

# The Little Data Book on Information and Communication Technology

# 12

**Economic and social context**

**Structure**

**Efficiency and capacity**

**Performance**

**Access**

**Usage**

**Quality**

**Affordability**

**Trade**

**Applications**



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**International  
Telecommunication  
Union**



# 2012 | THE LITTLE DATA BOOK ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY



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**International  
Telecommunication  
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# Preface

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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 2011, the number of mobile-cellular subscriptions reached approximately 6 billion globally. The number of individuals using the Internet has risen constantly and reached an estimated 2.4 billion while the number of fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions reached almost 600 million at the end of 2011.

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 2012* illustrates the progress of this revolution for 216 economies around the world. It provides comparable statistics on the sector for 2005 and 2010 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](http://data.worldbank.org) or the Web site of the Information and Communication Technologies Department at [www.worldbank.org/ict](http://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/ict](http://www.itu.int/ict) and the ITU ICT Eye at [www.itu.int/icteye](http://www.itu.int/icteye).

# Data notes

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The data in this book are for 2005 and 2010 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.
- 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.

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.

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