

DIGITAL DIVIDE

Despite the rapid spread of digital technologies, the anticipated benefits of higher growth and more jobs have fallen short

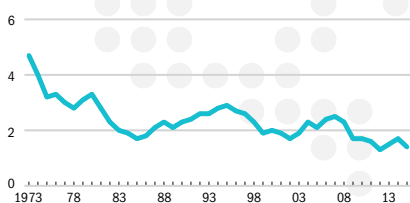
DIGITAL technologies—the Internet, mobile phones, and all the other tools to collect, store, and share information digitally—have spread rapidly in much of the world. The number of Internet users has more than tripled in the past decade—from 1 billion in 2005 to an estimated 3.2 billion at the end of 2015. But the anticipated digital dividends of higher growth, more jobs, and better public services have fallen short.

According to a new World Bank report, *World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends*, nearly 60 percent of the world's population—or 4 billion people—are still offline and can't fully participate in the digital economy. In addition, some of the benefits of the Internet are being offset by new risks, such as a poor business climate and vested business interests that limit competition and inhibit future innovation.

TECHNOLOGY HAS NOT DELIVERED ITS EXPECTED IMPACT ON DEVELOPMENT

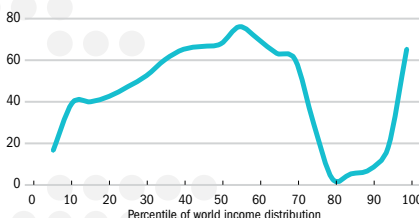
Global productivity has slowed

Five-year moving average of median growth of labor productivity per hour worked, percent



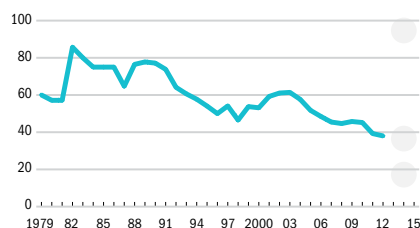
Global inequality remains high

Percent change in real income between 1988 and 2008 at different levels of world income distribution in 2005 prices

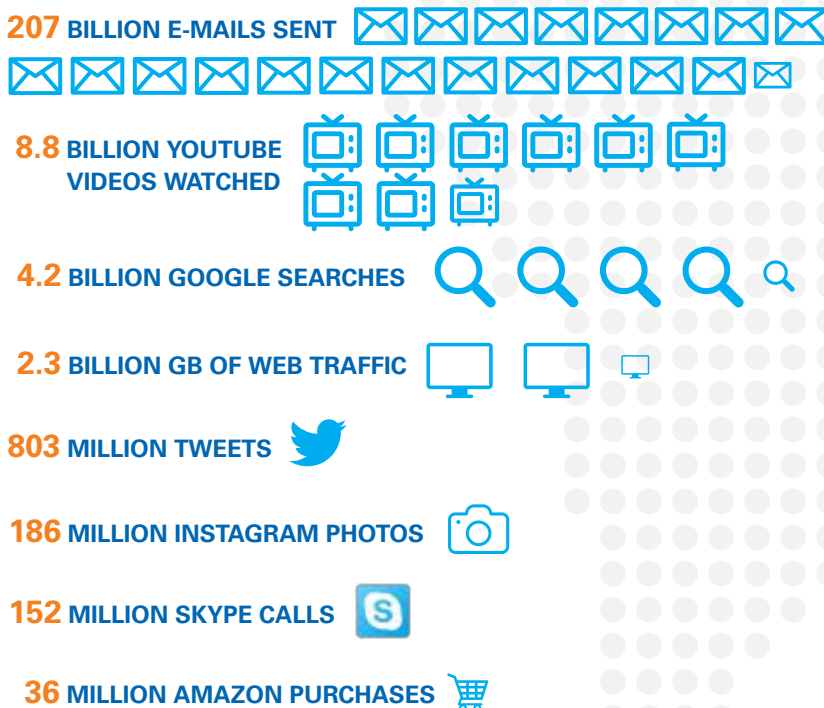


Global governance has not spread

Share of elections that are free and fair, percent

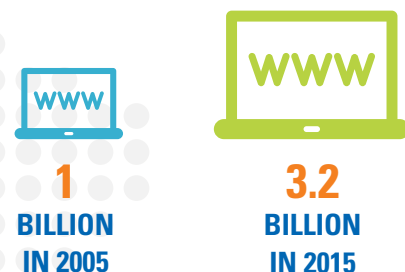


A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE INTERNET*

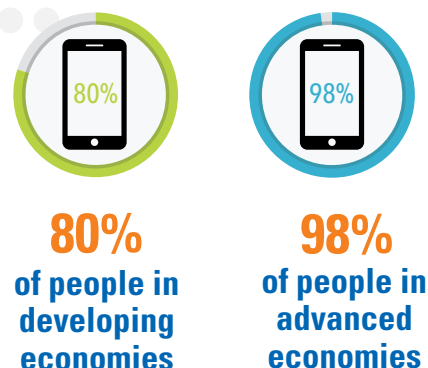


*April 4, 2015.

NUMBER OF INTERNET USERS



MOBILE PHONE OWNERSHIP



Closing the remaining digital divide by making the Internet universally accessible, affordable, open, and safe is vital but not enough. Digital investments also need the support of analog complements—

stronger regulations to ensure competition among firms, action plans to adapt workers' skills to new demands, and more accountable institutions to upgrade public services.

A SIGNIFICANT DIGITAL DIVIDE STILL EXISTS

6 billion
without BROADBAND

4 billion
without INTERNET

2 billion
without MOBILE PHONES

0.4 billion
without a DIGITAL SIGNAL

60% of the world's population is offline



INTERNET ACCESS



31%
of people in
developing
economies



80%
of people in
advanced
economies

6 DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES TO WATCH

- 5G MOBILE PHONES
- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
- ROBOTICS
- SELF-DRIVING CARS
- INTERCONNECTED PHYSICAL OBJECTS
- 3D PRINTING



Prepared by Natalie Ramírez-Djumena. Text and charts are based on World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends, published by The World Bank in January 2016. The report is available at www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2016