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As at the end of December, internet, TV, fixed telephony and mobile subscriptions registered increases when compared to the corresponding period in 2012.

## Post and Telecommunications: Q4/2013

Cut-off date:  
**11 March 2014**

### **Internet, analogue and digital TV subscriptions**

During the last quarter of 2013, broadband internet subscriptions grew by 5.3 per cent, reaching 143,010 (Table 2). High speed internet connections exceeding 10 Mbps advanced by 17.6 per cent, reaching 124,060. In contrast, internet subscriptions with speeds ranging from 2 to 10 Mbps decreased by 36.9 per cent.

Television subscriptions totalled 148,905 up by 0.7 per cent over 2012. Digital subscriptions continued to dominate the market with a majority of 95.0 per cent, as shown in Table 3. Analogue subscriptions stood at 7,495, down by 12.0 per cent when compared to the corresponding quarter a year earlier.

### **Telecommunications**

The number of fixed telephone subscriptions as at the end of December reached 231,331 increasing by 0.7 per cent over the corresponding quarter in 2012. Total fixed originating minutes to national networks declined by 6.5 per cent, while minutes towards international networks decreased by 12.9 per cent (Table 4).

Mobile telephone subscriptions during the reference quarter, totalled 580,961, up by 9.1 per cent when compared to the previous year (Table 5). An increase of 8.7 per cent was recorded in the number of post-paid schemes, while pre-paid subscriptions rose by 9.3 per cent.

The mobile penetration rate for the quarter under review stood at 137.2 per cent. This shows that a considerable number of individuals had more than one mobile account (see methodological note 13). Increases were recorded in local originating mobile traffic, both towards fixed and mobile telephone networks: 11.1 and 13.3 per cent respectively. Meanwhile the number of SMS's sent while roaming dropped by 26.3 per cent.

### **Post and Courier Services**

Total postal traffic during the reference quarter decreased by 4.8 per cent and stood at over 10.6 million items (Table 6). Items received and dispatched by couriers totalled 180,319, an increase of 21.8 per cent over the previous year (Table 7) ■

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Table 1. Information society subscription indices (2006=100)

Subscriptions Indices	Q4						% Change 2013/2012
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Internet subscriptions	110.6	119.8	130.7	138.9	145.9	153.7	5.3
Analogue and digital television subscriptions	120.9	127.0	131.0	136.5	134.8	135.7	0.7
Fixed telephony subscriptions	117.9	120.2	121.4	113.5	112.3	113.1	0.7
Mobile telephony subscriptions	114.1	124.9	131.8	154.4	157.5	171.9	9.1

Table 2. Internet subscriptions

Internet Subscriptions	as at end of September	as at end of December		Change 2013/2012	% Change 2013/2012
	2013	2012	2013		
<b>Internet Subscriptions</b>	<b>141,987</b>	<b>135,758</b>	<b>143,010</b>	<b>7,252</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Broadband					
Less than 144 kbps	-	-	-	-	-
Between 144 kbps and less than 2 Mbps	31	283	28	-255	-90.1
Between 2 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps	24,353	30,003	18,922	-11,081	-36.9
Greater than 10 Mbps	117,603	105,472	124,060	18,588	17.6

Table 3. Analogue and digital TV subscriptions

Pay TV Broadcasting subscriptions	as at end of September	as at end of December		Change 2013/2012	% Change 2013/2012
	2013	2012	2013		
<b>Analogue and Digital subscriptions</b>	<b>149,166</b>	<b>147,896</b>	<b>148,905</b>	<b>1,009</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Analogue subscriptions	7,796	8,516	7,495	-1,021	-12.0
Digital subscriptions (including IPTV)	141,370	139,380	141,410	2,030	1.5

Table 4. Fixed telephony

Fixed Telephony Subscriptions	as at end of September	as at end of December		Change 2013/2012	% Change 2013/2012
	2013	2012	2013		
<b>Number of subscriptions</b>	<b>230,760</b>	<b>229,740</b>	<b>231,331</b>	<b>1,591</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Fixed Telephony	Q3	Q4		Change 2013/2012	% Change 2013/2012
	2012	2012	2013		
<b>Total fixed originating minutes to national networks</b>	<b>136,928,445</b>	<b>151,770,623</b>	<b>141,978,630</b>	<b>-9,791,993</b>	<b>-6.5</b>
Fixed to fixed	120,045,471	134,320,578	125,641,871	-8,678,707	-6.5
Fixed to mobile	15,084,918	15,727,277	14,493,406	-1,233,871	-7.8
Other*	1,798,056	1,722,768	1,843,353	120,585	7.0
<b>Total fixed originating minutes to international networks**</b>	<b>8,710,150</b>	<b>10,339,849</b>	<b>9,002,471</b>	<b>-1,337,378</b>	<b>-12.9</b>

\*Includes originating minutes through Internet, Freephone, Premium, Payphone calls and Paging Networks

\*\* Includes Traditional fixed minutes and Calling Cards

Table 5. Mobile telephony

Mobile Subscriptions	as at end of September	as at end of December		Change 2013/2012	% Change 2013/2012
	2013	2012	2013		
<b>Number of mobile subscriptions (total)</b>	<b>570,197</b>	<b>532,228</b>	<b>580,961</b>	<b>48,733</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Post-paid schemes	119,525	111,947	121,677	9,730	8.7
Pre-paid schemes	450,672	420,281	459,284	39,003	9.3
Local Originating Mobile Traffic*	Q3	Q4		Change 2013/2012	% Change 2013/2012
	2013	2012	2013		
Local outgoing minutes to fixed traffic	19,012,433	17,548,282	19,501,023	1,952,741	11.1
Local outgoing minutes to mobile traffic	143,888,396	129,883,929	147,142,822	17,258,893	13.3
Mobile originating minutes to international networks	5,307,604	4,747,563	5,139,585	392,022	8.3
Outgoing SMS traffic	145,127,456	169,323,509	142,080,936	-27,242,573	-16.1
Outgoing MMS traffic	61,323	61,718	46,631	-15,087	-24.4
Roaming	Q3	Q4		Change 2013/2012	% Change 2013/2012
	2013	2012	2013		
<b>Outbound roaming (Maltese subscriptions abroad)</b>					
Total minutes originated while roaming	2,148,211	1,657,017	1,852,393	195,376	11.8
Total minutes received while roaming	1,910,864	1,430,654	1,524,704	94,050	6.6
SMS sent while roaming	3,213,597	3,543,515	2,611,973	-931,542	-26.3
<b>Inbound roaming (visitors in Malta)</b>					
Total outgoing visitors minutes	8,839,951	4,569,151	5,325,684	756,533	16.6
Total incoming visitors minutes	8,324,233	4,335,915	4,913,902	577,987	13.3

\* Excluding roaming

**Table 6. National post: items received and dispatched**

National Post	Q3	Q4		Change 2013/2012	% Change 2013/2012
	2013	2012	2013		
<b>Total Traffic</b>	<b>9,214,910</b>	<b>11,218,794</b>	<b>10,675,825</b>	<b>-542,969</b>	<b>-4.8</b>
Domestic service*	7,401,844	8,726,163	8,318,321	-407,842	-4.7
Outbound service	706,976	922,237	873,133	-49,104	-5.3
Inbound service	1,106,090	1,570,394	1,484,371	-86,023	-5.5
<b>Parcels and other Items</b>	<b>25,741</b>	<b>29,090</b>	<b>37,666</b>	<b>8,576</b>	<b>29.5</b>
Domestic service	1,324	422	2,038	1,616	382.9
Outbound service	5,241	6,424	6,859	435	6.8
Inbound service	19,176	22,244	28,769	6,525	29.3

\*This includes operators other than the designated Universal service provider.

**Table 7. Courier service: items received and dispatched**

Courier Service	Q3	Q4		Change 2013/2012	% Change 2013/2012
	2013	2012	2013		
<b>Total Traffic</b>	<b>157,328</b>	<b>148,067</b>	<b>180,319</b>	<b>32,252</b>	<b>21.8</b>
Letters/documents	99,069	94,374	105,331	10,957	11.6
Parcels	58,259	53,693	74,988	21,295	39.7

## Methodological Notes

1. The data published 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 are collected by the Malta Communications Authority (MCA).
2. The statistics in this release should be considered as provisional 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.
3. 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 2006.
4. The mode of data collection related to couriers was changed in January 2009, and as a result information for previous years cannot be compared on a like with like basis.
5. **Active mobile** subscribers includes all subscribers who have made at least one call, SMS, MMS or data activity both 2G and 3G during the period under review.
6. **Active internet** subscribers are defined as those connections having recorded a transaction within 90 days of the period stipulated. Past data has been revised.
7. **Broadband** is defined as a connection to the internet which is 'always on' and has a speed of more than 128 Kbps.
8. **Active fixed telephony** subscribers are defined as those connections which made and received any calls within 90 days of the period stipulated.
9. **Fixed line telephony** comprises calls originating from publicly available telephone services provided at a fixed location.
10. **Internet Protocol television (IPTV)** is a system through which television services are delivered using the Internet protocol suite over a packet-switched network such as the Internet, instead of being delivered through traditional terrestrial, satellite signal, and cable television formats.
11. International minutes consumed from a fixed line are inclusive of both services provided by ISP and fixed telephony providers from Quarter 3 2005. Traffic originating from all operators offering fixed traffic telephony including analogue telephony, and digital communications (including wireless telephony).
12. **National Post and Courier Service**
  - Domestic Area:** Volume of domestically destined postal items falling within the reserved area.
  - Outbound:** Volume of domestically originating letters in the reserved area forwarded to foreign destinations.
  - Inbound:** Volume of foreign originating letters in the reserved area forwarded to Malta.
13. The computation of mobile subscriptions per person is based on a provisional estimated total population of 423,516 basing on updates made upon figures derived from the 2011 Population and Housing Census.