

INTERNET USERS IN JAMAICA 2010 – 2020

Definition

The Internet is a globally connected network system facilitating worldwide communication and access to data resources via a huge collection of personal, public, business, academic and government networks. Access to this network of computers is facilitated by using a standardized communication platform. So individuals with access to the Internet come across an immense volume of information readily available anywhere in the world using a smart device.

Method of Computation

The estimated number of Internet users is divided by the country's population and multiplied by 100.

$$\text{Internet users per 100 pop} = [\text{Number of Internet Users} / \text{Total Population}] \times 100$$

It should be noted that the estimated number of Internet users is very reliable when this estimate is generated from household surveys. In cases where the number of users is based on the number of subscribers, these are less reliable.

This indicator is one of several technology-related indicators tracked under the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's), Goal 8 – Develop a Global Partnership for Development and presently under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) Goal 9. This particular goal if addressed will significantly increase access to information and communications technology, thereby providing universal and affordable access to the Internet.

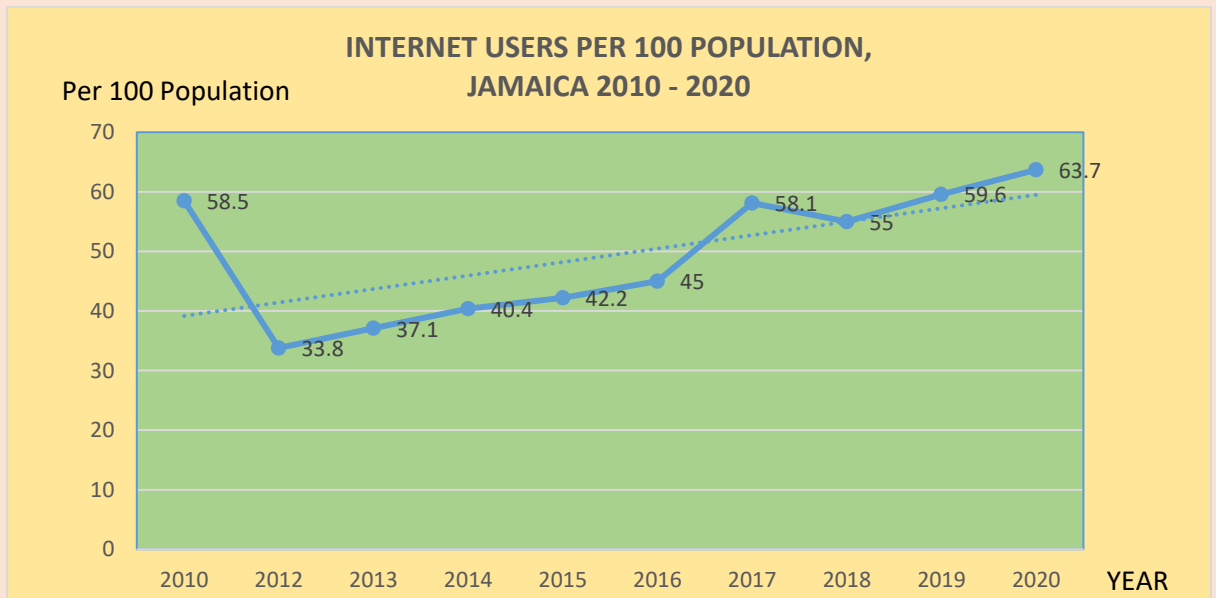
The use of the Internet in Jamaica when observed for the period 2010 to 2020, shows that this rate has been increasing and so in general an upward trend is realized (Figure 1.0). The overall trend observed is represented using a linear model. The lowest recorded value for internet access in Jamaica was 33.8 per 100 population in 2012 and at its peak, the highest recorded value was 63.7 per 100 population in 2020 (Table 1.0).

Table 1.0 Internet Users per 100 Population in Jamaica 2010 - 2020

Use of Internet	58.5	33.8	37.1	40.4	42.2	45	58.1	55	59.6	63.7
Year	2010	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020

Upon closer examination, the data reveal that during the first 5 years from 2010 to 2015, the trend is upward in keeping with the overall trend. The minimum value for this indicator is also observed during this period. From 2010 to 2012 there was a decline in the number of users from 58.5 per 100 population in 2010 to 33.8 per 100 population in 2012 a value of 24.7 per 100 population; thereafter increases were observed annually. The data maps out a generally linear path increasing year after year.

Figure 1.0



For the final 5 years of the observation, the trend continues in a positive direction, moving from a value of 45.0 per 100 population in 2016 to an all-time high of 63.7 per 100 population in 2020. This trajectory was not always upward since there was a 3.1 per 100 population decline for the period 2017 to 2018. The trend is clear, highlighting the fact that access to the internet is improving among the citizens; it also should be noted that there is concern regarding the sustainability of the said access for an extended period of time especially for the poor and vulnerable.