

Grenada

The telecommunications sector represents an important part of Grenada's economy, accounting for 7 per cent of the national GDP in 2015. Mobile services, following the regional trend, account for the greatest part of the industry's revenue and is, on the whole, the most common service among the population.

Mobile services: The great majority of mobile subscriptions in Grenada are of the prepaid type. Mobile broadband has become increasingly available in the past few years, employing mainly HSPA+ technology, following heavy investments on the part of operators in terms of network upgrade (accounting for more than 90 per cent of the sector investments in 2015). In efforts to foster a competitive environment in the mobile sector, the overarching regional telecommunications regulator banned anticompetitive actions from operators such as blocking over-the-top services, working towards net neutrality.²⁰⁷ The agency has also actively promoted implementation of mobile number portability within its member States.²⁰⁸

Fixed services: Despite being well behind mobile broadband in terms of service uptake, fixed broadband was the segment with the most substantial revenue growth in 2015. Penetration levels for this segment are in line with regional averages, which means that there remains great untapped potential for market development.

Government policy: Grenada's sector regulator, the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC), was created in 2000 following market liberalization.²⁰⁹ Grenada is part of a group of Caribbean countries that collaborates with an overarching regulatory authority, the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL), which provides guidelines and represents interests of the regional governments. Together, the two bodies work to create a competitive environment that fosters investment and innovation within the sector. A new and updated telecommunications bill has recently been approved by all member States of ECTEL, focusing on infrastructure access, consumer protection and promoting market competition.²¹⁰ The NTRC also actively engages in programmes with universal access objectives, creating, in 2013, the Broadband to Remote Areas Project, within the scope of the universal service fund.

| Key indicators for Grenada (2017) | | The Americas | World |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|
| Fixed-telephone sub. per 100 inhab. | 30.1 | 23.9 | 13.0 |
| Mobile-cellular sub. per 100 inhab. | 105.0 | 111.8 | 103.6 |
| Active mobile-broadband sub. per 100 inhab. | 89.2 | 89.5 | 61.9 |
| 3G coverage (% of population) | 81.9 | 93.9 | 87.9 |
| LTE/WiMAX coverage (% of population) | 81.9 | 84.3 | 76.3 |
| Individuals using the Internet (%) | 59.1 | 67.5 | 48.6 |
| Households with a computer (%) | 55.0 | 64.8 | 47.1 |
| Households with Internet access (%) | 47.2 | 68.3 | 54.7 |
| International bandwidth per Internet user (kbit/s) | 9.1 | 77.1 | 76.6 |
| Fixed-broadband sub. per 100 inhab. | 20.6 | 19.9 | 13.6 |
| Fixed-broadband sub. by speed tiers, % distribution | | | |
| <i>-256 kbit/s to 2 Mbit/s</i> | 46.1 | 6.6 | 4.2 |
| <i>-2 to 10 Mbit/s</i> | 48.2 | 23.1 | 13.2 |
| <i>-equal to or above 10 Mbit/s</i> | 5.7 | 70.3 | 82.6 |

Note: Data in italics are ITU estimates. Source: ITU (as of June 2018).

Conclusion: Grenada's telecommunication sector has been producing steady growth over the past few years. Infrastructure development is a key element to be able to expand services to more remote areas. Nonetheless, importance should also be given to digital education for the population to reap the benefits of the increasingly available and affordable telecommunications services offered.