

WI-FI – FACTS AND FIGURES ARAB STATES

GLOBAL	
Wi-Fi devices in use today:	More than 18 billion ¹
Wi-Fi devices shipped every year:	4 billion ¹
Public Wi-Fi hotspots in 2023:	628 million (up from 169 million in 2018) ²
Value generated by Wi-Fi in 2021:	US\$3.3 trillion ³
Value generated by Wi-Fi in 2025:	US\$4.9 trillion (with access to more spectrum) ³
THE ARAB STATES	
Free public Wi-Fi access points in cities in Egypt:	470,000 ⁴
Public Wi-Fi hotspots in Saudi Arabia in 2023:	2.2 million ²
At the end of May 2020, smartphone users in Egypt spent 64% of their online time connected to Wi-Fi rather than using cellular data, up from 55% at the beginning of 2020 ⁵ .	

Economic value generated by Wi-Fi – selected countries

EGYPT		JORDAN		MOROCCO		OMAN		SAUDI ARABIA	
2021	2025	2021	2025	2021	2025	2021	2025	2021	2025
\$9	\$17	\$2	\$4	\$6	\$8	\$2.6	\$3	\$17	\$24
BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION

About Wi-Fi 6E

- Wi-Fi 6E (Wi-Fi 6 in the 6 GHz band) can support data rates of up to 9.6 Gbps, compared with 1.3 Gbps for Wi-Fi 5.
- Wi-Fi 6E will support a range of advanced applications, such as e-learning/home schooling, connected healthcare, automated factories and AR/VR.
- About 500 commercial devices and access points now support Wi-Fi 6E.
- 350 million Wi-Fi 6E devices will be sold globally in 2022⁶.
- Brazil, Canada, Chile, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and the U.S. are making the entire 1200 MHz in the 6 GHz band available for licence-exempt Wi-Fi use.
- In Saudi Arabia, regulator the CITC said it is making the 6 GHz band license-exempt because of the “importance of WLAN use in the Kingdom and substantial amount of

Wi-Fi traffic, which was exemplified during the COVID-19 lockdowns, and the emergence of a promising device ecosystem that can be taken advantage of starting from 2021 to enable a wide range of innovative digital services.”

- Australia, the EU, Morocco, the UAE and the UK have decided to initially open the lower 6 GHz band to Wi-Fi and other radio local area networks.
- Wi-Fi needs more spectrum to fulfill its potential.
- In all three ITU Regions, cellular communications has access to at least 1348 MHz of prime spectrum below 5 GHz – far more than is available for Wi-Fi.

¹ Source: IDC

² Source: Cisco

³ Source: The Wi-Fi Alliance/Telecom Advisory Services

⁴ Source: <https://www.wiman.me/egypt> (June 4, 2021).

⁵ Source: <https://www.opensignal.com/2020/06/08/mobile-network-experience-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-june-update>

⁶ Source: The Wi-Fi Alliance/IDC