

News Release

e-stats service



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Information Society Statistics: October - December 2003

Mobile subscriptions up by 4.5 %.

In the 4th quarter last year, the number of mobile telephone subscriptions reached 289,992 an increase of 13,133 or 4.5 per cent over the same quarter in 2002. As a result, these added up to 72.5 per 100 population from 69.7 in the same period last year.

As end of December 2003, the number of Internet subscriptions went up by 9,813 or 12.7 per cent over the same period the year before. Consequently these amounted to 19.2 per 100 population compared to 16.9 in 2002.

Cable television subscriptions edged upwards by 4.4 per cent to 99,434 when compared to 95,107, in the fourth quarter of 2002. The ratio of subscriptions per 100 population rose to 24.9 during the quarter under review from 23.9 a year before.

At the same time, the number of satellite receiver licenses went up by 1,083 or 6.7 per cent to 16,154 compared to the fourth quarter last year. As a result, in the period under review the population disposed of 4 satellite receivers per 100 population.

Drops of 6 per cent and 13.1 per cent respectively were recorded in pager subscriptions and in two-way radio licenses. A small drop was also recorded in public phone facilities in Malta and Gozo between the third and fourth quarter of 2003, while the number of fixed telephone registered a slight increase. This news release also includes public web phones, which amount to 69 in Malta and Gozo.

Tables 4 and 5 provides a comparison with European countries for Internet users and mobile telephone subscriptions. The number of mobile telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in the EU in 2002 was 79. In many candidate countries it is comparable to that in member states, with Malta, the Czech Republic and Slovenia leading the way.

Additional Notes:

All data is to be considered as provisional. The source on the number of satellite receiver licences and two-way radio licences is: The Department of Wireless & Telegraphy. Data on Internet subscriptions cover subscriptions in households and businesses, but do not include any subscriptions related to educational institutions or facilities.

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Table 1. Information Society indicators

	October - December			Absolute Change	Annual % Change
	2001	2002	2003		
Internet Subscriptions	51,343	67,001	76,814	9,813	12.7
Mobile telephone subscriptions	220,545	276,859	289,992	13,133	4.5
Pager Subscriptions	4,866	4,645	4,383	-262	-6.0
Fixed telephone lines	207,745	207,269	208,271	1,002	0.5
Public coin phones	-	-	173	-	-
Public card phones	-	-	1,591	-	-
Public webphones	-	-	69	-	-
Cable television subscriptions	90,091	95,107	99,434	4,327	4.4
Satellite receiver licences	9,189	15,071	16,154	1,083	6.7
Two-way radio licences	1,189	1,130	999	-131	-13.1

Source: National Statistics Office

Table 2. Information society indicators per 100 population

	October -December					
	Number			Per 100 population		
	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Internet Subscriptions	51,343	67,001	76,814	13.0	16.9	19.2
Mobile telephone subscriptions	220,545	276,859	289,992	55.9	69.7	72.5
Pager subscriptions	4,866	4,645	4,383	1.2	1.2	1.1
Fixed telephone lines	207,745	207,269	208,271	52.6	52.0	52.0
Public coin phones	-	-	173	-	-	-
Public card phones	-	-	1,591	-	-	-
Public Webphones	-	-	69	-	-	-
Cable television subscriptions	90,091	95,107	99,434	22.8	23.9	24.9
Satellite receiver licences	9,189	15,071	16,154	2.3	3.8	4.0
Two-way radio licences	1,189	1,130	999	0.3	0.3	0.2

Source: National Statistics Office

Table 3. Internet and mobile telephone subscriptions

	2001				2002				2003			
	March	June	Sept	Dec	March	June	Sept	Dec	March	June	Sept	Dec
	Internet subscriptions	38,432	41,962	45,954	51,343	55,223	58,440	61,704	67,001	70,234	71,515	72,962
Mobile telephone subscriptions	135,465	160,116	183,602	220,545	235,809	239,122	253,907	276,859	274,613	275,156	280,847	289,992

Source: National Statistics Office

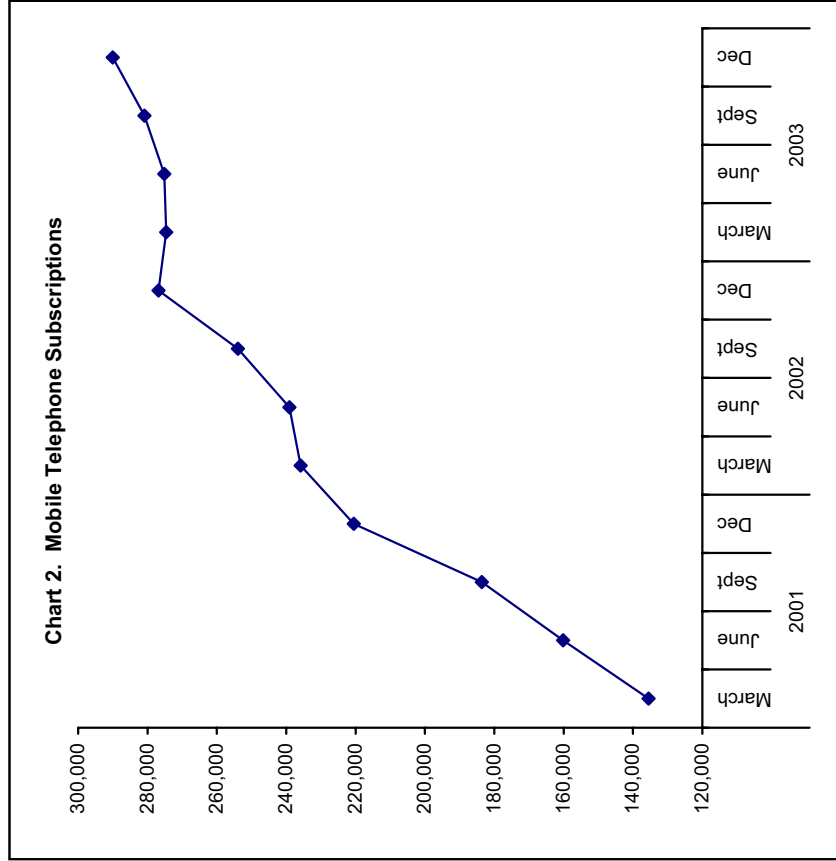
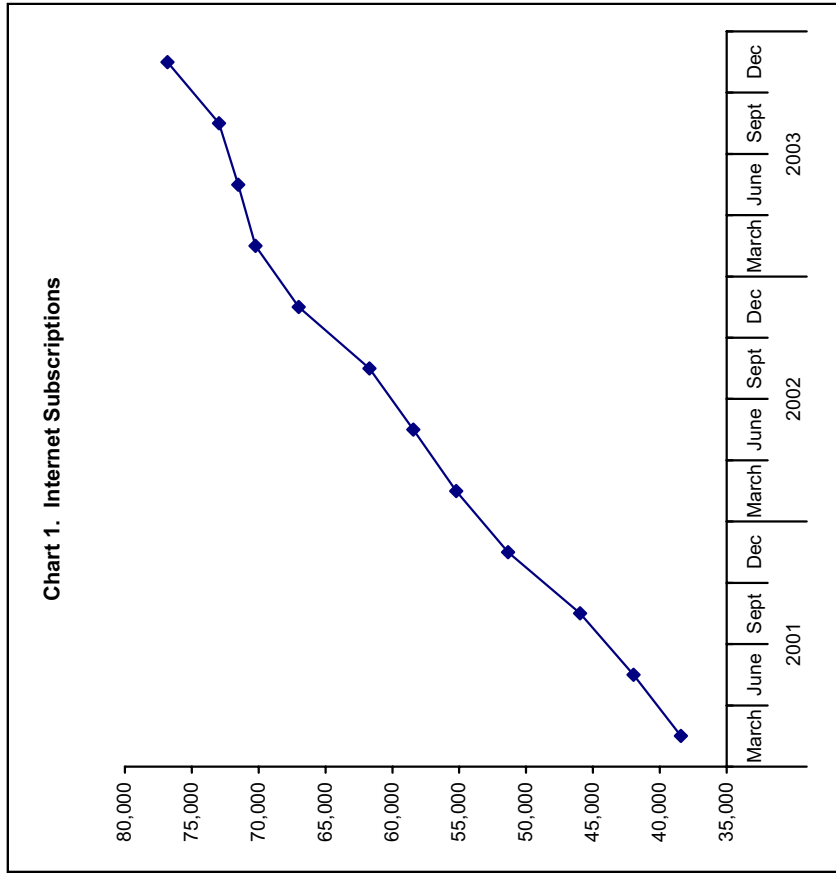
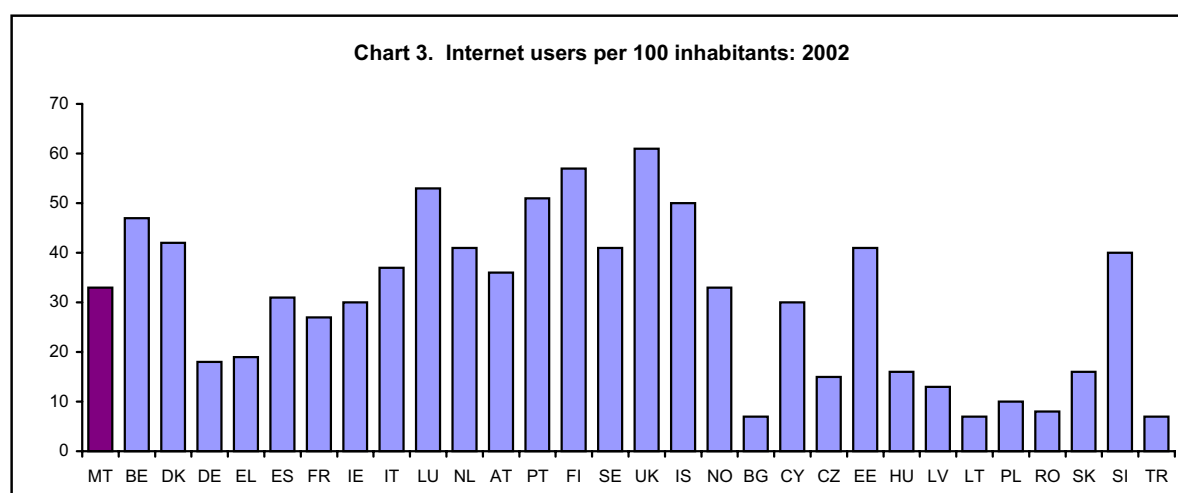


Table 4. Internet users in selected European countries

	No of users (000)			Users per 100 inhabitants		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
Malta	51	99	:	13	25	:
Belgium	3,000	3,200	3,400	29	31	33
Denmark	2,090	2,300	2,500	39	43	47
Germany	24,800	30,800	35,000	30	37	42
Greece	1,000	1,400	2,000	9	13	18
Spain	5,486	7,388	7,856	14	18	19
France	8,460	15,653	18,716	14	26	31
Ireland	679	895	1,065	18	23	27
Italy	13,200	15,600	17,000	23	27	30
Luxembourg	100	160	165	23	36	37
Netherlands	7,000	7,900	8,590	44	49	53
Austria	2,700	3,150	3,340	33	39	41
Portugal	2,500	2,900	3,700	25	28	36
Finland	1,927	2,235	2,650	37	43	51
Sweden	4,048	4,600	5,125	46	52	57
United Kingdom	15,800	19,800	24,000	26	33	41
Iceland	168	172	175	60	60	61
Norway	1,950	2,100	2,300	43	46	50
Switzerland	2,096	2,224	2,375	29	31	33
Bulgaria	430	605	:	5	7	:
Cyprus	120	150	210	18	22	30
Czech Republic	1,000	1,500	:	10	15	:
Estonia	392	430	560	27	30	41
Hungary	715	1,480	1,600	7	15	16
Latvia	150	170	310	6	7	13
Lithuania	225	250	:	6	7	:
Poland	2,800	3,800	:	7	10	:
Romania	800	1,000	1,800	4	4	8
Slovak Republic	507	674	863	9	13	16
Slovenia	300	600	800	15	30	40
Turkey	2,000	4,000	4,900	3	6	7

(Source Eurostat Information Society Statistics - Pocketbook 2003)

: Not available (in the case of Malta internet subscribers are collected rather than users).



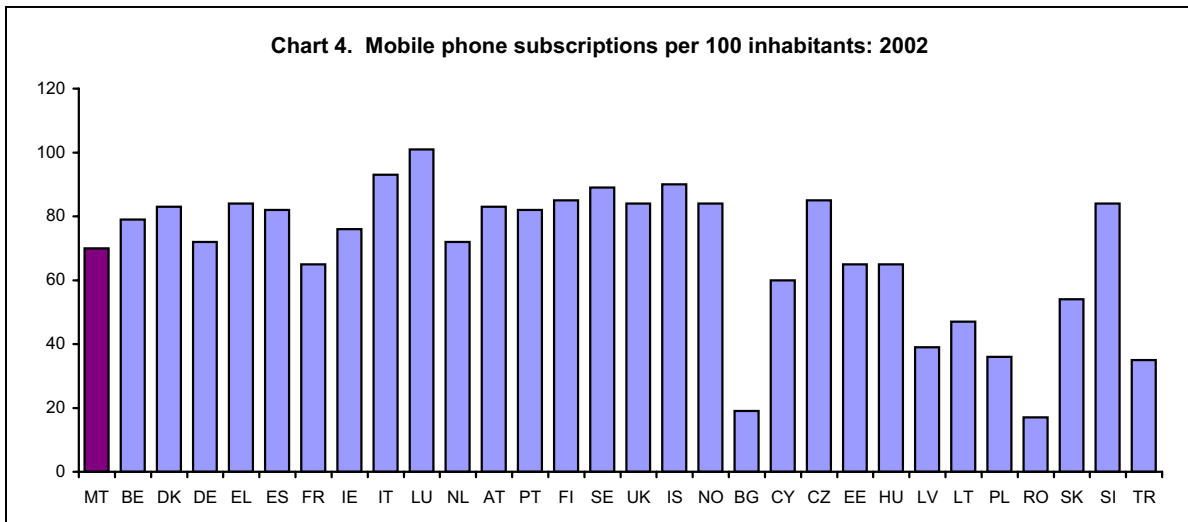
Note: A list of the country codes and the countries to which they relate can be consulted on page 6.

Table 5. Mobile Subscriptions in selected European countries

	No of users (000)			Users per 100 inhabitants		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
Malta	114	239	277	29	61	70
Belgium	5,336	7,697	8,136	52	75	79
Denmark	3,364	3,960	4,478	63	74	83
Germany	48,202	56,245	59,200	59	68	72
Greece	5,932	7,962	9,240	56	75	84
Spain	24,265	29,656	33,475	60	73	82
France	29,052	35,922	38,585	49	61	65
Ireland	2,461	2,970	2,969	65	77	76
Italy	42,246	51,246	52,316	74	88	93
Luxembourg	455	409	455	69	92	101
Netherlands	11,700	12,352	11,700	67	77	72
Austria	6,760	6,650	6,760	77	88	83
Portugal	8,529	7,978	8,529	66	92	82
Finland	4,400	4,176	4,400	72	77	85
Sweden	7,915	7,042	7,915	72	82	89
United Kingdom	49,921	46,282	49,921	73	77	84
Iceland	215	248	260	76	86	90
Norway	3,368	3,689	3,842	75	81	84
Bulgaria	738	1,550	:	9	19	:
Cyprus	218	314	418	32	46	60
Czech Republic	4,346	6,947	8,610	42	68	85
Estonia	557	651	881	39	46	65
Hungary	3,076	4,967	6,562	31	50	65
Latvia	401	657	917	17	28	39
Lithuania	524	1,018	1,632	14	28	47
Poland	6,747	10,005	14,000	17	26	36
Romania	2,499	3,845	:	11	17	:
Slovak Republic	1,110	2,147	2,923	21	40	54
Slovenia	1,216	1,470	1,667	61	74	84
Turkey	16,133	19,573	23,374	25	30	35

(Source Eurostat Information Society Statistics - Pocketbook 2003)

: Not available



Note: A list of the country codes and the countries to which they relate can be consulted on page 6.

List of Internationally adopted Country Codes

State	Country Code
Austria	AT
Belgium	BE
Bulgaria	BG
Cyprus	CY
Czech Republic	CZ
Denmark	DK
Estonia	EE
Finland	FI
France	FR
Germany	DE
Greece	EL
Hungary	HU
Iceland	IS
Ireland	IE
Italy	IT
Latvia	LV
Liechtenstein	LI
Lithuania	LT
Luxembourg	LU
Malta	MT
Netherlands	NL
Norway	NO
Poland	PL
Portugal	PT
Romania	RO
Slovak Republic	SK
Slovenia	SI
Spain	ES
Sweden	SE
Switzerland	CH
Turkey	TR
United Kingdom	UK