

# News Release



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**Compiled by:**

**Business Statistics Unit**  
e-mail: [stbs.nso@gov.mt](mailto:stbs.nso@gov.mt)  
Tel: 25997339

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## Information Society

### Information Society: January - March 2005

#### Internet Subscriptions

This release provides indices from 2004 to the 1st quarter 2005. In the first quarter of 2005, the internet subscriptions index rose by 8.2 per cent from 256.1 in 2004 to 277.2 in 2005. The rate of internet subscriptions per 100 population reached 21.7, down from 21.9 per 100 population recorded in the previous period in 2004. The number of narrow band and broad band subscriptions reached 49,346 and 37,804 respectively.

#### T. V Licences and Cable Subscriptions

T. V Licences as end of March 2005 stood at 123,200 amounting to 30.6 per 100 population. In the same quarter, the cable subscriptions index rose by 2.7 per cent from 124.2 to 127.5 recorded in the same period in 2004. Cable television subscriptions amounted to 25.5 per 100 population as at the end of the first quarter of 2005.

#### Telephone Communications

In the period under review, the mobile phone subscriptions index showed an increase of 18.7 per cent. The number of mobile telephones reached 315,393 in absolute terms, that is 78.5 per 100 population. The number of contract based mobile telephone subscriptions reached 24,626. The number of card plan mobile telephone subscriptions reached 290,767. In the first quarter this year, the number of minutes consumed to mobile networks amounted to over 29.7 million minutes while those directed to the fixed line network amounted to around 4.7 million minutes. This signified a drop of 4.7 per cent and 50.0 per cent respectively. A drop of 2.1 per cent was recorded in the number of SMS. On the other hand a rise of 84,150 MMS was recorded in the first quarter of 2005. The minutes consumed for the WAP service stood at 32,392 in the period under review. This amounts to an increase of 32.4 per cent between the first quarter 2005 and the fourth quarter 2004.

In the first quarter of 2005, the fixed telephone subscriptions index rose by 1.2 per cent from 102.8 in 2004 to 104.6 in 2005. The number of minutes used in fixed line telephony on local calls decreased by around 2.5 million when compared to the fourth quarter 2004. The recorded drop was in the use of residential fixed telephone lines for local calls purposes. This amounted to around 178.2 million. A rise of over 1 million minutes was recorded in the use of business fixed line telephones for local calls. The amount of minutes taken up by international calls from fixed line telephones increased by around 7,960 minutes in the first quarter when compared to the previous quarter. The number of international calls from fixed telephone lines decreased by 1.8 per cent when compared to the fourth quarter 2004.

In the first quarter this year, the use of VOIP reached around 7 million minutes; an increase of around 2.3 million minutes over the period last year. The pager subscriptions index decreased by 2.3 per cent from 85.4 to 83.4 over the first quarter in 2004 and 2005 respectively ■

**National Statistics Office**  
**Library & Information Unit**  
Lascaris, Valletta CMR 02, Malta  
Tel: (+356) 25997219  
Fax: (+356) 25997205  
e-mail: [nso@gov.mt](mailto:nso@gov.mt)  
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>

**Table 1. Information society subscriptions indices**

2000=100

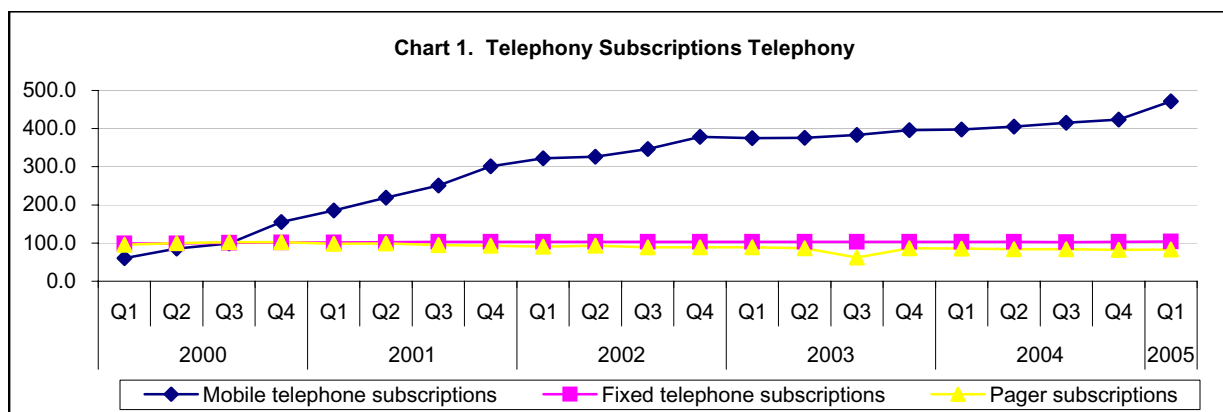
	2004				2005	Annual % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	
Internet subscriptions	256.1	256.7	272.8	276.0	277.2	8.2
Fixed telephony subscriptions	102.8	102.9	102.5	103.1	104.0	1.2
Mobile telephony subscriptions	397.4	404.9	415.3	421.3	471.8	18.7
Pager subscriptions	85.4	83.8	83.9	82.2	83.4	-2.3
Cable subscriptions	124.2	126.7	125.5	125.8	127.5	2.7
Two way radio subscriptions	79.4	77.7	75.9	73.8	73.7	-7.2

**Table 2. Telephony subscriptions indices**

2000=100

	2000			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Mobile telephone subscriptions	60.5	85.5	99.0	155.0
Fixed telephone subscriptions	98.9	99.1	100.6	101.4
Pager subscriptions	95.7	100.0	102.2	102.1
2001				
Mobile telephone subscriptions	185.1	218.7	250.8	301.3
Fixed telephone subscriptions	101.9	102.3	103.2	103.2
Pager subscriptions	97.9	98.6	94.4	93.1
2002				
Mobile telephone subscriptions	322.1	326.7	346.9	378.2
Fixed telephone subscriptions	103.1	102.8	103.4	102.9
Pager subscriptions	90.6	93.5	89.1	89.1
2003				
Mobile telephone subscriptions	375.1	375.9	383.7	396.2
Fixed telephone subscriptions	103.1	103.1	103.1	103.4
Pager subscriptions	88.8	86.3	62.0	86.3
2004				
Mobile telephone subscriptions	397.4	404.9	415.3	423.5
Fixed telephone subscriptions	102.8	102.9	102.5	103.1
Pager subscriptions	85.4	83.8	83.9	82.2
2005				
Mobile telephone subscriptions	471.8			
Fixed telephone subscriptions	104.0			
Pager subscriptions	83.4			

**Chart 1. Telephony Subscriptions Telephony**



**Table 3. Mobile telephony**

	2004	2005	Absolute change	Percentage change
	Oct - Dec	Jan-March		
<b>Number of subscriptions (total)</b>	<b>308,401</b>	<b>315,393</b>	6,992	2.3
Contract based subscriptions	23,780	24,626	846	3.6
Card plan subscriptions	284,621	290,767	6,146	2.2
<b>Minutes consumed to mobile networks</b>	31,201,896	29,743,349	-1,458,547	-4.7
<b>Minutes consumed to fixed lines</b>	9,419,705	4,712,117	-4,707,588	-50.0
<b>Number of SMS</b>	99,074,020	96,992,073	-2,081,947	-2.1
<b>Number of MMS</b>	75,452	159,602	84,150	111.5
<b>WAP (minutes consumed)</b>	24,467	32,392	7,925	32.4

**Table 4. Internet and Cable Subscriptions Indices**

2000=100

2000				
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Internet	82.4	91.7	103.6	122.4
Cable	96.3	98.9	101.6	103.3
2001				
Internet	122.4	133.6	146.3	163.5
Cable	104.4	107.3	110.8	112.2
2002				
Internet	175.8	186.1	196.4	213.3
Cable	112.5	115.9	118.2	118.4
2003				
Internet	223.6	227.7	232.3	249.2
Cable	119.9	121.7	123.2	123.8
2004				
Internet	223.6	227.7	232.3	249.2
Cable	119.9	121.7	123.2	123.8
2005				
Internet	277.2			
Cable	127.5			

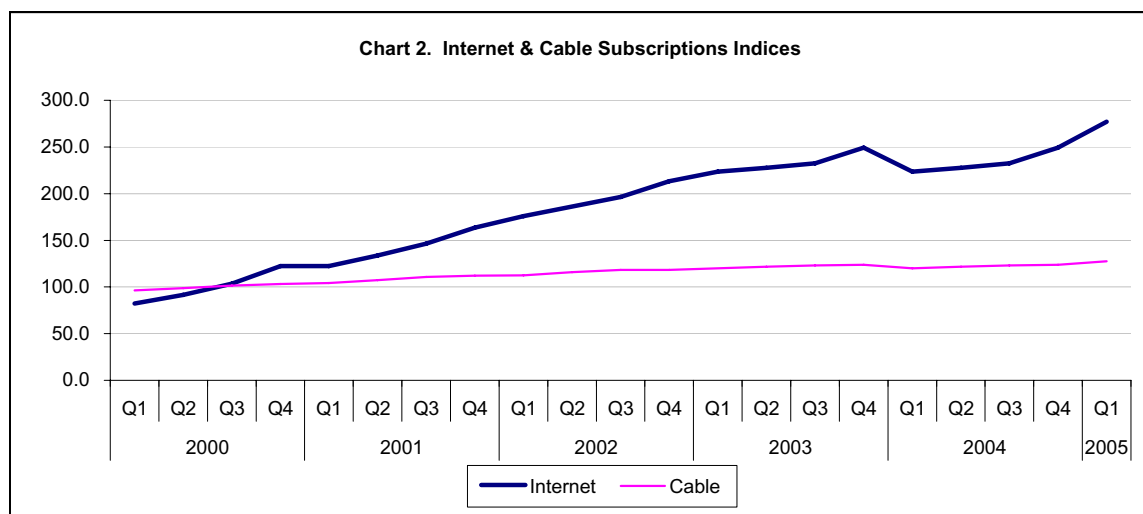


Table 5. Information society indicators per 100 population

	Number						Per 100 population					
	As end of December					As end of March						
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Internet Subscriptions</b>	<b>32,534</b>	<b>51,343</b>	<b>67,001</b>	<b>78,260</b>	<b>56,691</b>	<b>87,050</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>21.7</b>
Narrow Band	:	:	:	:	52,202	49,346	:	:	:	:	13.3	12.3
Broad Band	:	:	:	:	34,589	37,804	:	:	:	:	8.5	9.4
Mobile telephone subscriptions	113,439	220,545	276,859	289,902	308,401	315,393	<b>29.7</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>72.5</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>78.5</b>
Pager Subscriptions	5,336	4,866	4,645	4,511	4,300	4,362	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Fixed Telephone lines	204,193	207,745	207,269	208,271	207,664	209,441	<b>53.4</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>52.1</b>
VOIP (minutes Consumed)	:	:	:	3,815,679	6,308,017	7,168,729	:	:	:	:	:	:
Public coin phones	:	:	:	173	170	155	:	:	:	:	:	:
Public card phones	:	:	:	1,591	1,310	1,240	:	:	:	:	:	:
Public webphones	:	:	:	69	71	71	:	:	:	:	:	:
Cable television subscriptions	82,934	90,091	95,107	99,732	101,000	102,372	<b>21.7</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>25.5</b>
T.V Licences	:	:	:	:	123,177	123,200	:	:	:	:	<b>30.7</b>	<b>30.6</b>
Two-way radio licences	1,223	1,189	1,130	981	912		<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Table 6. Fixed telephony

	2004	2005	Absolute change	Percentage change
	Oct - Dec	Jan - March		
<b>Number of subscriptions (total)</b>	<b>207,664</b>	<b>209,441</b>	<b>1,777</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Residential	166,501	167,321	<b>820</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Business	41,163	42,120	<b>957</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Minutes consumed for local fixed lines</b>	<b>216,785,369</b>	<b>214,250,948</b>	<b>-2,534,421</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Residential	156,973,366	148,204,943	<b>-8,768,423</b>	<b>-5.6</b>
Business	59,812,003	66,046,005	<b>6,234,002</b>	<b>10.4</b>
<b>Minutes consumed for international fixed telephone lines</b>	<b>4,074,755</b>	<b>4,082,715</b>	<b>7,960</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Number of calls consumed for international fixed lines</b>	<b>1,261,251</b>	<b>1,238,062</b>	<b>-23,189</b>	<b>-1.8</b>

## **Methodological Notes**

1. The data in this release are based on a quarterly census among fixed and mobile telephone, cable television and internet service providers. Other data were obtained from the Department of Wireless and Telegraphy.
2. On the basis of the information provided indices have been calculated for major groups showing the level of specified variable (for example internet subscriptions), relative to the average level throughout the base year 2000.
3. These statistics are as at the end of each quarter.
4. The statistics in this release should be considered as current and thereby 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.

## **5. Definitions**

Internet subscriptions are inclusive of household and business subscriptions but are exclusive of the subscriptions of educational institutions.

Broadband Internet subscriptions are inclusive of dial-up, ISDN and mobile internet while broadband is inclusive of ADSL and cable.

**ISDN** - Integrated Services Digital Network: a service provided by telecoms operators provided end-to-end digital links - giving users greater bandwidth and faster call setup times.

**ADSL** - Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line. A high-speed, high bandwidth telephone lines.

**WAP** - Wireless Application Protocol. The mobile equivalent of HTML

**VOIP** - voice over internet protocol - this is telephony over the internet.