

News Release



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Information Society

Information Society Indicators: July 2006

In July 2006, subscriptions to all forms of communication technology increased with the exception of cable and digital television.

The internet subscription index rose by 1.1 per cent as at end July 2006. Narrowband and broadband subscriptions were recorded at 48,294 and 43,536 respectively.

In the month under review, the cable and digital television subscription index dropped by 0.5 per cent, reflecting a drop in cable analogue and an increase in digital technology use. In absolute terms, these subscriptions totaled 110,659.

In the month under review, an increase of 2.8 per cent was recorded in the mobile subscription index as the number of mobile telephone subscriptions reached 341,417. Around 16.8 million minutes were consumed in mobile telephone networks, while those directed from mobile to fixed-line networks amounted to around 2.4 million. Table 4 shows a distinction between local and international networks with regard to mobile calls directed to both mobile and fixed networks. In July 2006 the mobile communication traffic included around 40.9 million SMSs; 77,258 MMSs; and 9,360 WAPs.

As at end July 2006 the fixed telephone subscription index increased by 0.2 from the previous month. Minutes consumed in fixed-line telephony on local calls amounted to around 49.8 million, with some 34.1 million minutes from residential subscriptions and the rest from business premises subscriptions. The international fixed-telephony traffic comprised 213,442 calls, equivalent to around 0.7 million minutes.

In the month under review VOIP minutes were estimated at around 0.8 million. The pager subscription index did not change in July 2006 compared to the previous month ■

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**Table 1. Subscription indices
(2000=100)**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006		Percentage change
	as end of December						as end of June	as end of July	
	Internet subscriptions	122.4	163.5	213.3	249.2	276.0	282.6	289.3	
Fixed telephony subscriptions	101.4	103.2	102.9	103.4	103.1	103.9	103.8	104.0	0.2
Mobile telephony subscriptions	155.0	301.3	378.2	396.2	421.3	443.7	453.3	466.0	2.8
Cable & Digital television subscriptions	103.3	112.2	118.4	123.8	125.8	127.8	138.5	137.8	-0.5

Table 2. Internet

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	June	July		
	Internet Subscriptions	90,863		
Narrow Band	47,414	48,294	880	1.9
Broad Band	43,449	43,536	87	0.2
VOIP (minutes Consumed)	749,579	809,545	59,966	8.0

Table 3. Fixed telephony

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	June	July		
	Number of subscriptions (total)	209,021		
Residential	169,774	169,855	81	0.0
Business	39,247	39,375	128	0.3
Minutes consumed to local fixed lines (total)	51,194,036	49,761,277	-1,432,759	-2.8
Residential	35,128,852	34,073,819	-1,055,033	-3.0
Business	16,065,184	15,687,458	-377,726	-2.4
Minutes consumed to international fixed telephone lines	552,639	659,292	106,653	19.3
Number of calls directed to international fixed telephone lines	196,447	213,442	16,995	8.7
Public coin phones	144	144	0	0.0
Public card phones	1,054	1,054	0	0.0
Public webphones	31	31	0	0.0

Table 4. Mobile telephony

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	June	July		
Number of subscriptions (total)	331,855	341,417	9,562	2.8
Contract-based subscriptions	27,834	29,020	1,186	4.1
Card-plan subscriptions	304,021	312,397	8,376	2.7
Minutes consumed to mobile networks (total)	14,463,551	16,832,215	2,368,664	14.1
Directed to local mobile networks	13,584,704	15,329,025	1,744,321	11.4
Directed to international mobile networks	878,847	1,503,190	624,343	41.5
Minutes consumed to fixed networks (total)	2,047,742	2,366,427	318,685	13.5
Directed to local fixed networks	1,596,293	1,814,601	218,308	12.0
Directed to international fixed networks	451,449	551,826	100,377	18.2
Number of SMSs	34,426,300	40,866,075	6,439,775	15.8
Number of MMSs	62,934	77,258	14,324	18.5
WAP (minutes consumed)	12,659	9,360	-3,299	-35.2
Pager subscriptions	4,770	4,770	0	0.0

Table 5. Cable and Digital TV

	2006		Absolute change	Percentage change
	June	July		
Cable & Digital terrestrial Subscriptions	111,210	110,659	-551	-0.5
Cable Analogue Subscriptions	77,347	77,124	-223	-0.3
Digital (cable & terrestrial) Subscriptions	27,628	28,881	1,253	4.5
Sports (cable & terrestrial) Channel Subscriptions	31,065	18,776	-12,289	-39.6

Note: Cable and Digital subscriptions refer to those held by both private residences and business units. The rest of subscriptions shown in this table refer to private residences only.

Methodological Notes

1. The data in this release are based on a monthly/yearly 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 month.
4. The statistics in this release should be considered as current and thereby subject to revision. Each release may include revisions of past monthly 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. Cable subscription 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.