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Business

Post and Telecommunications: 2004

Telecommunications

This is the second comprehensive release published by the NSO, which presents details of the operations of the post and telecommunications sector in the Maltese economy.

Fixed telephone lines subscriptions increased by 2,435 or 1.2 per cent from 2003 to 2004. Mobile telephony subscriptions saw also an increase of 18,499 or 6.4 per cent over the same period.

Local fixed calls minutes consumed decreased by 13.8 per cent between end of 2003 and end of 2004. Also a decrease of 16.9 per cent was recorded in minutes consumed from fixed to mobile networks. Total cellular (mobile) calls increased by 14.9 per cent from 131.7 million minutes in 2003 to 151.3 million minutes in 2004. Calls from mobile to fixed networks increased by 0.53 million minutes from 2003 to 2004. Short text messages (SMSes) increased by 7.7 per cent between 2003 and 2004.

International receipts from mobile telephony increased by 2.1 per cent, whilst payments increased by Lm1.84 million for the period 2003 to 2004. Total turnover from mobile telephony increased by 10.3 per cent from Lm41.8 million in 2003 to Lm46.1 million in 2004. Both International receipts and payments from fixed telephony increased by Lm2.8 million and Lm4.11 million respectively in 2004 compared to 2003. Total turnover from fixed telephony decreased by 15.5 per cent.

Investment in mobile telephony registered an increase of 1.1 per cent between 2003-2004. Investment in fixed telephony registered a drop of 70.3 per cent in the period under review.

Post and Couriers

The national post, registered a decrease of 3.6 per cent on 'registered parcels and other items received' between 2003 and 2004. A drop of 10.2 per cent was reported for the item under 'Letters, printed paper, newspapers and postcards received from abroad' in the same period.

On the other hand, locally posted 'Letters, printed paper, newspapers & postcards received' decreased from 52.8 million items during 2003, to 48.5 million items during 2004, a decrease of 8.1 per cent. Locally dispatched 'Letters, printed paper, newspapers & postcards' increased from 46.6 million items to 51.3 million items, a 10.1 per cent increase.

Postal order transactions, in value terms, have all increased from 2003 to 2004. on the other had money order transactions have dropped in cash terms. Giros were not cashed during 2004.

Employment increased from 108 full-time (equivalent) persons to 119, from 2003 to 2004, a 10.2 per cent increase. Wages and salaries increased by 12.6 per cent in the same period. Total Turnover increased by 20.9 per cent during 2004 compared to 2003. The number of letters and parcels services, between 2003 and 2004, increased by 15.0 per cent and 19.1 per cent respectively ■

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Table 1. Fixed and mobile telephony subscribers

Subscriptions	as at end of the year				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Fixed telephone lines	204,193	207,745	207,269	208,271	210,706
Mobile Telephony	113,439	220,545	276,859	289,902	308,401

Table 2. Local fixed and mobile telephony

000's

Local calls	End of year 2000	End of year 2001	End of year 2002	End of year 2003	End of year 2004
Local calls * (pulses)	325,177	298,851			
Local calls (minutes)			1,053,959 **	1,129,605	974,072
Calls from fixed to mobile networks (minutes)	42,307	68,269	79,027	59,609	49,541
Cellular mobile calls, total (minutes)	57,320	83,635	104,201	131,688	151,272
Of which:					
Calls from mobile to mobile networks (minutes)	32,959	50,464	71,379	98,357	117,450
Calls from mobile to fixed networks (minutes)	24,361	33,171	32,822	33,331	33,862
Short text messages [SMS] (thousands of messages)	4,047	106,190	232,562	364,518	392,457
MMS (thousands of messages)	:	:	:	:	840

* 2000 and 2001 figures are in pulses, but as from 1FEB 2002 onwards, figures are in minutes (via Cerillion).

** Local calls (within Maltese Islands) from February to December 2002

Table 3. International telecommunications traffic

(Lm millions)

International traffic	as at end of the year				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Receipts of telecommunication services - International incoming traffic (total)					
Mobile Telephony	5.09	5.67	5.28	5.59	5.71
Fixed Telephony	3.09	4.57	3.07	2.54	5.3
Payments of telecommunication services - International outgoing traffic (total)					
Mobile Telephony	0.54	0.96	1.55	1.82	3.66
Fixed Telephony	3.96	4.26	2.79	1.99	6.1

Table 4. Turnover & Investment in Telecommunications

(Lm millions)

	as at end of the year				
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Turnover (total receipts) from telecommunications					
Fixed Telephony (Total)	46.6	45.0	43.6	43.2	36.5
Mobile Telephony (Total)	21.4	27.2	34.0	41.8	46.1
Total gross investment in tangible goods					
Mobile Telephony	13.2	21.0	6.9	8.9	9.0
Fixed Telephony	4.3	4.7	15.3	11.1	3.3

Table 5. National post: items received and despatched

National post statistics	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Offices (including Sub Post-Offices)	52	52	52	52	53
Letters, printed paper, newspapers and postcards received					
Posted locally (thousands)	52,448	53,627	57,696	52,782	48,467
From abroad (thousands)	8,280	8,389	9,034	9,301	8,349
(of which from 3. above) Air mail (thousand)	6,160	7,500	8,600	8,800	7,865
Parcel and other items received					
Registered - foreign and inland	673,417	865,153	827,074	895,008	862,659
Parcels - inland	207	329	372	214	111
Parcels - Foreign (SAL - AIR - SURFACE)	34,644	30,516	24,100	19,543	23,877
Air mail Parcels	26,873	23,040	16,877	14,080	15,651
Letters, printed papers, newspapers and postcards despatched					
Disposed of locally (thousand)	54,117	56,099	60,922	46,580	51,321
Despatched abroad (thousand)	6,611	5,918	5,809	5,325	5,495
Air mail (thousand)	6,611	5,918	5,809	5,325	5,495
Parcels and other items despatched					
Registered - foreign	169,378	177,444	144,806	128,300	125,157
Parcels - Foreign (AIR - SAL)	11,185	11,877	12,095	11,961	12,887
Air mail parcels	8,319	8,701	8,830	9,026	9,887

Table 6. National post: postal and money order transactions

Postal and money order transactions		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Postal orders						
Issued	Number	25,131	19,889	18,255	19,281	20,105
	Lm	186,370	587,717	135,897	131,924	146,146
Cashed	Number	2,789	2,372	2,901	2,097	2,931
	Lm	24,282	130,858	24,984	18,457	21,387
Money order						
Issued	Number	24,408	30,984	24,338	19,867	18,500
	Lm	368,788	492,147	428,591	404,839	391,260
Cashed	Number	23,822	29,896	23,540	21,260	22,405
	Lm	372,667	488,262	428,687	395,996	391,909
Foreign						
Issued	Number	2,694	2,685	2,426	752	2,265
	Lm	48,941	57,238	45,441	41,780	43,813
Cashed	Number	1,211	978	579	531	492
	Lm	89,287	76,571	47,144	43,500	37,763
Giros Enchased	Number	968	205	102	0	0
	Lm	59,496	13,724	7,890	0	0

Table 7. Courier statistics

All private couriers	2001	2002	2003	2004
Employment (into full time equivalents), average of the year	110	115	108	119
Wages and salaries	745,312	649,938	602,165	678,300
Access points:				
Offices open to the public	7	7	7	7
Finacial results:				
Total turnover from the provision of service	1,978,021	2,138,785	1,949,085	2,356,128
Operating expenditures for the provision of service	504,898	640,080	598,381	661,896
Investments	19,324	14,387	19,152	17,865
Breakdown of turnover from courier and/or express and parcels service:				
Turnover from letters/documents	877,381	965,230	868,292	1,035,852
Turnover from parcels	478,270	560,334	552,491	673,352
Breakdown of traffic:				
Breakdown of standard service:				
Number of letters/documents	98,926	114,580	115,433	132,801
Number of parcels	67,246	74,408	75,372	89,780
Total number of outgoing items dispatched	66,550	76,804	77,874	79,698
Total number of incoming items dispatched	202,875	218,410	219,730	225,030
Quality indicators:				
Delivery:				
Percentage of population having items delivered at home	71	72	72	74
Percentage of population having to collect items from offices	29	28	28	26
Number of deliveries per day	427	476	507	545
Efficiency:				
International incoming service:				
Percentage of items delivered by D+2 (working days)	85	89	90	89
Percentage of items delivered by D+3 (working days)	15	11	10	10

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release are based on a yearly census among fixed and mobile telephone, post and couriers service providers.
2. These statistics are as at the end December of each year.
3. The statistics in this release should be considered as current and thereby subject to revision. Each release may include revisions of past yearly data. Revisions may be carried out in respect of a rolling two-year period.