

News Release



Date: 9 May 2006
No. : 97/2006
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

Theme:
Industry and Services

Compiled by:

Business Statistics Unit
e-mail: stbs.nso@gov.mt
Tel: 25997349

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

Information Society

March 2006

Internet subscriptions

The internet subscription index rose by 0.1 per cent from 284.5 as at end February 2006 to 284.9 as at end March 2006. The rate of Internet subscriptions per 100 persons reached 22.1. Narrowband and broadband subscriptions were respectively recorded at 46,961 and 42,537.

Cable and digital subscriptions

In the month under review, the cable and digital subscription index rose by 0.1 per cent from 127.9 in February 2006 to 128.0 in March 2006. Cable and digital television subscriptions were recorded at 26.8 per 100 persons as at end of March 2006.

In absolute terms, the total of cable and digital subscriptions amounted to 108,458. An increase of 0.2 per cent was recorded over the previous month. In the month under review residential analogue subscriptions decreased by 4.2 per cent while residential digital subscriptions went down by 11.6 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 telephones reached 325,642 in absolute terms; this translates into 80.5 per cent of the population. Contract-based mobile telephone subscriptions were recorded at 27,615, while card-plan subscriptions reached 298,027. Around 14 million minutes were consumed in mobile telephone networks, while those directed to the fixed-line network amounted to 2.2 million. Table 2 shows a distinction between local and international networks with regard to calls directed to both mobile and fixed networks. In March 2006 the mobile communication traffic included 35.1million SMSs; 57,592 MMSs; and 13,584 WAPs.

As at end March 2006 the fixed telephone subscription index increased by 0.1per cent from 104.0 in February 2006 to 104.1. Minutes used in fixed-line telephony on local calls amounted to around 58 million, with some 40 million minutes from residential subscriptions and the rest from business premises subscriptions. The international fixed-telephony traffic comprised 211,262 calls, equivalent to around 0.5 million minutes.

In the month under review VOIP minutes were estimated at around 0.6 million. The pager subscription index remained the same as that of February 2006 ■

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

Table 1. Information society subscription indices

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		Monthly % Change
	as end of December						as end of February	as end of March	
Internet subscriptions	122.4	163.5	213.3	249.2	276.0	282.6	284.5	284.9	0.1
Fixed telephony subscriptions	101.4	103.2	102.9	103.4	103.1	103.9	104.0	104.1	0.1
Mobile telephony subscriptions	155.0	301.3	378.2	396.2	421.3	443.7	445.0	444.9	-0.0
Pager subscriptions	102.1	93.1	89.1	86.3	82.2	91.8	91.3	91.3	0.0
Cable subscriptions	103.3	112.2	118.4	123.8	125.8	127.8	127.9	128.0	0.1

Table 2. Mobile telephony

	February	March	Absolute Change	% Monthly Change
As at end of period				
Number of subscriptions (total)	325,757	325,642	-115	-0.0
Contract-based subscriptions	27,350	27,615	265	1.0
Card-plan subscriptions	298,407	298,027	-380	-0.1
Montly total				
Minutes consumed to mobile networks (total)	12,437,930	14,046,356	1,608,426	12.9
Directed to local mobile networks	11,874,675	13,669,377	1,794,702	15.1
Directed to international mobile networks	563,255	376,979	-186,276	-33.1
Minutes consumed to fixed networks (total)	1,809,268	2,243,235	433,967	24.0
Directed to local fixed networks	1,510,518	1,602,687	92,169	6.1
Directed to international fixed networks	298,750	640,548	341,798	114.4
Number of SMSs	31,534,011	35,117,544	3,583,533	11.4
Number of MMSs	65,255	57,592	-7,663	-11.7
WAP (minutes consumed)	11,848	13,584	1,736	14.7

Table 3. Fixed telephony

	2006		Absolute Change	% Monthly Change
	February	March		
As at end of period				
Number of subscriptions (total)	209,383	209,429	46	0.0
Residential	169,751	169,966	215	0.1
Business	39,632	39,463	-169	-0.4
Monthly total				
Minutes consumed to local fixed lines (total)	53,207,724	58,271,140	5,063,416	9.5
Residential	37,238,624	40,333,733	3,095,109	8.3
Business	15,969,100	17,937,407	1,968,307	12.3
Minutes consumed for international fixed telephone lines	565,224	597,437	32,213	5.7
Number of calls consumed for international fixed telephone lines	193,952	211,262	17,310	8.9

Table 4. Cable and digital TV

	2006		Absolute Change	% Monthly Change
	February	March		
Cable & Digital Subscriptions Total*	108,189	108,458	269	0.2
Analogue Service Subscriptions	82,439	78,963	-3,476	-4.2
Digital Service Subscriptions	22,067	19,510	-2,557	-11.6
Sports Channel Subscriptions	16,347	16,708	361	2.2

*inclusive of residential & business

Table 5. Information society indicators per 100 population

	As per end of December					As at end February 2006	As at end March 2006
	Number						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Internet subscriptions	51,343	67,001	78,260	87,870	88,771	89,336	89,498
Narrowband	:	:	:	53,582	46,651	46,857	46,961
Broadband	:	:	:	34,388	42,170	42,509	42,537
Mobile telephone subscriptions	220,545	276,859	289,902	308,401	324,787	327,346	325,642
Pager subscriptions	4,866	4,645	4,511	4,300	4,800	4,772	4,775
Fixed telephone lines	207,745	207,269	208,271	210,706	209,305	209,383	209,429
VOIP (minutes consumed)	:	:	3,815,679	6,308,017	12,933,365	630,867	653,654
Public coin phones	:	:	173	170	145	145	45
Public card phones	:	:	1,591	710	1,130	1,130	1,112
Public webphones	:	:	69	71	71	71	54
Cable & Digital television subscriptions	90,091	95,107	99,732	101,000	107,771	108,189	108,458
	As per end of December					As at end February 2006	As at end March 2006
	Per Population						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
Internet subscriptions	13.0	16.9	19.6	21.9	21.9	22.1	22.1
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	81.0	80.5
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	26.8

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.