to the import and export of telecommunications equipment, computer and related equipment, electronic components, audio and video equipment as well as other ICT goods whose primary function involves the processing, communication, transmission and display of information by electronic means.

## **Trade in ICT Services<sup>10</sup>**

ICT services are those that facilitate the functions of communication and automatic information processing through electronic means. The ICT service can be defined broadly as Communications services (*comprising of postal and courier services and telecommunication services*) and Computer and Information Services (*comprising of computer, information and news agency services*).

Communication services form one of the twelve major categories in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The current services classification used by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in its UN Service Trade Database is the Extended Balance of Payments Services classification (EBOPS). The BPM5 includes two ICT services categories in its 11 main

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<sup>8</sup> Definition and Scope of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Sector for the CARICOM Region, June 2010

<sup>9</sup> Refer to page 618, **Table 111 CLASSIFICATION OF MERCHANDISE TRADE IN ICT GOODS** (Based on HS 2007 with correlations to HS 2002 and SITC Rev 4 and Rev 3) for a complete list of all codes used in the compilation of the data.

<sup>10</sup> Definition and Scope of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Sector for the CARICOM Region, June 2010. Refer to page 588, **TABLE 1 Detailed list of activities based on ISIC Rev 4**

standard services components. These are: communication services and computer and information services.

### **Employment in the ICT Sector<sup>11</sup>**

Employment in the ICT sector refers to those occupations which provide the required skills to users of ICT products and services such as Teaching professionals and Information and communications technology professionals, as well as those skills required for the production of goods and services of ICT such as Electro-technology engineers; Physical and engineering science technicians; Information and communication technicians and Electrical and electronic trades workers. These skills also function at various levels within an organisation such as executive, managerial, professional, administrative and technical levels as well as at the level of a sales worker.

### **Telecommunications Sector Revenue<sup>12</sup>**

This is the total telecommunications service earnings revenue earned during the financial year under review and includes revenue collected from the following: mobile communication charges; leased line charges; packet-switched data communications network charges; telephone connection charges; telephone subscription charges; local, national and international calls and should exclude revenues from non-telecommunications services. Revenue should not include monies received in respect of revenue earned during previous financial years, neither does it include monies received by way of loans from governments, or other external investors, nor monies received from repayable subscribers' contributions or deposits.

### **Telecommunications Sector Investment<sup>13</sup>**

The term investment means the expenditure associated with acquiring the ownership of property (including intellectual and non-tangible property such as computer software) and plant. These include expenditure on initial installations and on additions to existing installations where the usage is expected to be over an extended period of time. Also referred to as *capital expenditure*.

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<sup>11</sup> Refer to page 613, **TABLE 11 Detailed list of activities based on ISCO 08**

<sup>12</sup> International Telecommunications Union, ICT Data and Statistics, <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/publications/world/material/handbook.html#c69>

<sup>13</sup> *ibid*

## GENERAL NOTES

### Sources of data

1. Data on ICT Statistics and Indicators were sourced mainly from the **ITU World Telecommunication/ ICT Indicators database**<sup>14</sup> as well as from various surveys administered by the National Telecommunication Regulatory Commissions (*NTRCs*) and National Statistical Offices (*NSOs*) in the region as listed in the table below. A detailed list of sources is also provided in *Annex IV (page 567-571)*.
2. Data on the proportion of households having access to selected ICT electronic devices was sourced mainly from the **2000 and 2010 Rounds of Censuses**<sup>15</sup> where available except where otherwise indicated.
3. The data on Trade in ICT goods were sourced from the **CARICOM Regional Trade Information System (TRADSYS)** except where otherwise stated.
4. All data on Trade in ICT services refers to *Telecommunications* and *Computer and Information Services* and were sourced from the *Extended Balance of Payments (EBOPS) database* at the CARICOM Secretariat except where otherwise stated.
5. All data on the Production of ICT services refers to *“Post and Telecommunication Services”* taken from the *“Value-Added by Sector”* tables of the country’s National Accounts.
6. Other data sources<sup>16</sup> used in the report are indicated below:

Country	Source
Anguilla	Anguilla Public Utilities Commission, 2005 annual report Anguilla Statistical Department
Antigua and Barbuda	National ICT Household Survey, 2008
The Bahamas	Labour Force Survey
Belize	Belize Poverty Assessment Survey, 2002
Bermuda	Bermuda Telephone Company National Statistical Office Technology Benchmark Survey
British Virgin Islands	Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
Grenada	Core Welfare Indicators Survey, 2005
Jamaica	Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions, 2010 Office of Utilities Regulation,
Montserrat	LIME (Landline, Internet, Mobile and Entertainment), Jamaica
Trinidad and Tobago	Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
Dominica; Grenada; St. Kitts & Nevis; Saint Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Eastern Caribbean Telecommunication Authority

<sup>14</sup> A detailed list of sources is provided in *ANNEX III, page 574 TABLE III*.

<sup>15</sup> Data sourced from the Census is indicated in the respective country’s table by a *“C”*

<sup>16</sup> Other sources used in the report are indicated under the respective tables. A matrix of all sources is provided on *page 567 ANNEX IV TABLE I*

**Computations based on data compiled from ITU**

7. Population totals used in the calculation of the rates were derived using the data provided by ITU.
8. Indicators at the levels of CARICOM, CSME, MDCs, LDCs, OECS and Associate Members were computed by the CARICOM Secretariat using the aggregated totals for the number of telephone lines, subscriptions and the number of internet users for each level and expressing the totals as a percentage of the total population.
9. The GDP used in the calculation of ratios refer to GDP at Current Market Prices of the respective Member States and Associate Members.
10. The currency used is the United States (US) Dollar.



## **METHOD OF COMPUTATION**

The indicators at the level of the Caribbean Community, CSME, MDCs, LDCs, OECS and Associate Members were calculated by adding (depending on the indicator and according to their economic bloc) the number of telephone lines, subscriptions or users for each country and expressing the total derived as a percentage of the total population of the countries that comprise that bloc.

### ***Computation of Population Data used in Computing ITU Indicators***

- i. The purpose of calculating the population data was to obtain the population base used by the ITU to compare with the data submitted by countries in the CARICOM Secretariat's population data base. As an example, the Population data for each country was "back-calculated" by dividing the number of telephone lines by the number of telephone lines per 100 inhabitants and multiplying by 100.

$$\text{Population country (a)} = \frac{\text{No. of telephone lines or subscriptions}}{\text{No. of telephone lines or subscriptions per 100 inhabitants}} * 100$$

The same method is used for the other ICT categories mobile cellular; internet; fixed internet or fixed (wired) broadband subscriptions.

- ii. Appendix 11 compares the population data received from the Member States with the data used by ITU in the calculation of the indicators as derived in (i) above.

### ***Annual percentage change all ICT categories***

The percentage change between 2008 -2009 was calculated as follows:

$$\% \text{ change } 09 - 08 = \frac{\text{Value } 09 - \text{Value } 08}{\text{Value } 08} * 100$$

***N.B. This data was computed based on the data sourced from ITU World Telecommunication/ ICT Indicators database.***

***Annual Average Rate of Growth 2000-2012<sup>18</sup>***

The annual average rate of growth between 2000-2012 was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Annual average rate of growth} = \sqrt[n]{N_2/N_1} - 1$$

*n* is the number of years in the period

*N*<sub>2</sub> is the value (number of subscriptions, imports, etc) in the latest year of the period.

*N*<sub>1</sub> is the value (number of subscriptions, imports, etc) in the first year of the period.

***N.B. This data was computed based on the data sourced from ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database.***

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<sup>18</sup> [http://www.igetit.net/newsletters/Y06\\_08/CalculateGrowth.aspx](http://www.igetit.net/newsletters/Y06_08/CalculateGrowth.aspx)

## ABOUT THE DATA

### Approach to Presenting the Data

The report is divided into six sections and provides selected data measuring the ICT “*Infrastructure and Access*”; the “*Quality*” of the Internet and its “*Usage*” as well as the Economic contribution of ICT for the period 2000-2012 at the level of the *Caribbean Community (Section 1 & 2)*, the *CARICOM Member States (Section III)* and the *Associate Members (Section IV)*. Each section provides highlights of the data presented in the tables. Throughout the report there are two sets of tables appearing in each of the sections and sub-sections:

1. **Selected ICT Statistics and Indicators:** these tables are intended to show both the change over time and the rate of this change amongst subscribers to fixed telephone lines, mobile cellular; fixed broadband; fixed-internet and users of the internet. Also included are aggregates of the Trade in ICT goods and services at the level of the Caribbean Community as well as the contribution of selected ICT economic indicators to GDP.
2. **Economic Contribution of ICT:** these tables provide data on the Trade in ICT goods and services as well as the contribution of selected ICT economic indicators to GDP.

### *Section 1*

**Tables 1.1.1 – 1.2.1** provides data aggregated at the level of the *Caribbean Community*.

### *Section II*

**Tables 2.1.1 – 2.1.5** are intended to provide a summary and snapshot of the core ICT indicators of the Caribbean Community disaggregated by country allowing for the data to be compared both at the country level and at the level of Caribbean Community, CARICOM, CSME, MDCs, LDCs, OECS and the Associate Members. The summary tables also identify where the current data gaps are with respect to each country and area.

### *Section III & IV*

The tables in these sections (*Section III: 3.1.1.1 – 3.15.2.1*) and (*Section IV: 4.1.1.1 - 4.5.2.1*) present selected core ICT statistics and indicators available for each Member State and Associate Member respectively. Data highlights are included for each country as well as data from the *2000* and *2010 Round of Census* on the proportion of households having access to a **television; fixed line telephone; mobile cellular phone; internet access; computer** and **electricity** from

those countries who had this data available. The tables in these sections show the trends in the data over the period 2000-2012 and where the data gaps occur.

### **Section V**

This section attempts to match the Caribbean Community's performance as a region as it relates to its ICT infrastructure and use of the internet against that of other regions in the world over the period 2006-2012. It also compares the rate of penetration for selected ICT Indicators with that of other regions globally.

### **Appendices**

This section provides supporting data to explain some of the possible limitations of the data. It also includes documentation of a detailed list of sources used by ITU and the international classifications listing all the ICT related activities based upon the ISIC Rev 4 and ISCO 08 as well as a list of all codes used in the HS 2007 version of the CET.

## **DATA AVAILABILITY**

Data were received from **6 countries**: The Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and the Cayman Islands. Of these countries, only **Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia** and the **Cayman Islands** were able to provide data on most of the indicators on ICT access and use by households from the 2010 Census.

### **Production of ICT services**

Data is available for **10 countries**<sup>21/</sup> for the period 2000-2012 for **Post and Telecommunications**. Guyana has data for the period 2007-2012. The other countries Barbados (2000-2012); Guyana (2000-2006); Suriname (2006-2012) and Trinidad and Tobago only have data available at the aggregate broad group level "**Transportation, Storage and Communication**". **NB.** *Both Bahamas and Cayman Islands classify their economic activities using the ISIC Rev4.*

### **Trade in ICT services**

Data on International Trade in Services are currently available at the level of the EBOPS 13 Member States and 2 Associate Members have data on **Telecommunications, Computer and Information Services** at the intermediate levels of aggregation based on the EBOPS. In the latest

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<sup>21</sup> The countries are the Bahamas, Jamaica, Belize, and all OECS Member States. Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago have data for 2000-2005 and 2000-2006 respectively.

international standard, the Manual of International Trade in Services 2010 (MSITS 2010) the category Telecommunications, Computer and Information services reflects trade in ICT-related services. Disaggregation of this category is not available for most countries.

The other countries who have submitted data using the EBOPS only have high-level aggregated data available. Guyana does not yet use the EBOPS. ICT services are reported by using the following categories:

- **Computer and Information Services**

Data is available for 2000-2011 for Barbados, Jamaica and the OECS; Guyana 2000-2005 and Trinidad and Tobago 2006- 2009; 2011.

- **Communications**

Data available for all countries for 2000-2011 except for Guyana and Jamaica (2006 - 2011) and Suriname (2000 - 2011).

## **DATA COVERAGE AND QUALITY**

Issues of coverage are likely to emerge as the data with the supporting notes, concepts and definitions, documentation of sources, method of computation and international classifications are examined in closer detail. These issues have implications for the accuracy and quality of the data that are presented. While international accepted concepts and definitions are readily available, in some countries there is a lack of available documentation regarding the metadata in particular how the rates are computed. This scenario has implications for the harmonization and comparability of the data.

### **Internet users**

Much more attention needs to be paid to the sources of data on internet users to determine those countries who have used a Census or survey as opposed to those who have provided estimates based on using the number of internet subscriptions as a proxy measure to which a multiplier is applied. Both approaches can lead to varying issues of harmonization. In the Census and survey approach, the question is only asked of persons over a certain age usually 15 years in some countries, though the age threshold could vary in other countries. In the latter approach the issue of whether the data is comparable amongst those countries using this methodology given that the multiplier used may differ from country to country. Further the fact that the number of

subscribers used in most countries as a proxy for the minimum number of users presupposes that all subscribers do use the internet.

### **Production of ICT Services**

While the report attempts to measure the economic contribution of the ICT sector, the data available coupled with the existing classifications used in the region do not allow for a more accurate measure of the sector since based on the metadata defining the ICT sector, most of the economic activities involved in the production of ICT goods are not captured.

In this regard, efforts are in place in the Region to assist countries in implementing the 2008 SNA for the production of National Accounts. These efforts have been supported by regional workshops convened by the CARICOM Secretariat and supported by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). The European Union through the Ninth European Development Fund (EDF) with the support of Eurostat has provided support to the implementation of 2008 SNA in CARICOM. Further support is expected under the Tenth EDF.

The Secretariat would continue to compile data on ICT from all available sources and countries are encouraged to submit data that may be available at the national level including from special surveys that may be undertaken as well as to support the updating of the economic contribution of the ICT Sector. Data on employment in ICT Occupations and Industries will also be addressed.

### **ISSUES SURROUNDING DATA COMPILATION-Limitations and Challenges in the data**

In the compilation of the data for this report, some limitations to the data surfaced. These are as follows:

- (a) The population data<sup>22</sup> used by ITU in the calculation of the rates differs from the country's data.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Population data was sourced mainly from the United Nations Population Department (UNPD) database. The overall impact of using the respective country's population data would result a decrease in the rates for 11 countries<sup>22</sup> and an increase in rates for the remaining countries ***NB. A higher population figure would deflate the respective penetration rates. A comparison of the population data used by ITU in the computing of the rates with the population data of the Member States is shown in ANNEX 11.***

<sup>23</sup> **Jamaica (2002-2011)**, Suriname, **Trinidad and Tobago**, **Haiti**, Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Bermuda and Cayman Islands.

- (b) The method of computation used in deriving the number of internet users<sup>26</sup> seemed to have been equated to the number of internet subscriptions.<sup>27</sup>
- (c) Though countries use different versions of the EBOPS based on the MSITS 2002 and MSITS 2010, the data published is only at the aggregated level and therefore comparable.
- (d) The limitations of the classification systems currently used and the data currently available (under the recommended classifications) for the capture and measurement of most (if not all of) the economic activities involved in the production of ICT goods and services. These limitations relate specifically to **the contribution of the ICT sector to GDP** where two classification systems are used:
- a. an Industry-based definition of the ICT sector for the measurement of the production of goods and services based on International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC Rev3) used by most countries rather than the recommended ISIC Rev4<sup>28</sup> which has a section on “***Information and Communication***”; and a product-based definition of the ICT sector based on the Central Product Classification (CPC) ver.2 to classify the outputs (products) produced as a result of the economic activities listed in the ISIC.
  - b. **the measurement of employment in the ICT sector** where the recommended classification systems are the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO -08) and ISIC Rev 4<sup>29</sup> to report on ICT related occupations and economic activities respectively.
  - c. **ICT services based on Extended Balance of Payments (EBOPS).**<sup>30</sup>
  - d. While it is recognized that most countries now use the EBOPS, significant data gaps still exist at the more detail levels for some countries and only aggregated data is available at the broad groupings.
  - e. In compiling the data on ICT imports based on the HS 2007, it was observed that some of the commodities were included in more than one of the broad groupings resulting in duplicates. The list was subsequently amended and the revised list circulated to countries.

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<sup>26</sup>Refer to documentation on metadata page xlii

<sup>27</sup> Refer to documentation on metadata page xli

<sup>28</sup> The Bahamas and Cayman Islands use the ISIC Rev4

<sup>29</sup> Saint Lucia use the ISIC Rev 4 for classifying their employment data.

<sup>30</sup> Refer to Data Availability Matrix in Annex 111 Table 111 page 566.

