



Facts & Figures

Vision:

"Universally available ,high quality and affordable communications and information technology services"

Mission:

- Provide a fair ,clear and transparent regulatory environment to promote competition ,and safeguard public interest and stakeholder rights.
- Enable universal availability of advanced ICT services and optimize utilization of scarce resources.
- Increase ICT awareness and usage to enhance national efficiency and productivity.
- Build a professional and motivated CITC team.

Communications and Information Technology Commission:

- The Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC) is the telecom regulator in Saudi Arabia.
- Established in 2001, the CITC is an independent Government agency with legal standing and financial and administrative independence.
- The CITC regulates the telecommunications sector and promotes national IT activities for the provision of advanced and reliable telecommunications and IT services at affordable prices with high quality throughout the country.
- The CITC encourages reliance on market forces by creating a fair, equitable, clear and transparent regulatory environment conducive to effective competition.
- The CITC protects consumer interests with respect to public telecommunications and IT services, and monitors the performance of licensed service providers.
- The CITC aims to create a positive environment to encourage investment, and promote growth of the communications and IT market.

CITC Roles and Responsibilities:

- Granting licenses to provide telecommunications and information technology services.
- Managing tariffs of telecommunication and information technology services.
- Supervision and management of the National Numbering Plan.
- Preparation of policies, regulatory frameworks and studies of ICT sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Administration of the domain name space of Saudi Arabia (SA).
- Increasing the information security awareness level in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Approving of communication and information technology devices.
- Enabling Users to keep their mobile phone numbers when transferring between mobile service providers.
- Supervision of the National Committee for Information Society.
- CITC Initiatives to develop information technology sector.
- Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields.
- Protection of users' rights.
- Interconnection.
- Setting service quality standards.
- Managing frequency spectrum.

Key ICT Indicators

Internet Service

Internet service has grown rapidly in the last few years, reaching around 15.8 Million internet users by end of 2012, representing about 54% of the population.

Broadband Services

The number of broadband subscriptions grew from less than 64,000 in 2005 to over 12.28 million in the mobile broadband subscriptions by the end of 2012, representing a penetration of 42.1% of the population. Fixed broadband subscriptions grew to around 2.45 million subscriptions by the end of 2012, representing a penetration of 40.8% of houses.

Fixed Telephones

Installed fixed telephone lines exceeded 4.8 Million by the end of 2012, amounting to a tele-density of around 67.6% of the households

Mobile Telephones

Exponential growth in the number of mobile subscriptions, increasing from 2.5 Million when CITC was established in 2001 to around 53 Million subscriptions by the end of 2012 with a penetration rate of about 181.6% of the population.



ICT Sector Reforms in Saudi Arabia

The ICT Sector was the first sector to be privatized in the KSA. The privatization program has a number of objectives including increasing the effectiveness and competitiveness of the national economy through liberalization of the services market and opening sectors for fair competition. The liberalization and telecom sector reforms were implemented in phases as follows:

