

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India
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TRAI launches Performance Indicators of Telecom Sector on their website.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has compiled several performance indicators of the Telecom Sector highlighting the trends during the last financial year (2002-03). This compilation is intended to present a broad perspective on the Telecom Industry in the country and is primarily being brought out to serve as a reference document for various stakeholders, consumers, research agencies and analysts. This is being launched today on TRAI's website www.traigov.in for easy access by stakeholders and other interested parties.

Background

TRAI collects data on performance related parameters and subscriber's base from various service providers on a quarterly basis to monitor the trends of the sector and to decide upon pro-active measures to fuel the growth of the telecom sector in the country. TRAI also collects data in terms of revenue from some of the telecom service providers to estimate the contribution of various telecom services to the total revenue of the sector. TRAI also reviews from time to time its data collection programme to ensure that its processes remain relevant in the rapidly growing telecom sector and are consistent with the changes in the national regulatory framework.

Content

The report includes the details for each category of service providers and their area of operation for the designated service. It also provides information on the telecom infrastructure including transmission systems and switching capacity of incumbent operators and new entrants in the country.

This compilation includes the performance and quality of service status of Basic, Cellular and Internet services viz-a-viz Benchmarks, it details the growth pattern of subscribers base, usage pattern and average revenue per subscriber (ARPU) for Basic and Cellular services of various telecom services in the country etc. The data is presented in tables as well as graphs.

Salient features of Sector during the year

The data shows that the subscribers base of Basic Service had crossed 40 million and the number of rural DELs reached around 11 million as on 31st March 2003. This also includes the contribution of Wireless in Local Loop (Fixed) [WLL(F)] and Wireless in Local Loop (Mobile) [WLL(M)] connections. The number of villages covered through VPTs has shown upward trend with 513,127 villages having VPTs by March 2003 as compared to 469,010 by March 2002, out of a total 607,491 villages. The number of PCOs has increased to 1,493,364 by March 2003 as compared to 1,078,345 by March 2002. As far as Cellular Mobile Service is concerned, the subscribers base has almost doubled during the financial year 2002-03. As on March 2003 the subscribers base of cellular mobile service was 12.69 million compared to 6.40 million in March 2002. Further, the customer tariffs for mobile service have reduced to amongst the lowest in the world, due to competition.

Internet Services have also shown an upward trend and the subscribers base crossed 3.6 million by March 2003. Since April 2002 Internet Telephony was also permitted for ISPs and its usage is gaining a slow momentum with 37 ISPs having started Internet Telephony by March 2003. Use of advanced access technologies for Broadband Connectivity has also made a beginning during the year.