



NEWS

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

News media Information 202 / 418-0500
TTY 202 / 418-2555
Fax-On-Demand 202 / 418-2830
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
<ftp.fcc.gov>

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).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2006

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

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 the percentage of telephone numbers assigned to customers compared to the total of telephone numbers assigned to carriers. The Numbering Resource Utilization Report details how those telephone numbers are being used. As of June 30, 2005, numbering resource utilization was at 43.0%, up from 42.2% six months earlier.

The report presents numbering resource utilization statistics based on June 2005 data that carriers submitted to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), as well as other information. Tracking number utilization is one of a number of initiatives taken by the Commission to ensure that limited numbering resources are used efficiently.

Summary Data

1. **Utilization Statistics by Carrier Type** – Reporting carriers have over 1.3 billion telephone numbers, of which nearly 565 million were assigned to customers, nearly 659 million were available to be assigned, and about 90 million were used for other purposes, such as for administrative use.

Following are utilization statistics by carrier type as of June 30, 2005:

- Overall, 43.0% of all telephone numbers were assigned to customers.
- The overall utilization rate for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) was 52.8%, down from 53.5% six months earlier.
- The overall utilization rate for Cellular/PCS carriers was 56.9%, up from 54.6% six months earlier.
- The overall utilization rate for Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) was 18.1%, up from 16.4% six months earlier.

2. ***Telephone Numbers Saved through Thousands-block Pooling*** – Through June 30, 2005, thousands-block pooling has made it unnecessary to distribute nearly 200 million 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 while allowing unneeded blocks to be made available to other carriers.

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 NANPA so that those numbers can be assigned to other carriers with more immediate needs.
 - In the first half of 2005, carriers returned 5.79 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.
 - In the second half of 2005, carriers returned 4.49 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 74.1% of numbers assigned to customers. Florida’s area code 754 is next, with 70.4% 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 20 million telephone numbers to new carriers. During the same time, wireline customers moved more than 22 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 Wireline Competition Bureau Statistical Reports Internet site at www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats.

-FCC-

Wireline Competition Bureau contacts: Craig Stroup at (202) 418-0989
or John Vu at (202) 418-2333; TTY (202) 418-0484.