

Bhutan Profile (2018)

Various statistics (Latest data available: 2018)

Fixed-telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	2.91826
Mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	93.2616
Fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	2.26608
Mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	101.641
Households with a computer (%)	23.5753
Households with Internet access at home (%)	44.3359
Individuals using the Internet (%)	48.1064

Regulatory Authority (Latest data available: 2016)

Please provide the name of the Head of the Regulatory Authority	Mr. Chencho Dorji
Please provide the exact title of the Head of the Regulatory Authority.	Director General
Name of the telecom/ICT regulator	Bhutan InfoComm & Media Authority

Policy Maker (Latest data available: 2007)

Please provide the name and contact details of the main Policy-Maker in charge of telecommunications/ICTs	Ministry of Information and Communications
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Level of Competition (Latest data available: 2016)

Cable modem	
Cable Television	C*
Data2007	C*
Domestic fixed long distance	M
Fixed Satellite Services (FSS)	M
Fixed Wireless Broadband	C*
GMPCS (FSS/MSS)2006	N
IMT (3G, 4G, etc.)	C*
International Gateways	C*
International Fixed Long Distance	C*
Internet Services	C*
Leased Lines	C*
Wireless Local Loop2007	M
Local Fixed Line Services	M
Mobile	C*
Mobile Satellite Services (MSS)2006	M
Paging2006	C
VSAT	C*
DSL	M

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: 2016)

Regulator autonomous in decision making	Yes
Who is responsible for approving the budget of the Regulator? [2007]	Ministry of Finance
Legal document creating the regulator	Bhutan Information ,Communications and Media Act, 2006
Sources of regulator's budget and % financed from each source	• Government appropriation, percentage: 100,
Regulator also regulates other utilities	• Yes If Yes, specify utilities regulated: Cable TV operators and Radio Communications Users.,
Reporting requirements of the regulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual report to the public • Report to Board of ICT regulator • Report to President/Head of State • Report to Government • Annual report to Sector Ministry
Year separate regulator created	2006

Structure Regulator (Latest data available: 2016)

Please provide the name of the Head of the Regulatory Authority	Mr. Chencho Dorji
Please provide the exact title of the Head of the Regulatory Authority.	Director General
Regulator is a collegial body	Yes
If Yes, please provide the total number of members/commissioners (including the Head). [2007]	5
Is the Head of the Commission also responsible for day-to-day administrative matters?	Yes
What is the normal period of appointment for the members and the Head of the Regulatory Authority? [2007]	5 Years
Please provide the total number of staff in the Regulatory Authority.	32

Regulatory Functions (Latest data available: 2016)

Entity in charge of licensing	R
Entity in charge of interconnection rates	S 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	S
Entity in charge of type approval	R
Entity in charge of service quality monitoring2007	R
Entity in charge of universal service/access	S R
Quality of service standards setting2007	R
Entity in charge of enforcement of quality of service obligations	R
Broadcasting (sound transmission)	S R
Entity in charge of broadcasting content	S R
Entity in charge of Information Technology	S O R M* M: Department of Information, Technology and Telecom
Entity in charge of Internet content2007	S 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: 2016)

Definition of universal service/access exists	Yes
Universal access/service policy adopted	Yes
Voice services included in Universal service/access definition	• Fixed line public payphone service as part of universal service definition
Internet services included in Universal service/access definition	• Dial-up Internet access as part of universal service definition
Other services included in Universal service/access definition	• Telecentres as part of universal service definition • Emergency services as part of universal service definition • Directory services as part of universal service definition
Operators under universal access/service obligation	• Incumbent fixed line operator(s) • Mobile operators
Operators/service providers required to offer below-cost prices	No

Financing of Universal Service activities and/or Universal Service Funds (Latest data available: 2016)

Means of financing operator(s) universal access/service obligations	• Universal service funds
Other financing mechanisms for the provision of Universal service	Yes
If Yes, please explain	
Operational Universal Service Fund	Yes
If Yes, when? [2006]	by 2007
Operators/ service providers required to contribute to USF	• Mobile operators
Means of calculating USF contribution amounts	• Set amount (flat rate) Amount(in local currency):,
USF financed by other sources	No
USF budget financing by source (in percentage)	
Regulator administrating USF	Yes
If No, name the entity responsible [2002]	There is no Universal Service Fund

Interconnection issues (Latest data available:)

Interconnection charging principle adopted

If asymmetric charging, how it was decided?

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

Approach used to regulate fixed termination rates

Approach used to regulate mobile termination rates

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

NGN (Latest data available:)

Stage of introduction of NGN system by operators

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

NGN - Regulation of IP networks (Latest data available: 2005)

Regulations that govern the use of IP networks for Data Services No

Regulations that govern the use of IP networks for Voice Services No

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