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Source: Yuqi Liu
National Bureau of Statistics

Title: Status of China's Telecommunication Statistics

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I. Status and development of China's communication business

Along with the sustained and steady growth of the Chinese economy for more than ten years, China's telecommunications industry has been advancing by leaps and bounds. From 1990 to 2001, the telecommunications service showed an average annual increase of 35% or more in its total business volume. Income from telecommunications business reached 357.2 billion yuan, rising upwards of 20 times over 1990. Capacity for communication equipment grew more than ever in geometric progression. By the end of 2001, the number of the permanent telephone subscribers exceeded 180 million and that of the mobile users reached nearly 150 million, rising 25 times and over 8000 times respectively as compared with 1990 and ranking the second and the first respectively in the world. The rate of popularization of telephones increased from one piece for every one hundred people in 1990 to 26 pieces for every one hundred people. Categories of the communication business have developed from the traditional telegram and telephone into a communication system involving almost all modern communication technologies, of which local telephone service, long-distance call service, mobile phone service and network phone service have become the mainstream of the communication business. The rising communication technologies, such as Internet communication, satellite communication, broadband technology and the CDMA of a new generation, etc., have been applied in a more and more wide area.

II. Management system for Chinese communication business

For quite a long period of time, China's management system for telecommunications presented the government being both the department in charge and the operator of the telecommunications industry. It played a positive role in rapidly forming the construction of the mainstay communication network and satisfying the need of the society for expanding communication business in the initial stage of the development of the Chinese communication industry and a communication network system for China's local telephone service, long-distance call service and mobile phone service has taken its initial shape within a short period of time. However, with the rapid development of the communication business, the wide adoption of the rising communication technologies, the enhancement of quality of communication service and especially with the challenges brought about by China's entry into WTO to the Chinese communication market, the original management mode finds itself unable to adapt to the further development of the communication industry. As a result, from 1998 onwards, the state has made important reforms in communication industry. Firstly, the government has alienated itself from the part as an operator of communication business and has become a regulatory body for the formulation of policies and for market supervision, breaking down the telecommunications business originally monopolized by the state into six operating corporations (China Telecom, China Mobile, China Netcom, China Unicom, China Satellite and Railway Communications),

dealing mainly in local telephone service, long-distance call service, network phone service, satellite communication and mobile phone service, etc.. In addition, there are still more than 2000 corporations which deal in radio-paging business and internet built-in service and the non-business communication networks set up by the departments concerned out of their own business purposes. On the premise of a rational division of labor, a fair and orderly mechanism for market competition has come into being, thus creating a good environment for the faster and better development of China's communication industry with a high quality.

III. Statistical System for China's Telecommunications

Along with the development of the communication industry and the changes in telecommunications management system, China's communication statistical system is also gradually getting rid of its traditional statistical mode and reforms are being conducted according to the requirements of the market economy and in compliance with the international usual practices. Through years' researches and development, a statistical system catering to the needs of China's communication management and basically conforming to international practices has taken its initial shape, which includes the following basic contents:

1. Statistical liabilities and scopes for statistics

According to the needs of the management of communication business, the statistical work for communication business will be jointly taken on by the competent authorities in charge of the communication business ---- Ministry of Information Industry and the State Statistical Bureau.

Ministry of Information Industry: mainly responsible for the statistics of the communication enterprises bearing licenses for communication, including construction of communication infrastructure, communication equipment, lines and routes and capacity, communication business volume, communication service level and operational conditions, etc.

State Statistical Bureau: in charge of the accounting of the added values of the communication industry; to authorize the departments concerned to make statistics of the communication business activities by the non-profit communication enterprises; to launch surveys of the subscribers' utilization of communication business; to study and set about establishing investigation into prices of the communication business and the drawing up of the price indexes.

2. Main contents of the statistics and the frequency

The contents of the statistics mainly include:

Monthly:

---- Number of subscribers enjoying local telephone service (including residence phones, public phones and IP phones) and the increased number at the end of the month;

---- Number of subscribers using mobile phones (including GSM and CDMA) and the increased number at the end of the month;

---- Number of subscribers using internet (including logging on to the net by dialing the number and through special line) and the increased number at the end of the month;

---- Number of subscribers using radio-paging;

---- Amount of communication by using permanent telephone (including local phone calls, long-distance calls and IDD calls);

---- Amount of communication by using mobile phone (including amount of phone conversations through short-message platform, time length of logging onto the net through mobile phone and amount of phone conversations during overseas travels);

---- Amount of data communication transmission (including the time length of the use by internet users);

---- Amount of leases of telephone lines and electric circuits;

---- Investment and construction of communication lines and equipment.

Yearly:

---- Length of the communication lines (including communication cables, optic cables and microwaves, etc.);

---- Amount of possession of communication equipment (including exchange machines, capacity, communication terminal equipment and satellite communication receiving equipment, etc.);

---- Accounting of the added values of the communication industry (as conducted quarterly);

---- Financial position of the communication industry and situation about the employers and employees;

---- Survey of the uses and consumption of communication business by the inhabitants;

---- Survey of the basic communication capacity of the non-business special-purpose communication network.

3. Release of the statistical information

The State Statistical Bureau and the Ministry of Information Industry will be jointly responsible for the release of the communication statistical information. The State Statistical Bureau will, in the form of statistical bulletin, publish once a year the statistics of the development of telecommunications industry; the Ministry of Information Industry will be responsible for the issue of the statistics of regular communication business.

4. Method for statistics and survey

A method for all-sided surveys will be adopted for both monthly and yearly statistics of communication business. Communication operators at state level (the six telecommunications operating groups) will report and submit the required statements to the Ministry of Information Industry on a monthly basis; the local communication operators (branches of the six telecommunications operating groups and the local operating companies) will report and submit the required statements to the local administrative departments of the communication industry and the local administrative departments of the communication industry will submit the polished and collated statements to the Ministry of Information Industry and will meanwhile send the duplicates to the statistical departments of the local governments at the same level. The Ministry of Information Industry will transfer the statistical files to the State Statistical Bureau after collection and polishing of the files submitted by the local administrative departments of communication industry and by the communication operators at the state level.

IV. Major issues in existence

1. Statistical classification standards for communication industry need to further conform to international standards.
2. Statistical indicators reflecting communication technologies of new types are still in the phase of research and improvement.
3. Statistics of the service level and quality in communication industry are not perfect yet and the statistical methods are not very reasonable.
4. Statistics and investigation of prices for communication business are just in their beginning stages.
5. Method for the accounting of the added values of communication industry needs to be further improved.
6. Indicators reflecting speed of development of the overall business in communication industry need to be improved.

V. Achievements in statistics

The major publications include << Bulletin for Statistics and Development of Communication Industry >>, << China Statistical Almanac >> and << China Yearbook of Communications >>, etc.

Basic Conditions of Post and Telecommunication Services

Item	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Business Volume of Post and Telecommunications Service (100 million yuan)	1773.29	2431.21	3330.82	4792.70	4556.26
Business Volume of Telecommunication Services	1628.95	2264.94	3132.38	4559.90	4098.84
Number of Subscribers of Paging Service at Year-end (10 000 subscribers)	3254.6	3908.2	4674.5	4884.3	3606.4
Number of Mobile Telephone Subscribers at Year-end (10 000 subscribers)	1323.3	2386.3	4329.6	8453.3	14522.2
Number of subscribers of Internet Services (subscriber)	160157	676755	3014518	9021717	36562356
Local Telephone Subscribers of at Year-end (10 000 subscribers)	7031.0	8742.1	10871.6	14482.9	18036.8
Local (Urban) Telephone Subscribers at Year-end (10 000 subscribers)	5244.4	6259.8	7463.3	9311.6	11193.7
Residential Telephone Subscribers	4057.2	4911.1	5894.4	7219.4	8535.3
Number of Rural Telephones Subscribers at Year-end (10 000 subscribers)	1786.6	2482.3	3408.4	5171.3	6843.1
Residential Telephone Subscribers	1406.6	2070.7	2949.2	4597.8	6197.7
Public Telephone (10 000 subscribers)	193.9	259.5	297.4	352.0	346.2
Number of Long-distance Telephone Lines (10 000 lines)	114.61	157.65	186.97	220.17	339.33
Length of Long-distance Optical Cable Lines (10 000 km)	15.08	19.41	23.97	28.66	39.91
Length of Long-distance Microwave Lines (10 000 km)	6.50	6.65	6.52	12.19	16.41
Capacity of Long-distance Telephone Exchanges (10 000 lines)	436.83	449.16	503.20	563.55	703.58
Capacity of Office Telephone Exchanges (10 000 lines)	11269	13824	15346	17826	20570
Capacity of Mobile Telephone Exchanges (10 000 subscribers)	2585.7	4706.7	8136.0	13985.6	21926.3
Number of Telephone Sets (10 000 units)	10111.1	13123.4	17567.4	25606.6	35334.7
Number of Fixed Telephones	8787.8	10737.1	13237.8	17153.3	20812.5
Number of Mobile Telephones	1323.3	2386.3	4329.6	8453.3	14522.2

a) The business volume of post and telecommunication services before 2000 was calculated at 1990's constant prices and that in 2001 was calculated at 2000's constant prices. The increase rate at comparable price in 2001 was 27.6%.