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## **ComReg quarterly report shows an increase in broadband take-up**

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) has today published its Quarterly Report for the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2008. The report includes information on overall trends in the electronic communications sector.

Highlights of the report include:

- Broadband subscriptions (including mobile broadband) continued to grow, reaching 1.2 million. This represents an increase of 6.7% on Q3 of 2008 and a 35.4% increase over the full year. Broadband penetration reached 27.1% per capita. According to Informa data, Ireland had a household broadband penetration rate of 62.6%. Excluding mobile broadband, subscriptions stood at 891,346.
- Mobile phone penetration, including High-Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA), reached 121% in Q4 of 2008. Excluding HSDPA, the penetration rate was 114%. In total, there were over 5.3 million mobile phone subscriptions at the end of the quarter.
- The number of text messages sent reached over 2.8 billion in Q4 of 2008, up from 2.5 billion in the previous quarter.
- Overall electronic communications market revenues decreased this quarter by 0.7% to less than €1.1 billion. While both fixed line and broadcasting revenues declined, mobile revenues increased in Q4 of 2008. Fixed revenues retain the dominant share of 49.6%, followed by mobile at 46% and broadcasting at 4.4%.
- Total voice traffic minutes increased by 1% to over 5.1 billion minutes. Although fixed voice minutes declined by 3.6%, mobile voice minutes increased by 4.6%.
- ComReg data provided by telecoms operators shows there were over 36.2 million voice over broadband (VoB) minutes in Q4 of 2008, a three-fold increase on VoB minutes of almost 11.7 million in Q4 of 2007.

- Total internet subscriptions increased to 1.4 million in Q4 of 2008, a 3.7% increase on the previous quarter and an 18.5% increase on Q4 of 2007.

The full report (ComReg Document 09/17) is available on the ComReg website, [www.comreg.ie](http://www.comreg.ie).

**ENDS**

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