

# Measuring digital development

## ICT Price Trends

### 2019





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I am pleased to present the new edition of *ICT Price Trends*, the second report in ITU's new *Measuring Digital Development* series of statistical and analytical publications, which replaces the annual *Measuring the Information Society Report*.

*ICT Price Trends 2019* monitors the affordability of ICT services by analysing and comparing price data for mobile-voice services, mobile data and fixed broadband. Following a revision of the ICT price benchmark methodology in 2017, this is the first time we are reporting on ITU's revised price baskets and, in particular, the first time we are sharing results for the combined data-and-voice baskets introduced after the 2017 revision. These new results shed important light on the effect of the bundling of services on consumer prices.

This publication also reports on the affordability gap between developed and developing countries – that is, the difference in prices when these are held up against countries' gross national income (GNI) levels. It also provides information on countries' progress towards achieving the United Nations Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development target for 2025, according to which entry-level broadband services should be made affordable in developing countries at a level corresponding to less than 2 per cent of monthly GNI per capita.

Overall, while this report reveals that average prices are broadly continuing to fall, it confirms that broadband services can still be too expensive for the poorest consumers, especially in countries with a low GNI per capita.

The COVID-19 global health emergency has made us all acutely aware of the vital importance of broadband networks to social and economic prosperity and global development. I hope this authoritative report serves as a crucial pillar of renewed efforts to urgently make digital services more available, and more affordable, to all people of the world.



Doreen Bogdan-Martin  
Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)  
International Telecommunication Union



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