



# 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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## FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION RELEASES DATA ON HIGH-SPEED SERVICES FOR INTERNET ACCESS

### *High-Speed Connections to the Internet Increased 20% During the Second Half of 2003 for a Total of 28 Million Lines in Service*

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released summary statistics of its latest data on the deployment of high-speed connections to the Internet in the United States. Facilities-based providers file data with the FCC about the numbers of high-speed connections in service twice a year pursuant to the FCC's local competition and broadband data gathering program (FCC Form 477).

The FCC adopted the local competition and broadband data gathering program in March 2000 to assist the FCC in its efforts to monitor and further implement the pro-competitive, deregulatory provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The FCC uses data from this effort to evaluate the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability.

For reporting purposes, **high-speed lines** are defined as those that provide services at speeds exceeding 200 kilobits per second (kbps) in at least one direction, while **advanced services lines** are those that provide services at speeds exceeding 200 kbps in both directions. Reporting of state-level data is required for providers with at least 250 high-speed connections in service in a state. Statistics released today summarize FCC Form 477 filings due from qualifying providers on March 1, 2004, and reflect data as of December 31, 2003.

#### 1) High-Speed Lines

- High-speed lines connecting homes and businesses to the Internet increased by 20% during the second half of 2003, from 23.5 million to 28.2 million lines, compared to a 18% increase, from 19.9 million to 23.5 million lines, during the first half of 2003. For the full twelve month period ending December 31, 2003, high-speed lines increased by 42%.
- Of the 28.2 million high-speed lines in service, 26.0 million served residential and small business subscribers, a 26% increase from the 20.6 million residential and small business high-speed lines reported six months earlier. For the full twelve month period ending December 31, 2003, high-speed lines for residential and small business subscribers increased by 50%.

## 2) Technology Type

- High-speed connections in service over asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) technologies increased by 24% during the second half of 2003, from 7.7 million to 9.5 million lines, compared to a 19% increase, from 6.5 million to 7.7 million lines, during the preceding six months. For the full twelve month period ending December 31, 2003, high-speed ADSL increased by 47%.
- High-speed coaxial cable connections (cable modem service) increased by 20% during the last six months of 2003, from 13.7 million to 16.4 million lines, and also increased by 20% in the first half of 2003, from 11.4 million to 13.7 million lines. For the full twelve month period ending December 31, 2003, high-speed cable modem connections increased by 45%.
- The remaining 2.3 million high-speed connections in service are accounted for by satellite or wireless, wireline other than ADSL, and fiber high-speed connections.

## 3) Advanced Services Lines

- Of the 28.2 million high-speed lines, 20.3 million provided advanced services, i.e., services at speeds exceeding 200 kbps in both directions. Advanced services lines increased 25% during the second half of 2003, from 16.3 million to 20.3 million lines. For the full twelve month period ending December 31, 2003, advanced services lines of all technology types increased by 65%.
- About 18.1 million of the 20.3 million advanced services lines served residential and small business subscribers.
- Among *advanced services lines*, ADSL lines increased by 20% during the last six months of 2003, compared to a 28% increase for cable modem service. During the preceding six-month period, the rate of growth of ADSL (16%) was substantially lower than cable modem service (43%). For the full twelve month period ending December 31, 2003, advanced services lines – service lines provided in excess of 200 kbps in both directions – for ADSL increased by 39% and cable modem connections increased by 84%.

The summary statistics released today also include state-by-state, population density, and household income information, ranked by zip codes. As additional information becomes available, it will be routinely posted on the Commission's Internet site.

The report is available for reference in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC. Copies may be purchased by calling Best Copy and Printing, Inc. at (800) 378-3160. The report can also 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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