



2021 - 2022 ANNUAL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW

Commencing Post- Pandemic Recovery





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Preface

The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) produces this review of the electronic communications sector* annually. The report provides information on the performance and economic contribution of the sector, as well as information on deployment and use of electronic communications infrastructure in the ECTEL Member States.

The report presents a review of the electronic communications sector for the period April 2021 to March 2022 and tracks the performance of the sector using a number of economic and statistical indicators which include sector revenue, investment and service penetration. The main focus of the report is to present important economic and market statistics on the electronic communications sector for use by policy makers and other interested parties. The information contained in the report is based on data available as at September 15, 2023, and includes revisions to data presented in previous reports where additional data was received.

The statistical indicators in the report are based on the International Telecommunications Union's core indicators on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure and access. The data used to calculate the indicators was collected through the submission of ICT data by the main electronic communications service providers into ECTEL's Online Data Collection Portal and from other publicly available data.

ECTEL would like to thank all the service providers, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and other institutions that provided the data required to produce this report. ECTEL would also like to express its gratitude to the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions (NTRCs) for coordinating the collection of the data.

*Electronic communications sector refers to broadcast and telecommunications.

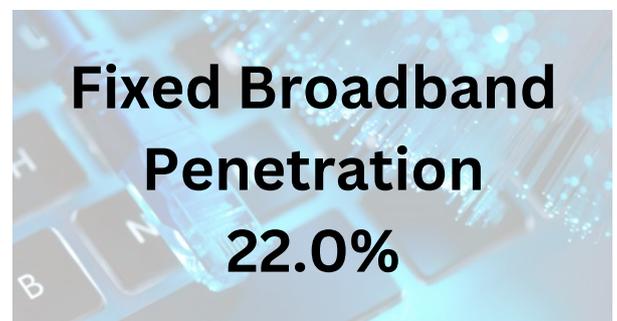
Electronic Communications in the ECTEL Member States Sector Findings

Electronic communications service providers recorded revenue of \$617M in 2022.



Sector investment was approximately \$133M during the review period.

Fixed broadband penetration registered a 1.1 percentage point increase to 22.0 per cent.



**Mobile Broadband
Subscriptions
385,573**



Mobile broadband subscriptions expanded by 6 per cent to 385,573 subscriptions.

Call volumes from fixed and mobile networks totaled 753 million local calling minutes.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Member States Overview | 1 |
| • Revenue | 3 |
| • Investment | 3 |
| • Direct Employment | 4 |
| • Telecommunications Penetration Rates | 4 |
| • Broadband Services | 5 |
| • Fixed Broadband Services | 5 |
| • Mobile Broadband Services | 5 |
| • Voice Services | 6 |
| • Fixed Voice Services | 6 |
| • Mobile Voice Services | 6 |
| • Subscriber Television | 6 |
| • Traffic | 7 |
| • Fixed Voice Services | 7 |
| • Mobile Voice Services | 7 |
| Dominica | 8 |
| • Revenue | 9 |
| • Investment | 9 |
| • Broadband Services | 10 |
| • Fixed Broadband Services | 10 |
| • Mobile Broadband Services | 10 |
| • Voice Services | 11 |
| • Fixed Voice Services | 11 |
| • Mobile Voice Services | 11 |
| • Subscriber Television | 11 |
| Grenada | 12 |
| • Revenue | 13 |
| • Investment | 13 |
| • Broadband Services | 14 |
| • Fixed Broadband Services | 14 |
| • Mobile Broadband Services | 14 |
| • Voice Services | 15 |
| • Fixed Voice Services | 15 |
| • Mobile Voice Services | 15 |
| • Subscriber Television | 15 |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--------------------------------|----|
| St. Kitts and Nevis | 16 |
| • Revenue | 17 |
| • Investment | 17 |
| • Broadband Services | 18 |
| • Fixed Broadband Services | 18 |
| • Mobile Broadband Services | 18 |
| • Voice Services | 19 |
| • Fixed Voice Services | 19 |
| • Mobile Voice Services | 19 |
| • Subscriber Television | 19 |
| Saint Lucia | 20 |
| • Revenue | 21 |
| • Investment | 21 |
| • Broadband Services | 22 |
| • Fixed Broadband Services | 22 |
| • Mobile Broadband Services | 22 |
| • Voice Services | 23 |
| • Fixed Voice Services | 23 |
| • Mobile Voice Services | 23 |
| • Subscriber Television | 23 |
| St. Vincent and the Grenadines | 24 |
| • Revenue | 25 |
| • Investment | 25 |
| • Broadband Services | 26 |
| • Fixed Broadband Services | 26 |
| • Mobile Broadband Services | 26 |
| • Voice Services | 27 |
| • Fixed Voice Services | 27 |
| • Mobile Voice Services | 27 |
| • Subscriber Television | 28 |

MEMBER STATES OVERVIEW

The Eastern Caribbean Currency Bank (ECCB), in its Economic and Financial Review (December 2021), indicated that the Economic activity within the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) rebounded significantly in 2021, expanding by 5.8 per cent. This growth followed a historic contraction of 16.5 per cent in the previous year, primarily attributed to the measures implemented by the governments of the region to contain the spread of the Covid-19 virus. There was growth in value added in several key sectors including hotels and restaurant (27.8 per cent), construction (14.4 per cent), agriculture, livestock and forestry (4.4 per cent), wholesale and retail trade (6.7 per cent) and transport, storage and communications (5.4 per cent). These growth rates indicated a positive economic trend and recovery across these sectors.

Following a decline in economic activity in 2020, all the Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) Member States recorded positive economic activity in 2021, except for St. Kitts and Nevis, which recorded a marginal contraction of 0.9 per cent. Among the Member States, Saint Lucia recorded the highest growth of 12.2 per cent, whereas St. Vincent and the Grenadines recorded the lowest growth of 0.8 per cent.

The performance of the electronic communications sector aligned with the economic performance of the region. The overall revenue generated by the sector remained relatively stable at \$617 million, while investment spending and employment grew significantly by 11 per cent and 7 per cent respectively.

MEMBER STATES OVERVIEW

Table i: Key telecommunications service indicators in the ECTEL Member States

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Provider Revenues (EC\$M) | \$694 | \$690 | \$670 | \$621 | \$617 |
| Investment (EC\$M) | \$136 | \$190 | \$146 | \$120 | \$133 |
| Employment | 806 | 740 | 783 | 782 | 838 |
| Fixed Line Penetration | 20.3% | 18.7% | 17.6% | 15.1% | 14.2% |
| Mobile Penetration | 108.1% | 95.9% | 95.9% | 93.8% | 95.4% |
| Fixed Broadband Penetration | 18.6% | 20.0% | 22.4% | 20.9% | 22.6% |
| Mobile Broadband Penetration | 54.9% | 72.7% | 69.3% | 68.6% | 72.7% |
| Local Fixed Traffic (million minutes) | 333 | 308 | 255 | 217 | 162 |
| Local Mobile Traffic (million minutes) | 544 | 596 | 582 | 542 | 591 |
| International Incoming Traffic (million minutes) | 53 | 43 | 37 | 37 | 38 |
| International Outgoing Traffic (million minutes) | 61 | 55 | 40 | 49 | 55 |

Source: ECTEL/operators

REVENUE

The sector generated approximately \$617 million in total revenue, reflecting a marginal contraction of 0.6 per cent from the previous period. Notably, there were increases in revenue for the service categories of mobile voice (7 per cent) and fixed broadband (1 per cent). However, revenue from fixed voice and subscriber television services experienced declines of 22 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

Revenue Contribution in ECTEL Member States



Mobile Services
42 %



Fixed Broadband
34 %



Fixed Voice
12 %



Subscriber Television
12%

INVESTMENT

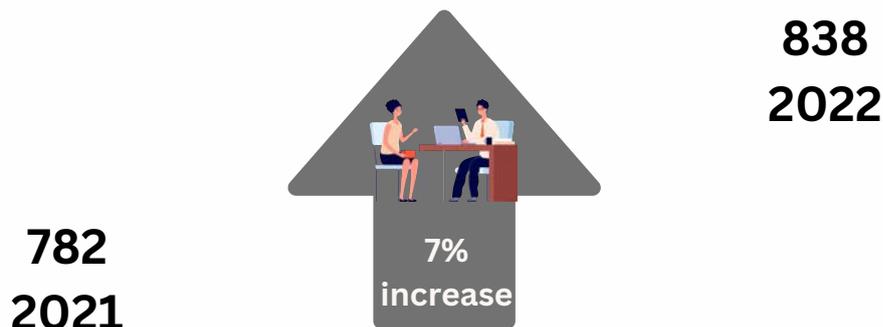
Investment spending in the ECTEL Member States is estimated to have increased by 11 per cent to approximately \$133 million during the review period. As a result, the investment rate grew by 2 percentage points to 21 per cent.

The major areas of investment included expanding and upgrading networks, the replacement of critical equipment, and undertaking repair and maintenance works.



DIRECT EMPLOYMENT

As of the end of March 2022, the electronic communications sector recorded a total of 838 full-time staff, which reflects a 7 per cent increase from the previous period. All ECTEL Member States experienced increased employment in the sector during the review period.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS PENETRATION RATES

In the period under review, the following telecommunications penetration rates were recorded for the ECTEL Member States.

- Mobile Broadband - 72.7 per cent;
- Mobile Voice - 95.4 per cent;
- Fixed Broadband - 22.0 per cent; and
- Fixed Voice - 14.2 per cent.



**Mobile Broadband
Penetration**
72.7 %



Mobile Penetration
95.4%



**Fixed Broadband
Penetration**
22.0 %



**Fixed Voice
Penetration**
14.2%

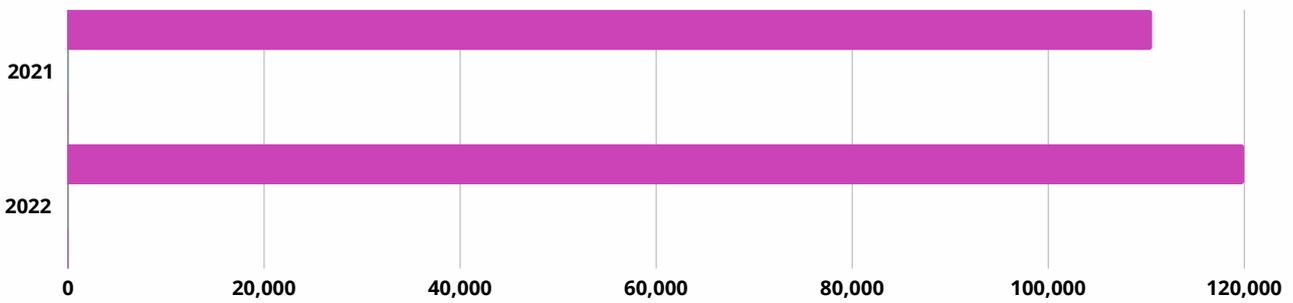
BROADBAND SERVICES

Fixed Broadband Services

Subscriptions to fixed broadband service grew by approximately 8 per cent to an estimated 119,987 subscriptions in the Member States on account of:

- a 7 per cent increase in cable modem broadband subscriptions which accounted for the greatest share of total subscriptions at 78 per cent; and
- a 269 per cent rise in Fibre-to-the-Home/Building subscriptions which accounted for 7 per cent of total subscriptions.

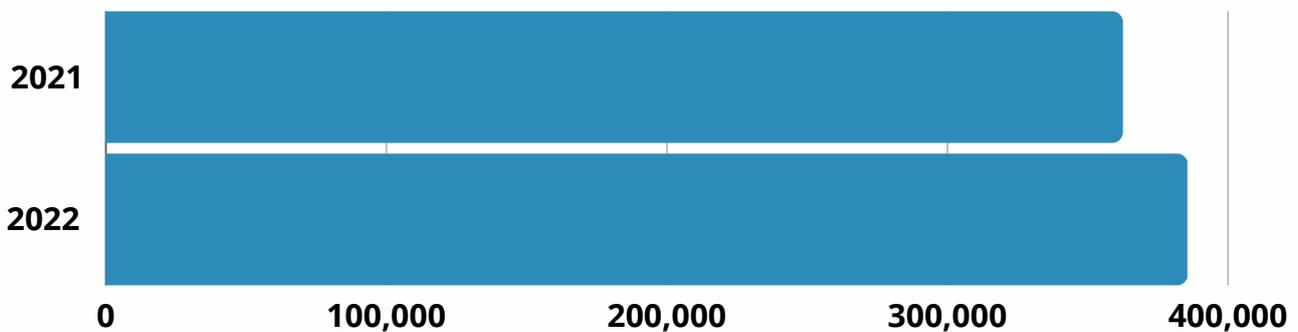
Fixed Broadband Subscriptions



Mobile Broadband Services

During the review period, total mobile data subscriptions increased by 6 per cent to approximately 385,573 subscriptions. Of these connections:

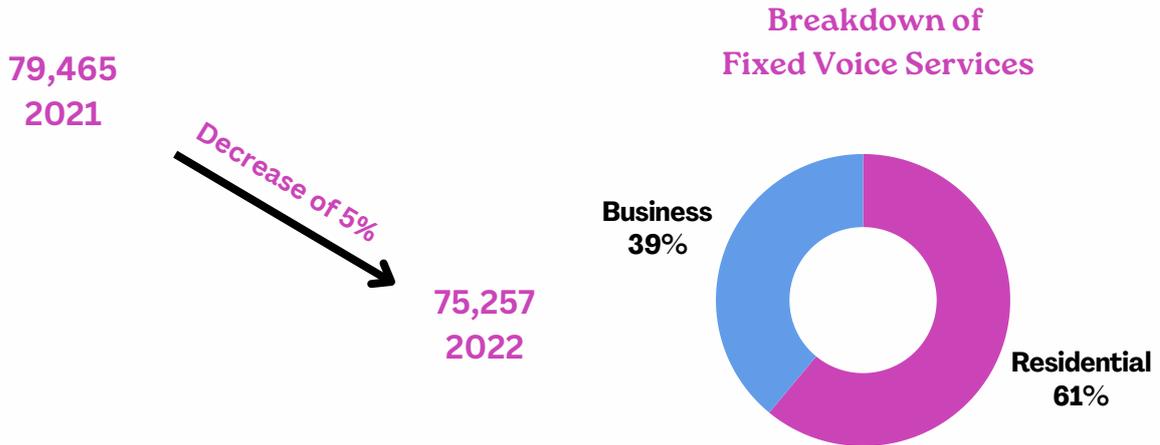
- Mobile LTE connections constituted the largest share of connections, amounting to 87 per cent, followed by 3G/4G at 12 per cent, and WiMAX at less than 1 per cent.
- Prepaid subscriptions accounted for 84 per cent of total mobile broadband connections whereas postpaid subscriptions accounted for 16 per cent.



VOICE SERVICES

Fixed Voice Services

The total number of subscriptions to fixed voice services contracted by 5 per cent during the period under review to approximately 75,257 subscriptions.

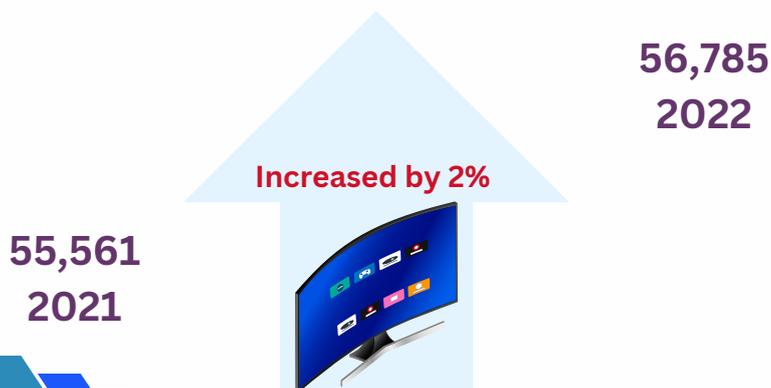


Mobile Voice Services

There was a slight increase of 2.1 per cent in mobile voice subscriptions across ECTEL Member States during the period under review, with subscriptions estimated at approximately 505,957. A 40 per cent surge in postpaid subscriptions contributed to the overall increase in mobile subscriptions. However, prepaid subscriptions still accounted for 81 per cent of the total subscriptions.

SUBSCRIBER TELEVISION

Subscriber television connections for the ECTEL Member States increased by 2 per cent to approximately 56,785 connections during the review period. Subscriber television operators in the ECTEL Member States primarily offer Digital and IPTV services to customers.

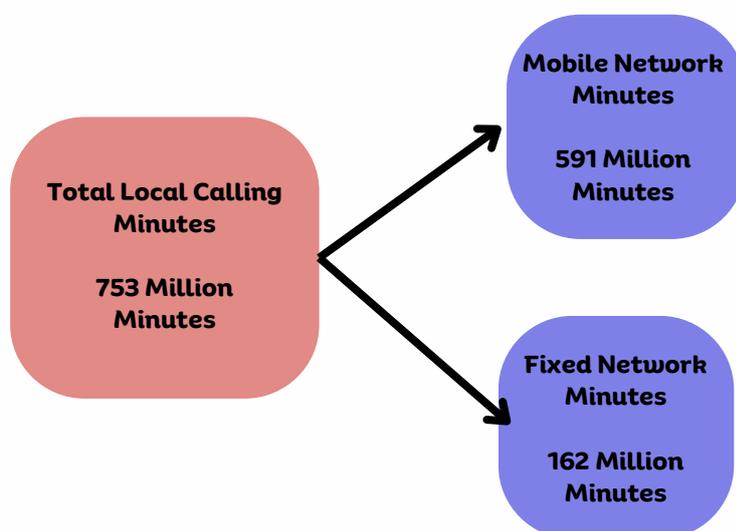


TRAFFIC

Network Traffic

During the period under review, total local outgoing call volumes experienced a modest decline. This decline stemmed mainly from reduced traffic from the fixed networks. More specifically:

- The total local calling minutes from the fixed and mobile networks was 753 million minutes, 8 per cent less than previous period.
- Mobile originated calling grew by 9 per cent to 591 million minutes.
- Local call traffic from fixed networks declined by 25 per cent to approximately 162 million minutes.
- The proportion of local calling minutes originating from mobile networks grew to 79 per cent, marking a 12-percentage point increase from the previous period.



International Outgoing Traffic

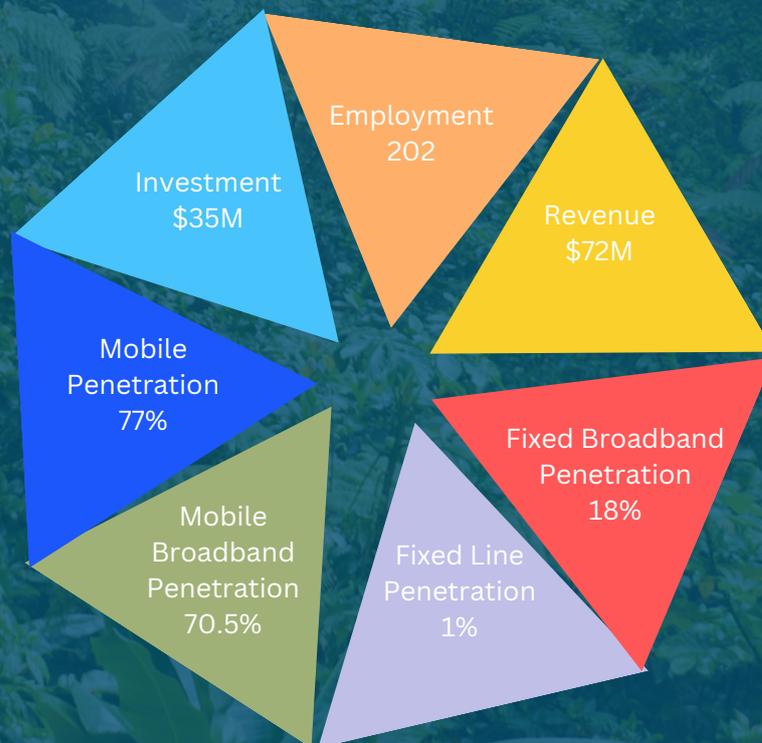
During the period under review:

- International outgoing traffic from mobile and fixed networks decreased by 13 per cent to approximately 55 million minutes.
- Twenty-five per cent of the overall minutes were generated from the fixed network.
- Traffic from the fixed networks declined by 20 per cent while traffic from the mobile networks experienced a 30 per cent jump.

DOMINICA

According to the ECCB's Annual 2021 Economic and Financial Review, economic activity in the Commonwealth of Dominica was estimated to have expanded by 6.9 per cent in 2021. The economic expansion was reflective of increased value added in all major sectors except the hotels and restaurants sector (tourism) which experienced a contraction of 14.1 per cent in 2021. Agriculture, livestock and forestry (24.4 per cent), construction (15.8 per cent), wholesale and retail trade (7.7 per cent) and transport, storage and communications (3.6 per cent) all expanded during 2021. The consumer price index grew by 6.4 per cent in 2021.

Notwithstanding the economic upturn, the electronic communications sector experienced challenges during the year under review. Despite a 3 per cent growth in employment, and a 40 per cent increase in investment, the sector saw reductions in revenue and subscriptions across major service categories. However, growth was observed in mobile broadband subscriptions.



REVENUE

The electronic communications sector in the Commonwealth of Dominica generated approximately 72 million in total revenue for the period ending March 2022, 11 per cent less than the revenue reported in the previous period. Specifically, this decline was reflective of reductions in the following categories:

- 30 per cent reduction in Fixed Voice revenue;
- 4 per cent decrease in Mobile revenue;
- 4 decline in Fixed Internet services revenue;
- 19 per cent reduction in Subscriber Television services; and
- Revenue for mobile services accounted for 50 per cent of overall revenue.

11% Decline in Revenue



\$72M

INVESTMENT

Investments in the sector recorded the second year of consecutive growth since 2020, expanding by 40 per cent to approximately \$35 million during the review period. Investments were distributed as follows:

- 50 per cent of investments were made in the public mobile telecommunications,
- 22 per cent in subscriber TV networks,
- 16 per cent in internet network/services and;
- 12 per cent in fixed public telecommunications network.

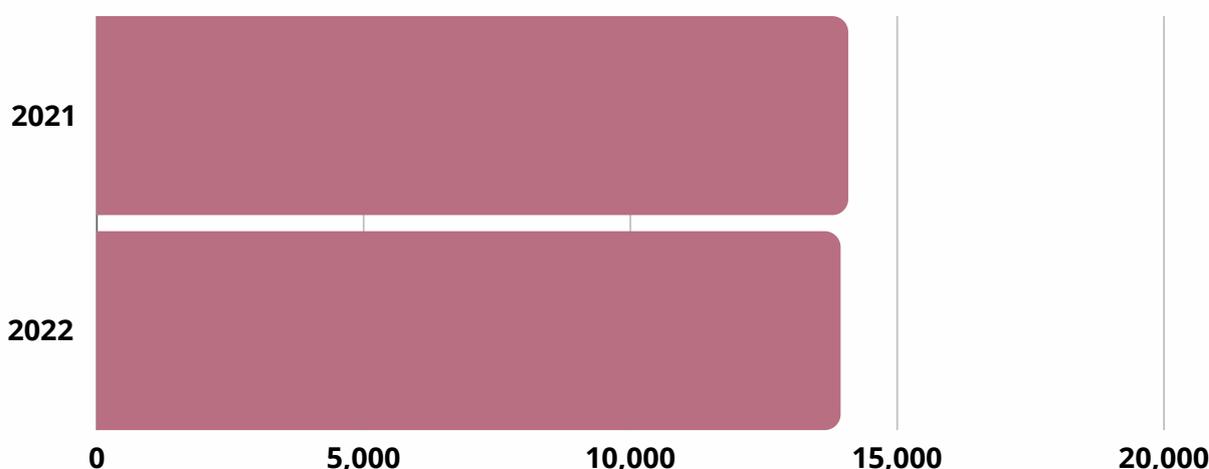
Investment grew by 40% to \$35M in 2022



BROADBAND SERVICES

Fixed Broadband Services

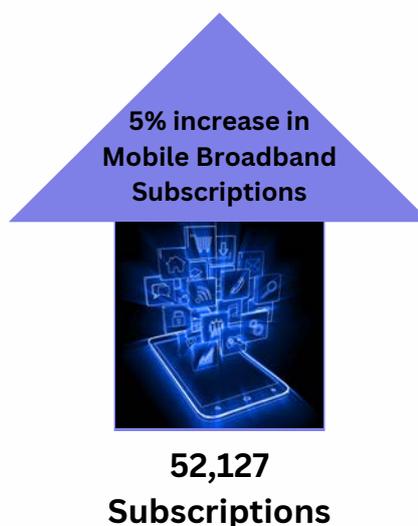
- Fixed broadband connections recorded a slight decrease of 1 per cent to approximately 13,940 subscriptions at the end of March 2022.
- Cable modem subscriptions continue to account for the majority of overall connections, 80 per cent.
- Correspondingly, the fixed broadband penetration rate experienced a 0.34 percentage point growth from the previous review period to 18.9 per cent.



Mobile Broadband Services

During the review period:

- Total mobile broadband subscriptions increased by 6 per cent to 52,127 subscriptions.
- Prepaid subscriptions accounted for the vast majority of total subscriptions at 92 per cent.
- Fourteen (14) per cent of the total mobile broadband 86 per cent of these connections were made over the LTE network.
- Mobile broadband penetration rate grew by 3.6 percentage points to 70.5 per cent.



VOICE SERVICES

Fixed Voice Services

- Subscriptions to fixed voice services plummeted by 47 per cent during the review period.
- Local calls originating from the fixed networks in the Commonwealth of Dominica also dropped by 54 per cent to 3.5 million minutes in the period under review.
- The electronic communications service providers reported approximately 1.3 million international outgoing minutes originating from fixed networks, 9 per cent less than in the previous period.

Mobile Voice Services

Subscriptions to mobile services declined for the third consecutive period. At the end of March 2022, mobile voice subscriptions totaled approximately 56,929, a decrease of 8 per cent from the previous period. In addition:

- prepaid subscriptions accounted for 95 per cent of total subscriptions;
- the mobile penetration rate experienced a reduction of 8 percentage points;
- local mobile calling minutes experienced a marginal decrease of 1 per cent during the review period, amounting to approximately 83 million minutes; and
- conversely, outgoing international minutes originating from the mobile networks rose by 52 per cent to more than 16 million minutes.

SUBSCRIBER TELEVISION

The total number of subscriber television subscriptions in the Commonwealth of Dominica fell by 7 per cent to approximately 9,949 subscriptions during the period under review.

GRENADA

The economy of Grenada experienced a notable rebound in 2021, with an estimated growth of 4.7 per cent, reversing the decline of 13.8 per cent experienced in prior year. This growth was driven by expansions in key sectors, namely construction (25.7 per cent), hotels and restaurants (37.6 per cent), wholesale and retail trade (6.5 per cent), and agriculture, livestock, and forestry (15 per cent). However, the transport, storage and communications sector experienced a decline of 8.5 per cent, consistent with the contraction observed in 2020 when the sector decreased by 25.6 per cent.

The performance of the electronic communications sectors however did not align with that of the overall economy. Revenue generated by the sector remained flat at \$141 million and investments in the sector declined by 12 per cent. However, direct employment in the sector increased by 11 per cent to 108 persons employed full-time.



REVENUE

For the period ending March 2022, Grenada's electronic communications sector generated approximately \$141 million in revenue, approximately the same as the previous period. There were reductions in fixed voice (24 per cent) and subscriber television (8 per cent) services which were moderated by growth in revenue from mobile (6 per cent) and fixed internet services (11 per cent).

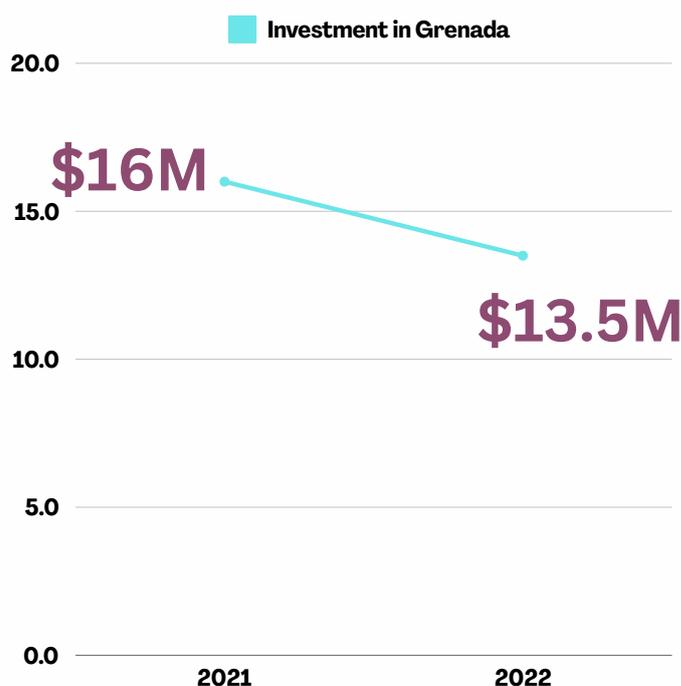
Fixed broadband accounted for the largest component of revenue (38 per cent) followed by mobile service (37 per cent), fixed voice (18 per cent) and subscriber television (7 per cent).



**\$141 Million In the period
Ending March 2022**

INVESTMENT

- Electronic service providers invested approximately 13.5 million in the sector in Grenada, 12 per cent less than the 16 million invested in the previous period.
- Ninety-three per cent of investments were made in the fixed network/services and 7 per cent in subscriber television networks.
- Investments focused on upgrades to networks and replacement of an aging fleet.

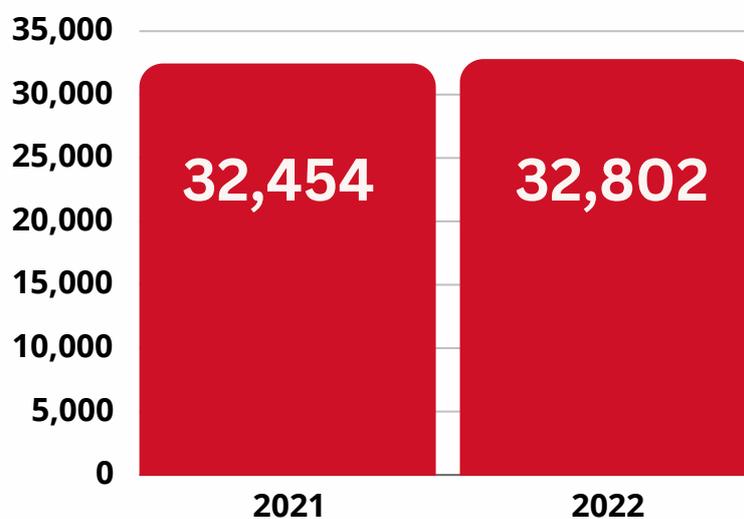


BROADBAND SERVICES

Fixed Broadband Services

During the review period:

- Subscriptions to fixed broadband services totaled 32,802 by 7 per cent.
- The predominant subscription type was cable modem subscriptions (81 per cent), followed by ADSL (8 per cent), FTTH (7 per cent), and other connections including fixed wireless (4 per cent).
- The fixed broadband penetration rate by 2 percentage points to 30.6 per cent.



Mobile Broadband Services

- Mobile broadband subscriptions in Grenada declined by 6 per cent, to approximately 70,332 subscriptions during the review period.
- The mobile broadband penetration rate fell by 3.9 percentage points to 61.8 per cent.
- Prepaid subscriptions constituted 86 per cent of all mobile broadband subscriptions.
- LTE connections comprised the majority (96 per cent) of all subscriptions.



Mobile Broadband Subscriptions declined by 6%

VOICE SERVICES

Fixed Voice Services

- Total fixed voice subscriptions declined by 8 per cent to 16,991 subscriptions during the period under review.
- An estimated 82 million local fixed calling minutes were recorded, reflecting a 34 per cent drop from the previous period.
- International outgoing minutes originating from the fixed network also saw a decline of 12 per cent, with a total of 4.6 million minutes.

Mobile Voice Services

At the end of March 2022, mobile voice subscriptions grew by 5 per cent to 111,955 subscriptions. In addition:

- postpaid subscriptions increased by 50 per cent to 25,485;
- prepaid subscriptions accounted for 77 per cent (86,470) of total subscriptions; and
- the mobile penetration rate increased by 4 percentage points to 98 per cent.

Mobile Network Traffic:

- Local traffic originating from mobile networks surged by 46 per cent totaling 77.5 million minutes.
- Outgoing international minutes decreased by 5 per cent to 11.4 million minutes.

SUBSCRIBER TELEVISION

The total number of subscriber television subscriptions in the Grenada contracted by 8 per cent or 11,644 subscriptions during the period under review.

THE FEDERATION OF ST. CHRISTOPHER (KITTS) AND NEVIS

According to the ECCB's 2021 Annual Economic and Financial Review Report, economic activity in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis declined by 14.5 per cent in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated lockdowns and other containment measures. However, there was a marginal decline in economic activity of 0.9 per cent in 2021 as the country recovered from impact of the pandemic. This was as a result of increased value-added in major sectors in the economy including agriculture, livestock and forestry (6.5 per cent) and construction (4.1 per cent). The recovery was further muted by declines in the key sectors such as hotels and restaurants (17.6 per cent), wholesale and retail trade (3.7 per cent) and transport, storage and communications (4.1 per cent).

Despite the economic performance, the electronic communications sector recorded a commendable performance. Investment in the sector rose by 69 per cent to \$13 million. In addition, employment experienced a growth of 10 per cent, with service providers reporting total employment of 154 full-time employees. However, revenue generated by the sector fell by 6 per cent.

Overview

Revenue
\$102M

Investment
\$13M

Employment
154

Fixed and Mobile Services

Mobile Penetration
112%

Fixed Line Penetration
31%

Broadband Services

Mobile Broadband Penetration
112.4%

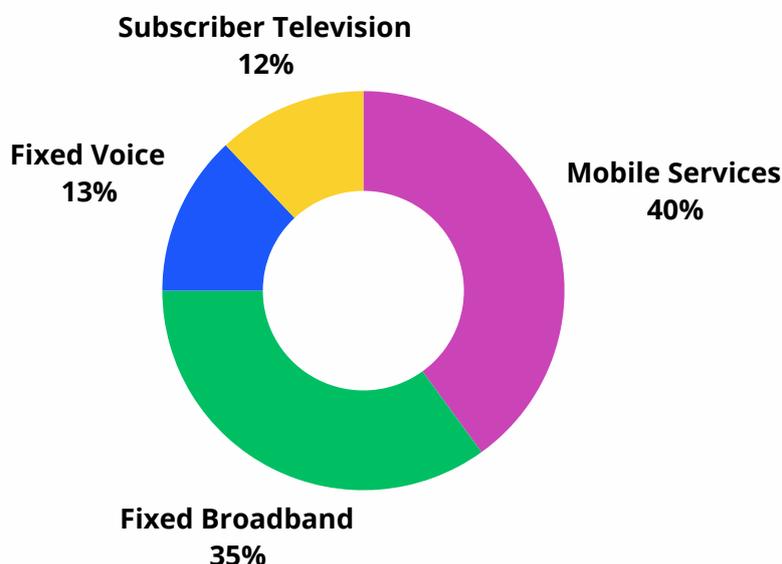
Fixed Broadband Penetration
44.0%

REVENUE

During the period under review, total revenue from the electronic communications sector in St. Kitts and Nevis declined by 6 per cent to \$102 million. Reductions were recorded in all market segments, except Subscriber TV services.

Mobile services accounted for the largest component of revenue (40 per cent), followed by fixed broadband services (35 per cent), fixed voice (13 per cent) and subscriber television (12 per cent).

Breakdown of Revenue in St. Kitts and Nevis



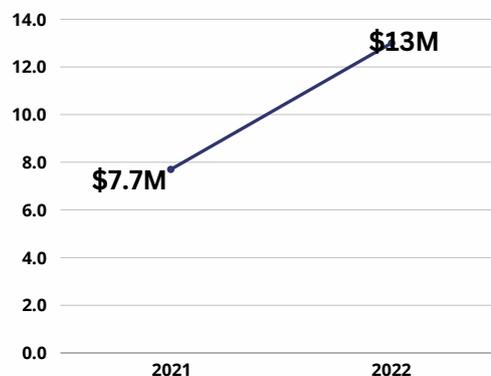
INVESTMENT

Investments by the electronic communications service providers in St. Kitts and Nevis surged by 69 per cent to approximately \$13 million during the review period.

The main areas of investment included:

- the expansion of the FTTH and FTTx networks;
- network maintenance; and
- Other capital.

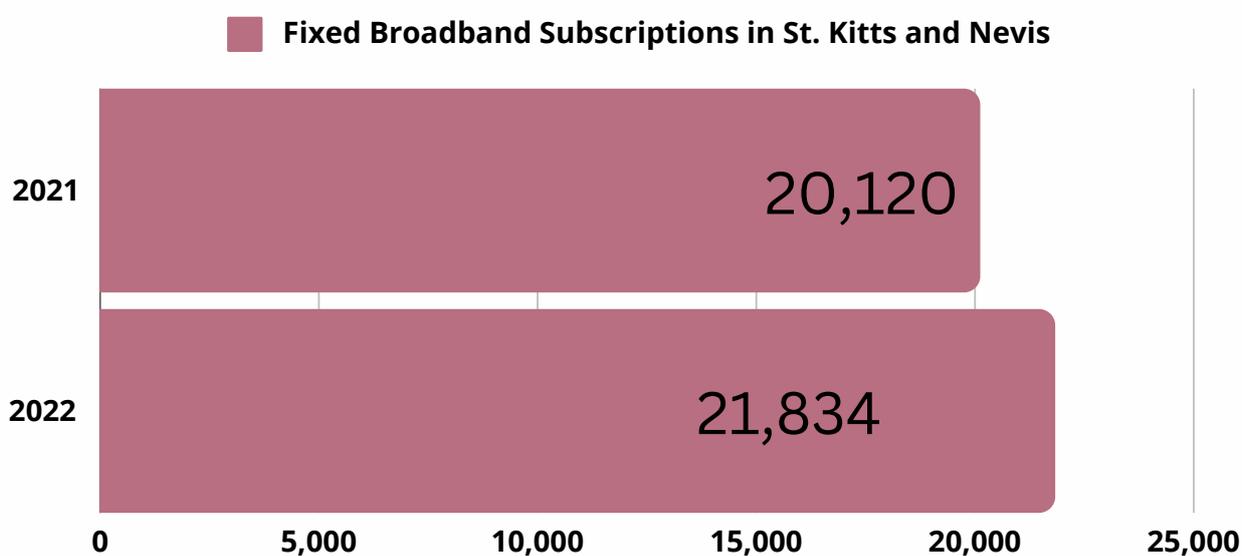
Investment in Millions



BROADBAND SERVICES

Fixed Broadband Services

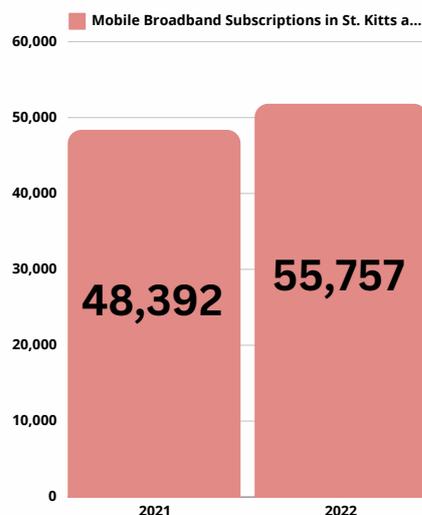
- Subscriptions to fixed broadband services experienced a 9 per cent reduction during the review period, totaling 21,834 subscriptions.
- The fixed broadband penetration rate rose from 40.8 per cent in the previous period to 44.0 per cent.
- Cable modem connections grew by 15 per cent and accounted for 56 per cent of overall connections, while VDSL/VDSL Vectoring and FTTH accounted for 42 per cent and FTTH for 2 per cent of total connections respectively.



Mobile Broadband Services

During the period under review:

- The mobile broadband penetration rate grew by 14.3 percentage points to 112.4 per cent.
- An estimated 55,757 mobile broadband subscriptions were recorded.
- Prepaid subscriptions accounted for 84 per cent of total subscriptions.
- The majority of total subscriptions, 98 per cent, were LTE connections and 2 per cent were 3G/4G (HSPA/UMTS/EV-DO).



VOICE SERVICES

Fixed Voice Services

- The total number of subscriptions to fixed voice services decreased by 1 per cent to approximately 15,602 subscriptions during the review period.
- Fixed voice penetration was down by 1 percentage point to 31 per cent.
- An estimated 15 million local fixed calling minutes were recorded during the period.
- international outgoing minutes from the fixed network also declined by 31 per cent to more than 3 million minutes.



Mobile Voice Services

At the end of March 2022, mobile voice subscriptions totaled approximately 55,592 subscriptions, 2 per cent higher than in the previous period. During that period:

- Prepaid subscriptions accounted for 83 per cent of total subscriptions.
- Local traffic originating from mobile networks declined by 9 per cent to 105 million minutes.
- Outgoing international minutes originating from the mobile networks decreased by 9 per cent, recording almost 2.8 million minutes.
- The mobile penetration rate decreased by 3 percentage points to 112.

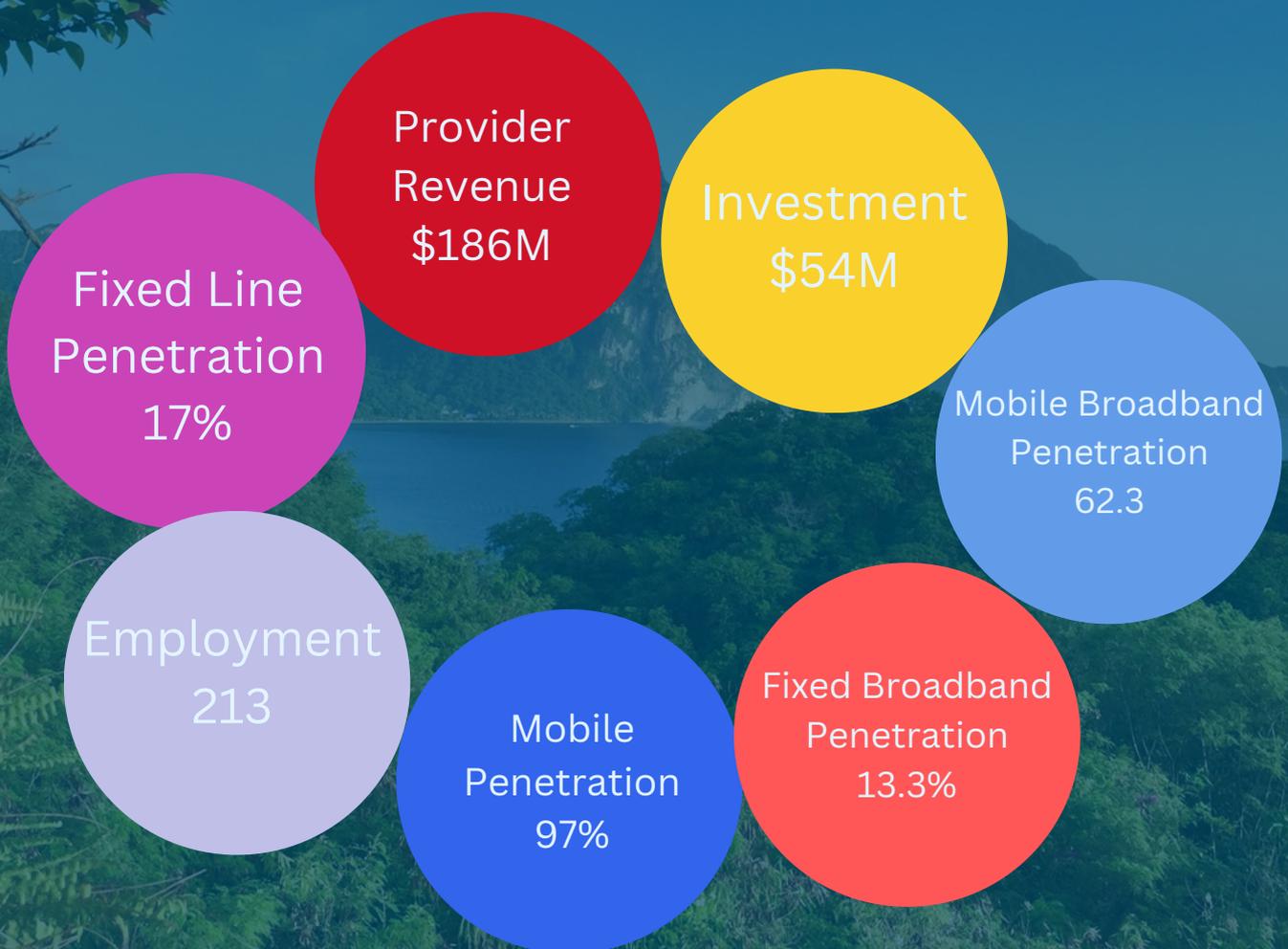
SUBSCRIBER TELEVISION

Subscriptions to television subscriptions rose by 10 per cent, to reach approximately 15,521 subscriptions during the period under review.

SAINT LUCIA

According to estimates derived from the ECCB's 2021 annual Economic and Financial Review, the economy of Saint Lucia grew at a rate of 12.2 per cent in 2021, rebounding from the contraction of 24.4 per cent in 2020. The slowdown in the economy was primarily due to government-imposed measures aimed at containing the spread of the Covid-19virus in 2020. The 2021 rebound was spurred by robust growth in value added across several key sectors notably the accommodation and food service activities sector (66.8 per cent), transportation and storage sector (27.5 per cent) construction sector (20 per cent) and wholesale and the retail trade sector (9.5 per cent).

The performance of the electronic communications sector somewhat mirrored the rebound in the economy. Investment in the sector rose by 32 per cent to approximately \$55 million. In addition, the sector generated total revenues of \$186 million, up by 12 per cent from the previous period. There was also a 11 per cent increase in direct employment within the sector.



REVENUE

During the period under review, total revenue from the electronic communications sector increased by 12 per cent to approximately \$186 million. In addition:

- All the market segments, excluding fixed voice services, recorded growth during the period.
- Revenue from fixed broadband services rose by 24 per cent and accounted for 34 per cent of total revenue.
- Mobile services remained the leading contributor to overall revenue, comprising 44 per cent of the total while subscriber television and fixed voice services accounted for 13 per cent and 9 per cent respectively.

Revenue in Millions

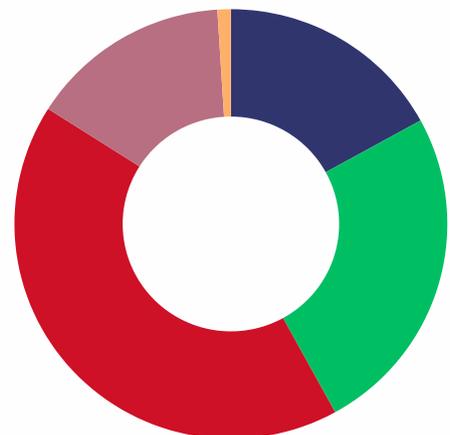


- Fixed Public Telecoms
- Internet Networks
- Mobile Networks
- Subscriber Television
- Submarine Cable

INVESTMENT

At the end of March 2022, electronic communications service providers in Saint Lucia invested approximately \$55 million in their networks. This represented a 32 per cent increase from the previous period. Capital spending was distributed as follows:

- Fixed public telecommunications networks 17 per cent,
- Internet networks and services 25 per cent, mobile networks and services 42 per cent, subscriber television networks 15 per cent and submarine cable 1 per cent.



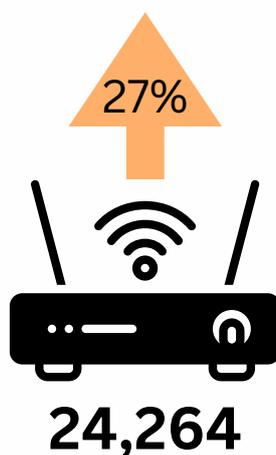
BROADBAND SERVICES

Fixed Broadband Services

During the period under review:

- The total number of fixed broadband subscriptions climbed by 27 per cent to approximately 24,264 subscriptions.
- There was an increase of the fixed broadband penetration by 2.8 percentage points to 13.3 per cent.
- The majority of fixed broadband subscriptions were cable mobile connections, constituting 74 per cent of the total fixed broadband subscriptions followed by FTTH (23 per cent), fixed access (2 per cent), and other fixed broadband service (1 per cent).

Fixed Broadband Services

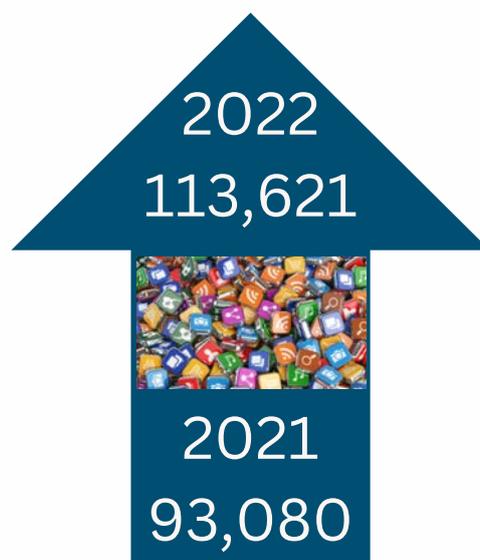


Mobile Broadband Services

The total number of mobile broadband subscriptions increased to 113,621 subscriptions, reflecting a 22 per cent growth in subscriptions from the previous period.

During the review period:

- Prepaid subscriptions accounted for 82 per cent of total mobile broadband subscriptions. Ninety-three (93) per cent of these connections were made over the LTE network, while 7 per cent were 3G/4G connections.
- The mobile broadband penetration rates also increased by 9 per cent, moving from 51.4 per cent to 62.3 per cent.



VOICE SERVICES

Fixed Voice Services

- There was a 5 per cent fall in total fixed voice subscriptions at the end of March 2022.
- During the period, total subscriptions of almost 30,640 were recorded.
- Fixed voice penetration of 17 per cent was also recorded during the period.
- Local fixed calling minutes amounted to an estimated 28 million, 12 per cent less than in the previous period.
- International outgoing minutes from the fixed network also declined by 15 per cent to 2.3 million minutes in the review period.

Mobile Voice Services

At the end of March 2022:

- Mobile voice subscriptions increased by 3 per cent resulting in a total of approximately 176,399 subscriptions.
- Prepaid subscriptions constituted 77 per cent while postpaid subscriptions accounted for 23 per cent.
- The mobile penetration rate increased by 2 percentage points to 97 per cent.
- Local traffic originating from mobile networks also grew by 10 per cent to 177 million minutes.
- Outgoing international minutes originating from the mobile networks rose by 162 per cent, recording 8.3 million minutes.

SUBSCRIBER TELEVISION

For the review period, subscriber television subscriptions grew by 15 per cent to 10,770 subscriptions. All the subscriptions were digital connections.

2021
9,406
Subscriptions



Subscription
increase of 9% to
10,770
Subscriptions

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

In its 2021 Annual Economic and Financial Review, the ECCB reported that the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines expanded by an estimated 0.8 per cent in 2021. This growth was attributed to increased value added in key sectors, notably construction (14.8 per cent), and the wholesale and retail trade sector (7.6 per cent). However, the overall growth was restrained by contractions in major sectors, including agriculture, forestry, and fishing (29.4 per cent), accommodation and food service activities (33.2 per cent), and transportation and storage (10.3 per cent).

The performance of the electronic communications sector was somewhat consistent with the overall economic performance. Full-time employment in the sector increased by 3 per cent. However, investments in the sector contracted by 43 per cent and revenue generated by the sector declined by 7 per cent.

Revenue
\$117M

Investment
\$17M

Employment
161

Mobile
Broadband
Penetration
84.6%

Mobile
Penetration
95%

Fixed
Broadband
Penetration
22.7%

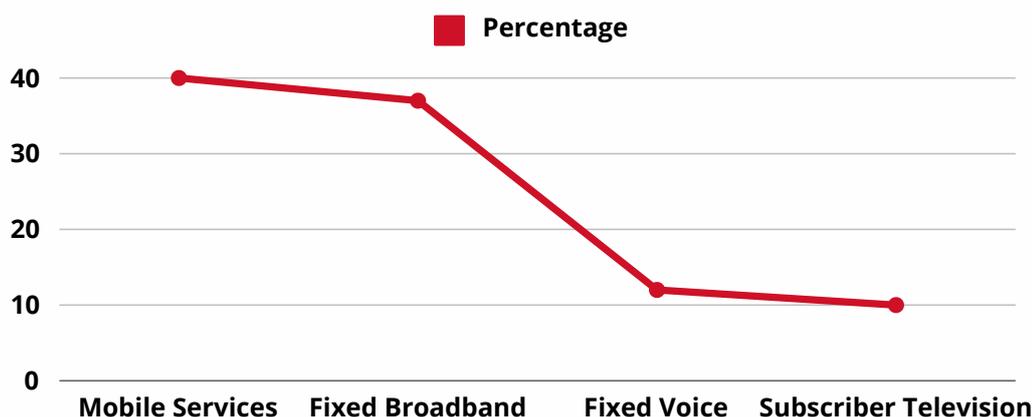
Fixed Line
Penetration
10%

REVENUE

The electronic communications sector in St. Vincent and the Grenadines generated Revenue of approximately \$117 million at the end of March 2022. This represents a decline of 7 per cent from the previous period which stemmed from contractions in fixed voice and fixed broadband services revenues by 38 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. Despite this:

- revenue from mobile services increased by 17 percent, while revenue from subscriber television services experienced a more modest growth of 1 per cent; and
- mobile services accounted for 40 per cent of overall revenue, followed closely by fixed broadband (37 per cent), fixed voice (12 per cent) and subscriber television at (10 per cent).

Percentage Breakdown of Revenue in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

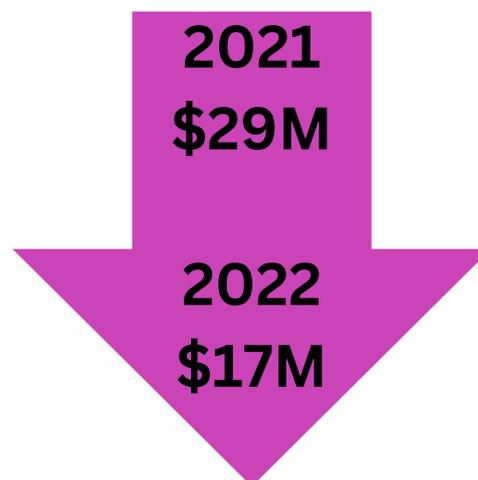


INVESTMENT

Total investments in the electronic communications sector declined by 43 per cent to \$17 million at the end of March 2022.

During the review period, electronic communications service providers undertook network upgrades and expansions, repair work and acquired of equipment as follows:

- 46 per cent in fixed network/services,
- 23 per cent in internet network/services,
- 17 per cent in mobile network/services,
- 14 per cent in subscriber television networks.



BROADBAND SERVICES

Fixed Broadband Services

At the end of March 2022:

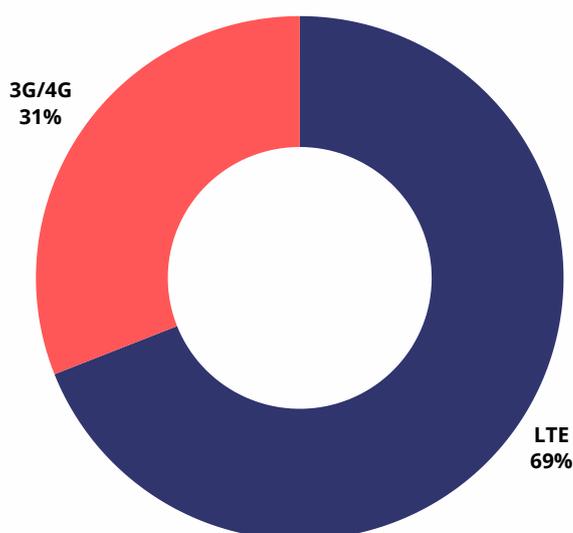
- the number of fixed broadband connections increased by 1 per cent to a total of 25,148 subscriptions.
- Cable modem subscriptions accounted for the majority of all connections (96 per cent) and grew by 6 per cent.
- ADSL connections accounted for approximately 4 per cent.
- fixed broadband penetration increased by 0.2 percentage points to 22.7 per cent.

Mobile Broadband Services

Subscriptions to mobile broadband services fell by 4 per cent to 93,736 subscriptions during the prior review period. As a result:

- the mobile broadband penetration rate shrunk by 3.3 percentage points to 84.6 per cent in the review period.
- LTE subscriptions accounted for 69 per cent of total mobile broadband subscriptions while 3G/4G subscriptions represented 31 per cent of the total.

Percentage breakdowns of Mobile Broadband Technology



VOICE SERVICES

Fixed Voice Services

- The downward trend in fixed line subscriptions continued, with a 5 per cent decline, being registered at the end of March 2022.
- Of the 11, 628 total fixed line subscriptions, residential subscriptions accounted for 87 per cent and experienced a 6 per cent decline. Business subscriptions comprised 13 per cent of the total subscriptions and recorded a marginal growth of 3 per cent.
- Fixed broadband penetration declined by a minimal 1 percentage point to 10 per cent.
- Local calling minutes from fixed networks remained stable at 34 million minutes. However, international outgoing traffic from fixed networks registered a 26 per cent drop to 2.2 million.

Mobile Voice Services

- Total mobile subscriptions was up by 7 percent to 105,082 subscriptions at the end of March 2022.
- Both prepaid and postpaid subscriptions recorded increases respectively of 31 and 4 per cent. Prepaid subscriptions accounted for 86 per cent of total subscriptions.
- Mobile penetration increased by 6 percentage point to 95 per cent.
- Local traffic originating from mobile networks grew by 16 per cent to 148 million minutes.
- Outgoing international minutes originating from the mobile networks decreased of 27 per cent, recording almost 2 million minutes.

98,231
2021



97,483
2022

SUBSCRIBER TELEVISION

At the end of March 2022, subscriber television subscriptions in the St. Vincent and the Grenadines grew by 2 per to approximately 8,902 subscriptions.





EASTERN CARIBBEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

ECTEL Mission Statement

“To create a fully liberalized telecommunications environment by promoting competition amongst service providers for the delivery of efficient and affordable telecommunications services to the people of the ECTEL Member States, by implementing applicable laws, treaties and agreement through fair transparent and Independent processes.”

The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) was established on 04 May 2000 by Treaty signed in St. George’s, Grenada, by the Governments of five Eastern Caribbean States – Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

ECTEL is the regulatory body for telecommunications in its Member States. It is made up of three components - A Council of Ministers, a regional directorate and a National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) in each Member State.

The Council of Ministers made up of the Ministers responsible for Telecommunications in the ECTEL states, and the Director General of the OECS as an ex-officio member. Responsibilities include giving directives to the Board of Directors on matters arising out of the Treaty, and ensuring that the Board is responsive to the needs of the Member States in the implementation of telecommunications policy.

The Board of Directors comprises one member and an alternate from each Member State and the Managing Director of ECTEL as an ex-officio member. Responsibilities include making recommendations to the Council on any matter relating to telecommunications, and establishing rules and procedures consistent with the Treaty for the management and operation of the ECTEL Directorate.

The NTRCs – National Telecommunications Regulatory Commissions – are the Telecommunications regulators at the national level in each Member State. They are responsible for the processing of applications and advising the Minister on the award of licences.



