



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION RELEASES DATA ON LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPETITION

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released summary statistics of its latest data on local telephone service competition in the United States. Telecommunications service providers file data on lines in service to end-user customers and mobile wireless telephone subscribership twice a year in the Commission's local competition and broadband data gathering program (FCC Form 477).

Reporting of state-level data is mandatory for carriers with at least 10,000 switched access lines, or at least 10,000 mobile wireless telephone service subscribers, in a state. Statistics released today summarize FCC Form 477 filings from qualifying providers as of March 1, 2004, and reflect data as of December 31, 2003.

Summary Statistics

- End-user customers obtained local telephone service by means of some 151.8 million incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) switched access lines, 29.6 million competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) switched access lines, and 157.0 million mobile wireless telephone service subscriptions.
- Nationwide, mobile wireless telephone subscribers increased 6% during the second half of 2003 from 147.6 million to 157.0 million. For the full twelve month period ending December 31, 2003, mobile wireless subscribers increased by 13%.
- Total CLEC end-user switched access lines increased by 10% during the second half of 2003, from 26.9 million to 29.6 million lines. By comparison, they increased by 9% during the preceding six months, from 24.8 to 26.9 million lines. For the full twelve month period ending December 31, 2003, CLEC end-user lines increased by 19%.
- About 16.3% of the 181.4 million total end-user switched access lines (or 29.6 million lines) were reported by CLECs, compared to 13.2% (or 24.8 million lines) a year earlier.
- Of the 181.4 million total end-user switched access lines, about 137.5 million lines served residential and small business end users. CLECs reported providing 18.7 million (or about 14%) of these residential and small business lines.
- Cable-telephony lines increased by 6% during the second half of 2003, from 3.0 million to 3.2 million lines. The 3.2 million reported cable-telephony lines constituted about 11% of switched access lines provided by CLECs and about 2% of total switched access lines.

- CLECs reported providing about 16% of their switched access lines by reselling the services of other carriers and about 61% by means of unbundled network elements (UNEs) leased from other carriers. The remaining 23% of CLEC lines was provided over local-loop facilities owned by the CLECs.
- ILECs reported providing about 16% more unbundled network element (UNE) loops with switching to unaffiliated carriers at the end of December 2003 than they reported six months earlier (15.2 million compared to 13.0 million) and about 1% more UNE loops without switching (about 4.3 million compared to 4.2 million).
- At least one CLEC was serving local telephone service end-user customers in 75% of the nation's zip codes at the end of December 2003, up from 69% a year earlier. About 96% of United States households reside in these zip codes. CLECs reported customers in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

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.

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