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ComReg's latest Residential Survey shows many consumers are unaware of the costs of international mobile roaming

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) today published the results of its quarterly residential survey of 15-74 year olds on their adoption and use of electronic communications services.

The survey results, for the period January-March 2006, suggest that one third of users have used their mobile phone abroad in the last 12 months, yet the majority of these consumers remain unaware of the exact costs associated with international mobile roaming.

Some consumers using their mobile abroad take some form of action to reduce the cost of roaming, including the use of text messaging and keeping their mobile for emergency use only. However, relatively few users actively seek and select the mobile operator that may offer them the best value for money while roaming.

ComReg recommends that if consumers intend to use their mobile phones abroad, they contact their operator before travelling to get up to date information on the most cost-effective roaming operator or subscription service. Further information on mobile roaming charges is available on the ComReg consumer website [www.askcomreg.ie/mobile/International Mobile Roaming](http://www.askcomreg.ie/mobile/International_Mobile_Roaming).

Other highlights of the survey include:

- 70% of survey respondents report having a fixed line telephone in the home. Younger respondents, those on lower incomes and those in rented accommodation are least likely to have a fixed line subscription.
- Residential users of fixed line telecoms services spend an average of €51.75 monthly on fixed communications, compared with the average spend of mobile users at €53 per month.
- The largest mobile operator in Ireland, in terms of subscriptions, is Vodafone with 51% market share of subscribers.
- One third of home internet users are now using some form of broadband - up from one in five in Quarter 1, 2005.

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