



GBOS



THE GAMBIA BUREAU OF STATISTICS

COMMUNICATION STATISTICS
ANNUAL REPORT

(2017-2021)

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

AUGUST, 2022

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
List of Figures	ii
Acronyms and Abbreviations	iii
Foreword	iv
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Statistics Report- 2017-2021.....	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
2.5 Tariffs	4
2.5.1 Short Message Service (SMS).....	4
3.1 ICT access by households	5
4. Contribution of ICT sector to the economy	5
4.1 Employment	5
4.2: ICT Contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).....	6
5: Broadcasting Media	6
5.1: Television Stations.....	6
5.2: FM Stations: Commercial and Community Radio Stations	Error! Bookmark not defined.

List of Figures

Figure 1: Mobile Active Subscribers	2
Figure 2: Mobile Internet Subscriptions	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Figure 3: Volume of Local Calls	3
Figure 4: Volume of International Calls	4
Figure 5: Short Message Service Rates	5
Figure 6: Percentage Market Shares of the GSM Providers	7

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 2017-2021. 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- 2017-2021

1: Introduction

This is the fifth 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

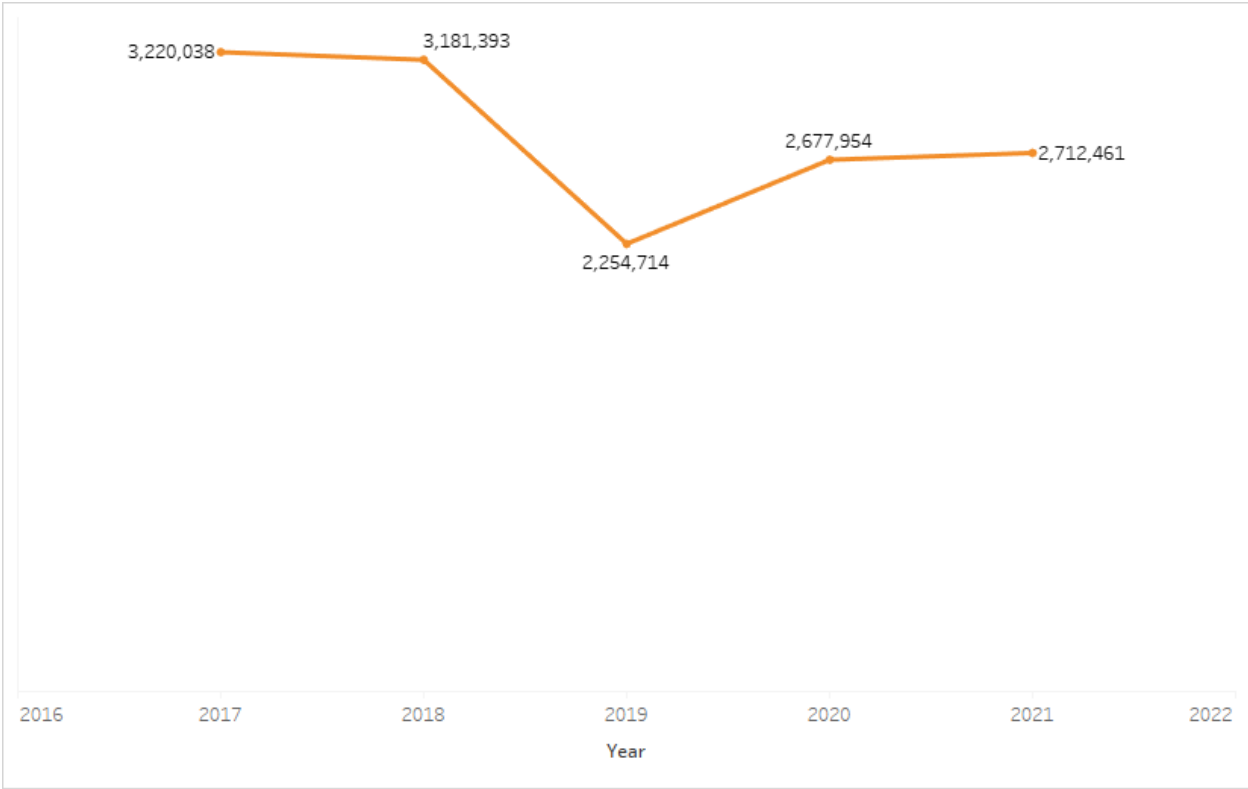
2.1 Service providers and available infrastructure

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 Net, Unique Solutions, Netpage, Qcell, Gamtel, Africell and DK Telecoms.

2.2 Mobile cellular subscriptions

The number of active mobile subscribers increased from 2.6 million in 2020 to 2.7 million subscribers in 2021. The large number of subscribers is attributed to the use of more than one sim card by some subscribers and the availability of dual sim phones in the market. And some subscribers also have more than one phone.

Figure 1: Mobile Active Subscribers

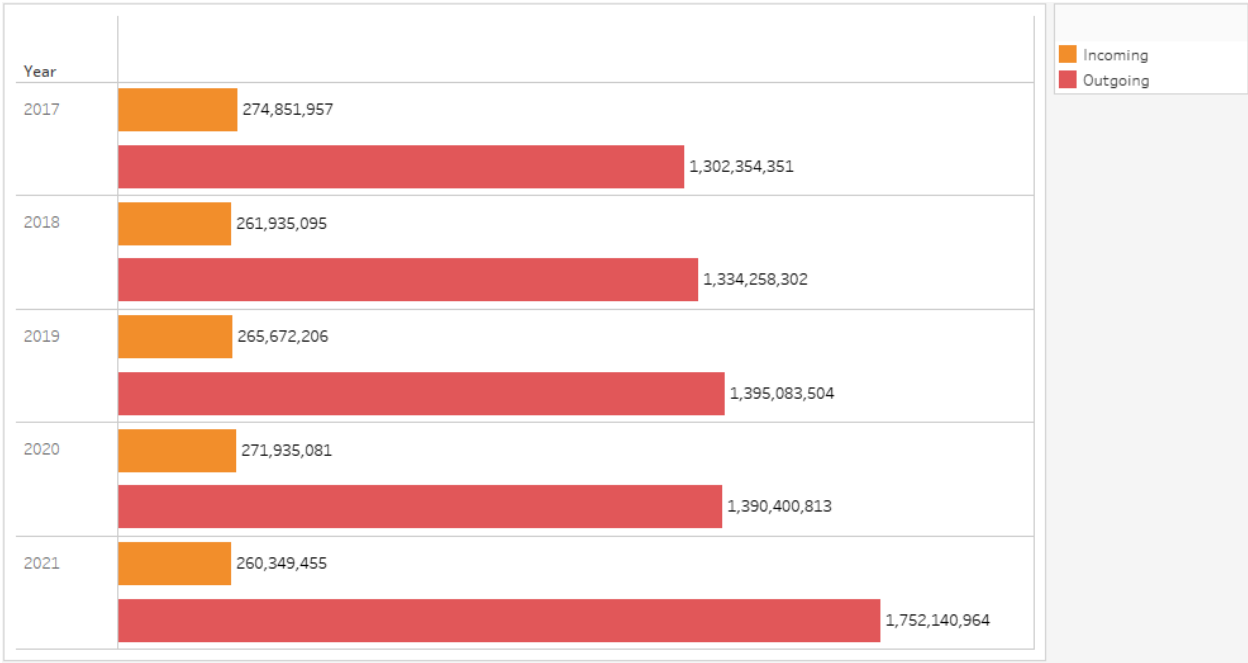


2.3 Communication Traffic

2.3.1 Local calls

The Figure below shows that the volume of out-going local calls has increased from 1.3 billion minutes in 2020 to 1.7 billion minutes in 2021. However, the volume of incoming calls decreased from 271 million minutes in 2020 to 260 million minutes in 2021.

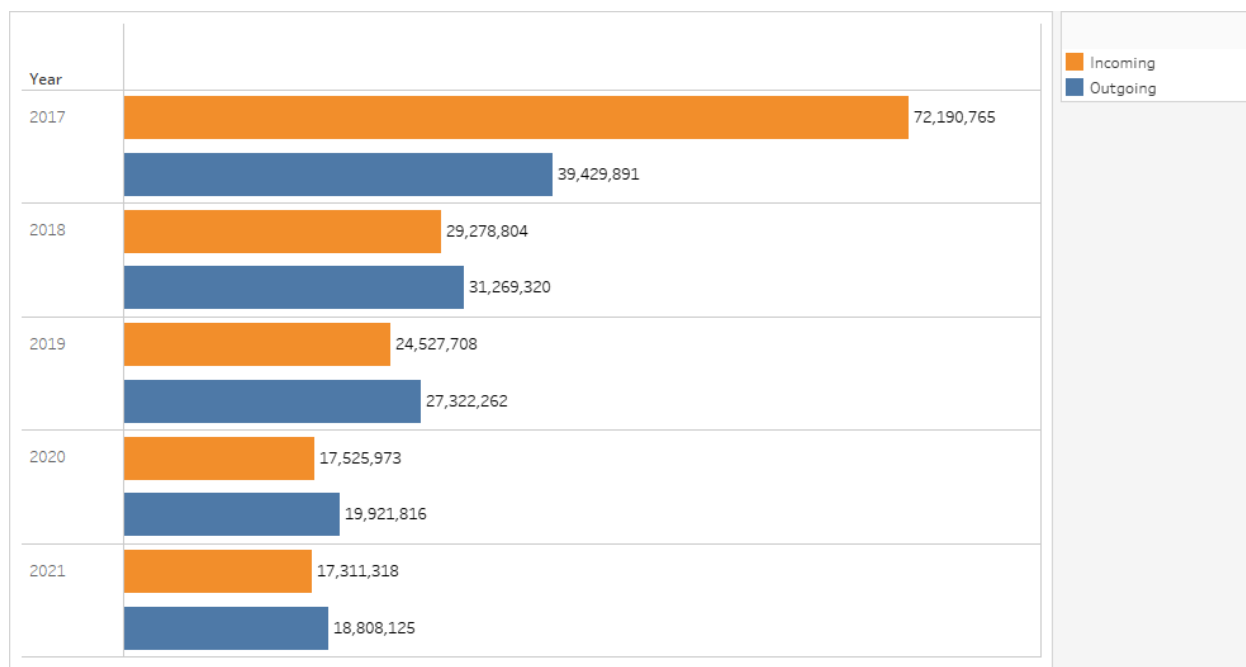
Figure 2: Volume of Local Calls (in minutes)



2.3.2 International calls

The volume of incoming international calls decreased from about 17.5 million minutes in 2020 to about 17.3 million minutes in 2021. Similarly, the traffic for outgoing international calls decreased from about 19.9 million minutes in 2020 to about 18.8 million minutes in 2021.

Figure 3: Volume of International Calls (in minutes)

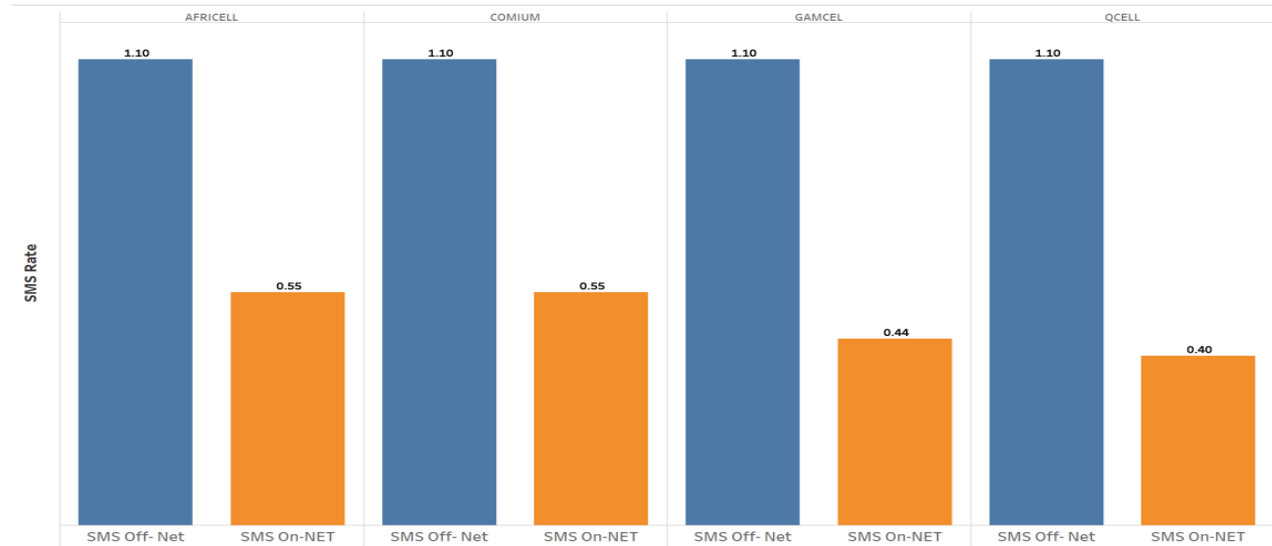


2.4 Tariffs

2.4.1 Short Message Service (SMS)

The Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) operators charged the same tariffs for Short Message Service (SMS) in both 2020 and 2021 for prepaid services. The average rate charge by all the GSM operators is GMD 1.1 per SMS for off-net (different network) SMS. However, for on-net (same 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).

Figure 4: Short Message Service Rates (in GMD)



3. ICT access and use

3.1 ICT access by households

During the 2018 Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 7,405 households were interviewed to assess the level of access to ICT infrastructure within households. The MICS result shows that, 69.3 per cent of households have a radio, and 52.6 per cent a TV. Slightly above 98.0 per cent of households have a telephone (fixed line or mobile phone). About 19.0 per cent of the households have a computer and the proportion of the households who reported to have access to the internet by any device from home is 63.3 per cent.

4. Contribution of ICT sector to the economy

4.1 Employment

There were 3,612 people employed by the telecommunication service providers in 2021 compared to 3,926 employees in 2020 which shows a drop of about 8 percent. Gamtel is still the largest employer within the telecom industry with the same number of (2,174) employees in both 2020 and 2021, followed by Africell and Gamcel with 529 and 478 employees respectively in 2021. Qcell and Comium had 324 and 107 employees respectively in 2021.

4.2: 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 3.1 billion in 2021¹ compared to about GMD 3.2 billion in 2020. In terms of percentage contribution, the ICT sector contributed 3.7 per cent to GDP in 2020 and 3.2 in 2021 showing a decline in growth rate.

5: Broadcasting Media

5.1: Television Stations

There are about 6 television stations in the country in 2021, With GRTS being the first since 1995 in addition to QTV, Paradise TV, MTV, Star TV and Eye Africa TV.

Table 1: Mobile Active Subscribers

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Mobile	3,220,038	3,181,393	2,254,714	2,677,954	2,712,461

¹ GDP figures for 2021 are all provisional

Source: PURA, 2022

Table 3: Local Call Traffic (Minutes)

Year	Incoming	Outgoing
2017	274,851,957	1,302,354,351
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

Source: PURA, 2022

Table 4: International Call Traffic (Minutes)

Year	Incoming	Outgoing
2017	72,190,764	39,429,891
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

Source: PURA, 2022

Table 5: SMS Rates

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

Source: PURA, 2022

Table 6: EMPLOYEES OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

YEAR	Gamtel	Africell	Gamcel	Qcell	Comium	Total
2017	949	491	499	297	139	2,375
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

Source: PURA, 2022

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
6.	Eye Africa TV	Serre Kunda

Source: PURA, 2022

Table 8: 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.	Bansang Community FM	Bansang	107.2 MHz
5.	Brikama Community FM	Brikamaba	96.8 MHz
6.	Brikama Community FM	Brikama	98.0 MHz
7.	Farafenni Community FM	Farafenni	99.9 MHz
8.	Kauranyning FM	Kuloro	107.9 MHz
9.	Poliso FM	Banjul	95.7 MHz

Source: PURA, 2022