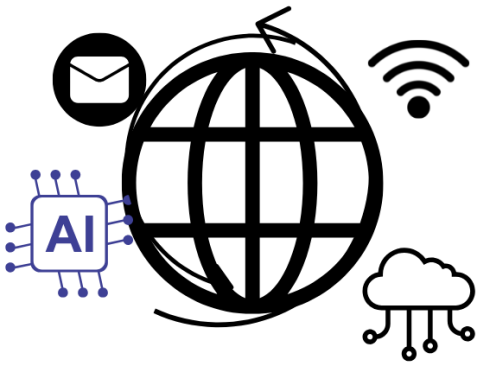
CARICOM

STATE OF THE SECTOR REPORT

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

FIRST EDITION 2024



ICT4D

2025

Contents

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The convergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for digital development (ICT4D) represents a collaborative effort aimed at promoting equitable access to digital technologies and ignites a thrilling journey towards a more connected world. The overarching goals of reducing the global digital divide and driving economic advancement on a global scale set out to positively transform the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic further underscored the importance of ICT4D and digital transformation in addressing global challenges and driving socio-economic progress, amplifying the urgency to bridge digital divides worldwide, ICT4D stands as a beacon of hope. Recognized by entities like the United Nations and its UN Development Programme (UNDP), ICT4D is acknowledged as a catalyst for economic and social advancement, especially within disadvantaged and underprivileged populations.[1]

Global digital transformation represents a seismic shift in the way society functions, marked by the pervasive integration of digital technologies into every facet of human existence. A common goal of ICT4D and digital transformation is to empower communities, enhance access to essential services, and foster economic growth, all of which contribute to overall social progress on a global scale.

The ICT4D sector has a profound impact on shaping the global landscape, influencing economic growth, social interactions, and technological advancements. The global landscape of ICT for development and digital transformation faces intricate challenges, particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), a category of which many Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries are classified. These regions grapple with multifaceted obstacles that impede their progress toward building more inclusive societies.

[1] ICT for Development Definition https://www.techtarget.com/whatis/definition/ICT4D-Information-and-Communications-Technologies-for-Development

As part of its recognition of the need to create knowledge societies in which everyone has the chance to learn and interact with others, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development emphasizes the vital role that ICT access and high-quality education play in fostering enduring peace and prosperity. ICTs can facilitate data-driven decision-making and assist in monitoring progress toward the SDGs.

This first edition of the "State of Sector" report provides insights into critical aspects of the global ICT for development sector, encompassing mobile and internet penetration, the state of digital skills, the rising threat of cybercrime, and frontier technologies. Thus, illuminating the path towards a future where innovation knows no bounds.

HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

In the contemporary digital era, the workforce faces an unprecedented demand for robust digital skills. ICTs revolutionize education by enabling e-learning, online resources, and remote education platforms. Although strides have been taken to enhance digital literacy, a considerable gap persists, exacerbating existing inequalities. Disparities in digital skills training and education underscore the necessity to bridge this gap, empowering individuals to navigate and thrive in the digital economy.

The 2024 Future of Work Report: The Race to Deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) by the McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) anticipated a significant need for widespread reskilling among workers by 2030, particularly in the service sector. It also highlighted that there is an increased demand for advanced data analysis and mathematical skills, basic digital skills and advanced IT skills and programming.[2]

[2] McKinsey Future of Work Report https://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/our-research/a-new-future-of-work-the-race-to-deploy-ai-and-raise-skills-in-europe-and-beyond

Global Facts and Figures

- The ongoing transformation of the global workforce, driven by sustainability initiatives, technological advancements, and evolving consumer demands, underscores the need for reskilling and retooling.
- Automation's impact on jobs, with anticipated losses in manufacturing, retail, and administrative roles, necessitates a proactive approach to equipping workers for the jobs of the future. The World Economic Forum's (WEF) 2023 report identifies emerging job roles and emphasizes the importance of reskilling, particularly in regions like Latin America and the Caribbean. WEF reports that around 40% of working hours will be impacted by AI.
- As many as fourteen (14) million jobs are estimated to be lost globally due to advances in automation by 2030[3]. The challenges posed by geopolitical conflicts and rising living costs further emphasize the critical nature of reskilling initiatives.
- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), emerging market economies have a total exposure of 40%, while low-income countries have an exposure of 26%. While emerging markets and developing economies might face fewer immediate disruptions from AI, they are also less prepared to capitalize on its benefits.[4]
- The ITU reported that in 2024, women are approximately 8% less likely to own a mobile phone than men, a slight improvement from the 10% gap observed in 2020. Additionally, among individuals without mobile phones, women outnumber men by 35%.

CARICOM Facts and Figures

- The population of CARICOM Member States and Associate Members is approximately 19.1 million inhabitants, as illustrated in the table below.

Table 1 Estimated CARICOM Population in 2023

Country	Population (2023)
Antigua and Barbuda	94,298
Bahamas	412,623
Barbados	281,995
Belize	414,464

[3] World Economic Forum Job Lost Report https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/05/jobs-lost-created-ai-gpt/
[4] The International Monetary Fund Fen AI and Future of Work https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Staff-Discussion-Notes/Issues/2024/01/14/Gen-AI-Artificial-Intelligence-and-the-Future-of-Work-542379?cid=bl-com-SDNEA2024001

Country	Population (2023)
Dominica	73,040
Grenada	126,183
Haiti	11,724,763
Jamaica	2,825,544
Montserrat	4,386
Saint Kitts and Nevis	47,755
Saint Lucia	180,251
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	103,698
Suriname	626,703
Trinidad and Tobago	1,534,937
Anguilla	15,899
British Virgin Islands	31,538
Cayman Islands	69,310
Curaçao	147,862
Martinique	349,925
Turks and Caicos Islands	46,062
Total Population	19,111,236

Source: Worldometers, World Bank

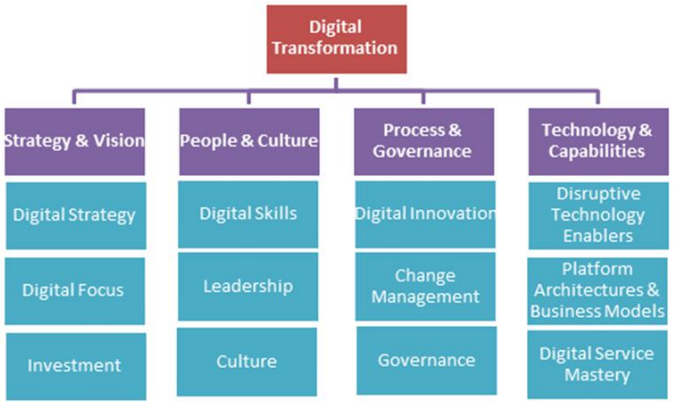
CARICOM Facts and Figures

- According to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), an estimated 60% of the Caribbean's population is reported to be under the age of thirty (30)[5]. This represents a unique opportunity for regional digital development as this segment of the population is made up of individuals who have grown up in the digital age, typically from the mid-1990s onward.
- The unemployment rates in 2023 across CARICOM countries vary significantly, with some economies like **Trinidad and Tobago** (4.2%) and **Jamaica** (4.4%) experiencing relatively low levels, while others such as **St. Vincent and the Grenadines** (18.6%) and **Haiti** (14.6%) face high unemployment. This disparity highlights the need for targeted economic interventions, particularly within the ICT sector, which presents vast opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Appendix Two provides 2023 unemployment figures for nine CARICOM Member States.
- The CARICOM Digital Skills Taskforce was established to assess the current landscape of digital skills in the region and provide recommendations for regional upskilling. Investments in digital skills development, remote work initiatives, and tech entrepreneurship could provide viable solutions to unemployment in CARICOM economies.
- The CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership aims to bridge the gender gap by empowering girls and women in the region to pursue and excel in Information and Communication Technology fields.

[5] CDB Report on Youth 2020 https://www.caribank.org/sites/default/files/publication-resources/YPOS%202020%20Doc_final.pdf

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Figure 1 Digital Transformation Framework



Definition

Digital transformation represents the adequate alignment of digital skills, ICT infrastructure, access, strategy, and the effective utilization and organization of ICTs as illustrated in the figure below. The digital economy refers to an economy that is primarily based on digital technologies, including the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services facilitated by digital platforms, networks, and data. ICT4D initially focused on providing digital access, has evolved into digital development, a comprehensive approach leveraging technology for socioeconomic progress across all sectors .

The ICT Development Index (IDI) is a comprehensive benchmarking tool developed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to assess and compare the level of information and communication technology development across countries. According to the 2024 ranking of the IDI across 169 countries, Kuwait, Finland, and Estonia represent the top three countries ranked with scores of 100, 98.1 and 97.9, respectively, these nations epitomize the pinnacle of ICT advancement.

CARICOM Facts and Figures

CARICOM countries experienced improvements in their IDI scores in 2024, reflecting changes in their digital development. Notably, **The Bahamas** leads with an increase from 88.5 in 2023 to 89.3 in 2024. **Saint Kitts and Nevis** saw significant progress, improving from 82.3 to 84.9, while **Suriname** experienced a notable rise from 76.8 to 82.5. Other Member States like **Dominica** (78.4) and **Trinidad and Tobago** (78.8) also registered improvements over the year. However, **Jamaica** slightly declined from 77 to 76.9, and **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** dropped from 73 to 70.7. The data highlights varied progress among CARICOM nations striving to enhance ICT development. The below table provides a breakdown of the IDI.

Table 2 ICT Development Index 2023, 2024 Scores of CARICOM Countries

Country	***IDI Score***	
	2023	***2024***
Antigua & Barbuda	79.7	-
Bahamas	88.5	89.3
Barbados	77.3	77.5
Dominica	76.9	78.4
Grenada	73.4	78.6

Country	*IDI Score*	
	2023	*2024*
Jamaica	77.0	76.9
St. Kitts & Nevis	82.3	84.9
St. Lucia	73.3	73.9
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	73.0	70.7
Suriname	76.8	82.5
Trinidad & Tobago	76.6	78.8

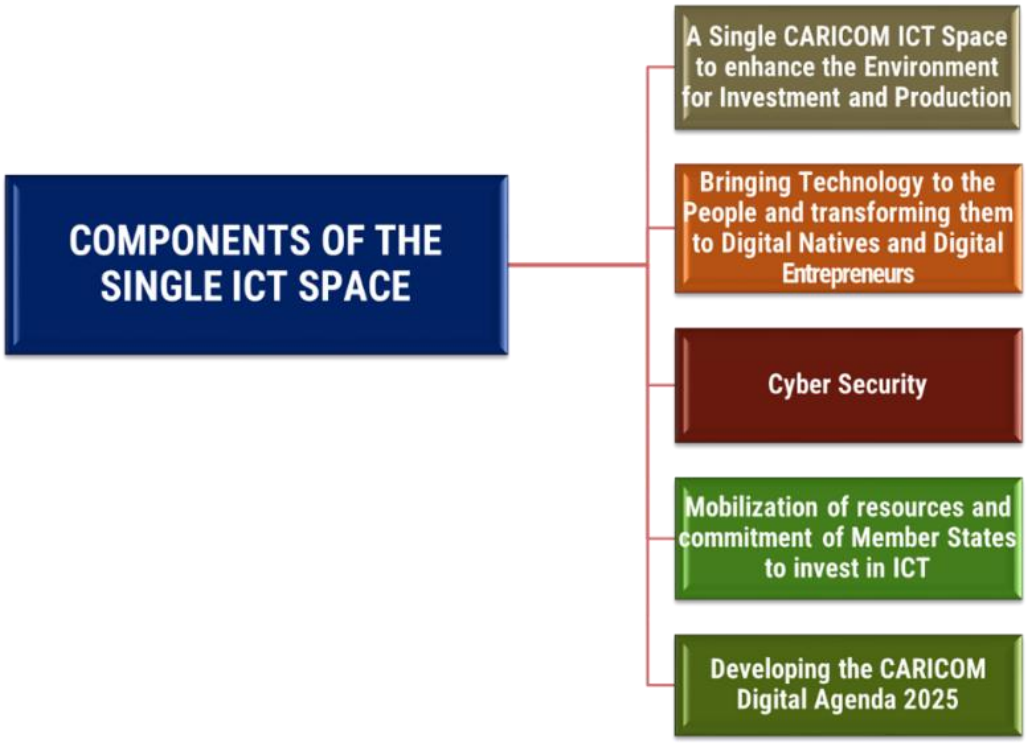
Source: International Telecommunications Union

At the regional level, the CARICOM Single ICT Space emerges as a strategic solution[6]. This initiative envisions a harmonized regional ecosystem of ICT policies, standards, and infrastructure. By addressing infrastructure limitations, promoting inclusivity, supporting capacity building, enhancing cybersecurity measures, and harmonizing regulatory frameworks, this approach aims to transform the CARICOM ICT landscape.

The components of the CARICOM Single ICT Space include infrastructure development and resource mobilization, as illustrated in the figure below, aimed at fostering regional connectivity and innovation. This integrated approach to ICT development enhances access to technology, promotes digital inclusion, and facilitates economic growth and collaboration across CARICOM Member States.

[6] In March 2014, at the CARICOM Heads of Government Conference, Head of States mandated the establishment of a CARICOM Single ICT Space for completion by 2022.

Figure 2 Components of the CARICOM Single ICT Space



In 2023, the CARICOM Secretariat announced the commencement of an ICT Sector Gap Analysis, a key component of the Vision and Roadmap for a CARICOM Single ICT Space. The project, funded by the Eleventh (11th) European Fund (EDF), aims to support the successful Implementation of the CARICOM Single ICT Space and, by extension, advance the CARICOM digital economy.

The objectives of the Project are to:

I. *determine, through an audit, the current state of the ICT Sector in CARICOM countries and the Region as a whole;*
II. *identify the gaps that exist at the country and regional levels, that would need to be addressed, within the context of realising the CARICOM Single ICT Space; and*
III. *facilitate, through a participatory and co-constructive process with its most relevant stakeholders, the development of frameworks through which CARICOM countries can –*
- *establish and commit to a shared vision, goals, and targets that will be achieved in five years; and*
- *coordinate, cooperate, and collaborate towards narrowing the gaps that have been identified to achieve the CARICOM Single ICT Space and advance the CARICOM digital economy*.

As at March 2025, the Project had delivered twenty National ICT Sector Profiles for Member States and Associate Members of the Caribbean, alongside other critical deliverables to be circulated in the second quarter of 2025. These ICT Sector Profiles now serve as a foundational resource for

guiding policy development, strategic investments, and regional collaboration in advancing the CARICOM Single ICT Space.

DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Definition

Digital infrastructure refers to the foundational components and networks that enable the functioning and connectivity of digital technologies, including telecommunications networks, internet infrastructure, data centers, and cloud computing systems, facilitating data storage, transmission, and access.

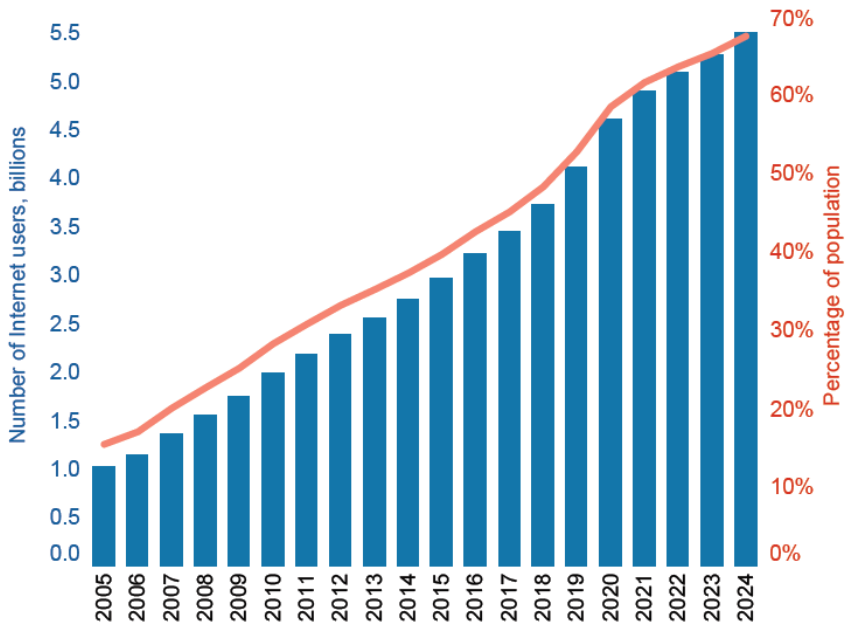
The past decade has witnessed a remarkable surge in mobile and internet penetration, fostering increased connectivity and communication globally. 2G, 3G, and 4G are generations of mobile telecommunications technology, each representing advancements in speed, capacity, and functionality. Countries globally have made significant advancements in implementing these technologies. Mobile subscriptions have grown exponentially, with smartphones becoming ubiquitous. Internet access has expanded, driven by improved infrastructure, affordable data plans, and the proliferation of mobile devices. However, challenges persist, especially in remote and underserved areas where access remains limited, hindering the realization of the full potential of ICT for these communities.

Global Facts and Figures

- About 66.2% of the global population, equivalent to 5.35 billion people, were connected to the internet in 2024. This marks a growth of 4.7% from 2022, surpassing the 3.5% increase observed from 2021 to 2022, as illustrated in the figure below.
- The estimated number of individuals without internet access in 2024 stands at 2.6 billion, constituting 33% of the world's population.
- Internet usage remains closely tied to a country's development level, with 93% of people in high-income countries using the Internet in 2023 and 2024, indicating a gradual move toward universality.[7]
- Out of a global population of 8 billion, 5.78 billion unique users own mobile phones, in 2024.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 encompass a broad spectrum of global development targets aimed at addressing various social, economic, and environmental challenges. Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure - Enhance infrastructure development, including ICT infrastructure, to support increased internet and mobile connectivity in underserved areas. The objectives set forth by the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development play a crucial role in shaping global efforts to expand internet and mobile access.
- The World Bank reported in 2023 that internet speeds in North America, East Asia and the Pacific ranked top two globally, with a median fixed broadband download speed of 193 megabytes per second (Mb/sec) and 171 (Mb/sec), respectively.

Figure 3 Global Internet Penetration 2005-2024

[7] Measuring digital development – Facts and Figures 2024 https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/facts-figures-2024/



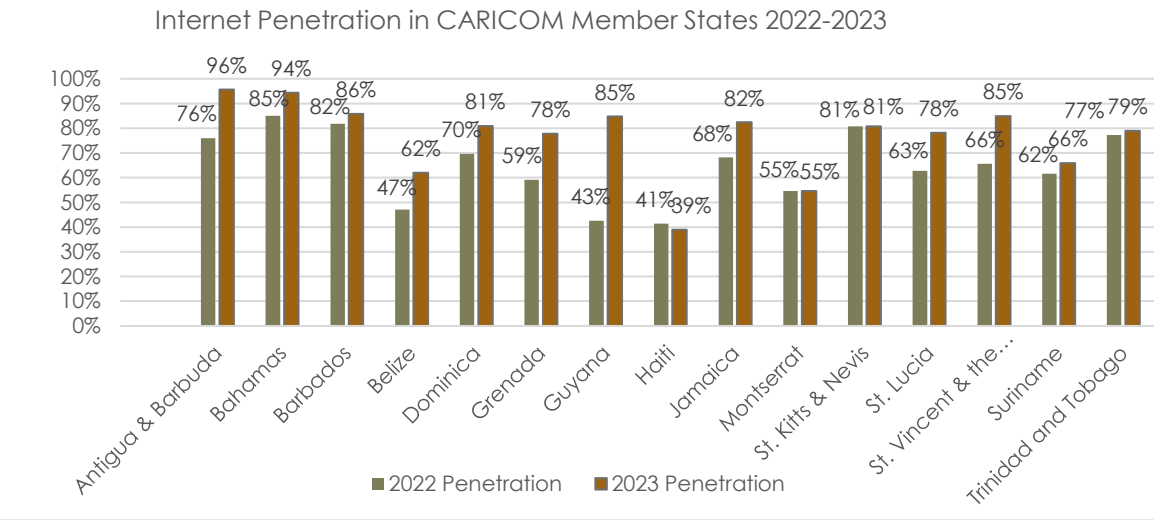
Source: International Telecommunications Union

CARICOM Facts and Figures

Expanding broadband access and deploying robust ICT infrastructure forms the backbone of ICT4D initiatives. Across most CARICOM Member States, there is a recorded increase in Internet penetration rates.

- With the exception of Haiti, all CARICOM countries have experienced growth in the percentage of the population accessing the Internet between 2022 and 2023. This upward trend suggests a growing reliance on digital connectivity within the region. The below figure provides details on the penetration rates of CARICOM Member States. Antigua and Barbuda recorded the highest rate of internet penetration in 2023 at 94 percent.

Figure 4 Internet Penetration in CARICOM Member States 2022-2023



Source: DATAREPORTAL

- According to the 2024 figures on internet penetration, **Haiti** and **Montserrat** have internet penetration rates of 38.9 and 54.6 respectively, among the lowest in the Region. The regional average for 2024 is approximately 76.1%, highlighting persistent disparities in connectivity across Member States**.** Detailed figures are provided at Appendix One.
- Member States, in 2024, experienced mobile subscription penetration as high as 214.3 percent – **Antigua and Barbuda -** of their population, and as low as 79.2 percent – **Grenada.** See the below table for a full breakdown of regional mobile phone subscriptions.

Table 3 2024 Mobile Phone Subscriptions of Ten CARICOM Member States

Country	Number of Mobile Phone Subscriptions	Percentage of Total Population
Antigua and Barbuda	202,700	214.3
Bahamas	358,900	86.7
Barbados	341,000	121.1
Dominica	90,300	123.4
Grenada	100,200	79.2
Haiti	9,750,000	82.7
Jamaica	3,200,000	113.1
Saint Kitts and Nevis	112,800	112.8
Saint Lucia	199,100	110.7
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	86,000	83.0
Trinidad and Tobago	2,020,000	131.6

Source: DATAREPORTAL

- The World Bank reported in 2023 that Latin America and the Caribbean experience a median fixed broadband download speed of 73 (Mb/sec), a remarkably low speed when compared to North America's 171 (Mb/sec). This low median fixed broadband download

speed would account for the difficulties citizens in the region experience when attempting to download large files.

Small Island Developing States experience higher barriers to entry in the Broadband Sector; the costs of broadband are nearly five times higher than the costs in developed countries[8]. This may be playing a significant role in the disparities in broadband connectivity in rural areas versus urban areas, where nearly everyone in urban areas has broadband coverage (3G or greater) while only 62% of the rural population has broadband coverage[9].

Broadband Competition and Performance Trends

Recent Ookla Research (Q2 2025) underscores steady improvements in broadband connectivity across CARICOM countries. Several Member States are now posting median download speeds over 100 Mbps, reflecting the continued expansion of fiber networks. Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas, and the Cayman Islands have emerged as some of the fastest markets in the Community, recording substantial gains in both speed and reliability.

Upload speeds tell a more uneven story. The Cayman Islands lead within CARICOM with upload speeds surpassing 100 Mbps, followed by Trinidad and Tobago and The Bahamas, while many other Member States remain below 40 Mbps.

Latency performance is an important strength for CARICOM. Trinidad and Tobago maintains world-class latency between 13–15 ms. Other strong performers include The Bahamas, Jamaica, and the Cayman Islands, all of which consistently record relatively low latency. By contrast, smaller island states such as Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica remain in the 80–100 ms range, limiting the quality of advanced digital services.

Consistency — the percentage of users achieving at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload — has also improved. Trinidad and Tobago (86.3%) leads the region, providing highly reliable connectivity for the vast majority of users. The Bahamas and Jamaica also record solid results, though significant challenges remain in Haiti, which, at 66.2%, still struggles to deliver consistent baseline performance across its networks.

Satellite services, particularly Starlink, have expanded to 11 Caribbean markets, including several CARICOM Member States. In The Bahamas, Starlink performs above the national average in most islands, though in Nassau fiber services such as ALIVFibr still far exceed its speeds. In Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, Starlink delivers speeds roughly comparable to fixed broadband providers, making it an increasingly viable option for rural and underserved communities. In Haiti, Starlink provides a critical alternative where fixed infrastructure remains fragile[10].

[8] ITU Report on ICT Sector 2024 https://www.itu.int/hub/publication/d-ind-ict_mdd-2024-1/

[9] Ibid

[10] Ookla Caribbean Broadband Competion Picks Up https://www.ookla.com/articles/

These findings suggest that CARICOM broadband markets are becoming more competitive and resilient. Fiber continues to drive top-tier performance in urban centers, while satellite services like Starlink provide important redundancy and access in less developed and rural areas.

Economic Impact of ICT on CARICOM Member States

- Studies conducted between 2010 and 2015 show a positive correlation between broadband penetration and economic growth in Latin America.
- Similarly, for Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) Member States in the Caribbean, a study by the International Telecommunication Union revealed that a 10% increase in broadband penetration would lead to a 0.76% increase in real economic growth, highlighting the importance of broadband infrastructure development for driving economic growth and development in the region[11].
- Small Island Developing States account for less than 1% of global trade (excluding Singapore). The value of ICT exports from SIDS amounted to 374 million USD in 2023.[12]

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The global legal and regulatory framework governing digital transformation is a complex landscape that involves a combination of international agreements, regional regulations, and national laws. These frameworks aim to address various aspects of digital transformation, including data privacy, cybersecurity, intellectual property, telecommunications, digital governance, and access to information, aiming to ensure the responsible use and equitable distribution of digital technologies in society.

Among them, data and consumer protection laws have become a growing global concern, with the increase in digitalization and digitization, governments have sought mechanisms to protect end users. Another area of significant concern is the gathering, utilization, and disclosure of individuals' personal information to external entities without their explicit consent or prior notification.

Global Facts and Figures

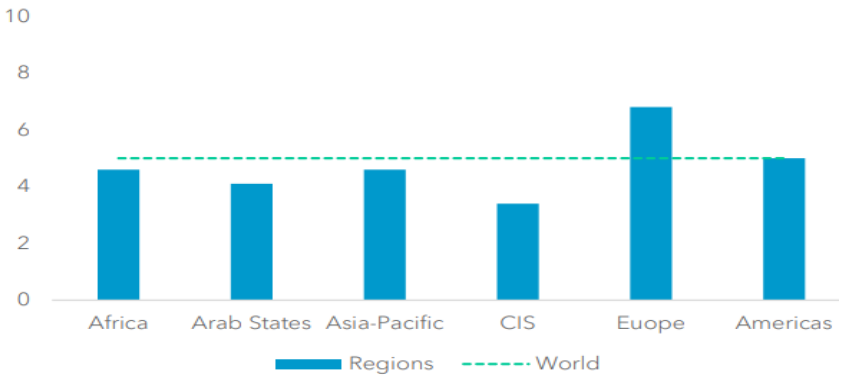
- In 2024, 137 out of 194 countries have implemented legislation aimed at ensuring the safeguarding of data and privacy[13].
- The European Union (EU) has stringent data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018, impacting how organizations handle personal

[11] ITU Report on Broadband 2019 https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/pref/D-PREF-EF.BDT_AM-2019-PDF-E.pdf
[12] ITU Report on the ICT Sector 2024 https://www.itu.int/hub/publication/d-ind-ict_mdd-2024-1/
[13] UNCTAD Data Protection and Privacy Legislation Dashboard https://unctad.org/page/data-protection-and-privacy-legislation-worldwide

data. Countries have continued to implement data protection legislation, in some cases using GDPR as a model for national policies.

- Several countries, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, India, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, and Nigeria, have implemented or proposed data protection regulations, drawing inspiration from GDPR, emphasizing fines and privacy provisions.
- In its 2023 Global Digital Regulatory Outlook, the ITU reported that the global digital regulatory readiness score stood at 5 out of a possible 10, with Europe surpassing the global average with a score of 6.8, as illustrated in the figure below[14]. The Global Digital Regulatory Outlook provides an assessment of the regulatory landscape concerning digital technologies worldwide. It evaluates the policies, regulations, and legal frameworks governing digital innovation, data privacy, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies across different countries and regions.
- Digital Economy Acts have been developed throughout the globe in countries such as the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, and Singapore. These acts aim to facilitate innovation, protect consumers, and ensure fair competition in digital markets while addressing emerging challenges.

Figure 5 Global Digital Regulatory Outlook 2023 Ranking by Region Out of 193 Countries



Source: ITU

The disaggregated figures for the Americas revealed that Canada and the United States ranked first and second respectively out of thirty-five (35) countries ranked in the Americas. Two CARICOM countries **(Antigua and Barbuda, 33, St Kitts And Nevis, 35)** ranked lowest as illustrated in the below figure. The complete breakdown of the Americas' ranking was not available at the time of writing this report.

Figure 6 Global Digital Regulatory Readiness the Americas Ranking Out of 35 Countries

[14] Global Digital Regulatory Outlook 2023 https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/pref/D-PREF-BB.REG_OUT01-2023-PDF-E.pdf

Rank/ Country	Telecom regulation (G1-G4)*	Collaborative digital governance, policy and regulation (G5)**	Readiness for digital transfor-mation***
1. Canada	G4	Leading	83%
2. United States	G4	Advanced	83%
3. Chile	G4	Advanced	81%
…			
33. Antigua and Barbuda	G1	Limited	30%
34. Cuba	G1	Transitioning	28%
35. St Kitts & Navis	G2	Limited	27%

Source: ITU

* **The indicator “Telecom G1-G5” represents the "generations of regulation" model, a comprehensive framework for assessing the evolution of policy and regulation in the digital economy, culminating in Generation 5, which represents the gold standard for collaborative digital governance. Generation 1 represents Command and control approach, Generation 2 represents Early open markets, Generation 3 represents Enabling investment & access, and Generation 4 represents Integrated regulation.

CARICOM Facts and Figures

- **Eleven (11) CARICOM Member States** have drafted or implemented legislation that governs data protection as illustrated in Table 3. These data protection laws are intended to regulate the collection, processing, and storage of personal data.

Table 4 Draft/Enacted Data Protection Legislation Across CARICOM Member States

Country	Title of Legislation/Draft Legislation
Antigua and Barbuda	Data Protection Act 2013
Bahamas	Data Protection (Privacy of Personal Information) Act 2003
Barbados	Bill - Data Protection passed in Senate and House of Assembly, 2019
Dominica	Bill - Privacy and Data Protection
Guyana	Draft Data Privacy Bill 2020
Jamaica	Electronic Transactions Act No 15 of 2006, The Constitution of Jamaica and the Data Protection Act 2020
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Data Protection Act 2018
Saint Lucia	Data Protection Act 2011
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Bill - Data Protection Act - OECS models
Suriname	The Constitution of the Republic of Suriname, Article 17
Trinidad and Tobago	The Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Data Protection Act 2011

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- The 'Enhancing Competitiveness in the Caribbean through the Harmonization of ICT Policies, Legislation, and Regulatory Procedures' (HIPCAR) 2013 project, funded by the International Telecommunication Union, addressed potential impediments by facilitating the formulation and adoption of harmonized ICT policies and regulatory frameworks across all fifteen (15) CARICOM countries[15]. Nine pieces of legislation were developed under the project:

    1. E-Commerce: Transaction
    2. E-Commerce: Evidence
    3. Access to Public Information
    4. Privacy and Data Protection
    5. Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity
    6. Interception of Communications
    7. Universal Service and Access
    8. Licensing in a Convergent Environment
    9. Interconnection including Cost Modelling.

- As it relates to Copyright Laws, Member States have no or outdated laws governing copyright, some Member States such as **Jamaica** (4/1993) have provisions for copyright in their constitution. Additionally, Member States such as **St. Lucia** have acceded to various international conventions, namely Berne Convention, The Phonograms Convention, The Rome Convention, WIPO Copyright Treaty, WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.
- The region also grapples with the lack of and/or outdated Intellectual Property (IP) Laws. Similarly, to what obtains for Copyright Laws, countries have provisions in their constitution for IP protection. Two instances of this include **Guyana's** Copyright Act, which mirrors the UK Copyright Act of 1956, adopted by **Guyana** in 1966 following its independence, and **Jamaica's** Copyright Act of 1993.

BROADBAND REGULATION

Broadband refers to high-speed internet access that allows for faster and more reliable transmission of data, which is crucial for various online activities such as streaming, gaming, telecommuting, and accessing educational resources.

Broadband regulation encompasses a set of rules and policies established by governments or regulatory bodies to oversee and manage the provision of broadband internet services. These regulations aim to ensure fair competition, promote investment in broadband infrastructure, protect consumers' interests, and facilitate universal access to high-speed internet.

A key matter for global broadband regulation is the rise in issues between telecommunications (telcos) providers and over-the-top (OTT) services. These revolve around competition, revenue sharing, and regulatory challenges. Traditional telecommunications companies generate revenue through services like voice calls and text messages. The rise of OTT services, such as WhatsApp,

[15] ITU – Projects EC-ACP HIPCAR https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/ITU-EC-ACP/HIPCAR/Pages/default.aspx

Skype, and other messaging or calling apps, has led to a decline in the usage of traditional services. As a result, telcos may experience a loss of revenue from their traditional offerings. Some telcos argue that OTT services use their network infrastructure without contributing to the cost of maintaining and expanding it. As more users shift to OTT services, telcos find it challenging to monetize data usage in the same way they did with traditional services. Some countries have implemented specific measures or regulatory frameworks to address certain aspects of the OTT-telco relationship. This includes implementing Net Neutrality rules aimed at preventing internet service providers, including telcos, from blocking or throttling access to specific OTT services. The use of codes of conduct aimed at telcos has been a mechanism enacted to prevent telcos from unfairly treating consumers. The issues between OTT and telcos may involve a combination of regulatory measures, industry self-regulation, and market-driven negotiations. The liberalization of the Telecommunications Sector in CARICOM countries has led to increased investments in the sector, thus leading to increased Telecommunications providers as shown in the table below.

The adoption of 5G technology in the Caribbean region by the year 2030 is expected to be around 2 percent. This figure is considerably lower compared to the projected adoption rates in more developed regions such as North America (51 percent), Europe (72 percent), Greater China (48 percent) and Asia-Pacific (62 percent), and Africa (11 percent). These regions are anticipated to experience significantly higher levels of 5G implementation by 2030, indicating a substantial technological gap between the Caribbean and these more developed areas.

Table 5 Telecommunications Providers in CARICOM Member States

Member States / Associate Members	Internet Coverage by Technology Type (2022)	Telecommunication Providers		
		FLOW *(Trade name for C&W in the region)*	**Digicel**	**Other**
Antigua and Barbuda	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
Bahamas	2G, 3G, 4G	▪		Aliv, Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC) – *Trade name for C&W in Bahamas*
Belize	2G, 3G, 4G	▪		Belize Telemedia Ltd. (BTL)
Barbados	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
Dominica	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
Grenada	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
Guyana	2G, 3G, 4G		▪	One Communications, Enet
Haiti	2G, 3G, 4G		▪	Haitel
Jamaica	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
Montserrat	3G	▪		
St. Kitts and Nevis	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	CHIPPIE
St. Lucia	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
Suriname	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	Telesur
Trinidad and Tobago	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
Anguilla	2G, 3G	▪	▪	
Bermuda	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
British Virgin Islands	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
Cayman Islands	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	
Curaçao	2G, 3G, 4G		▪	CHIPPIE
Turks and Caicos Islands	2G, 3G, 4G	▪	▪	

Source: ITU, National Telecoms Providers

Navigating this multifaceted regulatory landscape requires a nuanced understanding of global, regional, and national contexts. The evolution of technology continually prompts updates and revisions to legislation and regulations to address emerging challenges and opportunities in the dynamic field of digital transformation.

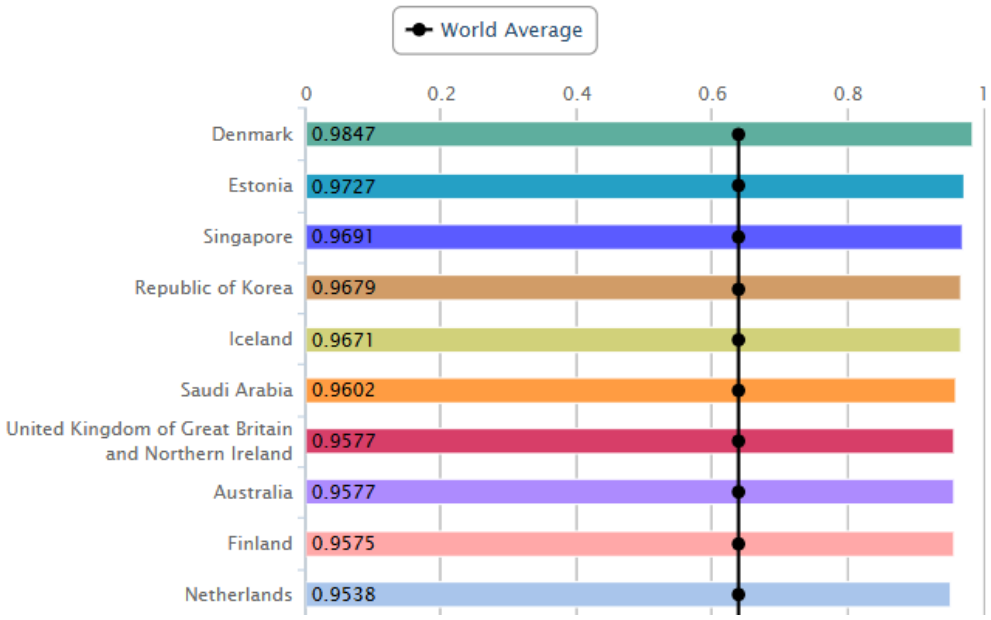
E-GOVERNMENT

E-government, as a crucial aspect of digital transformation, entails the use of digital technologies to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and accessibility of government services and processes. Its impact on various sectors such as agriculture, youth, climate, and education are profound.

Global Facts and Figures

- As per to the United Nations (UN) e-Government Development Index 2024, Denmark ranked number one (1) of one hundred ninety-three (193) countries assessed, while Estonia and Singapore ranked two (2) and three (3) respectively. The below figure provides a listing of the top ten (10) countries ranked on the e-Government Development Index.

Figure 7 Top Ten Countries on the E-Government Development Index 2024

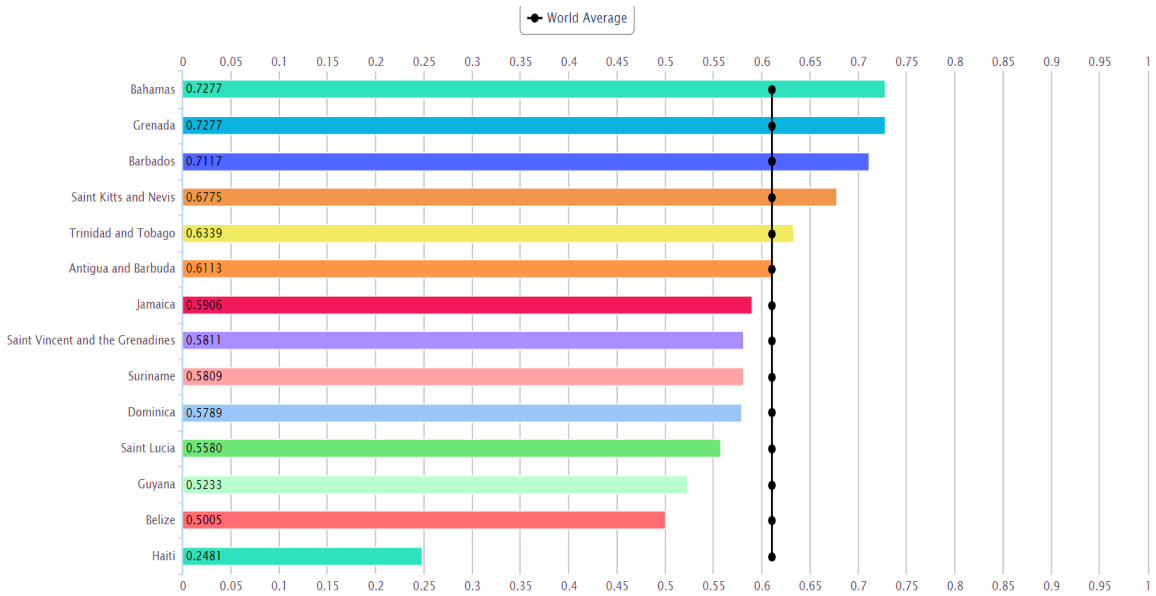


Source: United Nations

CARICOM Facts and Figures

- **The Bahamas and Grenada** are ranked highest of the fourteen (14) CARICOM countries surveyed, as illustrated in the below figure, in the E-Government Development Index 2024 with a score of 0.7277 and a global rank of eighty-three (83) of 193 countries. Their scores are significantly above the world average (0.62), suggesting strong performance in the Index. **Barbados,** at 0.7117, also demonstrates a high level of achievement.
- **Jamaica (0.5906), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (0.5811), Suriname (0.5809), and Dominica (0.5789)** show similar levels of performance. All are slightly below the estimated world average, while **Haiti (0.2481)** stands out with a significantly lower value of 0.2481.

Figure 8 e-Government Development Index Ranking of Fourteen CARICOM Countries 2024



Source: United Nations

FRONTIER & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Frontier and emerging technologies represent the vanguard of innovation, shaping the future landscape of industries worldwide. These technologies encompass various fields, including artificial intelligence, blockchain, biotechnology, quantum computing, robotics, and the Internet of Things (IoT). As these technologies evolve, they hold the potential to revolutionize economies, transform businesses, and improve people's lives.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Global Facts and Figures

The global adoption of frontier and emerging technologies is rapidly accelerating, with significant investments pouring into research, development, and implementation. Below is a list of statistics:

- The United States, Sweden and Singapore ranked first, second and third respectively on the “Readiness for Frontier Technologies Index” 2023.
- The AI market is projected to reach $190.61 billion by 2025, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 40.2% from 2020 to 2025.
- The global blockchain market size is expected to grow from $3.0 billion in 2020 to $39.7 billion by 2025, at a CAGR of 67.3% during the forecast period.[16]
- The global robotics market size is anticipated to reach $248.34 billion by 2027, expanding at a CAGR of 19.8% from 2020 to 2027.

[16] Fintech Global – Blockchain Market https://fintech.global/2020/05/06/global-blockchain-market-to-be-worth-39-7bn-in-2025/

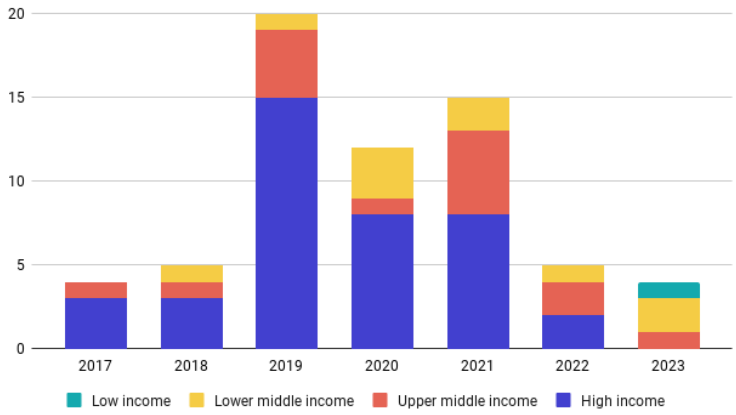
AI in the Workforce

- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of firms are using AI in performance management, and 74% in recruitment.
- Twenty-seven percent (27%) of companies are using AI to replace certain tasks, with expectations this will increase to thirty-five percent (35%) in the near future.
- Three-fourths of leaders believe AI will replace manual roles, while 90% think it will change existing job functions.
- Salesforce's new AI agents can handle customer service and administrative tasks autonomously, reducing the need for new hires.
- Two-thirds of business leaders prioritize innovation over preserving existing jobs.

AI Governance

The 2023 Government AI Readiness Report highlights that low-income and lower middle-income countries still lag behind countries in upper middle-income and high-income designations, in AI strategy development, as illustrated in Figure 9: AI Strategies Published Per Year (2017-2023).

Figure 9 Figure 1- AI Strategies Published Per Year (2017-2023)



CARICOM Facts and Figures

- CARICOM Member States have begun to leverage frontier and emerging technologies. Countries such as Jamaica and Barbados are implementing blockchain technologies.
- The "Readiness for Frontier Technologies Index" 2023 industry ranking assesses the preparedness of different industries or sectors within an economy to adopt and leverage frontier technologies. The ranking illustrated in the table below indicates that Member States need to enact policies and increase investment in the industry that facilitates emerging technology adoption. Member States ranked as low as the 80th percentile within this indicator. Only ten Member States were assessed.

Table 6 Readiness for Frontier Technologies Index 2023 Ranking of CARICOM Member States

Member States	Readiness for Frontier Technologies Index					
	Total Score	Total Ranking of 166 countries	ICT Ranking	Skills Ranking	R&D Ranking	Industry Ranking
Bahamas	0.5	81	38	72	116	114
Barbados	0.62	52	34	45	86	73
Belize	0.43	91	85	80	127	132
Guyana	0.35	110	113	119	160	87
Haiti	0.15	154	111	153	160	146
Jamaica	0.42	94	72	95	143	126
St. Lucia	0.42	95	93	65	160	104
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	0.39	100	90	71	160	131
Suriname	0.4	99	90	71	160	110
Trinidad and Tobago	0.47	87	59	70	131	108

Source: UNCTAD

- Barbados, ranked fifty-two (52) of 166 countries in the Frontier Technologies Index, seen in the table above, has stated that it will set up a Metaverse Embassy to facilitate activities that take place in the Metaverse. The metaverse refers to a collective virtual shared space, created by the convergence of virtual reality, augmented reality, and the internet, where users can interact with each other and digital objects in real-time, often blurring the lines between physical and digital realities.
- Member States have also begun investing in Financial Technology (FinTech), evidenced by the increase of digital wallets, cryptocurrency and payment systems in Member States such as the **Bahamas and Jamaica**. This creates an enabling environment for increased digital development.
- While specific data on AI adoption in CARICOM countries is limited, there is a growing interest in leveraging AI and data analytics for various applications, including healthcare, agriculture, and tourism. According to the Global Government AI Index 2023, CARICOM countries ranked between 93 and 184 out of a total of 193 countries assessed. In 2024, the Index revealed that CARICOM countries displayed a low level of readiness with limited progress between 2023 and 2024, as represented in the table below.
    - The Data & Infrastructure pillar of the Global Government AI Readiness Index assesses the readiness of governments worldwide to adopt and implement artificial intelligence technologies based on their existing data infrastructure. Member States ranked average within this pillar.

Table 7 Global Government AI Readiness Index 2024 Ranking CARICOM Member States

Country	Country Total (Maximum 100)	Government (Maximum 100)	Technology Sector (Maximum 100)	Data and Infrastructure (Maximum 100)
Antigua and Barbuda	41.61	30.68	30.66	63.49
Bahamas	42.03	31.49	30.40	64.21
Barbados	41.11	32.12	31.69	59.51
Belize	37.59	26.76	30.51	55.49
Dominica	-	-	-	-
Grenada	37.96	31.88	28.39	53.62
Guyana	37.23	26.53	27.56	57.61
Haiti	20.06	7.52	18.61	34.04
Jamaica	37.79	34.43	28.82	50.11
Montserrat	-	-	-	-
St. Kitts and Nevis	41.62	30.26	32.65	61.94
St. Lucia	39.11	31.10	28.63	57.60
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	36.65	29.30	28.11	52.55
Suriname	36.87	25.79	27.84	56.99
Trinidad and Tobago	40.14	32.33	31.53	56.56

Source: Oxford Insights

Global Index on Responsible AI

The global conversation on artificial intelligence extends beyond technical readiness to include questions of ethics, equity, and governance. The Global Index on Responsible AI, developed by the Global Center on AI Governance and partners, provides a multidimensional assessment of how countries are building and implementing responsible AI ecosystems.

The scores highlight that while CARICOM Member States have begun participating in global AI governance debates, their responsible AI ecosystems remain **nascent**, with low institutional capacity and limited regulatory or ethical frameworks in place.

Table 8 Global Index on Responsible AI in CARICOM Member States

Country	Index Score (Maximum 100)	Pillar Score (Maximum 100)			Dimension Score (Maximum 100)		
		Frameworks	Government Actions	Non-State Actors	Human Rights and AI	Responsible AI Capacities	Responsible AI Governance
Antigua and Barbuda	4.72	0.00	9.38	4.81	6.01	7.92	2.64
Barbados	1.92	0.00	3.93	1.75	0.95	9.96	0.00
Belize	3.22	0.00	8.05	0.00	2.91	6.80	2.27

Guyana	5.42	0.00	2.76	21.56	4.50	13.29	3.50
Haiti	0.71	0.00	1.29	0.99	0.00	4.53	0.00
Jamaica	6.76	0.00	10.26	13.27	8.22	10.77	4.29
St. Lucia	3.34	0.00	6.62	3.43	0.00	21.12	0.00
Trinidad and Tobago	4.65	0.00	5.67	11.90	4.61	9.33	3.11

Source: Global Index on Responsible AI (2024)

FINTECH (FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY)

Financial technology, more commonly referenced as FinTech, refers to the innovative use of technology in the financial sector to enhance and streamline financial services, including banking, payments, lending, investments, insurance, and more. Fintech operators encompass startups, technology companies, and traditional financial institutions adopting digital innovations to improve financial processes, customer experience, and access to services[17]. FinTech operators play a crucial role in fostering economic growth, development, and innovation.

Below is a list of CARICOM countries and the Fintech companies/organizations that operate within them:

Table 9 FinTech Operators in CARICOM Member States

Country	Fintech Operator
Antigua and Barbuda	• SugaPay
The Bahamas	• Sand Dollar • Cash N GO • Island Pay • Kanoo, • MobileAssist, • MoneyMaxx, • OMNI Financial Services • SunCash Bahamas
Barbados	• Island Pay • My Cash • Cari Lend • Bitt
Belize	• E-Kyash

[17] Applications of Fintech https://www.bis.org/publ/bppdf/bispap117.pdf

Country	Fintech Operator
	• DigiWallet
Dominica	• Government of Dominica ePayment Portal
Grenada	• Grenada Cooperative Bank
Guyana	• WiPay • Mobile Money Guyana
Haiti	• HaitiPay • Digipay.guru
Jamaica	• Carilend • Alliance Financial Service • NCB Quick Mobile Money • Swifpay • MyCash
Montserrat	• Bitt
Saint Lucia	• Penny Pinch
St. Kitts and Nevis	• CaribePay
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	• Mobile Money Transfers
Suriname	• Mope'
Trinidad and Tobago	• SugaPay • Bitt • WiPay
Anguilla	Outside of Mobile Banking applications, no Fintech-specific applications were found during research.
Bermuda	Cryptocurrency is accepted in Bermuda as a payment option however, during research no concrete data was found regarding other fintech operations.
British Virgin Islands	• Samsung Pay • Android Pay
Cayman Islands	• MuchBetter
Turks and Caicos Islands	Outside of Mobile Banking applications, no FinTech-specific applications were found during research.

MASTERCARD

Mastercard, one of the world's leading payment technology companies, has a significant presence and was actively working in the Caribbean region. The Caribbean Association of Bankers and Mastercard signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to formalize the work Mastercard does in the region[18]. Mastercard's efforts in the Caribbean encompass a range of initiatives and collaborations aimed at promoting digital payments, financial inclusion, and economic development. Mastercard offers a variety of digital payment solutions, including contactless payments, mobile wallets, and prepaid cards, to enhance the convenience and security of transactions in the Caribbean.

CYBERSECURITY

Cybersecurity involves safeguarding internet-connected systems from cyberattacks to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information. Cybercrime encompasses illicit activities such as hacking, malware distribution, and identity theft carried out using computers or the

[18] Caribbean Association of Bankers - Master Card and the Caribbean Articlehttps://cab-inc.com/mastercard-and-the-caribbean-association-of-banks-inc-sign-a-memorandum-of-understanding/

internet. Cyber resilience refers to the ability to withstand, recover from, and adapt to cyberattacks, emphasizing proactive measures, effective response mechanisms, and continuous improvement to enhance cybersecurity posture.

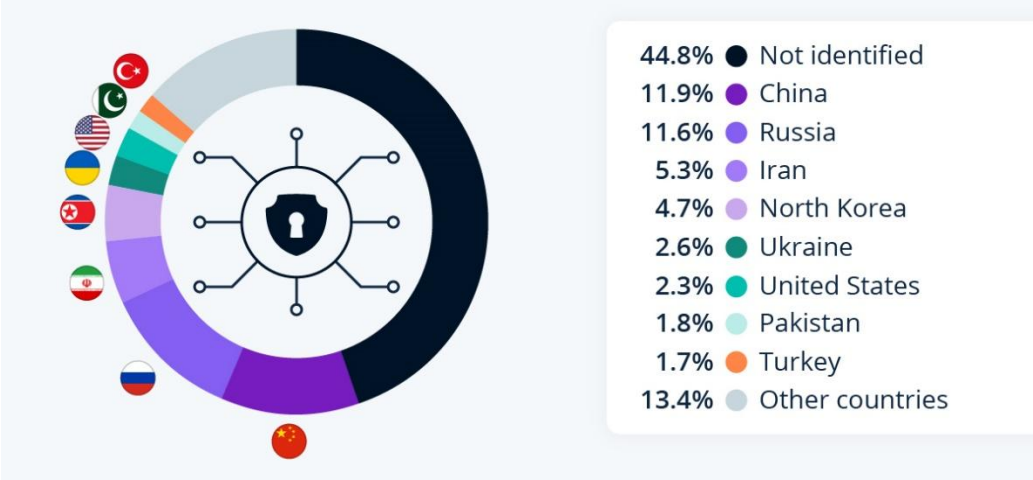
The increasing reliance on digital platforms has exposed individuals and organizations to heightened cyber threats. Cybercrime has evolved in sophistication and frequency, posing a substantial risk to data security, privacy, and financial stability.

Global Facts and Figures

- The digital landscape's rapid evolution has propelled global spending on cybersecurity products and services to an estimated $1.75 trillion between 2021 and 2025[19], reflecting the heightened digitization of businesses, proliferation of Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and the surge in cybercrime, particularly accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In its Global Cybersecurity Index 2021, the ITU reported that, out of 194 countries assessed, the United States of America ranked number one with a total score of 100, while the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabi ranked number two, both scoring 99.54[20].
- Cybersecurity Ventures predicts an annual growth rate of 15 percent in global cybercrime damage costs, reaching a staggering $10.5 trillion USD by 2025[21].
- IBM's Cost of a Data Breach Report for 2023 reveals an average cost of $4.45 million for data breaches, emphasizing the urgency for robust cybersecurity measures[22].
- The infographic below illustrates that China and Russia account for a significant share of politically motivated cyberattacks, followed by Iran and North Korea, this assessment took place across the years between 2000 and 2023. Additionally, it highlights that nearly half of these attacks remain unattributed, underscoring the complexity of cybersecurity attribution.

[19] Cyber Security Ventures – Cybersecurity Spending 2021-2025 https://cybersecurityventures.com/cybersecurity-spending-2021-2025/
[20] The Global Cyber Security Index 2020 https://www.itu.int/epublications/publication/D-STR-GCI.01-2021-HTM-E
[21] Cyber Security Ventures - Cost of Cyber Crime https://cybersecurityventures.com/cybercrime-to-cost-the-world-9-trillion-annually-in-2024/
[22] IBM Report on Cybersecurity https://www.ibm.com/downloads/cas/E3G5JMBP

Figure 10 Rank of Countries Responsible for Politically Motivated Cyberattacks 2000 - 2023



Source: Statista

CARICOM Facts and Figures

- The Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) by the International Telecommunication Union serves as a crucial benchmark for evaluating a country's cybersecurity commitment. In the GCI 2024 rankings, many CARICOM Member States demonstrate varying levels of cybersecurity development across different dimensions. Overall, the 2024 GCI data reveals that CARICOM Member States exhibit diverse cybersecurity strengths and weaknesses. Some countries demonstrate strong performance in specific dimensions, while others face significant challenges across multiple areas.

Some key observations based on the 2024 GCI scores:

- **Legal Measures: Guyana** leads in this dimension with a score of 16.52, followed closely by **Jamaica** (16.41) and **Barbados** (14.92). Some countries, like **Dominica**, **Haiti**, and **Trinidad**, have low scores in this area, indicating potential gaps in their legal frameworks for cybersecurity.
- **Technical Measures: Guyana** achieves the highest score (7.97) in this category, however, it is important to note that the rating for each dimension is out of twenty (20). Seven countries have a score of 0, suggesting a lack of established technical cybersecurity measures.
- **Organizational Measures: Trinidad and Tobago** leads in this dimension with a score of 16.21. **Jamaica** has a high score of 15.82. Three countries have a score of 0, indicating a need for developing organizational frameworks for cybersecurity.
- **Capacity Development: Trinidad and Tobago** show strong performance in this area, with a score of 13.03. No other CARICOM country scored over 10 in this dimension.
- **Cooperation Measures: Jamaica** and **Trinidad and Tobago** have the highest scores in this dimension (11.13), demonstrating engagement in cybersecurity cooperation.

- The following table provides a comprehensive overview, showcasing the scores of CARICOM Member States overall and in each dimension assessed.

Table 10 Global Cyber Security Index 2024 for CARICOM Member States

Country Name	Legal Measures Out of 20	Technical Measures Out of 20	Organization Measures Out of 20	Capacity Development Out of 20	Cooperation Measures Out of 20
Antigua and Barbuda	11.84	0	0	2.36	3.99
Bahamas	11.26	3.22	5.47	6.08	7.97
Barbados	14.92	3.01	4.17	6.45	7.97
Belize	14.13	0	12.38	0	5.84
Dominica	6.69	0	0	8.17	7.97
Grenada	13.8	0	0	2.36	3.99
Guyana	16.52	7.97	5.88	8.35	8.52
Haiti	6.49	0	6.37	1.8	9.61
Jamaica	16.41	6.58	15.82	8.26	11.13
Montserrat	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Kitts and Nevis	13.35	1.78	2.67	7.34	6.46
Saint Lucia	12.05	0	1.04	5.11	7.97
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	11.58	0	4.72	3.78	6.46
Suriname	15.21	6.18	3.39	2.02	7.97
Trinidad and Tobago	8.88	6.98	16.21	13.03	11.13

- In the Latin American and Caribbean region, Hitachi Systems Security reports a staggering 137 billion attempted cyberattacks between January and June 2022, with ransomware being a prevalent threat.
- Member States, such as **Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago**, have suffered substantial losses due to cyberattacks. **Trinidad and Tobago** faced major security breaches, leading to the exposure of confidential government data.
- Challenges include a shortage of skilled cybersecurity professionals, and a lack of awareness among citizens about cybersecurity best practices. Vulnerable groups, like the elderly, are targeted, highlighting the need for ongoing education and training.
- Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) and Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) are both specialized groups tasked with responding to and mitigating cybersecurity incidents. **The Bahamas, Guyana, and Jamaica** have established national CERTs/CSIRTS.
- Member States have enacted laws to govern Cyber Security, ranging from Computer Misuse Acts to Electronic Crimes Acts, these laws govern national computer and electronic crimes:
    - **Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname**

To address issues in cybersecurity, regional collaboration initiatives are underway, such as:

- the CARICOM Cyber Resilience Strategy 2030, under development, representing a collaborative and concerted effort by the CARICOM Secretariat and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to improve cyber resilience in the region.
- CARICOM Cyber Security and Cybercrime Action Plan (CCSCAP) by the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS).

GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT

The International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have been appointed by the United Nations to govern and coordinate ICT-related matters. Additionally, the ICT4D governance structure includes the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development. It is a high-level advocacy group that promotes broadband access as a key enabler of social and economic development worldwide. It was established in 2010 by the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The World Summit on the Information Society is a series of United Nations conferences that aim to address issues related to information and communication technologies and their impact on society.

In the CARICOM region, Heads of Government have established a quasi-cabinet, the Prime Minister of Grenada leads as the Head of Government for Science and Technology, which includes Information and Communications. The ICT Cluster is responsible for advancing the CARICOM Single ICT Space and is comprises CARICOM Secretariat, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), and CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARIMPACS).

STRATEGIES GOVERNING DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Plan of Action plays a crucial role in promoting human development through the advancement and equitable access to information and communication technologies worldwide. By addressing digital divides and fostering digital inclusion, WSIS initiatives aim to empower individuals and communities, enhance education and healthcare services, foster economic opportunities, and promote democratic participation and human rights.

Other Strategies governing digital development encompass a range of initiatives aimed at fostering technological innovation, enhancing digital literacy, expanding broadband access, and promoting the adoption of digital technologies across various sectors. strategies implemented globally is outlined below include: -

- UN Global Digital Compact
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

  - The United Nations reported that, globally, the Sustainable Development Goals are moderately to severely off track. Accordingly, CARICOM Member States are not on track to meet the SDGs 2030[23].
- World Summit on the Information Society Forum

Strategies governing digital development in CARICOM include: -

- Regional Digital Development Strategy & Implementation Plan of Action – Phase 1
- Vision and Roadmap for a CARICOM Single ICT Space
- Action Plan for 'Fast-Tracking' Digital Transformation
- CARICOM Secretariat Strategic Plan 2022-2030
- CARICOM Digital Skills Task Force Workplan
- CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership Workplan
- CARICOM Cyber Resilience Strategy 2030
- CARICOM Regional Digital Resilience Strategic Framework 2025-2030
- CARICOM Human Development Strategy
- Sectoral Plans

CONCLUSION

The state of the ICT for development sector reflects a dynamic landscape of opportunities and challenges. While advances have been made in mobile and internet penetration and digital skills development, the persistent digital divide threatens to exacerbate existing inequalities. Challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, limited network coverage, and outdated technology hinder the widespread adoption of digital services. Furthermore, a global digital divide persists, with marginalized communities, rural areas, and developing nations lacking access to essential ICT resources. Cybersecurity concerns loom large globally, with inadequate control measures and a lack of awareness making regions susceptible to cyber threats. Additionally, fragmented regulatory frameworks across countries hinder cross-border collaboration and the seamless flow of digital services on a global scale. By harnessing the power of digital technologies, this sector can not only address existing challenges but also open new frontiers for progress, ensuring that the benefits of the digital age are harnessed for the collective betterment of humanity.

[23] Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/SDG%20Progress%20Report%20Special%20Edition.pdf

APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE – INTERNET PENETRATION OF CARICOM MEMBER STATES 2024

Member State	Percentage of Internet Penetration
Antigua and Barbuda	91.4
Bahamas	94.4
Barbados	76.2
Dominica	83.4
Grenada	79.9
Haiti	38.9
Jamaica	85.1
Montserrat	54.6
Saint Lucia	74.2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	77.7
Trinidad and Tobago	80.8

Source: DATAREPORTAL

APPENDIX TWO: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%) OF NINE CARICOM MEMBER STATES 2023

Member State	Unemployment Rate (%) (2023)
Bahamas	8.6
Barbados	7.9
Guyana	12.0
Haiti	14.6
Jamaica	4.4
St. Lucia	11.1
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	18.6
Trinidad and Tobago	4.2
Suriname	7.6

Source: World Bank

APPENDIX THREE: LIST OF THE INDEXES USED IN THE CARICOM STATE OF SECTOR REPORT FOR ICT FOR DEVELOPMENT

- **ICT Development Index (IDI) 2023, 2024** - Produced by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**
- **Global Digital Regulatory Outlook 2023**, **2022** - Produced by the **International Telecommunication Union**
- **e-Government Development Index 2024** - Produced by the **United Nations (UN)**
- **Readiness for Frontier Technologies Index 2023** - Producer is not explicitly stated in the provided text.
- **Global Government AI Readiness Index 2024** - Produced by **Oxford Insights**

- **Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2021, 2024** - Produced by the **International Telecommunication Union**