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As at the end of March, internet, TV and fixed telephone subscriptions all registered increases over the corresponding period last year.

Post and Telecommunications: Q1/2014

Cut-off date:
9 June 2014

Internet, analogue and digital TV subscriptions

During the first quarter, internet broadband subscriptions grew by 5.3 per cent, reaching 144,800.

High speed internet connections exceeding 10 Mbps advanced by 19.5 per cent, reaching 131,930. In contrast, internet subscriptions with speeds ranging from 2 to 10 Mbps decreased by 52.0 per cent (Table 2). The internet subscription index as at the end of Quarter 1 stood at 155.6 per cent, increasing by 5.3 percentage points when compared to 2013 levels (Table 1).

Television subscriptions totalled 148,545, at par with last year's levels. Digital subscriptions continued to dominate the market while analogue subscriptions dropped by 12.2 per cent (Table 3).

Telecommunications

Fixed telephone subscriptions as at the end of March totalled 230,384, edging up by 0.5 per cent over 2013. Total fixed originating minutes to national networks declined by 4.5 per cent, while minutes towards international networks decreased by 11.4 per cent (Table 4).

Local originating mobile traffic rose by 10.9 per cent. Positive trends were recorded both towards fixed and mobile telephone networks - 3.2 and 11.7 per cent respectively (Table 5). Meanwhile the number of SMS's sent while roaming increased by 2.0 per cent.

Post and Courier Services

Total postal traffic during the reference quarter declined by 11.8 per cent, and stood at 9.6 million items. Items received and dispatched by couriers totalled 183,086, up by 21.2 per cent over last year ■

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

Subscriptions Indices	Q1					% change 2014/2013	
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013		
Internet subscriptions	109.1	121.8	135.2	142.6	147.7	155.6	5.3
Analogue and digital television subscriptions	123.5	128.1	132.9	135.1	135.5	135.4	0.0
Fixed telephony subscriptions	120.2	120.8	120.1	113.1	112.1	112.6	0.5

Table 2. Internet

Internet Subscriptions	as at end of December	as at end of March		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2013	2013	2014		
Internet Subscriptions	143,010	137,449	144,800	7,351	5.3
Broadband					
Less than 144 kbps	-	-	-	-	-
Between 144 kbps and less than 2 Mbps	28	263	17	-246	-93.5
Between 2 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps	18,922	26,781	12,853	-13,928	-52.0
Greater than 10 Mbps	124,060	110,405	131,930	21,525	19.5

Table 3. Analogue and digital TV subscriptions

Pay TV Broadcasting	as at end of December	as at end of March		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2013	2013	2014		
Analogue and Digital subscriptions	148,905	148,592	148,545	-47	0.0
Analogue subscriptions	7,495	8,187	7,186	-1,001	-12.2
Digital subscriptions (including IPTV*)	141,410	140,405	141,359	954	0.7

Table 4. Fixed telephony

Fixed Telephony Subscriptions	as at end of December	as at end of March		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2013	2013	2014		
Number of subscriptions	231,331	229,337	230,384	1,047	0.5
Fixed Telephony	Q4	Q1		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2013	2012	2013		
Total fixed originating minutes to national networks	141,978,630	149,220,851	142,573,361	-6,647,490	-4.5
Fixed to fixed	125,641,871	132,477,841	128,197,959	-4,279,882	-3.2
Fixed to mobile	14,493,406	15,092,938	12,531,756	-2,561,182	-17.0
Other*	1,843,353	1,650,072	1,843,646	193,574	11.7
Total fixed originating minutes to international networks**	9,002,471	9,477,769	8,394,411	-1,083,358	-11.4

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

** Includes Traditional fixed minutes and Calling Cards

Table 5. Mobile telephony

Local Originating Mobile Traffic*	Q4	Q1		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2013	2013	2014		
Total Minutes	171,783,596	150,437,620	166,842,260	16,404,640	10.9
Local outgoing minutes to fixed traffic	19,501,023	16,883,036	17,420,198	537,162	3.2
Local outgoing minutes to mobile traffic	147,142,988	129,379,493	144,569,832	15,190,339	11.7
Mobile originating minutes to international networks	5,139,585	4,175,091	4,852,230	677,139	16.2
Outgoing SMS traffic	142,080,936	153,804,416	128,130,684	-25,673,732	-16.7
Outgoing MMS traffic	46,631	56,691	46,382	-10,309	-18.2
Roaming	Q4	Q1		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2013	2013	2014		
Outbound roaming (Maltese subscriptions abroad)					
Total minutes originated while roaming	1,852,393	1,445,120	1,757,723	312,603	21.6
Total minutes received while roaming	1,524,704	1,280,540	1,426,921	146,381	11.4
SMS sent while roaming	2,611,973	2,275,163	2,321,489	46,326	2.0
Inbound roaming (visitors in Malta)					
Total outgoing visitors minutes	5,325,684	3,585,270	4,384,774	799,504	22.3
Total incoming visitors minutes	4,913,902	3,598,100	4,066,826	468,726	13.0

* Excluding roaming

Table 6. National post: items received and dispatched

National Post	Q4	Q1		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2013	2013	2014		
Total Traffic	10,675,825	10,880,030	9,592,260	-1,287,770	-11.8
Domestic service*	8,318,321	9,173,721	8,049,286	-1,124,435	-12.3
Outbound service	873,133	455,898	386,285	-69,613	-15.3
Inbound service	1,484,371	1,250,411	1,156,689	-93,722	-7.5
Parcels and other Items	37,666	24,857	34,181	9,324	37.5
Domestic service	2,038	484	54	-430	-88.8
Outbound service	6,859	4,727	4,891	164	3.5
Inbound service	28,769	19,646	29,236	9,590	48.8

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

Table 7. Courier service: items received and dispatched

Courier Service	Q4	Q1		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2013	2013	2014		
Total Traffic	181,760	151,081	183,086	32,005	21.2
Letters/documents	106,194	92,275	109,041	16,766	18.2
Parcels	75,566	58,806	74,045	15,239	25.9

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. In Table 5, data on mobile phone subscribers are not being published due to a break in series with effect from this year. Data is therefore not comparable to previous year.
5. **Active internet** subscribers are defined as those connections having recorded a transaction within 90 days of the period stipulated. Past data has been revised.
6. **Broadband** is defined as a connection to the internet which is 'always on' and has a speed of more than 128 kbps.
7. **Active fixed telephony** subscribers are defined as those connections which made and received any calls within 90 days of the period stipulated.
8. **Fixed line telephony** comprises calls originating from publicly available telephone services provided at a fixed location.
9. **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.
10. 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).
11. **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.