

News Release



Date: 30 January 2006
No. : 15/2006
Time of release: 11.00 hrs

Theme:
Industry and Services

Compiled by:
Business Statistics Unit
e-mail: stbs.nso@gov.mt
Tel: 25997339

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Information Society

Information Society: October - December 2005

Internet Subscriptions

This release provides indices from 2004 to the 4th quarter 2005. In the fourth quarter of 2005, the internet subscriptions index rose by 5.6 per cent from 276.0 in 2004 to 291.5 in 2005. The rate of internet subscriptions per 100 population reached 21.9. The number of narrow band and broad band subscriptions reached 46,651 and 42,170 respectively.

T. V Licences and Cable Subscriptions

T. V Licences as end of December 2005 stood at 123,282 amounting to 30.4 per 100 population. In the same quarter, the cable subscriptions index rose by 1.6 per cent from 125.8 to 127.8 recorded in the same period in 2004. Cable television subscriptions amounted to 25.3 per 100 population as at the end of the fourth quarter of 2005.

Telephone Communication

In the period under review, the mobile phone subscriptions index showed an increase of 5.3 per cent. The number of mobile telephones reached 324,787 in absolute terms; that is 80.2 per 100 population. The number of contract based mobile telephone subscriptions reached 26,901. The number of card plan mobile telephone subscriptions reached 297,886. In the fourth quarter this year, the number of minutes consumed to mobile networks amounted to over 37.3 million minutes while those directed to the fixed line network amounted to around 6.0 million minutes. This signified a drop of 2.2 per cent and 9.7 per cent respectively compared to third quarter 2005. A drop of 6.5 per cent was recorded in the number of SMS. A drop of 73,395 MMS was recorded in the fourth period of 2005. The minutes consumed for the WAP service stood at 61,408 in the period under review. This amounts to a rise of 43.1 per cent between the fourth quarter 2005 and the third quarter 2005.

In the fourth quarter of 2005, the fixed telephone subscriptions indices increased by 0.5 per cent from 103.1 in 2004 to 103.6 in 2005. The number of minutes used in fixed line telephony on local calls increased by around 1.7million when compared to the third quarter 2005. The recorded rise was in the use of residential fixed telephone lines for local calls purposes. This rise amounted to around 3.8 million. On the other hand a drop of 1.6 per cent was recorded by business. The amount of minutes taken up by international calls from fixed line telephones increased by around 44.7 per cent in the fourth quarter when compared to the previous quarter. The number of international calls from fixed telephone lines increased by 13.0 per cent when compared to the third quarter 2005.

In the fourth quarter in 2005, the use of VOIP reached around 12.9 million minutes; an increase of around 6.6 million minutes over the same period last year. The pager subscriptions index decreased by 2.7 per cent from 82.2 to 80.0 over the fourth quarter in 2004 and 2005 respectively ■

National Statistics Office
Library & Information Unit
Lascaris, Valletta CMR 02, Malta
Tel: (+356) 25997219
Fax: (+356) 25997205
e-mail: nso@gov.mt
<http://www.nso.gov.mt>

Table 1. Information society subscriptions indices

2000=100

	2004				2005	Annual % Change
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q4	
Internet subscriptions	256.1	256.7	272.8	276.0	291.5	5.6
Fixed telephony subscriptions	102.8	102.9	102.5	103.1	103.6	0.5
Mobile telephony subscriptions	397.4	404.9	415.3	421.3	443.7	5.3
Pager subscriptions	85.4	83.8	83.9	82.2	80.0	-2.7
Cable subscriptions	124.2	126.7	125.5	125.8	127.8	1.6

Table 2. Telephony subscriptions indices

2000=100

	2000			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Mobile telephone subscriptions	60.5	85.5	99.0	155.0
Fixed telephone subscriptions	98.9	99.1	100.6	101.4
Pager subscriptions	95.7	100.0	102.2	102.1
2001				
Mobile telephone subscriptions	185.1	218.7	250.8	301.3
Fixed telephone subscriptions	101.9	102.3	103.2	103.2
Pager subscriptions	97.9	98.6	94.4	93.1
2002				
Mobile telephone subscriptions	322.1	326.7	346.9	378.2
Fixed telephone subscriptions	103.1	102.8	103.4	102.9
Pager subscriptions	90.6	93.5	89.1	89.1
2003				
Mobile telephone subscriptions	375.1	375.9	383.7	396.2
Fixed telephone subscriptions	103.1	103.1	103.1	103.4
Pager subscriptions	88.8	86.3	62.0	86.3
2004				
Mobile telephone subscriptions	397.4	404.9	415.3	423.5
Fixed telephone subscriptions	102.8	102.9	102.5	103.1
Pager subscriptions	85.4	83.8	83.9	82.2
2005				
Mobile telephone subscriptions	471.8	439.8	444.7	443.7
Fixed telephone subscriptions	104.0	102.2	103.6	103.6
Pager subscriptions	83.4	83.2	80.3	80.0

Chart 1. Telephony subscriptions indices

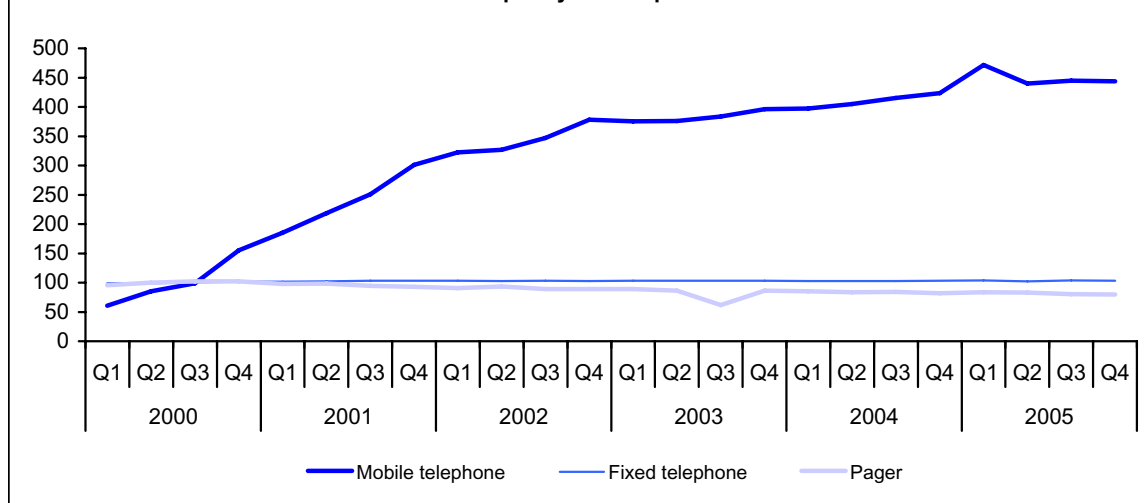


Table 3. Mobile telephony

	2005		Absolute change	Percentage change
	July-September	October - December		
Number of subscriptions (total)	325,546	324,787	-759	-0.2
Contract based subscriptions	26,133	26,901	768	2.9
Card plan subscriptions	299,413	297,886	-1,527	-0.5
Minutes consumed to mobile networks	38,132,519	37,284,121	-848,398	-2.2
Minutes consumed to fixed lines	6,691,107	6,042,658	-648,449	-9.7
Number of SMS	109,438,871	102,376,763	-7,062,108	-6.5
Number of MMS	246,241	172,846	-73,395	-29.8
WAP (minutes consumed)	42,920	61,408	18,488	43.1

Table 4. Internet and Cable Subscriptions Indices

2000=100

	2000			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Internet	82.4	91.7	103.6	122.4
Cable	96.3	98.9	101.6	103.3
2001				
Internet	122.4	133.6	146.3	163.5
Cable	104.4	107.3	110.8	112.2
2002				
Internet	175.8	186.1	196.4	213.3
Cable	112.5	115.9	118.2	118.4
2003				
Internet	223.6	227.7	232.3	249.2
Cable	119.9	121.7	123.2	123.8
2004				
Internet	223.6	227.7	232.3	249.2
Cable	119.9	121.7	123.2	123.8
2005				
Internet	277.2	283.2	280.6	291.5
Cable	127.5	127.1	129.2	127.8

Chart 2. Internet and cable subscriptions indices

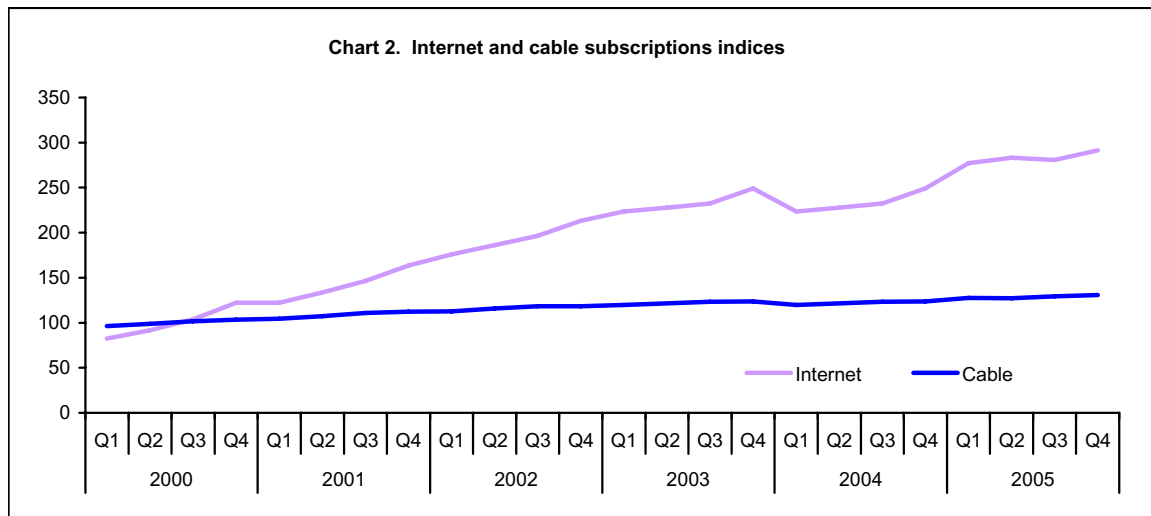


Table 5. Information society indicators per 100 population

	As per end of December									
	Number					Per Population				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Internet Subscriptions	51,343	67,001	78,260	87,870	88,771	13.0	16.9	19.6	21.9	21.9
Narrow Band	:	:	:	53,582	46,651	:	:	:	13.3	11.5
Broad Band	:	:	:	34,388	42,170	:	:	:	8.5	10.4
Mobile telephone subscriptions	220,545	276,859	289,902	308,401	324,787	55.9	69.7	72.5	76.8	80.2
Pager Subscriptions	4,866	4,645	4,511	4,300	4,800	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2
Fixed Telephone lines	207,745	207,269	208,271	210,706	209,305	52.6	52.2	52.1	52.4	51.7
VOIP (minutes Consumed)	:	:	3,815,679	6,308,017	12,933,365	:	:	:	:	:
Public coin phones	:	:	173	170	145	:	:	:	:	:
Public card phones	:	:	1,591	710	1,130	:	:	:	:	:
Public webphones	:	:	69	71	71	:	:	:	:	:
Cable television subscriptions	90,091	95,107	99,732	101,000	102,603	22.8	23.9	24.9	25.1	25.3
T.V Licences	123,300	123,028	123,044	123,177	123,282	31.2	31.0	30.8	30.7	30.4

Source: National Statistics Office

Table 6. Fixed telephony

	2005		Absolute change	Percentage change
	July -September	October -December		
Number of subscriptions (total)	206,266	209,305	3,039	1.5
Residential	166,051	169,561	3,510	2.1
Business	40,215	39,744	-471	-1.2
Minutes consumed for local fixed lines	174,604,221	177,553,553	2,949,332	1.7
Residential	121,694,380	125,513,220	3,818,840	3.1
Business	52,909,841	52,040,332	-869,509	-1.6
Minutes consumed for international fixed telephone lines	5,852,990	8,468,256	2,615,266	44.7
Number of calls consumed for international fixed lines	1,504,058	1,699,741	195,683	13.0

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release are based on a quarterly census among fixed and mobile telephone, cable television and internet and voice over the internet protocol service providers. Other data were obtained from the Department of Wireless and Telegraphy.
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 thereby 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 month for card plan subscriptions.
6. VOIP (voice over the internet protocol) minutes consumed are inclusive of both services provided by ISP and fixed telephony providers from Quarter 3 2005.
7. Cable subscriptions indices are inclusive of digital television.

8. Definitions

Internet subscriptions are inclusive of household and business subscriptions but are exclusive of the subscriptions of educational institutions.

Broadband Internet subscriptions are inclusive of dial-up, ISDN and mobile internet while broadband is inclusive of ADSL and cable.

ISDN - Integrated Services Digital Network: a service provided by telecoms operators provided end-to-end digital links - giving users greater bandwidth and faster call setup times.

ADSL - Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line. A high-speed, high bandwidth telephone lines.

WAP - Wireless Application Protocol. The mobile equivalent of HTML

VOIP - voice over internet protocol - this is telephony over the internet.