

## Tajikistan

**While the coverage of mobile-broadband services in Tajikistan is higher than the CIS average, penetration rates are relatively low. One reason may be the high prices for mobile and fixed services, which are among the highest in the region. However, the Government is making efforts to increase the use of ICT services across the country.**

**Mobile services:** The mobile cellular market in Tajikistan is represented by five telecommunication operators: Tcell, TT-Mobile, Babilon-Mobile, Takom, TK-Mobile. The companies use a wide range of technologies to provide services, such as GSM 900/1800, CDMA 2000, UMTS, and LTE 800/1800-2100 MHz.<sup>435</sup> The first 3G-UMTS network in Tajikistan was launched in 2005 by Babilon-Mobile.<sup>439</sup> WiMAX-based services started in 2007 by Babilon-T and Intercom.<sup>440</sup> LTE emerged in 2012 (launched by Babilon-Mobile) and it is in the process of development.<sup>441</sup> According to the statistics of one of the mobile operators, over 70 per cent of its Internet users exploit LTE enabled devices.<sup>442</sup> Satellite communications are often used by mobile cellular operators to connect their own networks across the country.<sup>443</sup>

**Fixed services:** The number of fixed telephone subscribers is in decline.<sup>444</sup> There is a significant telephone network availability divide between urban and rural areas.<sup>445</sup> The national telecommunication operator, Tajiktelecom, which is under the responsibility of the national regulatory authority, is the main supplier of fixed telephone services.<sup>446</sup> By 2014, 95 per cent of the analogue infrastructure had been replaced by digital systems and most of the backhaul lines were optical fibre. Tajiktelecom is the only operator that covers all regions. For that reason many Internet providers use its infrastructure to provide their services. Five major Internet providers share 95 per cent of the market. They construct optical fibre lines to satisfy demand for data transmission services, although fixed Internet access service penetration remains low.<sup>447</sup>

**Government policy:** In 2003, the ICT for the development of the Republic of Tajikistan strategy was approved. It focuses on four main goals: ICT legislation framework improvement, development and implementation of new ICT applications, ICT infrastructure development, and information

Key indicators for Tajikistan (2017)	CIS	World	
Fixed-telephone sub. per 100 inhab.	5.4	19.8	13.0
Mobile-cellular sub. per 100 inhab.	111.0	138.3	103.6
Active mobile-broadband sub. per 100 inhab.	22.7	72.0	61.9
3G coverage (% of population)	90.0	80.3	87.9
LTE/WiMAX coverage (% of population)	80.0	61.1	76.3
Individuals using the Internet (%)	22.0	68.6	48.6
Households with a computer (%)	14.8	68.1	47.1
Households with Internet access (%)	11.9	73.6	54.7
International bandwidth per Internet user (kbit/s)	2.2	66.8	76.6
Fixed-broadband sub. per 100 inhab.	0.1	17.8	13.6
<b>Fixed-broadband sub. by speed tiers, % distribution</b>			
<i>-256 kbit/s to 2 Mbit/s</i>	45.2	12.2	4.2
<i>-2 to 10 Mbit/s</i>	22.9	25.1	13.2
<i>-equal to or above 10 Mbit/s</i>	31.9	62.7	82.6

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

security. A set of national programmes has been implemented since 2003. The development and implementation of ICT in the Republic of Tajikistan programme, issued in 2004, resulted in supplying public institutions with computers and local area network construction. Some projects on digital telecommunication system deployment and remote area coverage were implemented. A lot of attention in the country is given to information security, and an information security programme was adopted in Tajikistan in 2004. In 2016, the Tajikistan government took a decision to create a centre for international telephone and Internet traffic control.<sup>448,449</sup> The national programme of providing schools with computers took place in 2011-2015. Its objectives were to supply educational establishments with computers and telecommunication equipment, train personnel to use ICT, and connect schools to the Internet.

**Conclusion:** Tajikistan has an open telecommunication market with more than 150 telecommunication services providers at the beginning of 2014. The deployment of new technologies and the Government's efforts in strengthening the ICT sector are promising to increase the access and use of ICTs in Tajikistan.