

# Key enablers for 5G adoption by Asia-Pacific countries



Asia Pacific region

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# Foreword



I am delighted to present this new report on key enablers for IMT-2020 (5G) adoption by ITU Member States in the Asia and the Pacific region.

For many years, ITU has been collecting information and communication technology (ICT) indicators to provide a deeper understanding of the state of digital connectivity globally. Through this work, we have launched a number of innovative flagship reports that set out the current state of ICTs and champion the policy and regulatory enablers that can provide meaningful connectivity to the unconnected.

As of 2023, most recent ITU statistics estimate that 67.4 per cent of individuals are using the Internet globally. However, while over 90 per cent of the world's population is covered by at least LTE/WiMAX, only 38.4 per cent are covered by at least 5G. There is a need to understand how to advance 5G deployment globally.

Therefore, this report investigates the current status in Member States in the Asia and the Pacific region of key 5G policy and regulatory enablers, infrastructure readiness, national broadband strategies, regulatory frameworks, spectrum availability and allocation, and explores how they relate to the implementation and adoption of 5G technology.

This exploratory study of potential correlations, and given the recent data linked to 5G, reflects a need for deeper analysis through longer time-series data to expand our understanding of these initial findings, and I hope that this study will serve as a basis for further discussion of the key socioeconomic policy and regulatory enablers that can advance 5G throughout Asia and the Pacific and elsewhere.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava'.

**Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**

Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau  
International Telecommunication Union

# Abbreviations

AFG	Afghanistan
APAC	Asia and the Pacific
AUS	Australia
BGD	People's Republic of Bangladesh
BoP	balance of payments
BRN	Brunei Darussalam
BTN	Kingdom of Bhutan
CHN	People's Republic of China
CPIA	country policy and institutional assessment
FJI	Republic of Fiji
GDP	gross domestic product
GNI	gross national income
ICT	information and communication technology
IDN	Republic of Indonesia
IMT	International Mobile Telecommunications
IND	Republic of India
IoT	Internet of Things
IRN	Islamic Republic of Iran
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ITU-D	ITU Development Sector
ITU-R	ITU Radiocommunication Sector
ITU-T	ITU Standardization Sector
JPN	Japan
KHM	Kingdom of Cambodia
KOR	Republic of Korea
LAO P.D.R.	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LKA	Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
MDV	Republic of Maldives

(continued)

MIMO	multiple-input multiple-output
MMR	Union of Myanmar
MNG	Mongolia
MYS	Malaysia
NPL	Republic of Nepal
NZL	New Zealand
PAK	Islamic Republic of Pakistan
PHL	Republic of the Philippines
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PPP	purchasing power parity
QoS	quality of service
SGP	Republic of Singapore
SLB	Solomon Islands
THA	Thailand
TLD	top-level domains
TLS	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste
TON	Kingdom of Tonga
VAT	Value-added tax
VNM	Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
VUT	Republic of Vanuatu
WDI	World Development Indicators
WGI	Worldwide Governance Indicators
WSM	Independent State of Samoa

## 1 Introduction

5G, the new generation of mobile technology, is characterized by ultra-fast speeds, low latency and excellent reliability. Estimations vary, but 5G is expected to enable USD 13.2 trillion of global economic output by 2035 and support over 22 million jobs (Huawei Technologies Co. 2020; GSMA 2024). The rapid advancement of telecommunication technology has brought about transformative changes in various sectors, and the advent of 5G is poised to revolutionize connectivity on an unprecedented scale globally and in the Asia-Pacific region (see Australian Communications and Media Authority 2016; Liu et al. 2017; ITU 2018a and 2018b; Andonian, Karlsson and Nonaka 2018; Hasan 2019; Sawad, Nilavalan and Al-Raweshidy 2020; Clari, Fadil and Pourcher 2020; Iqbal et al. 2021; Shayea et al. 2021; Hounghbonon, Rossotto and Strusani 2021; Hong, Ryu and Lee 2021; Koratagere Anantha Kumar et al. 2021; ASEAN 2022; Olofsgård and Göransson 2022; ABI Research 2023; ITU-D 2023). With key industries such as manufacturing, health care, transportation, utilities, retail sales, financial services and the public sector standing to benefit the most from the new technology for digital transformation, Industry 4.0 and Enterprise 4.0 with 5G networks will emerge as the foundation not only for advanced communication services but also for socio-economic transformation and development as a whole.

The characteristics commonly associated with 5G include the following:

- (a) Increased bandwidth and data rates: 5G offers significantly higher bandwidth and data rates compared to previous generations of mobile networks. This enables faster and ultra-reliable connections, allowing for a wide range of new applications and services that support bandwidth-intensive applications such as 4K/8K video streaming, virtual reality and immersive gaming.
- (b) Low latency: 5G networks aim to provide ultra-low latency, which is essential for applications that require real-time responsiveness, such as autonomous vehicles, remote surgery and augmented reality. The reduced latency enhances user experience and enables new possibilities in various industries.
- (c) Massive device connectivity: 5G is designed to support a massive number of connected devices simultaneously. This capability is crucial for IoT, which allows a vast array of sensors, smart devices and machines to communicate seamlessly and efficiently.
- (d) Network slicing: Network slicing is a key feature of 5G that allows the network to be divided into multiple virtual networks, each tailored to specific requirements. It enables customized services for different industries and applications while optimizing resource allocation and network management.
- (e) Edge computing: 5G networks integrate with edge computing infrastructure, bringing computational power closer to the end-user devices. This proximity reduces latency and enables time-sensitive applications by processing data locally, rather than relying on distant cloud servers.
- (f) Network resilience and reliability: 5G networks are designed to be highly resilient and reliable, offering uninterrupted connectivity even in densely populated areas or high-demand situations. This resilience ensures the consistent service delivery that is critical for applications requiring constant connectivity.
- (g) Spectrum availability: The availability of suitable frequency bands and spectrum allocation is essential for deploying 5G networks. Governments and regulatory bodies play a crucial role in allocating and managing spectrum resources to enable 5G deployment.

With countries around the world preparing for the deployment of 5G networks, it is crucial to assess the enablers and factors influencing 5G implementation at the country level. In an early

comprehensive report on the opportunities and challenges of 5G, ITU (2018b) recommends that policy-makers and regulators adopt a measured, practical and collaborative approach to 5G-related issues and create an enabling environment for its development and adoption. The report identifies specific key issues and responses for regulators and policy-makers to consider as they formulate strategies to stimulate investment in 5G networks: investment case, spectrum management issues,<sup>1</sup> infrastructure-sharing, access costs, investment incentives and others. It recommends that regulators planning for 5G take account of issues such as streamlining small cell deployments, facilitating fibre backhaul, harmonizing and licensing spectrum, promoting infrastructure-sharing, supporting 5G pilots and trials, and ensuring digital inclusion and consumer protection. It also recommends that policy-makers and operators should consider deploying 5G networks where there is demand or a robust commercial case for doing so, and that policy-makers improve the availability and quality of 4G networks until the case for 5G networks becomes clearer and more compelling.

This report proposes a framework for a comprehensive study of 5G enablers for ITU Member States in the Asia and the Pacific region to enhance understanding of each individual country's readiness and preparedness for the next generation of wireless communication technology and to provide insights and suggestions for improvements needed for 5G mobile development and adoption. The report therefore considers the key aspects facilitating 5G deployment, such as infrastructure readiness, spectrum allocation, policy and regulatory frameworks, industry collaboration and research initiatives. It also identifies the challenges and barriers that need to be addressed to ensure a smooth transition to 5G, including financial considerations, skill gaps, regulatory hurdles and public concerns. By understanding these challenges, stakeholders can develop strategies and recommendations to overcome obstacles and capitalize on the opportunities presented by 5G.

The findings and recommendations set out below aim to guide the efforts of policy-makers, regulators, industry players and other relevant stakeholders to foster an enabling environment for the successful deployment and utilization of 5G technology in their respective countries. Ultimately, the goal is to unlock the immense benefits of 5G, ranging from enhanced mobile broadband to transformative applications in sectors that include health care, transportation and industry, thereby contributing to national socio-economic development and competitiveness in the digital age.

## 1.1 Background information on 5G technology

In today's interconnected world, where the demand for high-speed and reliable connectivity continues to grow, the emergence of 5G technology represents a significant leap forward in wireless communication. 5G, short for fifth generation, is the latest generation of mobile network technology, succeeding its predecessor, 4G LTE. It offers exponentially faster data transmission speeds, lower latency, increased network capacity, energy efficiency, and the ability to connect a massive number of devices simultaneously.

Unlike previous generations of wireless networks, 5G is not just an incremental improvement; it introduces a paradigm shift in network architecture and capabilities. At its core, 5G utilizes advanced technologies such as large-bandwidth spectrum resources, massive multiple-input multiple-output (MIMO) and network slicing to deliver exceptional performance (Moozakis

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<sup>1</sup> A key aspect of 5G stand-alone or full 5G is its relevance for economic verticals, hence the aspect of spectrum for public networks, spectrum for private networks, etc.

and Gittlen 2023). One of the key features of 5G is its remarkable speed. With peak download speeds projected to reach up to 20 Gbit/s, or up to 100-times faster than 4G LTE networks, 5G surpasses its predecessors by a significant margin. This ultra-fast connectivity enables seamless streaming of high-definition content, real-time cloud gaming and swift downloads of large files (Intel Corporation 2020). Moreover, 5G technology significantly reduces latency, the time it takes for data to travel between a source and a destination. With latency expected to be as low as 1 millisecond, 5G enables near-instantaneous communication, opening doors to applications that demand real-time responsiveness. Reduced latency will support new applications that leverage the power of 5G, IoT and artificial intelligence; industries such as autonomous vehicles, remote robotic surgery and industrial automation stand to benefit immensely from this ultra-low latency (McKinsey & Company 2021).

Another fundamental aspect of 5G is its ability to support a massive number of connected devices concurrently. This feature is critical for IoT, where billions of interconnected devices, sensors and machines require constant and reliable connectivity. With 5G, the infrastructure can handle the substantial increase in device density, paving the way for smart cities, smart homes and various IoT-driven innovations. According to Kim (2019), the 5G standard for massive IoT will support up to 1 million connected devices for every 0.38 square miles (roughly 1 square kilometre). When fully operational, 5G networks will have the capacity to connect 500 times more devices than 4G, laying the foundation for the future of massive IoT- a world with a million or more connected devices per square kilometre (Ericsson 2020).

Compared to previous generations, 5G is designed to minimize energy consumption while delivering superior performance and enabling energy-saving mechanisms that make it a sustainable and environmentally friendly technology, striking a balance between connectivity needs and energy efficiency.<sup>2</sup>

Furthermore, the benefits of 5G are not limited to mobile-broadband enhancements. The technology offers diverse use cases, including enhanced mobile services, mission-critical communications, massive IoT deployments, and network infrastructure support for emerging technologies such as virtual reality, augmented reality and artificial intelligence. As countries worldwide embrace its potential, 5G is expected to revolutionize industries, drive innovation and create new economic opportunities. From autonomous transportation systems to smart manufacturing, 5G technology will act as a catalyst for digital transformation, enabling faster data-driven decision-making, unlocking new business models and reshaping the way societies function.

Notwithstanding the enormous benefits of 5G, the technology does have some downsides, as highlighted by Cherukuri (2022), such as the need for significant infrastructure investment. The transition from 4G to 5G is not a simple upgrade; it requires a complete overhaul of existing infrastructure, which includes the deployment of new antennas and base stations, and the installation of high-speed fibre connections to these sites. The cost of this infrastructure development is substantial and can be a barrier to 5G roll-out, particularly in rural and remote areas where the return on investment may be lower. Overall, the higher costs associated with 5G could potentially be passed on to end-users, but that would act as a barrier to switching from 4G to 5G (Deloitte 2023). While 5G infrastructure requires upfront investment, it does promise

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<sup>2</sup> According to McKinsey & Company, the 5G new radio standard is more energy efficient per gigabyte than the 4G standards. See <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/technology-media-and-telecommunications/our-insights/the-case-for-committing-to-greener-telecom-networks>

a host of long-term benefits that can offset these initial costs, such as enhanced operational efficiency, the potential for new revenue streams from innovative services and technologies, and the likely reduction in technology costs as the industry matures, all of which enhance the future value of 5G. Further, advanced features of 5G, such as automation and artificial intelligence integration, can decrease maintenance costs, while improved network speed and communication can boost productivity across sectors.

It must also be borne in mind that 5G networks are not immune to security threats. In fact, the risks are amplified by the sheer volume of devices connected and the sensitive nature of the data they handle. Cybersecurity concerns range from data privacy and protection to potential threats to critical infrastructure.

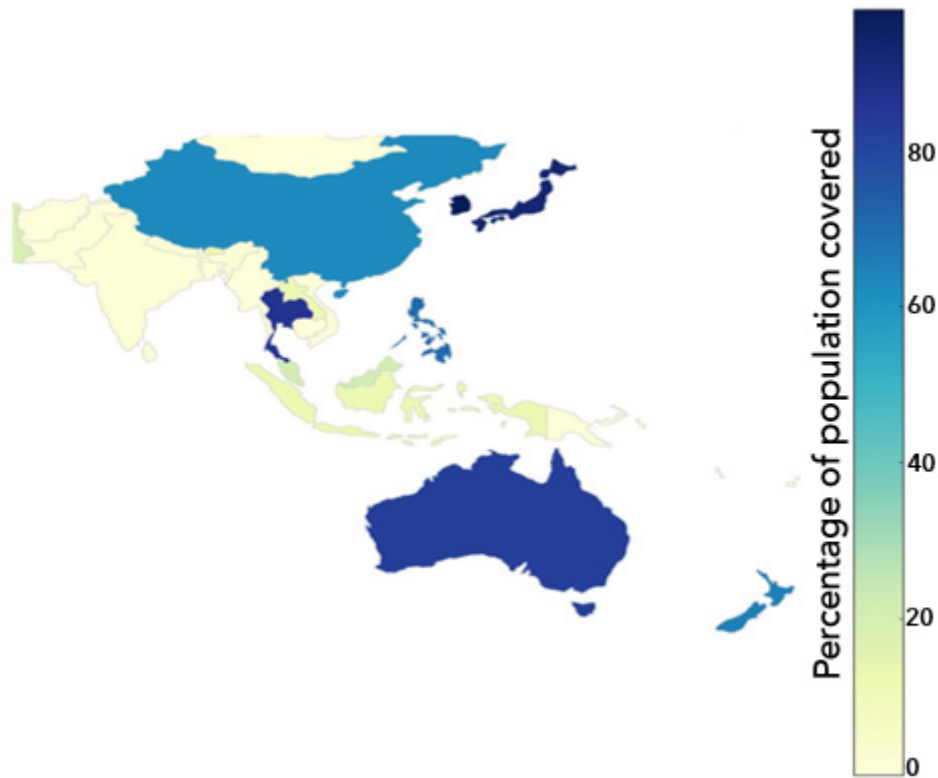
Furthermore, the risk that real gaps in skills and education will exacerbate the digital divide, and concerns about the health effects of radiofrequency radiation, potential interference with flight operations, device compatibility and battery drain on cellular devices, are important outstanding issues (Kimachia 2023). Be that as it may, while there are challenges to the deployment of 5G technology, they will likely be outweighed by the benefits in the long run.

In sum, 5G technology represents a transformative shift in wireless communication, delivering unprecedented speed, ultra-low latency, massive connectivity and energy efficiency. As countries adopt and deploy 5G networks, they open doors to a wide array of applications, revolutionizing industries and paving the way for a more connected and advanced digital future, which will potentially affect nearly all aspects of socio-economic life. Not all impacts are positive, however, and it is therefore important to carefully consider how to introduce 5G networks, mitigating the negative side effects and maximizing the benefits.

## 1.2 Current situation of 5G in the Asia and the Pacific region

The Asia and the Pacific region is home to a wide variety of network deployments and technologies (see GSMA 2021). While the majority of countries are beginning to invest in 5G networks (Figure 1), there is still a great deal of LTE investment, particularly in countries where regulators have not been clear with their spectrum release programme. In some countries where LTE roll-out has been slower, operators and policy-makers continue to carefully consider how to balance the need for increased LTE availability against the introduction of 5G networks.

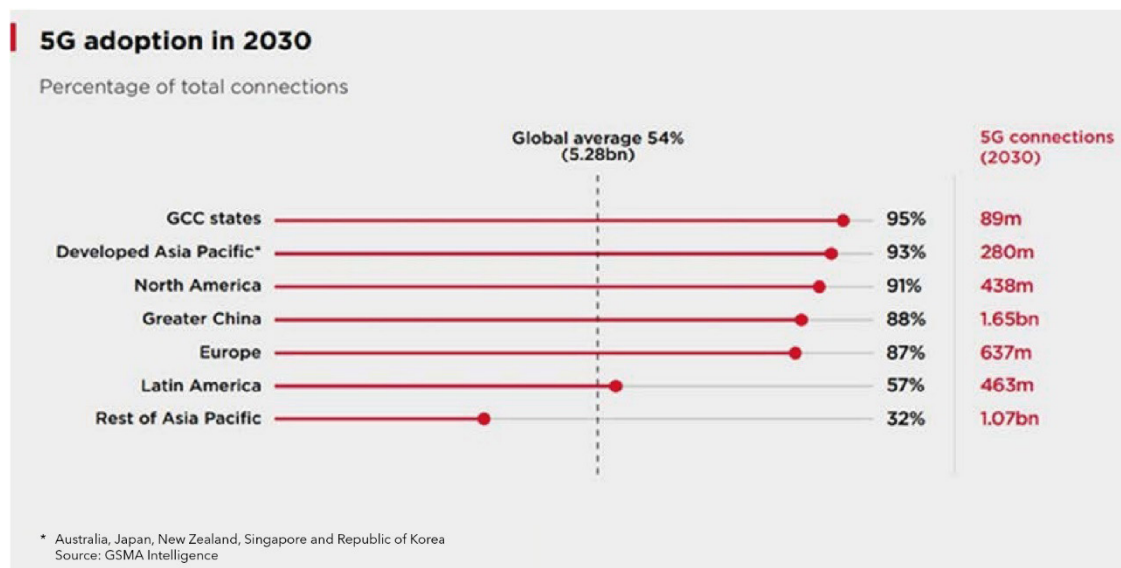
Figure 1: 5G population coverage, Asia and the Pacific region, 2022



Source: Created using data from ITU DataHub (<https://datahub.itu.int/>)

Note: The designations employed and presentation of material in this publication, including maps, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of ITU concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers or boundaries.

Figure 2: 5G adoption in 2030 worldwide, by region

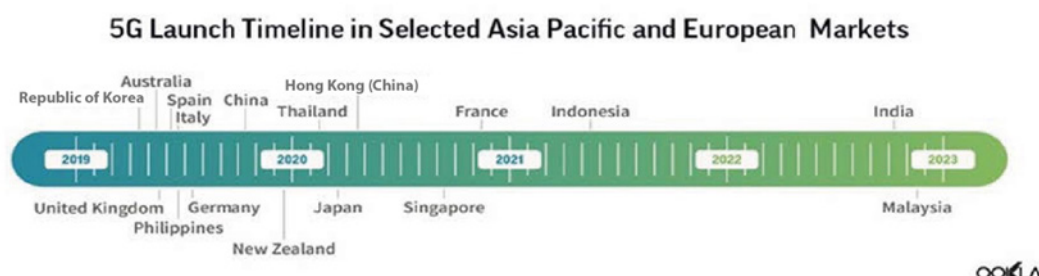


Source: GSMA 2023

Figure 2 illustrates how the Asia and the Pacific region differs in terms of 5G adoption.<sup>3</sup> By the end of 2023, it is expected that 5G adoption will hit the mass market in Australia (42%), China (45%), Japan (47%) and the Republic of Korea (53%), putting them on a par with global peers such as Germany (35%) and the United States of America (59%). Despite delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, 5G network deployment is progressing in many countries in the region. According to GSMA 2022a, although 4G will remain the dominant technology for the foreseeable future they note that “a second wave of 5G network rollouts has begun in Asia-Pacific”. The GSMA also reports that 5G coverage is set to accelerate across the region as the technology footprint expands. Currently, it is commercially available in 14 markets, with others, including India and Viet Nam, going live in the coming months (GSMA 2022b).

Advanced Asia-Pacific markets, including Australia, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, have led the way in rolling out 5G networks, with more countries in the region following suit. According to a recent report by Ookla (Johan 2023), these early adopters have surpassed major European markets in terms of 5G performance, thanks to factors such as early access to spectrum and government support. However, 5G availability varies across the region owing to factors such as population density, device affordability and pricing. The Republic of Korea was the first market in Asia and the Pacific region and in the world to deploy a nationwide 5G network, in April 2019, followed by Australia, the Philippines, China and New Zealand later that year. GSMA Intelligence (GSMA 2023b) predicts a second wave of 5G roll-outs in countries that include Indonesia, India, and Malaysia (Figure 3), making the region one of the world’s largest 5G markets.

Figure 3: Comparative timeline of 5G roll-outs



Source: Ookla (<https://www.ookla.com/articles/5g-asia-pacific-q3-2023> )

5G availability, defined as the percentage of users on 5G-capable devices that spend most of the time with access to 5G networks, also varies widely across the region. Factors such as access to low-band spectrum and affordability and availability of 5G devices influence each market reported 5G availability (Johan 2023). Analysis based on data from Speedtest Intelligence shows that Hong Kong (China) stands out as the only place analysed to have surpassed 40 per cent 5G availability, reaching 42.3 per cent in the first half of 2023. Despite Australia being 78 times larger than the Republic of Korea and one of the least densely populated countries, both countries reported similar 5G availability rates of 36.6 per cent, with a remarkable 5G smartphone penetration rate of more than 80 per cent.

<sup>3</sup> See Network World Asia (2022) for a country-by-country guide.


In general, regulators in Asia and the Pacific have been quick to allocate spectrum for 5G applications, and in many cases, operators have been able to secure substantial bandwidth in the key C-band. The GSMA reports that 5G spectrum assignments in some Asia-Pacific countries, with the exception of Indonesia, the Republic of Nepal, Pakistan, Viet Nam and small island developing States, had all been completed by mid-2023 (Johan 2023). Furthermore, 5G performance is closely tied to an operator spectrum allocation, with more C-band spectrum, especially when contiguous, leading to faster download speeds. The top cities for 5G performance in the region are Seoul and Kuala Lumpur, boasting median download speeds of 533.95 Mbit/s and 523.44 Mbit/s, respectively. However, 5G availability depends on various factors beyond low-band spectrum access.<sup>4</sup>

Figure 4: 5G spectrum awards in selected countries

**The 5G Pioneer Band Spectrum Awards Across Select Asia Pacific Countries**

	Low-Band (sub 1 GHz)	Mid-Band (1-6 GHz)	High-Band (>6 GHz)
Republic of Korea	—	3.6 GHz	28 GHz*
China	700 MHz 900 MHz	2.6 GHz 3.6 GHz 4.9 GHz	—
Singapore	—	2.1 GHz 3.5 GHz	28 GHz
Australia	700 MHz 850 MHz 900 MHz	3.6 GHz	26 GHz
Thailand	700 MHz	2.6 GHz	26 GHz
Philippines	700 MHz	3.3 GHz 3.5 GHz	—
Japan	—	3.6 GHz 3.7 GHz 4 GHz 4.5 GHz	28 GHz
Malaysia	700 MHz	3.5 GHz	28 GHz
Hong Kong (China)	700 MHz 850 MHz 900 MHz	1.8 GHz 2.3 GHz 2.5 GHz 2.6 GHz 3.5 GHz 4.9 GHz	—
India	700 MHz 900 MHz	1.8 GHz 2.1 GHz 2.5 GHz 3.3 GHz	26 GHz
New Zealand	—	3.5 GHz	—

\*canceled



Source: Ookla

The mid-band spectrum, the top choice for commercial 5G deployment because it balances 5G coverage and capacity, is the most widely awarded spectrum band in the region. In some markets, however, 5G deployment uses low-band (sub 1 GHz) frequencies, allowing for wider outdoor 5G coverage and better penetration inside buildings in urban and suburban areas, which may come at the expense of the median download speed.

<sup>4</sup> See Ookla Speedtest Intelligence at <https://www.ookla.com/speedtest-intelligence>.

The Asia and the Pacific region is experiencing a rise in the adoption of 5G fixed wireless access, with South-east Asia leading the way, as an alternative to traditional fixed broadband to improve connectivity and access to digital services. According to GSMA Intelligence, nearly three in five users who have either upgraded or plan to upgrade to 5G find the idea of using 5G for home broadband appealing. With fixed wireless access becoming one of the primary 5G use cases for operators, there is some optimism regarding opportunities to increase revenue and monetize network investments and wireless spectrum (GSMA 2022c).

### 1.3 Scope

This report covers ITU Member States in the Asia and the Pacific region, including Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kiribati, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, the Republic of Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam.<sup>5</sup>

The analysis presented aims to identify the key 5G enablers for each country, drawing mainly on the ITU DataHub but also on indicators from other sources to gain insights into their individual readiness for 5G wireless communication technology. The information presented here is based on the IMT-2020 (5G) terrestrial wireless access component only, it does not cover the IMT-2020 (5G) wireless backhaul nor IMT-2020 (5G) satellite components. The data for this report was collected from the ITU DataHub and other sources in July 2023, which is updated for data until 2022.

### 1.4 Research questions and objectives

This report seeks to investigate the current status of key 5G enablers in the Asia and the Pacific region, including infrastructure readiness, national broadband strategies, regulatory frameworks, spectrum availability and allocation, and policy enablers, and investigates how these enablers relate to the implementation and adoption of 5G technology.

Based on the evaluation of 5G enablers, the research objectives are:

- 1) To provide a detailed description of the status of key 5G enablers, including infrastructure readiness, spectrum availability, regulatory frameworks and policy enablers, in order to provide information on best practices for 5G implementation and adoption.
- 2) To provide insights into the readiness and progress of 5G enablers so as to clearly identify areas where improvement or strategic interventions may be required.

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<sup>5</sup> The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, and Tuvalu are omitted from the empirical part for want of data.

## 2 Conceptual framework

There are many key enablers that are significant for the analysis of 5G adoption. The enablers vary depending on the context and specific focus of the research. For example, Akyildiz et al. (2016) identify 10 major technological breakthroughs of significance for wireless communication networks: a wireless software-defined network, network function virtualization, mmWave spectrum,<sup>6</sup> massive MIMO, network ultra-densification, big data and mobile cloud computing, scalable IoT, device-to-device connectivity with high mobility, green communications and new radio access techniques.

At the country level, the following key enablers are crucial for the successful implementation and adoption of 5G technology. Although highly complex, and the specific importance of each enabler may vary depending on the country's existing infrastructure, regulatory framework and technological readiness. These enablers have been classified into three groups:

- 1) **Technical and infrastructure readiness:** infrastructure and network; spectrum and bandwidth; security and legislation; geographical and environmental factors.
- 2) **Economic and regulatory factors:** affordability and costs; economic and development indicators; regulatory and policy considerations.
- 3) **Socio-cultural and political factors:** Consumer readiness and mobile ownership; content and services; governance and stability.

### 2.1 Technical and infrastructure readiness

**Infrastructure and network:** 5G is a next-generation wireless technology that is expected to revolutionize the way we communicate and interact with the world around us. Building the necessary infrastructure is a fundamental enabler for 5G adoption. This includes deploying a network of base stations, upgrading existing telecommunication infrastructure and establishing fibre-optic networks to support high-speed connectivity. Small cell deployment is also key, as are access to street furniture and energy-efficient backhaul links, right-of-way policy facilitation and access to other street infrastructure (electric poles, billboards, traffic signals, etc.) (see ITU 2019 and Grijpink et al. 2023). According to McKinsey & Company, the infrastructure investments required to enable 5G are significant. Mobile operators must invest in all network domains, including spectrum, radio access network infrastructure, transmission and core networks (Wilson 2023).

**Spectrum and bandwidth:** Effective spectrum management and allocation by regulatory authorities are vital for 5G deployment. Governments need to allocate suitable frequency bands for 5G networks and ensure that spectrum policies are favourable, enabling operators to acquire and deploy spectrum efficiently.<sup>7</sup> However, routine spectrum management may not lead to any significant economic benefits from 5G. According to the GSMA white paper, 5G Spectrum Public Policy Position (GSMA 2023b), 5G needs spectrum across low, mid and high spectrum ranges to deliver widespread coverage and support all use cases. The white paper also suggests that governments and regulators should avoid inflating 5G spectrum prices, as this risks limiting

<sup>6</sup> Although mmWave was initially thought to be one of the prime drivers, in practice it failed in the roll-out of 5G public networks. Several countries reported that it provided inefficient coverage, resulting in very high network investment costs. These network deployments were rolled back, as in the United States.

<sup>7</sup> ITU-R issued a comprehensive report (2014) to help administrations develop strategies on economic approaches to national spectrum management and their financing. The *ITU handbook on national spectrum Development* (2015) provides guidance and information on the principles, processes, functions and activities of spectrum management at the national level.

network investment and driving up the cost of services. Furthermore, regulators must consult 5G stakeholders to ensure spectrum awards and licensing approaches take account of technical and commercial deployment plans (see also Miller 2022). Consideration must be given to case studies of 5G spectrum through local licensing, together with different spectrum pricing systems (e.g. with commitment to investment in infrastructure (France), with commitment to cover several municipal areas, along the Amazon coast, highways, etc. (Brazil) or citizens broadband radio service spectrum for 5G (United States)). Furthermore, administrative assignment or auction is a contentious issue in some countries. Best practices should be shared.

**Security and legislation:** Robust cybersecurity measures are critical for protecting 5G networks and the data transmitted over them. Countries should develop and enforce cybersecurity regulations, establish standards and promote best practices to safeguard against potential threats and vulnerabilities. Collaboration between regulatory bodies and industry stakeholders to address cybersecurity risks, preparedness and response mechanisms able to handle cybersecurity incidents are all vital for successful 5G deployment. As early as 1996, ITU addressed the importance of security frameworks for open systems, which can communicate and exchange data with other systems, emphasizing confidentiality frameworks as a way of protecting information from unauthorized disclosure. Recommendation ITU-T X.814-T (1995) explained the basic concepts, types and facilities of confidentiality mechanisms, together with the management and interactions of confidentiality with other security services, while Recommendation ITU-T X.1815 (2023b) and Recommendation ITU-T X.1816 (2023a) addressed security guidelines and requirements for IMT-2020 edge computing services and network slice, respectively. More recently, the GSMA and the 3rd Generation Partnership Project have developed two unified cybersecurity standards for mobile network equipment: the Network Equipment Security Assurance Scheme and the Security Access Specification, respectively.<sup>8</sup>

**Geographical and environmental factors:** Geographical factors can influence 5G deployment strategies. For instance, densely populated urban areas might benefit from the high capacity of 5G, while challenging terrains might require specific infrastructure solutions. Access to electricity, land area and population density can affect the availability and accessibility of 5G infrastructure and services in different regions. For example, better access to electricity may indicate a more favourable environment for 5G deployment, while higher population density may indicate a greater demand for 5G services and applications. It is important to consider these factors when developing 5G deployment strategies and policies to promote equitable and sustainable growth of 5G (Curran 2020).

## 2.2 Economic and regulatory factors

**Affordability and costs:** Affordability of mobile data, handsets and other devices is another important factor that can influence the adoption and use of 5G services and applications.<sup>9</sup> The World Bank suggests that, to be affordable, the cost of broadband services should not exceed

<sup>8</sup> Additional ITU-T standards on 5G security include the following: [X.1811](#) (04/21) Security guidelines for applying quantum-safe algorithms in IMT-2020 systems; [X.1812](#) (05/22) Security framework based on trust relationships for the IMT-2020 ecosystem; [X.1813](#) (09/22) Security and monitoring requirements for operation of vertical services supporting ultra-reliability and low latency communication (URLLC) in IMT-2020 private networks; [X.1814](#) (09/22) Security guidelines for IMT-2020 communication systems; [X.1815](#) (03/23) Security guidelines and requirements for IMT-2020 edge computing services; [X.1816](#) (03/23) Guidelines and requirements for classifying security capabilities in IMT-2020 network slice; [X.1817](#) (09/23) Security requirements for 5G messaging service.

<sup>9</sup> See 2025 Broadband Advocacy Target 2 of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, at <https://www.broadbandcommission.org/advocacy-targets/2-affordability/>.

5 per cent of the average monthly income.<sup>10</sup> However, in many countries, especially in low- and middle-income regions, the cost of mobile data and devices remains high, potentially limiting access to and use of 5G services by low-income households and individuals. It is therefore important to develop policies and strategies that promote affordable and accessible mobile data and devices for all. This includes measures such as reducing taxes and fees on mobile services, promoting competition among service providers, investing in mobile infrastructure in underserved areas, and providing subsidies or vouchers for low-income households.

**Economic and development indicators:** Other socio-economic factors (e.g. per capita income and value added in high-tech manufacturing) may influence 5G deployment and investment in 5G-related research and development (PwC 2023). For example, higher per capita income may indicate a greater ability and willingness to invest in 5G infrastructure and services, while higher value added in high-tech manufacturing may indicate a more favourable environment for innovation and technological development. These factors can also affect the demand for 5G services and applications, as they can influence the affordability, accessibility and quality of digital content and services (Qualcomm 2023). It is important to consider these factors when assessing the potential of 5G in different regions and countries. By doing so, policy-makers, regulators and industry players can identify the key drivers of, and barriers to, 5G adoption and develop effective strategies to promote its growth and development.

**Regulatory and policy considerations:** Establishing a supportive regulatory framework is crucial for 5G adoption. Clear regulations and policies should address issues such as spectrum allocation, infrastructure deployment, licensing, privacy and competition. A favourable regulatory environment that includes licensing, permitting and compliance requirements, and considers their impact on investment and innovation, will encourage investment by, and promote healthy competition among, operators.<sup>11</sup>

## 2.3 Socio-cultural and political factors

**Consumer readiness and mobile ownership:** A key factor determining the success of new technology is consumer demand and adoption. Consumers need to be ready and eager to use 5G services and applications, but they also need to be able to use and access 5G-enabled devices and networks. Factors such as mobile ownership, literacy and basic skills are indicative of the population's capability and willingness to embrace 5G services. For example, mobile ownership indicates the availability and affordability of 5G-compatible devices, literacy indicates the level of education and digital skills among consumers, and basic skills indicate the ability to use mobile services effectively and safely. These factors can vary significantly across different regions, countries and income groups, affecting the potential adoption and spread of 5G (Wilson 2023). It is important to measure and monitor these factors to understand consumer readiness for 5G.

**Content and services:** 5G is not just about speed; it also supports revolutionary services and content, from augmented reality to IoT applications (Qualcomm 2023). The potential of 5G goes beyond faster downloads and smoother streaming. It enables new use cases and applications

<sup>10</sup> According to the GSMA, to be affordable, the cost of mobile data and devices should be less than 2 per cent of the average monthly income.

<sup>11</sup> For an example, see the National Strategy to Secure 5G Implementation Plan of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, United States Department of Commerce, [https://www.ntia.gov/files/ntia/publications/2021-1-12\\_115445\\_national\\_strategy\\_to\\_secure\\_5g\\_implementation\\_plan\\_and\\_annexes\\_a\\_f\\_final.pdf](https://www.ntia.gov/files/ntia/publications/2021-1-12_115445_national_strategy_to_secure_5g_implementation_plan_and_annexes_a_f_final.pdf) <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-radio-spectrum-policy>

that were not possible before, such as remote surgery, autonomous vehicles, smart cities and immersive entertainment. To realize this potential, a rich ecosystem of digital content and services is required that can drive 5G adoption by showcasing its potential benefits and applications. This encompasses content providers, app developers, device manufacturers, network operators and other stakeholders who collaborate to create innovative solutions that leverage the unique capabilities of 5G. In so doing, they unlock new revenue streams, enhance user experiences and create new business models that can transform industries and societies (see Sultan 2023).

**Governance and stability:** A comprehensive national broadband strategy is important to ensure equitable access to 5G services across the country. When assessing the demand for, and sustainability of, 5G projects, service providers may naturally begin with areas with higher potential returns. And while governments should focus on bridging the digital divide, especially in rural and underserved areas, by promoting affordable and accessible connectivity options,<sup>12</sup> it is not practical to deploy 5G networks unless there are demanding 5G use cases that provide sustainability for 5G projects, as per the 5G network toolkit. National broadband strategy should also focus on ideation, piloting and adoption of 5G use cases to trigger demand in economic verticals for 5G roll-out.

Overall, by focusing on the above enablers, countries can create an ecosystem conducive to 5G adoption and thus facilitate economic growth, innovation and improved quality of life for their citizens.

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<sup>12</sup> See, for example, the 2021 report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Accelerating 5G in the United States, <https://www.csis.org/analysis/accelerating-5g-united-states>

### 3 Data sources: Specific variables used

There are two main data sources, outlined below, that have been used to provide input for analysis of the technical and infrastructure readiness, economic and regulatory factors, and socio-cultural and political factors.

- 1) The ITU DataHub (World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database) contains information and statistics compiled and/or collected by the ITU ICT Data and Analytics Division and the Regulatory and Market Environment Division. It comprises ICT indicators covering multiple years for around 180 statistics and over 200 economies worldwide, including fixed-telephone, mobile-cellular, fixed-broadband and mobile-broadband services. It also contains statistics on international connectivity, quality of service (QoS), traffic, persons employed, ICT prices, revenue, investment and ICT access and use by households and individuals. Selected demographic and macroeconomic statistics are also included. The data are collected from the annual statistical questionnaires sent out by ITU-D to telecommunication ministries, regulators and national statistical offices.
- 2) Other relevant country-level data were obtained from the GSMA, the WDI and WGI, the E-Government Development Index and national statistical offices, as and when required.

Over 125 variables were looked at across 170 countries, including 32 countries in Asia and the Pacific, from 2014 to 2022 and for which data are available. To help reduce the dimensionality of the variables for consideration in regression analysis, cross-correlation dendrograms were used, which are a graphical representation that uses cross-correlation values between multiple variables to create a hierarchical clustering tree, helping not only to visualize and identify similarities, patterns and anomalies in the data, but also to select variables that have the best explanatory power for further statistical analysis. The variables (metric) for each of the 10 enablers are listed in Tables 1 to 10, as are the data sources. See Appendix C for a description of the variables.

#### *Technical and infrastructure readiness: infrastructure and network; spectrum and bandwidth; security and legislation; geographical and environmental factors*

**Infrastructure and network:** 5G relies on robust and advanced infrastructure, including cell towers, base stations and data centres. The presence of a strong network indicates the readiness of a region to deploy and scale 5G services. The seamless integration of previous network generations (2G, 3G, 4G) is also crucial for a smooth transition and widespread 5G adoption.

**Table 1: Variables and data sources for infrastructure and network enabler**

Metric	Source
Infrastructure	GSMA
Network coverage	GSMA
Network performance	GSMA
2G population coverage	ITU DataHub
3G population coverage	GSMA Intelligence
4G population coverage	GSMA Intelligence
5G population coverage	GSMA Intelligence
Mobile download speeds	Ookla Speedtest Intelligence

Table 1: Variables and data sources for infrastructure and network enabler (continued)

Metric	Source
Mobile upload speeds	Ookla Speedtest Intelligence
Mobile latencies	Ookla Speedtest Intelligence
Electric power consumption (kWh per capita)*	International Energy Agency
Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	ITU DataHub
Secure Internet servers	Netcraft
Secure Internet servers (per 1 million people)	Netcraft
4G services commercially available*	ITU

Note: \* denotes variables later dropped in the analysis due to insufficient observations

**Spectrum and bandwidth:** Spectrum is the lifeblood of wireless communication. Efficient spectrum allocation, management and use are crucial for the successful deployment of 5G. The availability of various bands, especially those suitable for 5G, is an indicator of the readiness of a region.

Table 2: Variables and data sources for spectrum and bandwidth

Metric	Source
Spectrum	GSMA
Spectrum assigned in bands below 1 GHz	GSMA Intelligence
Spectrum assigned in bands between 1-3 GHz	GSMA Intelligence
Spectrum assigned in bands between 3-6 GHz	GSMA Intelligence
Spectrum assigned in mmWave bands	GSMA Intelligence
Amount of spectrum licensed for IMT systems, in MHz	ITU
Amount of spectrum offered for IMT systems, in MHz	ITU
Digital dividend spectrum reallocated	ITU
IMT (3G/4G) spectrum assigned**	ITU
Information on spectrum publicly available	ITU
International bandwidth usage	ITU DataHub
Lit/equipped international bandwidth capacity	ITU DataHub
National Table of Frequency Allocations	ITU
Spectrum licences, technology-neutral	ITU
Spectrum or licence fees subject to VAT	ITU

Note: \*\* Overlaps with the first three spectrum measures- below 1 GHz, 1-3 GHz and 3-8 GHz

**Security and legislation:** As 5G networks support critical applications, ensuring their security is paramount. Robust cybersecurity legislation and measures are essential to protect the networks from threats. Additionally, clear legislation can provide a framework for 5G deployment and operations.

**Table 3: Variables and data sources for security and legislation**

Metric	Source
Cybersecurity index	ITU
Cybersecurity legislation/regulations exist	ITU
ICT consumer protection legislation	ITU

**Geographical and environmental factors:** Geographical factors can influence 5G deployment strategies. For instance, densely populated urban areas might benefit from 5G high capacity, while challenging terrains might require specific infrastructure solutions.

**Table 4: Variables and data sources for geographical and environmental factors**

Metric	Source
Access to electricity (% of population)	International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, United Nations Statistics Division, World Bank, World Health Organization
Land area (sq. km)	FAO
Population total	United Nations
Surface area (sq. km)	FAO
Population density (people per sq. km of land area)	FAO, WDI

**Economic and regulatory factors: affordability and costs; economic and development indicators; regulatory and policy considerations**

**Affordability and costs:** For widespread 5G adoption, services and devices must be affordable for the general public. This enabler gauges the economic feasibility of 5G for consumers, considering factors such as handset costs, data pricing and other related expenses. A region where ICT services are affordable is more likely to see quicker 5G uptake.

**Table 5: Variables and data sources for affordability and costs**

Metric	Source
Affordability	GSMA
Mobile data affordability	GSMA
Handset affordability	GSMA
Taxation	GSMA
Affordability of entry basket (1 GB)	Tarifica
Affordability of higher basket (5 GB)	Tarifica
Affordability of entry basket (1 GB) for poorest 40%	Tarifica
Affordability of higher basket (5 GB) for poorest 40%	Tarifica
Device affordability	Tarifica
Device affordability for poorest 40%	Tarifica
Cost of taxes on mobile data	GSMA Intelligence
Cost of taxes on handsets	GSMA Intelligence
Cost of sector-specific taxes on mobile data	GSMA Intelligence
Mobile data and voice high-consumption basket	ITU
Mobile data and voice low-consumption basket	ITU
Device pricing*	Alliance for Affordable Internet

**Economic and development indicators:** The overall economic health and developmental stage of a region can influence 5G deployment. Developed regions with strong economic indicators may have the resources and incentives to invest in and adopt 5G faster.

**Table 6: Variables and data sources for economic and development factors**

Metric	Source
GNI per capita (USD)	WDI
GDP per capita (constant 2015 USD)	WDI
GDP per capita PPP (constant 2017 international USD)	WDI
GNI per capita (constant 2015 USD)	WDI
GNI per capita PPP (constant 2017 international USD)	WDI
Gini index	WDI
High-technology exports (% of manufactured exports)	UN

**Table 6: Variables and data sources for economic and development factors (continued)**

Metric	Source
Human capital index (scale 0-1)	WDI
ICT goods exports (% of total goods exports)	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
ICT goods imports (% total goods imports)	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
ICT service exports (% of service exports balance of payments (BoP))	International Monetary Fund
ICT service exports (BoP current USD)	International Monetary Fund
Inflation consumer prices (annual %)	International Monetary Fund
Investment in ICT with private participation (current USD)	WDI
Public private partnerships investment in ICT (current USD)	WDI
Real effective exchange rate index (2010 = 100)	WDI
Real interest rate (%)	IMF
Tax revenue (% of GDP)	IMF
Time required to start a business (days)	WDI
Trade (% of GDP)	WDI
Trade in services (% of GDP)	International Monetary Fund
Logistics performance index: Overall (1=low to 5=high)	WDI
Medium- and high-tech manufacturing value added (% manufacturing value added)	United Nations Industrial Development Organization

**Regulatory and policy considerations:** Regulatory support is crucial for 5G. Policies that encourage investment in 5G infrastructure, ensure fair competition and set clear guidelines can accelerate 5G deployment and adoption.

**Table 7: Variables and data sources for regulatory and policy considerations**

Metric	Source
E-government score	United Nations
Regulatory quality: estimate	WGI
Broadband services are part of universal service/access scheme	ITU
Cloud computing policies	ITU
Counterfeit policies for the ICT sector	ITU

**Table 7: Variables and data sources for regulatory and policy considerations (continued)**

Metric	Source
Foreign ICT service providers treated differently in terms of taxation	ITU
National broadband plan exists	ITU
National development strategy, digital agenda or digital stimulus strategy, including broadband	ITU
National strategy policy or initiative focusing on emerging technologies	ITU
Restriction of foreign participation or ownership in the ICT sector	ITU
QoS regulatory framework- Services subject to QoS monitoring	ITU

***Socio-cultural and political factors: Consumer readiness and mobile ownership; content and services; governance and stability***

**Consumer readiness and mobile ownership:** The readiness and eagerness of consumers to adopt new technologies play a vital role in the success of 5G. Factors such as mobile ownership, literacy and basic skills reflect the population's capability and willingness to embrace 5G services.

**Table 8: Variables and data sources for consumer readiness and mobile ownership**

Metric	Source
Consumer readiness	GSMA
Mobile ownership	GSMA
Basic skills	GSMA
Literacy	United Nations and UNESCO
School life expectancy	United Nations
Gender gap in mobile ownership	GSMA Intelligence, Gallup World Poll
Gender gap in mobile Internet	GSMA Intelligence, Gallup World Poll, DataReportal
Mobile-cellular subscriptions (per 100 people)	ITU DataHub
Households with Internet access at home*	ITU DataHub
Individuals using the Internet (% of population)	ITU DataHub
Mobile-cellular subscriptions	ITU DataHub

**Content and services:** 5G is not just about speed; it is also about the revolutionary services and content it supports, from augmented reality to IoT applications. A rich ecosystem of digital content and services can drive 5G adoption by showcasing its potential benefits and applications.

Table 9: Variables and data sources for content and services

Metric	Source
Content and services	GSMA
Top-level domains per person	ZookNIC
Mobile social media penetration	DataReportal
Locally developed apps per person	Appfigures
Digital language support	Derivation
Language accessibility of top ranked apps	Appfigures, Ethnologue, GSMA Intelligence

**Governance and stability:** The overall governance quality, political stability and transparency can influence the trust of investors and stakeholders in 5G projects. Stable regions with good governance are more likely to attract the investments needed for 5G deployment.

Table 10: Variables and data sources for governance and stability

Metric	Source
Gender equality	GSMA
Local relevance	GSMA
CPIA building human resources rating (1=low to 6=high)	WDI
CPIA business regulatory environment rating (1=low to 6=high)	WDI
CPIA property rights and rule-based governance rating (1=low to 6=high)	WDI
CPIA trade rating (1=low to 6=high)	WDI
CPIA transparency accountability and corruption in the public sector rating (1=low to 6=high)	WDI
Consumer price index (2010 = 100)	WDI
Government effectiveness: estimate	WDI
Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism: estimate	WGI
Rule of law: estimate	WGI
Strength of legal rights index (0=weak to 12=strong)	WDI

## 4 Statistical and econometric analysis

The variable correlations for each enabler to 5G population coverage in 2022 are set out in Tables 11 to 20 below. In these tables, 'ALL' refers to the 170 Member States for which data is available and 'ITU32' refers to the 32 ITU Member States in the Asia and the Pacific region. The correlations presented are for 2022, 2017 and 2014. Correlations are not presented for categorical (non-numeric) variables.

Each table is followed, where required, by a cross-correlation dendrogram (Figures 5 to 9) providing a data visualization that combines cross-correlation and hierarchical clustering to reveal relationships and similarities among multiple variables. The cross-correlation dendrogram calculates cross-correlation values between pairs of variables to quantify their similarity and constructs a hierarchical tree structure called a dendrogram. In this dendrogram, signals with high cross-correlation values are grouped together early in the hierarchy, indicating strong similarities, while those with low cross-correlation values are grouped later or in separate branches, indicating weaker similarities. Cross-correlation dendrograms are employed here to recognize patterns and similarity of variables, thereby allowing the selection of the most important variables for regression analysis. See Appendix A for a detailed description of cross-correlation dendrograms.

***Technical and infrastructure readiness: infrastructure and network; spectrum and bandwidth; security and legislation; geographical and environmental factors***

**Table 11: Variable correlations for infrastructure and network**

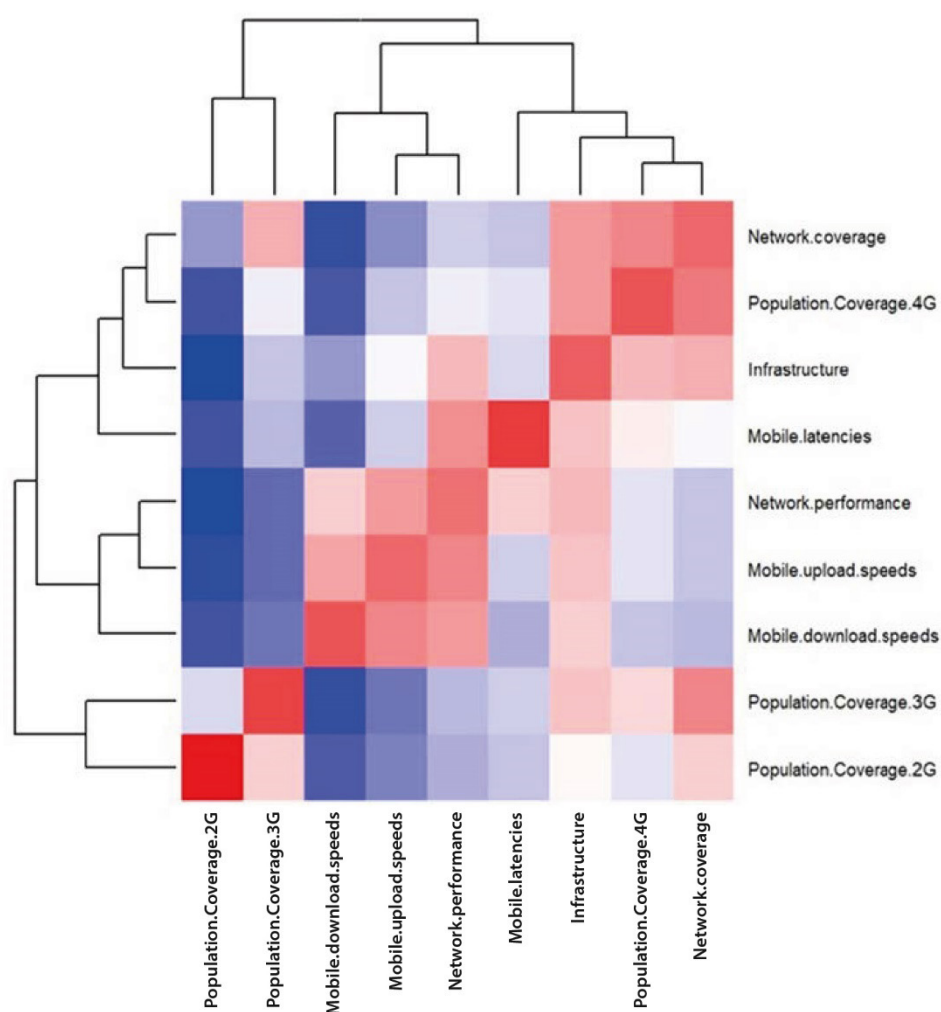
Infrastructure and network	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
Cluster index	0.73	0.76	0.70	0.77	0.73	0.79
Infrastructure	0.82	0.87	0.68	0.77	0.81	0.88
Network coverage	0.64	0.69	0.61	0.63	0.79	0.85
Network performance	0.80	0.75	0.63	0.67	0.70	0.73
2G population coverage	0.29	0.41	0.36	0.52	0.40	0.49
3G population coverage	0.38	0.46	0.45	0.43	0.59	0.64
4G population coverage	0.43	0.39	0.64	0.63	0.84	0.90
5G population coverage	1.00	1.00				
Mobile download speeds	0.88	0.86	0.69	0.73	0.71	0.68
Mobile upload speeds	0.73	0.62	0.65	0.70	0.67	0.69
Mobile latencies	0.32	0.26	0.42	0.36	0.64	0.67
Fixed-broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)					0.75	0.83
Secure Internet servers			0.29	0.58	0.25	0.57
Secure Internet servers (per 1 million people)			0.59	0.45	0.61	0.58

Table 11: Variable correlations for infrastructure and network (continued)

Infrastructure and network	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
Population coverage by mobile network technology (at least 2G)			0.26	0.32	0.31	0.45
Population coverage by mobile network technology (at least 3G)			0.33	0.33	0.44	0.44
Population coverage by mobile network technology (at least 5G)			0.89	0.49		
Population coverage by mobile network technology (at least LTE/ WiMAX)			0.41	0.33	0.63	0.66

The cross-correlation dendrogram in Figure 5 shows three distinct clusters indicating variable selection for further analysis in the panel data regression.

Figure 5: Cross-correlation dendrogram, infrastructure and network



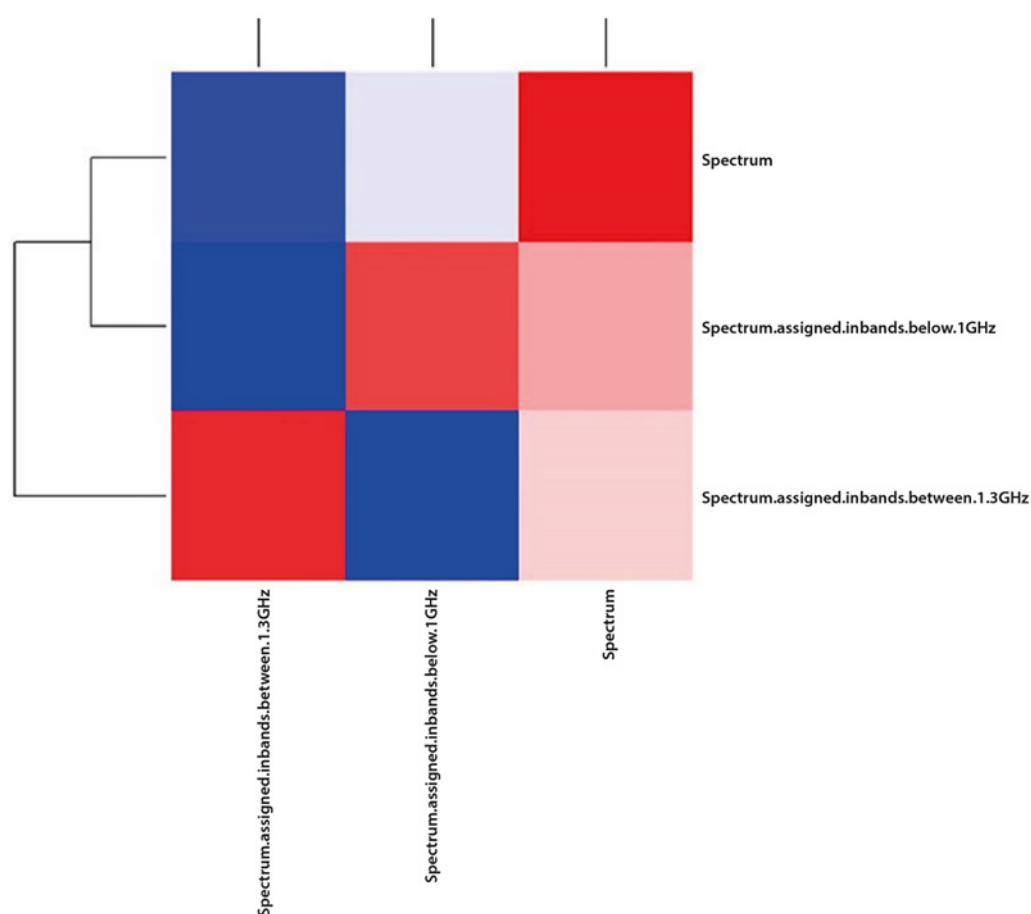
Source: ITU

Table 12: Variable correlations for spectrum and bandwidth

Spectrum and bandwidth	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
Spectrum	0.71	0.74	0.56	0.65	0.56	0.71
Spectrum assigned in bands below 1 GHz	0.57	0.48	0.43	0.48	0.45	0.53
Spectrum assigned in bands between 1-3 GHz	0.61	0.67	0.58	0.68	0.55	0.67
Spectrum assigned in bands between 3-6 GHz	0.75	0.72				
Spectrum assigned in mmWave bands	0.40	0.60				
Amount of spectrum licensed for IMT systems, in MHz			0.37	-0.48		
Amount of spectrum offered for IMT systems, in MHz			0.03	-0.32		
Digital dividend spectrum reallocated						
IMT (3G/4G) spectrum assigned						
Information on spectrum publicly available						
International bandwidth usage	0.24	0.25	0.26	0.38	0.27	0.66
Lit/equipped international bandwidth capacity	0.31	0.42	0.36	0.47	0.45	0.58
National Table of Frequency Allocations						
Spectrum licences, technology-neutral						
Spectrum or licence fees subject to VAT						

Figure 6 contains a partial cross-correlation dendrogram for variables that capture spectrum and bandwidth.

Figure 6: Cross-correlation dendrogram, spectrum and bandwidth



Source: ITU

Table 13: Variable correlations for security and legislation

Security and legislation	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
Cybersecurity index	0.62	0.57	0.62	0.69	0.55	0.62
Cybersecurity legislation/regulation exist						
ICT consumer protection legislation						

Table 14: Variable correlations for geographical and environmental factors

Geographical and environmental factors	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
Access to electricity (% of population)			0.42	0.36	0.44	0.46
Land area (sq. km)			0.07	0.30	0.07	0.30
Population, total	0.03	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.04	0.08
Surface area (sq. km)			0.07	0.30	0.07	0.30
Population density (people per sq. km of land area)			0.24	0.31	0.24	0.31

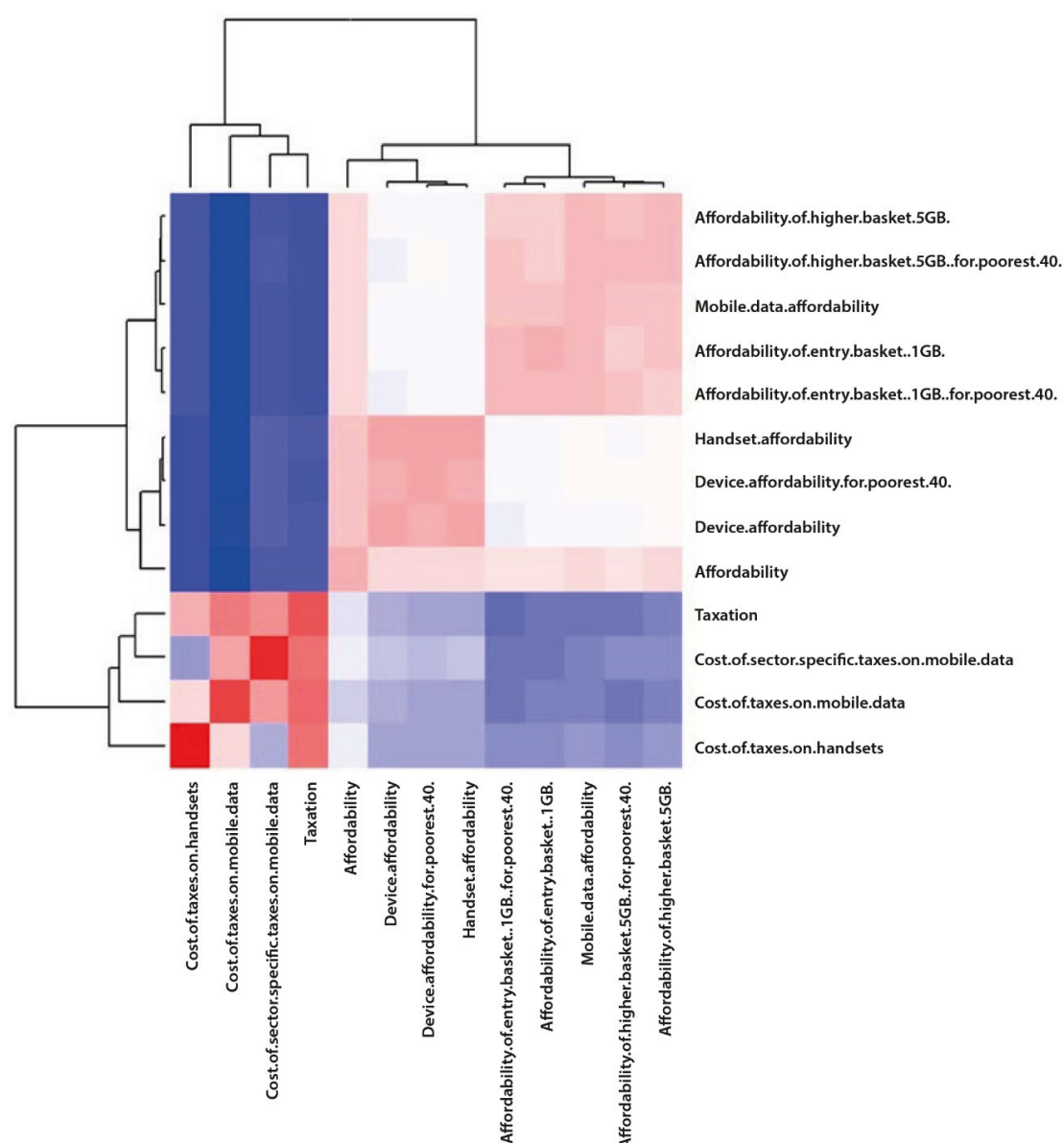
*Economic and regulatory factors: affordability and costs; economic and development indicators; regulatory and policy considerations*

Table 15: Variable correlations for affordability and costs

Affordability and costs	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
Affordability	0.69	0.61	0.66	0.66	0.68	0.63
Mobile data affordability	0.62	0.47	0.60	0.49	0.65	0.44
Handset affordability	0.68	0.48	0.63	0.61	0.63	0.64
Taxation	0.28	0.40	0.28	0.37	0.25	0.40
Affordability of entry basket (1GB)	0.56	0.36	0.55	0.41	0.60	0.38
Affordability of higher basket (5GB)	0.62	0.55	0.61	0.55	0.65	0.48
Affordability of entry basket (1GB) for poorest 40%	0.59	0.37	0.57	0.42	0.63	0.39
Affordability of higher basket (5GB) for poorest 40%	0.65	0.56	0.63	0.55	0.67	0.47
Device affordability	0.65	0.47	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.64
Device affordability for poorest 40%	0.70	0.49	0.65	0.61	0.65	0.63
Cost of taxes on mobile data	0.09	0.35	0.04	0.28	0.03	0.30
Cost of taxes on handsets	0.23	0.30	0.28	0.37	0.23	0.23
Cost of sector-specific taxes on mobile data	0.31	0.33	0.29	0.26	0.27	0.32
Mobile data and voice high-consumption basket	-0.37	-0.37				
Mobile data and voice low-consumption basket	-0.39	-0.39				

The cross-correlation dendrogram in Figure 7 shows three distinct clusters indicating variable selection for further analysis.

Figure 7: Cross-correlation dendrogram, affordability and costs



Source: ITU

Table 16: Variable correlations for economic and development indicators

Economic and development indicators	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
GNI per capita (USD)	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.65	0.65
GDP per capita (constant 2015 USD)	0.72	0.69	0.71	0.69	0.70	0.68
GDP per capita PPP (constant 2017 international USD)	0.76	0.61	0.76	0.61	0.74	0.60
GNI per capita (constant 2015 USD)	0.78	0.77	0.75	0.73	0.73	0.70
GNI per capita PPP (constant 2017 international USD)	0.83	0.82	0.79	0.61	0.79	0.58

Table 16: Variable correlations for economic and development indicators (continued)

Economic and development indicators	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
Gini index	-0.40	0.27	-0.38	0.07		
High-tech exports (% of manufactured exports)	0.39	0.45	0.37	0.52		
Human capital index (scale 0-1)	0.75	0.81				
ICT goods exports (% of total goods exports)	0.37	0.47	0.36	0.53		
ICT goods imports (% total goods imports)	0.40	0.53	0.37	0.52		
ICT service exports (% of service exports BoP)	0.15	-0.30	0.13	-0.14	0.02	-0.26
ICT service exports (BoP current USD)	0.26	-0.01	0.35	0.06	0.34	0.00
Inflation consumer prices (annual %)	-0.18	-0.31	-0.17	-0.42	-0.29	-0.30
Investment in ICT with private participation (current USD)	0.10	-0.13				
Public-private partnership investment in ICT (current USD)	-0.79	-1.00				
Real effective exchange rate index (2010 = 100)	-0.13	-0.26	-0.04	-0.16	-0.05	-0.06
Real interest rate (%)	-0.12	0.26	-0.14	-0.48	-0.20	-0.41
Tax revenue (% of GDP)			0.23	0.10	0.21	-0.06
Time required to start a business (days)			-0.21	-0.21	-0.26	-0.35
Trade (% of GDP)	0.46	0.28	0.39	0.16	0.37	0.17
Trade in services (% of GDP)	0.27	0.19	0.28	0.15	0.26	0.14
Logistics performance index: Overall (1=low to 5=high)	0.82	0.78			0.78	0.80
Medium- and high-tech manufacturing value added (% manufacturing value added)	0.65	0.66	0.64	0.66		

Table 17: Variable correlations for regulatory and policy considerations

Regulatory and policy considerations	2022 ALL Cs	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL Cs	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL Cs	2014 ITU32
E-government score	0.65	0.75	0.66	0.69	0.65	0.74
Regulatory quality: estimate			0.72	0.70	0.71	0.69

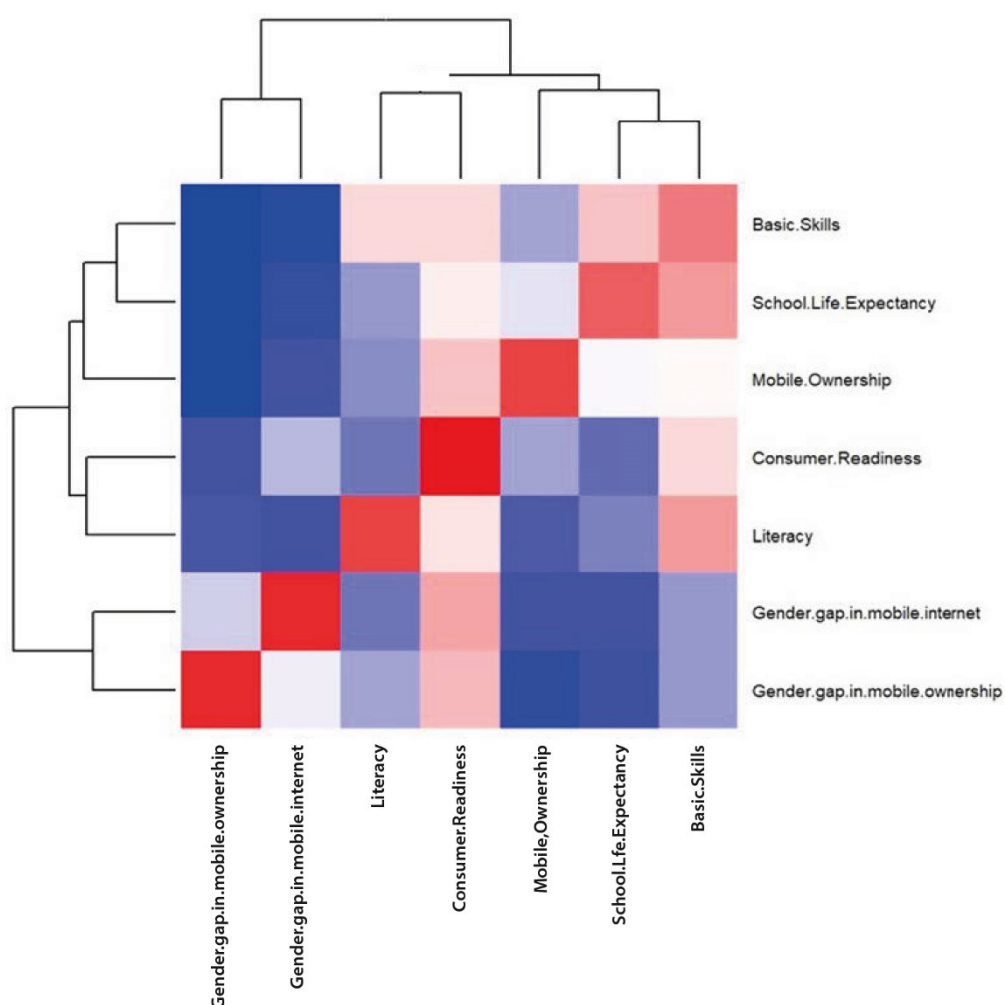
*Socio-cultural and political factors: consumer readiness and mobile ownership; content and services; governance and stability*

Table 18: Variable correlations for consumer readiness and mobile ownership

Consumer readiness and mobile ownership	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
Consumer readiness	0.56	0.58	0.58	0.66	0.54	0.59
Mobile ownership	0.69	0.70	0.68	0.71	0.66	0.70
Basic skills	0.58	0.61	0.57	0.61	0.56	0.58
Literacy	0.44	0.42	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.47
School life expectancy	0.63	0.65	0.62	0.64	0.60	0.58
Gender gap in mobile ownership	0.35	0.35	0.38	0.49	0.30	0.36
Gender gap in mobile Internet	0.35	0.34	0.43	0.55	0.37	0.36
Households with Internet access at home			0.49	0.69	0.71	0.79
Individuals using the Internet (% of population)			0.68	0.67	0.73	0.77
Mobile-cellular subscriptions			0.07	0.12	0.08	0.13

The cross-correlation dendrogram in Figure 8 shows three distinct clusters indicating variable selection for further analysis.

Figure 8: Cross-correlation dendrogram, consumer readiness and mobile ownership



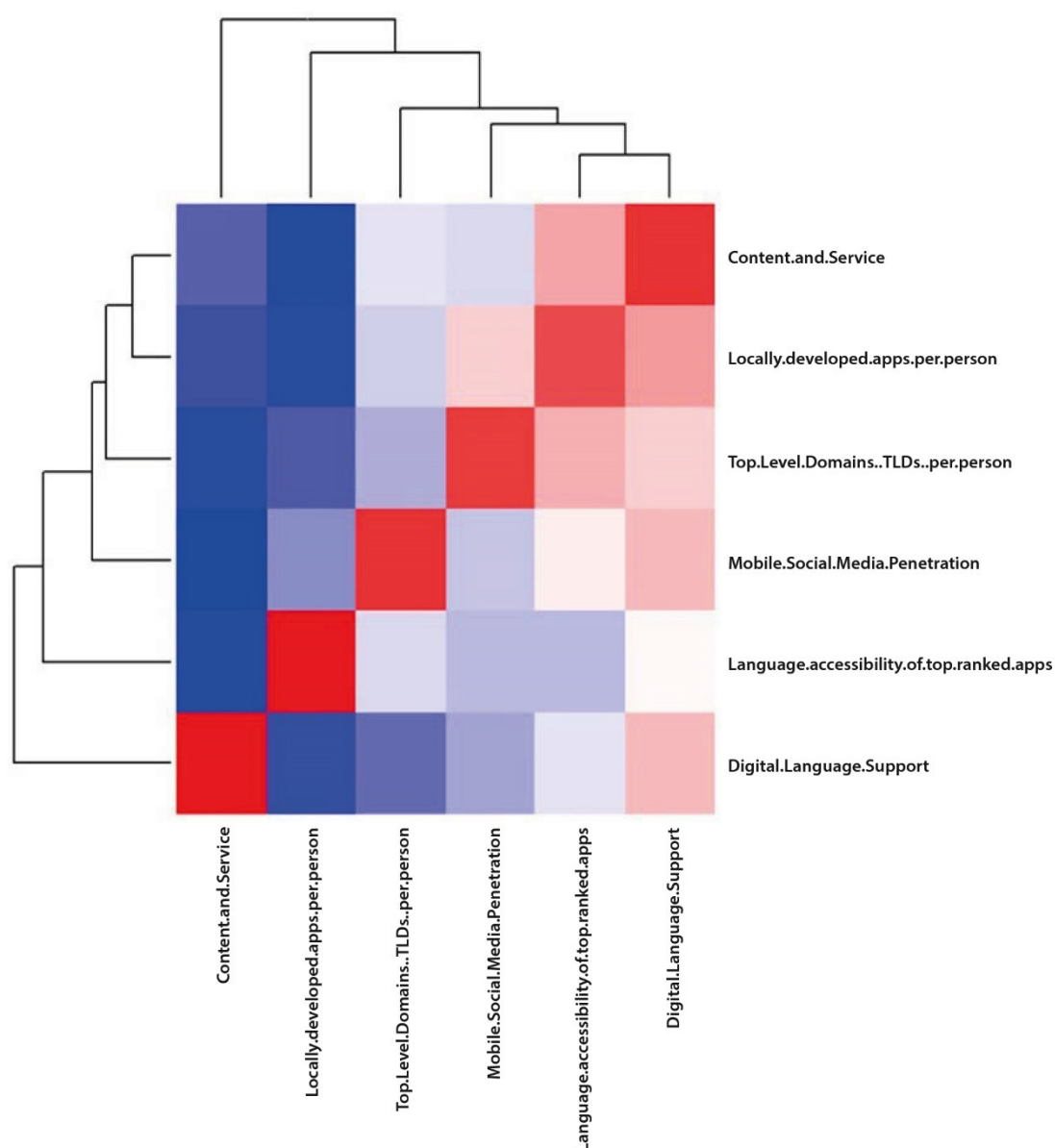
Source: ITU

Table 19: Variable correlations for content and services

Content and services	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
Content and services	0.70	0.70	0.69	0.75	0.68	0.72
top-level domains per person	0.61	0.45	0.61	0.46	0.61	0.48
Mobile social media penetration	0.64	0.64	0.55	0.64	0.59	0.55
Locally developed apps per person	0.63	0.47	0.67	0.61	0.68	0.61
Digital language support	0.39	0.49	0.40	0.53	0.40	0.53
Language accessibility of top ranked apps	0.42	0.50	0.44	0.53	0.45	0.58

Figure 9 contains the cross-correlation dendrogram for content and services.

Figure 9: Cross-correlation dendrogram, content and services



Source: ITU

Table 20: Variable correlations for governance and stability

Governance and stability	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
Gender equality	0.36	0.35	0.42	0.53	0.37	0.40
Local relevance	0.65	0.69	0.65	0.72	0.66	0.71
CPIA building human resources rating (1=low to 6=high)			0.22	0.35	0.24	0.45
CPIA business regulatory environment rating (1=low to 6=high)			0.15	0.30	0.14	0.32
CPIA property rights and rule-based governance rating (1=low to 6=high)			0.11	0.15	0.05	0.12

Table 20: Variable correlations for governance and stability (continued)

Governance and stability	2022 ALL	2022 ITU32	2017 ALL	2017 ITU32	2014 ALL	2014 ITU32
CPIA trade rating (1=low to 6=high)			0.03	0.11	-0.03	0.08
CPIA transparency accountability and corruption in the public sector rating (1=low to 6=high)			0.08	0.13	-0.04	-0.06
Consumer price index (2010 = 100)	-0.11	-0.55	-0.11	-0.30	-0.30	-0.27
Government effectiveness: estimate			0.72	0.67	0.73	0.71
Political stability and absence of violence/ terrorism: estimate		0.45	0.25	0.48	0.23	
Rule of law: estimate			0.70	0.57	0.71	0.63
Strength of legal rights index (0=weak to 12=strong)		-0.01	-0.11	0.08	0.03	

## 4.1 Regression analysis

The results of the panel data fixed-effects regression, unless specified, are indicated in Figures 10 to 17 and Tables 21 to 36, with ordinary least squares (OLS) being used due to data limitation.

The panel data fixed-effects model was applied with 5G population coverage as the main dependent variable. Since there are only about two years of data for 5G population coverage (2021 and 2020), the model can be specified as:

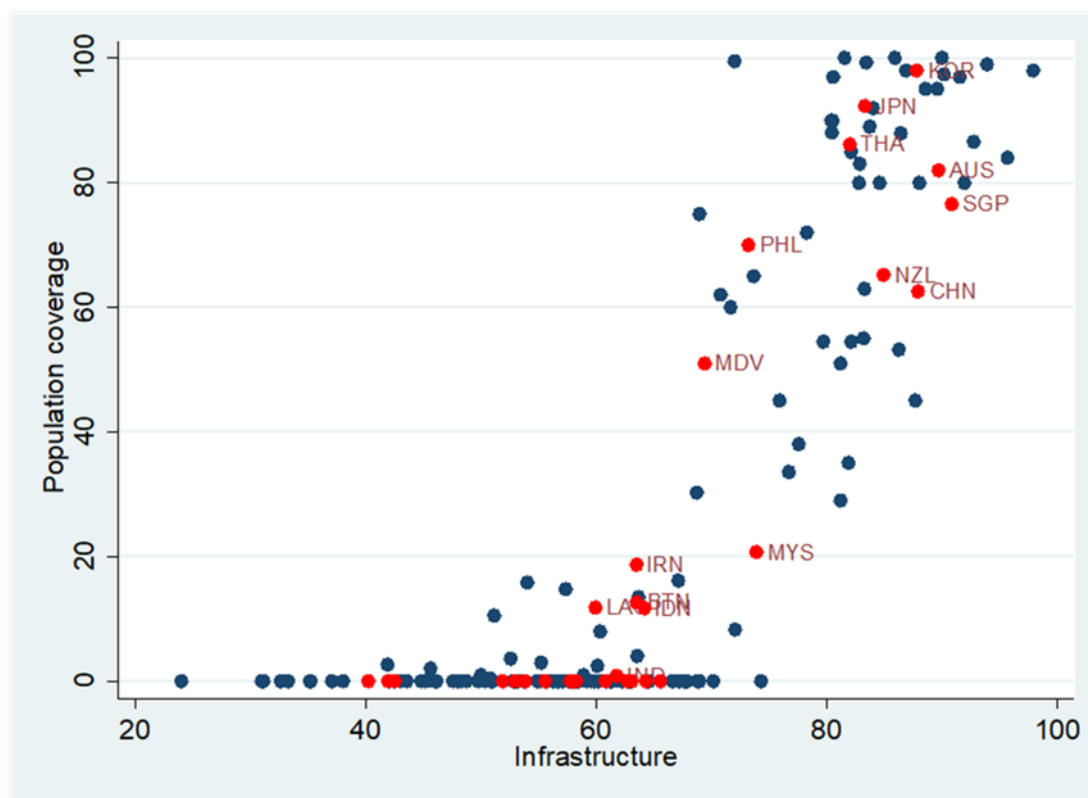
$$y_{it} = b_0 + d_1d_{1t} + d_2d_{2t} + b_1x_{it} + a_i + e_{it}$$

where  $d_{1t}$  and  $d_{2t}$  are time dummies (indicator variables for 2021 and 2022, respectively);  $x_{it}$  represents the explanatory variables capturing the 5G enablers,  $a_i$  the country-specific fixed effect (time-invariant characteristic or unobserved heterogeneity), and  $e_{it}$  the idiosyncratic error term. The main reason for using a panel data fixed-effects estimator is to correct for endogeneity caused by unobserved time-constant effects ( $x_{it}, a_i$ ) = 0. See Appendix B for a detailed description of the panel data fixed-effect regression.

### Technical and infrastructure readiness

**Infrastructure and network:** Infrastructure index, network coverage, network performance, latencies and upload/download speeds

Figure 10: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and infrastructure index



Source: ITU

Table 21: Panel data fixed-effects regression for infrastructure

Infrastructure	Coefficient	P-value		Coefficient	P-value
ALL	2.2262	0.000	ITU32	1.1129	0.010

Panel data fixed-effects regression, controlling for individual country characteristics, confirms that infrastructure is important as a 5G enabler both globally and in the Asia and the Pacific region.

Table 22: Panel data fixed-effects regression for network coverage/performance

ALL	Coefficient	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	P-value
network coverage	1.6159	0.008	network coverage	.83405	0.070
network performance	.37366	0.043	network performance	.37366	0.043

However, when looking at network coverage (which is highly correlated to 4G population coverage and latency) and network performance (which is highly correlated to upload and download average speeds) in the same regression model, both are found to be important

enablers for 5G globally, but network coverage, while positively related, is not statistically significant for the region. This may be because of the smaller sample size (only two years of observation for 32 countries). A follow-up analysis with additional years, e.g. 2023 data, should improve statistical significance.

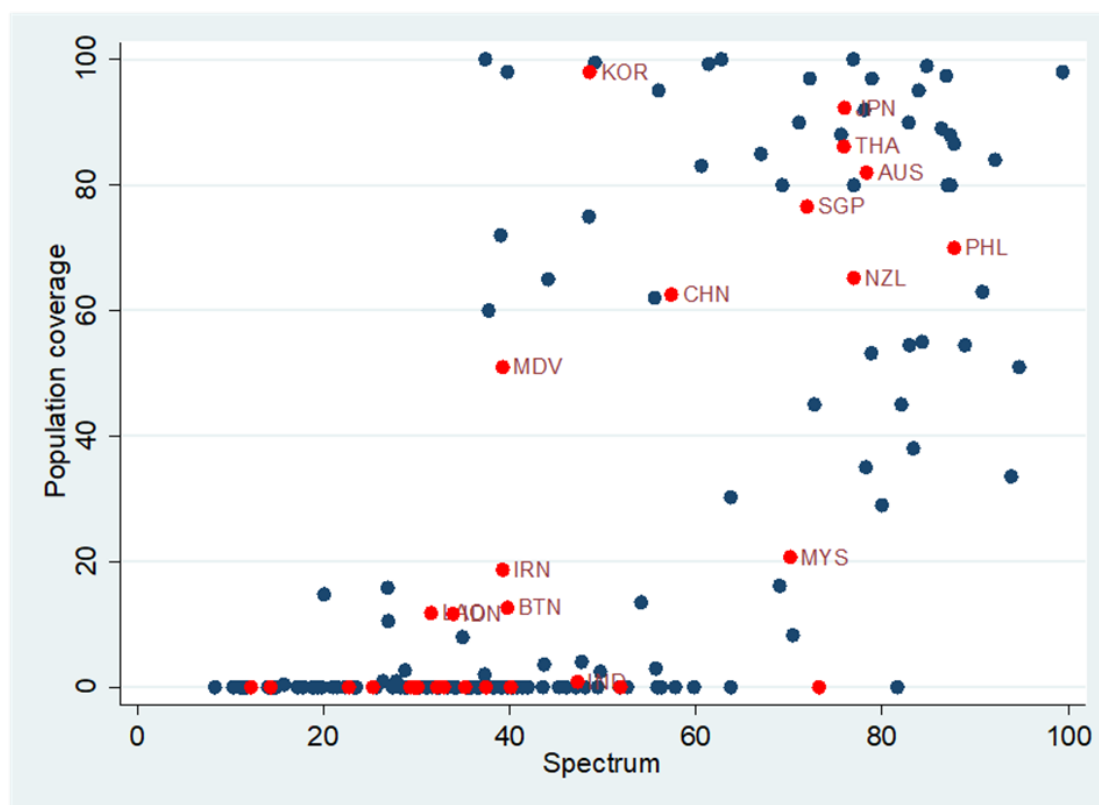
**Table 23: Panel data fixed-effects regression for population coverage, latencies and upload/download speeds**

ALL	Coefficient	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	P-value
pop coverage4G	.07345	0.050	pop coverage4G	.08647	0.329
mobile latencies	.03511	0.210	mobile latencies	.01445	0.317
mobile upload speeds	.18577	0.255	mobile upload speeds	.08440	0.577
mobile download speeds	.48257	0.006	mobile download speeds	.44032	0.058

Lastly, the panel data regressions in Table 23 show the importance of mobile download speeds and 4G population coverage as 5G enablers globally, but mobile latency and upload speeds, although positive, do not seem to be as important. Interestingly, for the region, 4G population coverage is not so important as a 5G enabler.

#### Spectrum and bandwidth: Spectrum index

**Figure 11: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and spectrum**



Source: ITU

Table 24: Panel data fixed-effects regression for spectrum

Spectrum	Coefficient	P-value		Coefficient	P-value
ALL	0.98645	0.001	ITU32	0.62399	0.024

As expected, spectrum and bandwidth exhibit a significant relationship with 5G adoption globally and in the region.

Table 25: Panel data fixed-effects regression for spectrum assigned

ALL	Coefficient	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	P-value
spectrum assigned in bands below 1GHz	.59	0.020	spectrum assigned in bands below 1GHz	.61	0.016
spectrum assigned in bands between 1 – 3 GHz	-.10	0.621	spectrum assigned in bands between 13	.032	0.401
spectrum assigned in bands between 3 – 6 GHz	.29	0.029	spectrum assigned in bands between 36	.18	0.303
spectrum assigned in mmWave bands	-.086	0.524	spectrum assigned in mmWave bands	-.103	0.382

Note: Most countries have chosen the C-band and FDD bands for the mainstream 5G spectrum. The mmWave is usually reserved for hotspot areas.

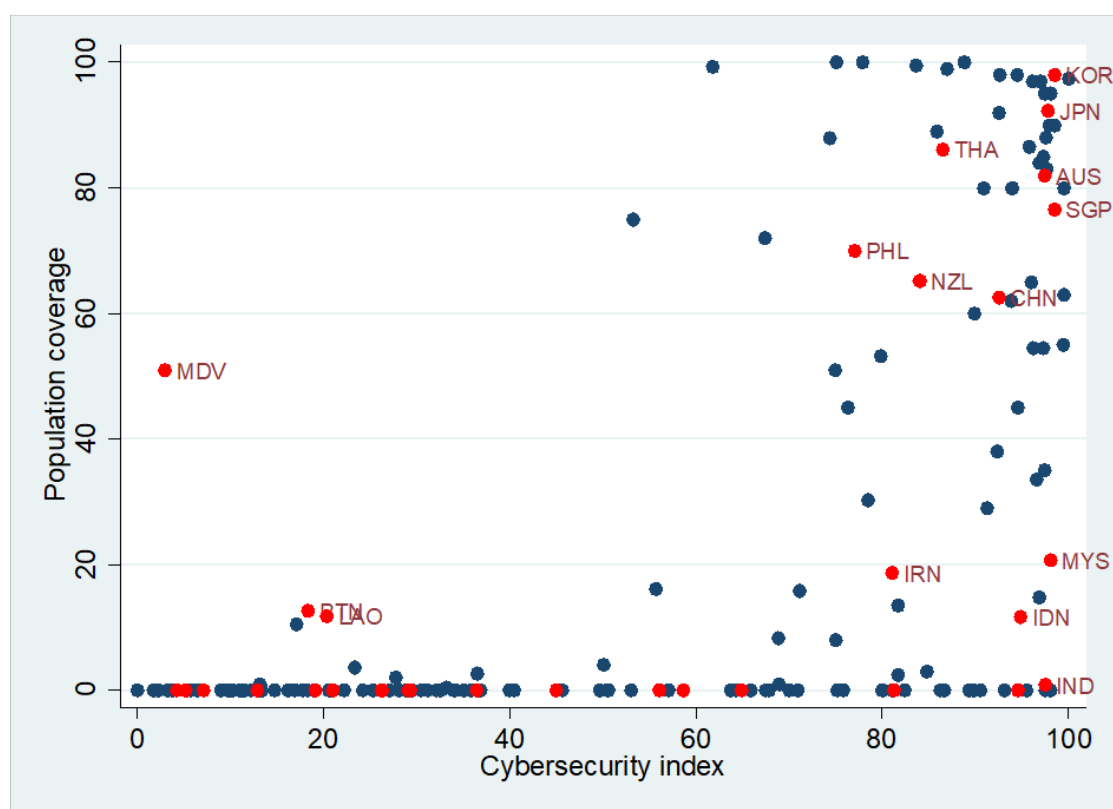
Taking a closer look, the amount of spectrum in bands below 1 GHz assigned to mobile network operators is positively related to 5G population coverage, while the empirical evidence on higher frequency bands is mixed at best. In fact, 5G spectrum auctions have attracted much attention from operators and this will greatly affect the success of 5G. Sufficient spectrum resources are the basis for successful 5G network construction and commercial use. The prerequisite for operators to put 5G into commercial use is to allocate sufficient low-, intermediate- and high-frequency spectrum.<sup>13</sup>

### Security and legislation: Cybersecurity index

(Note: Simple regression analysis applied here as 2022 data unavailable)

<sup>13</sup> See, for example, Miller et al. (2022) and GSMA <https://www.gsma.com/spectrum/5g-spectrum-guide/>

Figure 12: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and cybersecurity



Source: ITU

Table 26: Ordinary least squares regression for cybersecurity index

ALL	Coefficient	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	P-value
cybersecurity index	.52016	0.000	cybersecurity index	.49827	0.003

Arguably, cybersecurity is positively correlated with 5G adoption.

**Geographical and environmental factors:** Access to electricity (% of population), population total, population density (people per sq. km of land area)

(Note: 4G population coverage is used as a dependent variable in the absence of 2022 data for regressors)

Table 27: Ordinary least squares regression for access to electricity, total population and population density

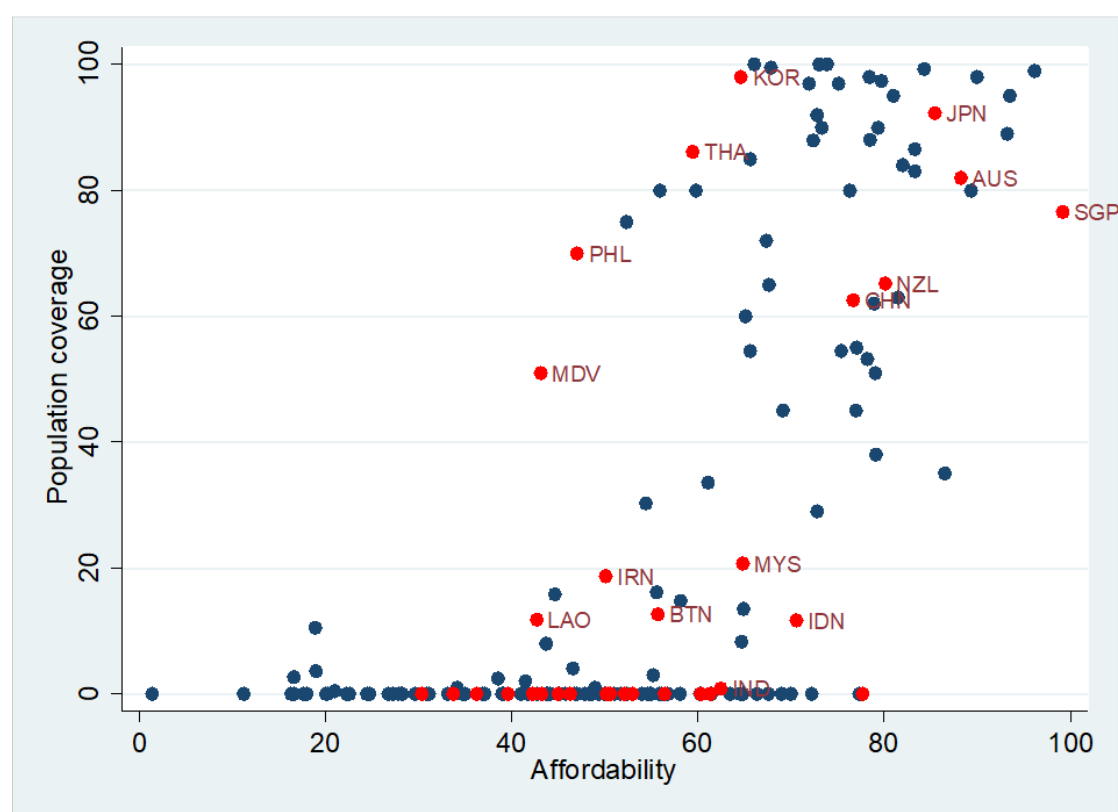
ALL	Coefficient	Standard error	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	Standard error	P-value
access to electricity of population	2.81	.3042143	0.000	access to electricity of population	2.7	.418065	0.000
population total	1.1e-06	5.04e-07	0.030	population total	8.2e-07	3.79e-07	0.037
population density people per sqkm of	.11	.0347568	0.002	population density people per sqkm of	.09	.0356331	0.016

Access to electricity, total population and population density are all important in shaping the 4G landscape and supposedly in promoting 5G technology adoption. Arguably, access to electricity is a foundational enabler, as electricity is essential for the widespread adoption of technology. A well-connected and properly electrified population is better positioned to embrace the benefits of 5G connectivity and its transformative applications. Additionally, the size and density of the population may play a pivotal role in determining the feasibility and potential reach of 4G as well as 5G networks. As more individuals are integrated into the digital ecosystem, opportunities for innovation and collaboration are heightened, fostering economic growth and societal progress. These factors, collectively, contribute to an environment conducive to unlocking the full potential of mobile technology and enabling a more connected and inclusive future.

### *Economic and regulatory factors*

**Affordability and costs:** Affordability index, affordability of 5G, handset and device affordability

**Figure 13: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and affordability**



Source: ITU

**Table 28: Panel data fixed-effects regression for affordability**

Affordability	Coefficient	P-value		Coefficient	P-value
ALL	.71667	0.005	ITU32	.21182	0.293

While affordability typically stands out as a crucial factor in enabling the adoption of 5G technology, it is interesting to note that, although positively related, it is statistically insignificant for the region. Again, this could be due to the smaller number of observations and follow-up analysis with data from additional years (e.g. 2023 and beyond) should improve statistical

significance. It is worth mentioning that the dependent variable is 5G coverage, not adoption, and affordability is arguably more likely to impact adoption. Furthermore, the affordability measures here are based on MCI data, which are almost entirely for 3G and 4G. They may serve as a good proxy but should be interpreted with caution as they are not based primarily on 5G.<sup>14</sup>

When looking at data affordability, however, it is also clear that affordability of higher 5Gb is an important enabler for 5G globally but is not statistically significant for countries in the Asia and the Pacific region. This is the case even when considering affordability for the poorest 40 per cent.

**Table 29: Panel data fixed-effects regression for affordability of 5G**

ALL	Coefficient	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	P-value
affordability 5 Gb	.290	0.033	affordability 5 Gb	.485	0.098
affordability 1 Gb	.061	0.695	affordability 1 Gb	-.226	0.399
affordability 5 Gb for poorest 40 per cent	.313	0.038	affordability 5 Gb for poorest 40 per cent	.486	0.097
affordability 1 Gb for poorest 40 per cent	.060	0.704	affordability 1 Gb for poorest 40 per cent	-.226	0.399

Similar results are found when considering handset and device affordability (Table 30). Although handset affordability is generally important globally as a 5G enabler, it is not statistically significant for the region, even for the poorest 40 per cent.<sup>15</sup>

**Table 30: Regression for handset and device affordability**

ALL	Coefficient	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	P-value
handset affordability	2.976	0.001	handset affordability	2.330	0.081
device affordability	-2.612	0.001	device affordability	-2.235	0.069

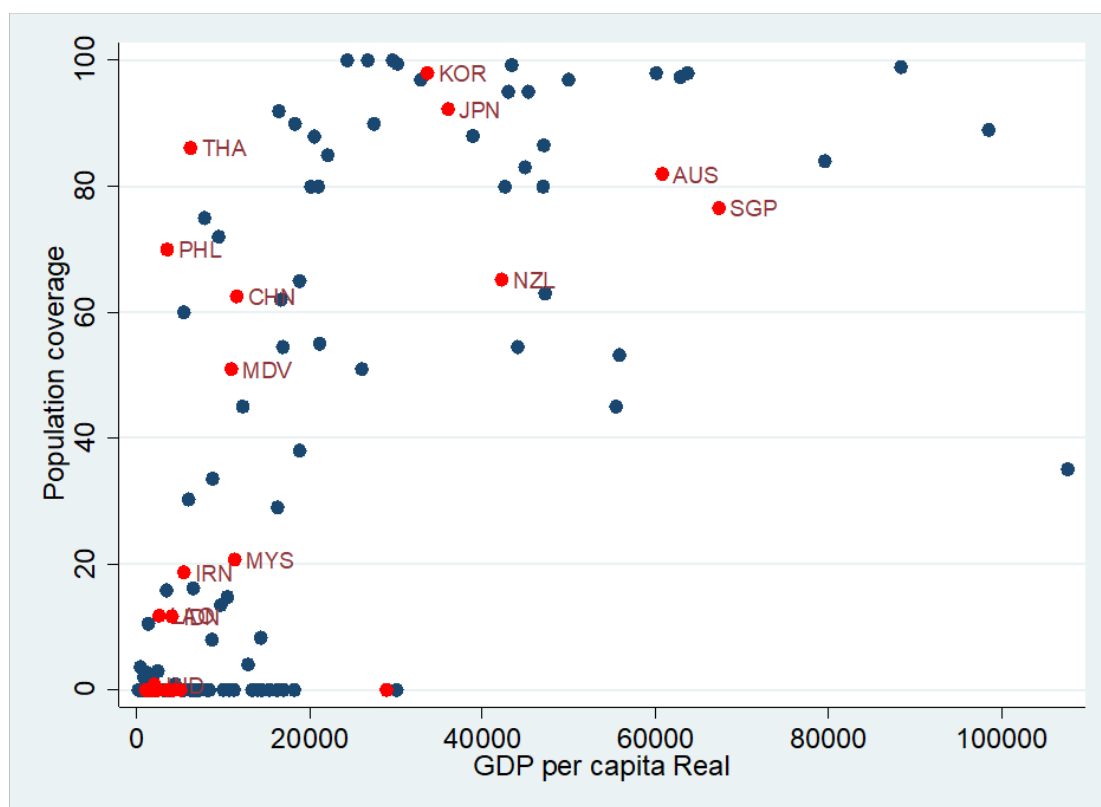
**Economic and development indicators:** GDP per capita (constant 2015 USD), high-technology exports (% of manufactured exports), ICT goods/services exports/imports

(Note: Regression analysis used because 2022 data are unavailable)

<sup>14</sup> The World Bank has an affordability threshold for broadband of 5% of average monthly income, while the GSMA sets the threshold at 2%, like ITU (see ITU, Achieving universal and meaningful digital connectivity in the decade of action. Aspirational targets for 2030, at <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/statistics/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2022/04/UniversalMeaningfulDigitalConnectivityTargets2030.pdf>)

<sup>15</sup> Coefficients not reported here.

Figure 14: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and real income per capita



Source: ITU

Table 31: Ordinary least squares regression for GDP per capita and high-tech exports

94 countries	Coefficient	P-value	ITU15	Coefficient	P-value
GDP per capita real	.001	0.000	GDP per capita real	.001	0.001
high technology exports of manufacturing	.68	0.010	high technology exports of manufacturing	.54	0.212

Income per capita and international trade (not shown here) emerge as crucial factors influencing the 5G landscape. High-technology exports are a significant potential enabler but not, interestingly, in the region. While this might initially seem counter-intuitive, it suggests the need to integrate plans and strategies for industry digital development and the use of 5G to promote industry digitalization.

Table 32: Ordinary least squares regression for ICT exports/imports

115 countries	Coefficient	P-value	ITU20	Coefficient	P-value
GDP per capita real	.001	0.000	GDP per capita real	.001	0.039
ICT goods exports of total goods exports	1.386	0.003	ICT goods exports of total goods exports	1.35	0.108

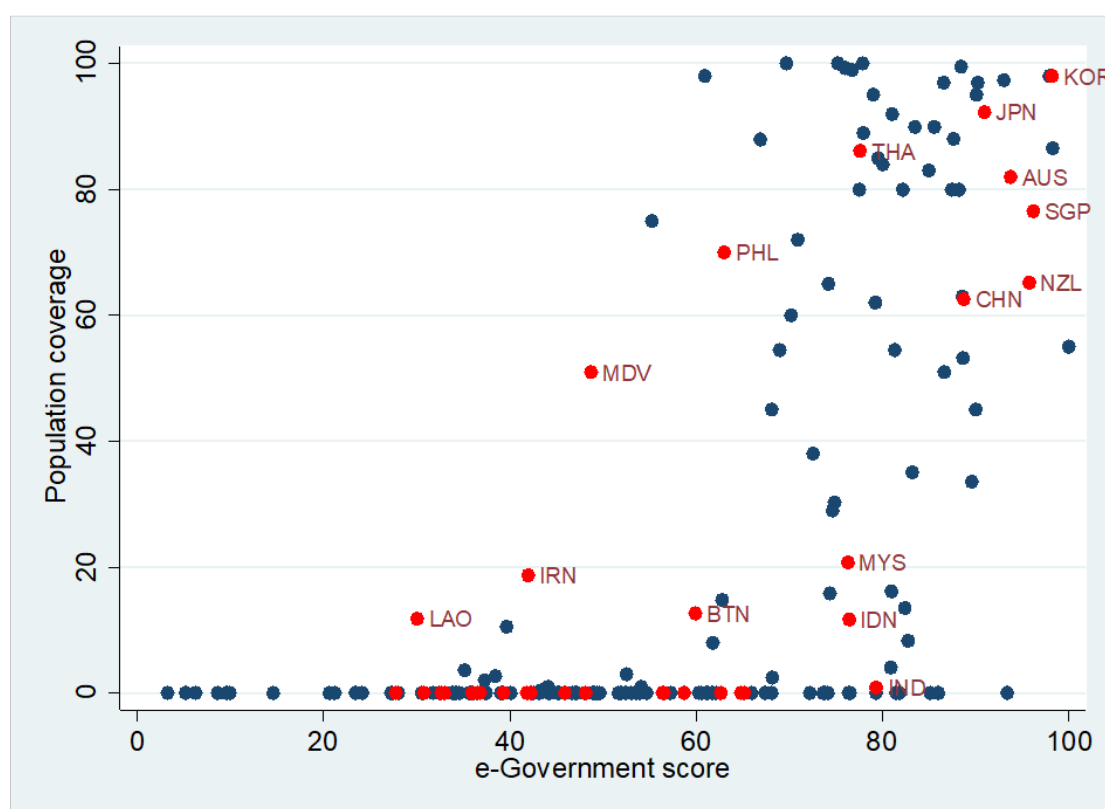
Table 32: Ordinary least squares regression for ICT exports/imports (continued)

115 countries	Coefficient	P-value	ITU20	Coefficient	P-value
ICT goods imports total goods imports	-.40	0.582	ICT goods imports total goods imports	-.70	0.725
ICT service exports of service export	-.11	0.510	ICT service exports of service export	-.43	0.290

Regression results suggest that ICT goods exports is a major enabler for 5G, but countries in the region seem not yet to have exploited this fully. Interestingly, neither imports of ICT goods nor export of ICT services is related to 5G usage. Although other macroeconomic variables, such as the real effective exchange rate, interest rates, inflation and the Gini coefficient, seem to have little impact on 5G usage, there is some suggestion (not shown here) that trade in services might promote 5G adoption in countries in the region.

**Regulatory and policy considerations:** E-government score, regulatory quality (estimate)

Figure 15: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and e-governance



Source: ITU

Note: Regression analysis used.

Table 33: Ordinary least squares regression for e-government score and regulatory quality

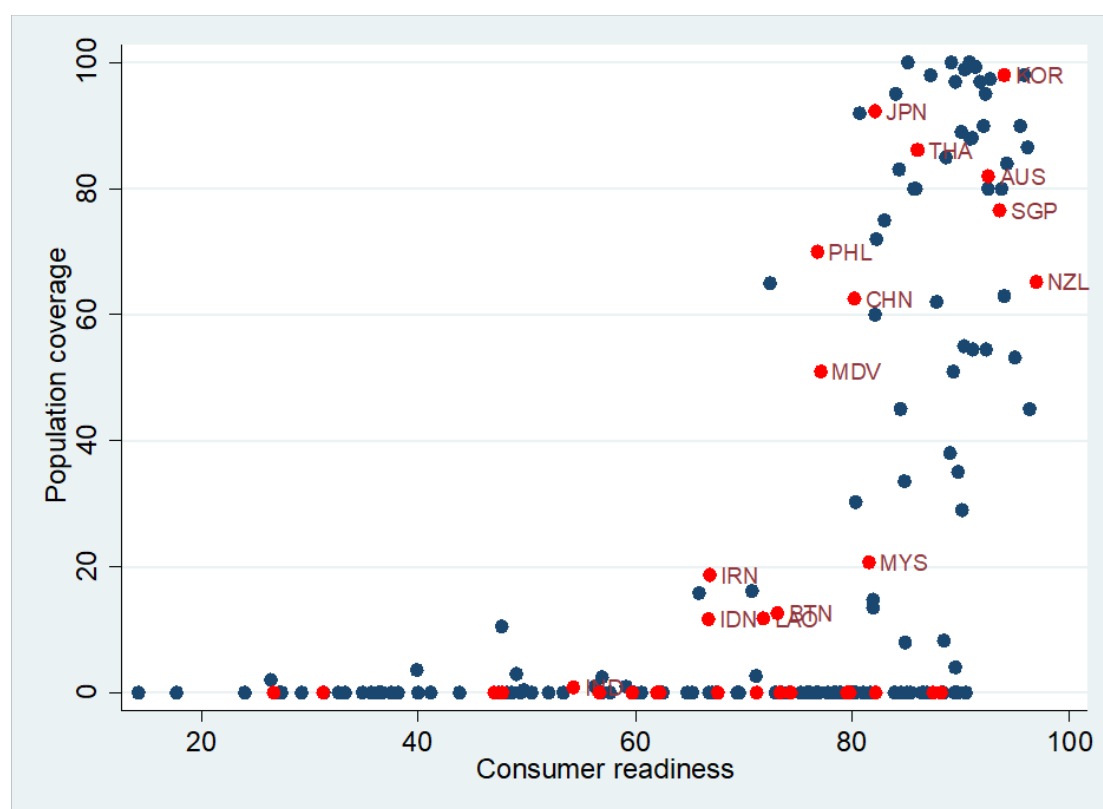
ALL	Coefficient	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	P-value
e-government score	.249	0.049	e-government score	.721	0.013
regulatory quality estimate	17.42	0.000	regulatory quality estimate	8.85	0.139

The importance of e-government and regulatory quality cannot be overstated in the context of 5G technology adoption. Although panel data fixed-effects regression does not show any significant relationship between e-governance and 5G adoption, regression analysis indicates a positive relationship, including regulatory quality, that is not as strong statistically for the region.

### Socio-cultural and political factors

**Consumer readiness and mobile ownership:** Consumer readiness index, mobile ownership, mobile-cellular subscriptions (per 100 people)

Figure 16: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and consumer readiness index



Source: ITU

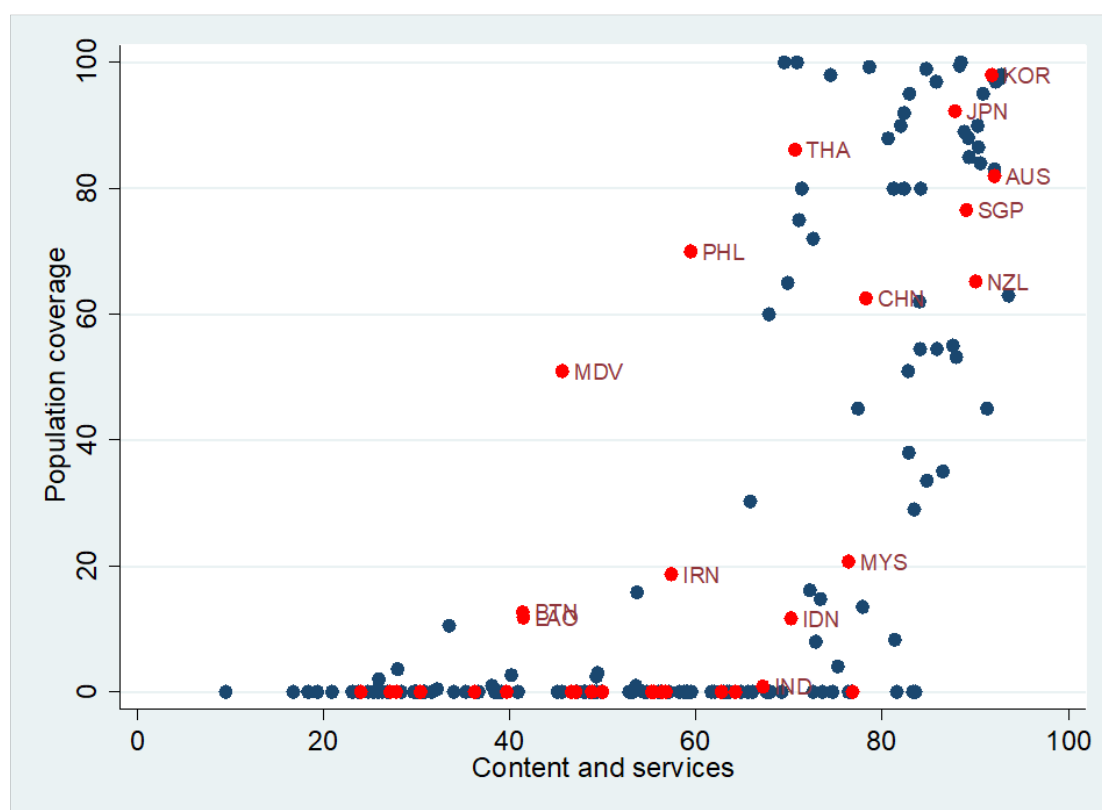
Table 34: Panel data fixed-effects regression for consumer readiness and mobile ownership

ALL	Coefficient	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	P-value
consumer readiness	.31250	0.162	consumer readiness	-.01478	0.949
mobile ownership	2.7902	0.000	mobile ownership	2.1328	0.001

In the above regressions, although the GSMA consumer readiness index is not statistically significant in explaining 5G usage globally and in the region, mobile ownership is a highly significant 5G enabler. Other consumer characteristics, such as basic skills, literacy, school life expectancy, mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 people, percentage of individuals using the Internet and mobile-cellular subscriptions were correlated with 4G and 5G population coverage. Consumer readiness and mobile ownership dynamics should play a pivotal role as enablers for the widespread adoption and success of 5G technology. General consumer engagement and mobile ownership drive demand for the advanced services and experiences that 5G offers.

**Content and services:** Content and services index and top-level domains (TLDs) per person

Figure 17: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and content and services index



Source: ITU

**Table 35: Panel data fixed-effects regression for content/services and top-level domains (TLDs)**

ALL	Coefficient	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	P-value
content and services	-1.73	0.023	content and services	-2.22	0.004
top level domains (TLDs) per person	1.57	0.082	top level domains (TLDs) per person	.67	0.264

Contrary to expectations, content and services, which encompass the availability of secure online content and services tailored to the local population, such as mobile social media penetration, intensity of locally developed apps, digital language support and language accessibility of top-ranked apps, appear to have a *negative* impact on 5G adoption. Only access to TLDs per person is positively related, but not statistically significant, to 5G population coverage. Despite the intuitive notion that accessible and relevant digital content should fuel 5G adoption, it seems that other underlying factors are more influential.

**Governance and stability:** Gender equality, local relevance, government effectiveness: estimate, rule of law: estimate, strength of legal rights index (0=weak to 12=strong)

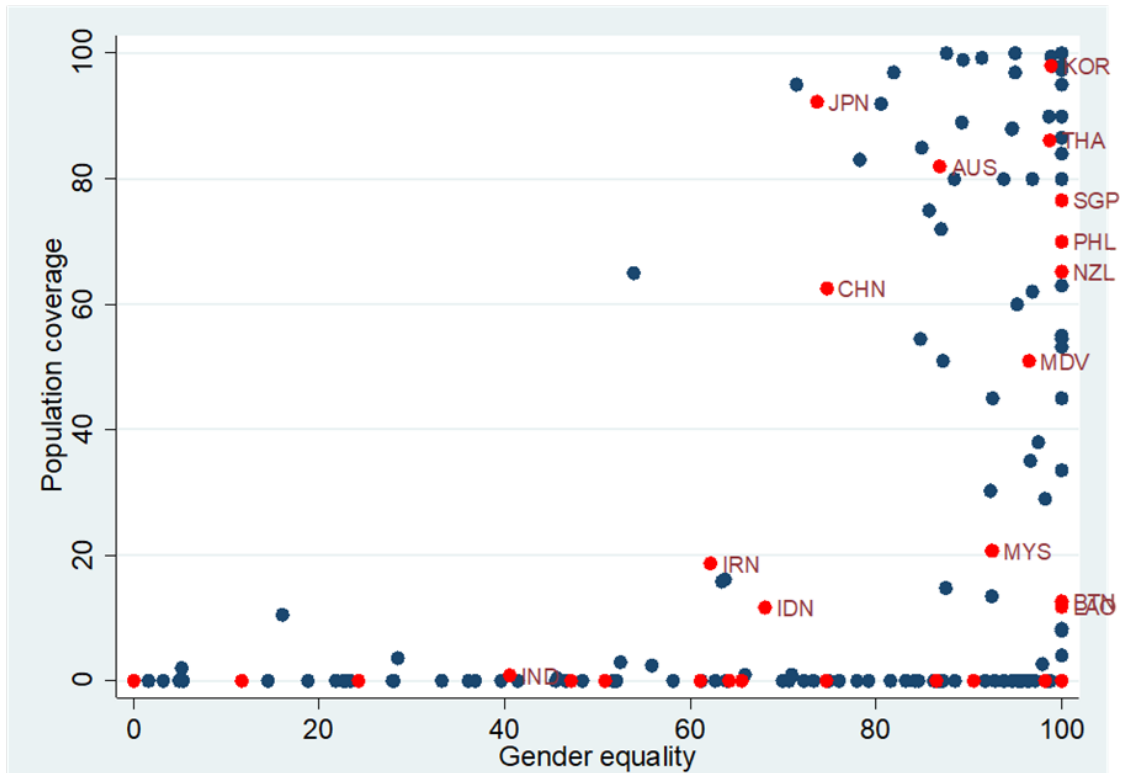
(Note: 4G population coverage is used as a dependent variable because the 2022 data for regressors are missing.)

**Table 36: Ordinary least squares regression for gender equality, government effectiveness and rule of law**

ALL	Coefficient	P-value	ITU32	Coefficient	P-value
gender equality	.56	0.000	gender equality	.53	0.042
government effectiveness estimate	7.07	0.482	government effectiveness estimate	-2.00	0.872
rule of law estimate	-14.98	0.266	rule of law estimate	67.97	0.005

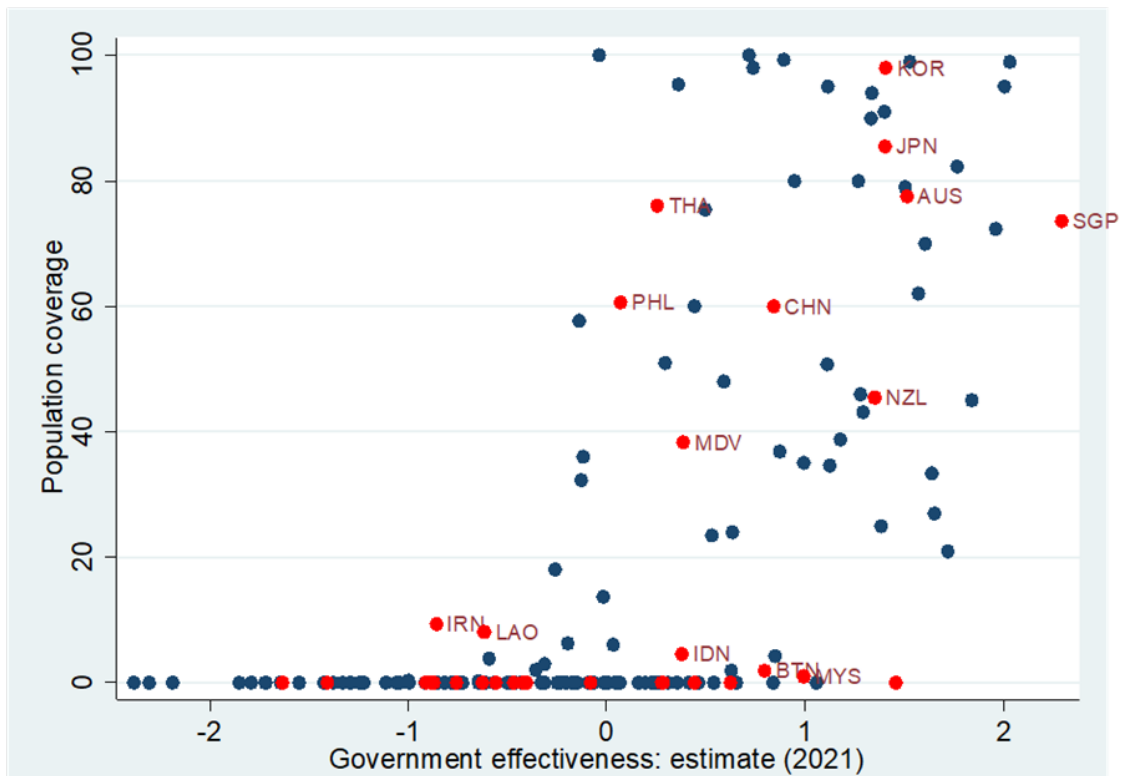
Interestingly, gender equality plays a critical role in the context of 4G/5G adoption.

Figure 18: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and gender equality



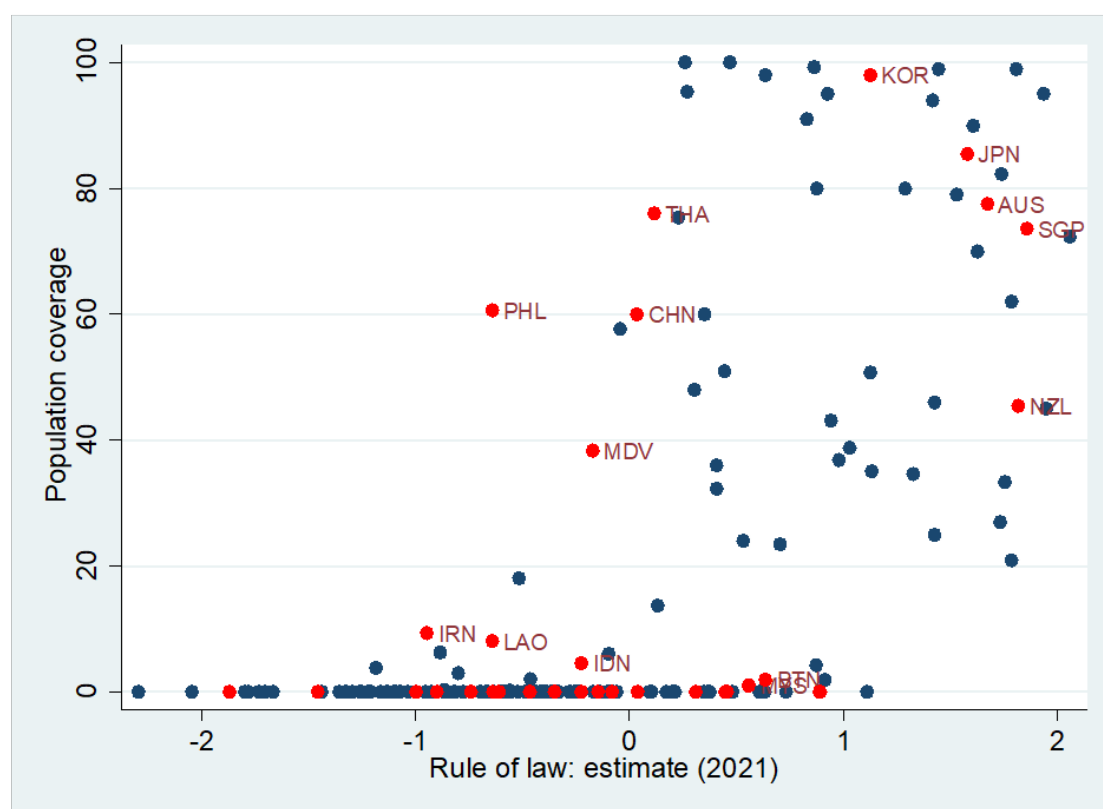
Source: ITU

Figure 19: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and government effectiveness



Source: ITU

Figure 20: Scatter plot of 5G population coverage and rule of law



Source: ITU

## 4.2 Summary of results and robustness check

### Technical and infrastructure readiness

**Infrastructure and network:** The panel data fixed-effects regression analysis, which takes account of individual country characteristics, affirms that infrastructure plays a significant role as a 5G enabler, both at the global level and within the region. Robust infrastructure is crucial for supporting the roll-out and functionality of 5G networks. While network coverage and performance are vital enablers for 5G adoption on a global scale, the analysis is more nuanced for the region. Network coverage, highly correlated with 4G population coverage and latency, shows a positive relationship but lacks statistical significance for the region owing to the limited sample size. Expanding the data set to include more recent years, such as 2023, may enhance the statistical significance of these factors. Another explanation may be that most 5G deployments to date are non-stand-alone, which does not enable the low latency that is available on stand-alone 5G. This may also help explain why few enterprise services have been developed that leverage the low latency features.

**Spectrum and bandwidth:** The panel data regressions emphasize the importance of mobile download speeds and 4G population coverage as critical 5G enablers on a global level. However, mobile latency and upload speeds, while positively related, do not appear to carry the same level of importance. Interestingly, for the region, 4G population coverage is not as pivotal as a 5G enabler.

**Security and legislation:** Cybersecurity is fundamental in the 5G landscape. With the proliferation of connected devices and data-exchange possibilities, it is paramount to safeguard sensitive information and critical infrastructure. Robust cybersecurity measures protect personal privacy and shield businesses, governments and essential services from potential threats and breaches. They lay a secure foundation for 5G, fostering trust, enabling innovation, and ensuring a safer and more interconnected future.

**Geographical and environmental factors:** Access to electricity is important as it allows for a well-connected population to embrace 5G's benefits. Population size and density influence the feasibility and reach of 5G networks. As more individuals join the digital ecosystem, opportunities for innovation and economic growth increase, fostering a connected and inclusive future.

### Economic and regulatory factors

**Affordability and costs:** Although affordability typically plays a significant role in enabling the adoption of 5G technology on a global scale, regression analysis suggests that, while positively related, affordability is statistically insignificant for the region. This may be due to the limited number of observations; further analysis with data from additional years, such as 2023 and beyond, could enhance its statistical significance. Interestingly, this result holds true even when considering affordability for the poorest 40 per cent of the population.

**Economic and development indicators:** Income per capita and high-technology exports are major factors influencing the 5G landscape globally. However, for the region, high-technology exports do not exhibit the same level of significance, suggesting the need to integrate strategies for industry digital development and to leverage 5G for industry digitalization in the region. The export of ICT goods is found to be an important enabler for 5G adoption globally. Countries in the region appear not to have fully exploited this potential. Factors such as the real effective exchange rate, interest rates, inflation and income inequality (Gini coefficient) seem to have little impact on 5G adoption, indicating that these macroeconomic factors may not be primary drivers of 5G adoption. However, there are indications that trade in services may positively influence 5G adoption in the region.

**Regulator and policy considerations:** The importance of e-government and the quality of governance regulations cannot be overstated in the context of 5G adoption. While panel data fixed-effects regression does not show a significant relationship between e-governance and 5G adoption, it does identify a positive relationship, especially regarding regulatory quality. However, the statistical significance of regulatory quality is not as strong for the region, suggesting that there is room for improvement in regulatory frameworks.

### Socio-cultural and political factors

**Consumer readiness and mobile ownership:** While the GSMA consumer readiness index does not exhibit statistical significance in explaining 5G usage globally and in the region, mobile ownership is identified as a highly significant enabler of 5G adoption. Factors such as basic skills, literacy, school life expectancy, mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 people, Internet usage and mobile-cellular subscriptions are correlated with 4G and 5G population coverage. Consumer readiness and mobile ownership dynamics are pivotal in driving the widespread adoption and success of 5G technology. Engaged and empowered consumers create demand for the advanced services and experiences offered by 5G, fostering innovation and industry evolution.

**Content and services:** Surprisingly, content and services, encompassing secure online content and services tailored to local conditions, appear to have a negative impact on 5G adoption. Metrics such as mobile social media penetration, the intensity of locally developed apps, digital language support and language accessibility of top-ranked apps exhibit unexpected correlations. This outcome underscores the complexity of the relationship between technology adoption and local dynamics. While the presence of locally created content might have been expected to promote adoption, other underlying factors seem to be more influential. Indeed, while the local creation of content might have been thought to facilitate adoption, the context is clearly more complex. This insight invites us to delve deeper into the specific nuances that contribute to this unexpected correlation and explore how it interacts with various aspects of the 5G ecosystem.

**Governance and stability:** Gender equality emerges as a critical factor in the context of 4G/5G adoption. Promoting gender equality is not only a matter of social justice, but also a strategic imperative for realizing the full potential of 5G transformative capabilities. Ensuring equal opportunities for women's participation and leadership in the technology sector unlocks diverse perspectives and skills that drive innovation and creativity. Gender-inclusive policies and practices lead to a more balanced and inclusive workforce, enabling holistic problem-solving and the development of solutions for all members of society. Addressing gender disparities in technology adoption reduces the digital divide and promotes a more equitable future where everyone benefits from 5G advancements.

### 4.3 Limitations

The empirical study has two main limitations: the panel data regression is limited to two years, 2021 and 2022, for which data on 5G population coverage is available; and only some Asia and the Pacific countries have adopted 5G technology. Because of those limitations, the analysis tends to find that the link between 5G coverage and several indicators in the region is statistically insignificant, whereas it is significant globally.

Both these limitations suggest that the regression results must be interpreted with care.

## 5 Policy recommendations

Based on the empirical findings, several policy recommendations are suggested here to effectively foster 5G adoption and its associated benefits. It should be emphasized, however, that 5G does not have to be a policy priority; governments need to consider the relevant advantages of multiple technologies and their complementarity when defining national technology policies, which would ideally be technology agnostic. Only if 5G is deemed to be necessary or to enable specific market dynamics based on an evidence-driven assessment should it be considered a policy priority and the recommendations considered.

The policy recommendations are divided into the same three groups of enablers.

### Technical and infrastructure readiness

**Infrastructure investment:** Building the right infrastructure plays a pivotal role in unleashing the transformative potential of any new technology and 5G is no exception. Infrastructure is the foundation upon which the promises of faster speeds, minimal latency and extensive connectivity can be realized. By strategically establishing this infrastructure, the way has been set for innovations that can enhance various aspects of peoples' lives, from enabling remote health-care services and advancing smart cities to facilitating seamless communication between devices. Ultimately, well-organized infrastructure is the key that opens doors to a more connected and efficient future, where the possibilities of 5G are harnessed to create positive impacts across diverse industries and communities. Policy-makers should prioritize substantial investments in building and upgrading communication infrastructure. This includes deploying high-speed networks, expanding coverage in urban and rural areas, and monitoring network coverage and experience indicators. Consideration should be given to using Universal Service Funds or financial support to improve 4G/5G coverage.

**Spectrum:** Effective spectrum management is crucial for 5G roll-out and adoption. Governments and regulatory bodies should continue establishing clear policies for spectrum allocation, including frequency bands and licensing models, to meet rising connectivity demands and foster innovation.

**Infrastructure accessibility:** Needless to say, governments should prioritize infrastructure development to ensure reliable access to electricity, especially in underserved areas, and consider population density in urban planning to optimize network coverage and connectivity. Access to electricity, total population and population density are all important in shaping the new technology landscape. For example, a well-connected and properly electrified population is better positioned to embrace the benefits of 5G connectivity and its transformative applications. Additionally, the size and density of the population may play a pivotal role in determining the feasibility and potential reach of 4G as well as 5G networks. As more individuals are integrated into the digital ecosystem, opportunities for innovation and collaboration are heightened, fostering economic growth and societal progress. These factors, collectively, contribute to an environment conducive to unlocking the full potential of mobile technology and enabling a more connected and inclusive future.

**Cybersecurity:** Cybersecurity is pivotal in the realm of 5G technology. As the transformative potential of 5G is embraced, it becomes imperative to ensure the utmost security and resilience in our digital landscape. With the exponential increase in connected devices and data-exchange possibilities, the importance of safeguarding sensitive information and critical infrastructure

cannot be overstated. Cybersecurity safeguards personal privacy and protects businesses, governments and critical services from potential threats and breaches. By prioritizing robust cybersecurity measures, a secure foundation has been created upon which 5G can flourish, fostering trust and confidence among users, enabling innovation, and paving the way for a safer and more connected future. Governments must ensure robust cybersecurity measures to build trust in the new technology. They must modernize legislative frameworks so that they can adapt to the evolving technological landscape. This is not limited to laws related to data protection, privacy and network security specific to 5G technology; it must also involve international cooperation in establishing frameworks to manage cross-border data flows and cyberthreats effectively.

### Economic and regulatory factors

**Affordability:** Affordability typically stands out as a crucial factor in enabling the adoption of any new technology, and there are occasional reports about the high price of 5G terminals in the region hindering increased 5G user penetration<sup>16</sup>. Although affordability was not found to be statistically significant for the region, perhaps owing to data limitations, policy-makers should nevertheless address the issue. Governments should design initiatives to make 5G services more affordable. Moreover, there is some indication that high taxation, which adds to costs, may work against 5G adoption in the region.

**Economic empowerment:** Policy-makers should emphasize policies that drive economic growth and increase income levels. This involves creating favourable business environments, promoting entrepreneurship and ensuring equitable wealth distribution to support 5G adoption.

**E-governance and regulatory reforms:** E-government initiatives hold the potential to reshape the way governments interact with citizens, businesses and other stakeholders. Moreover, by leveraging the capabilities of 5G, e-government services can become more efficient, accessible and responsive, enabling streamlined processes, faster service delivery and enhanced citizen engagement. This synergy between 5G and e-government has the power to drive digital transformation at a societal level, fostering transparency, accountability and inclusivity. As governments harness the capabilities of 5G to provide seamless online services, they pave the way for an empowered, connected and digitally literate population that can actively participate in the modern digital landscape. They should prioritize the development and implementation of robust e-governance strategies that leverage 5G for enhanced government services and transparency and focus on regulatory reforms to support 5G deployment and innovation.

### Socio-cultural and political factors

**Consumer readiness programmes:** Governments should focus on comprehensive initiatives designed to enhance public understanding of, and engagement with, 5G technology. This includes nationwide digital literacy campaigns across various media, hands-on workshops and seminars in local communities, integrating 5G into educational curricula, and public demonstrations showcasing real-life applications. It also includes the establishment of feedback platforms for consumer engagement and collaboration with telecommunication providers to facilitate access to 5G services. Efforts should aim to educate the public about 5G, its benefits and its applications, thereby boosting adoption rates and bridging the digital divide.

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<sup>16</sup> See GSMA (2024).

**Content and services:** Given that content and services do not significantly impact 5G adoption as yet, policy-makers should reconsider their strategies in this area and gradually shift the emphasis towards enhancing other enablers while ensuring that content and services remain relevant and innovative, leveraging 5G technology. It may be too early to say, but as individuals embrace the potential of 5G-enabled applications, from augmented reality to IoT solutions, they will not only enrich their lives but also contribute to industry growth and evolution. Consumer-centric ownership will create a symbiotic relationship where the demand for 5G services fosters innovation, prompting businesses to develop and deliver cutting-edge products. This positive feedback loop should lead to a virtuous cycle of continuous advancement, shaping a future where individuals and industries thrive together in the realm of 5G possibilities.

**Gender equality initiatives:** Promoting inclusivity and gender equality in the technology sector through policies that encourage equal participation and representation of women is important to foster a diverse and innovative workforce, and to accelerate 5G adoption and balanced technological advancements. Embracing gender equality is not just a matter of social justice; it is a strategic imperative for realizing the full potential of 5G transformative capabilities. By ensuring equal opportunities for women's participation and leadership in the technology sector, a diverse range of perspectives and skills can drive innovation and creativity. Gender-inclusive policies and practices foster a balanced and inclusive workforce, leading to more holistic problem-solving and the development of solutions that cater to the needs of all members of society. Additionally, by addressing gender disparities in technology adoption, the digital divide can be bridged to create a more equitable future, where everyone can benefit from the advancements that come with 5G technology.

In conclusion, it is important that countries draw insights from the experiences of leading 5G countries and adopt strategies on, for example, the formulation of national mobile-broadband plans; quantify mobile-broadband development goals; introduce supporting policies; plan for industry digital development; and utilize 5G to facilitate industry digitalization. Moreover, it is important to put in place appropriate mechanisms for continuous monitoring and evaluation of identified enablers, to allow timely adjustments to strategies and policies based on emerging trends and changing dynamics, including regular mobile-broadband network quality evaluation. The above policy recommendations are meant to create a comprehensive framework that addresses the multifaceted nature of 5G adoption. By strategically focusing on the identified enablers and tailoring interventions to specific regional contexts, policy-makers can drive positive outcomes, fostering widespread 5G adoption and reaping the associated economic, social and technological benefits.

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## Appendices

### A Cross-correlation dendrograms

Cross-correlation dendrograms are a sophisticated statistical tool used to analyse the relationships between multiple time-series data sets. They offer a visual and quantitative method to understand how different data sets are interrelated, especially in terms of their time-lagged correlations. This method is particularly useful in fields like finance, meteorology and environmental science, where understanding the dynamic interplay between different variables over time is crucial.

#### The concept of cross-correlation

At the heart of cross-correlation dendrograms is the concept of cross-correlation, which measures how two time-series data sets are related to each other at different time lags. Unlike simple correlation, cross-correlation takes into account the lead-lag relationships between data sets, enabling the identification of patterns that are not immediately apparent.

#### Building a dendrogram

A dendrogram is a tree-like diagram that illustrates the arrangement of the clusters produced by hierarchical clustering. In the context of cross-correlation, it groups together time series that exhibit similar correlation patterns. Each branch of the dendrogram represents a time series, and the length of the branches reflects the degree of similarity in the cross-correlation patterns.

#### Application in various fields

*Finance:* Traders and analysts use cross-correlation dendrograms to understand the relationships between different financial instruments, like stocks or commodities. This helps in portfolio diversification and risk management.

*Meteorology:* Meteorologists employ dendrograms to study the relationship between various climatic variables over time, aiding in weather prediction and climate modeling.

*Environmental science:* Researchers analyse the interdependencies between different environmental factors, such as pollution levels and temperature, to understand ecological dynamics.

#### Interpreting a cross-correlation dendrogram

*Clusters identification:* The dendrogram clusters time series based on the similarity of their cross-correlation patterns. Closely located branches indicate a stronger correlation, often implying a direct or indirect relationship between the variables. In the report, they are matched by similar colouring.

*Time lag analysis:* By examining the cross-correlation at different time lags, one can infer causality or precedence among variables. For example, if a time lag consistently shows high correlation, it may suggest that one variable is a leading indicator of another.

## Challenges and considerations

*Data quality and length:* The reliability of a cross-correlation dendrogram heavily depends on the quality and length of the time-series data. Short or noisy data can lead to misleading correlations.

*Statistical significance:* It is crucial to test the statistical significance of the correlations to avoid spurious relationships.

*Complex interpretations:* While dendrograms provide a visual representation, interpreting them, especially in systems with numerous variables, can be complex and requires a deep understanding of the underlying processes.

## Conclusion

Cross-correlation dendrograms are a powerful tool for uncovering complex relationships in time-series data. Their ability to reveal hidden patterns and dependencies makes them invaluable in various scientific and financial analyses. However, careful consideration must be given to their interpretation, as the insights they provide are as much an art as a science.

## B Panel data analysis

This description provides a detailed understanding of the panel data fixed-effects regression model, covering its principles, applications, interpretation of results and use.

Panel data, or longitudinal data, refers to a data set that contains observations of multiple entities (individuals, firms, countries) over a period of time. This type of data structure allows for the analysis of dynamics that change over time within these entities.

### Fixed-effects model

The fixed-effects model is a statistical approach used in panel data analysis. It is designed to study the impact of variables that vary over time within an entity while controlling for all time-invariant characteristics of each entity. This model is particularly useful in cases where the goal is to analyse the cause-and-effect relationship between variables within the same entity.

### Key features of the fixed-effects model

*Entity-specific constants:* The model includes entity-specific constants (fixed effects) which capture all time-invariant characteristics of each entity. This eliminates the influence of any unobserved, time-invariant variables that might bias the results.

*Focus on within-entity variation:* The fixed-effects model analyses the variation within an entity over time; by contrast, random-effects models consider both within- and between-entity variations.

### Equation and estimation

The basic formula for a fixed-effects model can be represented as:

$$y_{it} = \alpha + \beta x_{it} + \mu_i + \epsilon_{it}$$

where  $y_{it}$  is the dependent variable,  $x_{it}$  represents the independent variables,  $\mu_i$  is the unobserved individual effect and  $E_{it}$  is the error term.

### Applications in various disciplines

*Economics:* The fixed-effects model is used to study the impact of policy changes or economic factors on specific groups, like the effect of education policy on student performance over time.

*Sociology:* The fixed-effects model analyses social phenomena, such as the impact of societal changes on individual behaviour.

*Public health:* Examines the effect of health interventions on patient outcomes over time.

### Interpreting the results of the fixed-effects model

*Coefficient interpretation:* The coefficients in a fixed-effects model represent the average effect of a one-unit change in the independent variable on the dependent variable, controlling for all time-invariant characteristics.

*Time-invariant variables:* Since these variables are absorbed by the entity-specific constants, they cannot be estimated directly in the fixed-effects model.

### Advantages and limitations

*Control for unobserved heterogeneity:* A major advantage of the fixed-effects model is its ability to control for unobserved heterogeneity, reducing omitted variable bias.

*Limited to within-entity analysis:* The model does not allow for the estimation of effects of time-invariant variables, which can be a limitation in some research contexts.

*Time-varying confounders:* The model assumes that time-varying confounders are adequately controlled, which may not always be the case.

### Conclusion

The panel data fixed-effects model is a robust statistical tool for analysing the dynamics of change within entities over time. Its strength lies in controlling for unobserved heterogeneity, making it invaluable for longitudinal studies across various fields. However, its application requires careful consideration of the assumptions and limitations of the model.

## C Variable descriptions

Variable	Description
2G population coverage	Population coverage for 2G networks is an important metric for telecommunication providers and regulators, as it indicates how many people within a given area can access basic mobile services using 2G technology.
3G population coverage	3G population coverage refers to the extent to which a 3G mobile network provides service to a specific population or geographic area.
4G population coverage	4G population coverage refers to the extent to which a 4G mobile network provides service to a specific population or geographic area.
4G services commercially available	Means that 4G wireless communication services are offered and accessible to consumers and businesses as part of standard commercial service offerings provided by telecommunication companies or service providers.
5G population coverage	5G population coverage refers to the extent to which a 5G mobile network provides service to a specific population or geographic area.
Access to electricity (% of population)	The percentage of population with access to electricity. Electrification data are collected from industry, national surveys and international sources.
Affordability	The availability of mobile services and devices at price points that reflect the level of income across a national population. It consists of mobile tariffs, handset price, inequality and taxation.
Affordability of entry basket (1GB)	Mobile data affordability is now measured based on two rather than four baskets. From 2014 to 2018, the “entry” basket was based on a consumer using 100 MB of data per month and the “higher” basket on 500 MB of data. From 2019 to 2022, the entry basket was based on 1 GB of data and the higher basket on 5 GB. This approach is more flexible and reflects the increasing use of data by consumers over time, rather than continuing to track baskets that no longer reflect current consumption patterns
Affordability of entry basket (1GB) for poorest 40%	
Affordability of higher basket (5GB)	
Affordability of higher basket (5GB) for poorest 40%	

(continued)

Variable	Description
Amount of spectrum licensed for IMT systems in MHz	Refers to the total quantity of radio frequency spectrum that has been officially allocated or licensed by regulatory authorities or governments for use by IMT systems within a specific geographic area, such as a country or region. This metric is often expressed in MHz and is essential for assessing the availability and capacity of spectrum for mobile communications.
Amount of spectrum offered for IMT systems in MHz	Refers to the total quantity of radio frequency spectrum made available or offered by regulatory authorities or governments for potential use by IMT systems within a specific geographic area, such as a country or region. This metric is typically expressed in MHz.
Basic skills	Consists of adult literacy rate, school life expectancy, mean years of schooling and tertiary enrolment rate.
Broadband services are part of universal service/ access scheme	Broadband Internet services are included within a region or country's universal service or universal access framework. This means that efforts are being made to ensure that broadband Internet access is available to a significant portion, if not all, of the population, to promote digital inclusion and bridge the digital divide.
Cloud computing policies	A set of guidelines, rules and regulations established by organizations, governments or institutions to govern the use, management and security of cloud computing services and resources. Cloud computing policies are designed to ensure that cloud-based operations are conducted in a manner that aligns with the goals and objectives of an organization while addressing security, compliance and risk management concerns.
Consumer price index (2010 = 100)	The WDI Consumer Price Index is a measure used to track changes in the average prices of a basket of goods and services that are consumed by households. It is an important economic indicator that provides insight into inflation rates and purchasing power within a country.
Consumer readiness	Citizens with the awareness and skills needed to value and use the Internet. It consists of basic skills, gender equality and mobile ownership.
Content and services	The availability of secure online content and services that are accessible and relevant to the local population. The GSMA content and services enabler has three dimensions: local relevance, availability and online security. Local relevance measures the amount of content produced in a given country, including e-government services, web domains, social media and mobile applications. These are included because content that is created or developed within a country is likely to be relevant to many of the people living there.

(continued)

Variable	Description
Cost of sector-specific taxes on mobile data	High levels of taxation on mobile data and/or handsets increases the cost for the consumer. This can make those devices less affordable, especially for those on lower incomes. What is particularly distortive is the imposition of sector-specific taxes that apply only to mobile services and not to other goods or services.
Cost of taxes on handsets	
Cost of taxes on mobile data	
Counterfeit policies for the ICT sector	Counterfeit ICT products can include items such as counterfeit smartphones, tablets, computer hardware, software, networking equipment and accessories. They are often produced and sold to deceive consumers or infringe on intellectual property rights, and pose various risks, including security vulnerabilities and potential harm to end-users.
CPIA building human resources rating (1=low to 6=high)	The CPIA score in the World Bank WDI database is a numerical rating that evaluates a country's policy and institutional quality. It ranges from 1 to 6, with higher scores indicating better policy environments. These scores help assess a country's effectiveness in promoting sustainable development, with higher scores indicating favourable conditions for growth and poverty reduction, while lower scores suggest areas requiring policy reforms or institutional enhancements.
CPIA business regulatory environment rating (1=low to 6=high)	
CPIA property rights and rule-based governance rating (1=low to 6=high)	
CPIA trade rating (1=low to 6=high)	
CPIA transparency accountability and corruption in the public sector rating (1=low to 6=high)	

(continued)

Variable	Description
Cybersecurity index	The Global Cybersecurity Index is a trusted reference that measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity at the global level, to raise awareness of the importance and different dimensions of the issue. As cybersecurity has a broad field of application, cutting across many industries and various sectors, each country's level of development or engagement is assessed along five pillars: legal measures, technical measures, organizational measures, capacity development and cooperation - and then aggregated into an overall score.
Cybersecurity legislation/regulations exist	Cybersecurity legislation and regulations are laws, rules and government policies enacted to address various aspects of cybersecurity. They are put in place to protect critical infrastructure, data, information systems and the digital assets of organizations and individuals from cyber threats and attacks. Cybersecurity legislation and regulations can vary significantly from one jurisdiction to another but generally aim to establish standards, requirements and mechanisms to enhance the security of cyberspace.
Device affordability	Device affordability in the context of average monthly GDP per capita refers to the ability of individuals or households within a specific country or region to purchase and use electronic devices based on their average income. It is a measure of how accessible and affordable electronic devices are to the average person in terms of their monthly income.
Device affordability for the poorest 40%	Refers to the ability of this lower-income segment to purchase and use electronic devices based on their average monthly income. It focuses on assessing whether these devices are within reach for the economically disadvantaged portion of the population.
Device pricing	Price of reference device in United States dollars. Of all the devices available with Internet capability, smartphones are generally the least expensive with characteristics that offer more than basic connectivity. Because of this, they serve an important role in providing people with meaningful connectivity – a crucial element in the development of digital economies.
Digital dividend spectrum reallocated	Refers to the process of reallocating and repurposing radio frequency spectrum that becomes available as a result of the transition from analogue to digital television broadcasting. This transition, often referred to as the "digital dividend", occurs when countries or regions switch from traditional analogue television broadcasting to digital terrestrial television broadcasting.
Digital language support	This metric is sourced from Derivation and provides a measure of the aggregated digital capabilities for all living languages within a country, based on the availability and accessibility of language-specific hardware/software support.

(continued)

Variable	Description
E-government score	The e-government score presents the state of e-government development. Along with an assessment of the website development patterns in a country, the e-government score incorporates the access characteristics, such as the infrastructure and educational levels, to reflect how a country is using information technologies to promote access and inclusion of its people. It is a composite measure of three important dimensions of e-government, namely: provision of online services, telecommunication connectivity and human capacity.
Electric power consumption (kWh per capita)	Electric power consumption per capita (kWh) is the production of power plants and combined heat and power plants less transmission, distribution, and transformation losses and own use by heat and power plants, divided by midyear population.
Fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people)	Refers to fixed subscriptions to high-speed access to the public Internet (a TCP/IP connection), at downstream speeds equal to, or greater than, 256 kbit/s. This includes cable modem, DSL, fibre-to-the-home/building, other fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions, satellite broadband and terrestrial fixed wireless broadband. This total is measured irrespective of the method of payment. It excludes subscriptions that have access to data communications (including the Internet) via mobile-cellular networks. It should include fixed WiMAX and any other fixed wireless technologies. It includes both residential subscriptions and subscriptions for organizations.
Foreign ICT service providers treated differently in terms of taxation	Foreign ICT service providers are subject to distinct or varying tax regulations, rules or rates compared to domestic ICT service providers when conducting business in a particular country or jurisdiction. This differential treatment can have significant implications for how foreign ICT companies operate, report taxes and compete in the local market.
GDP per capita (constant 2015 USD)	GDP at purchaser's prices is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Data are in constant 2015 prices, expressed in United States dollars. Dollar figures for GDP are converted from domestic currencies using 2015 official exchange rates. For a few countries where the official exchange rate does not reflect the rate effectively applied to actual foreign exchange transactions, an alternative conversion factor is used.
GDP per capita PPP (constant 2017 international dollars)	GDP per capita based on PPP. PPP GDP is gross domestic product converted to international dollars using purchasing power parity rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GDP as the United States dollar has in the United States. GDP at purchaser's prices is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the country plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Data are in constant 2017 international dollars.

(continued)

Variable	Description
Gender equality	Refers to the state or condition of equal access to and opportunities for both individuals of different genders, specifically, men and women. It involves the removal of discrimination and bias based on gender, ensuring that all individuals have the same rights, responsibilities and opportunities, regardless of their gender identity.
Gender gap in mobile internet	Refers to the disparity in access to and use of mobile internet services between men and women. It is a subset of the broader digital gender divide, focusing specifically on the differences in mobile internet usage patterns and access based on gender.
Gender gap in mobile ownership	Refers to the disparity in access to mobile phones and other mobile devices between men and women. It is a measure of how mobile technology is unequally distributed between genders, with one gender group having better access and ownership compared to the other.
Gini index	The Gini index, also known as the Gini coefficient or Gini ratio, is a measure of income inequality within a country or a region. It is often used to assess the distribution of wealth or income in the population. The Gini index ranges between 0 and 1, where 0 represents perfect equality (everyone has the same income) and 1 represents perfect inequality (one person has all the income)
GNI per capita (constant 2015 USD)	GNI per capita is gross national income divided by midyear population. GNI (formerly GNP) is the sum of value added by all resident producers plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income (compensation of employees and property income) from abroad. Data are in constant 2015 U.S. dollars.
GNI per capita PPP (constant 2017 international dollars)	GNI per capita based on PPP. PPP GNI is GNI converted to international dollars using purchasing power parity rates. An international dollar has the same purchasing power over GNI as a United States dollar has in the United States. GNI is the sum of value added by all resident producers plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income (compensation of employees and property income) from abroad. Data are in constant 2017 international dollars.
GNI per capita (USD)	GNI per capita is gross national income divided by midyear population. GNI (formerly GNP) is the sum of value added by all resident producers plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income (compensation of employees and property income) from abroad.
Government effectiveness: estimate	Government effectiveness captures perceptions of the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government commitment to such policies. Estimate gives the country's score on the aggregate indicator, in units of a standard normal distribution, i.e. ranging from approximately -2.5 to 2.5.

(continued)

Variable	Description
Handset affordability	The MCI is particularly focused on connecting the unconnected, whereas the GSMA is interested in measuring the prices of entry-level handsets that allow users access to the Internet rather than high-end devices that are sold at premium prices. In order to obtain this data, Tarifica researched the cheapest handset available in each market with Internet-browsing capability. It could be a smartphone10 or a feature phone. Given that the performance of basic Internet mobile applications (such as basic video or social networking) is only functional with 3G and 4G, this analysis excluded devices with 2G and wireless access point connectivity.
High-technology exports (% of manufactured exports)	High-technology exports are products with a high degree of research and development, such as in the aerospace, computer, pharmaceutical, scientific instrument and electrical machinery sectors.
Households with Internet access at home	Refers to the proportion of households with Internet access at home. Access can be via a fixed or mobile network. If one member of the household has a mobile phone with an Internet connection and makes it available for all members, then it should be considered that the household has access to the Internet.
Human capital index (scale 0-1)	The Human Capital Index is a tool created by the World Bank to gauge and compare the development of human potential in different nations. It evaluates health and education factors to measure individuals' capacity for productive and fulfilling lives. It considers indicators such as child mortality rates and education quality to assess health and education components. The index typically has a range from 0 to 1, where higher values indicate better development of human capital.
ICT consumer protection legislation	Refers to laws and regulations that are put in place to safeguard the rights and interests of consumers in the context of ICT products and services. The laws are designed to ensure that consumers are treated fairly, provided with accurate information and protected from fraudulent or harmful practices on the part of businesses operating in the ICT sector.
ICT goods exports (% of total goods exports)	ICT goods exports include computers and peripheral equipment, communication equipment, consumer electronic equipment, electronic components and other IT goods (miscellaneous).
ICT goods imports (% of total goods imports)	
ICT service exports (% of service exports BoP)	Information and communication technology service exports include computer and communications services (telecommunications and postal and courier services) and information services (computer data and news-related service transactions).
ICT service exports (BoP current USD)	ICT service exports include computer and communication services (telecommunication and postal/courier services) and information services (computer data and news-related service transactions). Data are in current United States dollars.

(continued)

Variable	Description
IMT (3G/4G) spectrum assigned	Measures the amount of radio spectrum that has been allocated or assigned to mobile operators or service providers for deploying 3G and 4G networks within a given region or country. It is a key indicator of a region or country's readiness to support advanced mobile services and data connectivity. The availability of sufficient and appropriate spectrum is critical for ensuring the quality and capacity of mobile networks, as it directly affects the speed, coverage and performance of mobile-broadband services.
Individuals using the Internet (% of population)	Internet users are individuals who have used the Internet (from any location) in the previous three months via a computer, mobile phone, personal digital assistant, games machine, digital TV, etc.
Inflation consumer prices (annual %)	Inflation as measured by the consumer price index reflects the annual percentage change in the cost to the average consumer of acquiring a basket of goods and services that may be fixed or changed at specified intervals, such as yearly. The Laspeyres formula is generally used.
Information on spectrum publicly available	Related to spectrum harmonization, this refers to whether information on spectrum is publicly available.
Infrastructure	The availability of high-performance mobile Internet network coverage. It consists of network coverage, network performance, spectrum and other enabling infrastructure.
International bandwidth usage	Refers to average usage of all international links including fibre-optic cables, radio links and traffic processed by satellite ground stations and teleports to orbital satellites (expressed in Mbit/s)
Investment in ICT with private participation (current USD)	Investment in ICT with private participation is the value of commitments to ICT backbone infrastructure projects (including land-based and submarine cables) that have an active government component (e.g. the government is a contracting authority). These are projects that have reached financial closure and directly or indirectly serve the public, including operation and lease contracts, operation and management contracts with major capital expenditure, greenfield projects (in which a private entity or public-private joint venture builds and operates a new facility) and divestitures. Movable assets and small projects are excluded.
ITU	A specialized agency of the United Nations that is responsible for ICT-related issues.
Land area (sq. km)	Land area is a country's total area, excluding area under inland water bodies, national claims to continental shelf and exclusive economic zones. In most cases, the definition of inland water bodies includes major rivers and lakes.

(continued)

Variable	Description
Landlocked developing countries	Developing countries that do not have direct access to the sea. They often face transport and trade-related challenges owing to their landlocked geographical location.
Language accessibility of top-ranked apps	The indicator on language accessibility of top-ranked apps focuses on the most popular applications available in a country and measures the proportion of the population that can use them, whether in their first or second languages. For each application, the GSMA estimates the proportion of the population able to use the app based on the languages that it features.
Least developed countries	Countries that face significant economic and social challenges, characterized by low income, low human development and economic vulnerability.
Lit/equipped international bandwidth capacity	Refers to the total lit/equipped capacity of international links, namely fibre-optic cables, international radio links and satellite uplinks to orbital satellites in the end of the reference year (expressed in Mbit/s)
Literacy	A measure of the percentage of adults in a given population who can read and write with understanding a short, simple statement about their everyday life. It is a key indicator of a population's educational attainment and is used to assess the level of literacy or functional literacy of a specific age group.
Local relevance	Local relevance measures the amount of content produced in a given country, including e-government services, web domains, social media and mobile applications. These are included because content that is created or developed within a country is likely to be relevant to many of the people living there
Locally developed apps per person	Refers to the average number of mobile applications created or developed by an individual. This metric is typically used to understand the level of app development activity within a specific population or demographic group.
Logistics performance index: Overall (1=low to 5=high)	The Logistics Performance Index overall score reflects perceptions of a country's logistics based on efficiency of customs clearance process, quality of trade- and transport-related infrastructure, ease of arranging competitively priced shipments, quality of logistics services, ability to track and trace consignments, and frequency with which shipments reach the consignee as scheduled. The index ranges from 1 to 5, with a higher score representing better performance.
Medium- and high-tech manufacturing value added (% manufacturing value added)	The proportion of medium- and high-tech industry value added in total value added of manufacturing. The indicator is calculated as the share of the sum of the value added from medium- and high-tech industry economic activities to manufacturing value added.

(continued)

Variable	Description
Mobile-cellular subscriptions	Refers to the number of subscriptions to a public mobile-telephone service that provide access to the public switched telephone network using cellular technology. It includes the number of postpaid subscriptions and the number of active prepaid accounts
Mobile-cellular subscriptions (per 100 people)	Mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions are subscriptions to a public mobile-telephone service that provide access to the public switched telephone network using cellular technology. The indicator includes (and is split into) the number of postpaid subscriptions and the number of active prepaid accounts (i.e. used during the previous three months). It applies to all mobile-cellular subscriptions that offer voice communications. It excludes subscriptions via data cards or USB modems, subscriptions to public mobile data services, private trunked mobile radio, telepoint, radio paging and telemetry services.
Mobile data affordability	Mobile data affordability refers to the accessibility and cost-effectiveness of mobile data services for consumers. It is a measure of how easily people can access and use mobile data networks, typically for Internet connectivity and various online activities, without experiencing excessive financial burden. Mobile data affordability is a critical factor in determining the digital divide and the level of access to information and online services within a population or region.
Mobile data and voice high-consumption basket	Combined time-series data: from 2018 to 2020, the basket is based on a monthly usage of a minimum of 140 voice minutes, 70 SMSs and 1.5 GB of data using at least 3G technology. From 2021, the basket is based on a monthly usage of a minimum of 140 voice minutes, 70 SMSs and 2 GB of data using at least 3G technology.
Mobile data and voice low-consumption basket	Based on a monthly usage of a minimum of 70 voice minutes, 20 SMSs and 500 MB of data using at least 3G technology
Mobile download speeds	Mobile download speed refers to the rate at which data can be transmitted from the Internet or a remote server to a mobile device, such as a smartphone or tablet, through a mobile data network. It is typically measured in Mbit/s or Gbit/s for faster mobile network technologies.
Mobile latencies	Mobile latencies refer to the delay or lag that occurs when data is transmitted between a mobile device (such as a smartphone or tablet) and a network or server. It is a critical factor in determining the responsiveness and performance of mobile applications and services.
Mobile ownership	Refers to the percentage or proportion of a population or market that uses mobile devices, such as smartphones or tablets. This metric is often used to assess the adoption and usage of mobile technology in a specific region, industry or demographic group.

(continued)

Variable	Description
Mobile social media penetration	Refers to the percentage of mobile device users within a specific population or demographic group who access and use social media platforms on their mobile devices. It measures the extent to which people use mobile phones, smartphones or tablets to engage with social networking sites and apps.
Mobile upload speeds	Mobile upload speed refers to the rate at which data can be transmitted from a mobile device, such as a smartphone or tablet, to a remote server or location on the Internet using a mobile data network. Like upload speed on fixed broadband connections, mobile upload speed is measured in Mbit/s or Gbit/s for faster mobile network technologies.
National broadband plan exists	Refers to a government initiative or policy framework that outlines a comprehensive strategy for the development, expansion and improvement of broadband Internet infrastructure and access within a specific country. A national broadband plan is a strategic roadmap that typically addresses various aspects of broadband deployment and adoption, aiming to ensure that high-speed Internet is accessible to a significant portion of the population.
National development strategy digital agenda or digital stimulus strategy, including broadband	Refers to a comprehensive government plan or policy framework aimed at advancing the development and utilization of digital technologies and broadband infrastructure to foster economic growth, innovation and societal progress within a specific country. These strategies are typically designed to harness the potential of the digital economy, promote digital inclusion and ensure that the nation remains competitive in the global digital landscape.
National strategy policy or initiative focusing on emerging technologies	Refers to a deliberate and comprehensive government plan or framework to address and harness the potential of emerging and disruptive technologies within a specific country or region. These strategies or policies are designed to guide the development, adoption and regulation of technologies that have the potential to significantly impact various aspects of the economy, society and governance.
National Table of Frequency Allocations	Also referred to as the National Frequency Allocation Plan, this is a comprehensive document or regulatory framework created by a government or regulatory authority that specifies how radio frequency spectrum within a particular country is allocated and assigned for various uses, services and applications. The plan is a critical component of spectrum management and ensures the efficient and organized use of the radio frequency spectrum, which is a finite and valuable resource for telecommunications and other wireless services.
Network coverage	It consists of 2G population coverage, 3G population coverage, 4G population coverage and 5G population coverage.
Network performance	It consists of mobile download speeds, mobile upload speeds and latencies.

(continued)

Variable	Description
Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism: estimate	Political stability and absence of violence/terrorism measures perceptions of the likelihood of political instability and/or politically motivated violence, including terrorism. Estimate gives the country's score on the aggregate indicator, in units of a standard normal distribution, i.e. ranging from approximately -2.5 to 2.5.
Population coverage by mobile network technology (at least 2G)	Refers to the percentage of inhabitants within range of a mobile-cellular signal, irrespective of whether they are subscribers or users.
Population coverage by mobile network technology (at least 3G)	Refers to the percentage of inhabitants that are within range of at least a 3G mobile-cellular signal, irrespective of whether they are subscribers.
Population coverage by mobile network technology (at least 5G)	Refers to the percentage of inhabitants that are within range of at least a 5G mobile-cellular signal, irrespective of whether they are subscribers.
Population coverage by mobile network technology (at least LTE/WiMAX)	Refers to the percentage of inhabitants that are within range of at least a 4G/ LTE mobile-cellular signal, irrespective of whether they are subscribers.
Population density (people per sq. km of land area)	Population density is midyear population divided by land area in square kilometres. Population is based on the de facto definition of population, which counts all residents regardless of legal status or citizenship, except refugees not permanently settled in the country of asylum, who are generally considered part of the population of their country of origin. Land area is a country's total area, excluding area under inland water bodies, national claims to continental shelf and exclusive economic zones. In most cases, the definition of inland water bodies includes major rivers and lakes.
Population, total	Total population is based on the de facto definition of population, which counts all residents regardless of legal status or citizenship. The values shown are midyear estimates.

(continued)

Variable	Description
Public-private partnership investment in ICT (current USD)	The value of ICT backbone infrastructure projects (including land-based and submarine cables) that have an active government component (e.g. the government is a contracting authority). These are projects that have reached financial closure and directly or indirectly serve the public, including operation and management contracts with major capital expenditure and greenfield projects (in which a private entity or public-private joint venture builds and operates a new facility). It excludes divestitures and merchant projects. Movable assets and small projects are excluded.
QoS regulatory framework- Services subject to QoS monitoring	Refers to a set of rules, standards and regulations established by a government or regulatory authority to ensure that the telecommunication services provided within a country meet certain quality and performance criteria. The framework defines the expectations for the QoS offered by telecommunication operators and often includes provisions for monitoring and enforcing these standards.
Real effective exchange rate index (2010 = 100)	The nominal effective exchange rate (a measure of the value of a currency against a weighted average of several foreign currencies) divided by a price deflator or index of costs.
Real interest rate (%)	The lending interest rate adjusted for inflation as measured by the GDP deflator. The terms and conditions attached to lending rates differ by country, however, limiting their comparability.
Regulatory quality: estimate	Regulatory quality captures perceptions of the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations that permit and promote private sector development. Estimate gives the country's score on the aggregate indicator, in units of a standard normal distribution, i.e. ranging from approximately - 2.5 to 2.5.
Restriction of foreign participation or ownership in the ICT sector	Refers to government policies or regulations that limit or control the extent to which foreign entities or individuals can invest in, own, operate or participate in ICT businesses and activities within a specific country or jurisdiction. Such restrictions are often put in place to safeguard national security, protect domestic industries, or address other economic and regulatory concerns.
Rule of law: estimate	Rule of law captures perceptions of the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, in particular the quality of contract enforcement, property rights, the police and the courts, and the likelihood of crime and violence. Estimate gives the country's score on the aggregate indicator, in units of a standard normal distribution, i.e. ranging from approximately - 2.5 to 2.5.
School life expectancy	School life expectancy is a statistical measure used in the fields of education and demography to assess the average number of years a student entering the education system can expect to spend in school, based on the current age-specific enrolment ratios. It provides insights into the years of formal education a person is likely to receive in a particular country or region.

(continued)

Variable		Description
Secure Internet servers	Secure Internet servers (per 1 million people)	The number of distinct, publicly trusted TLS/SSL certificates found in the Netcraft Secure Server Survey. The survey examines the use of encrypted transactions through extensive automated exploration, tallying the number of websites using HTTPS. This analysis relates to those sites found in the survey where the certificate is valid for the host name and has been issued from a publicly trusted root. The indicator refers to valid, third-party certificates.
Small island developing States		
Spectrum	Spectrum assigned in bands below 1 GHz Spectrum assigned in bands between 1-3 GHz Spectrum assigned in bands between 3-6 GHz Spectrum assigned in mmWave bands	Countries that are small islands or low-lying coastal areas. They face unique challenges related to their vulnerability to climate change, limited resources and economic sustainability.
		It consists of digital dividend spectrum, other spectrum below 1GHz, spectrum in bands 1-3GHz, spectrum in bands above 3GHz and spectrum in mmWave bands (above 24 GHz).
		In GSMA spectrum assignments, several variables play a crucial role in determining how the spectrum is allocated and used. These variables help define the characteristics and regulations for wireless communication services within these frequency ranges. Some key variables are frequency range, bandwidth, duplexing, channelization, guard bands, regulatory restrictions, service types and technology compatibility. It is important to note that the actual details of these variables can vary depending on the specific regulatory environment and the band in question. The GSMA and national regulatory authorities work together to define these variables to ensure efficient and interference-free wireless communication services.
		Refers to a regulatory approach in the allocation and licensing of radio frequency spectrum that does not prescribe or restrict the specific technologies or services that can be deployed within the assigned spectrum. In other words, when spectrum licences are technology-neutral, the licence holders have the flexibility to use the allocated spectrum for a wide range of technologies and services, allowing them to adapt to evolving technological advancements and market demands.
Spectrum or licence fees subject to VAT	Strength of legal rights index (0=weak to 12=strong)	Means that fees paid for the acquisition or use of radio frequency spectrum or telecommunication licenses are liable for VAT in the context of taxation. VAT is a consumption tax that is typically applied to the value added at each stage of the supply chain, from production to distribution to the final consumer. When licence fees are subject to VAT, the entity paying for the licence is required to include the VAT amount in the total cost.
		Measures the degree to which collateral and bankruptcy laws protect the rights of borrowers and lenders and thus facilitate lending. The index ranges from 0 to 12, with higher scores indicating laws that are better designed to expand access to credit.

(continued)

Variable	Description
Surface area (sq. km)	Surface area is a country's total area, including areas under inland bodies of water and some coastal waterways.
Taxation	The taxation indicators from GSMA are developed by estimating the proportion of the monthly cost of mobile data that are (i) accounted for by all taxes and (ii) accounted for by mobile-specific taxes. The third indicator is the proportion of the total cost of a device that is accounted for by all taxes. The reference prices used for mobile data are the 500 MB basket from 2014 to 2018 and the 1 GB basket from 2019 to 2022. The reference price for the device is the same price gathered as part of the indicators on handset affordability.
Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Tax revenue refers to compulsory transfers to the central government for public purposes. Certain compulsory transfers, such as fines, penalties and most social security contributions, are excluded. Refunds and corrections of erroneously collected tax revenue are treated as negative revenue.
Time required to start a business (days)	The number of calendar days needed to complete the procedures to legally operate a business. If a procedure can be speeded up at additional cost, the fastest procedure, independent of cost, is chosen.
TLDs per person	TLDs are the highest level of domain name in the hierarchical Domain Name System. They are the last segment of a domain name, appearing after the final dot (e.g. .com, .org, .net). TLDs are an essential part of Internet addressing, helping to organize and categorize websites and online resources. They play a role in defining a website identity and purpose on the web. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers oversees the management and allocation of TLDs on the Internet.
Trade (% of GDP)	Trade is the sum of exports and imports of goods and services measured as a share of GDP.
Trade in services (% of GDP)	Trade in services is the sum of service exports and imports divided by the value of GDP, all in current United States dollars.

## D Asia and the Pacific region country score cards

Score cards are provided here for the 32 ITU Member States in the Asia and the Pacific region. They indicate:

- 5G- 2G population coverage (source: GSMA);
- basic economic data: real GDP per capita, trade (% of GDP) and annual inflation rate, real interest rates, tax revenue, time required to start a business, literacy, surface area, population and population density, rule of law (source: WDI, WGI and ITU DataHub);
- the variables used to capture 5G enablers: affordability, infrastructure, spectrum, consumer readiness, content and services, cybersecurity, e-government index, gender equality, mobile latencies (source: ITU DataHub, GSMA WDI, WGI).

See section 4 in the text and Appendix C above for the exact source and detailed description of variables.

Country

Afghanistan

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	2,144		4.67	88.60	35.00	0.00		2014
2015	2,109		-0.66	89.00	37.89	0.00		2015
2016	2,101		4.38	89.20	41.01	0.00		2016
2017	2,096		4.98	89.40	46.00	4.00		2017
2018	2,061		0.63	90.00	55.00	7.00		2018
2019	2,080		2.30	90.00	60.00	22.00		2019
				90.00	62.44	36.81		2020
				90.00	64.97	53.89	0.00	2021
				90.00	70.00	71.89	0.00	2022

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2017	12.14	-1.58	9.90	8.50	43.00	652,860.00	35,643,418	54.65

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	12.99	19.49	30.86	22.48	22.21	26.50	18.11	0.00	0.00
2015	18.02	20.60	30.86	23.26	23.00	25.83	24.27	0.00	0.00
2016	17.86	22.74	30.86	23.95	24.61	25.17	30.44	0.00	11.84
2019	21.39	33.72	30.86	25.44	23.87	11.45	35.87	0.00	42.93
2018	17.82	31.31	30.86	25.12	24.00	17.70	30.56	0.00	49.84
2020	24.06	37.53	30.86	25.84	25.26	5.20	41.18	0.00	51.66
2017	18.03	30.37	30.86	24.52	24.56	24.50	30.50	0.00	56.24
2021	26.96	38.12	25.32	26.22	24.62	5.20	34.44	0.00	66.32
2022	30.33	42.51	25.32	26.69	24.03	5.20	27.70	0.00	69.08

## 5G enablers

Country

Australia



## Basic economic facts



5G population coverage (%)

82.00

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	47,240	42.47	2.49	99.00	99.50	95.00		2014
2015	47,568	41.62	1.51	99.00	99.50	96.90		2015
2016	48,109	40.82	1.28	99.00	99.50	98.00		2016
2017	48,400	41.95	1.95	99.30	99.50	99.00		2017
2018	49,053	43.39	1.91	99.40	99.50	99.20		2018
2019	49,379	45.83	1.61	99.40	99.50	99.20		2019
2020	48,748	44.23	0.85	99.50	99.50	99.20		2020
2021	49,774	39.87	2.86	99.50	99.50	99.50	77.50	2021
2022	50,998	45.75	6.59	99.50	99.50	99.50	82.00	2022

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	1.65	1.73	23.41	2.00	99.00	7,741,220.00	25,340,217	3.29

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	89.32	68.63	68.64	87.77	82.57	76.50	92.91	89.01	67.65
2015	87.64	71.98	68.64	87.75	83.68	78.47	95.37	89.01	75.94
2016	92.00	75.65	68.64	92.61	84.66	80.43	97.83	98.08	82.75
2019	91.75	83.60	83.74	93.62	89.34	93.24	95.97	93.98	85.85
2017	92.60	81.02	83.74	92.08	85.62	82.40	97.52	93.21	86.32
2018	87.67	82.11	83.74	90.44	87.51	89.00	97.22	86.25	87.38
2020	90.46	85.78	83.74	92.75	91.92	97.47	94.71	89.49	88.25
2022	88.23	89.76	78.36	92.52	92.03	97.47	93.80	86.88	89.84
2021	90.25	89.26	77.41	94.16	92.35	97.47	94.26	92.12	89.90

## 5G enablers

Country

Bangladesh

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	4,119	44.51	6.99	99.00	50.00	4.41		2014
2015	4,337	42.09	6.19	99.00	71.00	5.94		2015
2016	4,589	31.33	5.51	99.40	90.00	7.99		2016
2017	4,831	30.00	5.70	99.47	92.55	10.76		2017
2018	5,124	32.51	5.54	99.47	94.54	79.00		2018
2019	5,467	31.58	5.59	99.60	95.40	93.10		2019
2020	5,591	26.27	5.69	99.60	95.54	97.40		2020
2021	5,911	27.72	5.55	99.62	95.54	98.10	0.00	2021
2022	6,263	33.78	7.70	99.63	95.54	98.30	0.00	2022

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
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2019	5.69	-0.63	7.64	19.50	74.68	147,570.00	165,516,222	1,271.54
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	41.82	23.85	28.76	40.92	34.12	29.40	34.65	32.56	5.03
2015	43.84	31.68	28.76	42.49	38.38	37.07	48.48	32.56	33.41
2016	42.88	37.73	26.81	35.17	42.10	44.73	62.32	2.67	52.27
2017	48.09	41.64	26.81	35.31	45.82	52.40	70.39	0.00	73.23
2019	43.70	57.98	28.89	37.93	49.17	66.89	69.83	1.16	76.14
2018	51.93	54.86	28.89	36.44	46.99	52.50	78.47	0.00	77.11
2020	45.15	59.93	28.89	44.21	54.56	81.27	61.18	17.89	81.67
2021	43.36	56.98	27.92	43.67	55.75	81.27	63.20	14.06	82.02
2022	43.18	60.81	37.42	47.72	55.25	81.27	65.21	24.21	83.20

## 5G enablers

Country

Bhutan

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

12.61

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	9,349	96.33	8.27	98.00	49.35	10.72		2014
2015	9,877	97.88	4.55	98.00	65.54	22.97		2015
2016	10,588	83.41	3.22	98.00	74.93	44.09		2016
2017	10,987	81.21	4.96	98.00	81.27	71.33		2017
2018	11,234	84.19	2.72	98.00	87.97	85.00		2018
2019	11,797	82.13	2.73	98.00	90.00	85.00		2019
2020	10,547	75.92	5.63	98.00	90.00	85.00		2020
2021	10,908	84.56	7.35	98.00	90.00	85.00	1.95	2021
2022			5.64	98.00	90.00	85.00	12.61	2022

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	12.98	0.61	15.64	12.00	68.76	38,390.00	767,459	20.12

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	48.58	23.20	25.33	59.42	21.46	11.80	24.41	80.14	0.00
2015	48.84	33.59	25.33	60.13	26.76	14.50	28.15	80.14	43.01
2016	49.81	42.11	36.76	61.26	32.07	17.20	31.88	80.14	47.90
2017	53.62	54.13	48.19	63.07	35.31	19.90	40.94	83.01	67.52
2018	54.27	58.90	48.19	64.02	37.30	18.10	50.00	83.01	68.47
2019	48.77	63.44	48.19	67.26	38.74	18.22	59.12	90.11	80.28
2020	54.64	63.42	48.19	70.01	43.39	18.34	68.24	95.45	83.26
2021	54.47	60.16	39.71	71.05	43.13	18.34	64.10	95.45	86.93
2022	55.70	63.52	39.71	73.09	41.40	18.34	59.96	100.00	89.51

## 5G enablers

Country

Brunei Darussalam

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	63,131	102.42	-0.21	97.00	90.00	10.72		2014
2015	62,170	89.89	-0.49	97.00	90.00	22.97		2015
2016	59,981	87.32	-0.28	97.00	90.00	44.09		2016
2017	60,173	85.18	-1.26	98.74	90.00	68.70		2017
2018	59,650	93.90	1.03	99.29	90.00	83.91		2018
2019	61,424	108.51	-0.39	99.06	90.00	85.00		2019
2020	61,604	110.29	1.94	99.00	90.00	85.00		2020
2021	60,127	147.12	1.73	99.00	90.00	85.00	0.00	2021
2022	58,670	146.97	3.68	99.00	90.00	85.00	0.00	2022

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	9.14	0.61		5.50	97.34	5,770.00	438,048	83.12

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2015	69.87	35.01	22.48	68.79	48.70	42.93	43.47	75.43	26.93
2016	70.92	41.14	22.48	70.48	53.28	47.67	50.73	77.86	42.91
2017	73.42	34.89	22.48	69.57	44.27	38.20	36.22	78.13	43.05
2018	70.96	49.95	22.48	72.22	57.66	52.40	61.47	80.45	73.05
2019	73.34	54.24	22.48	73.43	61.50	62.40	72.22	82.24	78.31
2020	69.08	56.72	28.00	73.36	62.82	59.24	67.88	80.52	80.36
2021	73.32	58.41	28.00	77.34	62.50	56.07	63.53	90.36	86.56
2021	75.30	59.12	22.67	81.50	63.49	56.07	61.12	100.00	91.71
2022	77.69	64.34	22.67	82.17	62.71	56.07	58.71	100.00	93.03

## 5G enablers

Country

Cambodia

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	3,378	129.61	3.86	99.00	83.69	15.00		2014
2015	3,565	127.86	1.22	99.00	90.00	42.00		2015
2016	3,762	126.95	3.02	99.00	90.00	63.00		2016
2017	3,973	124.79	2.91	99.00	90.00	76.58		2017
2018	4,218	124.90	2.46	99.00	90.00	93.00		2018
2019	4,464	123.56	1.94	99.00	90.00	93.00		2019
2020	4,276	123.50	2.94	99.00	90.00	93.00		2020
2021	4,355	132.21	2.92	99.00	90.00	96.20	0.00	2021
2022	4,531	162.41	5.34	99.60	90.00	98.00	0.00	2022

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	-0.94		19.73	99.00	82.78	181,040.00	16,207,746	91.82

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	41.87	35.03	38.61	46.85	32.77	11.80	17.32	41.19	16.24
2015	43.88	46.16	38.61	48.10	35.46	17.30	11.20	41.19	56.22
2016	48.86	51.87	38.61	49.58	38.24	22.80	5.07	42.09	69.24
2019	44.82	61.20	39.94	55.07	46.16	17.61	35.15	51.88	75.85
2017	49.30	56.28	39.94	50.69	42.00	28.30	15.04	42.57	76.29
2018	51.48	60.70	39.94	52.23	42.81	16.10	25.00	45.12	77.88
2020	45.57	62.13	36.61	52.49	50.37	19.12	45.29	41.16	79.46
2022	50.57	58.27	29.29	61.96	48.78	19.12	41.81	64.15	85.28
2021	45.90	58.09	29.29	53.56	51.25	19.12	43.55	41.49	85.76

## 5G enablers

Country

China

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

62.53

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	11,851	44.91	1.92	99.46	98.00	71.00		2014
2015	12,612	39.46	1.44	99.50	98.00	95.00		2015
2016	13,399	36.89	2.00	99.50	98.00	99.00		2016
2017	14,244	37.63	1.59	99.50	98.00	99.00		2017
2018	15,134	37.57	2.07	99.50	98.00	99.00		2018
2019	15,978	35.89	2.90	99.90	98.00	99.00		2019
2020	16,297	34.75	2.42	99.90	98.00	99.00		2020
2021	17,658	37.30	0.98	99.90	98.00	99.00	60.00	2021
2022	18,188	38.14	1.97	99.90	98.00	99.00	62.53	2022

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	3.02	-0.24	8.49	8.60	97.00	9,600,013.00	1,407,745,000	149.37

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	68.44	52.06	46.90	65.87	57.89	44.10	60.63	57.60	37.24
2015	69.05	64.95	50.24	67.02	61.23	50.20	68.72	57.60	62.73
2016	69.39	69.09	50.24	68.79	66.00	56.30	76.81	59.24	69.84
2017	70.24	72.78	50.24	82.70	67.87	62.40	81.46	96.40	76.96
2018	71.79	73.19	54.24	84.90	74.47	82.80	86.11	99.03	81.74
2019	65.37	74.90	54.24	86.24	76.71	87.67	88.35	100.00	83.44
2020	70.76	83.83	54.24	75.86	76.76	92.53	90.59	65.69	88.42
2022	76.66	87.96	57.36	80.15	78.29	92.53	88.76	74.72	88.54
2021	68.53	87.94	57.36	77.50	77.65	92.53	89.68	68.50	89.12

## 5G enablers

Country

Fiji



## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	11,411	110.81	0.52	88.00	96.00	61.22		2014
2015	11,904	101.19	1.37	88.00	96.00	65.00		2015
2016	12,179	97.17	3.86	88.00	96.00	87.08		2016
2017	12,822	97.02	3.35	96.00	96.00	96.00		2017
2018	13,311	103.24	4.08	96.00	96.00	96.00		2018
2019	13,241	106.68	1.77	98.00	96.00	96.00		2019
2020	10,967	71.74	-2.60	98.00	96.00	96.00		2020
2021	10,359	81.88	0.16	98.00	96.00	96.00	0.00	2021
2022	11,963	107.85	4.52	98.00	97.00	96.00	0.00	2022

Year Real interest rate (%) Rule of law: estimate Tax revenue (% of GDP) Time required to start a business (days) Literacy Surface area (sq. km) Population total Population density

2019	3.70	0.47	22.74	40.00	99.10	18,270.00	918,465	50.27
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	40.73	47.78	43.43	78.57	30.89	5.90	39.37	97.15	15.43
2015	43.93	55.00	43.43	78.97	33.89	11.33	40.34	93.40	56.35
2016	48.64	61.65	43.43	79.87	35.71	16.77	41.30	90.94	70.25
2017	48.67	66.11	43.43	82.03	41.02	22.20	43.57	93.95	79.12
2018	47.69	66.26	43.43	79.71	42.93	19.40	45.83	84.07	79.72
2019	45.49	68.13	43.43	81.99	45.04	24.24	48.21	87.70	80.36
2020	43.10	69.09	43.43	83.60	47.55	29.08	50.59	89.03	84.58
2021	42.74	63.40	35.19	84.85	48.40	29.08	49.36	89.61	88.34
2022	46.26	65.56	35.19	88.20	47.10	29.08	48.13	98.25	89.59

## 5G enablers

Country

India

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	5,071	48.92	6.67	93.46	61.14	28.85		2014
2015	5,412	41.92	4.91	94.00	73.89	49.30		2015
2016	5,790	40.08	4.95	95.00	79.67	72.50		2016
2017	6,112	40.74	3.33	96.00	88.00	75.00		2017
2018	6,436	43.62	3.94	97.00	94.00	95.00		2018
2019	6,617	39.91	3.73	97.00	98.15	98.00		2019
2020	6,172	37.80	6.62	99.06	98.56	98.53		2020
2021	6,677	45.67	5.13	99.06	98.78	98.53	0.00	2021
2022	7,096	49.37	6.70	99.21	98.82	98.67	0.81	2022

5G population coverage (%)

0.81

Year Real interest rate (%) Rule of law: estimate Tax revenue (% of GDP) Time required to start a business (days) Literacy Surface area (sq. km) Population total Population density

2018	5.36	0.02	12.02	16.50	74.40	3,287,260.00	1,369,003,306	460.45
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	41.61	28.04	18.25	46.04	50.55	70.60	54.33	34.50	11.43
2015	53.29	37.81	28.38	46.96	52.39	69.83	64.48	34.50	28.12
2016	54.03	47.47	33.21	49.09	53.98	69.07	74.64	37.34	49.23
2018	63.58	56.93	33.21	40.36	58.35	71.90	95.14	6.08	66.60
2017	48.08	52.22	33.21	41.73	55.96	68.30	84.89	11.61	67.07
2019	56.34	59.45	33.21	44.17	62.68	84.70	90.22	16.95	71.22
2020	59.37	60.52	33.21	52.81	66.77	97.50	85.29	42.00	76.63
2021	62.95	56.97	29.70	52.04	66.89	97.50	82.32	35.43	79.02
2022	62.42	61.81	47.26	54.31	67.21	97.50	79.34	40.52	79.73

## 5G enablers

Country

Indonesia

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

11.65

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	9,759	48.08	6.39	87.90	89.30	10.03		2014
2015	10,122	41.94	6.36	87.90	90.00	22.00		2015
2016	10,519	37.42	3.53	87.90	91.00	53.00		2016
2017	10,942	39.36	3.81	87.90	92.00	85.00		2017
2018	11,397	43.07	3.20	98.60	95.00	92.00		2018
2019	11,858	37.63	3.03	98.71	94.75	95.00		2019
2020	11,516	32.97	1.92	98.71	94.75	96.00		2020
2021	11,859	40.20	1.56	98.71	94.75	96.00	4.61	2021
2022	12,410	45.39	4.21	98.71	95.24	96.00	11.65	2022

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	8.63	-0.32	9.75	12.60	95.83	1,916,907.00	269,582,878	143.58

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	44.67	28.51	22.86	56.66	44.48	47.10	36.22	55.59	1.84
2015	44.47	39.62	40.29	56.80	45.33	45.53	36.23	55.59	36.59
2016	44.06	49.21	40.29	57.25	48.78	43.97	36.23	52.52	60.23
2017	47.88	57.73	42.29	64.65	50.30	42.40	46.59	72.48	71.53
2018	63.17	61.75	43.62	62.64	59.33	77.60	56.94	64.10	74.49
2019	61.01	62.87	42.29	64.88	64.72	86.24	62.59	69.05	75.38
2020	57.87	64.94	42.29	63.66	67.96	94.88	68.24	62.71	82.35
2021	62.73	61.77	33.40	69.50	70.55	94.88	72.34	77.86	84.77
2022	70.59	64.19	33.90	66.71	70.19	94.88	76.44	68.06	86.14

## 5G enablers

Country

Islamic Republic of Iran

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

18.71

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	14,539	45.35	16.61	94.00	27.14	4.00		2014
2015	14,011	39.42	12.48	94.20	38.90	14.00		2015
2016	14,969	40.39	7.25	94.20	76.84	35.00		2016
2017	15,163	44.74	8.04	96.50	83.17	61.22		2017
2018	14,629	58.38	18.01	96.50	90.00	78.00		2018
2019	14,084	50.75	39.91	96.50	90.00	81.00		2019
2020	14,432	43.81	30.59	96.50	91.00	82.00		2020
2021	15,005	44.37	43.39	96.90	92.00	82.00	9.29	2021
				96.50	92.00	83.00	18.71	2022

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	-0.75			72.50	87.46	1,745,150.00	86,564,202	53.35

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	44.37	24.61	36.91	57.14	35.88	29.40	37.01	56.09	23.73
2015	47.27	28.11	36.91	57.63	43.35	36.07	35.17	56.09	23.73
2016	56.93	45.37	36.91	61.11	44.79	42.73	33.33	62.51	62.89
2018	51.54	58.90	36.91	72.04	57.49	64.10	63.19	89.58	75.20
2017	57.69	53.71	36.91	61.88	52.46	49.40	48.26	61.78	76.91
2019	48.15	62.51	36.91	64.39	57.02	72.59	61.01	63.62	82.54
2020	41.15	63.42	36.91	73.94	60.21	81.07	58.82	89.13	84.68
2022	50.10	63.49	39.25	66.85	57.36	81.07	41.96	62.19	84.78
2021	43.93	61.61	39.25	73.13	63.24	81.07	50.39	83.33	84.91

## 5G enablers

Country

Japan

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

92.32

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	39,740	37.43	2.76	99.90	100.00	99.00		2014
2015	40,403	35.43	0.80	99.90	100.00	99.00		2015
2016	40,728	31.31	-0.13	99.90	100.00	99.00		2016
2017	41,444	34.42	0.48	99.90	100.00	99.40		2017
2018	41,764	36.61	0.99	99.90	100.00	99.80		2018
2019	41,654	35.22	0.47	99.90	100.00	99.90		2019
2020	39,990	31.37	-0.02	99.90	100.00	99.90		2020
2021	41,035	36.94	-0.23	99.90	100.00	99.90	85.48	2021
2022	41,641		2.50	99.90	100.00	99.90	92.32	2022

Year Real interest rate (%) Rule of law: estimate Tax revenue (% of GDP) Time required to start a business (days) Literacy Surface area (sq. km) Population total Population density

2019	1.53			11.20	99.00	377,974.00	126,633,000	347.42
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	64.89	59.94	68.27	75.68	71.78	70.60	94.49	83.81	24.54
2015	61.45	64.01	70.27	76.66	76.16	73.27	91.08	83.81	43.97
2016	62.36	67.30	70.27	76.43	77.90	75.93	87.68	79.90	60.54
2017	61.88	69.49	70.27	82.73	79.54	78.60	91.41	95.04	68.52
2018	68.96	72.10	70.27	78.27	82.91	88.00	95.14	77.62	72.84
2019	73.18	74.31	72.94	82.14	84.43	92.91	92.87	84.98	74.13
2020	81.05	76.97	72.94	79.50	87.32	97.82	90.59	72.56	79.47
2022	85.43	83.33	75.94	82.07	87.83	97.82	90.94	73.65	81.42
2021	83.65	80.44	75.94	86.09	88.66	97.82	90.77	88.09	81.56

## 5G enablers

## Country

Republic of Korea

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	37,967	90.61	1.27	99.90	99.00	100.00		2014
2015	38,829	79.13	0.71	99.90	99.00	100.00		2015
2016	39,815	73.60	0.97	99.90	99.00	100.00		2016
2017	40,957	77.12	1.94	99.90	99.00	100.00		2017
2018	41,966	78.99	1.48	99.90	99.00	100.00		2018
2019	42,759	75.76	0.38	99.90	99.00	100.00		2019
2020	42,397	69.03	0.54	99.90	99.00	100.00		2020
2021	44,232	80.49	2.50	99.90	99.00	100.00	98.00	2021
2022	45,467	96.78	5.09	99.90	99.00	100.00	98.00	2022

5G population coverage (%)

98.00

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	4.32	1.19	15.20	8.00	98.80	100,400.00	51,764,822	530.38

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	62.87	61.98	41.80	82.00	74.26	70.60	97.64	74.74	40.97
2015	69.47	69.72	41.80	82.05	82.41	73.13	95.92	74.74	78.06
2016	69.84	73.99	45.80	83.94	83.92	75.67	94.20	74.74	81.88
2017	70.54	74.14	45.80	90.39	84.89	78.20	96.06	91.39	83.19
2018	73.16	74.85	45.80	91.24	87.37	87.30	97.92	92.74	85.47
2020	65.95	86.91	45.80	93.80	90.84	98.52	100.00	98.89	86.09
2019	63.39	76.44	45.80	92.43	89.08	92.91	98.96	95.52	86.82
2022	64.63	87.85	48.60	93.97	91.75	98.52	98.26	98.90	87.80
2021	66.39	88.46	50.52	89.86	91.23	98.52	99.13	86.67	89.50

## 5G enablers

Country

Lao P.D.R.



## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

11.79

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	6,146	99.06	4.13	94.00	40.58	0.00		2014
2015	6,499	85.80	1.28	94.00	53.19	14.40		2015
2016	6,851	75.09	1.60	94.00	69.72	29.86		2016
2017	7,211		0.83	94.00	77.32	53.36		2017
2018	7,546		2.04	94.00	83.69	71.04		2018
2019	7,840		3.32	94.00	90.00	82.00		2019
2020	7,764		5.10	95.00	90.00	90.00		2020
2021	7,847		3.76	95.00	90.00	96.80	8.05	2021
2022	7,948		22.96	95.00	90.28	98.00	11.79	2022

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019		-0.95		173.00	86.27	236,800.00	7,212,053	31.25

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	35.55	26.09	38.44	54.60	26.39	5.90	14.17	64.58	28.16
2015	35.22	32.91	38.44	55.97	30.09	17.00	21.22	64.58	45.29
2016	40.79	40.56	38.44	57.14	34.97	28.10	28.26	64.58	60.67
2018	44.56	53.61	38.44	68.00	36.19	19.50	16.67	93.67	75.34
2017	42.57	49.25	38.44	60.50	39.06	39.20	22.47	72.56	76.11
2019	28.25	58.04	39.78	64.53	38.38	19.92	18.04	82.86	77.80
2020	34.98	59.10	39.78	63.13	40.06	20.34	19.41	77.03	79.95
2021	39.40	56.56	31.54	70.69	41.44	20.34	24.73	97.94	82.01
2022	42.67	59.97	31.54	71.78	41.43	20.34	30.05	100.00	83.98

## 5G enablers

Country

Malaysia

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	23,328	138.31	3.14	95.20	88.00	33.00		2014
2015	24,151	131.37	2.10	95.40	92.00	71.00		2015
2016	24,860	126.90	2.09	96.00	95.00	85.00		2016
2017	25,935	133.16	3.87	96.00	95.00	92.00		2017
2018	26,836	130.40	0.88	95.80	95.00	93.00		2018
2019	27,674	123.03	0.66	95.80	95.00	93.23		2019
2020	25,831	116.83	-1.14	96.70	95.00	94.00		2020
2021	26,333	130.57	2.48	96.70	95.00	94.46	1.00	2021
2022	28,315	140.75	3.38	98.50	96.35	96.35	20.67	2022

5G population coverage (%)

20.67

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	4.80	0.52	11.94	17.50	94.90	330,241.00	32,804,020	99.84

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	61.97	41.42	48.65	70.82	63.67	76.50	67.72	84.06	19.91
2015	60.45	52.05	48.65	71.25	65.65	80.77	69.73	84.06	38.15
2016	61.20	62.69	65.60	72.27	69.13	85.03	71.74	82.38	61.11
2017	58.47	66.90	65.60	72.63	71.88	89.30	80.31	78.86	77.27
2018	57.85	67.20	58.05	75.87	74.08	89.30	88.89	86.66	80.21
2019	62.77	69.84	60.38	74.54	75.71	93.68	87.09	80.74	81.43
2020	60.16	70.96	60.38	82.04	77.93	98.06	85.29	100.00	85.02
2021	56.17	65.74	47.43	82.61	78.68	98.06	80.80	98.32	87.50
2022	64.83	73.93	70.13	81.53	76.41	98.06	76.30	92.52	87.97

## 5G enablers

Country

Mongolia

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)
2014	11,108	109.32	12.25
2015	11,135	89.65	5.74
2016	11,059	101.06	0.73
2017	11,432	115.93	4.30
2018	12,052	126.36	6.82
2019	12,458	124.40	7.30
2020	11,667	112.84	3.80
2021	11,668	119.10	7.35
2022	12,052	144.95	15.15

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G
2014	99.00	69.09	0.00	2014
2015	99.00	95.00	0.00	2015
2016	99.00	95.00	6.90	2016
2017	99.00	95.00	21.00	2017
2018	99.00	95.00	45.00	2018
2019	100.00	95.00	59.00	2019
2020	100.00	95.00	78.54	2020
2021	100.00	95.00	85.00	2021
2022	100.00	95.00	85.46	2022

Year Real interest rate (%) Rule of law: estimate Tax revenue (% of GDP) Time required to start a business (days) Literacy Surface area (sq. km) Population total Population density

2019	6.39	-0.24	16.85	12.00	98.79	1,564,116.00	3,232,430	2.08
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	53.83	31.99	47.07	83.03	46.22	41.20	61.42	100.00	19.47
2015	54.05	42.12	47.07	83.51	46.72	35.07	56.43	100.00	61.32
2021	49.12	61.33	73.19	86.81	55.20	26.20	57.79	100.00	66.95
2019	49.94	63.47	85.16	85.05	52.96	36.35	56.33	100.00	68.97
2020	44.75	67.10	85.16	86.01	53.22	26.20	52.94	100.00	69.93
2017	56.15	55.63	85.16	82.94	48.49	22.80	55.58	100.00	70.95
2018	52.62	60.31	85.16	84.05	54.64	46.50	59.72	100.00	71.04
2016	57.29	51.30	76.78	81.70	46.63	28.93	51.45	100.00	72.78
2022	60.26	63.12	73.19	87.48	55.44	26.20	62.63	100.00	78.20

## 5G enablers

Country

Myanmar

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	3,659	40.53	4.95	73.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	2014
2015	3,748	44.95	9.45	73.00	78.00	0.00	0.00	2015
2016	4,110	53.92	6.93	95.00	87.00	7.20	0.00	2016
2017	4,313	61.02	4.57	94.83	89.96	28.48	0.00	2017
2018	4,556	62.45	6.87	94.83	91.89	54.00	0.00	2018
2019	4,830	60.69	8.83	95.15	93.92	80.00	0.00	2019
				96.30	93.92	92.60	0.00	2020
				96.70	93.73	93.00	0.00	2021
				96.70	94.00	94.00	0.00	2022

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	9.16	-1.06	6.44	7.00	89.07	676,590.00	53,040,212	81.26

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	35.98	18.95	23.14	42.84	24.09	38.20	2.36	54.50	0.00
2015	37.58	27.26	24.48	49.70	26.68	34.23	9.15	54.50	22.63
2016	42.55	36.52	27.14	49.43	28.69	30.27	15.94	50.06	46.74
2017	52.43	47.05	40.67	45.02	29.67	26.30	19.43	31.69	60.89
2021	53.48	57.76	32.17	55.99	36.86	36.41	28.31	49.90	66.12
2018	59.60	57.32	40.67	48.16	30.49	17.20	22.92	36.31	72.11
2019	51.30	63.67	40.67	53.18	33.28	26.81	24.40	46.96	79.74
2020	54.68	67.05	40.67	53.17	38.84	36.41	25.88	44.21	82.56
2022	39.60	62.73	32.17	56.66	36.19	36.41	30.73	50.78	84.37

## 5G enablers

Country

Republic of Nepal

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	3,152	45.98	8.36	80.62	80.44	0.00		2014
2015	3,260	46.67	7.87	80.62	87.07	0.00		2015
2016	3,245	42.12	8.79	82.00	90.00	0.00		2016
2017	3,496	44.64	3.63	91.97	90.00	15.50		2017
2018	3,719	48.45	4.06	92.47	90.00	17.92		2018
2019	3,922	49.25	5.57	92.47	90.00	51.52		2019
2020	3,762	40.92	5.05	92.47	90.00	62.27		2020
2021	3,854	43.05	4.09	93.00	90.00	76.55	0.00	2021
				93.00	90.00	88.00	0.00	2022

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	-0.54		19.81	22.50	68.98	147,180.00	28,832,496	201.13

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	27.80	29.12	30.03	47.29	30.86	11.80	15.75	38.71	19.61
2015	29.98	35.29	30.03	48.06	34.46	17.03	27.80	38.71	55.08
2016	32.65	38.11	30.03	47.74	37.53	22.27	39.86	33.57	68.59
2017	39.77	42.55	30.03	49.05	41.69	27.50	54.30	34.45	73.90
2018	25.45	43.22	30.03	61.56	43.79	26.00	68.75	68.92	74.25
2019	31.68	51.28	37.08	60.89	45.93	35.50	54.38	63.40	78.00
2020	28.29	54.70	37.08	54.53	49.45	44.99	40.00	40.01	82.60
2021	28.69	54.96	29.85	65.59	50.25	44.99	42.96	69.85	85.42
2022	36.18	57.74	29.85	73.36	49.96	44.99	45.92	90.57	87.13

## 5G enablers

Country

New Zealand

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

65.17

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	40,351	55.16	1.23	97.00	99.00	74.44		2014
2015	41,015	54.92	0.29	97.00	99.00	90.00		2015
2016	41,628	52.51	0.65	98.00	99.00	94.00		2016
2017	42,205	54.21	1.85	98.00	99.00	98.00		2017
2018	42,917	55.80	1.60	98.00	99.00	98.00		2018
2019	43,273	54.38	1.62	98.00	99.00	98.00		2019
2020	42,052	43.98	1.71	98.00	99.00	98.00		2020
2021	44,042	48.20	3.94	98.50	99.00	98.00	45.44	2021
2022	44,880		7.17	98.25	99.00	98.00	65.17	2022

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
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2019	1.88		28.14	0.50	99.00	267,710.00	4,979,200	18.91
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	87.29	63.33	71.24	89.52	79.91	73.50	84.25	100.00	58.93
2015	85.48	72.73	80.24	89.85	80.99	72.93	89.23	100.00	70.61
2016	86.63	76.16	80.24	91.82	82.68	72.37	94.20	100.00	77.63
2019	76.58	79.37	80.24	92.05	86.86	81.47	94.04	93.08	79.68
2017	86.82	77.73	80.24	92.11	83.68	71.80	94.67	100.00	80.26
2018	87.13	78.66	80.24	93.26	84.98	78.90	95.14	98.80	80.48
2020	81.62	81.49	80.24	96.30	88.75	84.04	92.94	100.00	83.28
2021	81.91	79.74	70.23	93.73	90.14	84.04	94.37	90.69	84.83
2022	80.12	84.97	76.98	96.94	90.01	84.04	95.79	100.00	85.02

## 5G enablers

Country

Pakistan

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	4,404	30.90	7.19	78.00	33.00	7.00		2014
2015	4,553	27.65	2.53	81.50	46.00	16.00		2015
2016	4,747	24.70	3.77	86.00	67.00	27.00		2016
2017	4,892	25.47	4.09	87.00	72.00	67.00		2017
2018	5,113	27.63	5.08	88.00	72.90	68.60		2018
2019	5,158	28.91	10.58	88.70	76.60	68.73		2019
2020	5,004	26.72	9.74	88.80	76.70	68.80		2020
2021	5,232	27.05	9.50	88.82	78.10	75.40	0.00	2021
2022	5,452	32.32	19.87	89.40	79.90	76.40	0.00	2022

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
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2019	2.93	-0.67		16.50	60.00	796,100.00	223,293,280	289.66
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	42.03	19.18	28.59	21.42	26.13	17.60	32.28	0.00	0.00
2015	43.16	28.33	28.59	22.46	29.96	26.63	32.45	0.00	36.24
2016	42.97	37.50	34.31	23.14	32.54	35.67	32.61	0.00	48.23
2017	42.44	48.59	35.64	24.30	36.12	44.70	43.73	0.00	66.53
2018	46.18	51.04	35.64	25.17	37.47	40.70	54.86	0.00	69.88
2019	38.19	54.44	35.64	25.85	40.97	52.79	58.90	1.23	77.90
2020	39.65	56.56	35.64	27.89	45.23	64.88	62.94	5.26	83.11
2022	50.30	55.61	29.65	31.19	46.65	64.88	56.58	11.61	85.13
2021	47.02	54.51	29.65	31.17	47.14	64.88	59.76	12.24	85.39

## 5G enablers

Country

Papua New Guinea

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	3,670		5.22	89.00	35.44	5.79		2014
2015	3,813		6.00	89.00	46.46	7.76		2015
2016	3,924		6.67	89.00	58.31	10.40		2016
2017	3,967		5.42	89.00	61.22	13.95		2017
2018	3,865		4.37	89.00	64.29	18.70		2018
2019	3,948		3.93	89.00	67.00	25.06		2019
2020	3,742		4.87	89.00	67.00	36.30		2020
2021	3,670		4.48	89.00	73.00	65.00	0.00	2021
				89.00	76.00	74.00	0.00	2022

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year Real interest rate (%) Rule of law: estimate Tax revenue (% of GDP) Time required to start a business (days) Literacy Surface area (sq. km) Population total Population density

2019	7.51	-0.79		13.02	41.00	72.00	462,840.00	9,542,486	21.07
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	38.19	23.44	37.37	45.95	16.78	11.80	0.79	56.38	3.10
2015	36.37	28.33	37.37	45.57	19.65	10.10	8.73	54.19	18.13
2017	40.85	34.91	37.37	43.03	21.09	6.70	21.87	41.67	25.94
2016	40.64	33.21	37.37	44.10	20.38	8.40	16.67	46.86	29.72
2018	42.56	41.22	37.37	44.09	22.96	13.10	27.08	43.30	41.56
2019	41.31	46.62	48.61	44.15	24.26	19.72	24.72	41.89	46.86
2022	52.08	51.92	40.12	46.99	27.80	26.33	32.63	47.14	58.17
2020	44.60	51.45	48.61	44.64	26.44	26.33	22.35	41.54	61.94
2021	50.98	51.06	40.12	44.58	27.32	26.33	27.49	40.39	64.11

## 5G enablers

Country

Philippines

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

70.00

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	6,918	57.47	3.60	99.00	92.00	48.25		2014
2015	7,235	59.14	0.67		99.00	93.00	67.29	2015
2016	7,616	61.78	1.25		99.00	93.00	80.00	2016
2017	8,002	68.17	2.85		99.00	93.00	88.20	2017
2018	8,366	72.16	5.31		99.00	93.00	99.00	2018
2019	8,732	68.84	2.39		99.00	93.00	99.00	2019
2020	7,773	58.17	2.39		99.00	93.00	99.00	2020
2021	8,096	63.48	3.93		99.00	93.00	99.00	2021
2022	8,582	72.42	5.82		99.00	93.00	99.00	2022

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	6.35	-0.55	14.49	33.00	96.28	300,000.00	110,380,804	370.19

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	35.71	43.73	63.33	71.02	40.69	35.30	48.03	100.00	0.00
2015	35.98	50.21	78.38	71.62	45.04	43.33	57.35	100.00	0.00
2016	46.98	54.99	81.24	72.68	49.32	51.37	66.67	100.00	12.35
2017	48.68	61.86	82.67	73.37	53.14	59.40	77.43	100.00	48.56
2018	53.85	67.84	96.00	73.59	56.62	64.30	88.19	98.02	57.18
2019	50.16	69.04	96.00	74.75	57.25	70.65	80.57	100.00	62.84
2020	51.51	70.33	95.33	75.73	60.53	77.00	72.94	100.00	73.19
2021	47.89	70.97	87.75	76.26	60.54	77.00	67.99	100.00	83.41
2022	47.01	73.25	87.75	76.77	59.41	77.00	63.03	100.00	86.42

## 5G enablers

Country

Samoa

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	5,646	80.50	-0.41	97.00	75.08	0.00		2014
2015	5,811	74.63	0.72	97.00	87.81	0.00		2015
2016	6,215	75.21	1.30	97.00	95.00	35.00		2016
2017	6,239	74.01	1.75	96.75	95.76	69.43		2017
2018	6,140	78.93	4.20	97.00	96.77	84.39		2018
2019	6,346	83.33	0.98	97.00	97.80	91.42		2019
2020	6,062	77.48	-1.57	97.00	98.00	98.00		2020
2021	5,534	60.89	3.13	97.00	98.00	98.00	0.00	2021
2022	5,116	65.02	10.96	97.00	98.00	98.00	0.00	2022

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
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2019	7.32	1.16	24.43	9.00	99.10	2,840.00	211,905	76.22
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	33.05	23.86	17.30	73.61	49.93	17.60	24.41	100.00	0.00
2015	32.05	25.98	17.30	72.93	48.96	13.33	29.23	96.66	0.00
2016	37.19	37.26	17.30	75.29	51.83	9.07	34.06	100.00	22.44
2017	36.83	50.63	17.30	75.54	53.57	4.80	34.04	98.25	63.81
2019	33.73	58.89	17.30	77.47	63.02	33.02	30.25	99.90	70.36
2018	36.62	56.96	17.30	76.79	58.31	36.70	34.03	100.00	76.56
2020	33.23	60.34	17.30	78.27	63.41	29.33	26.47	100.00	82.59
2022	42.28	57.77	14.26	79.75	64.22	29.33	35.92	100.00	88.33
2021	31.48	60.27	14.26	79.17	63.67	29.33	31.20	100.00	89.65

## 5G enablers

Country

Singapore



## Basic economic facts



5G population coverage (%)

76.56

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	87,703	360.47	1.03	99.00	100.00	100.00		2014
2015	89,248	329.47	-0.52	100.00	100.00	100.00		2015
2016	91,271	303.14	-0.53	100.00	100.00	100.00		2016
2017	95,334	316.48	0.58	100.00	100.00	100.00		2017
2018	98,280	325.20	0.44	100.00	100.00	100.00		2018
2019	98,455	321.70	0.57	100.00	100.00	100.00		2019
2020	94,910	332.77	-0.18	100.00	100.00	100.00		2020
2021	107,741	333.34	2.30	100.00	100.00	100.00	73.57	2021
2022	108,036	336.86	6.12	100.00	100.00	100.00	76.56	2022

Year Real interest rate (%) Rule of law: estimate Tax revenue (% of GDP) Time required to start a business (days) Literacy Surface area (sq. km) Population total Population density

2019	5.46	1.87	13.15	1.50	97.48	726.00	5,703,569	7,965.88
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	90.49	63.56	43.99	83.50	79.30	67.60	99.21	92.80	57.42
2015	89.60	68.75	43.99	83.65	81.25	75.90	98.16	92.80	69.07
2016	90.80	74.00	52.37	82.52	84.87	84.20	97.10	84.22	78.04
2017	91.11	81.77	75.37	86.45	87.49	92.50	97.86	91.25	86.80
2018	90.55	83.76	75.37	89.96	86.66	89.80	98.61	98.26	89.00
2019	80.61	83.07	75.37	91.01	88.37	94.16	97.54	98.89	89.17
2020	94.97	84.44	75.37	92.35	90.05	98.52	96.47	100.00	92.00
2021	98.10	85.72	71.96	93.48	89.73	98.52	96.34	100.00	92.63
2022	99.14	90.91	71.96	93.58	89.02	98.52	96.20	100.00	92.73

## 5G enablers

Country

Solomon Islands

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	2,557	93.45	5.17	91.00	14.27	0.00		2014
2015	2,535	87.76	-0.57	91.00	19.00	0.00		2015
2016	2,610	85.42	0.51	91.00	19.00	0.00		2016
2017	2,625	86.59	0.49	93.00	25.00	19.00		2017
2018	2,633	88.50	3.46	94.00	45.00	20.00		2018
2019	2,617	83.00	1.63	95.00	58.99	22.51		2019
2020	2,469	64.18	2.96	95.00	66.98	25.34		2020
2021	2,397	65.40	-0.12	95.00	72.50	28.52	0.00	2021
2022	2,248	73.73	5.52	95.00	78.48	30.38	0.00	2022

Year Real interest rate (%) Rule of law: estimate Tax revenue (% of GDP) Time required to start a business (days) Literacy Surface area (sq. km) Population total Population density

2019	9.24	-0.10	22.23	9.00	97.00	28,900.00	674,993	24.12
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	25.55	19.15	46.29	58.51	11.83	2.90	5.51	74.50	0.00
2015	25.89	20.21	46.29	57.51	18.08	5.10	11.09	69.16	0.00
2019	27.80	35.20	63.43	59.99	23.55	6.59	28.33	71.38	0.00
2017	36.87	25.19	46.29	60.28	20.71	9.50	20.49	73.95	3.05
2018	28.31	33.41	63.43	59.62	20.38	6.10	24.31	71.16	10.32
2016	38.02	25.40	46.29	58.04	20.38	7.30	16.67	68.46	37.11
2022	33.73	40.26	51.86	62.21	27.14	7.08	36.76	74.69	47.50
2020	33.64	44.54	63.43	62.08	25.59	7.08	32.35	76.54	57.73
2021	37.93	41.80	51.86	60.30	26.51	7.08	34.56	69.83	68.90

## 5G enablers

Country

Sri Lanka



## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	11,768		3.18	98.00	79.13	22.97		2014
2015	12,207	46.92	3.77	99.00	85.99	44.09		2015
2016	12,771	46.47	3.96	98.96	93.26	68.70		2016
2017	13,545	47.14	7.70	99.00	95.00	84.31		2017
2018	13,753	49.81	2.14	99.00	95.00	91.00		2018
2019	13,639	49.43	3.53	99.00	95.00	93.00		2019
2020	12,939	37.03	6.15	99.00	95.00	94.00		2020
2021	13,251	41.26	7.01	99.00	95.00	95.00	0.00	2021
2022	12,200	46.52	49.72	99.00	96.00	95.00	0.00	2022

Year Real interest rate (%) Rule of law: estimate Tax revenue (% of GDP) Time required to start a business (days) Literacy Surface area (sq. km) Population total Population density

2019	7.10	0.06	10.90	8.00	92.25	65,610.00	21,803,000	352.43
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	52.51	33.99	41.67	50.09	44.66	41.20	65.35	30.26	0.00
2015	55.10	42.42	41.67	50.79	45.94	41.43	65.29	30.26	27.52
2016	52.50	51.61	41.67	51.78	46.80	41.67	65.22	30.39	53.79
2017	60.85	57.48	41.67	56.17	48.42	41.90	65.94	41.81	75.08
2018	63.18	59.73	41.67	52.86	51.26	46.60	66.67	30.09	76.26
2019	52.68	60.70	41.67	66.34	54.36	52.63	69.22	68.33	79.11
2020	59.42	60.37	41.67	55.60	57.69	58.65	71.76	33.95	80.46
2021	51.30	55.30	32.92	56.60	58.15	58.65	64.10	34.57	82.72
2022	56.44	57.99	32.92	67.62	56.34	58.65	56.44	65.54	85.94

## 5G enablers

Country

Thailand

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	15,509	130.91	1.90	97.00	97.00	62.50		2014
2015	15,919	124.84	-0.90	97.00	98.00	80.00		2015
2016	16,393	120.58	0.19	97.00	98.00	98.00		2016
2017	17,008	120.89	0.67	98.00	98.00	98.00		2017
2018	17,669	120.84	1.06	98.00	98.00	98.00		2018
2019	17,997	109.69	0.71	98.00	98.00	98.00		2019
2020	16,866	97.80	-0.85	98.00	98.00	98.00		2020
2021	17,087	117.24	1.23	98.80	98.00	98.00	76.00	2021
2022	17,507	133.91	6.08	98.80	98.10	98.00	86.14	2022

5G population coverage (%)

86.14

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	3.04	0.11	14.66	6.00	93.88	513,120.00	71,307,763	139.58

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	63.60	50.91	48.62	72.61	49.17	41.20	44.09	91.13	47.73
2015	67.48	56.84	53.41	76.19	53.22	50.27	49.58	91.13	59.98
2016	69.01	64.46	53.41	76.16	58.10	59.33	55.07	87.55	76.68
2017	67.21	66.02	53.41	79.49	61.52	68.40	59.48	94.95	81.45
2018	65.46	66.16	48.74	81.56	65.38	79.60	63.89	98.08	84.76
2019	66.35	72.11	65.89	77.88	68.19	83.05	71.65	84.42	86.24
2020	65.81	80.23	87.12	82.24	70.74	86.50	79.41	93.93	87.88
2021	62.74	79.00	75.91	83.97	71.85	86.50	78.52	95.72	88.93
2022	59.43	82.05	75.91	86.00	70.62	86.50	77.63	98.75	89.70

## 5G enablers

Country

Timor-Leste

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	3,198	82.75	0.85	96.00	75.48	0.00	0.00	2014
2015	3,229	59.92	0.65	96.00	82.03	0.00	0.00	2015
2016	3,287	59.94	-1.47	96.00	89.14	0.00	0.00	2016
2017	3,138	58.24	0.52	96.50	95.00	12.00	0.00	2017
2018	3,071	64.49	2.29	96.50	95.00	24.88	0.00	2018
2019	3,738	70.86	0.96	96.50	95.00	47.39	0.00	2019
				96.50	95.00	69.09	0.00	2020
				96.50	95.00	83.98	0.00	2021
				96.50	95.00	90.00	0.00	2022

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)
2014	3,198	82.75	0.85
2015	3,229	59.92	0.65
2016	3,287	59.94	-1.47
2017	3,138	58.24	0.52
2018	3,071	64.49	2.29
2019	3,738	70.86	0.96

Year Real interest rate (%) Rule of law: estimate Tax revenue (% of GDP) Time required to start a business (days) Literacy Surface area (sq. km) Population total Population density

2019	9.85	-1.11	22.86	13.00	69.00	14,870.00	1,280,438	86.11
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	31.82	27.75	37.10	43.14	13.84	0.00	20.47	37.93	0.00
2015	32.26	29.18	37.10	46.62	20.18	1.13	21.11	40.06	0.00
2016	36.12	31.61	37.10	47.41	22.97	2.27	21.74	39.51	10.00
2017	34.36	42.27	37.10	48.75	26.49	3.40	26.49	41.46	61.31
2018	39.97	44.87	37.10	50.38	29.66	8.20	31.25	44.31	63.20
2019	29.72	49.37	37.10	53.30	29.56	6.23	37.69	50.86	69.70
2021	44.11	52.51	29.64	55.78	31.14	4.26	41.72	51.56	82.42
2022	52.95	53.02	29.64	59.69	30.42	4.26	39.31	61.05	82.44
2020	40.83	55.77	37.10	56.20	30.05	4.26	44.12	55.84	83.86

## 5G enablers

Country

Tonga

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	5,553	74.92	2.51	86.00	45.33	10.00		2014
2015	5,645	81.45	-1.05	86.00	86.86	21.44		2015
2016	6,039	84.95	2.58	92.00	90.39	41.14		2016
2017	6,257	87.97	7.52	95.00	94.06	66.12		2017
2018	6,288	87.59	5.03	98.00	95.00	80.37		2018
2019	6,344	87.17	1.18	98.00	95.00	90.00		2019
2020	6,357	85.53	-0.35	99.00	95.00	95.00		2020
2021	6,143	73.37	5.64	99.00	95.00	95.00	0.00	2021
2022			10.97	99.00	95.00	95.00	0.00	2022

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	0.34	0.50		16.00	99.40	750.00	104,951	145.77

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	47.94	19.78	17.30	74.40	44.29	8.80	34.65	100.00	0.00
2016	50.44	36.93	17.30	76.34	50.51	22.40	36.96	100.00	0.00
2022	50.17	41.93	14.26	79.51	56.77	20.95	32.96	100.00	0.00
2015	47.83	32.71	17.30	75.24	47.71	15.60	35.80	100.00	1.62
2017	51.76	46.01	17.30	76.98	54.55	29.20	42.09	100.00	34.46
2018	52.14	52.27	17.30	77.45	54.97	20.80	47.22	100.00	56.60
2019	54.37	52.70	17.30	77.94	56.28	20.88	42.44	100.00	56.70
2021	49.33	51.72	14.26	79.17	58.85	20.95	35.31	100.00	68.80
2020	50.14	55.05	17.30	78.55	58.51	20.95	37.65	100.00	72.26

## 5G enablers

Country

Vanuatu

## Basic economic facts

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	2,918	105.39	0.80	93.00	42.17	0.00		2014
2015	2,859	113.05	2.48	93.00	54.75	0.00		2015
2016	2,922	109.54	0.84	93.00	70.93	17.72		2016
2017	3,031	105.52	3.08	95.00	76.85	35.50		2017
2018	3,045	98.34	2.33	98.00	83.19	62.09		2018
2019	3,070	99.38	2.76	98.00	90.04	72.07		2019
2020	2,849	62.97	5.33	98.00	95.00	83.67		2020
2021	2,800	60.47	2.34	98.00	95.00	90.00	0.00	2021
				98.00	96.00	91.00	0.00	2022

Year Real interest rate (%) Rule of law: estimate Tax revenue (% of GDP) Time required to start a business (days) Literacy Surface area (sq. km) Population total Population density

2019	6.55	0.22	17.59	18.00	88.03	12,190.00	304,404	24.97
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Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	34.85	17.72	14.99	62.47	27.78	14.70	7.87	89.53	0.00
2015	34.04	19.91	14.99	62.29	30.40	14.27	12.27	85.78	0.00
2016	37.94	31.11	14.99	61.91	33.00	13.83	16.67	81.59	41.73
2018	47.12	45.08	14.99	60.29	36.71	9.80	43.75	73.21	58.24
2019	40.14	49.02	14.99	65.14	38.29	11.34	38.64	86.23	64.29
2017	38.51	39.94	14.99	61.10	35.63	13.40	30.21	77.20	65.38
2021	39.77	51.49	12.21	66.44	40.03	12.88	37.91	86.69	71.11
2020	40.91	53.09	14.99	65.28	39.47	12.88	33.53	84.91	73.38
2022	44.96	53.88	12.21	71.17	39.63	12.88	42.28	100.00	84.30

## 5G enablers

Country

Viet Nam

## Basic economic facts

Year	GDP per capita PPP (constant USD)	Trade (% of GDP)	Inflation (annual %)	Population coverage 2G	3G	4G	5G	Year
2014	7,642	135.41	4.08	94.00	53.19	0.00		2014
2015	8,091	144.91	0.63	94.00	69.72	0.00		2015
2016	8,546	145.41	2.67	94.00	77.32	5.00		2016
2017	9,051	160.98	3.52	94.00	90.00	95.00		2017
2018	9,636	164.66	3.54	99.50	90.59	95.00		2018
2019	10,252	164.70	2.80	99.60	95.00	95.00		2019
2020	10,451	163.25	3.22	99.80	95.00	95.00		2020
2021	10,628	186.47	1.83	99.80	95.00	97.00	0.00	2021
2022	11,397		3.16	99.80	98.00	98.00	0.00	2022

5G population coverage (%)

0.00

Year	Real interest rate (%)	Rule of law: estimate	Tax revenue (% of GDP)	Time required to start a business (days)	Literacy	Surface area (sq. km)	Population total	Population density
2019	5.16	-0.03		16.00	95.75	331,310.00	95,776,716	305.58

Year	Affordability	Infrastructure	Spectrum	Consumer readiness	Content and services	Cybersecurity index	e-Government score	Gender equality	Mobile latencies
2014	64.95	24.26	37.89	66.11	51.11	32.40	41.73	80.82	0.00
2015	64.41	31.86	37.89	67.17	52.23	29.77	49.49	80.82	36.32
2016	66.89	39.50	37.89	68.07	54.22	27.13	57.25	80.29	71.05
2018	57.03	60.89	37.89	61.57	68.87	69.30	73.61	56.52	83.89
2017	68.45	59.26	37.89	69.10	56.86	24.50	65.43	80.96	84.31
2019	60.74	63.02	37.89	69.81	73.07	81.95	69.45	79.35	84.52
2020	55.37	65.10	37.89	72.63	77.00	94.59	65.29	85.47	86.29
2021	59.77	60.97	30.07	74.93	77.95	94.59	65.07	89.84	87.37
2022	61.33	62.78	30.07	74.30	76.80	94.59	64.84	86.51	88.63

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