

News Release

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BUSINESS STATISTICS

Post and Telecommunications

Telecommunications

This is the first comprehensive release published by the NSO, which presents details of the operations of the post and telecommunications sector in the Maltese economy.

Total cellular (mobile) calls increased by 26.38 per cent from 104.2 million minutes in 2002 to 131.7 million minutes in 2003. Calls from mobile to fixed networks increased by Lm 0.51 million minutes from 2002 to 2003, a 1.55 per cent increase (see Table 1). Short text messages (SMSes) increased by 56.74 per cent between 2002 and 2003.

International receipts from mobile telephony increased by 5.87 per cent, whilst payments increased by 17.42 per cent for the period 2002 to 2003 (see Table 2.). Total turnover from mobile telephony increased by 22.84 per cent from Lm 34.02 million in 2002 to Lm 41.79 million in 2003.

Investment in mobile telecommunications (GSM, GPRS) registered an increase of Lm 7.15 millions or 60.64 per cent between 2000-2001, but decreased by Lm13.05 millions or 68.90 per cent between 2001-2002. In 2003, investment increased by Lm 2.14 million or 36.33 per cent over 2002.

Post & Couriers

The national post, registered an increase of 8.21 per cent on 'registered parcels and other items received' between 2002 and 2003, from 827,074 and 895,008 respectively. An increase of 2.96 per cent was reported for the item under 'Letters, printed paper, newspapers & postcards received' from abroad, having 9.0 million items during 2002 to 9.3 million during 2003 (see Table 6.)

On the other hand, locally posted 'Letters, printed paper, newspapers & postcards received' decreased from 57.70 million items during 2002, to 52.78 million items during 2003, a decrease of 8.52 per cent. Locally dispatched 'Letters, printed paper, newspapers & postcards' dropped from 60.92 million items to 46.58 million items, a 23.54 per cent decrease.

Postal and Money order transactions, in value terms, have all dropped, from 2002 to 2003. Giros were not cashed during 2003, (see Table 7).

Courier Service

Employment dropped from 115 full-time (equivalent) persons to 108, from 2002 to 2003, a 6.09 per cent decrease. Wages and salaries dropped by 7.35 per cent in the same period (see Table 8). Total Turnover dropped by 8.87 per cent, from Lm 2.1 million during 2002 to Lm 1.9 million during 2003. The number of letters and parcels services, between 2002 and 2003, increased by 0.74 per cent and 1.30 per cent respectively. Efficiency increased from 89 per cent of items delivered within 2 working days to 90 per cent from 2002 to 2003.

The monthly calendar of NSO News Releases may be consulted on the Office's website at www.nso.gov.mt

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Table 1. Local and International calls and SMSes

	End of year 2000	End of year 2001	End of year 2002	Jan - Sep 2003	End of year 2003
Local calls					
Local calls * (pulses)	325,177	298,851			
Local calls (minutes)			1,053,959 **	829,204	
Calls from fixed to mobile networks (minutes)	42,307	68,269	79,027	44,609	
Cellular mobile calls, total (minutes)	57,320	83,635	104,201		131,688
Of which:					
Calls within mobile networks (minutes)	32,722	37,177	45,478		59,466
Calls from mobile to mobile networks (minutes)	237	13,287	25,901		38,891
Calls from mobile to fixed networks (minutes)	24,361	33,171	32,822		33,331
International calls					
International calls, incoming calls (total, all of the world)	19,474	34,106	40,060		
International calls, outgoing calls (total, all of the world)	25,249	29,610	31,551		
Short text messages [SMS] (thousands of messages)	4,047	106,190	232,562		364,518

* 2000 and 2001 figures are in pulses, but as from 1FEB 2002 onwards, figures are in minutes (via Cerillion).

** Local calls (within Maltese Islands) from February to December 2002

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Table 2. International telecommunications traffic

(Lm millions)

International Traffic	as at end of the year			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Receipts of telecommunication services - International incoming traffic (total)				
Mobile Telephony	5.09	5.67	5.28	5.59
Fixed Telephony	3.09	4.57	3.07	
Payments of telecommunication services - International outgoing traffic (total)				
Mobile Telephony	0.54	0.96	1.55	1.82
Fixed Telephony	3.96	4.26	2.79	

Table 3. Investment in Telecommunications

(Lm millions)

	as at end of the year				Jan to Sep
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003
Total gross investment in tangible goods					
Mobile Telephony	13.23	20.95	6.86	8.94	
Fixed Telephony	4.25	4.68	15.33		10.71
Investment in mobile telecommunications; GSM, GPRS	11.79	18.94	5.89	8.03	

Table 4. Fixed and mobile telephony subscribers

Subscriptions	as at end of the year				end Sep
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2003
Leased Lines	2,150	1,996	1,525		1,267
Fixed telephone lines	203,731	208,000	208,849		211,282
Mobile Telephony	109,882	221,196	276,859	289,992	

Table 5. Turnover from Telecommunications

(Lm millions)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	
	December			September	December
	Turnover (total receipts) from telecommunications				
i) Fixed Telephony (Total)	46.58	44.96	43.58	30.52	
Leased Lines	1.64	1.24	1.01	0.86	
Turnover from fixed networks	26.34	26.02	24.20	16.48	
Interconnection services	3.33	3.60	4.05	3.40	
ii) Mobile Telephony (Total)	21.44	27.15	34.02		41.79
Turnover from cellular mobile telecommunications	15.99	20.76	24.97		30.60
Interconnection services	5.45	6.39	9.05		11.19

Table 6. National post: items received and despatched

National Post Statistics	2000	2001	2002	2003
1. Offices	52	52	52	52
Letters, Printed Paper, Newspapers & Postcards Received				
2. Posted locally (thousands)	52,448	53,627	57,696	52,782
3. From abroad (thousands)	8,280	8,389	9,034	9,301
4. (of which from 3. above) Air mail (thousand)	6,160	7,500	8,600	8,800
Parcel and Other Items Received				
5. Registered - foreign and inland	673,417	865,153	827,074	895,008
6. Parcels - inland	207	329	372	214
7. Parcels - foreign	34,644	30,516	24,100	19,543
8. Air mail parcels	26,873	23,040	16,877	14,080
Letters, Printed Papers, Newspapers & Postcards Despatched				
9. Disposed of locally (thousand)	54,117	56,099	60,922	46,580
10. Despatched abroad (thousand)	6,611	5,918	5,809	5,325
11. Air mail (thousand)	6,611	5,918	5,809	5,325
Parcels and other items despatched				
12. Registered - foreign	169,378	177,444	144,806	128,300
13. Parcels - foreign	11,185	11,877	12,095	11,961
14. Air mail parcels	8,319	8,701	8,830	9,026

Table 7. National Post: Postal and Money Order Transactions

Postal and money order transactions		2000	2001	2002	2003
Postal Orders					
Issued	Number	25,131	19,889	18,255	19,281
	Lm	186,370	587,717	135,897	131,924
Cashed	Number	2,789	2,372	2,901	2,097
	Lm	24,282	130,858	24,984	18,457
Money Order					
Issued	Number	24,408	30,984	24,338	19,867
	Lm	368,788	492,147	428,591	404,839
Cashed	Number	23,822	29,896	23,540	21,260
	Lm	372,667	488,262	428,687	395,996
Foreign					
Issued	Number	2,694	2,685	2,426	752
	Lm	48,941	57,238	45,441	41,780
Cashed	Number	1,211	978	579	531
	Lm	89,287	76,571	47,144	43,500
Giros Enchased No		968	205	102	0
	Lm	59,496	13,724	7,890	0

Source: Maltapost plc

Table 8. Courier Statistics

All private couriers	2001	2002	2003
Employment (into full time equivalents), average of the year	110	115	108
Wages and Salaries	745,312	649,938	602,165
Access Points:			
Offices open to the public	7	7	7
Finacial Results:			
Total turnover from the provision of service	1,978,021	2,138,785	1,949,085
Operating expenditures for the provision of service	504,898	640,080	598,381
Investments	19,324	14,387	19,152
Breakdown of Turnover from Courier & or Express and Parcels Service:			
Turnover from letters/documents	877,381	965,230	868,292
Turnover from Parcels	478,270	560,334	552,491
Breakdown of Traffic:			
Breakdown of standard service:			
Number of letters/documents	98,926	114,580	115,433
Number of parcels	67,246	74,408	75,372
Total number of outgoing items dispatched	66,550	76,804	77,874
Total number of incoming items dispatched	202,875	218,410	219,730
Quality Indicators:			
Delivery:			
Percentage of population having items delivered at home	71	72	72
Percentage of population having to collect items from offices	29	28	28
Number of deliveries per day	427	476	507
Efficiency:			
International incoming service:			
Percentage of items delivered by D+2 (working days)	85	89	90
Percentage of items delivered by D+3 (working days)	15	11	10