

Measuring digital development

Facts and figures

2019





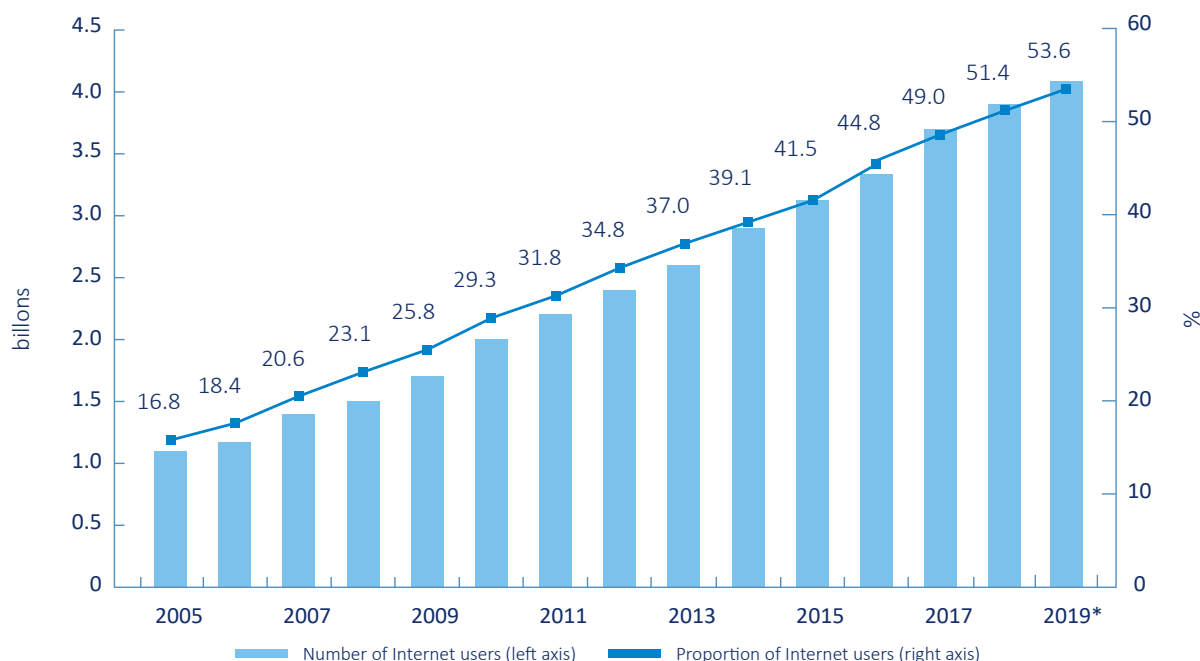
Welcome to the first of ITU's Measuring Digital Development series of statistical and analytical publications that replace the annual Measuring the Information Society Report. Facts and figures 2019 offers a snapshot of the most important ICT indicators, including estimates for the current year. Latest figures show that while Internet use continues to spread, the digital gender gap is also growing. More effective action is urgently needed to address a range of barriers – cultural, financial and skills-related – that are impeding Internet uptake, especially among women.

Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau

Internet usage keeps growing, but barriers lie ahead

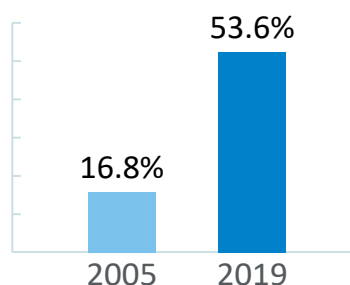
*Individuals using the Internet, 2005-2019**



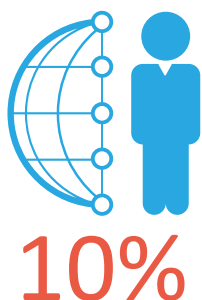
Note: * ITU estimate. Source: ITU.



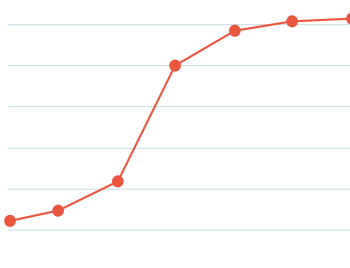
An estimated 4.1 billion people are using the Internet in 2019, reflecting a 5.3 per cent increase compared with 2018.



The global penetration rate increased from nearly 17 per cent in 2005 to over 53 per cent in 2019.



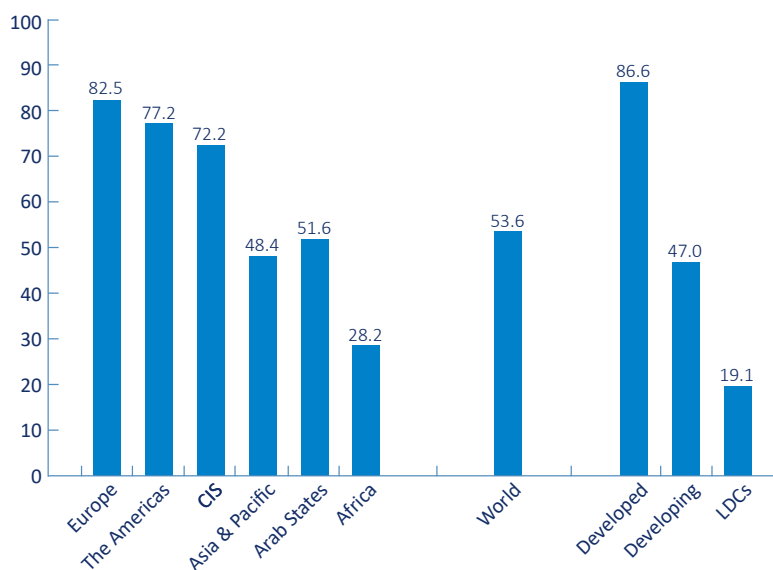
Between 2005 and 2019, the number of Internet users grew on average by 10 per cent every year.



In recent years though, global growth rates are not as high as a decade ago because some parts of the world are reaching saturation levels.

Most of the offline population lives in least developed countries

*Percentage of individuals using the Internet, by region and development status, 2019**

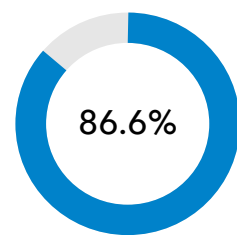


Note: * ITU estimate. Source: ITU.

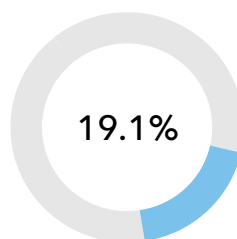
In developed countries, most people are online, with close to 87 per cent of individuals using the Internet.

In the least developed countries (LDCs), on the other hand, only 19 per cent of individuals are online in 2019.

Europe is the region with the highest Internet usage rates, Africa the region with the lowest Internet usage rates.



Developed Countries



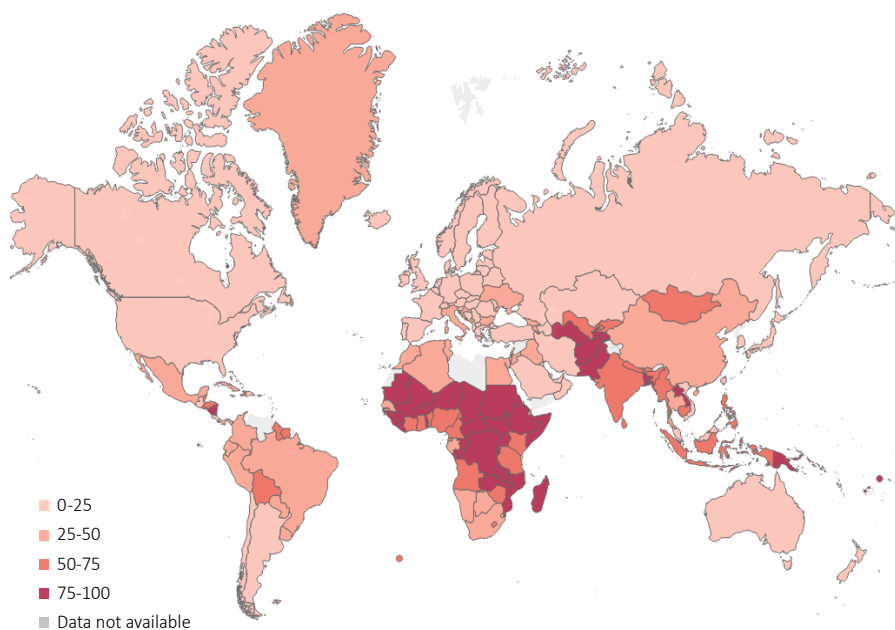
LDCs



Africa

Europe

*Percentage of the population not using the Internet, 2019**



Note: * ITU estimate. Source: ITU.

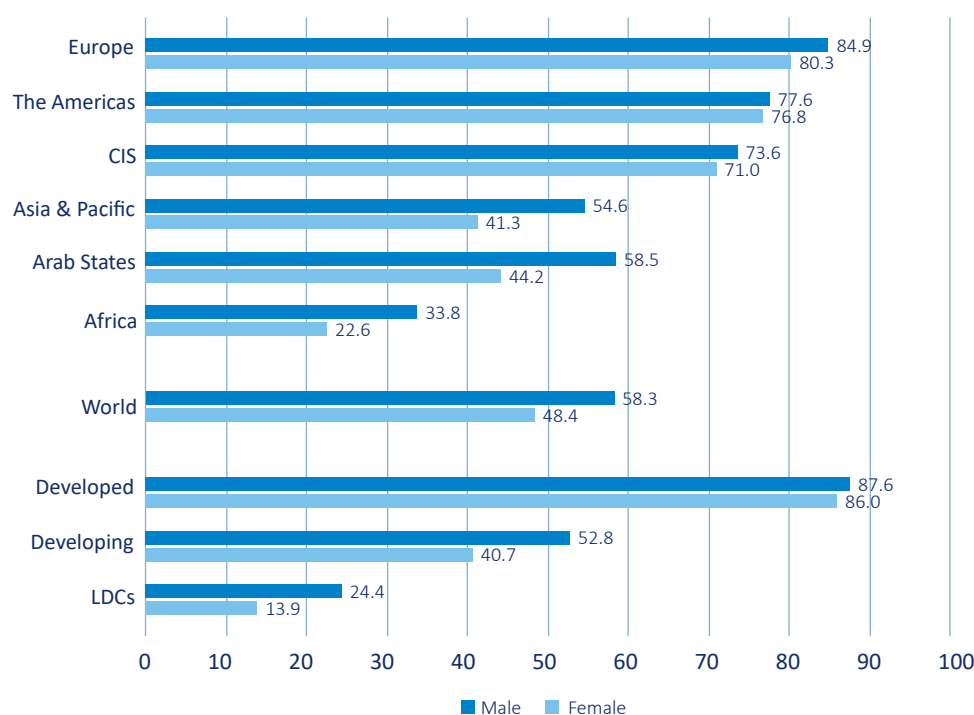
The map of the offline population highlights regional differences in Internet usage.

Countries with the highest proportions of people not using the Internet are mostly in Africa and South Asia, although there are inter-regional differences.



The digital gender gap is growing fast in developing countries

*Internet penetration rate for men and women, 2019**



Note: * ITU estimate. Penetration rates in this chart refer to the number of women/men that use the Internet, as a percentage of the respective total female/male population.

Source: ITU.

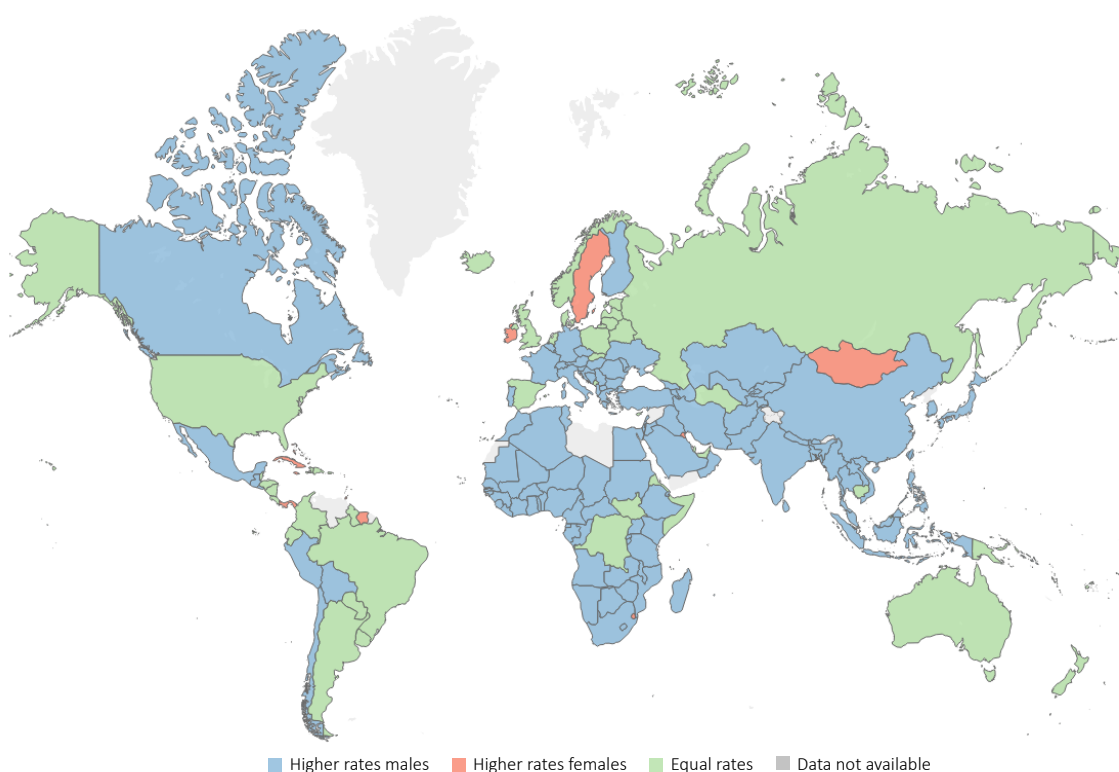
*The Internet user gender gap (%), 2013 and 2019**



Note: * ITU estimate. The gender gap represents the difference between the Internet user penetration rates for males and females relative to the Internet user penetration rate for males, expressed as a percentage.

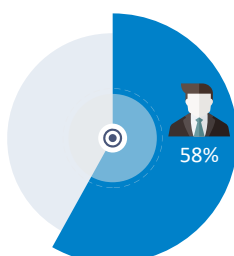
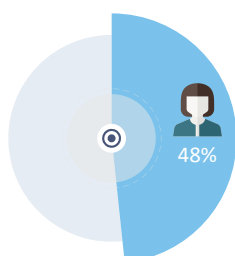
Source: ITU.

Proportion of Internet users, by gender, 2019*



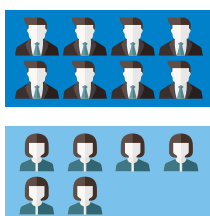
Note: * ITU estimate. Penetration rates in this map refer to the number of women/men that use the Internet, as a percentage of the respective total female/male population. The ratio is considered equal when the difference between the male and female Internet penetration rate is less than 2 percentage points.

Source: ITU.

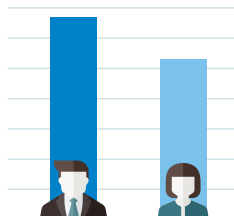


The proportion of women using the Internet globally is 48 per cent, compared to 58 per cent of men.

In relative terms, this means that the global Internet user gap is 17 per cent.



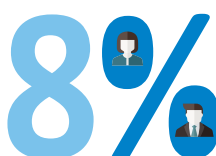
In all regions of the world, more men than women are using the Internet. The gap is small in developed countries and large in developing countries, especially LDCs.



Between 2013 and 2019, the gender gap hovered around zero in the Americas and has been shrinking in the CIS countries and Europe. However, in the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa, the gender gap has been growing.



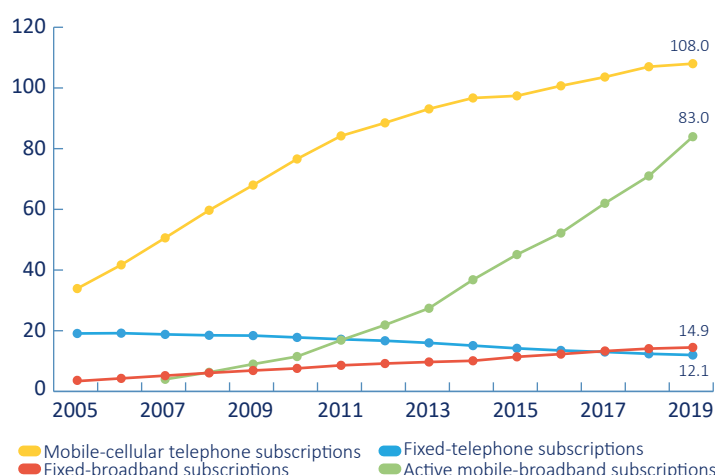
The global gender gap has increased owing to the rapid growth in the number of male Internet users in developing countries.



The proportion of women using the Internet is higher than that of men in only 8 per cent of countries, while gender equality in Internet use is found in just over one-quarter of countries.

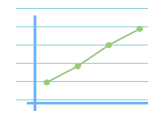
Mobile-broadband subscriptions continue to grow strongly

Evolution of mobile and fixed subscriptions, 2005-2019*

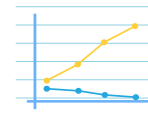


Note: * ITU estimate. Source: ITU.

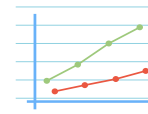
The number of active mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants continues to grow strongly, with an 18.4 per cent year-on-year growth.



Mobile-cellular subscriptions have also continued to grow, while fixed-telephone subscriptions continue to decline steadily.



Fixed-broadband subscriptions have continued to grow steadily, although at a more modest rate than mobile-broadband subscriptions.

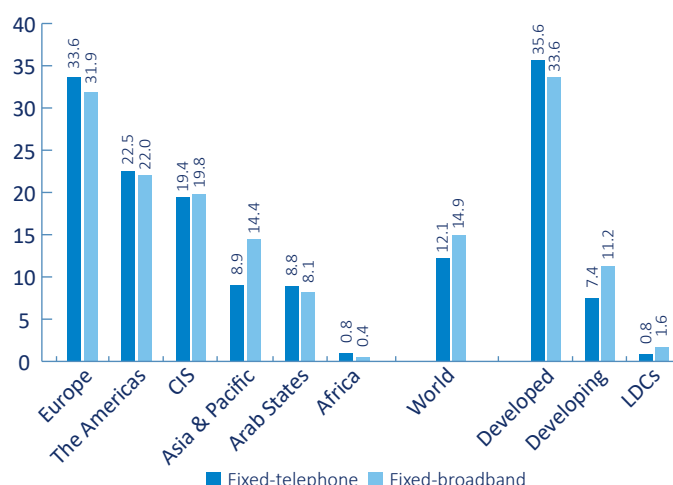


Fixed-telephone and fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2019*



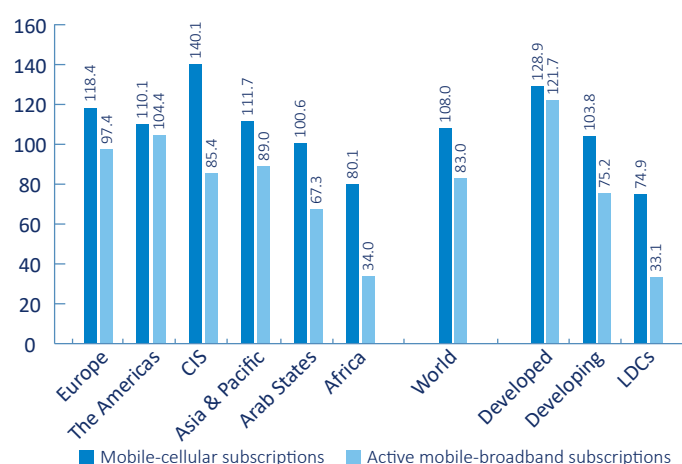
There is a strong correlation between a region's income levels and the number of fixed-telephone and fixed-broadband connections per 100 inhabitants, reflecting the price and availability of fixed connections.

In developing countries, there are now more fixed-broadband than fixed-telephone subscriptions.



Note: * ITU estimate. Source: ITU.

Mobile-cellular and mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2019*



Note: * ITU estimate. Source: ITU.

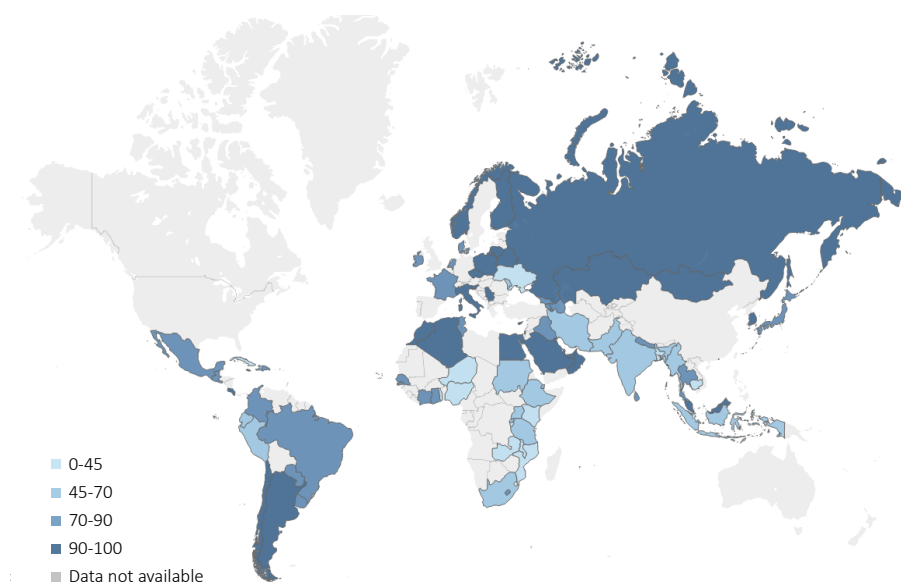


The correlation between level of development and uptake of mobile subscriptions is much weaker, reflecting the better affordability and availability of mobile compared with fixed network connections.

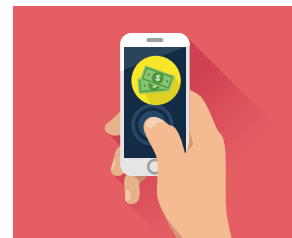
The relatively small difference between developed and developing countries also shows that connectivity is a priority among people in countries at all levels of development.

Wide gender gap in mobile phone ownership often coupled with a wide gender gap in Internet use

Percentage of individuals owning a mobile phone, latest year in 2015-2018



Source: ITU and AfterAccess.



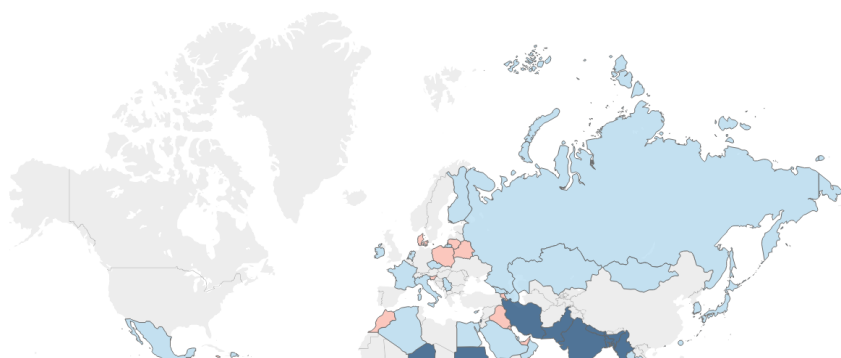
Based on the countries for which data are available, it appears that mobile phone ownership is correlated with income levels.

The lowest mobile phone ownership rates are found in Africa and South Asia, the highest rates are in Europe, with Latin America in between.

Gender gap in mobile phone ownership, latest year in 2015-2018

In 24 of the 85 countries for which data are available, a higher proportion of women than men own a mobile phone, although the gap is usually quite small. In only three cases is the gap wider than 5 per cent, with the widest gap of 12 per cent in Chile.

However, for 23 of the 58 countries where more men than women own a mobile phone, the gender gap is over 10 per cent, and in 14 of those countries over 20 per cent.



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