

United States Profile (2018)

Various statistics (Latest data available: 2018)

Fixed-telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	35.6849
Mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	123.688
Fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	35.6063
Mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants	142.481
Households with a computer (%)	90.7702
Households with Internet access at home (%)	83.8417
Individuals using the Internet (%)	87.2661

Regulatory Authority (Latest data available: 2018)

Please provide the name of the Head of the Regulatory Authority	Ajit Pai
Please provide the exact title of the Head of the Regulatory Authority.	Chairman
Name of the telecom/ICT regulator	Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Policy Maker (Latest data available: 2018)

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

Cable modem	C
Cable Television	C
Data2015	C
Domestic fixed long distance	C
Fixed Satellite Services (FSS)	C
Fixed Wireless Broadband	C
GMPCS (FSS/MSS)2010	C
IMT (3G, 4G, etc.)	C
International Gateways	C
International Fixed Long Distance	C
Internet Services	C
Leased Lines	C
Wireless Local Loop	C
Local Fixed Line Services	C
Mobile	C
Mobile Satellite Services (MSS)	C
Paging2004	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]	A budget is approved by the U.S. Congress and apportioned by the Office of Management and Budget, with regulatory fees credited to the appropriation. Percentages shown are for fiscal year 2010, and will vary from year-to-year. Auctions receipts are deposited with the U.S. Treasury. Funds are allocated from receipts as needed to cover the cost of running the Auctions Program. Credit Program Funds are provided by Treasury to manage auction loans.
Legal document creating the regulator	The Communications Act of 1934
Sources of regulator's budget and % financed from each source	• Regulatory fees, percentage: 100,
Regulator also regulates other utilities	• No
Reporting requirements of the regulator	• Other Indicate: It is independent with Congressional oversight and budget control.,
Year separate regulator created	1934

Structure Regulator (Latest data available: 2018)

Please provide the name of the Head of the Regulatory Authority	Ajit Pai
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]	5
Is the Head of the Commission also responsible for day-to-day administrative matters?	No
What is the normal period of appointment for the members and the Head of the Regulatory Authority? [2011]	5 years
Please provide the total number of staff in the Regulatory Authority.	1520

Regulatory Functions (Latest data available: 2018)

Entity in charge of licensing	O R M*	M: The FCC is the primary licensing authority. The FCC accords the appropriate level of deference to the Executive Branch Agencies' expertise on national security and law enforcement issues for transactions involving non-U.S. owned applicants. State regulators also have licensing authority.
Entity in charge of interconnection rates	O R Op M*	M: Interconnection agreements – including rates for interconnection services – may be voluntarily negotiated between carriers, subject to approval by state commissions applying FCC standards. Disputes are arbitrated by state commissions (or the FCC should a state commission refuse) applying FCC standards. Reciprocal compensation rates apply to a local exchange carrier's transport and termination of telecommunications services. Unless both parties agree otherwise, these rates are determined by the states applying FCC standards. Access charges, assessed by local carriers on long distance providers, are subject to a uniform, national framework for the transition of intercarrier compensation to bill-and-keep. Interstate access charges are regulated by the FCC and intrastate access charges are regulated by the states within the federal framework.
Entity in charge of price regulation	R Op N M*	M: FCC regulates rates for some interstate services offered by wireline carriers. The states likewise regulate rates for some intrastate wireline services. The rate of the basic cable tier is subject to rate regulation by the Commission.

Entity in charge of technical standards setting	R Op N	
Entity in charge of radio frequency allocation and assignment	O R M*	M: The FCC works in conjunction with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the Department of Commerce.
Spectrum Monitoring and Enforcement	O R M*	M: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), located within the Department of Commerce, also has a role in spectrum management: monitoring and enforcement, especially with respect to the Federal use of spectrum.
Entity in charge of numbering	R M*	M: The Telecom Act of 1996 gives the FCC jurisdiction over the North American Numbering Plan (NANP). We have appointed a NANP administrator, NeuStar, and delegated certain responsibilities to state commissions pursuant to that authority.
Entity in charge of type approval	R M*	M: Parts 15 and 68 of the FCC's rules involve certification or registration of equipment. For many types of equipment, we allow manufacturer declarations of conformity with the rules. Some equipment - network equipment, for example - is not subject to FCC rules but industry technical requirements apply.
Entity in charge of service quality monitoring²⁰¹⁵	R Op	
Entity in charge of universal service/access	R M*	M: Eligibility criteria for income eligible consumers vary by state. States may also have their own programs which may have their own criteria.
Quality of service standards setting²⁰¹⁵	R	
Entity in charge of enforcement of quality of service obligations	R M*	M: The FCC has granted forbearance from incumbent local exchange carriers' obligations to report service quality data. State regulators may enforce their state's service quality standards and reporting obligations.
Broadcasting (sound transmission)	R	
Entity in charge of broadcasting content	R M*	M: It is a violation of federal law to air obscene programming at any time. It is also a violation of federal law to broadcast indecent or profane programming during certain hours. Congress has given the FCC the responsibility for administratively enforcing the law that governs these types of broadcasts
Entity in charge of Information Technology	N	
Entity in charge of Internet content²⁰¹⁵	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	• Fixed line private residential service as part of universal service definition
Internet services included in Universal service/access definition	• Broadband as part of universal service definition
Other services included in Universal service/access definition	• Telecentres as part of universal service definition Explain: Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (the Act), states that universal service is an evolving level of telecommunications services that the Commission shall establish periodically, taking into account advances in telecommunications and information technologies and services. Program principles, obligations and rules can be found in Sections 214 and 254 of the Act, and Parts 36 and 54 of the Commission's rules. See 47 U.S.C. §§ 214, 254, 47 C.F.R. §§ 36.601, et seq. and 54.1, et seq.

Operators under universal access/service obligation	• None of the above, please explain: Eligibility and obligations for the receipt of universal service funds can be found in Section 214 and 254 of the Act, and Parts 36 and 54 of the Commission's rules. See 47 U.S.C. §§ 214, 254, 47 C.F.R. §§ 36.601, et seq. and 54.1, et seq.,
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	• Universal service funds
Other financing mechanisms for the provision of Universal service	Yes
If Yes, please explain	The United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Telecommunications Program provides many programs for financing rural America's telecommunications infrastructure. For additional information regarding RUS and its programs, see http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RUSTelecomPrograms.html . For additional information regarding the activities the FCC has undertaken to improve services to rural areas, see https://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/rural-broadband-experiments

Operational Universal Service Fund	Yes
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If Yes, when?

Operators/ service providers required to contribute to USF	• None of the above, please identify: Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and Part 54, Subpart H of the FCC Rules, telecommunications carriers and certain other providers of telecommunications that provide service between states and internationally must contribute to the Universal Service Fund. Currently, the types of telecommunications providers that must contribute to the Universal Service Fund include long distance companies, local telephone companies, wireless telephone companies, paging companies, payphone providers that are aggregators, and interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers. For more information on the universal service program see http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/universal-service ,
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Means of calculating USF contribution amounts	• Other Indicate: Telecommunications carriers and certain other providers of telecommunications that provide service between states and internationally must pay a specified percentage of their interstate and international end-user revenues into the Universal Service Fund. This percentage is called the "contribution factor." The contribution factor changes four times a year (quarterly) and is increased or decreased depending on the projected Universal Service program demand and the revenues reported by contributors. The current contribution factor is available on the FCC's web site, http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/contribution-factor-quarterly-filings-universal-service-fund-usf-management-support ,
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USF financed by other sources	No
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USF budget financing by source (in percentage)	
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Regulator administrating USF	Yes
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If No, name the entity responsible [2010]	The Commission has designated the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), an independent, not-for-profit corporation, as the administrator of the federal Universal Service Fund. See http://www.usac.org/default.aspx . Under the Commission's rules, the Administrator is responsible for administering each of the USF mechanisms, subject to Commission rules and oversight. Pursuant to Commission rules, however, the Administrator is prohibited from making policy, interpreting unclear provisions of the statute or the Commission's rules, or interpreting the intent of Congress, and may only advocate positions before the Commission and its staff on administrative matters. See 47 C.F.R. § 54.702(c)-(d).
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Interconnection issues (Latest data available: 2018)

Interconnection charging principle adopted	• Symmetric
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If asymmetric charging, how it was decided?	
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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: 2018)

Stage of introduction of NGN system by operators • Other, please specify: Many providers employ IP-based core networks, and some providers operate end-to-end IP-based networks.,

Cost model used (or planned) to calculate costs/tariffs of NGN Services • None

NGN - Regulation of IP networks (Latest data available: 2018)

Regulations that govern the use of IP networks for Data Services USO O* O: Certain consumer protection and national security regulations apply to data services, regardless of whether they are telecommunications services.

Regulations that govern the use of IP networks for Voice Services USO O* O: Certain consumer protection and national security regulations also apply.

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