

Bahamas Profile (2018)

Various statistics (Latest data available: 2018)

Fixed-telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	29.4202
Mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	98.9508
Fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	22.5774
Mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	60.8484
Households with a computer (%)	74.9948
Households with Internet access at home (%)	70.4098
Individuals using the Internet (%)	85

Regulatory Authority (Latest data available: 2018)

Please provide the name of the Head of the Regulatory Authority	Mr. Neville Wilchcome
Please provide the exact title of the Head of the Regulatory Authority.	Chairman
Name of the telecom/ICT regulator	Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA)

Policy Maker (Latest data available: 2018)

Please provide the name and contact details of the main Policy-Maker in charge of telecommunications/ICTs	Prime Minister
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Level of Competition (Latest data available: 2018)

Cable modem	M	
Cable Television	M	
Data2014	C	
Domestic fixed long distance	C	
Fixed Satellite Services (FSS)	N	
Fixed Wireless Broadband	C	
GMPCS (FSS/MSS)2010	C	
IMT (3G, 4G, etc.)	P	
International Gateways	C	
International Fixed Long Distance	C	
Internet Services	C	
Leased Lines	C	
Wireless Local Loop	P	
Local Fixed Line Services	C	
Mobile	P*	P: 2015
Mobile Satellite Services (MSS)	N	
Paging2005	C	
VSAT	C	
DSL	C	

M: Monopoly
P: Partial competition (year when competition was introduced)
C: Full competition (year when competition was introduced)
N: N/A

Institutional Details (Latest data available: 2018)

Regulator autonomous in decision making	Yes
Who is responsible for approving the budget of the Regulator? [2010]	Board
Legal document creating the regulator	http://www.urcabahamas.bs/download/044487600.pdf
Sources of regulator's budget and % financed from each source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licence fees, percentage; • Regulatory fees, percentage; • Regulated telecom operators • Regulated telecom operators percentage; percentage of operator revenue (turnover);
Regulator also regulates other utilities	• Yes If Yes, specify utilities regulated: Broadcasting,
Reporting requirements of the regulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report to the public • Report to Board of ICT regulator • Report to Government
Year separate regulator created	2009

Structure Regulator (Latest data available: 2018)

Please provide the name of the Head of the Regulatory Authority	Mr. Neville Wilchcome
Please provide the exact title of the Head of the Regulatory Authority.	Chairman
Regulator is a collegial body	Yes
If Yes, please provide the total number of members/commissioners (including the Head). [2013]	4
Is the Head of the Commission also responsible for day-to-day administrative matters? [2017]	No
What is the normal period of appointment for the members and the Head of the Regulatory Authority? [2011]	1-5 years
Please provide the total number of staff in the Regulatory Authority.	29

Regulatory Functions (Latest data available: 2018)

Entity in charge of licensing	R
Entity in charge of interconnection rates	R
Entity in charge of price regulation	R
Entity in charge of technical standards setting	R
Entity in charge of radio frequency allocation and assignment	R
Spectrum Monitoring and Enforcement	R
Entity in charge of numbering	R
Entity in charge of type approval	R
Entity in charge of service quality monitoring²⁰¹⁴	R
Entity in charge of universal service/access	R
Quality of service standards setting²⁰¹⁴	R Op
Entity in charge of enforcement of quality of service obligations	R
Broadcasting (sound transmission)	R
Entity in charge of broadcasting content	R
Entity in charge of Information Technology	O
Entity in charge of Internet content²⁰¹⁴	N

S: Sector Ministry
 O: Other Ministry or Government body
 R: Regulatory Authority
 Op: Operator
 N: Not regulated
 M: If more than one entity or another body is involved in this function, please explain

Universal Service - services covered and operator obligations (Latest data available: 2018)

Definition of universal service/access exists	Yes
Universal access/service policy adopted	Yes
Voice services included in Universal service/access definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed line private residential service as part of universal service definition • Fixed line public payphone service as part of universal service definition
Internet services included in Universal service/access definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dial-up Internet access as part of universal service definition
Other services included in Universal service/access definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools ;, • Health centres ;, • Emergency services as part of universal service definition • Services for impaired/ elderly
Operators under universal access/service obligation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designated US Provider
Operators/service providers required to offer below-cost prices	Yes

Financing of Universal Service activities and/or Universal Service Funds (Latest data available: 2018)

Means of financing operator(s) universal access/service obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-subsidy between own services
Other financing mechanisms for the provision of Universal service	No
If Yes, please explain	
Operational Universal Service Fund	No
If Yes, when? [2014]	Regulations are being consulted on. Establishment is targeted for late 2014
Operators/ service providers required to contribute to USF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All operators
Means of calculating USF contribution amounts	
USF financed by other sources	No
USF budget financing by source (in percentage)	
Regulator administrating USF	Yes
If No, name the entity responsible	

Interconnection issues (Latest data available: 2018)

Interconnection charging principle adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asymmetric
If asymmetric charging, how it was decided?	The basis that asymmetry was decided on is the size. It can be measured in terms of revenue and subscribers.

Approach used to regulate interconnection prices (Latest data available: 2014)

Approach used to regulate fixed termination rates	FDC B
Approach used to regulate mobile termination rates	FDC B

LRIC: LRIC cost model
 FDC: FDC cost model
 B: Benchmarking
 O: Other
 N: None

NGN (Latest data available: 2018)

Stage of introduction of NGN system by operators • Completed

Cost model used (or planned) to calculate costs/tariffs of NGN Services • FDHC model

NGN - Regulation of IP networks (Latest data available: 2015)

Regulations that govern the use of IP networks for Data Services USO I

Regulations that govern the use of IP networks for Voice Services USO I

USO: Regulatory arrangements subject to universal service obligations

I: Regulatory interconnection arrangements with networks using switching circuits

B: Banning of services based on IP

No: No regulatory arrangements defined at present

O: Other