

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA

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Around 3 million subscribers added during September 2005 also.

As per a compilation done by TRAI based on latest reports from operators/ associations, the subscriber base for telephony services maintained its growth pattern during September 2005. In the month of September 2005, 2.9 million subscribers were added similar to 3.01 million subscribers in August 2005. The average additions for the first half of the current financial year reached 2.46 million per month as of 1.83 million per month during first half of previous year.

For mobile segment more than 2.48 million subscribers have been added during September 2005 as compared to 2.74 million in August 2005. During the first half of the current financial year approximately 14.75 million mobile subscribers have been added, making it a total of 65.05 million subscribers at the end of September 2005. During the second quarter of current financial year 7.67 mobile subscribers were added in comparison to 5.16 million added during the first quarter.

In the fixed segment 0.39 million subscribers were added during September 2005, as compared to 0.27 million in August 2005. With this the total subscriber base of fixed lines has reached 47.44 million. The additions of fixed lines subscribers during the first half of the current financial year was 1.92 millions as compared to 1.22 million addition during the first half of previous year.

(Subscribers in millions)

	2004-05				2005-06			
	31 st March	30 th June	30 th Sept.	Additions in first half	31 st March	30 th June	30 th Sept.	Additions in first half
Mobile	33.60	39.47	42.98	9.38	52.22	57.38	65.05	12.83
Fixed	42.58	43.45	43.80	1.22	45.91	46.90	47.83	1.92
Total	76.18	82.92	86.78	10.60	98.13	104.28	112.88	14.75

Tele-density:

The gross subscriber base consisting of fixed as well as mobile has become 113 million at the end of September 2005. The tele-density at the end of September 2005 has reached 10.38 as compared to 10.12 at the end of previous month.

Broadband (>256 Kbps download) Growth:

i. **Broadband Tariff:** - Minimum monthly tariff for Broadband connection has come down to Rs. 250 for 25 hours of usage from Rs. 1000/pm during September 2004, which comes to Rs. 10/hours, similar to the dial up Internet access charges. Charge per MB of download has come down to Rs. 1/MB as compared to Rs. 4/MB a year ago.

	Sept'04	Mar'05	Sept'05	% Reduction from Sept'04 to Sept'05
Minimum monthly tariff for 256 Kbps download connection for 25 hrs usage (in Rs.)	1000	500	250	75%

ii. Broadband connections have continued the normal growth rate since beginning of 2005. At the end of September 2005, total Broadband connections in the country have crossed 6.1 lakhs.

(In million)

Broadband Connections	Mar 2005	April 2005	May 2005	June 2005	July 2005	August 2005	Sept. 2005	Broadband Policy target for Dec 2005
BSNL	.03	.05	.06	.07	.09	.13	.17	-
MTNL	.01	.01	.03	.04	.05	.06	.09	-
Total PSUs	.04	.06	.09	.11	.14	.19	.26	1.5
Total Pvt.	.15	.17	.24	.29	.31	.34	.35	1.5
Total Subscribers	.19	.23	.33	.40	.45	.53	.61	3.0

From the above, it can be seen that rate of growth is not adequate to achieve the Broadband Policy target of 3 million subscribers by December 2005 and hence more concerted efforts are required by all service providers.

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