



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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## FCC RELEASES TELEPHONE NUMBERING RESOURCE UTILIZATION REPORT

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released its latest in an ongoing series of reports on telephone number utilization in the United States. Telephone number utilization refers to how efficiently telephone numbers are being used by carriers. As of December 31, 2003, numbering resource utilization was at 39.5%, down from 39.9% six months earlier.

The report presents numbering resource utilization statistics based on December 2003 data that carriers submitted to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), as well as other information.

### Summary Data

1. ***Utilization Statistics by Carrier Type*** – Reporting carriers have over 1.2 billion telephone numbers, of which over 503 million were assigned to customers, more than 671 million were available to be assigned, and about 99 million were used for other purposes, such as for administrative use.

Following are utilization statistics by carrier type as of December 31, 2003:

- The overall utilization rate for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) is 52.6%, down from 53.2% six months before.
- The overall utilization rate for Cellular/PCS carriers is 50.6%, up from 49.0% six months before.
- The overall utilization rate for Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) is 10.6%, down from 10.7% six months before.
- The overall utilization rate for Paging carriers is 13.0%, down from 14.3% six months before.

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2. ***Telephone Numbers Saved through Thousands-block Pooling*** – Through December 31, 2003, thousands-block pooling has made it unnecessary to distribute over 92 million excess telephone numbers. Thousands-block pooling means that telephone numbers are distributed in blocks of 1,000 rather than blocks of 10,000. This allows carriers to obtain the telephone numbers they need to serve their customers without excessively drawing down the supply of numbers.
  
3. ***Telephone Numbers Returned*** – As required by the Commission’s Numbering Resource Optimization Orders, carriers are returning large quantities of telephone numbers that they do not need to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator so that those numbers can be assigned to other carriers with more immediate needs.
  - In the first half of 2003, carriers returned 9.6 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.
  - In the second half of 2003, carriers returned 8.2 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.
  
4. ***Most Utilized Area Codes in the United States*** – New York’s area code 212 (New York City) continues to be the most utilized, with 74.2% of numbers assigned to customers. Arizona’s area code 480 (Mesa) is next, with 64.9% of numbers assigned to customers.

This report is updated twice a year and is available in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Contact the Commission’s duplicating contractor Qualex International at (202) 863-2893 to purchase a copy. This and many other reports can be downloaded from the **FCC-State Link** Internet site at [www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats](http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats).

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