

News Release



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Business

Post and Telecommunications: July-September 2007

As at the end of September 2007, subscriptions to all forms of communication technology increased. Postal traffic totalled 12.9 million items.

Telecommunications

In the quarter under review, the absolute number of mobile telephone subscriptions reached 369,513, which roughly translates into 90.7 per cent of the population. Contract-based mobile telephone subscriptions were recorded at 34,819, while card-plan subscriptions reached 334,694. Table 3 focuses on the different areas of mobile communication.

As at the end of September, the fixed telephone subscription index increased by 8.0 per cent, from 104.1 in quarter three 2006 to 112.4 in the comparable quarter this year. Minutes used in fixed-line telephony amounted to around 183 million, while international fixed-telephony traffic comprised 509,713 calls, equivalent to around 1.6 million minutes.

VOIP minutes were estimated at around 4.8 million in the quarter under review.

Internet, Cable and Digital Subscriptions

The internet subscription index rose by 5.5 per cent from 301.6 as at the end of September 2006 to 318.2 as at the end of the corresponding period in 2007. The rate of Internet subscriptions per 100 persons in the population reached 24.5.

The cable and digital subscriptions index also advanced by 6.9 per cent. Cable and digital television subscriptions were recorded at 28.9 per 100 persons in the population as at the end of September 2007.

Post and Couriers

Total postal traffic for the third quarter this year amounted to around 12.9 million items, of which the absolute bulk represented letters and other printed items. During the same reference period, courier traffic totalled 63,456 items, of which 52 per cent were letters or documents, and the rest parcels ■

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Table 1. Information society subscriptions indices

	Q3							Annual % change 2007/2006
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Internet subscriptions	163.5	213.3	249.2	276.0	282.6	301.6	318.2	5.5
Fixed telephony subscriptions	103.2	102.9	103.4	103.1	103.9	104.1	112.4	8.0
Mobile telephony subscriptions	301.3	378.2	396.2	421.3	443.7	471.1	504.8	7.2
Cable subscriptions	112.2	118.4	123.8	125.8	127.8	137.2	146.7	6.9

Table 2. Information society indicators per 100 population

	Q3							Annual % change 2007/2006
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
Internet subscriptions	11.7	15.6	18.3	21.3	21.8	23.3	24.5	1.2
Fixed telephony subscriptions	52.4	52.3	52.2	51.4	51.6	51.6	55.6	4.0
Mobile telephony subscriptions	46.6	64.0	70.4	75.8	80.6	84.8	90.7	5.9
Cable subscriptions	22.6	23.9	24.8	25.1	25.7	27.1	28.9	1.8

Table 3. Mobile telephony

	as at end of September		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
As at end of period				
Number of subscriptions (total)	344,839	369,513	24,674	7.2
Contract-based subscriptions	28,938	34,819	5,881	20.3
Card-plan subscriptions	315,901	334,694	18,793	5.9
	July-September			
	2006	2007	Absolute change	% yearly change
Quarterly Total				
Minutes consumed to local mobile networks	44,841,703	52,036,084	7,194,381	16.0
Minutes consumed to local fixed networks	5,239,606	5,448,230	208,624	4.0
Number of SMSs	119,077,335	136,448,992	17,371,657	14.6
Number of MMSs	223,707	141,426	-82,281	-36.8
Pager subscriptions	4,773	4,752	-21	-0.4

Table 4. Fixed telephony

	as at end of September		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
As at end of period				
Number of subscriptions (total)	209,610	226,429	16,819	8.0
	July-September		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
Quarterly Total				
Minutes consumed to local fixed lines (total)	143,728,285	182,600,137	38,871,852	27.0
Minutes consumed for international fixed telephone lines	1,839,035	1,600,804	-238,231	-13.0
Number of calls consumed for international fixed telephone lines	615,502	509,713	-105,789	-17.2

Table 5. Internet

	as at end of September		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
Internet Subscriptions	94,748	99,947	5,199	5.5
Narrow Band	58,236	42,396	-15,840	-27.2
Broad Band	36,512	57,551	21,039	57.6
	July-September		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
VOIP (minutes consumed)	4,363,941	4,832,134	468,193	10.7

Table 6. Cable and digital TV

	as at end of September		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
Cable and Digital terrestrial Subscriptions	110,156	117,761	7,605	6.9
Cable Analogue Subscriptions	75,461	69,912	-5,549	-7.4
Digital (cable and terrestrial) Subscriptions	30,282	47,849	17,567	58.0

Note: Cable and Digital subscriptions refer to those held by both private residences and business units.

Table 7. National post and courier service: items received and dispatched

	July-September		Absolute change	% yearly change
	2006	2007		
National Post				
Total Traffic:	12,511,496	12,944,256	432,760	3.5
Letters, printed paper, newspapers and postcards	12,500,000	12,932,607	432,607	3.5
Parcels and other Items	11,496	11,649	153	1.3
Courier Service				
Total Traffic:	61,251	63,456	2,205	3.6
Letters/documents	32,018	32,932	914	2.9
Parcels	29,233	30,524	1,291	4.4

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 Internet Protocol (VOIP) service providers.
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 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.
5. Mobile telephone subscriptions are reported as active subscriptions within the last month for contract-based subscriptions and within the last three months for card-plan subscriptions.
6. VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) minutes consumed are inclusive of both services provided by ISP and fixed telephony providers from Quarter 3 2005.
7. From 2005, cable subscription indices are inclusive of digital television.