

Telecommunications

- Tennessee has made tremendous strides in increasing the state's telecommunications capabilities.
- The state's broadband adoption rate is significantly higher than the national average.
- As of June 30, 2009, Tennessee had 365 companies providing local telecommunications services in Tennessee:
 - Incumbent Local Exchange Providers – 27
 - Competitive local exchange carriers or CLECs – 117
 - Resellers of local telephone services – 221
- Tennessee households statistics:
 - Telephone service – As of March 2009, 92.6% of Tennessee households had wireline telephone service.
 - In 2009, more than three out of four Tennessee adults (76%) reported that they have a computer at home. This translates into more than 3.5 million Tennessee adults with home computers, a 7% growth since July 2007. More than one-half (55%) of home computer owners purchased their computer in the past two years.
 - Eighty-five percent of Tennessee residents access the Internet either from their home or from some other place (such as school, work or Wi-Fi "hot spots"). This translates into more than 3.9 million Tennessee adults and is a 13% increase from just two years ago.
 - It is estimated that 71% of Tennessee households now have Internet access.
 - As of June 30, 2009, depending on the source, 45% (FCC) to 55% (Connected TN Report) of Tennessee households had high-speed (broadband) Internet access.
 - While 13% of employed Tennessee adults currently telework, 31% say they would telework if given the opportunity. In addition, nearly one-sixth of retirees, one-third of adults with disabilities, and over one-quarter of homemakers say they would likely join the workforce if empowered to do so by teleworking.
- Business statistics:
 - Current studies estimate that broadband adoption has now increased to 65%, which equals an 18% increase since July 2007.
 - Computer use among Tennessee businesses has grown to 84%, equal to about 113,000 Tennessee businesses.
- As of December 31, 2008, 84% of Tennesseans had wireless/mobile phones (national average: 84%).



- As of June 30, 2008, 2.96 million regulated wired telephone lines were in service in Tennessee with 523,000 or 18% of those lines being provided by CLECs.
- CLECs statistics:
 - Service in 91 of Tennessee's 95 counties; 57% of CLEC lines are in the four largest metropolitan areas. (6/09)
 - 80% of lines are business; 20% are residential. (6/08)
- Three municipal electric utilities provide telecommunications in the state:
 - Bristol Tennessee Essential Services
 - Chattanooga Electric Power Board
 - Jackson Energy Authority

Source: 2008-2009 Annual Report, Tennessee Regulatory Authority - www.state.tn.us/tra ; Connected Tennessee - www.connectedtn.org ; Federal Communications Commissions – www.fcc.gov

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