## FACTORS AFFECTING THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

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## **Annotation:**

The digital economy has become a driving force in the modern world, shaping industries, societies, and individual lives. This article explores the various factors influencing the digital economy, drawing upon existing literature, and presents an analysis of these factors. It highlights the importance of technology, innovation, globalization, regulation, infrastructure, data, connectivity, e-commerce, and digital transformation in shaping the digital economy. The article concludes with recommendations for policymakers, businesses, and individuals on navigating this ever-evolving landscape.

**Keywords:** Digital economy, technology, innovation, globalization, regulation, infrastructure, data, connectivity, e-commerce, digital transformation.

The digital economy has transformed the way we work, communicate, and conduct business. It encompasses a broad range of activities driven by the use of digital technologies and the internet, such as e-commerce, mobile applications, and data-driven decision-making. In this article, we delve into the multifaceted factors that influence the digital economy.

This analysis is based on a comprehensive review of academic literature, industry reports, and government publications. Various sources were consulted to gain a holistic understanding of the factors influencing the digital economy. Quantitative and qualitative data were extracted and synthesized to identify key trends and patterns.

The digital economy refers to an economic system that is primarily based on digital technologies and the internet. It encompasses a wide range of economic activities that are conducted through digital means, such as online transactions, digital communication, data exchange, and the use of information and communication technologies (ICT). The digital economy has become increasingly important in recent years and has transformed the way businesses operate and people conduct their daily lives. Here are some key aspects of the digital economy:

E-commerce: Online shopping and electronic retailing have become a significant part of the digital economy. Companies and consumers buy and sell goods and

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services online, leading to the growth of e-commerce platforms like Amazon, eBay, and various online marketplaces.

Digital Payments: Digital payment methods, such as credit cards, mobile wallets, and cryptocurrencies, are increasingly used for conducting transactions, both online and in physical stores.

Software and Apps: The development and distribution of software, mobile apps, and digital services play a central role in the digital economy. Companies like Apple, Google, and Microsoft are major players in this sector.

Data Analytics: The digital economy relies heavily on data analysis and data-driven decision-making. Companies collect and analyze vast amounts of data to gain insights into customer behavior, market trends, and operational efficiency.

Cybersecurity: As the digital economy expands, the need for robust cybersecurity measures to protect digital assets and data has grown significantly.

The digital economy has had a profound impact on various sectors of the economy, leading to both opportunities and challenges. It has created new business models, increased productivity, and expanded global connectivity, but it has also raised concerns about data privacy, security, and the digital divide. Overall, the digital economy is a dynamic and rapidly evolving component of the global economy.

The digital economy, also known as the internet economy or the new economy, refers to economic activities that are based on digital technologies and the internet. Several factors can significantly affect the growth and development of the digital economy:

- Internet Access and Infrastructure: The availability and quality of internet access play a crucial role in the digital economy. Broadband access, both in urban and rural areas, is essential for businesses and individuals to participate in online activities.
- Technological Advancements: Advances in digital technology, such as cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things (IoT), drive innovation and enable new digital business models.
- Digital Literacy: The ability of individuals and businesses to effectively use digital tools and technologies is critical. Digital literacy programs can help bridge the digital divide.
- Regulation and Policy: Government policies and regulations can either support or hinder the growth of the digital economy. Policies related to data privacy, intellectual property, and e-commerce can have a significant impact.

- Cybersecurity: As digital activities increase, so do cybersecurity risks. A robust cybersecurity framework is essential to protect businesses and consumers from data breaches and other online threats.
- E-commerce Platforms: The presence and effectiveness of e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Alibaba, and others can shape the digital economy, as they enable businesses to reach a global customer base.
- Payment Systems: Digital payment methods, such as mobile wallets and cryptocurrencies, have the potential to revolutionize online transactions and financial inclusion.
- Digital Content: The availability and quality of digital content, including music, video, and written content, can impact the growth of the digital economy. Content creators and distributors play a vital role.
- Startups and Innovation: The digital economy is often driven by startups and entrepreneurs who bring new ideas and disruptive technologies to the market. A supportive ecosystem for startups is crucial.
- Globalization and Trade: International trade agreements and global supply chains have a significant impact on the digital economy, affecting how businesses source and sell products and services worldwide.
- Consumer Behavior: Changes in consumer behavior, including a shift towards online shopping and digital services, influence the digital economy's growth. The convenience of online shopping, for example, has transformed the retail sector.
- Education and Workforce: A well-educated and skilled workforce is essential for the digital economy. Investments in education and training are necessary to fill digital job roles and drive innovation.
- Market Competition: The level of competition among digital businesses can affect innovation and pricing, influencing the overall health of the digital economy.
- Data Ownership and Privacy: Data is a critical asset in the digital economy. Issues related to data ownership, usage, and privacy are of significant concern and can impact consumer trust.
- Cultural and Social Factors: Societal attitudes toward technology and digital behavior can affect the adoption and development of the digital economy. Cultural norms and values can influence how people use digital tools and services.
- Environmental Considerations: The energy consumption and environmental impact of digital infrastructure and services are increasingly important factors affecting the digital economy.

These factors interact and evolve over time, shaping the trajectory of the digital economy in different regions and industries. Successful digital economies require a holistic approach that addresses these various aspects to foster growth and innovation.

The digital economy is not without challenges. Issues like cybersecurity threats, digital monopolies, and the digital divide need addressing. Policymakers must strike a balance between enabling innovation and protecting consumer rights. Moreover, businesses must invest in digital skills and adapt to changing market dynamics.

## **Conclusions**

The digital economy is a dynamic and ever-evolving landscape. Its growth is fueled by technology, innovation, globalization, infrastructure, data, connectivity, ecommerce, and digital transformation. To thrive in this ecosystem, individuals and organizations must embrace change, adapt to new technologies, and comply with regulations. Policymakers should foster an environment that encourages innovation while ensuring the protection of consumer interests.

- Invest in Digital Literacy: Promote digital literacy to ensure that individuals can harness the opportunities presented by the digital economy.
- Balanced Regulation: Governments should establish regulations that foster innovation while safeguarding privacy, security, and competition.
- Infrastructure Development: Continued investment in digital infrastructure is crucial to bridge the digital divide and support the digital economy's expansion.
- Adopt Digital Transformation: Businesses should embrace digital transformation to remain competitive and provide enhanced customer experiences. In conclusion, the digital economy's success is contingent on a complex interplay of factors. Understanding and leveraging these factors is pivotal for individuals, businesses, and policymakers as they navigate this transformative digital landscape.

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