



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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. Circ 1974).

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NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Mark Wigfield at (202) 418-0253
Email: mark.wigfield@fcc.gov

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION RELEASES DATA ON LOCAL TELEPHONE COMPETITION

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released new data on local telephone service competition in the United States. Twice a year, telecommunications carriers must report the number of lines in service and mobile wireless telephone subscribership pursuant to FCC's local competition and broadband data gathering program (FCC Form 477).

Statistics released today reflect data as of December 31, 2004, filed by providers on FCC Form 477 in the Commission's local competition and broadband data gathering program. For purposes of this report, carriers with at least 10,000 switched access lines, or at least 10,000 mobile wireless telephone service subscribers, in a state were required to file.

Summary Statistics

- At the end of 2004, end-user customers obtained local telephone service by utilizing approximately 145.1 million incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) switched access lines, 32.9 million competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) switched access lines, and 181.1 million mobile wireless telephone service subscriptions.
- Local telephone service by CLECs was provided over 3.7 million coaxial cable connections. These lines represent about 44% of the 8.5 million switched access lines that CLECs reported providing over their own local loop facilities.
- Nationwide, mobile wireless telephone subscribers increased 8% during the second half of 2004 from 167.3 million to 181.1 million. For the full twelve-month period ending December 31, 2004, mobile wireless subscribers increased by 15%.
- At least one CLEC was serving customers in 78% of the nation's zip codes at the end of 2004. About 97% of United States households resided in these zip codes. Moreover, multiple carriers reported providing local telephone service in the major population centers of the country.
- Total CLEC end-user switched access lines increased by 3% during the second half of 2004, from 32.0 million to 32.9 million lines.

- About 18.5% of the 177.9 million total end-user switched access lines (or 32.9 million lines) were reported by CLECs at the end of December 2004, compared to 17.8% (or 32.0 million lines) in June 2004.
- CLECs reported 19.8 million (or 15%) of the 132.1 million lines that served residential and small business end users and 13.1 million (or 29%) of the 45.9 million lines that served medium and large business, institutional, and government customers.
- CLECs reported providing about 26% of switched access lines over their own local loop facilities. To serve the remainder, CLECs resold the services of other carriers or used unbundled network element (UNE) loops that they leased from other carriers.
- ILECs reported providing about 3% fewer UNE loops with switching (referred to as the UNE-Platform) to unaffiliated carriers at the end of December 2004 than they reported six months earlier (16.5 million compared to 17.1 million) and also about 3% fewer UNE loops without switching (about 4.2 million).

As additional information becomes available, it will be 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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Wireline Competition Bureau contacts: James Eisner and Ellen Burton at (202) 418-0940, TTY (202) 418-0484.