

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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Telecom Subscribers growth accelerates in October,2005
More than 3 million additions

As per a compilation done by TRAI based on latest reports from operators, the subscriber base for telephony services has accelerated growth pattern during October 2005. In the month of October 2005, 3.24 million subscribers were added as compared to 2.87 million subscribers in September, 2005. During the first 7 months of year 2005 around 18 million subscribers have been added.

For mobile segment 2.90 million subscribers have been added during October 2005 as compared to 2.48 million in September, 2005. The mobile additions consist of 2.11 million GSM subscribers and 0.79 million CDMA subscribers as against 1.96 million GSM and 0.52 million CDMA last month.

During the first seven months of current financial year about 15.73 million mobile subscribers were added, making it a total of 67.95 million mobile subscribers at the end of October 2005.

In the fixed segment, a total of 0.34 million subscribers were added during October 2005, which were predominantly WLL (F). With this the total subscriber base of fixed lines have reached 48.17 million.

The gross subscribers' base consisting of fixed as well as mobile has crossed 116 million.

Teledensity

The gross subscriber base consisting of fixed as well as mobile has become 116 million at the end of October, 2005. The tele-density at the end of October, 2005 has reached 10.66 as compared to 10.38 at the end of previous month.

Minutes of Use (MOU) & ARPU for mobile

The comparison of MOU and ARPU in India with some countries is given below :

Countries	MOU Per Month	ARPU (\$/month)
INDIA	287	8
AUSTRALIA	93	33
SINGAPORE	239	32
CHINA	236	12

From the above it can be seen that ARPU in India is lowest though usage is very high.

Broadband (>256 Kbps download) Growth:

Broadband connections have continued the similar growth rate since beginning of 2005. At the end of October, 2005, total Broadband connections in the country have crossed 6.90 lakhs as against a target of 3.00 million fixed in Broadband Policy-2004.

(In Lakhs)

	Mar 2005	April 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	Aug 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Broadband Policy target for Dec 2005
Broadband Connections	1.86	2.28	3.32	3.96	4.50	5.30	6.1	6.90	30

**(S. N. Gupta)
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