

Information and Communication
Technology Stats Brief
Quarter 3, 2019



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STATISTICS BOTSWANA

1. INTRODUCTION

This Stats Brief presents a snapshot of Botswana Information and Communications Technology Statistics for Q3 2019. It contains statistics relating to ICT Infrastructure and services as well as the contribution of Information and Communication Technology Sector to the economy.

Fixed telephone line subscriptions increased by 1.2 percent in Q3 2019 after registering 140,491 subscriptions from 138,831 subscriptions registered in Q2 2019.

Mobile cellular telephone subscriptions also grew during the quarter; they rose from 3,393,468 subscriptions in Q2 2019 to 3,840,018 subscriptions in Q3 2019, showing an increase of 13.2 percent.

Internet subscriptions experienced an upward slope during the quarter. They rose by 4.2 percent, from 1,878,951 subscriptions registered in Q2 2019 to 1,957,695 subscriptions in Q3 2019.

Fixed telephone to mobile telephone domestic calls traffic increased by 17.9 percent while mobile telephone to fixed telephone domestic calls traffic increased by 13.1 percent. Outgoing international calls from fixed telephones rose while those from mobile telephones reduced.

The contribution of Postal and Communications Services Sector to the GDP in Q3 2019 stood at 2.7 percent in nominal prices and 3.1 percent in real terms.

For more information and further enquiries, contact the Directorate of Stakeholder Relations on +267 367 1300. This publication, and all other Statistics Botswana outputs/publications are available on the website at (<http://www.statsbots.org.bw>) and at the Statistics Botswana Information Resource Centre (Head-Office, Gaborone).

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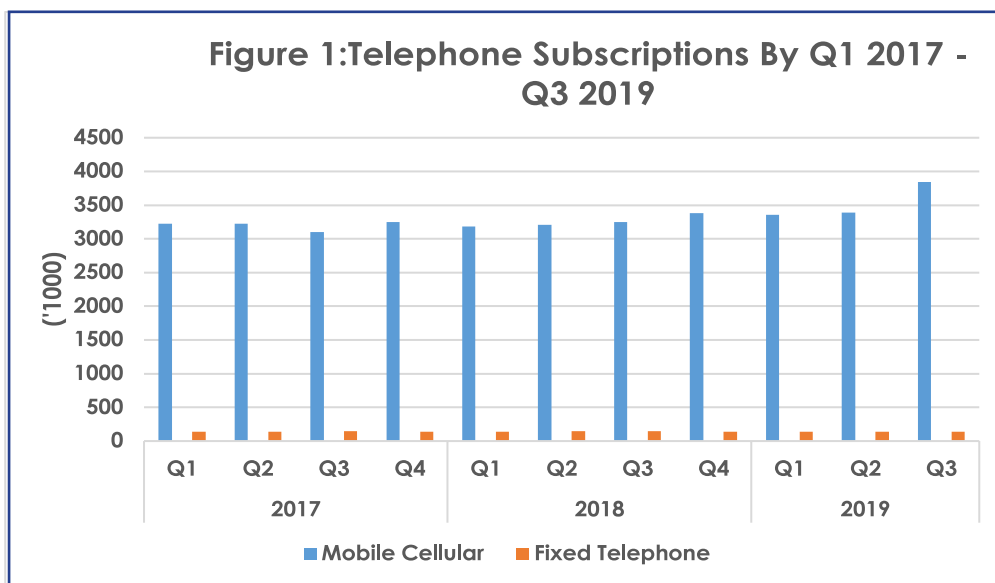
2. TELECOMMUNICATION

2.1 Fixed Telephone Lines and Mobile Cellular Telephone Subscriptions

Fixed telephone line subscriptions grew by only 1.2 percent on quarter to quarter comparison of Q3 2019 and Q2 2019. They rose from 138,831 subscriptions in Q2 2019 to 140,491 subscriptions in the quarter under review.

Mobile telephone subscriptions registered 3,840,018 subscriptions in Q3 2019 from 3,393,468 subscriptions in registered in Q2 2019, showing a growth of 13.2 percent.

Comparing Q3 2019 to the same quarter of 2018, fixed telephone subscriptions decreased by 1.9 percent, while mobile cellular telephone subscription increased by 18.3 percent. This is illustrated in **Figure 1** below and **Table 1** in the Appendix.



During Q3 2019, pre-paid mobile cellular telephone subscribers numbered 3,733,341 as compared to 3,300,897 subscribers in Q2 2019. This was a significant increase of 13.1 percent.

Post-paid mobile cellular telephone subscriptions realized a significant increase as well in Q3 2019. They increased by 15.2 percent after registering 106,677 subscriptions compared to 92,571 recorded in Q2 2019. This is illustrated in **Figure 2** below and **Table 1** in the Appendix.

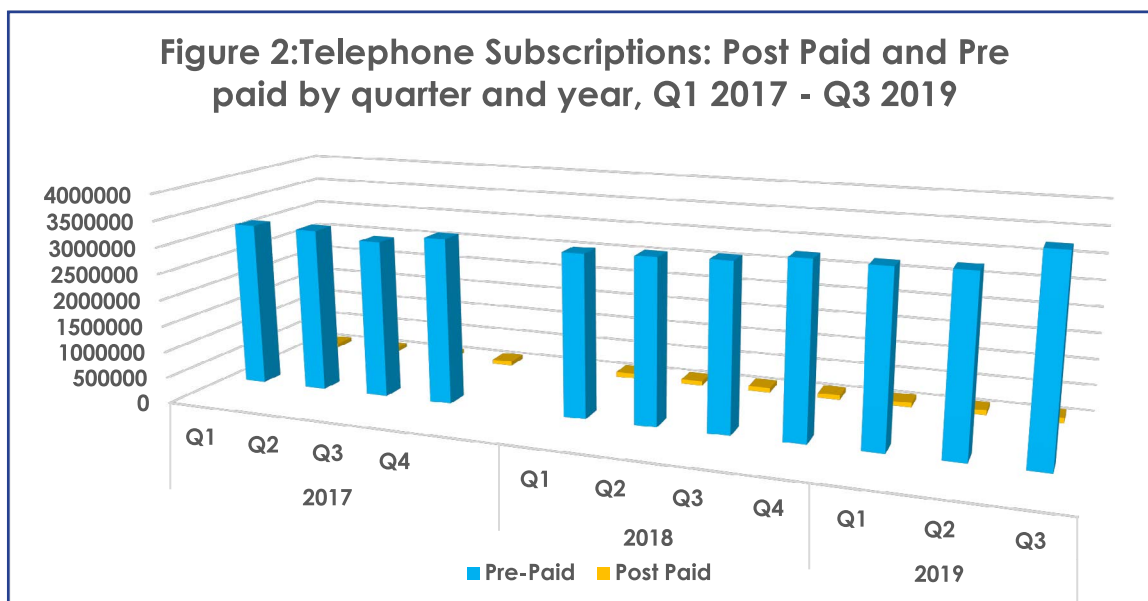


Table 2.1: Telephone Subscriptions by Quarter and Year, Q1 2018 - Q3 2019

Telephone Subscriptions	2018				2019		
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
Fixed Telephone	141,835	142,602	143,213	142,481	140,202	138,831	140,491
Mobile Cellular							
Pre-Paid	3,089,505	3,123,590	3,161,505	3,295,636	3,266,527	3,300,897	3,733,341
Post Paid	92,086	80,549	84,928	85,592	86,810	92,571	106,677
Total	3,181,591	3,204,139	3,246,433	3,381,228	3,353,337	3,393,468	3,840,018

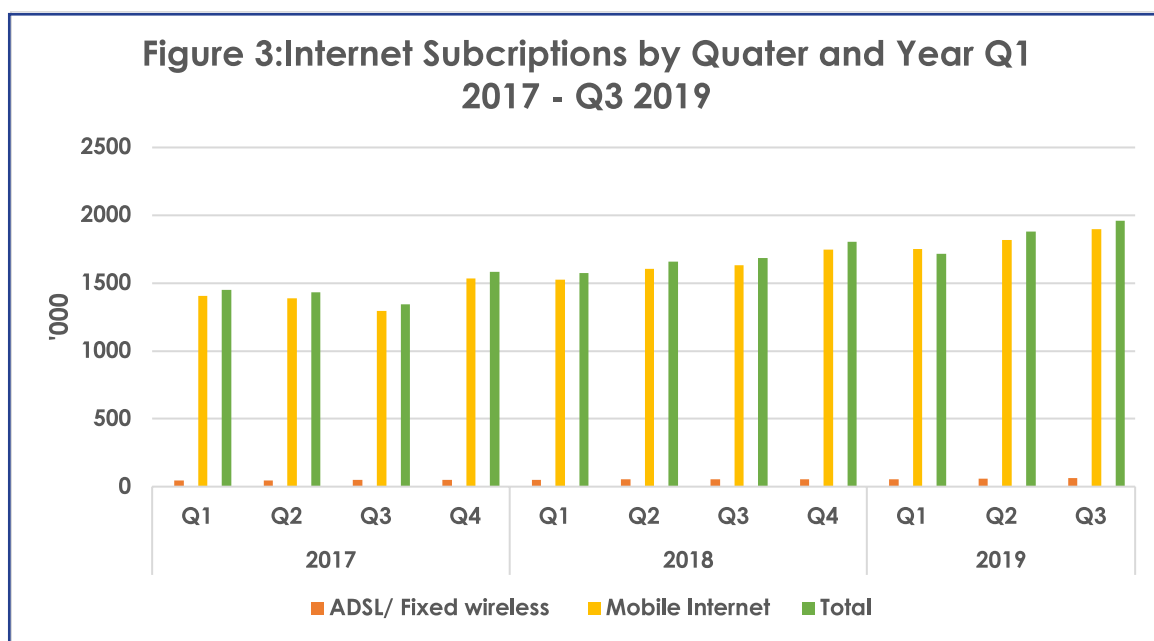
Source: Information and Communication Technology Statistics, Statistics Botswana

2.2 Internet Subscriptions

Total Internet (mobile internet plus fixed internet) subscriptions increased by 4.2 percent in Q3 2019, it increased from 1,878,951 subscriptions registered in Q2 2018 to 1,957,695 subscriptions in Q3 2019.

Looking at the two types of internet individually, Mobile internet subscriptions grew by 4.3 percent (from 1,818,007 subscriptions in Q2 2019 to 1,896,424 in Q3 2019), while fixed internet subscriptions went up by 0.5 percent (from 60,944 subscriptions recorded in Q2 2019 to 61,271 subscriptions in Q3 2019).

Compared to the same quarter of the previous year, overall internet subscriptions increased by 16.2 percent in Q3 2019, while mobile internet and fixed internet increased by 16.3 percent and 12.0 percent respectively. This is illustrated in **Figure 3** below and **Table 2** in the Appendix.



2.3 Telephone Traffic

Telephone traffic comprises of Domestic calls, International calls and Short Message Service (SMS).

On-net fixed telephone domestic calls traffic (Fixed telephones to fixed telephones) grew in Q3 2019; they rose from 1.4 billion calls made in Q2 2019 to 1.8 billion calls in Q3 2019, registering an increase of 25.3 percent.

Off net fixed telephone domestic calls traffic (Fixed telephones to mobile cellular telephones) went up in Q3 2019 as compared to Q2 2019. They increased from 1.7 billion calls recorded in Q2 2019 to 2.0 billion calls in Q3 2019.

With regard to mobile cellular telephone domestic calls traffic, on-net traffic reduced by 21.4 percent in Q3 2019, while off-net traffic increased by 20.2 percent in Q3 2019. Mobile cellular telephones to fixed telephones traffic increased by 13.1 percent in Q3 2019.

International calls outgoing from fixed telephones increased by 38.5 percent, from 162.3 million calls made in Q2 2019 to 224.7 million calls made in Q3 2019. Outgoing international calls from mobile cellular telephones decreased in Q3 2019 compared to those made in Q2 2019.

On-net short message services (SMS) increased in Q3 2019, while off-net short message services recorded a decline. The details are shown in **Table 3** in the Appendix.

3. CONTRIBUTION OF POSTAL AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES TO GDP

Table 4 in Appendix shows the contribution of Postal and Communications Services Sector to the economy over the years. In Q3 2019, the sector contributed P1334.5 million in current prices, which constituted 2.7 percent of total GDP. In real prices, Postal and Communication Services Sector contributed P780.8 million to the economy and this stood at 3.1 percent of total GDP. This is shown in **Table 4** in the Appendix.

APPENDIX 1
Table 1: Telephone Subscriptions by Quarter and Year, Q1 2012 - Q3 2019

Year/ Quarter	Telephone Subscriptions								
	Mobile Cellular			Fixed Telephone	Mobile Cellular			Fixed Telephone	
	Pre-Paid	Post Paid	Total		Pre-Paid	Post Paid	Total		
Numbers				Quarterly Percentage Change					
2012	Q1	2,893,480	59,636	2,953,116	150,549
	Q2	2,914,071	61,920	2,975,991	151,360	0.7	3.8	0.8	0.5
	Q3	2,928,017	62,514	2,990,531	159,182	0.5	1.0	0.5	5.2
	Q4	3,017,884	63,842	3,081,726	160,488	3.1	2.1	3.0	0.8
2013	Q1	3,032,563	68,839	3,101,402	162,718	0.5	7.8	0.6	1.4
	Q2	3,047,241	73,836	3,121,077	163,699	0.5	7.3	0.6	0.6
	Q3	3,139,210	76,409	3,215,619	170,910	3.0	3.5	3.0	4.4
	Q4	3,169,148	77,639	3,246,787	174,165	1.0	1.6	1.0	1.9
2014	Q1	3,126,346	78,523	3,204,869	174,992	(1.4)	1.1	(1.3)	0.5
	Q2	3,116,697	79,415	3,196,112	175,674	(0.3)	1.1	(0.3)	0.4
	Q3	3,137,570	81,690	3,219,260	168,817	0.7	2.9	0.7	(3.9)
	Q4	3,328,284	82,223	3,410,507	169,236	6.1	0.7	5.9	0.2
2015	Q1	3,324,654	81,233	3,405,887	169,474	(0.1)	(1.2)	(0.1)	0.1
	Q2	3,334,807	79,851	3,414,658	171,006	0.3	(1.7)	0.3	0.9
	Q3	3,361,527	78,150	3,439,677	172,920	0.8	(2.1)	0.7	1.1
	Q4	3,395,758	79,569	3,475,327	160,490	1.0	1.8	1.0	(7.2)
2016	Q1	3,379,127	81,204	3,460,331	161,641	(0.5)	2.1	(0.4)	0.7
	Q2	3,176,217	77,984	3,254,201	163,719	(6.0)	(4.0)	(6.0)	1.3
	Q3	3,194,444	80,678	3,275,122	141,954	0.6	3.5	0.6	(13.3)
	Q4	3,209,519	79,467	3,288,986	142,122	0.5	(1.5)	0.4	0.1
2017	Q1	3,150,273	76,116	3,226,389	140,873	(1.8)	(4.2)	(1.9)	(0.9)
	Q2	3,144,258	76,574	3,220,832	141,882	(0.2)	0.6	(0.2)	0.7
	Q3	3,013,825	83,092	3,096,917	142,816	(4.1)	8.5	(3.8)	0.7
	Q4	3,168,194	81,709	3,249,903	141,207	5.1	(1.7)	4.9	(1.1)
2018	Q1	3,089,505	92,086	3,181,591	141,835	(2.5)	12.7	(2.1)	0.4
	Q2	3,123,590	80,549	3,204,139	142,602	1.1	(12.5)	0.7	0.5
	Q3	3,161,505	84,928	3,246,433	143,213	1.2	5.4	1.3	0.4
	Q4	3,295,636	85,592	3,381,228	142,481	4.2	0.8	4.2	(0.5)
2019	Q1	3,266,527	86,810	3,353,337	140,202	(0.9)	1.4	(0.8)	(1.6)
	Q2	3,300,897	92,571	3,393,468	138,831	1.1	6.6	1.2	(1.0)
	Q3	3,733,341	106,677	3,840,018	140,491	13.1	15.2	13.2	1.2

Source: Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority

Note: "..." denotes no data

Table 2: Internet Subscriptions by Quarter and Year, Q1 2011 - Q3 2019

Year/ Quarter	Internet Subscriptions					
	ADSL/ Fixed wireless	Mobile Internet	Total	ADSL/ Fixed wireless	Mobile Internet	Total
	Numbers			Quarterly % Change		
2011						
Q1	14,082	189,803	203,885
Q2	14,419	200,198	214,617	2.4	5.5	5.3
Q3	14,474	224,474	238,948	0.4	12.1	11.3
Q4	15,707	238,942	254,649	8.5	6.4	6.6
2012						
Q1	16,298	263,131	279,429	3.8	10.1	9.7
Q2	17,204	294,548	311,752	5.6	11.9	11.6
Q3	18,166	509,926	528,092	5.6	73.1	69.4
Q4	18,838	769,805	788,643	3.7	51.0	49.3
2013						
Q1	19,388	958,074	977,462	2.9	24.5	23.9
Q2	23,224	1,098,523	1,121,747	19.8	14.7	14.8
Q3	25,309	1,259,561	1,284,870	9.0	14.7	14.5
Q4	27,819	1,444,207	1,472,026	9.9	14.7	14.6
2014						
Q1	22,740	1,655,921	1,678,661	(18.3)	14.7	14.0
Q2	24,800	1,898,671	1,923,471	9.1	14.7	14.6
Q3	26,836	2,177,007	2,203,843	8.2	14.7	14.6
Q4	27,867	2,496,146	2,524,013	3.8	14.7	14.5
2015						
Q1	34,435	1,188,640	1,223,075	23.6	(52.4)	-51.5
Q2	35,641	1,245,994	1,281,635	3.5	4.8	4.8
Q3	36,272	1,295,663	1,331,935	1.8	4.0	3.9
Q4	36,845	1,384,146	1,420,991	1.6	6.8	6.7
2016						
Q1	37,366	1,360,236	1,397,602	1.4	(1.7)	(1.7)
Q2	38,622	1,272,521	1,311,143	3.4	(6.4)	(6.2)
Q3	39,174	1,340,549	1,379,723	1.4	5.3	5.2
Q4	41,833	1,409,274	1,451,107	6.8	5.1	5.2
2017						
Q1	45,793	1,404,065	1,449,858	9.5	(0.4)	(0.1)
Q2	46,191	1,388,359	1,434,550	0.9	(1.1)	(1.1)
Q3	48,811	1,294,764	1,343,575	5.7	(6.7)	(6.3)
Q4	48,901	1,532,954	1,581,855	0.2	18.4	17.7
2018						
Q1	50,514	1,523,545	1,574,059	3.3	(0.6)	(0.5)
Q2	53,057	1,605,727	1,658,784	5.0	5.4	5.4
Q3	54,687	1,630,364	1,685,051	3.1	1.5	1.6
Q4	55,390	1,749,059	1,804,449	1.3	7.3	7.1
2019						
Q1	55,565	1,752,547	1,716,229	0.3	0.2	(4.9)
Q2	60,944	1,818,007	1,878,951	9.7	3.7	9.5
Q3	61,271	1,896,424	1,957,695	0.5	4.3	4.2

Source: Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority

Note: "..." denotes no data

Table 3: Domestic and International Telephone Traffic (Minutes) by Quarter and Year, Q1 2012 - Q3 2019

Year/ Quarter		Telephone and Short Message Service Traffic									
		Domestic Calls					International Calls			Short Message Service	
		From Fixed Telephones to Fixed Telephones	From fixed Telephones to Mobile Cellular Telephones	On Net Mobile Cellular Telephone Calls	Off Net Mobile Cellular Telephone Calls	From Mobile Cellular Telephones to Fixed Telephones	Outgoing from Fixed Telephones	Incoming to Fixed Telephones	Outgoing from Mobile Cellular Telephones	On Net	Off Net
2012	Q1	44,807,471	32,067,146	305,145,554	127,875,946	86,208,330	6,895,539	3,833,461	14,943,619	188,337,052	104,721,472
	Q2	46,165,242	28,438,798	378,223,041	92,329,860	6,156,853	5,576,032	2,649,892	12,170,992	182,518,901	100,177,330
	Q3	46,058,747	33,049,118	384,652,300	126,175,464	13,173,891	4,256,524	1,466,323	16,394,509	217,903,594	121,996,704
	Q4	42,992,250	27,222,676	408,930,424	151,690,137	12,449,792	6,383,477	2,058,108	17,028,469	224,910,519	134,605,875
2013	Q1	40,847,222	25,433,762	415,805,694	130,302,022	10,494,493	6,313,054	-	14,312,615	205,754,037	72,501,473
	Q2	42,084,988	22,555,971	515,384,517	94,081,552	749,499	4,819,138	-	19,279,307	199,397,837	69,355,442
	Q3	41,987,906	41,135,405	524,145,328	128,569,278	1,603,712	7,227,225	-	20,024,820	238,054,826	84,461,578
	Q4	39,192,437	41,135,405	557,227,843	154,568,018	1,515,564	7,147,494	-	16,831,081	245,709,736	93,191,244
2014	Q1	22,992,190	27,010,100	455,270,768	141,011,907	11,881,057	2,060,221	-	15,687,913	199,930,668	129,240,709
	Q2	2,369,077,575	1,697,253,376	494,674,723	151,200,137	11,691,792	19,296,867	-	15,661,291	212,301,376	135,407,579
	Q3	39,113,572	29,184,702	528,763,242	168,612,126	12,121,336	4,198,532	-	16,605,584	226,876,144	160,659,629
	Q4	424,793,378	390,589,346	538,595,573	178,652,457	12,105,602	671,227,267	-	16,990,114	226,930,504	146,297,194
2015	Q1	38,354,146	6,327,160	520,550,402	152,171,070	6,665,492	5,553,381	-	12,818,574	206,479,961	146,257,918
	Q2	36,861,131	6,122,266	522,684,176	160,042,387	11,454,538	5,399,350	-	15,468,748	201,630,906	152,963,487
	Q3	37,557,267	29,923,404	1,867,212,151	209,491,965	11,259,715	5,525,421	-	15,857,336	196,945,120	139,614,378
	Q4	2,067,470,773	399,920,925	525,492,538	176,298,042	9,356,236	929,767,092	-	15,426,446	209,840,809	157,962,098
2016	Q1	34,965,488	6,949,306	480,585,051	154,869,695	8,737,525	4,953,934	-	13,161,451	157,239,036	93,681,272
	Q2	1,331,557,873	2,041,660,546	653,014,162	262,630,413	9,703,623	306,014,551	-	14,112,699	183,691,703	138,911,604
	Q3	2,042,864,630	2,110,094,413	476,676,551	125,662,178	8,352,695	296,405,140	-	12,267,683	184,225,029	164,463,245
	Q4	1,995,163,417	2,158,781,171	525,492,538	176,298,042	9,356,236	272,672,930	-	15,426,446	209,840,809	157,962,098
2017	Q1	1,996,616,714	2,175,125,352	353,714,166	101,619,312	5,355,226	263,327,903	-	6,945,727	133,355,242	176,904,690
	Q2	1,995,163,417	2,158,781,171	403,115,950	100,591,502	5,587,481	272,672,930	-	7,405,278	124,428,020	106,809,711
	Q3	1,839,716,566	1,862,241,472	604,005,497	157,577,607	9,423,562	238,735,341	-	11,846,344	175,981,585	164,526,833
	Q4	1,925,384,926	1,880,086,902	316,560,889	169,337,479	10,077,726	217,171,325	-	10,825,559	166,743,720	178,144,293
2018	Q1	1,743,088,946	1,870,056,276	583,152,907	135,349,759	9,727,092	204,672,812	-	10,579,435	121,595,497	151,872,112
	Q2	1,995,163,467	2,282,620,465	248,849,839	38,528,098	3,217,349	242,964,024	-	3,885,730	84,284,330	82,126,432
	Q3	1,743,088,946	1,870,056,276	730,436,647	165,312,108	6,737,448	238,735,341	-	13,482,935	174,420,541	177,695,619
	Q4	1,630,843,543	1,923,390,968	711,914,725	132,472,504	6,981,007	206,052,643	-	6,891,130	172,698,636	137,566,702
2019	Q1	1,630,877,925	1,894,426,304	1,143,172,248	135,349,759	9,727,092	169,539,136	-	10,037,404	173,606,036	131,228,779
	Q2	1,428,923,713	1,729,158,938	1,285,607,439	142,798,477	832,962	162,257,133	-	128,628,861	132,886,661	144,579,482
	Q3	1,791,070,062	2,038,453,064	1,011,056,590	171,590,589	9,422,874	224,689,042	-	9,015,650	144,579,482	91,645,479

Source: Botswana Communications Regulatory Authority

Note: "-" denotes zero

Table 4: Contribution of Communication & Postal Services To Gross Domestic Product by Quarter and Year, Q1 2013 - Q3 2019

Year/ Quarter	Current Prices				Constant Prices				
	Total GDP (P Million)	Postal & Communication Services Value Added (P Million)	Postal & Communication Services Contribution To GDP (%)	Postal & Communication Services Annual Growth Rates (%)	Total GDP (P Million)	Postal & C ommunication Services Value Added (P Million)	Postal & Communication Services Contribution To GDP (%)	Postal & Communication Services Annual Growth Rates (%)	
2013	Q1	28425.6	626.6	2.2	6.7	20,507.5	485.3	2.4	5.7
	Q2	32462.8	648.5	2.0	8.8	20,931.5	501.5	2.4	8.0
	Q3	31665.7	664.7	2.1	10.4	20,917.2	508.6	2.4	8.5
	Q4	32604.2	704.6	2.2	15.8	21,724.5	522.7	2.4	10.7
2014	Q1	34,508.4	739.8	2.1	18.1	21,190.8	544.2	2.6	12.1
	Q2	37,718.4	762.0	2.0	17.5	21,887.7	552.4	2.5	10.1
	Q3	36,155.6	778.0	2.2	17.0	22,178.7	563.2	2.5	10.7
	Q4	37,486.0	778.5	2.1	10.5	22,312.2	554.5	2.5	6.1
2015	Q1	36,570.3	817.4	2.2	10.5	21,769.4	573.7	2.6	5.4
	Q2	37,329.7	850.1	2.3	11.6	21,814.9	587.2	2.7	6.3
	Q3	37,240.2	892.6	2.4	14.7	20,971.5	607.0	2.9	7.8
	Q4	34,783.2	905.1	2.6	16.3	21,525.0	604.0	2.8	8.9
2016	Q1	39,499.5	916.0	2.3	12.1	22,277.1	597.3	2.7	4.1
	Q2	42,440.5	973.7	2.3	14.5	22,666.8	626.0	2.8	6.6
	Q3	44,090.6	1,025.3	2.3	14.9	22,409.5	653.7	2.9	7.7
	Q4	43,657.4	1,041.7	2.4	15.1	22,421.6	654.1	2.9	8.3
2017	Q1	43,645.6	1,062.5	2.4	16.0	22,465.4	661.4	2.9	10.7
	Q2	43,005.2	1,073.1	2.5	10.2	22,886.1	664.3	2.9	6.1
	Q3	44,963.3	1,116.1	2.5	8.9	22,659.7	685.9	3.0	5.0
	Q4	46,653.0	1,136.1	2.4	9.1	23,896.6	695.3	2.9	6.3
2018	Q1	46,156.5	1,164.5	2.5	9.6	23,545.0	707.0	3.0	6.9
	Q2	47,362.7	1,180.9	2.5	10.0	24,099.0	714.3	3.0	7.6
	Q3	48,699.3	1,216.3	2.5	9.0	24,126.2	733.1	3.0	6.9
	Q4	48,491.6	1,240.6	2.6	9.2	24,850.9	742.8	3.0	6.8
2019	Q1	49,014.7	1,279.1	2.6	9.8	24,454.1	760.8	3.1	7.6
	Q2	49,211.6	1,293.1	2.6	9.5	24,838.2	763.3	3.1	6.9
	Q3	49,561.0	1,334.5	2.7	9.7	24,891.7	780.8	3.1	6.5

Source: National Accounts Statistics Botswana

APPENDIX II: DEFINITIONS

1.1 Fixed Telephone

Fixed telephone lines refer to a telephone line connecting a customer's terminal equipment (e.g. telephone set, facsimile machine) to the public switched telephone network (PSTN) and which has a dedicated port on a telephone exchange. This term is synonymous with the terms main station or Direct Exchange Line (DEL) that are commonly used in telecommunication documents. It may not be the same as an access line or a subscriber.

1.2 Mobile Cellular Phone

A mobile cellular phone refers to a portable telephone subscribing to a public mobile telephone service using cellular technology, which provides access to the PSTN. This includes analogue and digital cellular systems, as well as IMT-2000 (3G). Users of both post-paid subscriptions and pre-paid accounts are included.

1.3 Internet

A world-wide public computer network which provides access to a number of communication services including services including the World – Wide Web and carries email, news, entertainment and data files. Access may be any device enabling internet access (not only a computer). It may also be by mobile phone. PDA, Games Machine, Digital TV etc.

1.4 Asymmetric Digital Subscriber line (ADSL)

DSL with different speed for upstream and downstream.

1.5 Domestic Fixed Telephone Traffic (Minutes)

It consists of effective (completed) fixed telephone line traffic exchanged within the local charging area in which the calling station is situated. This is the area within which one subscriber can call another on payment of the local charge (if applicable). This indicator should be reported in the number of minutes.

1.6 National (fixed) Trunk Telephone Traffic (Minutes)

National (fixed) trunk (toll) traffic consists of effective (completed) fixed national telephone traffic exchange with a station outside the local charging area of the calling station. The indicator should be reported as the number of minutes of traffic.

1.7 International Outgoing Fixed Telephone Traffic (Minutes)

This covers the effective (completed) fixed traffic originating in a given country to destinations outside that country. The indicator should be reported as the number of minutes of traffic.

1.8 International Incoming Fixed Telephone Traffic (Minutes)

Effective (completed) fixed traffic originating outside the country with a destination inside the country. The indicator should be reported as the number of minutes of traffic.

1.9 Outgoing National Mobile Telephone Traffic (Minutes)

Total number of minutes made by mobile subscribers within a country (including minutes to fixed lines and minutes to other mobile subscribers).

1.10 SMS Traffic

Total number of mobile Short Message Service (SMS) sent, both to national and international destinations

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