

News Release



Date: 2 September 2008
No. : 157/2008
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

Theme:
Industry and Services

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Business

Post and Telecommunications: Q2/2008

As at the end of June 2008, subscriptions to all forms of communication technology increased. Postal traffic totalled 11.0 million items.

Telecommunications

In the quarter under review, the absolute number of mobile telephone subscriptions reached 374,507, or around 90.9 per cent of the population. Contract-based mobile telephone subscriptions were recorded at 44,287, while card-plan subscriptions reached 330,220. Table 3 focuses on different areas of mobile communication.

The fixed-telephone subscription index increased by 6.4 per cent from 108.6 in 2007 Q2 to 115.5 in the comparable quarter this year. Minutes used from fixed-line telephony amounted to around 131 million, while international fixed-telephony traffic comprised 513,945 calls, equivalent to around 1.6 million minutes.

VOIP minutes were estimated at around 9.5 million in the quarter under review. These cover all internet based telephony systems.

Internet, Cable and Digital Subscriptions

The internet subscription index rose by 18.2 per cent from 288.3 as at the end of June 2007 to 340.8 as at the end of June 2008. The rate of Internet subscriptions per 100 persons of the population reached 26.0.

The cable and digital subscriptions index also increased by 0.2 per cent. Cable and digital television subscriptions were recorded at 30.3 per cent of the population as at the end of June 2008.

Post and Couriers

Total postal traffic for the second quarter of 2008 amounted to around 11.0 million items, of which the absolute bulk represented letters and other printed items. Table 7 focuses on different types of national postal traffic.

In the same reference period, courier traffic totalled 63,925 items, of which 51 per cent were letters or documents, and the rest parcels ■

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Table 1. Information society subscriptions indices

| | Q2 | | | | | | | Annual % change 2008/2007 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | |
| Internet subscriptions | 223.6 | 256.1 | 271.1 | 283.2 | 286.1 | 288.3 | 340.8 | 18.2 |
| Fixed telephony subscriptions | 103.1 | 102.8 | 104.0 | 102.2 | 103.8 | 108.6 | 115.5 | 6.4 |
| Mobile telephony subscriptions | 375.1 | 397.4 | 471.8 | 439.8 | 453.3 | 482.9 | 511.6 | 5.9 |
| Cable and Digital television subscriptions | 119.9 | 124.2 | 127.5 | 125.8 | 127.1 | 155.0 | 155.3 | 0.2 |

Table 2. Information society indicators per 100 population

| | Q2 | | | | | | | Annual % change 2008/2007 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------------------------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | |
| Internet subscriptions | 14.8 | 18.0 | 20.1 | 22.1 | 22.4 | 22.2 | 26.0 | 17.1 |
| Fixed telephony subscriptions | 52.3 | 52.2 | 51.7 | 51.2 | 51.5 | 53.6 | 56.5 | 5.4 |
| Mobile telephony subscriptions | 60.4 | 69.1 | 74.0 | 80.1 | 81.8 | 86.6 | 90.9 | 5.0 |
| Cable and Digital television subscriptions | 23.5 | 24.6 | 24.6 | 25.4 | 27.4 | 28.9 | 30.3 | 4.8 |

Table 3. Mobile telephony

| | as at end of June | | Absolute change | % yearly change |
|---|-------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | | |
| Number of subscriptions (total) | 353,495 | 374,507 | 21,012 | 5.9 |
| Contract-based subscriptions | 32,648 | 44,287 | 11,639 | 35.6 |
| Card-plan subscriptions | 320,742 | 330,220 | 9,478 | 3.0 |
| | April-June | | Absolute change | % yearly change |
| | 2007 | 2008 | | |
| Minutes consumed to local mobile networks | 48,921,890 | 53,756,359 | 4,834,469 | 9.9 |
| Minutes consumed to local fixed networks | 5,599,856 | 5,551,199 | -48,657 | -0.9 |
| Number of SMSs | 125,846,231 | 122,039,320 | -3,806,911 | -3.0 |
| Number of MMSs | 194,630 | 88,401 | -106,229 | -54.6 |
| Pager subscriptions | 4,761 | 4,762 | 1 | 0.0 |

Table 4. Fixed telephony

| | as at end of June | | Absolute change | % yearly change |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | | |
| Number of subscriptions | 218,635 | 232,630 | 13,995 | 6.4 |
| | April-June | | Absolute change | % yearly change |
| | 2007 | 2008 | | |
| Minutes consumed from local fixed lines | 161,945,635 | 131,247,214 | -30,698,421 | -19.0 |
| Minutes consumed for international fixed telephone lines | 1,273,574 | 1,602,832 | 329,258 | 25.9 |
| Number of calls consumed for international fixed telephone lines | 762,553 | 513,945 | -248,608 | -32.6 |

Table 5. Internet

| | as at end of June | | Absolute change | % yearly change |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | | |
| Internet Subscriptions | 90,562 | 107,052 | 16,490 | 18.2 |
| Narrow Band | 43,671 | 28,883 | -14,788 | -33.9 |
| Broad Band | 46,881 | 78,169 | 31,288 | 66.7 |
| | April-June | | Absolute change | % yearly change |
| | 2007 | 2008 | | |
| VOIP (minutes consumed) | 4,658,322 | 9,541,245 | 4,882,923 | 104.8 |

Table 6. Cable and digital TV

| | as at end of June | | Absolute change | % yearly change |
|--|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | | |
| Cable and Digital terrestrial Subscriptions | 118,500 | 124,715 | 6,215 | 5.2 |
| Cable Analogue Subscriptions | 70,166 | 57,541 | -12,625 | -18.0 |
| Digital (cable and terrestrial) Subscriptions | 48,334 | 67,174 | 18,840 | 39.0 |

Table 7. National post: items received and dispatched

| | as at end of Quarter | | Absolute change | % quarterly change |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | 2008 Q1 | 2008 Q2 | | |
| Total Traffic | 12,628,162 | 10,974,203 | -1,653,959 | -13.1 |
| Domestic Service | 10,881,513 | 8,941,207 | -1,940,306 | -17.8 |
| Outbound Service | 683,915 | 1,072,805 | 388,890 | 56.9 |
| Inbound Service | 1,062,734 | 960,191 | -102,543 | -9.6 |
| Parcels and other Items | 16,460 | 17,793 | 1,333 | 8.1 |
| Domestic Service | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0 |
| Outbound Service | 4,994 | 4,900 | -94 | -1.9 |
| Inbound Service | 11,466 | 12,893 | 1,427 | 12.4 |

Source: Malta Communications Authority

Table 8. Courier Service: items received and dispatched

| | as at end of Quarter | | Absolute change | % quarterly change |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | 2008 Q1 | 2008 Q2 | | |
| Total Traffic | 63,468 | 63,925 | 457 | 0.7 |
| Letters/documents | 32,590 | 32,793 | 203 | 0.6 |
| Parcels | 30,878 | 31,132 | 254 | 0.8 |

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release are based on a quarterly census among fixed and mobile telephone, cable television and internet , Voice Over Internet Protocol, postal and courier service providers. The data for fixed and mobile telephone, cable television and national post providers is collected by MCA (Malta Communications Authority).
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.