

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2022

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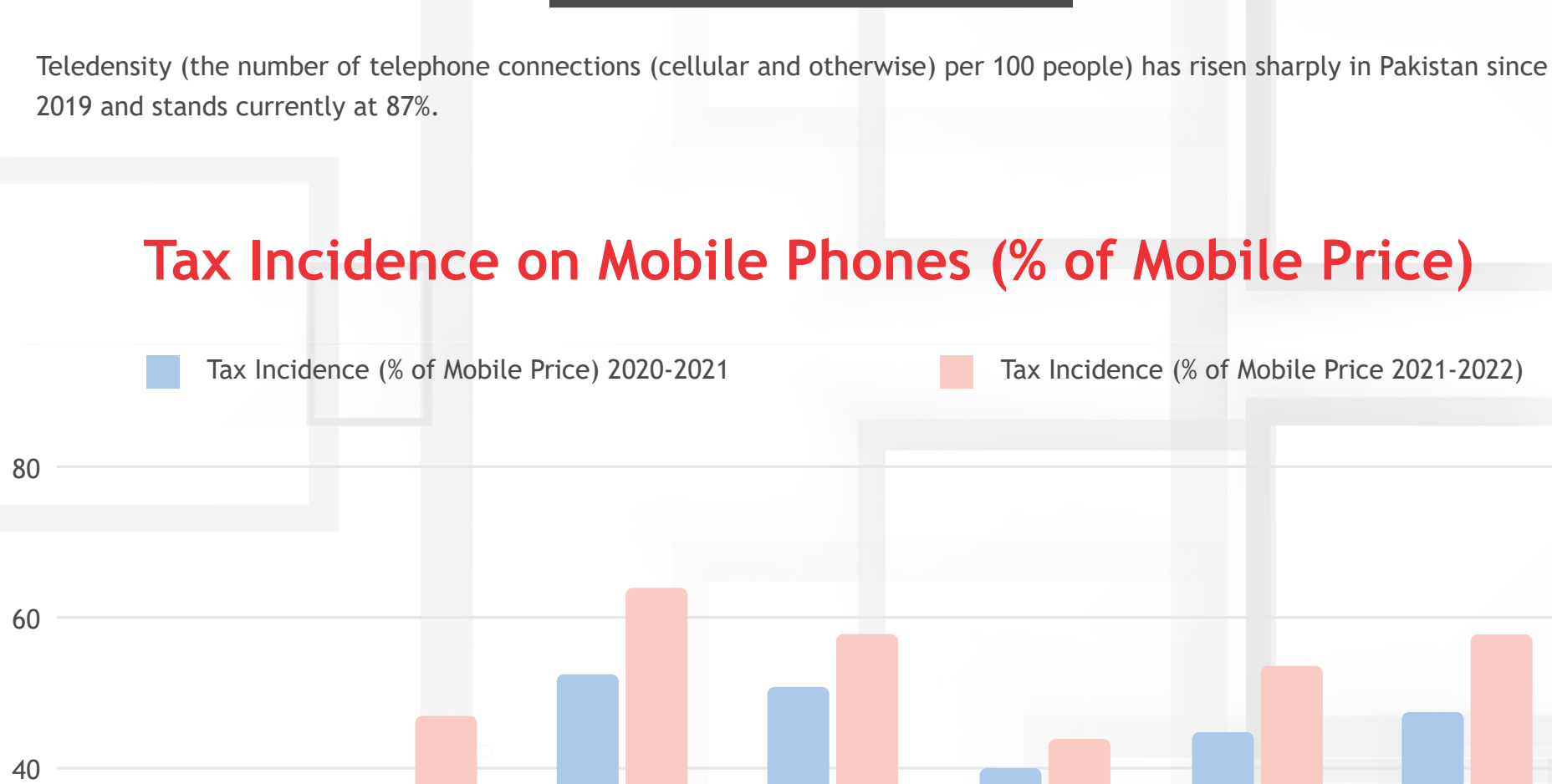
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MACRODATA

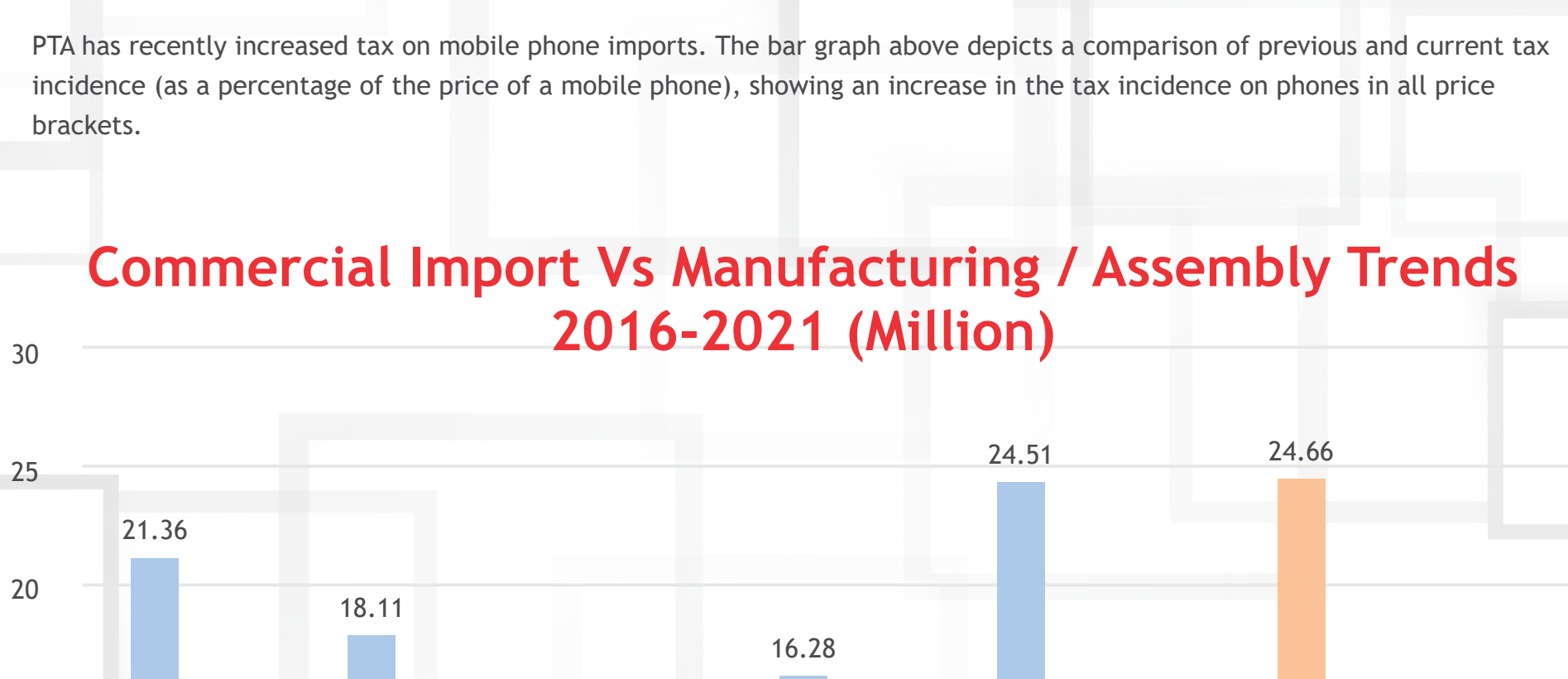
- Teledensity in Pakistan
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Teledensity in Pakistan



Teledensity (the number of telephone connections (cellular and otherwise) per 100 people) has risen sharply in Pakistan since 2019 and stands currently at 87%.

Tax Incidence on Mobile Phones (% of Mobile Price)



PTA has recently increased tax on mobile phone imports. The bar graph above depicts a comparison of previous and current tax incidence (as a percentage of the price of a mobile phone), showing an increase in the tax incidence on phones in all price brackets.

Commercial Import Vs Manufacturing / Assembly Trends 2016-2021 (Million)



Local production of mobile phones has increased in recent years. This graph shows a comparison of the number of imported and locally assembled mobile phones. Out of the 24.66m mobile phones manufactured locally in 2021, 10.06m were smartphones while 14.6m were 2G-enabled.

IN THE NEWS?

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2022

STEFANIE BRODMANN

Senior Economist, Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice - World Bank

ALICIA MARGUERIE

Economist - World Bank

CORNELIUS VON LENTHE

Consultant - World Bank

How Governments Should Make Use of Real-time Data From Online Job Portals

“ WITH Covid-19 disrupting global labor markets, governments are faced with the task of developing new approaches to understand the changed labor market landscape. Utilizing real-time data from online job vacancy portals will help governments identify skill shortages, implement more effective training and matching of jobseekers, and complement existing sources of labor market information. ”

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Who Will Pay for The Damage Caused by Climate Change?

“ ONE way to lessen the damage caused by climate change is better early-warning systems such as those piloted in Pakistan to predict drought. Using satellite images and statistical modelling, the tool predicts when extreme events, such as droughts or floods, are about to hit and activates an alert for early intervention. ”

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ISABELLE GERRETSEN

POLICY ANALYSIS

Subnational Income, Convergence and The Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic severely affected the growth and subnational distribution of income in low-income countries. To understand these effects, the study produces monthly aggregates on gross national income (GNI) for 147 Pakistani districts through real-time data and machine learning between 2012 and 2021. The study estimates post-covid measures of economic performance and demonstrates the frailty of Pakistan's urban centers, which are driving the national economy, to external shocks such as Covid-19.

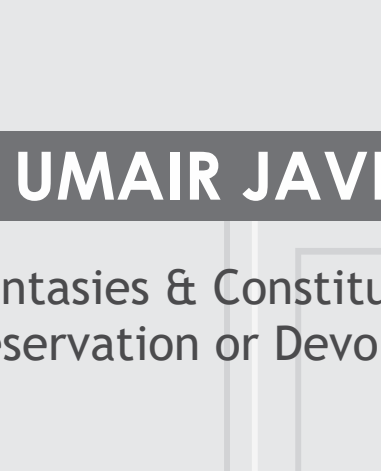
Three findings emerge from the analysis. First, urban districts experienced a sizeable decline in income during the pandemic, as their monthly growth rate dropped by 0.21%. Second, districts with a higher Covid19 incidence experienced larger income drops. Third, the pandemic accelerated the within-country convergence, as districts with high pre-pandemic income experienced a stronger negative growth during the pandemic.

Report:

<https://www.theigc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Choudhary-et-al-August-2021-Final-Report.pdf>

INSIGHTS FOR CHANGE

The CDPR team is delighted to introduce its new article series “*Insights for Change*” as a special section in our blog series Pakistan Growth Story. The series contains think pieces that take an analytical approach to devising action oriented policy solutions. They are authored by economists and practitioners who are experts in their field.

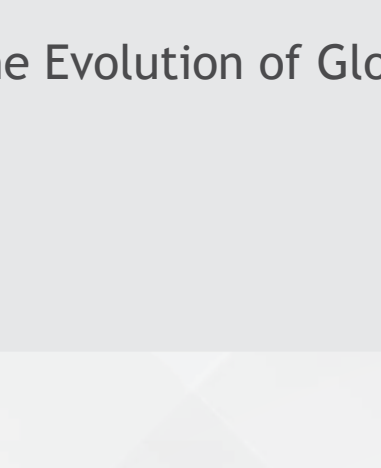


DR. AASIM M. HUSAIN

How Pakistan Fell Behind?

“ THIS article by Dr. Aasim Husain, until recently the Deputy Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), explores how Pakistan went from having the highest per capita income in South Asia, to the lowest and what can be done about it. ”

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DR. SHAHID YUSUF

Pakistan's Crises: Ongoing and Brewing (Part 1 and Part 2)

“ THIS article by Dr. Shahid Yusuf, Chief Economist at the Growth Dialogue in Washington, DC, explores how crises like the Covid-19 pandemic and others serve as opportunities to initiate major reforms to tackle existing and looming crises and build Pakistan's crisis resilience. ”

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Part 1

Part 2

FELLOWS' ARTICLES

DR. UMAIR JAVED

1. Fantasies & Constitutional Change
2. Reservation or Devolution?

DR. FAISAL BARI

1. Is Education a Priority?
2. Reboot is Needed

DR. HOMI KHARAS

1. The Evolution of Global Poverty, 1990-2030



DR. UMAIR JAVED

Assistant Professor of Politics and Sociology, LUMS

Fantasies & Constitutional Change

“ WE'RE at that stage of the electoral cycle where calls for instituting a 'presidential system of government' gain voice. One difference this time around though is that these calls are partly coming from supporters and members of the sitting government. Usually its frustration with the performance of a disliked government that makes some quarters talk about large-scale change. This time the gap between government expectation and performance is being bridged by a sympathetic review of the harsh constraints placed on a helpless PM by parliamentary democracy. ”

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Reservation or Devolution?

“ PUNJAB'S frequently aborted devolution plan seems to have restarted once again. The delimitation process is underway, the ECP is engaging with the provincial government for a schedule, and an ordinance is currently being deliberated upon for conversion into an act of the assembly. There is no doubt that much of this is being done under the pressure of the higher judiciary, which has on many occasions remained the only actor interested in the safeguarding of Article 140-A of the Constitution. ”

[READ MORE](#)



DR. FAISAL BARI

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, LUMS

Is Education a Priority?

“ THE chairperson of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr Tariq Banuri, was removed through an ordinance in March 2021. He felt wronged and went to court. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) agreed and restored Dr Banuri to his position on Jan 18. Dr Banuri was appointed in 2018 and his tenure ends in May 2022. ”

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Reboot is Needed

“ YOUNG people 18 and above are eligible to vote, drive and marry and have children. But when they start college and universities in this country, these educational institutions assume they need to tell the young adults what they should wear, how much distance they should maintain from each other, who they should or should not meet, and whether they can interact with individuals from the other gender. ”

[READ MORE](#)

DR. HOMI KHARAS

Senior Fellow - Global Economy & Development, Center for Sustainable Development, Brookings

The Evolution of Global Poverty 1990-2030

“ THE last 30 years have seen dramatic reductions in global poverty, spurred by strong catch-up growth in developing countries, especially in Asia. By 2015, some 729 million people, 10% of the population, lived under the \$1.90 a day poverty line, greatly exceeding the Millennium Development Goal target of halving poverty. From 2012 to 2013, at the peak of global poverty reduction, the global poverty headcount fell by 130 million poor people. ”

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- 1.4 Unlocking Pakistan's Income Tax Potential (Kashaf Ali)
- 1.5 Has Covid-19 Exacerbated Gender Inequalities in Pakistan? (Hina Sheikh)
- 1.6 Mitigating Learning Losses During the Pandemic (Zohra Aslam)
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In Pakistan, policy decisions and public discourse are often uninformed by available research. The Consortium for Development Policy Research (CDPR) bridges this gap by communicating cutting-edge, evidence-based research on development issues in Pakistan to an audience of policymakers, students, the media and the wider public. With support from the International Growth Centre (IGC), CDPR disseminates policy briefs, hosts events, engages with the media and produces digital content to make topics in development research such as economic growth, energy, education, health and governance intelligible to both decision makers & the public.

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