

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0060)

Head: (26) Census and Statistics Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (5) Price/Industry/Service Statistics
Controlling Officer: Commissioner for Census and Statistics (Leo YU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question:

In the section "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026–27", it is mentioned that the Census and Statistics Department will review the compilation framework of statistics relating to digital economy. Upon checking the records, this review work has been listed as a matter requiring special attention in both the 2024-25 and 2025-26 Budgets. Please inform the Council:

- (1) As this review work has been ongoing for three consecutive years, what is the specific progress of the review work currently and what are the phased achievements?
- (2) During the review process over the past two years, what specific measurement indicators have been added or improved by the Department in the digital economy statistical framework?
- (3) Will a comprehensive statistical report specifically targeting the current state of development of Hong Kong's digital economy be published in the coming year?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

To measure the digital economy and allow its international comparability, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has developed a flexible framework for measuring the digital economy for reference across economies, anchoring the information and communication technology (ICT) sector as the core basis with further consideration on industries with higher level of digitalisation. This framework does not provide a clear-cut coverage and measurement approach of digital economy, and offers flexible boundaries for economic activities, allowing individual economies to develop their own indicators based on policy needs, analytical objectives, and data availability. Based on this framework, the Census and Statistics Department (C&SD) has continued to review the coverage and approaches of measuring digital economy, and consider compiling relevant figures and indicators based on local circumstances.

To gauge Hong Kong's development in promoting the digital economy and as an information society, C&SD has compiled and published various relevant statistical indicators, including the contribution of ICT sector to Gross Domestic Product, ICT supply, ICT products, ICT infrastructure, and the use of ICT by business firms, households/individuals, and the Government, etc., in the annual digest "Hong Kong as an Information Society" (<https://www.censtatd.gov.hk/en/EIndexbySubject.html?scode=590&pcode=B1110006>), which has been made available on C&SD's website for perusal by the public.

C&SD will continue to keep abreast of the latest international guidelines and market development, maintain communication and collaboration with various stakeholders, and continuously review the approaches in measuring the digital economy and refine the content of "Hong Kong as an Information Society" with a view to providing more comprehensive, reliable and relevant statistical data that meet the needs of users.

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