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As at the end of September, internet, TV and fixed telephone subscription indices registered increases over the corresponding period in 2013.

Post and Telecommunications: Q3/2014

Cut-off date:
12 December 2014

Internet, Analogue and Digital TV Subscriptions

During the third quarter of 2014, internet broadband subscriptions grew by 6.7 per cent, reaching 151,452.

High speed internet connections exceeding 10Mbps advanced by 19.7 per cent, reaching 140,718. In contrast, internet subscriptions with speed ranging from 2 to 10Mbps decreased by 56.0 per cent (Table 2). The internet subscription index as at the end of Quarter 3 stood at 162.7 per cent, increasing by 6.7 per cent when compared to 2013 levels (Table 1).

Television subscriptions totalled 149,394, marginally higher when compared to the previous year's levels. Digital subscriptions continued to dominate the market, while analogue subscriptions dropped by 9.4 per cent when compared to the same quarter in 2013 (Table 3).

Telecommunications

The number of fixed telephone subscriptions reached 232,213 by the end of September 2014, increasing by 0.6 per cent over 2013. Total fixed originating minutes to national networks dropped by 6.1 per cent, while minutes towards international networks decreased by 2.7 per cent (Table 4).

Positive changes were recorded in local originating mobile traffic. Increases of 2.1 and 9.6 per cent were recorded towards fixed and mobile telephone networks respectively (Table 5). Meanwhile the number of SMSs sent while roaming decreased by 6.1 per cent.

Post and Courier Services

Total postal traffic during the reference quarter decreased by 0.9 per cent to over 9.1 million items. Items received and dispatched by couriers totalled 174,440, an increase of 10.9 per cent over the previous year (Table 7) ■

Compiled by:

**Unit C4: Education and
Information Society Statistics**

**Directorate C: Social
Statistics**

Further information on data:

Ms Sue Ann SCOTT DRAGO
T. +356 2599 7611
E. sueann.scott-drago@gov.mt

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Issued by: **External Cooperation and Communication Unit, National Statistics Office, Lascaris, Valletta VLT 2000, Malta.**
T. +356 2599 7219 F. +356 2599 7205 E. nso@gov.mt

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

Subscriptions Indices	Q3						% change 2014/2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Internet subscriptions	118.2	129.3	137.7	146.0	152.6	162.7	6.7
Analogue and digital television subscriptions	126.4	132.2	135.9	135.8	136.0	136.2	0.2
Fixed telephony subscriptions	120.6	120.5	116.2	114.5	112.8	113.5	0.6

Table 2. Internet

Internet Subscriptions	as at end of June	as at end of September		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2014	2013	2014		
Internet Subscriptions	148,411	141,987	151,452	9,465	6.7
Broadband					
Between 144 kbps and less than 2 Mbps	17	31	16	-15	-48.4
Between 2 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps	12,326	24,353	10,718	-13,635	-56.0
10 Mbps and greater	136,068	117,603	140,718	23,115	19.7

Table 3. Analogue and digital TV subscriptions

Pay TV Broadcasting	as at end of June	as at end of September		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2014	2013	2014		
Analogue and Digital subscriptions	149,158	149,166	149,394	228	0.2
Analogue subscriptions	7,208	7,796	7,062	-734	-9.4
Digital subscriptions (including IPTV)	141,950	141,370	142,332	962	0.7

Table 4. Fixed telephony

Fixed Telephony Subscriptions	as at end of June	as at end of September		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2014	2013	2014		
Number of subscriptions	232,469	230,760	232,213	1,453	0.6
Fixed Telephony	Q2	Q3		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2014	2013	2014		
Total fixed originating minutes to national networks	137,603,295	136,928,444	128,606,171	-8,322,273	-6.1
Fixed to fixed	121,557,816	120,045,471	112,781,361	-7,264,110	-6.1
Fixed to mobile	14,094,019	15,084,918	14,100,696	-984,222	-6.5
Other*	1,951,460	1,798,056	1,724,114	-73,942	-4.1
Total fixed originating minutes to international networks**	8,456,523	8,710,150	8,473,385	-236,765	-2.7

*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*	Q2	Q3		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2014	2013	2014		
Local outgoing minutes to fixed traffic	19,010,986	19,012,433	19,410,637	398,204	2.1
Local outgoing minutes to mobile traffic	157,029,661	143,888,593	157,699,146	13,810,553	9.6
Mobile originating minutes to international networks	5,316,272	5,307,604	5,683,009	375,405	7.1
Outgoing SMS traffic	128,872,744	145,127,456	125,992,603	-19,134,853	-13.2
Outgoing MMS traffic	37,414	61,323	29,046	-32,277	-52.6
Roaming	Q2	Q3		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2014	2013	2014		
Outbound roaming (Maltese subscriptions abroad)					
Total minutes originated while roaming	1,911,542	2,148,211	2,676,493	528,282	24.6
Total minutes received while roaming	1,325,623	1,910,864	2,083,943	173,079	9.1
SMS sent while roaming	2,146,388	3,213,597	3,018,630	-194,967	-6.1
Inbound roaming (visitors in Malta)					
Total outgoing visitors minutes	7,639,561	8,839,951	10,689,340	1,849,389	20.9
Total incoming visitors minutes	6,315,595	8,324,233	9,008,419	684,186	8.2

* Excluding roaming

Table 6. National post: items received and dispatched

National Post	Q2	Q3		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2014	2013	2014		
Total Traffic	11,858,918	9,214,910	9,129,493	-85,417	-0.9
Domestic service*	10,121,185	7,401,844	7,427,539	25,695	0.3
Outbound service	601,975	706,976	628,129	-78,847	-11.2
Inbound service	1,135,758	1,106,090	1,073,825	-32,265	-2.9
Parcels and other Items	29,808	25,741	28,535	2,794	10.9
Domestic service	46	1,324	50	-1,274	-96.2
Outbound service	5,594	5,241	5,493	252	4.8
Inbound service	24,168	19,176	22,992	3,816	19.9

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

Table 7. Courier service: items received and dispatched

Courier Service	Q2	Q3		Absolute change 2014/2013	% change 2014/2013
	2014	2013	2014		
Total Traffic	179,453	157,328	174,440	17,112	10.9
Letters/documents	114,057	99,069	107,616	8,547	8.6
Parcels	65,396	58,259	66,824	8,565	14.7

Methodological Notes

1. The data published in this release are based on a quarterly census among providers of fixed and mobile telephony, television, internet, postal and courier services. 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. The mode of data collection related to couriers was changed in January 2009. As a result information for previous years may not be strictly comparable.

Definitions:

4. **Active mobile** subscribers are those who made at least one call, SMS, MMS or data activity both 2G and 3G during the period under review.
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 those who 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 services provided by both Internet Service Providers (ISP) and by fixed telephony providers from Quarter 3 2005 onwards.
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.