

# News Release



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## Information Society

### Information Society Indicators: August 2006

*In August 2006, subscriptions to all forms of communication technology increased with the exception of cable and digital television.*

The internet subscription index rose by 0.2 per cent in August 2006, leading to narrowband and broadband subscriptions to stand at 49,704 and 42,340 respectively by the end of the month.

In the month under review, the cable and digital television subscription index dropped by 0.2 per cent, reflecting a drop in cable analogue and an increase in digital technology use. In absolute terms, these subscriptions totaled 110,481. In the month under review, VOIP minutes were estimated at around 1.0 million.

In the month under review, an increase of 0.9 per cent was recorded in the mobile telephony subscription index as the number of mobile telephone subscriptions reached 344,220. Around 16.5 million minutes were consumed in mobile telephone networks, while those directed from mobile to fixed-line networks amounted to around 2.3 million. In August 2006, mobile communication traffic included around 40.1 million SMSs; 83,813 MMSs; and 15,305 WAPs. Pager subscriptions stood at 4,775 at the end of August 2006.

As at end August 2006, there was practically no change in the fixed telephone subscription index from the previous month. Minutes consumed in fixed-line telephony on local calls amounted to around 47.8 million, with some 32.7 million minutes from residential subscriptions and the rest from business premises subscriptions. The international fixed-telephony traffic comprised 211,848 calls, equivalent to around 0.6 million minutes ■

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**Table 1. Subscription indices  
(2000=100)**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		Percentage change
	as end of December						as end of July	as end of August	
	Internet subscriptions	122.4	163.5	213.3	249.2	276.0	282.6	292.4	
Fixed telephony subscriptions	101.4	103.2	102.9	103.4	103.1	103.9	104.0	104.0	0.0
Mobile telephony subscriptions	155.0	301.3	378.2	396.2	421.3	443.7	466.0	470.2	0.9
Cable & Digital television subscriptions	103.3	112.2	118.4	123.8	125.8	127.8	137.8	137.6	-0.2

**Table 2. Internet**

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	July	August		
	<b>Internet Subscriptions</b>	<b>91,830</b>	<b>92,044</b>	<b>214</b>
Narrow Band	48,294	49,704	1,410	2.9
Broad Band	43,536	42,340	-1,196	-2.7
<b>VOIP (minutes Consumed)</b>	<b>809,545</b>	<b>965,974</b>	<b>156,429</b>	<b>19.3</b>

**Table 3. Fixed telephony**

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	July	August		
<b>Number of subscriptions (total)</b>	<b>209,230</b>	<b>209,513</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Residential	169,855	170,137	282	0.2
Business	39,375	39,376	1	0.0
<b>Minutes consumed to local fixed lines (total)</b>	<b>49,761,277</b>	<b>47,839,151</b>	<b>-1,922,126</b>	<b>-3.9</b>
Residential	34,073,819	32,739,780	-1,334,039	-3.9
Business	15,687,458	15,099,371	-588,087	-3.7
<b>Minutes consumed to international fixed telephone lines</b>	<b>659,292</b>	<b>640,361</b>	<b>-18,931</b>	<b>-2.9</b>
<b>Number of calls directed to international fixed telephone lines</b>	<b>213,442</b>	<b>211,848</b>	<b>-1,594</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
<b>Public coin phones</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Public card phones</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Public webphones</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Table 4. Mobile telephony

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	July	August		
<b>Number of subscriptions (total)</b>	<b>341,417</b>	<b>344,220</b>	<b>2,803</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Contract-based subscriptions	29,020	29,212	192	0.7
Card-plan subscriptions	312,397	315,008	2,611	0.8
<b>Minutes consumed to mobile networks (total)</b>	<b>16,832,215</b>	<b>16,499,393</b>	<b>-332,822</b>	<b>-2.0</b>
Directed to local mobile networks	15,329,025	15,117,306	-211,719	-1.4
Directed to international mobile networks	1,503,190	1,381,087	-122,103	-8.1
<b>Minutes consumed to fixed networks (total)</b>	<b>2,366,427</b>	<b>2,323,389</b>	<b>-43,038</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
Directed to local fixed networks	1,814,601	1,766,202	-48,399	-2.7
Directed to international fixed networks	551,826	557,187	5,361	1.0
<b>Number of SMSs</b>	<b>40,866,075</b>	<b>40,124,653</b>	<b>-741,422</b>	<b>-1.8</b>
<b>Number of MMSs</b>	<b>77,258</b>	<b>83,813</b>	<b>6,555</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>WAP (minutes consumed)</b>	<b>9,360</b>	<b>15,305</b>	<b>5,945</b>	<b>63.5</b>
<b>Pager subscriptions</b>	<b>4,770</b>	<b>4,775</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.1</b>

Table 5. Cable and Digital TV

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	July	August		
Cable & Digital terrestrial Subscriptions	110,659	110,481	-178	-0.2
Cable Analogue Subscriptions	77,124	76,608	-516	-0.7
Digital (cable & terrestrial ) Subscriptions	28,881	29,313	432	1.5
Sports (cable & terrestrial ) Channel Subscriptions	18,776	16,318	-2,458	-13.1

**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.

## 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.