



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).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 22, 2003

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Michael Balmoris at (202) 418-0253
Email: michael.balmoris@fcc.gov

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 subscribers 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 September 1, 2003, and reflect data as of June 30, 2003.

Summary Statistics

- End-user customers obtained local telephone service by means of some 155.9 million incumbent local exchange carrier (ILEC) switched access lines, 26.9 million competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) switched access lines, and 147.6 million mobile wireless telephone service subscriptions.
- Nationwide, mobile wireless telephone subscribers increased 6% during the first six months of 2003 from 138.9 million to 147.6 million. For the full twelve month period ending June 30, 2003, mobile wireless subscribers increased by 13%.
- Total CLEC end-user switched access lines increased by 9% during the first half of 2003, from 24.8 million to 26.9 million lines. By comparison, total CLEC lines increased by 14% during the preceding six months, from 21.6 to 24.8 million lines. For the full twelve month period ending June 30, 2003, CLEC end-user lines increased by 24%.
- About 14.7% of the 182.8 million total end-user switched access lines were reported by CLECs, compared to 11.4% a year earlier.
- 62% of CLEC end-user switched access lines served residential and small business customers, compared to 78% of ILEC lines. CLECs reported 12% of total residential and small business switched access lines, compared to 8% a year earlier.
- During the first half of 2003, cable-telephony lines increased by 1% to 3.0 million lines. The 3.0 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 18% (a decline from 43% in December 1999) of their switched access lines by reselling the services of other carriers and about 58% (an increase from 24% in December 1999) by means of unbundled network elements (UNEs) leased from other carriers. The remainder of CLEC lines was provided over local-loop facilities owned by the CLECs.
- ILECs reported providing about 27% more unbundled network element (UNE) loops with switching to unaffiliated carriers at the end of June 2003 than they reported six months earlier (13.0 million compared to 10.2 million) and about 1% fewer UNE loops without switching (about 4.2 million compared to 4.3 million).
- At least one CLEC was serving local telephone service end-user customers in 73% of the nation's zip codes at the end of June 2003, up from 67% a year earlier. About 95% 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 Qualex International at (202) 863-2893. The report can also be downloaded from the **FCC-State Link** Internet site at www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats.

- FCC -

Wireline Competition Bureau contacts: Industry Analysis and Technology Division at (202) 418-0940, TTY (202) 418-0484.