



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. Circ 1974).

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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, all incumbent local exchange carriers (incumbent LECs) and competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs) are required to report basic information about their local telephone service, and all facilities-based mobile telephony providers are required to provide information about their subscribers, pursuant to the FCC's local telephone competition and broadband data gathering program (FCC Form 477). Statistics released today reflect data as of December 31, 2005.

Summary Statistics

- End-user customers obtained local telephone service by utilizing approximately 143.8 million incumbent LEC switched access lines, 31.6 million CLEC switched access lines, and 203.7 million mobile telephony service subscriptions at the end of 2005.
- Of the 31.6 million CLEC end-user switched access lines, 5.1 million lines were provided over coaxial cable connections. The 5.1 million lines represent about 50% of the 10.1 million end-user switched access lines that CLECs reported providing over their own local loop facilities.
- Mobile telephony service providers reported 203.7 million subscribers at the end of 2005, which is 22.6 million, or 12%, more than a year earlier. About 6% of these subscribers were billed by mobile telephony service resellers.
- At least one CLEC was serving customers in 82% of the nation's Zip Codes at the end of 2005. About 98% of United States households resided in those Zip Codes. Moreover, multiple carriers reported providing local telephone service in the major population centers of the country.
- The 31.6 million lines reported by CLECs is about 18% of the 175.4 million total end-user switched access lines reported for the end of 2005.
- CLECs reported 13.9 million (or 13%) of the 108.3 million lines that served residential end users and 17.7 million (or 26%) of the 67.1 million lines that served business, institutional, and government customers.

- CLECs reported providing 32% of their end-user switched access lines over their own local loop facilities, 47% by using unbundled network elements (UNEs) that they leased from other carriers, and 21% through resale arrangements with unaffiliated carriers.
- Incumbent LECs reported providing about 26% fewer UNE loops with switching (referred to as the UNE-Platform) to unaffiliated carriers at the end of 2005 than they reported six months earlier (10.8 million compared to 14.6 million) and about 4% more UNE loops without switching (4.5 million compared to 4.3 million).
- Incumbent LECs were the presubscribed interstate long distance carrier for 51% of the switched access lines they provided to end users, while CLECs were the interstate long distance carrier for 79% of their switched access lines.

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 Wireline Competition Bureau Statistical Reports Internet site at www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats.

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