Digital Economy Accounted for 6.9 Percent of GDP in 2017

The digital economy accounted for 6.9 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product of $19.5 trillion in 2017, according to a new batch of statistics released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. How does that compare with traditional U.S. industries? The digital economy ranked just below the transportation and warehousing industry, which was the largest contributor, accounting for 7.6 percent of GDP, and just above wholesale trades, which had a 6.5 percent share. New BEA data also show that:

- The digital economy supported 5.1 million jobs in 2017, which accounted for 3.3 percent of total U.S. employment of 152.1 million.
- The digital economy share of total employment has increased since the year 2000, when it accounted for 1.9 percent of total U.S. employment.

Broadband and Digital Economy

According to the most recent data collected in 2017, 22 percent of Americans do not have home Internet access—approximately 13.8 million households. The reasons for this include lack of interest or concern about price, as well as the use of mobile devices.

- The use of mobile devices for Internet access is increasing, with 34 percent of mobile device owners using them to access the Internet.
- The use of mobile devices is highest among young adults (ages 18-29) and those with higher income levels.

State News

- Arizona: Arizona Opens Up Options for Municipal Broadband
- Georgia: Georgia Broadband Bill Goes Farm Passage in General Assembly
- Idaho: John Swainson, Idaho Speaker, Saves Internet in U.S.
- Kansas: Kansas Announces Broadband Availability Map, Request Porta Publica
- Message: Speeds Take Rural Broadband Law, But Questions Remain
- Missouri: Missouri Expands Coverage; New Broadband Expansion Is Made
- North Carolina: North Carolina Expands Broadband Access
- Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania's Regional Leader'sinea On Path For Broadband
- South Carolina: SC House Passes Bill To Expand High-Speed Internet Access In Rural Areas That Need It
- Vermont: Vermont Legislative Approves Broadband Expansion Bill
- Virginia: Prince William County Becomes The Most Connected Rural Community In Virginia, State Leaders Say
- West Virginia: West Virginia Broadband USA Industry Members Conclude Their Annual Meeting
- Wisconsin: Wisconsin Broadband Data At First Place

Public-Safety/FirstNet

- Public-Safety Highlights Progress and Future Expansion Plans for Great Coverage
- Arizona Legislators Gather To Discuss Public Safety Broadband
- Saskatchewan Federal, Provincial Telecommunications Week
- Virginia: Region Expands Broadband Access, Days Near
- Public-Safety Broadband Communications To Tribal First Responders
- PRRF Provide Public-Safety Engagement With Law Enforcement

Federal Funding

- USDA Announces Assistance For Rural Broadband Infrastructure Program
- USDA Awards Assistance For Rural Broadband Infrastructure Program
- U.S. Department Of Commerce Issues $1 Million In Eligible Broadband Services In South Bend, Indiana
- 21 Bridges chosen A2s $15 Million for a Lighting Client Change Mission

General News

- Microsoft Says It Digs Bump, FTC Says Microsoft Overrates Broadband Adoption
- More Than 100 Municipal Broadband Networks across the U.S. Join the TrueWIFI Network
- Are State Legislators Wrong About Broadband Co-Op
- The Digital Divide Is Worse Than We Thought
- Twin Cities Schools Close To Broadband Agreement
- GIG Fastest Telemedicine Expansion Fund Makes Industry-Accurate Khosla
- Idaho To Provide Free Internet & US Data For Veterans Affairs Telemedicine Pathways
- Big News, Kansas, Kansas, Kansas Broadband, Broadband To The Next Rural

Resources

- FCC collects data on the state-by-state status of all incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) to use in the implementation of certain universal service reform adopted in the U.S. FCC Transformation Order.

BroadbandUSA Spotlight

Unplugged NTIA Survey Finds Some Americans Still Avoid Home Internet Use

Highlighting its new study by Paul Goldberg, Policy Analyst, Office of Policy Analysis and Development NTIA's most recent Internet Use Survey depicts a rapidly evolving nation eager to take advantage of technological innovation. Mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets, and wearables are increasingly changing the computing landscape, as more Americans than ever use the Internet.

A virtual portion of the population still does not use the Internet at home, consistent with findings in previous NTIA and U.S. Census Bureau surveys on Internet use. According to the most recent data collected in 2017, 22 percent of U.S. households—approximately 28 million households—did not use the Internet from home, with most offering either lack of interest or concern about price. See complete blog here

Events

NTIA's Broadband USA program provides innovation and digital growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband connectivity and digital inclusion across America. In the era, the NTIA reports that federal and local government, industry and non-profits all need to expand broadband infrastructure and promote digital inclusion.

BroadbandUSA Practical Broadband Conversations Webinar Series

Topic: Leveraging Technology, Industry, and Government
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2019
Time: 2:00 PM Eastern
State and local governments are developing new policies that provide access to high-speed and affordable services to support broadband deployment. If services are not in place to publicize open access to broadband, it is infeasible. Policy makers need to consider policy, ideologically, digital, and to create more inclusive policies and mechanisms. Join BroadbandUSA and learn how local, state, and federal leaders are creating broadband access for all. Moderator:

- Katherine Bates, Manager of State and Local Partnerships, BroadbandUSA

Click here to register

BroadbandUSA Practical Broadband Conversations Webinar Series

Topic: Leveraging Public Assets to Promote Broadband Deployment
Date: Thursday, May 16, 2019
Time: 10:00 AM Eastern
Local and state examples of broadband technology for creating "smart communities" with historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) The School of Law at North Carolina Central University has developed a "Virtual Legal Education" that provides all education and services to underserved communities nationwide. The State, the County of San Mateo, California, has public and private work to allow local schools to use their broadband access to provide extended services and to provide local solutions for complex regional problems. Wal csak Heartland Innovation Network (WHIN), a consortium of 10 cooperatives in North Carolina is in partnership with Pennsylvania and its County, communities, will support the use of Internet-based services to enhance agriculture applications and next-generation manufacturing. The webinar is hosted by the White House Initiative on HBCUs and WHIN.

Speakers:
- Gregory W. Clinton, Sr., Director of Information Technology & Facilities, North Carolina Central University, School of Law
- Ulysses W. White Jr., Chief, Smart Communities Officer for the District of San Mateo, California
- Johnny Park, CEO of Wabash Heartland Innovation Network, Indiana
- Moderator: Jason Riss, Senior Program Specialist for NTIA's BroadbandUSA program

Click here to register

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- Katherine Bates, Manager of State and Local Partnerships, BroadbandUSA

Click here to register

To what extent will Public-Pumped Broadband Conversations webinars?

- View our webinar gusta for past presentations, transcripts and audio recordings

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Events of Interest

May 16, 2019
NYC Digital Inclusion Conference, New York, NY

May 13 - 20, 2019
Infrastructure Week, Nationwide

May 14 - 15, 2019
3rd Annual National Summit on Digital Equity and Economic Inclusion, Washington, DC

May 14 - 15, 2019
Broadband and Broadband: Using Broadband to Close the Urban-Rural Divide, Washington, DC

May 18 - 22, 2019
Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA

May 20 - 22, 2019
Wireless Infrastructure Association (WIA) Connectivty Expo, Orlando, FL

June 4 - 6, 2019
Digital Southwest: A Regional Broadband Convening Hosted by Next Century Cities (NCC), Roanoke, VA

June 4 - 6, 2019
National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) Annual Legislative Fly-in, Washington, DC

June 4 - 12, 2019
National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) 53nd Annual Conference & Exhibition, Omaha, NE

June 10, 2019
Missouri Broadband Summit, Camdenton, MO

June 21 - 25, 2019
Georgia Municipal Association 2019 Annual Convention, Savannah, GA

June 24 - July 1, 2019
United States Conference of Mayors’ 87th Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI 2019

Policy Corner

Supporting the President’s Call to Action Against Opioid Abuse

Highlights of blog by David J. Redl, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information

Fighting opioid abuse is a major priority of the Trump Administration. Nearly $6 billion in new funding over the past two years has gone into opioid programs to stop the flow of these dangerous drugs, and help those struggling with addiction. The President’s call to action resulted in the Justice Department’s shutting down the largest “darknet” for the online distribution of drugs in 2017. We’re proud to announce a new step in the online battle against illegal opioid distribution. The Food and Drug Administration and NTIA have joined in a novel approach to work with domain name industry players to curb online availability and sales of illegal opioids. See the complete blog here.