

# News Release



Date: 2 June 2006  
No. : 120/2006  
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

**Theme:**  
**Industry and Services**

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## Information Society

April 2006

### Internet subscriptions

The internet subscription index rose by 0.04 per cent from 284.9 as at end March 2006 to 285.0 as at end April 2006. The rate of Internet subscriptions per 100 persons reached 22.2. Narrowband and broadband subscriptions were respectively recorded at 47,055 and 42,622.

### Cable and digital subscriptions

In the month under review, the cable and digital subscription index rose by 0.08 per cent from 128.0 in March 2006 to 128.1 in April 2006. Cable and digital television subscriptions were recorded at 26.9 per 100 persons as at end of April 2006.

In absolute terms, the total of cable and digital subscriptions totalled 108,638. An increase of 0.07 per cent was recorded over the previous month. In the month under review analogue subscriptions decreased by 1.6 per cent while digital subscriptions increased by 4.9 per cent.

### Telephone communication

In the month under review, a decrease of 0.02 per cent was recorded in the mobile subscription index. The number of mobile telephone subscriptions reached 325,229 in absolute terms; this translates into 80.4 per cent of the population. Contract-based mobile telephone subscriptions were recorded at 27,902, while card-plan subscriptions reached 297,327. Around 13.9 million minutes were consumed in mobile telephone networks, while those directed from mobile to fixed-line networks amounted to around 2 million. Table 2 shows a distinction between local and international networks with regard to mobile calls directed to both mobile and fixed networks. In April 2006 the mobile communication traffic included around 32.4 million SMSs; 55,521 MMSs; and 13,726 WAPs.

As at end April 2006 the fixed telephone subscription index remained unchanged from the previous month - 104.1 per cent. Minutes consumed in fixed-line telephony on local calls amounted to around 53.6 million, with some 37.6 million minutes from residential subscriptions and the rest from business premises subscriptions. The international fixed-telephony traffic comprised 217,240 calls, equivalent to around 0.7 million minutes.

In the month under review VOIP minutes were estimated at around 0.7 million. At 91.3 the pager subscription index remained the same as in March 2006 ■

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Table 1. Information society subscription indices

|  | 2000                   | 2001  | 2002  | 2003  | 2004  | 2005  | 2006            |                 | Monthly % change |
|--|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
|  | as end of December     |       |       |       |       |       | as end of March | as end of April |                  |
|  | Internet subscriptions | 122.4 | 163.5 | 213.3 | 249.2 | 276.0 | 282.6           | 284.9           |                  |
| Fixed telephony subscriptions            | 101.4                  | 103.2 | 102.9 | 103.4 | 103.1 | 103.9 | 104.1           | 104.1           | 0.00             |
| Mobile telephony subscriptions           | 155.0                  | 301.3 | 378.2 | 396.2 | 421.3 | 443.7 | 444.9           | 444.8           | -0.02            |
| Pager subscriptions                      | 102.1                  | 93.1  | 89.1  | 86.3  | 82.2  | 91.8  | 91.3            | 91.3            | 0.00             |
| Cable & Digital television subscriptions | 103.3                  | 112.2 | 118.4 | 123.8 | 125.8 | 127.8 | 128.0           | 128.1           | 0.08             |

Table 2. Mobile telephony

|  | March             | April             | Absolute change   | % Monthly change |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>As at end of period</b>                         |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| <b>Number of subscriptions (total)</b>             | <b>325,642</b>    | <b>325,229</b>    | <b>-413</b>       | <b>-0.1</b>      |
| Contract-based subscriptions                       | 27,615            | 27,902            | 287               | 1.0              |
| Card-plan subscriptions                            | 298,027           | 297,327           | -700              | -0.2             |
| <b>Monthly total</b>                               |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| <b>Minutes consumed to mobile networks (total)</b> | <b>14,046,356</b> | <b>13,883,843</b> | <b>-162,513</b>   | <b>-1.2</b>      |
| Directed to local mobile networks                  | 13,669,377        | 13,115,497        | -553,880          | -4.1             |
| Directed to international mobile networks          | 376,979           | 768,346           | 391,367           | 103.8            |
| <b>Minutes consumed to fixed networks (total)</b>  | <b>2,243,235</b>  | <b>1,974,170</b>  | <b>-269,065</b>   | <b>-12.0</b>     |
| Directed to local fixed networks                   | 1,602,687         | 1,567,016         | -35,671           | -2.2             |
| Directed to international fixed networks           | 640,548           | 407,154           | -233,394          | -36.4            |
| <b>Number of SMSs</b>                              | <b>35,117,544</b> | <b>32,397,446</b> | <b>-2,720,098</b> | <b>-7.7</b>      |
| <b>Number of MMSs</b>                              | <b>57,592</b>     | <b>55,521</b>     | <b>-2,071</b>     | <b>-3.6</b>      |
| <b>WAP (minutes consumed)</b>                      | <b>13,584</b>     | <b>13,726</b>     | <b>142</b>        | <b>1.0</b>       |

**Table 3. Fixed telephony**

|  | 2006              |                   | Absolute change   | % Monthly change |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|  | March             | April             |                   |                  |
| <b>As at end of period</b>   |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| <b>Number of subscriptions (total)</b>                                 | <b>209,429</b>    | <b>209,314</b>    | <b>-115</b>       | <b>-0.1</b>      |
| Residential  | 169,966           | 169,949           | -17               | 0.0              |
| Business   | 39,463            | 39,365            | -98               | -0.2             |
| <b>Monthly total</b>   |                   |                   |                   |                  |
| <b>Minutes consumed to local fixed lines (total)</b>                   | <b>58,271,140</b> | <b>53,632,836</b> | <b>-4,638,304</b> | <b>-8.0</b>      |
| Residential  | 40,333,733        | 37,595,681        | -2,738,052        | -6.8             |
| Business   | 17,937,407        | 16,037,155        | -1,900,252        | -10.6            |
| <b>Minutes consumed to international fixed telephone lines</b>         | <b>597,437</b>    | <b>656,272</b>    | <b>58,835</b>     | <b>9.8</b>       |
| <b>Number of calls directed to international fixed telephone lines</b> | <b>211,262</b>    | <b>217,240</b>    | <b>5,978</b>      | <b>2.8</b>       |

**Table 4. Cable and digital TV**

|                                | 2006    |         | Absolute change | % Monthly change |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|------------------|
|                                | March   | April   |                 |                  |
| Cable & Digital Subscriptions  | 108,558 | 108,638 | 80              | 0.07             |
| Analogue Service Subscriptions | 78,963  | 77,674  | -1,289          | -1.6             |
| Digital Service Subscriptions  | 25,785  | 27,059  | 1,274           | 4.9              |
| Sports Channel Subscriptions   | 20,451  | 20,625  | 174             | 0.9              |

**Note:** Cable and Digital subscriptions refer to those held by both private residences and business units. The rest of subscriptions shown in this table refer to private residences only.

Table 5. Information society indicators

|  | As per end of December        |               |               |               |               | As at end<br>March 2006 | As at end<br>April 2006 |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|  | Number                        |               |               |               |               |                         |                         |
|  | 2001                          | 2002          | 2003          | 2004          | 2005          |                         |                         |
| <b>Internet subscriptions</b>            | <b>51,343</b>                 | <b>67,001</b> | <b>78,260</b> | <b>87,870</b> | <b>88,771</b> | <b>89,498</b>           | <b>89,677</b>           |
| Narrowband                               | :                             | :             | :             | 53,582        | 46,651        | 46,961                  | 47,055                  |
| Broadband                                | :                             | :             | :             | 34,388        | 42,170        | 42,537                  | 42,622                  |
| Mobile telephone subscriptions           | 220,545                       | 276,859       | 289,902       | 308,401       | 324,787       | 325,642                 | 325,229                 |
| Pager subscriptions                      | 4,866                         | 4,645         | 4,511         | 4,300         | 4,800         | 4,775                   | 4,773                   |
| Fixed telephone lines                    | 207,745                       | 207,269       | 208,271       | 210,706       | 209,305       | 209,429                 | 209,314                 |
| VOIP (minutes consumed)                  | :                             | :             | 3,815,679     | 6,308,017     | 12,933,365    | 653,654                 | 695,489                 |
| Public coin phones                       | :                             | :             | 173           | 170           | 145           | 45                      | 45                      |
| Public card phones                       | :                             | :             | 1,591         | 710           | 1,130         | 1,112                   | 1,112                   |
| Public webphones                         | :                             | :             | 69            | 71            | 71            | 54                      | 54                      |
| Cable & Digital television subscriptions | 90,091                        | 95,107        | 99,732        | 101,000       | 107,771       | 108,558                 | 108,638                 |
|  | As per end of December        |               |               |               |               | As at end<br>March 2006 | As at end<br>April 2006 |
|  | Per 100 persons in population |               |               |               |               |                         |                         |
|  | 2001                          | 2002          | 2003          | 2004          | 2005          |                         |                         |
| <b>Internet subscriptions</b>            | 13.0                          | 16.9          | 19.6          | 21.9          | 21.9          | 22.1                    | 22.2                    |
| Narrowband                               | :                             | :             | :             | 13.3          | 11.5          | 11.6                    | 11.6                    |
| Broadband                                | :                             | :             | :             | 8.5           | 10.4          | 10.5                    | 10.5                    |
| Mobile telephone subscriptions           | 55.9                          | 69.7          | 72.5          | 76.8          | 80.2          | 80.5                    | 80.4                    |
| Pager subscriptions                      | 1.2                           | 1.2           | 1.1           | 1.1           | 1.2           | 1.2                     | 1.2                     |
| Fixed telephone lines                    | 52.6                          | 52.2          | 52.1          | 52.4          | 51.7          | 51.8                    | 51.8                    |
| VOIP (minutes consumed)                  | :                             | :             | :             | :             | :             | :                       | :                       |
| Public coin phones                       | :                             | :             | :             | :             | :             | :                       | :                       |
| Public card phones                       | :                             | :             | :             | :             | :             | :                       | :                       |
| Public webphones                         | :                             | :             | :             | :             | :             | :                       | :                       |
| Cable & Digital television subscriptions | 22.8                          | 23.9          | 24.9          | 25.1          | 25.3          | 26.8                    | 26.9                    |

## **Methodological Notes**

1. The data in this release are based on a monthly/yearly census among fixed and mobile telephone, cable television and internet and voice over the internet protocol 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 month.
4. The statistics in this release should be considered as current and thereby subject to revision. Each release may include revisions of past monthly data. Revisions may be carried out in respect of a rolling two-year period.
5. Mobile telephone subscriptions are reported as active subscriptions within the last month for contract-based subscriptions and within the last three months for card-plan subscriptions.
6. VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) minutes consumed are inclusive of both services provided by ISP and fixed telephony providers from Quarter 3 2005.
7. Cable subscription indices are inclusive of digital television.

## **8. 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.