

## TELEPHONE ACCESS

The number of telephone connections – more precisely the number of fixed and mobile telecommunications access paths – has increased dramatically in OECD countries. This is associated both with growing use of the Internet and, particularly in recent years, with the growing popularity of cellular mobile telephones.

### Definition

For the OECD member countries and China, total communication access paths are the total of fixed lines (standard analogue access lines and ISDN lines) plus the number of DSL, cable modem subscribers and mobile telephone subscribers. For Brazil, India, Russian Federation and South Africa, total communication access paths are the sum of main telephone lines in operation, ISDN lines, DSL and cable modem subscribers and cellular mobile telephone subscribers.

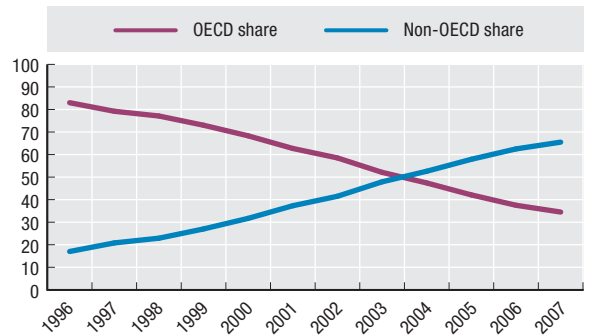
### Comparability


For OECD countries, the data are collected according to agreed definitions and are highly comparable. The data shown for the five large non-OECD countries were partly

collected according to the OECD definitions and partly provided by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The definition used by the ITU is slightly narrower than that used by the OECD, although data reported for the two sets of countries can be regarded as broadly comparable.

### Mobile cellular subscribers

OECD and non-OECD share in the world total, 1996-2007



StatLink  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/537334644648>

### Long-term trends

Access to communications networks continues to expand in all OECD countries. At the end of 2007, the total number of fixed and mobile telecommunications paths had increased to more than 1.85 billion. This represented a 6% increase over 2006 and an average increase of more than 8.5% per year since 1997.

Growth was not occurring across all access paths. The number of cellular mobile communication subscribers continues to climb. An additional 102 million mobile subscribers were added in 2007. By way of contrast, some segments of the fixed connection market continue to decrease. The number of fixed access lines is decreasing steadily since 2001 and will most likely continue to do so over the coming years.

By 2007, all but one OECD country – Mexico – had more than one telecommunications access path per inhabitant, 26 countries reported more than one and a half per inhabitant and three countries reported more than two per inhabitant – Greece, Italy and Luxembourg.

Among the five non-OECD countries shown here, growth has been spectacular in China, which had less than one access path per 100 inhabitants in 1991 but 73 in 2007. A growing trend toward liberalisation, and the consequent use of prepaid cards in competitive markets, has helped drive the growth of mobile communications in both OECD and non-OECD countries. From 1997 to 2007 the share of OECD cellular mobile subscribers in the world total decreased from 79 to 34%.

### Sources

- OECD (2009), *OECD Communications Outlook 2009*, OECD, Paris.
- ITU (2008), *World Telecommunications Indicators Database*.

### Further information

#### Analytical publications

- OECD (2008), *OECD Information Technology Outlook 2008*, OECD, Paris.
- OECD (2007), *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Scoreboard 2007*, OECD, Paris.

#### Websites

- OECD Telecommunications and Internet Policy, [www.oecd.org/sti/telecom](http://www.oecd.org/sti/telecom).
- OECD key ICT indicators, [www.oecd.org/sti/ictindicators](http://www.oecd.org/sti/ictindicators).



## Telephone access

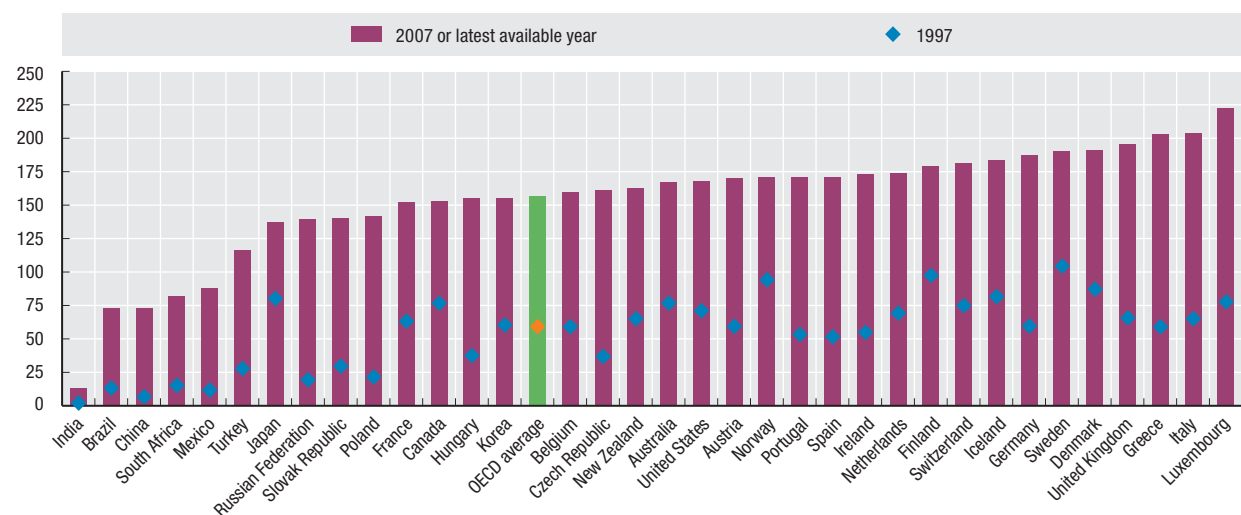
Number of telecommunication access paths per 100 inhabitants

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australia	55.5	62.3	72.9	76.8	81.1	86.5	96.1	110.7	120.6	129.6	138.8	147.8	160.1	167.3
Austria	49.8	51.6	54.0	59.4	72.2	97.7	120.2	126.1	128.3	133.7	145.7	152.2	162.8	170.4
Belgium	46.1	48.3	51.8	59.1	63.6	76.5	100.0	121.0	128.3	135.7	143.3	150.5	152.6	159.5
Canada	65.9	57.1	72.5	76.7	82.5	86.5	96.7	106.9	111.7	122.3	129.3	138.3	145.9	153.1
Czech Republic	21.1	19.0	29.3	36.8	45.7	55.9	80.3	104.0	117.8	127.8	137.2	147.5	147.6	161.1
Denmark	69.8	77.2	86.9	87.2	96.8	109.4	124.4	137.6	148.7	156.5	166.9	174.6	184.1	190.8
Finland	54.4	55.5	84.8	97.5	112.6	121.7	131.7	141.2	148.9	153.0	158.0	168.3	173.0	179.2
France	55.0	57.8	57.8	63.3	70.4	84.4	97.9	109.3	112.4	119.3	127.4	136.1	142.7	152.0
Germany	52.6	53.7	57.0	59.6	66.3	77.4	107.2	118.7	123.6	131.7	145.9	156.4	168.5	187.0
Greece	48.4	51.1	54.7	59.1	70.1	87.6	107.1	125.8	137.3	145.1	151.1	163.3	177.4	202.9
Hungary	18.8	24.1	30.6	37.5	44.1	51.2	65.3	82.9	100.9	112.5	121.5	128.3	142.3	154.8
Iceland	64.0	67.2	74.6	81.6	96.8	120.3	134.4	141.6	154.0	163.4	168.1	179.5	182.4	183.3
Ireland	36.8	40.1	46.5	54.9	68.2	86.9	96.3	114.8	123.0	129.2	137.7	148.7	161.4	172.7
Italy	47.1	50.7	55.3	65.1	79.8	96.7	117.5	133.8	137.8	147.3	158.8	174.6	188.7	203.5
Japan	51.6	58.5	71.2	80.2	87.0	94.1	102.0	109.3	117.3	125.0	130.9	134.8	136.6	137.1
Korea	41.7	45.6	50.8	60.4	75.1	98.3	113.1	126.7	136.4	134.9	140.8	143.4	150.6	155.0
Luxembourg	58.5	62.7	70.9	77.8	83.8	98.4	125.7	155.0	163.4	177.2	202.8	222.6	223.9	222.1
Mexico	10.1	10.5	10.7	11.7	13.9	19.2	26.9	35.8	40.8	46.0	55.9	66.0	76.2	88.2
Netherlands	53.0	55.5	59.0	69.3	70.8	95.8	122.1	125.3	128.7	139.9	162.4	161.5	170.3	174.1
New Zealand	53.0	56.7	58.8	65.1	79.1	86.0	102.2	108.5	111.6	112.8	123.1	138.0	147.6	162.7
Norway	68.8	78.6	85.4	94.3	102.6	114.6	125.8	132.7	138.4	145.7	158.5	164.7	168.2	170.6
Poland	13.1	15.0	17.5	21.5	26.9	34.8	46.2	58.0	67.7	77.2	93.3	107.3	130.9	141.9
Portugal	36.5	39.2	43.8	53.3	68.8	84.2	102.3	114.7	126.7	135.2	142.5	152.7	160.6	170.7
Slovak Republic	18.9	21.1	23.7	29.6	37.2	43.0	55.4	68.8	80.4	92.6	103.6	108.8	116.5	140.0
Spain	38.4	40.7	46.9	51.6	59.2	80.3	103.7	116.8	126.8	136.1	140.4	154.8	163.8	171.1
Sweden	83.7	91.0	96.8	104.5	115.2	126.7	139.0	150.0	159.5	169.7	170.7	176.8	183.0	190.2
Switzerland	67.1	69.6	68.0	74.9	83.0	100.6	122.9	132.1	140.7	150.2	155.4	165.7	176.8	181.1
Turkey	22.5	23.7	24.1	27.8	32.3	40.2	49.6	54.4	60.7	66.4	75.7	89.0	101.8	115.9
United Kingdom	54.3	58.6	63.0	65.7	76.0	94.7	114.2	130.3	138.4	145.9	161.2	175.4	185.8	195.3
United States	65.9	70.9	65.6	71.1	76.4	82.6	115.6	121.7	131.2	135.2	143.7	154.4	163.8	167.5
OECD average	48.0	51.6	53.8	59.3	66.2	76.7	96.2	106.0	113.5	127.7	129.2	139.1	148.5	156.7
Brazil	8.2	9.2	10.9	13.2	16.4	23.7	31.6	38.3	42.2	48.5	61.7	73.0	..	..
China	2.4	3.7	5.0	6.7	8.9	12.0	11.4	25.4	32.5	20.9	49.4	58.5	65.9	73.0
India	1.1	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.9	3.6	4.4	5.3	6.6	8.7	12.9	..	..
Russian Federation	16.2	16.9	17.6	19.4	20.3	22.0	24.1	28.0	36.4	49.7	77.7	111.3	139.6	139.6
South Africa	10.3	11.1	12.4	15.2	19.3	24.1	29.6	34.5	40.2	46.6	54.9	82.2	..	..

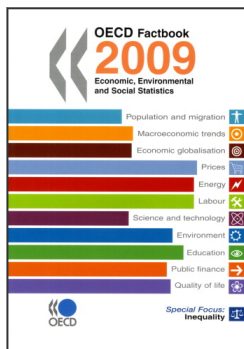
StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/543537103661>

## Telephone access

Number of telecommunication access paths per 100 inhabitants



StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/537275627647>



**From:**  
**OECD Factbook 2009**  
Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics

**Access the complete publication at:**  
<https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2009-en>

**Please cite this chapter as:**

OECD (2009), "Telephone access", in *OECD Factbook 2009: Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/factbook-2009-63-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to [rights@oecd.org](mailto:rights@oecd.org). Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at [info@copyright.com](mailto:info@copyright.com) or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at [contact@cfcopies.com](mailto:contact@cfcopies.com).