





"I am pleased to present the latest ICT Facts and Figures which show continued and almost universal growth in ICT uptake. Every day we are moving closer to having almost as many mobile- cellular subscriptions as people on earth. This is exciting news. The mobile revolution is m-powering people in developing countries by delivering ICT applications in education, health, government, banking, environment and business. Let us all celebrate this mobile miracle that I have no doubt will hasten our pace towards sustainable development." Brahima Sanou, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

6.8 BILLION MOBILE-CELLULAR SUBSCRIPTIONS

As the number of subscriptions approaches global population figures mobile-cellular growth slows



Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators databa Note: * Estimate

In 2013, there are almost as many mobile-cellular subscriptions as people in the world, with more than half in the Asia-Pacific region (3.5 billion out of 6.8 billion total subscriptions).

As global mobile-cellular penetration approaches 100% and market saturation is reached, growth rates have fallen to their lowest levels in both developed and developing countries.

Mobile-cellular penetration rates stand at 96% globally; 128% in developed countries; and 89% in developing countries.







Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database Note: * Estimate

2.7 BILLION PEOPLE – ALMOST 40% OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION – ARE ONLINE

In developing countries, 16% fewer women than men use the Internet

Internet users by development level, 2003-2013*, and by region, 2013*



Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database Note: * Estimate

In 2013, over 2.7 billion people are using the Internet, which corresponds to 39% of the world's population.

In the developing world, 31% of the population is online, compared with 77% in the developed world.



Europe is the region with the highest Internet penetration rate in the world (75%), followed by the Americas (61%).

In Africa, 16% of people are using the Internet – only half the penetration rate of Asia and the Pacific.



The gender gap: men and women online, totals and penetration rates, 2013*

More men than women use the Internet: globally, 37% of all women are online, compared with 41% of all men. This corresponds to 1.3 billion women and 1.5 billion men.

The developing world is home to about 826 million female Internet users and 980 million male Internet users. The developed world is home to about 475 million female Internet users and 483 million male Internet users.

The gender gap is more pronounced in the developing world, where 16% fewer women than men use the Internet, compared with only 2% fewer women than men in the developed world.

750 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS – 41% GLOBALLY – CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET

Households with Internet access, 2013*



In 2013, 41% of the world's households are connected to the Internet. Half of them are in the developing world, where household Internet penetration has reached 28%.

In the developed world, 78% of all households are connected to the Internet.

90% of the 1.1 billion households not connected to the Internet are in the developing world.

90 Percentage of households with Internet access 80 77 70 - Europe 61 60 The Americas CIS 50 Arab States 46 Asia & Pacific 40 Africa 34 30 33 20 10 7 0 2012* 2005 2006 2008 2009 2010 2013* 2007 2011 Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database Note: * Estimate

Households with Internet access, by region

Europe and Africa are the regions with the highest and the lowest levels of household Internet penetration respectively: 77% in Europe, compared with 7% in Africa.

The majority of households in the Americas are online (61%), compared with around one third of households in the Arab States and Asia and the Pacific.

Between 2009 and 2013, Internet penetration in households has grown fastest in Africa, with annual growth of 27%, followed by 15% annual growth in Asia and the Pacific, the Arab States and the CIS.

FIXED-BROADBAND PRICES DROP BY 82% **BETWEEN 2008 AND 2012**

As fixed-broadband services become more affordable, penetration increases

27

10

6



Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database Note: Simple averages. † Preliminary result. * Estimate

By 2012, the majority of countries have reached the Broadband Commission target of offering basic fixed-broadband services at below 5% of monthly GNI p.c.



Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database Note: † Preliminary result, based on 173 countries

Over the past five years, fixed-broadband prices as a share of GNI per capita dropped by 82%. By 2012, fixedbroadband prices represented 1.7% of monthly GNI p.c. in developed countries. In developing countries, fixedbroadband services remain expensive, accounting for 30.1% of average monthly incomes.

In 95 countries - including 48 developing countries - the price of a monthly fixed-broadband subscription represented 5% or less of monthly GNI p.c. in 2012.

As services are becoming more affordable, fixed-broadband uptake has shown strong growth and by 2013, there are almost 700 million fixed-broadband subscriptions, corresponding to a global penetration rate of 9.8%.

In 2013, the total number of fixed-broadband subscriptions in developing countries surpasses those in developed countries. But there is still a wide gap when it comes to fixed-broadband penetration rates, with 6.1% in developing countries (and less than 1% in Sub-Saharan Africa), compared with 27.2% in developed countries.

HIGH-SPEED ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

Differences in broadband speed persist

Uptake of high-speed broadband (at least 10 Mbit/s) is highest in some Asian economies, including the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (China) and Japan, and in several European countries, such as Bulgaria, Iceland and Portugal.

In Africa, less than 10% of fixed (wired) broadband subscriptions offer speeds of at least 2 Mbit/s. This is also the case of several countries in Asia and the Pacific, the Americas and some Arab States.



>10 Mbit/s

■ ≥2 to <10 Mbit/s ■ ≥256 kbit/s to <2 Mbit/s

Fixed-broadband subscriptions, by speed, early 2012

Source: ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database

Note: Refers to advertised speeds. * Data correspond to speed intervals slightly different from the ones defined by ITU. ** Breakdown by speed available only for a part of the total fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions. † Data include fixed wireless broadband subscriptions

CONTINUOUS HIGH GROWTH OF MOBILE BROADBAND

More than 2 billion subscriptions worldwide by end 2013*

Americas

460 million subscriptions
48% penetration
28% CAGR (2010-2013)

Europe

422 million subscriptions 68% penetration 33% CAGR (2010-2013) CIS

 129 million subscriptions

 46% penetration

 27% CAGR (2010-2013)



Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database Note: * Estimate

Active mobile-broadband subscriptions, 2007-2013*

Mobile-broadband subscriptions have climbed from 268 million in 2007 to 2.1 billion in 2013. This reflects an average annual growth rate of 40%, making mobile broadband the most dynamic ICT market.

In developing countries, the number of mobilebroadband subscriptions more than doubled from 2011 to 2013 (from 472 million to 1.16 billion) and surpassed those in developed countries in 2013.

Africa is the region with the highest growth rates over the past three years and mobile-broadband penetration has increased from 2% in 2010 to 11% in 2013.



Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database Note: * Estimate

MOBILE BROADBAND MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

But considerably cheaper than fixed-broadband services

By early 2013, the price of an entry-level mobile-broadband plan represents between 1.2-2.2% of monthly GNI p.c. in developed countries and between 11.3-24.7% in developing countries, depending on the type of service.

However, in developing countries, mobilebroadband services cost considerably less than fixed-broadband services: 18.8% of monthly GNI p.c. for a 1 GB postpaid computer-based mobile-broadband plan compared to 30.1% of monthly GNI p.c. for a postpaid fixed-broadband plan with 1 GB of data volume.

Among the four typical mobile-broadband plans offered in the market, postpaid handset-based services are the cheapest and prepaid computer-based services are the most expensive, across all regions.



Price of mobile-broadband services, early 2013[†]

% of GNI per capita

Price of mobile-broadband services by region, early 2013⁺

	Europe	Arab States	CIS	The Americas	Asia & the Pacific	Africa
Prepaid handset-based (500 MB)	1.1	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.9	38.8
Postpaid handset-based (500 MB)	1.1	2.2	5.6	5.0	3.5	36.2
Prepaid computer-based (1 GB)	1.9	7.4	7.6	11.1	12.6	58.3
Postpaid computer-based (1 GB)	1.2	2.5	7.4	8.0	10.6	54.6

Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database Note: Simple averages. † Preliminary result

A regional comparison highlights that mobile-broadband services remain largely unaffordable in Africa, where the price of a computer-based plan with 1GB of data volume represents on average more than 50% of GNI p.c.

Services are most affordable in Europe, where they represent on average less than 2% of GNI p.c.

In the Arab States and Asia and the Pacific region, postpaid handset-based services are relatively affordable, accounting for 2.2% and 3.5% of monthly GNI per capita, respectively; prices in the Americas and CIS remain relatively high (5% or above of monthly GNI p.c.) for all mobile-broadband services.

Source: ITU World Telecommunication /ICT Indicators database Note: Simple averages. † Preliminary result

For more information:

ICT Data and Statistics Division Telecommunication Development Bureau International Telecommunication Union

> Place des Nations 1211 Geneva 20 - Switzerland

> > indicators@itu.int www.itu.int/ict



Printed in Switzerland Geneva, February 2013

© International Telecommunication Union