

The share of the digital economy in Saudi Arabia's GDP reached 16.0%

The results of the 2024 Digital Economy Survey revealed an increase in the share of the digital economy (DE) in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 15.6% in 2023 to 16.0% in 2024, representing a rise of 0.4 percentage points. According to the levels of the digital economy, the contribution of the core digital economy reached 2.7%, which includes activities related to the production of ICT goods and services. The contribution of the narrow digital economy amounted to 2.4%, which includes establishments that rely on digital inputs, while the broad digital economy contributed 10.9%, encompassing establishments whose products and services are significantly enhanced using digital input.

The value of operating revenues for the ICT sector is estimated at 249.8 billion SAR in 2024

The operating revenues of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector reached 249.8 billion SAR. The highest activities were wired and wireless telecommunications, with revenues amounting to 133.9 billion SAR, followed by computer programming activities, which recorded revenues of 31.1 billion SAR.

The value of operating expenses for the ICT sector is estimated at 122.2 billion SAR in 2024

The operating expenses of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector amounted to 122.2 billion SAR. Wired and wireless telecommunications activities recorded the highest expenses at 74.3 billion SAR, followed by computer programming activities with expenses of 14.1 billion SAR.

The operating compensation of the ICT sector is estimated at 29.2 billion SAR in 2024

Compensation for workers in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector amounted to 29.2 billion SAR. Wired and wireless telecommunications activities ranked first with compensation totaling 16.1 billion SAR, followed by computer programming activities with compensation amounting to 4.5 billion SAR.

The value of imports of ICT goods is estimated at 67.9 billion SAR in 2024

Imports of information and communications technology (ICT) goods increased from 54.9 billion SAR in 2023 to 67.9 billion SAR in 2024, recording a growth rate of 23.5%. Telecommunications equipment accounted for the highest import value at 36.8 billion SAR, followed by computers and peripheral equipment at 14.9 billion SAR.

The value of exports and re-exports of ICT goods amounted to 25.8 billion SAR in 2024

Exports and re-exports of information and communications technology (ICT) goods achieved growth from 11.8 billion SAR in 2023 to 25.8 billion SAR in 2024, recording a growth rate of 118%. Telecommunications equipment accounted for the highest value of exports and re-exports at 24.9 billion SAR, followed by computers and peripheral equipment valued at 579.5 million SAR.

E-commerce records increased to 40,953 during 2024

E-commerce records increased from 37,481 to 40,953 during 2024. The number of application development activity records also rose from 11,605 to 15,775. Cloud computing services records witnessed an increase from 1,759 to 3,005, while financial technology solutions records grew from 2,795 to 3,152.

Figure 1. Contribution of digital economy to GDP by levels of digital economy in 2024

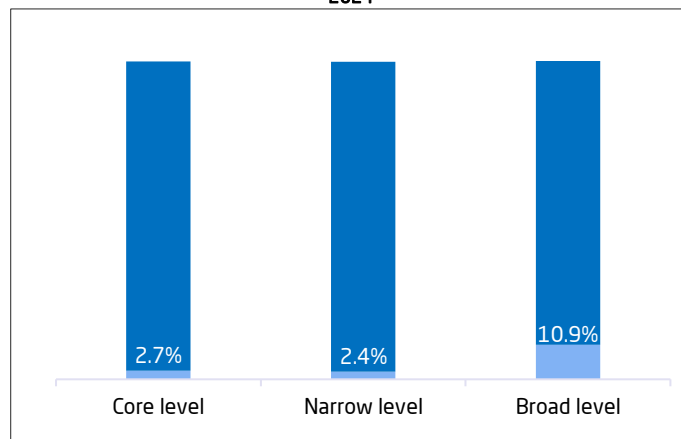
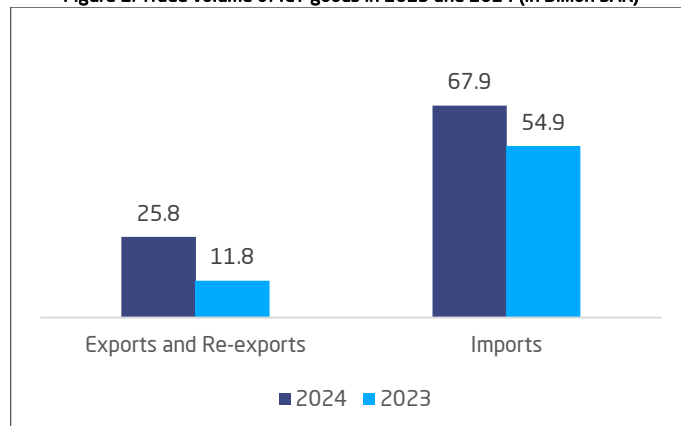


Figure 2. Trade volume of ICT goods in 2023 and 2024 (in Billion SAR)



Methodology and Quality

The General Authority for Statistics conducts all its statistical work according to a unified methodology that aligns with the nature of each statistical product. It relies on the Statistical Business Procedures Manual, which is consistent with the work procedures adopted by international organizations. Surveys follow the international standards proposed by the Handbook on Producing Statistics on the Digital Economy, issued by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 2020 edition, which ensures the comparability of indicators internationally.

In addition, it follows the A Roadmap toward a Common Framework for Measuring the Digital Economy - Report for the G20 Digital Economy Task Force, Saudi Arabia 2020, issued by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

In this context, the digital economy is classified into three main levels, based on the nature of activities and the extent of their reliance on digital inputs, as follows:

Core level: Includes economic activities related to the production of information and communication technology (ICT) goods and services.

Narrow level: Includes establishments that rely directly on digital inputs in their operations. **Broad level:** Includes establishments whose products or services are significantly enhanced through the use of digital inputs.

It is worth noting that the share of the digital economy is based on the updated Gross Domestic Product (GDP). As for the number of commercial registrations related to e-commerce activities, software development, and cloud computing services, administrative registry data issued by the Ministry of Commerce have been used.

For more details, please refer to the links below:

Reference: [Methodology and Quality - Publication Tables](#)