

WI-FI – FACTS AND FIGURES AFRICA

GLOBAL	
Wi-Fi devices in use today:	More than 18 billion ¹
Wi-Fi devices shipped every year:	4.4 billion ¹
Proportion of IP traffic carried by Wi-Fi in 2022:	51% ²
Public Wi-Fi hotspots in 2023:	628 million (up from 169 million in 2018) ²
Proportion of mobile data traffic offloaded to Wi-Fi:	54% (71% with 5G) 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
AFRICA	
Public Wi-Fi access points in South Africa:	640,000 ²
Public Wi-Fi hotspots in the DRC in 2025:	150,000 (up from 52,000 today) ⁴
South Africa's smartphone users spend more than half their online time on Wi-Fi ⁵	
Cumulative economic value (2021-2030) to Kenya of license-exempt access to full 6 GHz band:	US\$20 billion ⁶
Cumulative economic value (2021-2030) to Nigeria of license-exempt access to full 6 GHz band:	US\$72 billion ⁶
Cumulative economic value (2021-2030) to South Africa of license-exempt access to full 6 GHz band:	US\$58 billion ⁶

Economic value generated by Wi-Fi – selected countries

CAMEROON		DRC		GABON		KENYA	
2021	2025	2021	2025	2021	2025	2021	2025
\$1	\$3	\$1	\$2	\$0.6	\$1.2	\$12	\$16
BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION
NIGERIA		SENEGAL		SOUTH AFRICA		UGANDA	
2021	2025	2021	2025	2021	2025	2021	2025
\$16	\$33	\$1	\$3	\$31	\$44	\$1	\$4
BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION	BILLION

About Wi-Fi 6E

- Wi-Fi 6E (Wi-Fi 6 in the 6 GHz band) is faster, more reliable and more responsive than its predecessors.
- About 500 commercial devices and access points now support Wi-Fi 6E.
- 350 million Wi-Fi 6E devices will be sold globally in 2022⁷.
- 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.
- The African Telecommunications Union has recommended enabling licence-exempt technologies, such as Wi-Fi, to operate in the lower 6 GHz (5925-6425 MHz) band.

- 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: Telecom Advisory Services

⁵ Source: OpenSignal

⁶ Based on licence-exempt access to the entire 1200 MHz available in the 6 GHz band. Source: Telecom Advisory Services

⁷ Source: The Wi-Fi Alliance/IDC