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Business

Post and Telecommunications: January - March 2007

As end of March 2007, subscriptions to all forms of communication technology increased. Postal traffic totalled 12.6 million in terms.

Telecommunications

In the quarter under review, the absolute number of mobile telephone subscriptions reached 344,205, which roughly translates into 85.8 per cent of the population. Contract-based mobile telephone subscriptions were recorded at 31,437, while card-plan subscriptions reached 312,768. Table 3 of this release focuses on different areas of mobile communication.

As at end March 2007 the fixed-telephone subscription index increased by 1.4 per cent from 104.1 in quarter one 2006 to 105.6 in the comparable quarter this year. Minutes used in fixed-line telephony on local calls amounted to around 159 million, with some 109 million minutes from residential subscriptions and the rest from business premises subscriptions. The international fixed-telephony traffic comprised 808,117 calls, equivalent to around 1.3 million minutes.

VOIP minutes were estimated at around 2.1 million in the quarter under review .

Internet, Cable and Digital Subscriptions

The internet subscription index rose by 0.8 per cent from 284.9 as at end of March 2006 to 287.3 as at end of equivalent period in 2007. The rate of Internet subscriptions per 100 persons in the population reached 22.5.

The cable and digital subscriptions index also increased by 12.9 per cent . Cable and digital television subscriptions were recorded at 28.7 per 100 persons in the population as at end of March 2007.

Post and Couriers

Total postal traffic for the first quarter of 2007 amounted to around 12.6 million items of which the absolute bulk represented letters and other printed items. In the same reference period, courier traffic totalled just under 61,000 items, of which 52 per cent were letters or documents and the rest parcels. Courier traffic in the reference period was 1.8 per cent more than the previous year ■

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Table 1. Information society subscriptions indices

	Q1							Annual % change 2007/2006
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Internet subscriptions	122.4	175.8	223.6	256.1	277.2	284.9	287.3	0.8
Fixed telephony subscriptions	101.9	103.1	102.8	102.8	104	104.1	105.6	1.4
Mobile telephony subscriptions	185.1	322.1	375.1	397.4	430.9	444.9	470.2	5.7
Cable subscriptions	104.4	112.5	119.9	124.2	127.5	127.1	143.5	12.9

Table 2. Information society indicators per 100 population

	Q1							Annual % change 2007/2006
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Internet subscriptions	9.8	14.0	17.7	20.1	21.7	22.1	22.5	1.8
Fixed telephony subscriptions	52.4	52.5	52.2	53.1	52.1	51.1	53.0	3.7
Mobile telephony subscriptions	34.6	59.7	69.1	72.7	78.5	80.6	85.8	6.5
Cable subscriptions	21.4	22.9	24.2	24.9	25.5	25.2	28.7	13.9

Table 3. Mobile telephony

	as at end of March		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
	As at end of period			
Number of subscriptions (total)	325,642	344,205	18,563	5.7
Contract-based subscriptions	27,615	31,437	3,822	13.8
Card-plan subscriptions	298,027	312,768	14,741	4.9
	January -March		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
Quartely Total				
Minutes consumed to mobile networks (total)*	41,437,973	46,291,715	4,853,742	11.7
Directed to local mobile networks	39,766,319	43,631,261	3,864,942	9.7
Directed to international mobile networks	1,671,654	2,660,454	988,800	59.2
Minutes consumed to fixed networks (total)	5,238,434	5,696,586	458,152	8.7
Directed to local fixed networks	4,597,886	4,765,275	167,389	3.6
Directed to international fixed networks	640,548	931,311	290,763	45.4
Number of SMSs	106,608,359	118,594,635	11,986,276	11.2
Number of MMSs	192,154	194,399	2,245	1.2
WAP (minutes consumed)	49,029	43,026	-6,003	-12.2
Pager subscriptions	4,775	4,763	-12	-0.3

Table 4. Fixed telephony

	as at end of March		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
As at end of period				
Number of subscriptions (total)	209,429	212,630	3,201	1.5
Residential	169,986	172,981	2,995	1.8
Business	39,463	39,649	186	0.5
	January - March		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
Quartely Total				
Minutes consumed to local fixed lines (total)	171,370,273	158,635,220	-12,735,053	-7.4
Residential	119,642,089	108,957,930	-10,684,159	-8.9
Business	51,728,184	49,677,290	-2,050,894	-4.0
Minutes consumed for international fixed telephone lines	1,818,941	1,346,862	-472,079	-26.0
Residential	583,314	361,205	-222,109	-38.1
Business	1,235,627	985,657	-249,970	-20.2
Number of calls consumed for international fixed telephone lines	818,785	808,117	-10,668	-1.3
Residential	328,124	167,440	-160,684	-49.0
Business	490,661	640,677	150,016	30.6

Table 5. Internet

	as at end of March		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
Internet Subscriptions	89,498	90,234	736	0.8
Narrow Band	46,961	47,616	655	1.4
Broad Band	42,537	42,618	81	0.2
	January - March		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
VOIP (minutes Consumed)	1,960,169	2,132,654	172,485	8.8

Table 6. Cable and digital TV

	as at end of March		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
Cable & Digital terrestrial Subscriptions	108,458	115,231	6,773	6.2
Cable Analogue Subscriptions	78,963	79,235	272	0.3
Digital (cable & terrestrial) Subscriptions	19,510	25,628	6,118	31.4
Sports (cable & terrestrial) Channel Subscriptions	15,708	15,365	-343	-2.2
TV Licences	122,062	122,635	573	0.5

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 7. National post and courier service: items received and dispatched

	as at end of March		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
National Post				
Total Traffic:	11,253,602	12,632,921	1,379,319	12.3
Letters,printed paper,newspapers and postcards	11,243,000	12,620,900	1,377,900	12.3
Parcels and other Items	10,602	12,031	1,429	13.5
Courier Service				
Total Traffic:	59,829	60,932	1,103	1.8
Letters/documents	33,344	31,610	-1,734	-5.2
Parcels	26,485	29,322	2,837	10.7

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release are based on a quarterly census among fixed and mobile telephone, cable television and internet and Voice Over 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 quarter.
4. The statistics in this release should be considered as current and are therefore subject to revision. Each release may include revisions of past quarterly 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. From 2005, cable subscription indices are inclusive of digital television.