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THE GAMBIA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

COMMUNICATION STATISTICS
SUMMARY REPORT

(2012-2017)

**BY THE
TOURISM, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION STATISTICS UNIT**

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

GAMCEL	Gambia Cellular Company Limited
GAMTEL	Gambia Telecommunication Company Limited
GMD	Gambian Dalasi
GRTS	Gambia Radio and Television Services
GSM	Global System for Mobile communications
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDI	ICT Development Index
ISPs	Internet Service Providers
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
PURA	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
SMS	Short Message Service

Foreword

This report presents the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Statistics of The Gambia for the period 2012-2017. It presents the state of ICT infrastructure, access and use for the period under review. Most of the data in this report is from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), data on access to the media is from the 2013 Population and Housing Census report on access to the media and the data on ICT Development Index (IDI) is from the International Telecommunications Union's (ITU). PURA is mandated by an act to provide guidelines on rates and fees to ensure that public services are regulated and to protect the interest of the consumers and public utilities, thus it currently regulates the Telecommunication, Energy, Water and Sewage and Electricity sectors in the country.

The report contains data on internet subscription, volume of calls, tariffs charged, employment, the number and types of broadcasting media, the proportion of the population that had access to ICT and the ICT Development Index (IDI). This report can be accessed on The Gambia Bureau of Statistics' website (<https://www.gbosdata.org/>). Users who have specific data needs can contact the Tourism, Transport and Communication Statistics Unit of GBoS for assistance.

The Gambia Bureau of Statistics wishes to express its profound gratitude to PURA for making available the necessary data for the compilation of the ICT Statistics. We hope that users will find this report useful.

Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang

Statistician General

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Statistics Report- 2012-2017

1: Introduction

This is the first report on Information and Communication indicators prepared by the Tourism, Transport and Communication unit of the Gambia Bureau of Statistics. The report highlights the use of and access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure in terms of internet subscription, volume of calls, tariffs charged, employment, the number and types of broadcasting media, the proportion of the population that had access to ICT and the ICT Development Index (IDI).

The importance of ICT in a country cannot be overemphasized as it can help boost various sectors of an economy, such as health, education, agriculture, tourism and the like. Improve communication network enhance the dissemination of information and data and has made the world a global village. Social relationships have improved through the use of ICT products and services. In addition, learning has become easier for the population at large, thus it is important to report on the state of ICT in the country to enable better planning.

2. ICT Infrastructure and Access

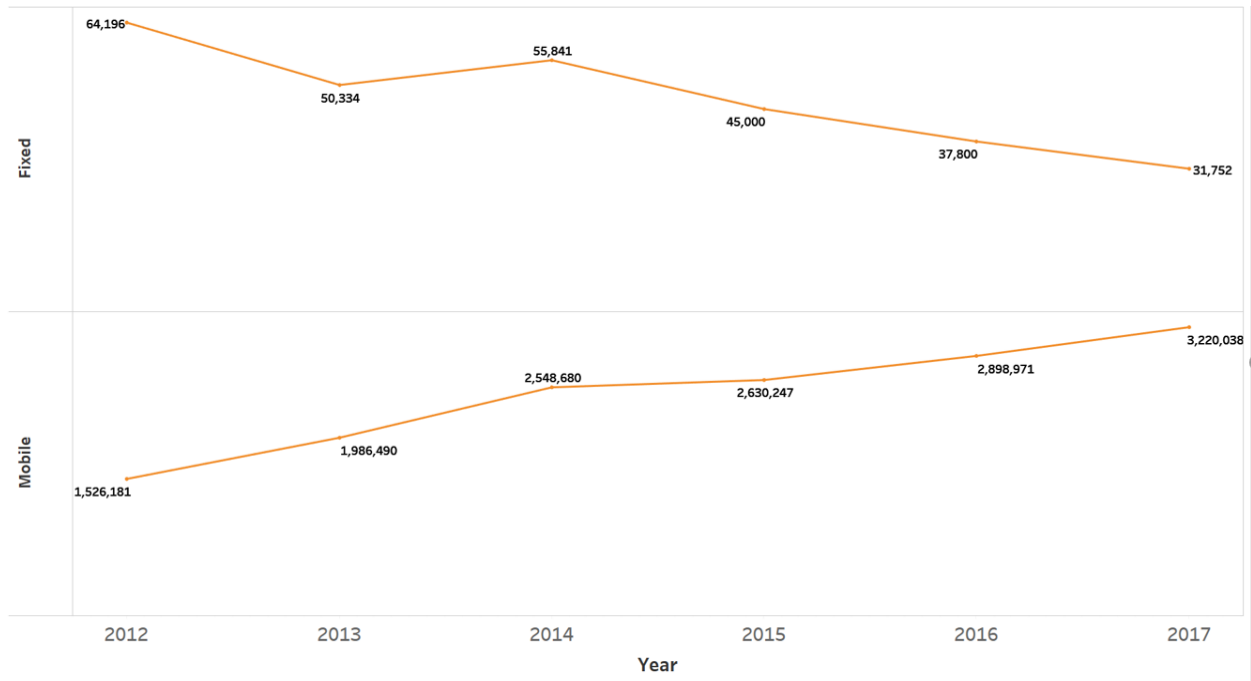
2.1 Service providers and available infrastructure

There has been significant growth in the telecommunication industry over the years. There are four mobile cellular service providers (GAMCEL, AFRICELL, COMIUM and QCELL) while GAMTEL is the only fixed line telephone provider. QCELL and GAMTEL in addition to Unique Solutions, NETPAGE, I-NET WORLD, INSIST Global and LANIX make up the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the country.

2.2 Fixed and Mobile cellular subscriptions

The number of fixed line subscribers shows a decreasing trend for the period under review, the number decline by 16 per cent from 2015 to 2016 and from 2016 to 2017 as well (see figure 1). This decline is mainly attributed to the use of mobile phones which are more portable and convenient. The number of active mobile subscribers has increased for the period under review. The year 2012 recorded the lowest number of mobile subscriptions (1.5 million) and 2017 recorded the highest number of subscribers (3.2 million). The increase is partly attributable to the use of more than one sim card per individual as well as the advancement in the mobile market especially in the area of dual phones and the proliferation of connected devices using sim cards.

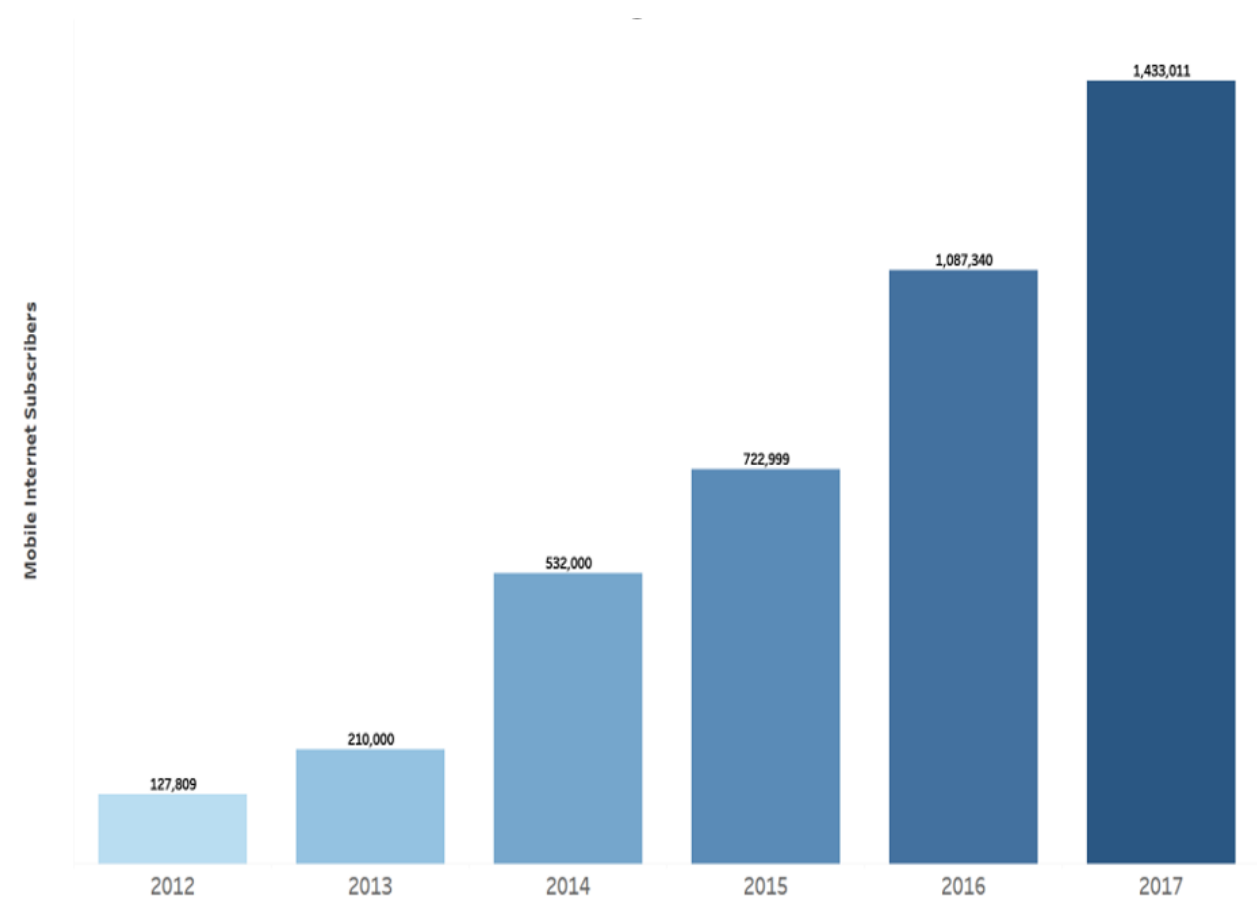
Figure 1: Fixed Telephone and Mobile Active Subscribers



2.3 Internet Subscriptions

The table shows the total number of mobile internet subscribers in The Gambia. The data shows an increasing trend for internet mobile subscription for the period 2012 – 2017. This could be due to the daily need for the use of the internet as a means of connecting with friends and family and for learning. For the period under review, 2017 recorded the highest number of subscribers (1,433,011) and 2012 the lowest with 127,809 subscribers.

Figure 2: Internet Subscriptions

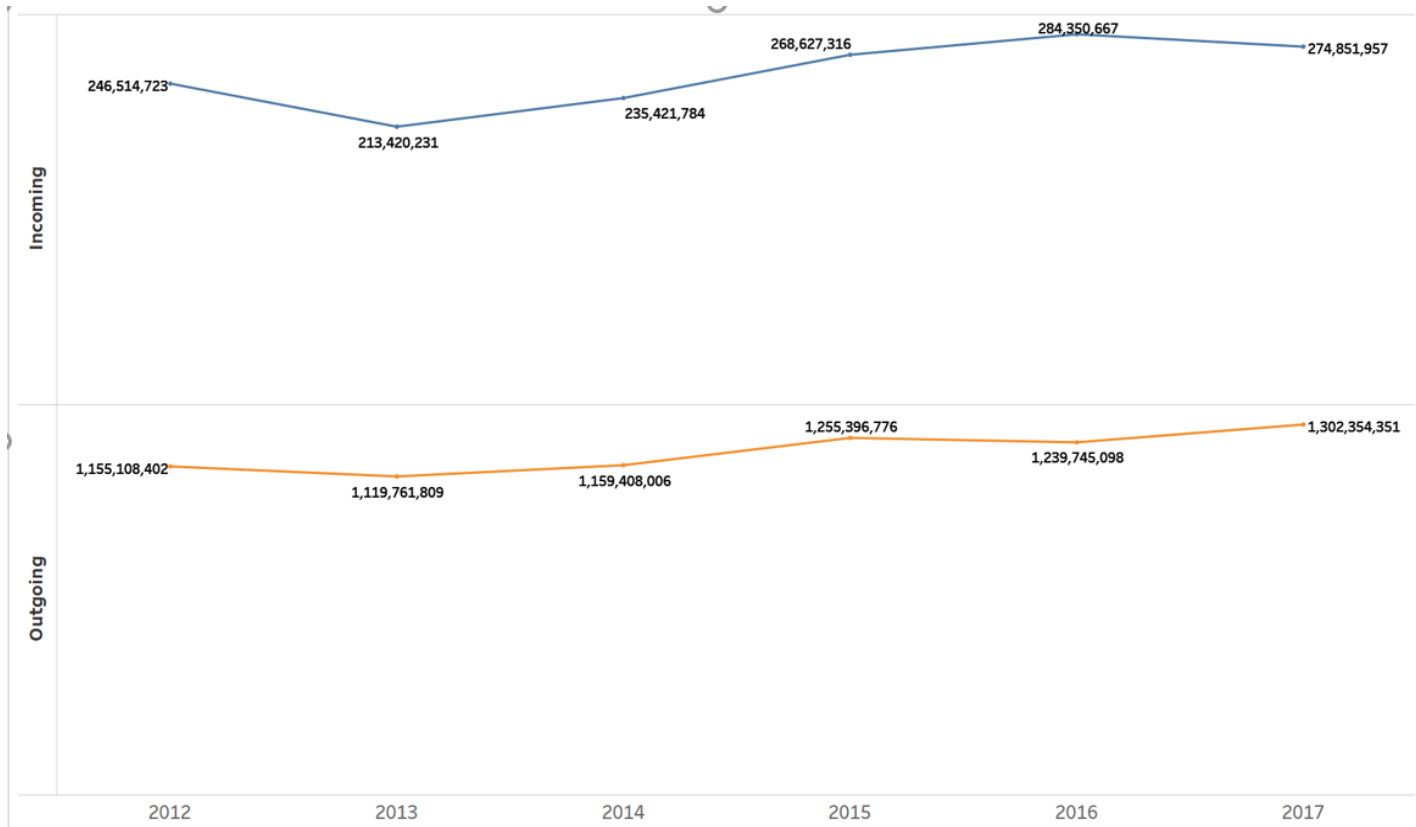


2.4 Communication Traffic

2.4.1 Local calls

Figure 3 shows that the volume of local calls in The Gambia has increased over the years. For the period under review, outgoing calls was more than incoming calls. The highest for outgoing calls was observed in 2017 with 1,302,354,351 minutes while the lowest was in 2013 with 1,119,761,809 minutes. For incoming calls, the highest was in 2016 with 284,350,667.3 minutes but dropped by almost 10 million to 274,851,957.4 minutes in 2017. Similarly, the smallest number of local incoming calls was observed in 2013 with 213,420,231 minutes.

Figure 3: Volume of Local Calls



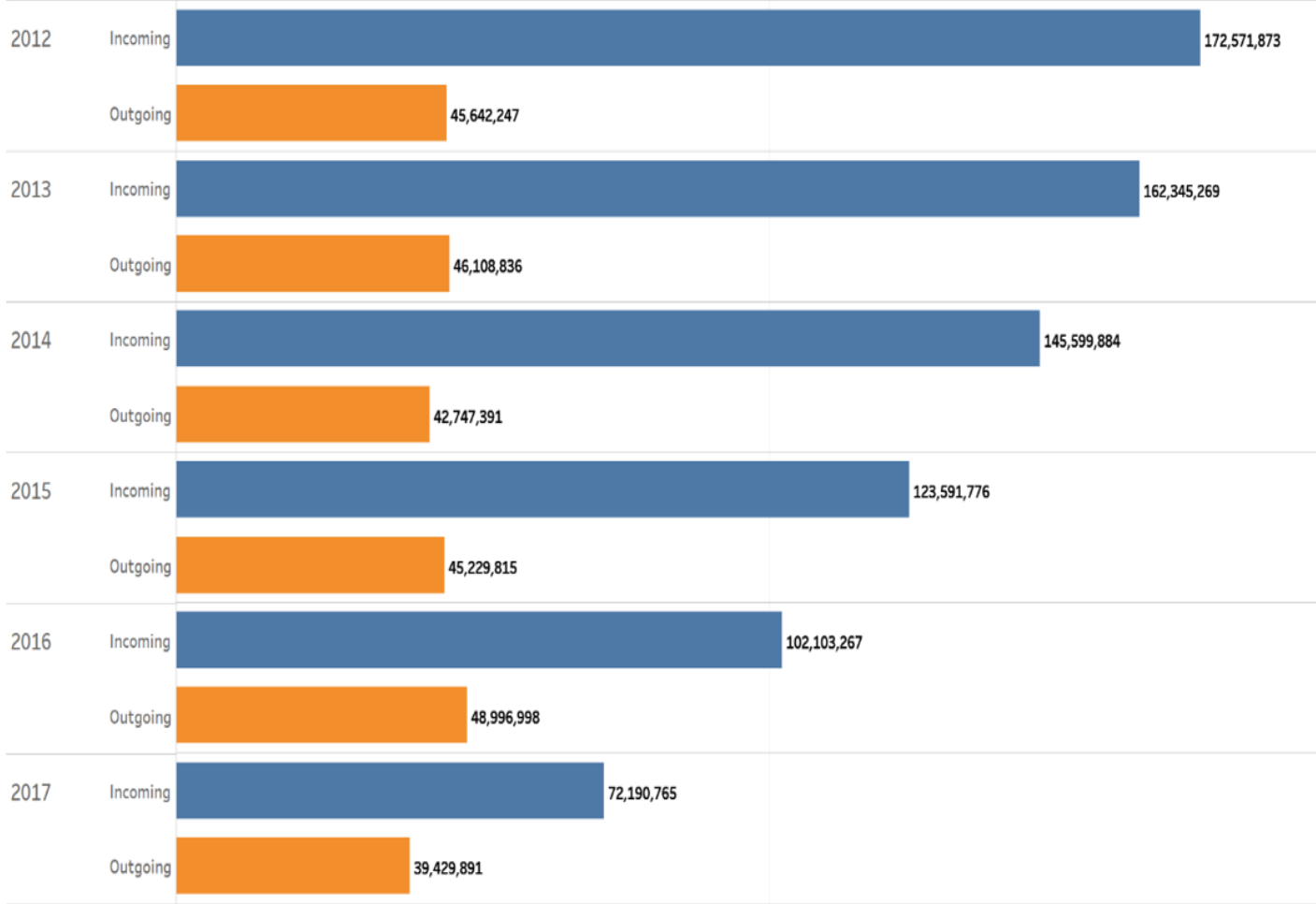
2.4.2 International calls

Incoming international calls was more than the outgoing international calls in The Gambia for the period under review. The traffic for incoming calls shows a decreasing trend with 2012 recording the highest and 2017 the lowest. This could be due to the increase in the use of the social media platforms especially WhatsApp, Viber and Facebook as means of communication. In addition, a significant grey market currently exists within the incoming international calling market owing to the prevalence of sim boxes. These are devices where genuine international calls are originated from outside the country but masked as local calls in tandem with local dealers within the country. As a result, a subscriber may receive an international call with a local number reflected in the caller ID.

However, there is not much change in the volume of out-going calls for the period under review, as the volume of calls were relatively similar for all the years as it was less than 50 million minutes. Outgoing international calling patterns have primarily been shaped by the relative rigidity of the zonal structure that currently prevails thus making the per minute call rather

expensive for some destinations. This is further exacerbated by the monopolistic regime prevailing in the international gateway.

Figure 4: Volume of International Calls

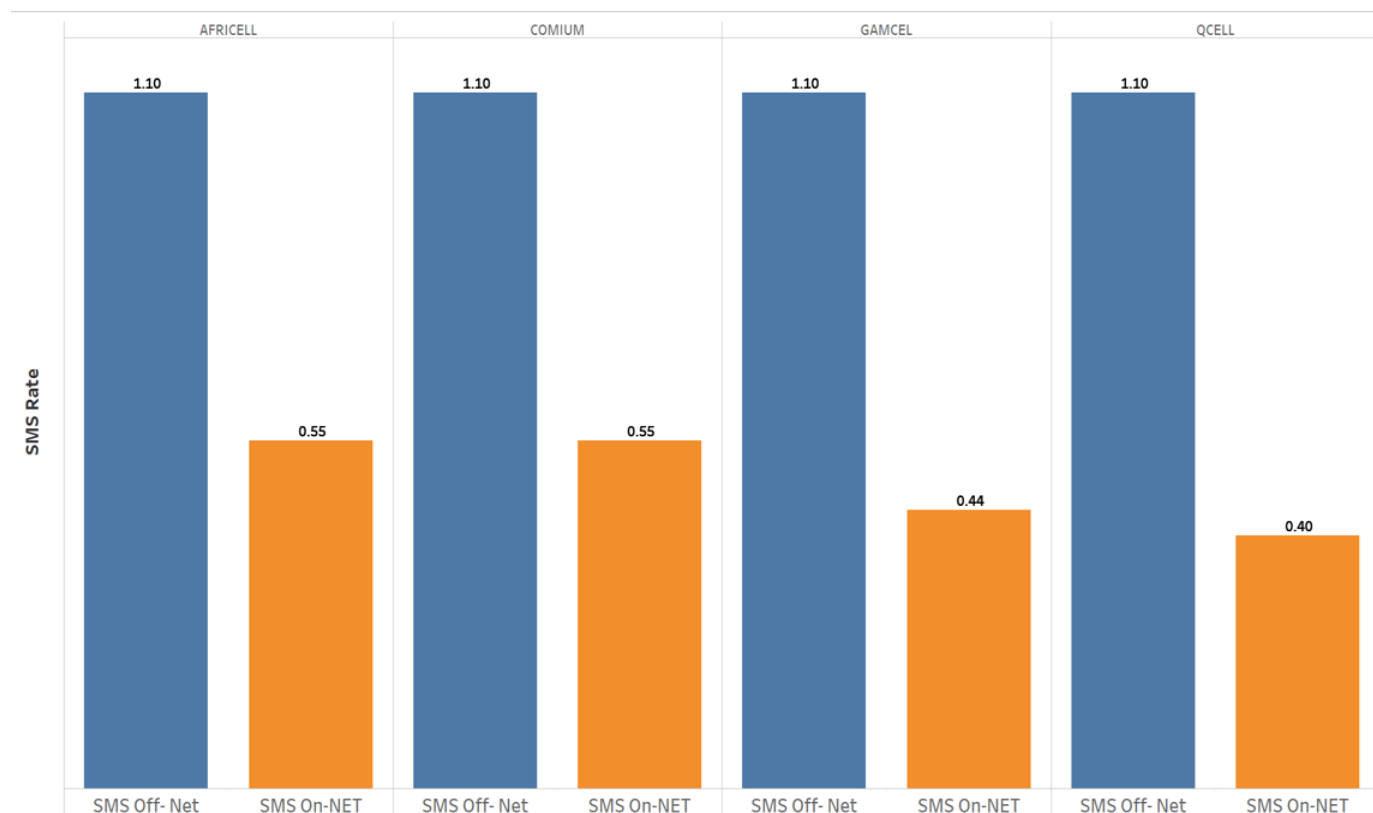


2.5 Tariffs

2.5.1 Short Message Service (SMS)

There is not much difference in tariffs for Short Message Service (SMS) charge by the Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) operators. For both prepaid and postpaid services, the average rate charge by all the GSM operators is GMD 1.1 per SMS for off-net (same network) SMS. However, for on-net (different network) SMS, QCELL charges a relatively smaller rate of GMD 0.40 per SMS than the other operators who charge GMD 0.44(GAMCEL) and GMD 0.55 by both AFRICELL and COMIUM.

Figure 5: Short Message Service Rates



3. ICT access and use

3.1 ICT access by households

During the 2013 Population and Housing Census the population aged 7 years and over was asked if they have access to ICT. The census result shows that, 87 per cent of the population had access to radio, 68.2 per cent had access to TV. Only 5 per cent of the population had access to land phones while 79 per cent had access to mobile phones of this 53.6 per cent owned the phones. About 11 per cent of the population had access to computer and the proportion of the population who reported to be using internet on a daily basis was about 76 per cent.

4. Contribution of ICT sector to the economy

4.1 Employment

The telecommunication service providers employed 2,375 people in The Gambia in 2017, compared to 2,262 and 2,169 in 2016 and 2015 respectively. For the period under review, GAMTEL was the highest employer of all the service providers in the industry, followed by GAMCEL. This could be attributable to the fact that these two companies are state owned enterprises and are more likely to employ more people than the other companies which are privately owned. COMIUM has the least number of employees for the period under review.

5: Broadcasting Media

5.1: Television Stations

Initially, there was only one television station in the country, The Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS), which was established in 1995. In 2017, QTV was issued a license and began operation in the same year. In 2018, licenses were issued to 3 other television companies to operate as TV stations in the country – Paradise TV, MTV and Star TV (PURA, 2018).

5.2: FM Stations: Commercial and Community Radio Stations

There are two different types of Radio Stations in The Gambia i.e. commercial and community radio stations. There were 23 commercial radio stations as at 2014, but the number increased by 1 in 2015. In 2016, 5 other commercial radios were issued license and 2017 registered another increment of 6 radio stations making it 34 radio stations in the country as a whole.

There were only 7 community radio stations in the country as at 2014. However, the number has increased to 8 as at 2015 and remains the same in 2017.

6: ICT Development Index (IDI)

The ICT Development Index (IDI) is an index developed by the United Nations International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in 2008. It is developed from a total of 11 indicators and further group into three sub-indices; the Access Sub Index, the Use Sub Index and the Skills Sub Index to help measure the digital divide and improvement of the ICT sector among countries. The index is ranked on a scale of 0 to 10, in which countries close to ten are ranked in the top, implying that they have better ICT access and use while countries close to 0 are ranked at the bottom of the list.

The Gambia has slightly improved its value of IDI from 2.43 in 2016 to 2.59 in the 2017 ranking 145 and 144 out of 176 countries in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Other countries in the top of the

rank are Iceland, South Korea and Switzerland in 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions respectively, while Central African Republic and Eritrea are ranked at the bottom with 175th and 176th positions respectively (ITU 2018).

Appendix

Table 1: Fixed Telephone and Mobile Active Subscribers

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Fixed	64,196	50,334	55,841	45,000	37,800	31,752
Mobile	1,526,181	1,986,490	2,548,680	2,630,247	2,898,971	3,220,038

Source: PURA, 2018

Table 2: Mobile Internet Subscribers

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Mobile Internet Subscribers	127,809	210,000	532,000	722,999	1,087,340	1,433,011

Source: PURA, 2018

Table 3: Local Call Traffic (Minutes)

Year	Incoming	Outgoing
2012	24,651,4723	1,155,108,402
2013	213,420,231	1,119,761,809
2014	235,421,783.5	1,159,408,006
2015	268,627,316.1	1,255,396,776
2016	284,350,667.3	123.9745,098
2017	274,851,957.4	1,302,354,351

Source: PURA, 2018

Table 4: International Call Traffic (Minutes)

Year	Incoming	Outgoing
2012	172,571,872.6	45,642,246.52
2013	162,345,269	46,108,835.66
2014	145,599,883.6	42,747,390.61
2015	123,591,776	45,229,815.47
2016	102,103,266.6	48,996,998.16
2017	72,190,764.84	39,429,891.42

Source: PURA, 2018

Table 5: SMS Rates

PREPAID	GAMCEL	AFRICELL	COMIUM	QCELL
On- Net Peak (same network)	2.8	2.2	3.3	2.3
Off-Net Peak (cross network)	3.25	3.3	3.3	2.9
On- Net (same network)	2.8	3	3.3	2.3
Off-Net (cross network)	3.25	3.3	3.3	2.9
Zone 1 (Senegal)	18.23	20.5	18.24	21
Zone 2 (US & Europe)	13.8	14.5	13	14
Zone 3 (Rest of The World)	16.8	16.5	15	15.3
SMS On-NET	0.44	0.55	0.55	0.4
SMS Off- Net	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
SMS Intl.	3.3	3	3.3	3.3

Source: PURA, 2018

Table 6: EMPLOYEES OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

YEAR	GAMTEL	AFRICEL	GAMCEL	QCELL	COMIUM	TOTAL
2015	1,113	243	484	206	123	2169
2016	1100	295	484	250	133	2262
2017	949	491	499	297	139	2375

Source: PURA, 2018

Table 7: Television Stations

No.	Name	Location
1.	GRTS	Kanifing
2.	QTV	Bijilo
3.	PTV	Pipeline
4.	MTV	Serre Kunda
5.	Star TV	Serre kunda

Source: PURA, 2018

Table 8: Commercial FM Radio stations

No	Name	Location	Frequency
1.	RFI	Abuko	89.0 MHz
2.	Light FM		89.6 MHz
3.	Senn FM	West Field	90.5 MHz
4.	Deegggo FM		91.5 MHz
5.	West Coast 2	Kotu	92.1 MHz
6.	City Limit	Kairaba Avenue	93.6 MHz
7.	West Coast 1	Kotu	95.3 MHz
8.	Sen FM	West Field	95.5 MHz
9.	Star FM	Ebo Town	96.6 MHz
10.	Taranga FM	Sinchu Alhagie	97.5 MHz
11.	GRTS FM	Mile 7	98.6 MHz
12.	DHK		99.5 MHz
13.	Capital FM	Kairaba Avenue	100.4 MHz
14.	Unique FM	Bakau New Town	100.7 MHz
15.	Janneh Koto FM	Gunjur	100.1 MHz
16.	Unique FM	Basse	101.7 MHz
17.	GRTS FM	GRTS Mile 7	102.6 MHz
18.	Radio 1 FM	Fajara Booster Station	102.1 MHz
19.	Kora FM	KaniFing south	103.9 MHz
20.	Hot FM	Bakau New Town	104.3 MHz
21.	Hill Top FM	Sukuta	104.7 MHz
22.	Paradise FM	Pipe Line near BSTS	105.7 MHz
23.	Paradise FM	Basse	105.8 MHz
24.	Paradise FM	Farafeni	105.5 MHz
25.	Vibes FM	Manjai	106.1 MHz
26.	Nexus	Sanchaba Junction Ba	106.4 MHz
27.	GRTS	Abuko	106.7 MHz
28.	AL FaLAH FM	MDI Road kanifing	107.2 MHz
29.	Afri Radio	Kairaba Avenue	106.7 MHz
30.	Exit FM	Bakoteh	96.9 MHz
31.	Sahed Group FM	MDI Road, Kanifing	88.5 MHz
32.	Choice FM	Sanchaba Sullay Jobe	103.6 MHz
33.	SKY FM	Old Yundum	96.9 MHz
34.	Qradio	Qcity Bijilo	103.3 MHz

Source: PURA, 2018

Table 9: Community FM Radio stations

No.	Name	Location	Frequency
1.	Soma Community FM	Soma	88.8 MHz
2.	Bwiam Community FM	Bwiam	91.9 MHz
3.	Kerewan Community FM	Kerewan	100.5 MHz
4.	Basang Community FM	Basang	107.2 MHz
5.	Brikama Community FM	Brikamaba	96.8 MHz
6.	Brikama Community FM	Brikama	98.0 MHz
7.	Farafenni Community FM	Farafeni	99.9 MHz
8.	Kauranyning FM	Kuloro	107.9 MHz

Source: PURA, 2018