

News Release



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Information Society

Information Society Indicators: November 2006

In November 2006, information society subscriptions decreased with the exception of Internet subscriptions.

The Internet subscription index rose by 0.1 per cent as at end November 2006. Narrowband and broadband subscriptions were recorded at 58,438 and 36,696 respectively.

In the month under review, the cable and digital television subscription index decreased by 0.1 per cent, reflecting a drop in cable analogue and an increase in digital technology use. In absolute terms, these subscriptions totaled 112,115.

In the month under review, a minimal change was recorded in the mobile subscription index as the number of mobile telephone subscriptions reached 344,210. Around 15.2 million minutes were consumed in mobile telephone networks, while those directed from mobile to fixed-line networks amounted to around 2.0 million. Table 4 shows a distinction between local and international networks with regard to mobile calls directed to both mobile and fixed networks. In November 2006, the mobile communication traffic included 36.7 million SMSs; 49,865 MMSs; and 9,707 WAPs.

The number of fixed telephone subscriptions dropped by 0.2 per cent over the previous month. Minutes consumed in fixed-line telephony on local calls amounted to around 48.1 million, with some 32.7 million minutes from residential subscriptions and the rest from business premises subscriptions. International fixed-telephony traffic was comprised 179,688 calls, equivalent to around 0.5 million minutes.

In the month under review VOIP minutes were estimated at around 0.9 million. In absolute terms, pager subscriptions stood at 4,772 as end of November 2006 ■

European statistics comparable to data in this News Release are available at:

[EUROSTAT Website/Homepage/Industry, Trade and Services/Data](http://europa.eu.int/comm/eurostat/industry_trade_services/data/)

>Industry, trade and services
>Information society statistics

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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	as end of	
							October	November	
Internet subscriptions	122.4	163.5	213.3	249.2	276.0	282.6	302.6	302.9	0.1
Fixed telephony subscriptions	101.4	103.2	102.9	103.4	103.1	103.9	104.2	104.0	-0.2
Mobile telephony subscriptions	155.0	301.3	378.2	396.2	421.3	443.7	470.2	470.2	0.0
Cable & Digital television subscriptions	103.3	112.2	118.4	123.8	125.8	127.8	139.7	139.6	-0.1

Table 2. Internet

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	October	November		
	Internet Subscriptions	95,036		
Narrow Band	58,362	58,438	76	0.1
Broad Band	36,674	36,696	22	0.1
VOIP (minutes Consumed)	961,813	892,654	-69,159	-7.2

Table 3. Fixed telephony

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	October	November		
	Number of subscriptions (total)	209,737		
Residential	170,319	170,035	-284	-0.2
Business	39,418	39,418	0	0.0
Minutes consumed to local fixed lines (total)	50,110,552	48,146,590	-1,963,962	-3.9
Residential	34,108,979	32,672,299	-1,436,680	-4.2
Business	16,001,573	15,474,291	-527,282	-3.3
Minutes consumed to international fixed telephone lines	568,422	525,925	-42,497	-7.5
Number of calls directed to international fixed telephone lines	194,153	179,688	-14,465	-7.5
Public coin phones	135	135	0	0.0
Public card phones	1,110	1,110	0	0.0
Public webphones	31	31	0	0.0

Table 4. Mobile telephony

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	October	November		
Number of subscriptions (total)	344,169	344,210	41	0.0
Contract-based subscriptions	29,779	30,006	227	0.8
Card-plan subscriptions	314,390	314,204	-186	-0.1
Minutes consumed to mobile networks (total)	16,104,780	15,155,600	-949,180	-5.9
Directed to local mobile networks	15,095,497	14,386,270	-709,227	-4.7
Directed to international mobile networks	1,009,283	769,330	-239,953	-23.8
Minutes consumed to fixed networks (total)	2,249,608	2,000,384	-249,224	-11.1
Directed to local fixed networks	1,746,337	1,630,393	-115,944	-6.6
Directed to international fixed networks	503,271	369,991	-133,280	-26.5
Number of SMSs	38,027,876	36,683,182	-1,344,694	-3.5
Number of MMSs	58,119	49,865	-8,254	-14.2
WAP (minutes consumed)	10,862	9,707	-1,155	-10.6
Pager subscriptions	4,770	4,772	2	0.0

Table 5. Cable and Digital TV

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	October	November		
Cable & Digital terrestrial Subscriptions	112,206	112,115	-91	-0.1
Cable Analogue Subscriptions	75,362	73,446	-1,916	-2.5
Digital (cable & terrestrial) Subscriptions	32,219	34,396	2,177	6.8
Sports (cable & terrestrial) Channel Subscriptions	15,193	14,499	-694	-4.6

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 residential and business subscriptions but are exclusive of the subscriptions of educational institutions.

Narrowband internet subscriptions are inclusive of dial-up, ISDN and mobile internet.

Broadband is general defined as a bandwidth greater than 2Mbps.

ISDN - Integrated Services Digital Network: a service provided by telecoms operators providing 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.