

The economic contribution of broadband, digital transformation and ICT regulation

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The new study

- New landmark study to be released soon
- Based on cutting-edge econometric modelling
- Using top-tier data metrics on the development of the digital ecosystem (the Digital ecosystem development index) and the maturity of ICT regulatory frameworks (the ICT regulatory tracker).
- Providing clear evidence of the economic impact of broadband technologies, digitization and ICT regulation

Expert reports
Thematics

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The economic contribution of broadband, digitization and ICT regulation







Impact of fixed broadband

- 2010-2017: significant economic impact
- Investment and labour force critically affect economic growth
- Prices for services are the key enablers for adoption
- Income levels affect the revenues and investments of operators
- Critical mass effect: the impact of fixed broadband appears at higher levels of economic development
- Return to scale effect: fixed broadband economic impact tends to increase with economic development
- Fixed to mobile substitution going on

0.8% increase in GDP



10% increase in fixed broadband penetration



Impact of mobile broadband

- Higher average impact on economic growth than fixed broadband across all income groups
- Higher importance of investment than for fixed broadband
- Affordability is less of a barrier for mobile than for fixed broadband
- Mobile broadband contribution is higher in less developed countries than in more developed
- The lower the income level, the higher the economic impact of mobile broadband

1.5% increase in GDP



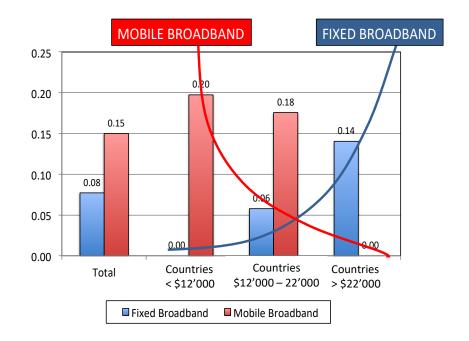
10% increase in mobile broadband penetration



Impact of broadband

In summary, the broadband economic impact models confirm that:

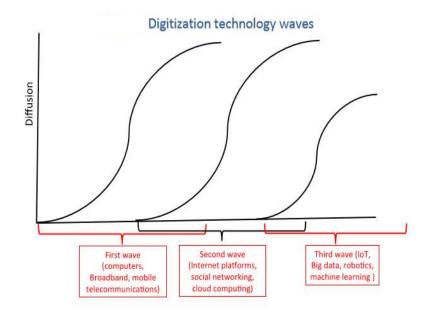
- At the aggregate level, mobile broadband appears to have a higher economic impact than fixed broadband;
- The economic impact of fixed broadband is higher in more developed countries than in less developed;
- On the opposite, the economic impact of mobile broadband is higher in less developed countries than in more developed.





Impact of digitization

- The development of a digital ecosystem is correlated with economic development
- The economic impact of digitization is higher than that of broadband and fairly on par with mobile broadband
- Full economic impact of ICT is achieved through the cumulative adoption of all technologies and maximization of economic impact can only be achieved through a holistic set of policies
- The economic impact of digitization is guided by a "return to scale" effect so the economic contribution of digitization increases at higher development stages
- Digitization also has an impact on labor and total factor productivity





Impact of regulation

- Regulatory and institutional frameworks are essential in driving digital ecosystem growth and the effect builds up over time
- The connectivity of digital services is significantly correlated with the level of advancement of ICT policies and regulations, and the competition and market power regulatory set-up in particular
- Investment in the digital ecosystem is directly and positively influenced by the maturity of ICT regulatory frameworks and by ICT competition frameworks in particular
- ICT regulatory frameworks important for the development of infrastructure for digital services

- Digital players not influenced by the level of openness and competition of the traditional ICT sector, having a competitive advantage
- Level playing field in the digital marketplace hard to achieve
- New policies and regulations need to be built in and onto existing ones in order to increase their relevance and impact on the development of the digital ecosystem.





itu.int/go/outlook17



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