



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 23 July 2012

To: World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators
Contacts
National Statistical Offices

Subject: **Release of the *ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database, 16th edition***

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you of the release of the *ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database (WTID), 16th edition*. The database, which is updated biannually, is one of the flagship statistical products of the BDT. The WTID is the main international database on ICT statistics and the only source of official ICT data based on internationally agreed standards and definitions.

The WTID contains time series data for the years 1960 to 2011 for more than 200 economies worldwide and around 140 telecommunication/ICT statistics. The latest release includes end-2011 data for selected indicators such as fixed-telephone subscriptions, mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions, international Internet bandwidth, fixed (wired)-broadband Internet subscriptions, active mobile-broadband subscriptions, percentage of individuals using the Internet, percentage of households with Internet and percentage of households with computer. These indicators will also feature in the ICT Development Index (IDI), to be published later this year as part of the *Measuring the Information Society Report 2012*.

The data included in the WTID are collected through the annual questionnaires that ITU sends to your agency's statistical contact and to your country's national statistical office. Your contribution to this database is highly appreciated and I hope that you will continue supporting the ITU data collection by providing the latest data through the ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators questionnaires.

Attached are some key statistical highlights based on the newly released data. They show, for example, that mobile-broadband subscriptions have grown by 40% during the past year and have reached 1 billion by the end of 2011. A copy of the database has been made available for you at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/ipb/temp/index.html> and further information can be obtained on the ITU/BDT statistics website at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict>.

I trust that you will find this database useful in your analyses.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Key statistical highlights: ITU data release June 2012

Mobile cellular:

- Total **mobile-cellular subscriptions reached almost 6 billion by end 2011**, corresponding to a **global penetration of 86%**.
- **Growth was driven by developing countries**, which accounted for more than 80% of the 660 million new mobile-cellular subscriptions added in 2011.
- In 2011, **142 million mobile-cellular subscriptions were added in India**, twice as many as in the whole Africa, and more than in the Arab States, CIS and Europe together.
- By end 2011, **there were 105 countries with more mobile-cellular subscriptions than inhabitants**, including African countries such as Botswana, Gabon, Namibia, Seychelles and South Africa.
- Countries where mobile-cellular penetration increased the most in 2011 include Brazil, Costa Rica, Kazakhstan, Lao P.D.R. and Mali.

Mobile broadband:

- By end 2011, **there were more than 1 billion mobile-broadband subscriptions worldwide**.
- Mobile broadband has become the single most dynamic ICT service reaching a **40% annual subscription growth in 2011**.
- Although developing countries are catching up in terms of 3G coverage, **huge disparities remain** between mobile-broadband penetration in the developing (8%) and the developed world (51%).
- **In Africa there are less than 5 mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants**, whereas all other regions have penetration levels above 10%.
- By end 2011, there were **more mobile-broadband subscriptions than inhabitants in the Republic of Korea and Singapore**. In Japan and Sweden, active mobile-broadband penetration surpassed 90% by end 2011.
- In 2011, **144 million mobile-broadband subscriptions were added in the BRICS** (Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa), accounting for 45% of the world's total subscriptions added in 2011.

Fixed (wired) broadband:

- By end 2011, there were **590 million fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions worldwide**.
- Fixed (wired) broadband growth in developed countries is slowing (5% increase in 2011), whereas **developing countries continue to experience high growth (18% in 2011)**.
- **Fixed (wired)-broadband penetration remains low in some regions**, such as Africa and the Arab States, with 0.2% and 2% respectively by end 2011.

- In 2011, **30 million fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions were added in China, about half of the total subscriptions added worldwide**, and fixed (wired)-broadband penetration reached 12% in the country.
- **Top performers – such as France, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland – had fixed (wired)-broadband penetrations above 35% by end 2011.**
- **Countries where fixed (wired)-broadband penetration increased the most in 2011 include Bahrain, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mauritius and Uruguay.** However, among these, only Bahrain and Uruguay surpassed the 10% fixed (wired)-broadband penetration by end 2011.

Internet:

- The percentage of individuals using the Internet continues to grow worldwide and **by end 2011 2.3 billion people were online.**
- **In developing countries, the number of Internet users doubled between 2007 and 2011, but only a quarter of inhabitants in the developing world were online by end 2011.**
- **The percentage of individuals using the Internet in the developed world reached the 70% landmark by end 2011.** In Iceland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden more than 90% of the population are online.
- By end 2011, **70% of the total households in developed countries had Internet, whereas only 20% of households in developing countries had Internet access.** Some outstanding exceptions include Lebanon and Malaysia with 62% and 61% of households with Internet respectively.
- **Total international Internet bandwidth increased seven-fold over the last five years** reaching 76'000 Gbit/s by end 2011. This equates to 34'000 bit/s per Internet user worldwide.
- **Major differences in Internet bandwidth per Internet user persist between regions:** on average, a user in Europe enjoys 25 times as much international Internet capacity as a user in Africa.