

Subscribers for Internet connection service using cable television networks (cable Internet) as of the end of March 2006 totaled 3.31 million (up 11.8 percent from the previous year).

Fiber to the Home (FTTH) services, using optical fibers, provide an ultra-high speed network capable of communicating at higher speeds than DSL or cable Internet. The number of FTTH subscribers almost doubled in one year, to 5.46 million at the end of March 2006. Faster communication speeds and falling service charges with FTTH attracts many Internet users to FTTH. FTTH is expected to further spread in the future.

Telephone and Postal Service

The number of fixed phone subscription contracts was 50.58 million (down 2.0 percent year-on-year) at the end of March 2006. The number of mobile phone subscribers (cell phones, car phones and personal handyphone systems) totaled 96.48 million at the end of March 2006. It rose by 5.4 percent year-on-year to 101.70 million at the end of March 2007.

Table 8.5
Telecommunications Services

	(Thousands)					
Item	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006
Public phones (NTT ¹⁾ only) ...	801	736	584	503	442	393
Fixed phone service						
subscribers	59,940	55,550	51,160	51,590	51,630	50,580
Mobile phone subscribers	4,331	56,846	81,118	86,655	91,474	96,484
ISDN (Integrated Services						
Digital Network) circuits	340	6,680	9,610	8,630	7,980	7,500
DSL (Digital Subscriber Line)						
subscribers	-	0	7,023	11,197	13,676	14,518
Cable Internet subscribers	-	216	2,069	2,578	2,960	3,309
FTTH (Fiber to the home)						
subscribers	-	-	305	1,142	2,897	5,458
International phone calls,						
sent and received	599,400	801,200	898,400	905,600	# 1,103,700	1,220,400

1) Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation.

Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.