

The Little Data Book on Information and Communication Technology

14

Economic and social context

Sector structure

Sector efficiency and capacity

Sector performance

Access

Usage

Quality

Affordability

Trade

Applications



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2014 | THE LITTLE DATA BOOK ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



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**International
Telecommunication
Union**

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ISBN (paper): 978-1-4648-0177-8
ISBN (electronic): 978-1-4648-0178-5
DOI: 10.1596/978-1-4648-0177-8

Design by Communications Development Incorporated, Washington, D.C.

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Acknowledgments

The Little Data Book on Information and Communication Technology 2014 is a joint publication between the World Bank and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

For the World Bank team, the work was the result of close collaboration between the staff of the Development Data Group of the Development Economics Vice Presidency and the Transport, Water, and Information Communication Technologies Sector Unit of the World Bank. The Development Data Group team included Azita Amjadi, Federico Escaler, Buyant Erdene Khaltarkhuu, Leila Rafei, Jomo Tariku, and William Prince. The Information and Communication Technologies team included Tim Kelly and Kaoru Kimura. The work was carried out under the management of Haishan Fu and Jose Luis Irigoyen. Nora Ridolfi, Paola Scalabrin, and Janice Tuten from World Bank's Publishing and Knowledge Division oversaw publication and dissemination of the book.

The ITU contribution was provided by the ICT Data and Statistics Division of the Telecommunication Development Bureau. The team included Susan Teltscher (Head of Division), Vanessa Gray, Esperanza Magpantay, and Ivan Vallejo. Regulatory data were provided by the Regulatory and Market Environment Division of the Telecommunication Development Bureau. The team included Makhtar Fall (Head of Division), Nancy Sundberg, and Youlia Lozanova.

The World Bank and ITU acknowledge the data provided by other sources: IMF, Netcraft, OECD, UNCTAD, UNDESA/UNPAN, UNESCO, UNPD, and UNSD.

Preface

Since the late 1990s access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) has seen tremendous growth—driven primarily by the wireless technologies and liberalization of telecommunications markets. Mobile communications have evolved from simple voice and text services to diversified innovative applications and mobile broadband Internet. By the end of 2013, there were an estimated 6.8 billion mobile-cellular subscriptions globally. The number of individuals using the Internet has risen constantly and reached an estimated 2.7 billion while the number of fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions reached almost 700 million at the end of 2013.

The impacts of ICTs cross all sectors. Research has shown that investment in information and communication technologies is associated with such economic benefits as higher productivity, lower costs, new economic opportunities, job creation, innovation, and increased trade. ICTs also help provide better services in health and education, and strengthen social cohesion.

The Little Data Book on Information and Communication Technology 2014 illustrates the progress of this revolution for 214 economies around the world. It provides comparable statistics on the sector for 2005 and 2012 across a range of indicators, enabling readers to readily compare economies.

This book includes indicators covering the economic and social context, the structure of the information and communication technology sector, sector efficiency and capacity, and sector performance related to access, usage, quality, affordability, trade, and applications. The glossary contains definitions of the terms used in the tables.

For more information and other World Bank data publications, visit our data Web site at data.worldbank.org or the Web site of the Information and Communication Technologies Department at www.worldbank.org/ict.

For more statistics on information and communication technology infrastructure, access and usage, as well as analytical reports such as the annual *Measuring the Information Society* report, visit ITU's Web site at www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/default.aspx and the ITU ICT Eye at www.itu.int/icteye.

Data notes

The data in this book are for 2005 and 2012 or the most recent year unless otherwise noted in the table or the glossary.

- Growth rates are proportional changes from the previous year unless otherwise noted.
- Regional aggregates include data for low- and middle-income economies only.
- Figures in italics indicate data for years or periods other than those specified.

Symbols used:

- .. indicates that data are not available or that aggregates cannot be calculated because of missing data.
- 0 or 0.0 indicates zero or small enough that the number would round to zero at the displayed number of decimal places.
- \$ indicates current U.S. dollars.

Lettered notes on some country tables can be found in the notes on page 232.

Data are shown for economies with populations greater than 30,000 or for smaller economies if they are members of the World Bank or the ITU. The term *country* (used interchangeably with *economy*) does not imply political independence or official recognition by the World Bank or the ITU but refers to any economy for which the authorities report separate social or economic statistics.

Aggregates for groups of economies are based on the World Bank's regional and income classifications. Because of missing data, aggregates should be treated as approximations of unknown totals or average values. The

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