



TRA Market Indicators Reports Shows Fixed Line Subscribers Continued to Grow, Mobile Users reached 1.4 Million and Broadband Subscribers Grow by 23%

Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain – Saturday 20 March 2010

The Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has released its Telecommunications markets indicators report. This report covers a large range of telecommunications services indicators, such as the number of subscribers, penetration rates, calls usage and telecommunications revenues. The information included in this report is based on data provided by operators and historical data held by TRA. This report contains a wealth of statistics on Bahrain telecommunications sector.

The main highlights of the report include:

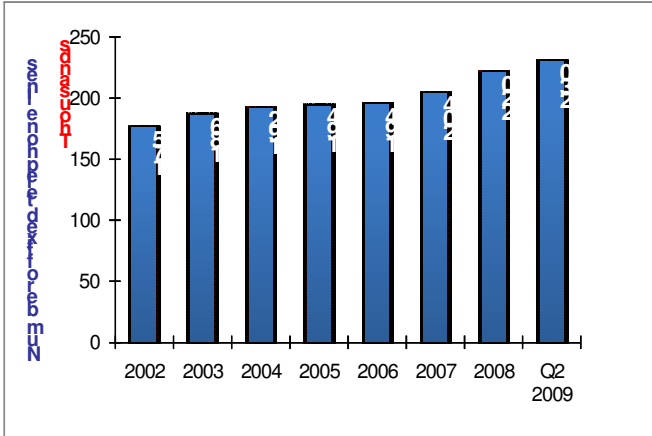
- By the end of Q2 2009, there were about 230,000 fixed lines compared to 220,000 in the end of 2008 (see Graph 1).
- At the end of Q2 2009 there were about 1.4 million mobile subscribers in Bahrain.
- The mobile market in Bahrain remains predominantly prepaid. Prepaid subscribers represented 83% of mobile subscribers at the end of Q2 2009 (see Graph 2).
- International traffic is still growing rapidly. Between Q2 2008 and Q2 2009, international traffic grew by 50% (see Graph 3). The bulk of international minutes (87% in Q2 2009) originated from mobile.
- About 72% of international calls (traffics) were made to South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Philippines, and Srilanka) in Q2 2009. Revenues originated from calls to South Asian countries represented 45% of the total revenues in Q2 2009.
- At the end of Q2 2009 there were about 135,000 broadband subscribers (see Graph 4), of which 118,000 were fixed broadband subscribers. Fixed wireless broadband subscribers stood at 43,000 in Q2 2009, this is a very significant increase relative to 2008.
- The number of broadband subscribers increased by 23% between 2008 and Q2 2009.
- About 62% of households have fixed broadband.
- There are about 40% of broadband subscribers who had speed of 1Mbps and more in Q2 2009.

Dr. Mohammed Al Amer, TRA's Chairman and Acting General Director said "Market Indicators show that 2009 was another good year for the telecommunications sector in Bahrain, number of subscribers, usage of telecom services, penetration levels and revenues all continue to grow

during the year. Today consumers in Bahrain are enjoying a choice of providers and a wide range of advance telecommunications services.”

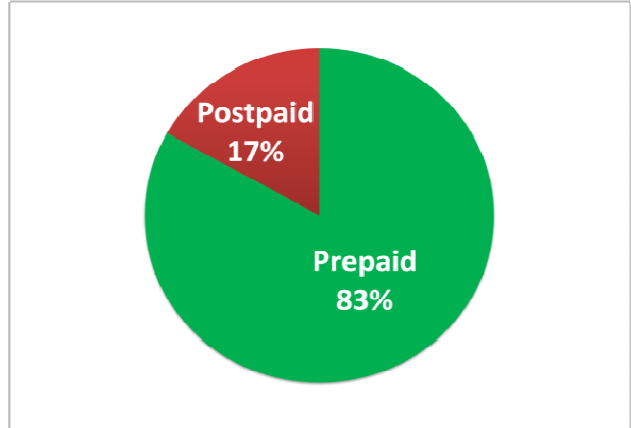
The full Market Indicators report can be viewed on TRA website at www.tra.org.bh

Graph 1: Growth in the number of fixed telephony lines



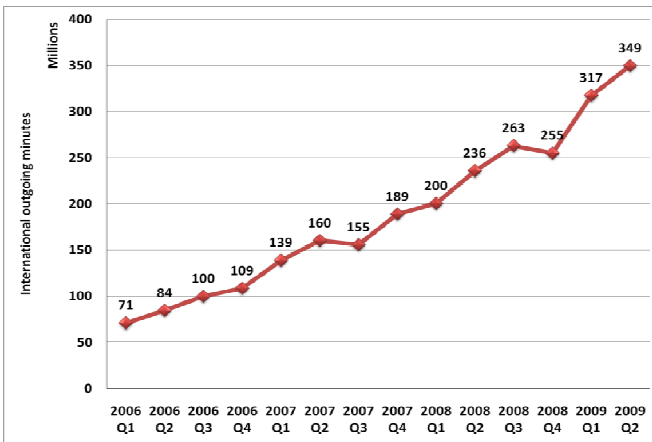
Source: TRA analysis

Graph 2: Proportion of prepaid and post-paid mobile subscribers



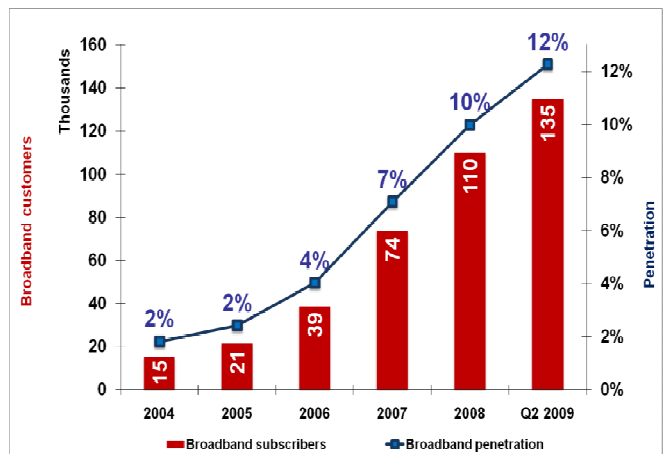
Source: TRA analysis

Graph 3: Growth in the international outgoing minutes



Source: TRA analysis

Graph 4: Growth in the broadband subscribers



Source: TRA analysis

About TRA

Since its establishment in 2002 the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of the Kingdom of Bahrain (TRA) has been working with government, consumers, operators and investors to develop the Kingdom of Bahrain into the region’s most modern communications hub and to facilitate the growth of the market. As an exemplary Regulator for the region, TRA independently carries out its

duties in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. More information about TRA can be viewed at www.tra.org.bh

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