

**IMF Working Paper**  
Statistics Department

**Experimental Indicators of Digital Industries in Select Countries: Definitions, Methods, and Results**  
**Prepared by Brent Moulton, James Tebrake, and Martha Tovar**

Authorized for distribution by Mr. Tebrake  
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**ABSTRACT:** The pervasive impact of digitalization on the economy and the lack of an agreed definition makes it challenging to obtain estimates of the digital economy. Nowadays, some countries have estimated the value of the digital economy by identifying digital products or industries as defined in the international classifications. This study presents the estimates of digital industries for five countries that participated in an experimental exercise, applying a simplified standard approach recommended by the international agencies as part of the national accounts framework and using publicly available and limited secondary information. The results show that the structure and evolution of digital industries vary across countries and over time and that the estimates depend significantly on the underlying data sources. The conclusions of this exercise reveal the need to upgrade the data sources to better identify the impact of digitalization and contribute to policy-making on the economic benefits of digitalization.

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WORKING PAPERS

# **Experimental Indicators of Digital Industries in Select Countries**

Definitions, Methods, and Results

Prepared by Brent Moulton, James Tebrake, and Martha Tovar<sup>1</sup>

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## Glossary

BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
CPC 2.1	Central Product Classification System
GVA	Gross Value Added
ICT	Information and communication technology
INEGI	Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (National Statistical Office of Mexico)
ISIC Rev. 4	International Standard Industrial Classification System Rev. 4
ISWGNA	Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts
NESDC	National Economic Social Development Council of Thailand
NSO	National Statistical Offices
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
SUT	Supply and Use Tables