

Micronesia (Federated States of)

This Pacific Island nation faces the challenges of a small population dispersed over a large area. Planned submarine cable projects should transform the ICT environment. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has been a sovereign nation since achieving independence in 1986 from a US-administered UN trusteeship. FSM operates under a Compact of Free Association with the United States, which was amended and renewed in 2004.³⁰²

Mobile services: The state-owned incumbent Federated States of Micronesia Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) is the sole mobile operator. In 2014, 46 per cent of households had a mobile phone.³⁰³ A 3G network was deployed in 2015 and is available mainly in urban areas.

Fixed services: FSMTC is the sole provider of fixed line telephone services. It also provides ADSL fixed broadband. The country is connected to the HANTRU-1 undersea fibre-optic cable, which landed in 2010 linking Pohnpei to Guam.

Government policy: The Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure (DTCI) is responsible for the ICT sector. The first ICT and Telecommunications Policy was issued in 2012 with five goals: i) to achieve accessible, secure and affordable broadband communications for all; ii) to strengthen ICT human resources and increase human resource development opportunities through the use of ICT; iii) to improve economic growth and sustainable development through ICT; iv) to utilize ICT for good governance; and v) to create an enabling ICT environment through policy reform and improvements in legal frameworks. The process of implementing the fifth goal of the National ICT Policy was initiated through adoption of the *Telecommunications Act of 2014*. It addresses each strategic objective of the envisioned policy and legal reforms to create an enabling ICT environment. First, the 2014 Act ends FSMTC's statutory monopoly and provides a framework for the introduction of competition in the sector. Second, it provides for the establishment of an independent sector regulator. Third, the 2014 Act provides for the adoption of a universal access policy. In furtherance of its National ICT Policy, the Government has also obtained a commitment from the World Bank to

Key indicators for Micronesia (2017)		Asia & Pacific	World
Fixed-telephone sub. per 100 inhab.	6.6	9.5	13.0
Mobile-cellular sub. per 100 inhab.	21.9	104.0	103.6
Active mobile-broadband sub. per 100 inhab.	0.0	60.3	61.9
3G coverage (% of population)	15.0	91.3	87.9
LTE/WiMAX coverage (% of population)	0.0	86.9	76.3
Individuals using the Internet (%)	35.3	44.3	48.6
Households with a computer (%)	24.3	38.9	47.1
Households with Internet access (%)	31.4	49.0	54.7
International bandwidth per Internet user (kbit/s)	23.1	61.7	76.6
Fixed-broadband sub. per 100 inhab.	3.6	13.0	13.6
Fixed-broadband sub. by speed tiers, % distribution			
<i>-256 kbit/s to 2 Mbit/s</i>	56.9	2.4	4.2
<i>-2 to 10 Mbit/s</i>	30.9	7.6	13.2
<i>-equal to or above 10 Mbit/s</i>	12.2	90.0	82.6

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

provide a USD 47.5 million grant to be used to fund international telecommunications infrastructure investments, and related technical assistance and project management activities, with the goal of improving broadband international connectivity to Chuuk, Kosrae and Yap.

Conclusion: Providing extensive and affordable coverage has been a challenge for the Federated States of Micronesia. The country comprises 607 small islands spread over more than 2.5 million km² of ocean. New submarine cables will link all four states in a national broadband network with the opportunity of significantly lower Internet costs.