



## EUROSTAT QUALITY PROFILE

<b>Indicator (definition)</b>	<b>Price of telecommunications: local calls, national calls, calls to the United States</b>
<b>Eurostat Unit</b>	F-6: Information Society and Tourism Statistics
<b>Other Commission DGs</b>	DG INFSO
<b>European Statistical System Working Group (WG)</b>	WG on Information Society Statistics
<b>Date</b>	2 May 2007

**1. Overall assessment of accuracy and comparability** (Description of quality grades under the following link: [http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/structind/library?l=/general\\_information/quality\\_profiles/annex\\_enpdf/EN\\_1.0\\_&a=d](http://circa.europa.eu/Members/irc/dsis/structind/library?l=/general_information/quality_profiles/annex_enpdf/EN_1.0_&a=d))

A     B     C     Indicator to be developed

Data is collected from reliable sources applying high standards with regard to the methodology. Accuracy is hampered as the indicator presents a very narrow scope for one service only. However, only by choosing this kind of indicator, it is possible to ensure comparability across countries.

### 2. Objective and relevance of the indicator:

The indicator shows data on price level and evolution in the telecommunications fixed market (in Euro per 10 min call for local, national and international calls –calls to the US).

This indicator relates to the market structure in network industries and wants to measure the degree to which liberalisation has increased competition in the network industries. The efficiency of the economic reform process can best be measured by tracking price levels in network industries such as telecommunications. The indicator chosen measures the extent to which opening of the market has driven prices down due to increased competition.

The economic reform indicators measure progress in achieving more efficient and better functioning markets. Liberalisation of the telecommunications market has led to increased competition and productivity, resulting in lower prices and greater access to the Internet and other communication services. The telecommunications sector also plays a particularly important role in the economy because its services are increasingly important inputs into the production processes of other sectors, especially in the knowledge economy.

### Restriction of the indicator's relevance and other characteristics which may lead to restrictions in using it in monitoring and reporting

### 3. Data availability: details

(t<sub>1</sub>: earliest reference year available; t<sub>2</sub>: latest reference year available in May 2007)

	Member States	Candidate and Acceding Countries	US and Japan	EEA-EFTA <sup>1</sup>
t <sub>1</sub>	1997 – EU-15	-	1997	1997- NO
t <sub>2</sub>	2005 - EU-25 (no data for LU and MT on national calls, no data for BG and RO)	-	2005	2005 - NO

### 4. Overall accuracy

<sup>1</sup> While being a member of the EEA, Liechtenstein has complete or partial exemptions from several statistical requirements due to its size. Thus, Liechtenstein is excluded from this overview as most of the data for structural indicators are missing.

High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data on price level in telecommunications (local, national and with US) are collected by Teligen Ltd. once a year in August. The data is based on the tariff information. National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) also verify accuracy of the data. Normal tariffs without special rates are used. Accuracy is hampered as only the incumbent operator (the enterprise active on the market just before liberalisation) is usually covered, although usually the incumbent operator covers a high market share and is assumed to reflect the general developments. However, only by choosing this kind of indicator it is possible to ensure comparability between countries. If broader indicators are used, such as the OECD basket based on artificial profiles, or the price charged by new entrants in every MS, given the different status of liberalisation, the level of comparability across countries is strongly reduced.
Restricted (sources, errors, methodology, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#### 5. Comparability across countries

High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data is fully comparable. Comparability is ensured by the application of the same method to all countries by one data compiler. OECD methodology is applied. NRAs verify the raw data before the OECD database is produced.
Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#### 6. Comparability over time

High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data is fully comparable. Comparability is ensured by the application of the same methodology over years. OECD methodology is applied. NRAs verify the raw data, including previous series, before the OECD database is produced.
Restricted	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#### 7. Development perspective for improving the quality of this indicator (including as far as possible an indication of the burden on Member States and respondents.)

It would be useful to add information on Broadband prices, Mobile call tariffs and VoIP calls, Fixed line rental as well as benchmarking individual prices, it would be very helpful to have data on the average consumer spend per month on telecoms services and benchmarked as a % of total household spend.

#### 8. Contribution to the coherence of the set/potential to qualify for an integrated policy analysis

**Relevant European legislation:** Directive 2002/21/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 March 2002 - on a common regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (Framework Directive)

[Top of the page](#)