



NEWS

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FCC RELEASES TELEPHONE NUMBERING RESOURCE UTILIZATION REPORT

Wireless Telephone Number Ports Surpassed Wireline Telephone Number Ports in 2004

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 June 30, 2004, numbering resource utilization was at 42.1%, up from 39.5% six months earlier.

The report presents numbering resource utilization statistics based on June 2004 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 531 million were assigned to customers, more than 645 million were available to be assigned, and about 84 million were used for other purposes, such as for administrative use.

Following are utilization statistics by carrier type as of June 30, 2004:

- Overall, 42.1% of all telephone numbers were assigned to end users.
- The overall utilization rate for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) was 54.3%, up from 52.6% six months before.
- The overall utilization rate for Cellular/PCS carriers was 53.6%, up from 50.6% six months before.
- The overall utilization rate for Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) was 14.9%, up from 10.6% six months before.

2. ***Telephone Numbers Saved through Thousands-block Pooling*** – Through June 30, 2004, thousands-block pooling has made it unnecessary to distribute nearly 113 million excess telephone numbers. Thousands-block pooling is available in areas with the most demand for additional numbering resources. This means that telephone numbers can now be distributed in blocks of 1,000 rather than blocks of 10,000. This enables carriers to obtain the telephone numbers they need to serve their customers without distributing an excess supply.

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 second half of 2003, carriers returned 8.2 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.
 - In the first half of 2004, carriers returned 5.1 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 73.8% of numbers assigned to customers. Washington DC’s area code 202 is next, with 66.7% of numbers assigned to customers.

5. ***Customers Moving Millions of Telephone Numbers to New Carriers*** – Since wireless number portability began on November 24, 2003, wireless customers have moved more than 10 million telephone numbers to new carriers. During the same time, wireline customers moved more than 5 million telephone numbers to new carriers.

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 Best Copy and Printing, Inc. at (202) 488-5300 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.

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