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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
List of Figures	ii
Acronyms and Abbreviations	iii
Foreword	iv
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Statistics Report- 2018-2022.....	1
1: Introduction.....	1
2. ICT Infrastructure and Access	1
2.1 Service providers and available infrastructure	1
2.2 Mobile cellular subscriptions	1
2.3 Communication Traffic.....	2
2.3.1 Local calls.....	2
2.3.2 International calls	3
2.4 Tariffs	3
2.4.1 Short Message Service (SMS).....	3
3. Contribution of ICT sector to the economy	4
3.1 Employment	4
3.2: ICT Contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).....	4

List of Figures

Figure 1: Mobile Active Subscribers, 2018-2022	2
Figure 2: Volume of Local Calls (in minutes), 2018-2022.....	2
Figure 3: Volume of International Calls (in minutes), 2018-2022	3
Figure 4: Short Message Service Rates (in GMD), 2022	4

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
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
PURA	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
SMS	Short Message Service

Foreword

This report provides Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Statistics of The Gambia for the period 2018-2023. 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 2018 Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS V1) report and the data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is from the Gambia Bureau of Statistics, National Accounts Unit. 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. This report can be accessed on the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) website (<https://www.gbosdata.org/>). Users who have specific data needs can contact the Tourism, Transport and Communication Statistics Unit of GBoS for assistance.

On behalf of the Bureau of Statistics, I wish to express my profound gratitude to PURA, and the telecommunication operators for making available the necessary data for the compilation of the ICT Statistics. My special thanks to the entire staff of the Tourism, Transport and Communication Statistics Unit. I am also thankful to the Director of the Economic Statistics directorate, for facilitating the preparation of this report. I hope that users will find this report useful.

Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang

Statistician General

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Statistics Report- 2018-2022

1: Introduction

This is the sixth report on Information and Communication indicators prepared by the Tourism, Transport and Communication Statistics unit of GBoS. 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, number and types of broadcasting media, proportion of the population that had access to ICT.

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. Improved communication network enhances the dissemination of information 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

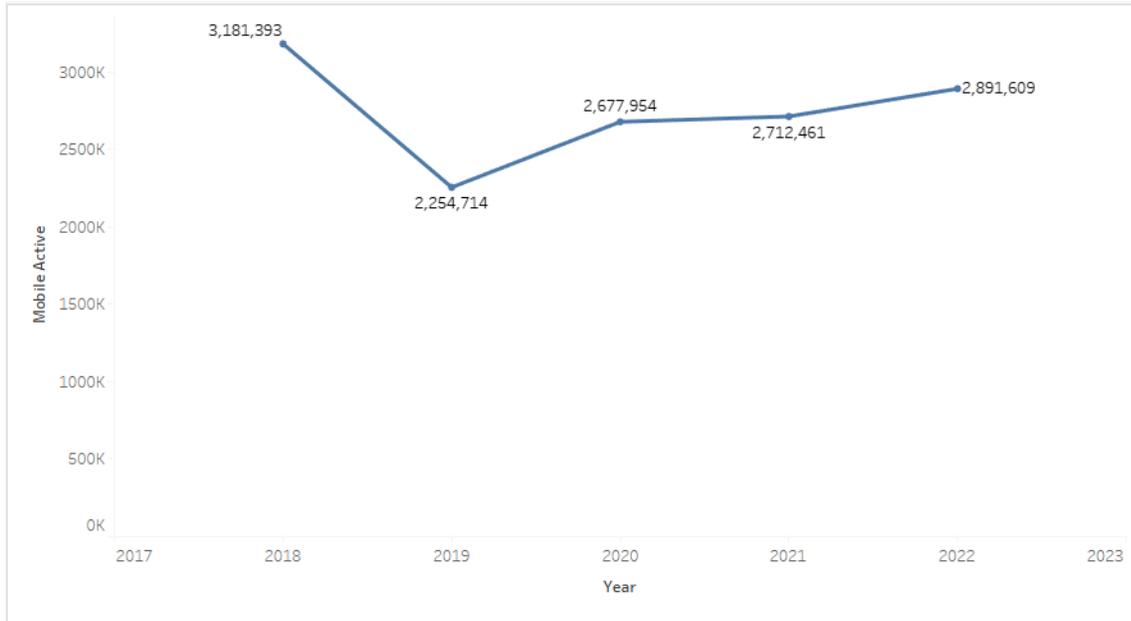
There has been significant growth in the telecommunication industry over the years especially in the area of internet services. The growth has been witness by an increasing number of firms providing internet solutions to businesses, organizations, homes and individuals in addition to the GSM providers. The internet service providers are Insist Global (INET), Unique Solutions, Netpage, Qcell, Gamtel, Africell and DK Telecoms.

2.2 Mobile cellular subscriptions

The number of active mobile phone subscribers of the four GSM operators increased by 6.6 percent from about 2.71¹ million in 2021 compared to 2.89 million subscribers in 2022. The use of dual sim cards and phones leads to the high number of active mobile subscribers in the country.

¹ The number of subscribers in 2021 does not include Gamcel

Figure 1: Mobile Active Subscribers, 2018-2022

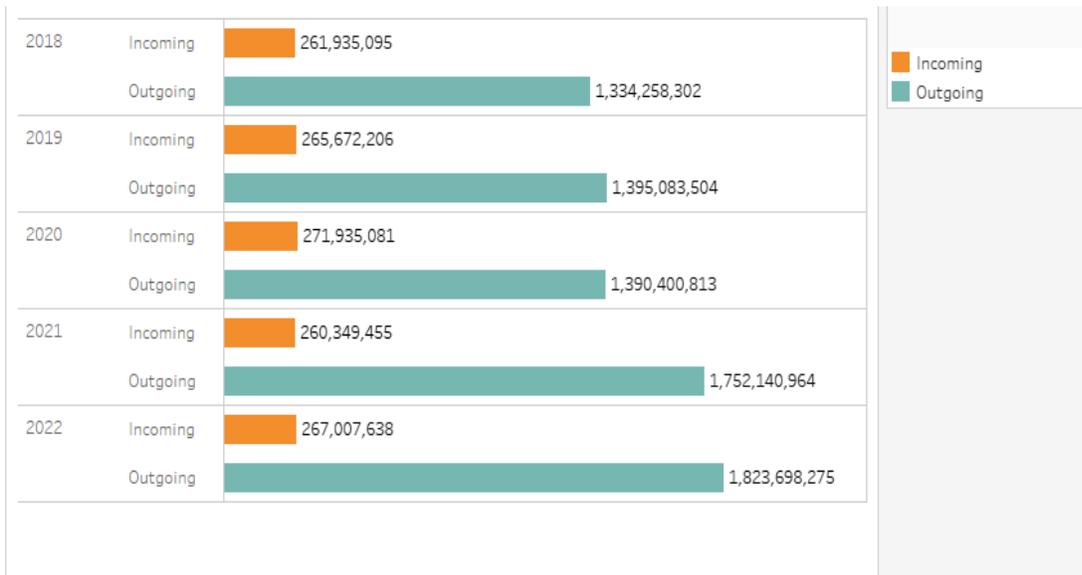


2.3 Communication Traffic

2.3.1 Local calls

The Figure shows the volume of both outgoing and incoming local calls measured in minutes. The trend shows a slight increase in outgoing calls from 1.75 billion minutes in 2021 to 1.82 billion minutes in 2022. Similarly, the minutes of incoming calls increase from 260.35 million minutes in 2021 to 267.0 million minutes in 2022.

Figure 2: Volume of Local Calls (in minutes), 2018-2022



2.3.2 International calls

The volume of both incoming and outgoing international calls depicts decreasing trend over the years. Incoming international calls decreased from about 17.31 million minutes in 2021 to 14.43 million in 2022. Similarly, the traffic for outgoing international calls decreased from about 18.81 million minutes in 2021 to about 16.58 million minutes in 2022. The decrease could be attributed to the increase in the use of internet call services like WhatsApp, messenger and so on.

Figure 3: Volume of International Calls (in minutes), 2018-2022

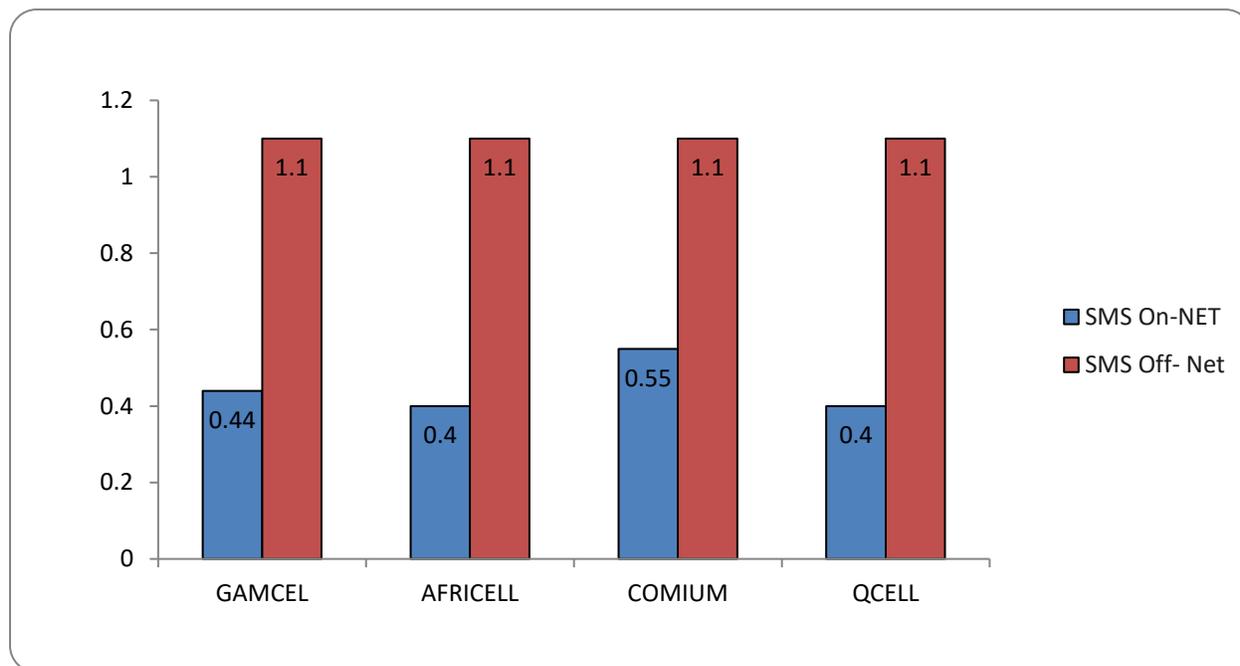


2.4 Tariffs

2.4.1 Short Message Service (SMS)

The Global System for Mobile communications operators relatively charged the same tariffs for Short Message Service (SMS) for prepaid services in 2022. All the GSM operators charge GMD 1.1 per SMS for off-net (different network) SMS. For on-net (same network) SMS, Qcell and Africell charged 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 Comium.

Figure 4: Short Message Service Rates (in GMD), 2022



3. Contribution of ICT sector to the economy

3.1 Employment

There were 2,271 people employed by the telecommunication service providers in 2022 compared to 3,612 employees in 2021 which shows a drop of about 37 percent. This reduction is as a result of a decline in the number of staff in the telecommunication service sector except Comium which increased their number of staff from 107 in 2021 to 119 in 2022 following their coming back to business after a temporally short down of operations. Gamtel is still the largest employer within the telecom industry with 1,060 employees in 2022, followed by Africell with 453 employees, while Gamcel and Qcell had 320 and 319 employees in 2022 respectively.

3.2: ICT Contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Gross Domestic Product is the market value of the final products of goods and services produced in an economy in a specific time period. Thus, it is the addition of value added of various sectors such as Agriculture, Manufacturing and other service sectors such as Education, Trade, Transport and ICT.

In The Gambia the ICT industry generated a gross value added in current prices of about GMD 3.7 billion in 2022² compared to about GMD 3.1 billion in 2021. In terms of percentage contribution, the ICT sector contributed 3.3 per cent to GDP in 2022 a slight increase from 3.1 percent in 2021.

² GDP figures for 2022 are all provisional

Appendix

Table 1: Mobile Active Subscribers

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Mobile	3,181,393	2,254,714	2,677,954	2,712,461	2,891,609

Source: PURA, 2023

Table 3: Local Call Traffic (Minutes)

Year	Incoming	Outgoing
2018	261,935,094	1,334,258,301
2019	265,672,205	1,395,083,503
2020	271,935,081	1,390,400,813
2021	260,349,455	1,752,140,964
2022	267,007,638	1,823,698,275

Source: PURA, 2023

Table 4: International Call Traffic (Minutes)

Year	Incoming	Outgoing
2018	29,278,804	31,269,320
2019	24,527,707	27,322,261
2020	17,525,973	19,921,816
2021	17,311,318	18,808,125
2022	14,426,794	16,580,746

Source: PURA, 2023

Table 5: SMS Rates

PREPAID	Gamcel	Africell	Comium	Qcell
SMS On-NET	0.44	0.4	0.55	0.4
SMS Off- Net	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1

Source: PURA, 2023

Table 6: EMPLOYEES OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

YEAR	Gamtel	Africell	Gamcel	Qcell	Comium	Total
2018	1,156	493	500	561	280	2,990
2019	2,174	478	515	578	239	3,984
2020	2,174	469	478	578	227	3,926
2021	2,174	529	478	324	107	3,612
2021	1,060	453	319	320	119	2,271

Source: PURA, 2023