Mobile Internet Connectivity 2021
Global Key Trends
Global mobile internet connectivity: Connected, coverage gap and usage gap statistics

- For the first time, more than half the world’s population are using mobile internet.

- Global coverage continues to grow, with 94% of the world’s population covered by mobile broadband networks, but progress has slowed.

- 3.4 billion people are not using mobile internet, despite living in areas with mobile broadband coverage.

Source: GSMA Intelligence. 'Usage gap' refers to populations that live within the footprint of a mobile broadband network but who are not using mobile internet. 'Coverage gap' refers to populations that do not live within the footprint of a mobile broadband network (3G or above).

NB: totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Global mobile internet connectivity: Coverage and download speed statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>3G Coverage</th>
<th>4G Coverage</th>
<th>5G Coverage</th>
<th>4G Speed</th>
<th>5G Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3.3 Mbps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4.9 Mbps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>6.7 Mbps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>8.0 Mbps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>9.3 Mbps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>10.8 Mbps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>12.5 Mbps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 4G network coverage continues to expand, while a number of countries have also seen significant increases in 5G coverage.

- Across LMICs, 4G coverage increased to 84% by the end of 2020 – only eight percentage points less than that for 3G.
Global mobile internet connectivity: Affordability statistics across all LMICs

- Despite the fall in costs, internet-enabled handsets and data became less affordable in many LMICs in 2020 due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
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GSMA Connected Society

The Connected Society programme works with the mobile industry, technology companies, the development community and governments to increase access to and adoption of mobile internet, focusing on underserved population groups in developing markets.

For more information, please visit www.gsma.com/connected-society

To get in touch with the Connected Society team, please email connectedsociety@gsma.com

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