

Telephone Statistics Survey - Annual

Status: Discontinued
Frequency: Annual
Survey number: 2722

Survey description

The Telephone Statistics Survey - Annual collected financial and operating data for the statistical measurement and analysis of the telecommunications industry; it initially only surveyed the wireline industry. The data collected were used by government for policy development, planning, and monitoring, and for allocation of transfer payments, by the private sector (carriers, investment dealers, consultants and industry associations) for industry performance measurement, market analysis and development, and by the aforementioned groups, international telecommunications organizations and the general public to better understand this sector's role in the social and economic fabric of Canada.

Data sources and methodology:

Survey population

The survey universe is partly based on the Business Register of Statistics Canada and regularly updated with information from telephone regulatory agencies and commissions as new establishments are formed or as old ones disappear or are amalgamated and absorbed by existing telephone systems.

Instrument design

The survey forms were designed in 1971, and updated in 1987, by Statistics Canada in consultation with Communications Canada and the telephone industry, represented at that time by the Telephone Association of Canada. The forms were based on accounting and engineering concepts in the industry.

Sampling

This survey is a census with a cross-sectional design.

Collection

Responding to this survey is voluntary. Data are collected directly from survey respondents.

The survey forms are mailed to respondents each January for information related to the previous year. In conducting the survey two forms are used to gather data. A detailed questionnaire is sent to the 14 larger telephone systems. Other smaller telephone systems are sent a two-page form. The purpose of the shorter form is to tailor the demand for statistics to the capabilities of the smaller telephone systems. Instructions to respondents are continually reviewed and ambiguities are clarified in consultation with the telephone industry.

Error detection

When the returns are received at Statistics Canada the data are edited.

Imputation

Since non-response is limited to very small telephone companies which represent an insignificant part of the telephone industry, no estimate is made for non-response. Imputations are made, as required, for missing data on incomplete forms.

Estimation

Not applicable.

Quality evaluation

Statistics Canada does not control the sources of data. The data supplied by the telephone systems relating to their finances and operating systems are considered to be of good accounting quality and are not subject to audit by Statistics Canada. No consolidation of the manufacturing activity of Northern Telecom Limited is made with the telephone services of Bell Canada. On the other hand, no provisions have been made to offset the effects of any transactions between associated or subsidiary companies with parent companies engaged in the telephone industry. This applies principally to Bell Canada and the British Columbia Telephone Company who own or operate subsidiary or associated companies in the industry. The annual telephone report is essentially a statement of total telephone activity in Canada without duplication or understatement.

Where inconsistencies in survey data are observed, these are brought to the attention of the reader. As this is a census, the main concerns are with response error and processing errors. Response errors are controlled by checking the returns and comparing them with previous submissions for consistency, checking the returns for conformity with instructions and referring questionable data to the respondent for clarification. Processing errors are controlled by carefully auditing the survey forms, compiling the edited returns and checking the results for consistency with other sources of information such as the monthly survey (SDDS ID 2721) and the previous years' surveys.

Disclosure control

Statistics Canada is prohibited by law from releasing any data which would divulge information obtained under the Statistics Act that relates to any identifiable person, business or organization without the prior knowledge or the consent in writing of that person, business or organization. Various confidentiality rules are applied to all data that are released or published to prevent the publication or disclosure of any information deemed confidential. If necessary, data are suppressed to prevent direct or residual disclosure of identifiable data.

Data for a specific industry or variable may be suppressed (along with that of a second industry or variable) if the number of enterprises in the population is too low.

Revisions and seasonal adjustments

Data are revised if new information is received from respondent or if errors are found during analysis.