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UK Telecoms Statistics

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Telecommunications

Contents

- Background
 - UK regulatory and legislative environment
- Oftel's market information
 - collection and publication
- Other Oftel statistics
- Links
 - National Statistical Institute
 - International bodies
- Meeting Themes

Oftel Office of
Telecommunications

UK regulatory framework for telecoms data collection

- Telecommunications Act 1984
 - Director's obligation to review activities connected with telecommunications
- Formal powers to collect data for specific competition purposes
 - licence conditions, Competition Act
- But regular data also provided on a voluntary basis

Benefits of voluntary process

- Regular data collection improves accuracy, consistency and timeliness of policy decisions
- Irregular requests are disruptive to operators
 - more likely to lead to duplication and additional burden on industry
- Data requirements can be better tailored to operators' own management systems
- Complements other regular data sources
 - e.g. consumer research, price monitoring

Changes to UK regulatory framework

- New EU Directives
 - market analysis as a pre-condition for sector specific regulation
- New Office for Communications (OFCOM)
 - merger of OfTel with UK television, radio, spectrum regulators
- Will widen scope of data collection

Determining data requirements

- Key driver is programme of market reviews
 - specific markets identified by EU
- 2002 review of data requirements
 - formal consultation with stakeholders
 - timing reflected growing market complexity and new legislative regime

Data collection process

- 3 Proforma agreed with contributing operators and service providers
 - Fixed
 - International (IDD & ISVR)
 - Mobile

www.oftel.gov.uk/publications/market_info/2002/forms.htm
- Quarterly collection from all fixed and mobile network operators and major service providers
 - re-inforced with wholesale information from network operators
- Data collected in Excel and stored in Access Database

Key data series - fixed

- Access volumes and revenues
 - PSTN, ISDN, DSL, leased lines
- Call volumes and revenues
 - geographic, non-geographic
 - voice, data
 - business, residential
 - retail, interconnect

Key data series - mobile

- Subscriber numbers
 - pre-pay and post-pay
- Call volumes and revenues
 - voice, data, SMS
 - inland, roaming
 - outgoing, terminating

Publication

- Mobile published within 3 months
- Fixed published within 4/5 months
 - more complicated, smaller operators under-resourced
- Benefits of publication
 - Transparency in decision making process
 - Improve stakeholders understanding of the market
 - Help investment decisions
 - Encourage entry

Other OfTel Statistics (1) - Consumer Market research

- Advantages
 - complementary demand side information
 - more flexible and timely
 - less restrictions on publication
- Disadvantages
 - less precise, sample error
 - more difficult to agree consistent international definitions

Other OfTel Statistics (2) - Price comparisons

- Industry revenue and volume data can be used to estimate price trends
- But need additional analysis to compare prices for particular consumer groups and facilitate international comparisons
- Basket approach
 - fixed, mobile, Internet (narrowband & broadband)
 - similar to OECD, T-Basket but includes more baskets and operators

Role of the statistical institute

- Structural statistics for NACE 64.2
 - collected under statute
- Aggregate statistics only
 - fixed, mobile, Internet not separately identified
- Confidentiality
 - cannot calculate market shares

ONS Telecoms Data (NACE 64.2)

- Short term data on turnover and employment
- Annual business data under Eurostat structural business regulations
- Household price data for retail price index
- Internet Service Provider activity

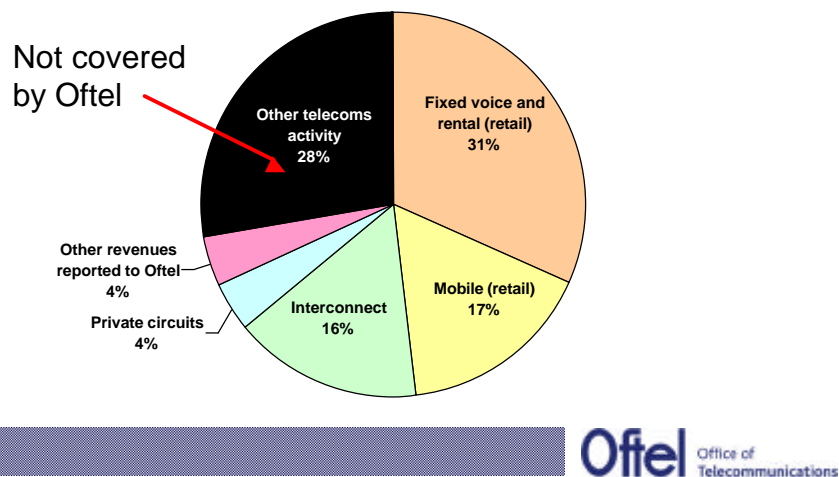
ONS telecoms outputs

- Corporate service price indicator (CSPI)
- GDP output measures
- Constant price input/output
- Index of Internet connectivity

ONS/OfTel links

- OfTel data used in ONS business telecoms price index
- OfTel survey data used in modeling mobile telecoms usage for RPI
- Reconciliation of ONS output and regulatory output measures
- Re-classification of NACE into more detailed telecoms categories

Difference between Ofstel and ONS estimates of UK telecoms industry turnover



Collaboration with international bodies

- ITU, Eurostat, OECD
- Ofstel data collection geared towards UK regulatory requirements
 - but data collected for key international indicators by default
- EU expansion and new regulatory regime should improve harmonisation of statistics at EU level

Other meeting 'themes'

- Mobile
 - clearly important area in telecoms so need data to ensure complete picture
 - but greater competition means less regulatory need
- Gender/Digital Divide
 - no formal role for Oftel
 - universal service implications
 - some collaboration with ONS/e-envoy

www.oftel.gov.uk/

publications/market_info/index.htm

- Market Information reports and proforma

publications/research/index.htm

- Consumer research reports and questionnaires
- Oftel price comparisons