

News Release



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Information Society

May 2006

Internet subscriptions

The internet subscription index rose by 0.2 per cent from 285.5 as at end April 2006 to 286.1 as at end May 2006. Narrowband and broadband subscriptions were respectively recorded at 47,061 and 42,808.

Cable and digital subscriptions

In the month under review, the cable and digital subscription index rose by 0.1 per cent from 135.3 in April 2006 to 135.5 in May 2006.

In absolute terms, the total of cable and digital subscriptions totalled 108,819. An increase of 0.2 per cent was recorded over the previous month. In the month under review analogue subscriptions decreased by 0.8 per cent while digital subscriptions increased by 1.6 per cent.

Telephone communication

In the month under review, an increase of 0.4 per cent was recorded in the mobile subscription index. The number of mobile telephone subscriptions reached 327,032 in absolute terms. Contract-based mobile telephone subscriptions were recorded at 28,238, while card-plan subscriptions reached 298,794. Around 14.9 million minutes were consumed in mobile telephone networks, while those directed from mobile to fixed-line networks amounted to around 2.2 million. Table 2 shows a distinction between local and international networks with regard to mobile calls directed to both mobile and fixed networks. In May 2006 the mobile communication traffic included around 37.1 million SMSs; 59,110 MMSs; and 11,997 WAPs.

As at end May 2006 the fixed telephone subscription index decreased by 0.2 from the previous month. Minutes consumed in fixed-line telephony on local calls amounted to around 57.5 million, with some 39.3 million minutes from residential subscriptions and the rest from business premises subscriptions. The international fixed-telephony traffic comprised 209,910 calls, equivalent to around 0.6 million minutes.

In the month under review VOIP minutes were estimated at around 0.8 million. The pager subscription index decreased by 0.1 per cent in the month under review ■

Theme:
Industry and Services

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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 April	as end of May	
	Internet subscriptions	122.4	163.5	213.3	249.2	276.0	282.6	285.5	
Fixed telephony subscriptions	101.4	103.2	102.9	103.4	103.1	103.9	104.1	103.9	-0.2
Mobile telephony subscriptions	155.0	301.3	378.2	396.2	421.3	443.7	444.8	446.6	0.4
Pager subscriptions	102.1	93.1	89.1	86.3	82.2	91.8	91.3	91.2	-0.1
Cable & Digital television subscriptions	103.3	112.2	118.4	123.8	125.8	127.8	135.3	135.5	0.1

Table 2. Mobile telephony

	April	May	Absolute change	% Monthly change
As at end of period				
Number of subscriptions (total)	325,229	327,032	1,803	0.6
Contract-based subscriptions	27,902	28,238	336	1.2
Card-plan subscriptions	297,327	298,794	1,467	0.5
Montly total				
Minutes consumed to mobile networks (total)	13,883,843	14,939,676	1,055,833	7.6
Directed to local mobile networks	13,115,497	14,051,023	935,526	7.1
Directed to international mobile networks	768,346	888,653	120,307	15.7
Minutes consumed to fixed networks (total)	1,974,170	2,156,668	182,498	9.2
Directed to local fixed networks	1,567,016	1,701,232	134,216	8.6
Directed to international fixed networks	407,154	455,436	48,282	11.9
Number of SMSs	32,397,446	37,122,580	4,725,134	14.6
Number of MMSs	55,521	59,110	3,589	6.5
WAP (minutes consumed)	13,726	11,997	-1,729	-12.6

Table 3. Fixed telephony

	2006		Absolute change	% Monthly change
	April	May		
As at end of period				
Number of subscriptions (total)	209,314	209,029	-285	-0.1
Residential	169,949	169,748	-201	-0.1
Business	39,365	39,281	-84	-0.2
Monthly total				
Minutes consumed to local fixed lines (total)	53,632,836	57,489,199	3,856,363	7.2
Residential	37,595,681	39,347,360	1,751,679	4.7
Business	16,037,155	18,141,839	2,104,684	13.1
Minutes consumed to international fixed telephone lines	656,272	598,639	-57,633	-8.8
Number of calls directed to international fixed telephone lines	217,240	209,910	-7,330	-3.4

Table 4. Cable and digital TV

	2006		Absolute change	% Monthly change
	April	May		
Cable & Digital Subscriptions	108,638	108,819	181	0.2
Analogue Service Subscriptions	77,674	77,087	-587	-0.8
Digital Service Subscriptions	27,059	27,480	421	1.6
Sports Channel Subscriptions	20,625	21,115	490	2.4

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

	End of Year					April	May
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Internet Subscriptions	51,343	67,001	78,260	87,870	88,771	89,677	89,869
Narrow Band	:	:	:	53,582	46,651	47,055	47,061
Broad Band	:	:	:	34,388	42,170	42,622	42,808
Mobile telephone subscriptions	220,545	276,859	289,902	308,401	324,787	325,229	327,032
Pager Subscriptions	4,866	4,645	4,511	4,300	4,800	4,773	4,770
Fixed Telephone lines	207,745	207,269	208,271	210,706	209,305	209,314	209,029
VOIP (minutes Consumed)	:	:	3,815,679	6,308,017	12,933,365	695,489	788,273
Public coin phones	:	:	173	170	145	45	45
Public card phones	:	:	1,591	710	1,130	1,112	1,112
Public webphones	:	:	:	69	71	54	54
Cable television subscriptions	90,091	95,107	99,732	101,000	107,771	108,638	108,819

Source: National Statistics Office

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.