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As at the end of December 2014, internet subscriptions continued to advance, while TV and fixed telephone subscriptions registered a marginal decline over 2013.

Post and Telecommunications: Q4/2014

Cut-off date:
6 March 2015

Internet, analogue and digital TV subscriptions

During the last quarter of 2014, internet broadband subscriptions increased by 6.0 per cent reaching 151,557.

High speed internet connections exceeding 10 Mbps advanced by 14.4 per cent, reaching 141,864. In contrast, internet subscriptions with speed ranging from 2 to 10 Mbps decreased by 48.9 per cent (Table 2). The internet subscription index as at the end of the fourth quarter stood at 162.8, an increase of 6.0 per cent when compared to 2013 levels (Table 1).

Television subscriptions totalled 147,880, a slight decrease of 0.7 per cent when compared to the previous year. Digital subscriptions continued to dominate the market, while analogue subscriptions dropped by 8.6 per cent when compared to 2013 (Table 3).

Telecommunications

The number of fixed telephone subscriptions as at the end of December 2014 reached 230,361, down by 0.4 per cent over 2013. Total fixed originating minutes to national networks dropped by 5.2 per cent, and minutes towards international networks decreased by 8.4 per cent (Table 4).

With regard to local originating mobile traffic, increases were recorded towards fixed and mobile telephone networks by 7.6 and 8.9 per cent respectively (Table 5). Meanwhile, the number of SMSs sent while roaming went down by 18.8 per cent when compared to the fourth quarter of 2013.

Post and courier services

Total postal traffic during the reference quarter declined by 6.0 per cent and stood at over 10 million items. Items received and dispatched by couriers totalled 210,594, an increase of 15.9 per cent over the previous year ■

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**Table 1. Information society subscription indices
(2006=100)**

Subscription indices	Q4						% change 2014/2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Internet subscriptions	119.8	130.7	138.9	145.9	153.7	162.8	6.0
Analogue and digital television subscriptions	127.0	131.0	136.5	134.8	135.7	134.8	-0.7
Fixed telephony subscriptions	120.2	121.4	113.5	112.3	113.1	112.6	-0.4

Table 2. Internet subscriptions

Internet subscriptions	as at end of September	as at end of December		Q4 2014/2013	
	2014	2013	2014	Change	% change
Internet Subscriptions	151,460	143,010	151,557	8,547	6.0
Broadband					
Between 144 Kbps and less than 2 Mbps	20	28	28	0	0.0
Between 2 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps	10,721	18,922	9,665	-9,257	-48.9
10 Mbps and greater	140,719	124,060	141,864	17,804	14.4

Table 3. Analogue and digital TV subscriptions

Pay TV broadcasting	as at end of September	as at end of December		Q4 2014/2013	
	2014	2013	2014	Change	% change
Analogue and Digital subscriptions	149,394	148,905	147,880	-1,025	-0.7
Analogue subscriptions	7,062	7,495	6,848	-647	-8.6
Digital subscriptions (including IPTV)	142,332	141,410	141,032	-378	-0.3

Table 4. Fixed telephony overview

Fixed telephony subscriptions	as at end of September	as at end of December		Q4 2014/2013	
	2014	2013	2014	Change	% change
	232,213	231,331	230,361	-970	-0.4
Fixed telephony minutes	Q3	Q4		Q4 2014/2013	
	2014	2013	2014	Change	% change
Total fixed originating minutes to national networks	128,613,649	142,323,329	134,955,071	-7,368,258	-5.2
Fixed to fixed	112,801,555	126,748,779	119,175,341	-7,573,438	-6.0
Fixed to mobile	14,087,846	13,731,123	13,779,503	48,380	0.4
Other*	1,724,248	1,843,427	2,000,227	156,800	8.5
Total fixed originating minutes to international networks**	8,480,124	9,158,677	8,390,637	-768,040	-8.4

* Includes originating minutes through Internet, Freephone, Premium, Payphone calls and Paging networks

** Includes traditional fixed minutes and Calling cards

Table 5. Mobile telephony overview

Local originating mobile traffic*	Q3	Q4		Q4 2014/2013	
	2014	2013	2014	Change	% change
Local outgoing minutes to fixed traffic	19,410,637	18,734,102	20,155,058	1,420,956	7.6
Local outgoing minutes to mobile traffic	157,699,146	147,916,452	161,140,066	13,223,614	8.9
Mobile originating minutes to international networks	5,683,009	4,827,419	5,420,715	593,296	12.3
Outgoing SMS traffic	125,996,031	142,080,936	126,297,693	-15,783,243	-11.1
Outgoing MMS traffic	29,046	46,631	17,889	-28,742	-61.6
Roaming	Q3	Q4		Q4 2014/2013	
	2014	2013	2014	Change	% change
Outbound roaming (Maltese subscriptions abroad)					
Total minutes originated while roaming	2,676,493	1,852,393	2,165,988	313,595	16.9
Total minutes received while roaming	2,083,943	1,524,704	1,682,420	157,716	10.3
SMS sent while roaming	3,018,630	2,611,973	2,122,072	-489,901	-18.8
Inbound roaming (visitors in Malta)					
Total outgoing visitors minutes	10,689,340	5,325,684	6,598,712	1,273,028	23.9
Total incoming visitors minutes	9,008,419	4,913,902	5,511,374	597,472	12.2

* Excludes roaming

Table 6. National post: items received and dispatched

National post	Q3 2014	Q4		Q4 2014/2013	
		2013	2014	Change	% change
Traffic					
Domestic service*	7,427,539	8,318,321	7,918,052	-400,269	-4.8
Outbound service	628,129	873,133	780,891	-92,242	-10.6
Inbound service	1,073,825	1,484,371	1,340,981	-143,390	-9.7
Total traffic	9,129,493	10,675,825	10,039,924	-635,901	-6.0
Parcels and other items					
Domestic service	50	2,038	94	-1,944	-95.4
Outbound service	5,493	6,859	7,120	261	3.8
Inbound service	22,992	28,769	32,573	3,804	13.2
Total parcels and other items	28,535	37,666	39,787	2,121	5.6

* Includes all operators

Table 7. Courier service: items received and dispatched

Courier service	Q3 2014	Q4		Q4 2014/2013	
		2013	2014	Change	% change
Letters/documents	107,642	106,194	123,642	17,448	16.4
Parcels	66,638	75,566	86,952	11,386	15.1
Total traffic	174,280	181,760	210,594	28,834	15.9

Methodological Notes

1. The data published in this release are based on a quarterly census among providers of fixed and mobile telephony, television, internet, postal and courier services. The data are collected by the Malta Communications Authority (MCA).
2. The statistics in this release should be considered as provisional and are therefore subject to revision. Each release may include revisions of past quarterly data. Revisions may be carried out in respect of a rolling two-year period.
3. Data collection methods relating to the courier service were changed in January 2009. As a result, information for previous years may not be comparable.

4. Definitions:

- **Active mobile subscriber** are those who made at least one call, SMS, MMS or data activity both 2G and 3G during the period under review.
- **Active internet subscriptions** are defined as those connections by means of which a transaction was recorded within 90 days of the period stipulated. Past data have been revised.
- **Broadband** is defined as a connection to the internet which is constantly active and has a speed of more than 128 Kbps.
- **Active fixed telephony subscribers** are those who made and/or received calls within 90 days of the period stipulated.
- **Fixed line telephony** comprises calls originating from publicly available telephone services provided at a fixed location.
- **Internet Protocol Television (IPTV)** is a system through which television services are delivered using the internet protocol suite over a packet-switched network such as the internet, instead of being delivered through traditional terrestrial, satellite signal, and cable television formats.
- **International minutes** consumed through a fixed line refer to those provided by Internet Service Providers (ISP) and fixed telephony providers.
- **National**
 - Domestic Area:** Volume of domestically destined postal items falling within the reserved area.
 - Outbound:** Volume of domestically originating letters in the reserved area forwarded to foreign destinations.
 - Inbound:** Volume of foreign originating letters in the reserved area forwarded to Malta.

5. More information relating to this news release may be accessed at:
Statistical Concepts: <http://nso.gov.mt/metadata/concepts.aspx>