

Post and telecommunications industry, 2013

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1. Introduction

This publication presents estimates in respect of the 2013 census of the post and telecommunications industry. The reporting period was the financial year ended on any date between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013. The data for the number of employees were provided for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June 2013.

The last post and telecommunications LSS survey was conducted in 2010 (Report No.75-01-01 (2010)).

1.1 Scope and coverage

The 2013 post and telecommunications LSS covers enterprises registered for value-added tax (VAT) that are mainly engaged in the following activities classified according to the January 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities (SIC), Fifth edition, Report No 09-09-02*:

- National postal activities (SIC 7511) and courier activities other than national postal activities (SIC 7512); and
- Telecommunications (SIC 7520).

The following activities are excluded:

- Retail traders selling airtime cards, sim cards and cellular phones and accessories (SIC 62399)
- Dissemination of information through websites (SIC 86400)
- Television and internet public-pay management services (SIC 88140)
- Satellite car tracking services for security purposes (SIC 88920)
- Production of radio and television programmes whether or not combined with broadcasting (SIC 96130)

1.2 Data items

The following categories of data items were collected: industrial classification, information and communication technology (ICT), details of employment, trading income, expenditure, profit or loss, details of services rendered, details of sales of goods and purchases.

1.3 Reference period

The questionnaires were completed for the financial year of the enterprise which **ended on any date between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013**, according to the usual reporting schedule of the enterprise.

Example

- 1 October 2011 – 30 September 2012
- 1 January 2012 – 31 December 2012
- 1 February 2012 – 31 January 2013
- 1 March 2012 – 28 February 2013
- 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013

1.4 Current prices

The rand values are at current prices.

1.5 Reliability of data

All estimates compiled for this industry are subject only to non-sampling errors because a census of the industry was conducted.

The following are some of the likely sources of non-sampling errors: sampling frame not up to date, wrong definitions and classification, phrasing of questions, non-response, processing and estimation. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by the careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Non-sampling errors occur in both sample surveys and censuses

1.6 Confidentiality

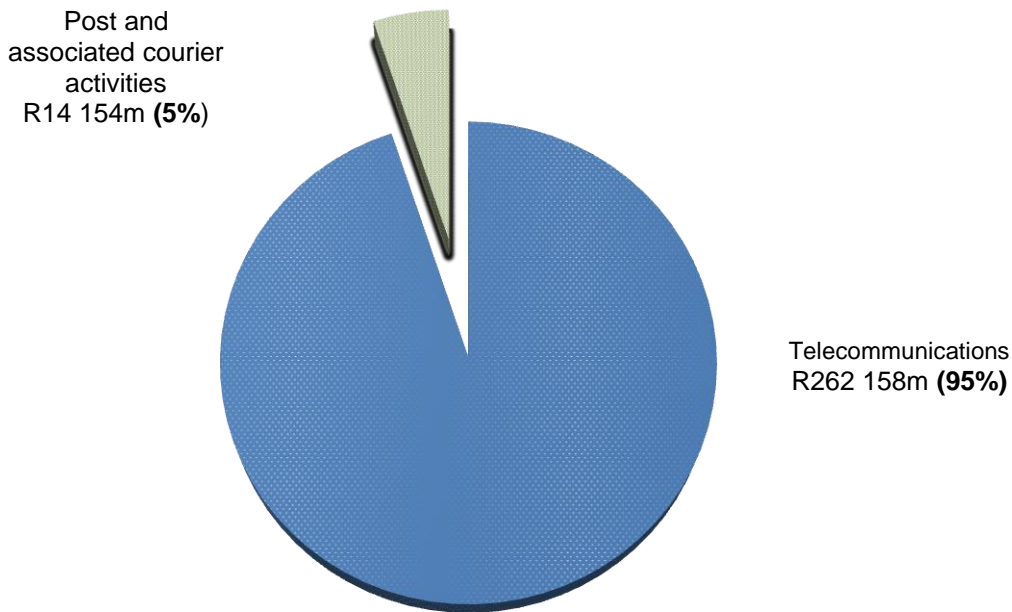
According to section 17 of the Statistics Act, 1999 (Act No. 6 of 1999), completed questionnaires remain confidential to Statistics South Africa (Stats SA). Individual business information is never disclosed. Results are presented in aggregated form only.

1.7 Reporting unit

The statistical unit for the collection of information is an enterprise. An enterprise is a legal unit (or a combination of legal units) that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its activities. Each industry is classified to an industry that reflects its predominant activity.

2. Summary of findings for the year 2013

Figure 1 – Income in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013

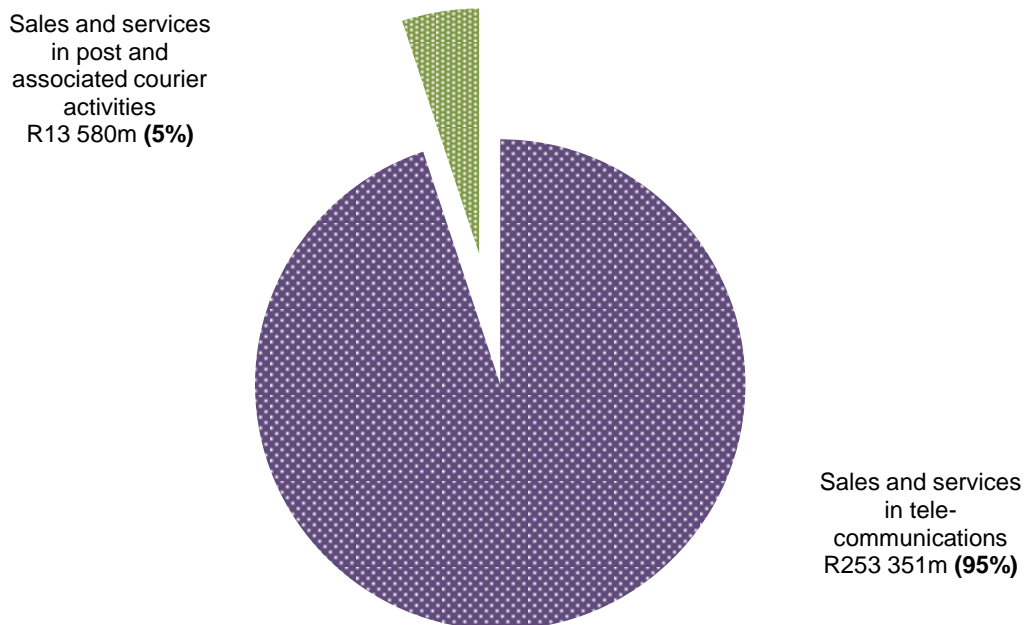


The total income for the post and telecommunications industry in 2013 was R276 312 million. The largest contributor to the total income was ‘telecommunications’ (R262 158 million or 95%), with ‘post and associated courier activities’ at R14 154 million or 5% (Figure 1 and Table 2, page 6).

The total income represents a decrease of 2,9% per annum compared with the income reported in the corresponding survey of 2010 (R301 484 million).

Revisions: revisions were made to 2010 results due to new information obtained after publication.

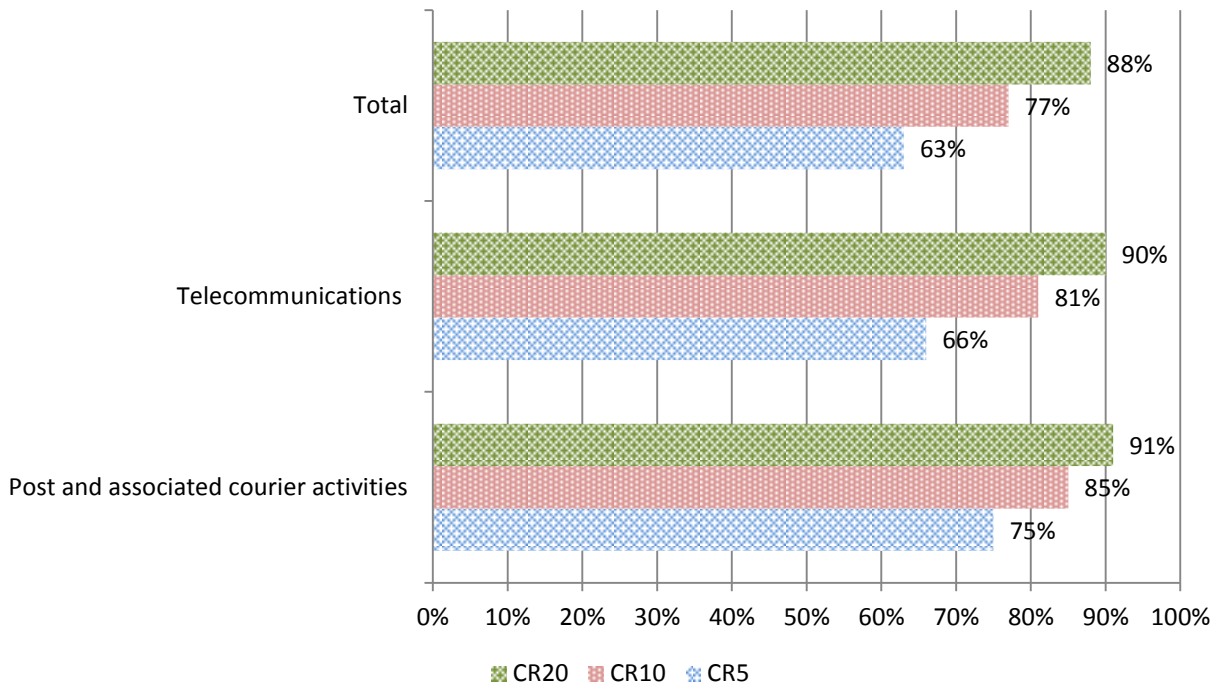
Figure 2 – Income from sales of goods and services in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013



The largest income in post and associated courier activities was from ‘Bulk mail, stamps, franking and re-mailing and courier activities’ (R9 908 million or 73%) (Figure 2 and Table 4, page 7).

The total sales of goods and services (R266 931 million) represents an increase of 4,4% per annum over sales of goods and services reported in the corresponding survey of 2010 (R234 548 million).

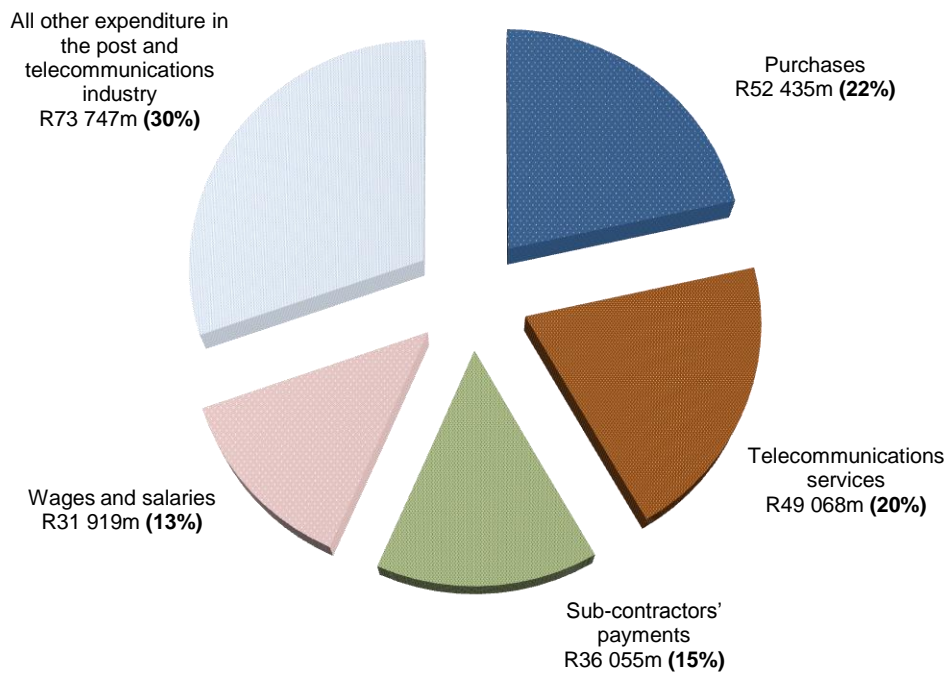
Figure 3 – Concentration ratios (CR) in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013



‘Post and associated courier activities’ had the highest concentration ratios in all categories (CR5 75%, CR10 85% and CR20 91%) (Figure 3 and Table 7, page 8).

Concentration ratios for the post and telecommunications industry show a decrease in all categories compared with the corresponding survey of 2010 (CR5 70%, CR10 84% and CR20 90%).

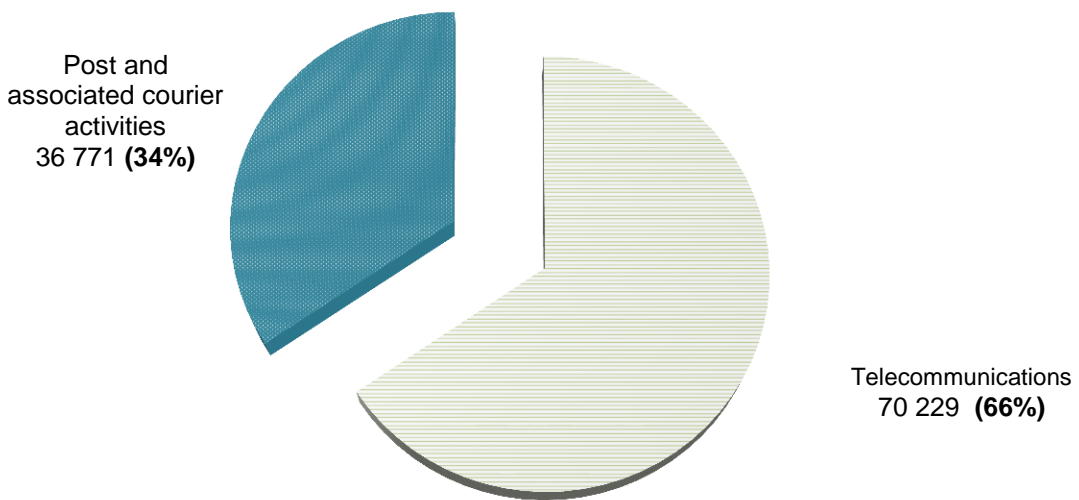
Figure 4 – Composition of expenditure in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013



Expenditure in the post and telecommunications industry in 2013 amounted to R243 224 million. The expenditure consisted primarily of ‘purchases’ (R52 435 million or 22%), followed by ‘telecommunications services’ (R49 068 million or 20%) and ‘sub-contractors’ payments’ (R36 055 million or 15%) (Figure 4 and Table 6, page 8).

The expenditure represents an increase of 2,5% per annum over the expenditure reported in the corresponding survey of 2010 (R225 578 million).

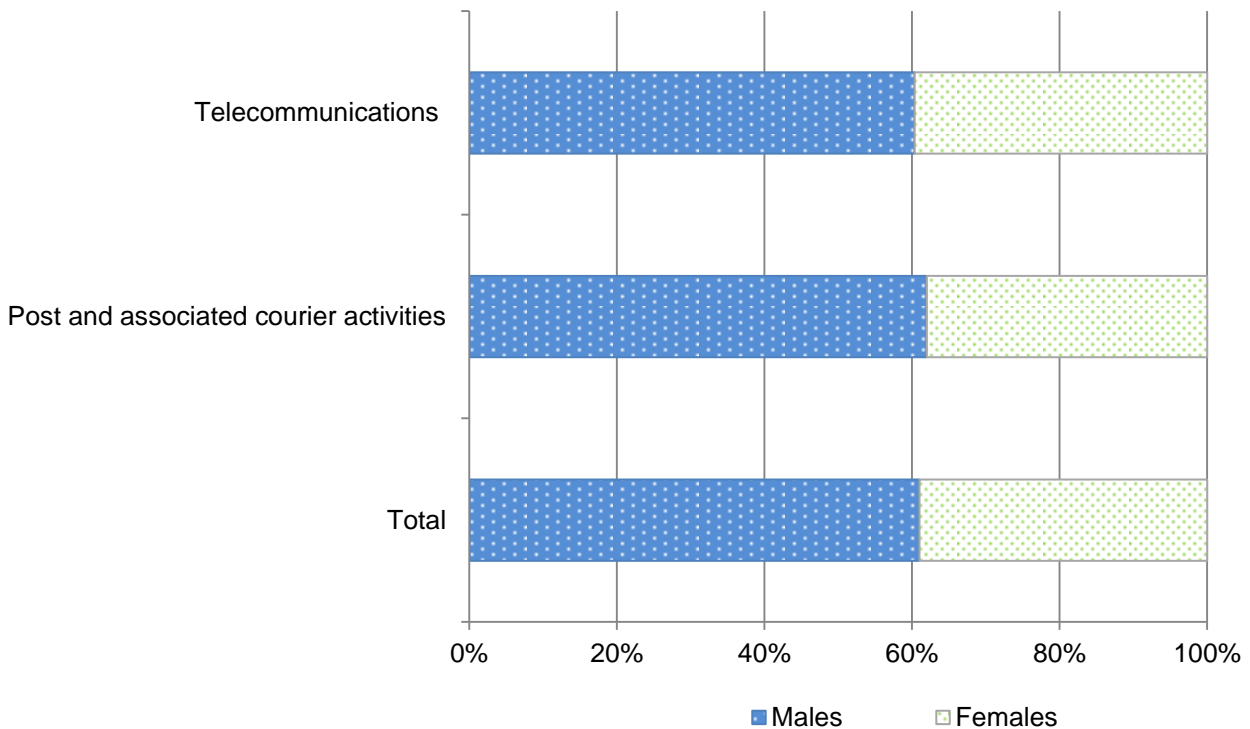
Figure 5 – Employment in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013



The total number of persons employed in the post and telecommunications industry at the end of June 2013 was 107 000. 'Telecommunications' employed the largest number of persons (70 229 or 66%), followed by 'post and associated courier activities' (36 771 or 34%) (Figure 5 and Table 9, page 10).

Employment in the post and telecommunications industry increased by 6,0% per annum compared with the number of employees reported in the corresponding survey of 2010 (89 859).

Figure 6 – Gender ratios in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013



The proportion of females out of the total persons employed was 39% (Figure 6 and Table 9, page 10) compared with 41% reported in the corresponding survey of 2010.

PJ Lehohla
Statistician-General

3. Tables

Table 1 – Principal statistics in the post and telecommunications industry, 2010 and 2013

Item	2010*	2013	Annualised change
	R million		%
Total income	301 484	276 312	-2,9
Total expenditure	225 578	243 224	2,5
Total value of opening inventories	5 509	6 357	4,9
Total value of closing inventories	5 114	6 538	8,5
Net profit or loss before tax	75 511	33 269	-23,9

***Revisions:** Revisions were made to 2010 results due to new information obtained after the publication.

Table 2 – Principal statistics in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013

Item	Post and associated courier activities	Tele-communications	Total
	R million		
Total income	14 154	262 158	276 312
Total expenditure	13 974	229 250	243 224
Total value of opening inventories	73	6 284	6 357
Total value of closing inventories	63	6 475	6 538
Net profit or loss before tax	170	33 099	33 269

Table 3 – Income in the post and telecommunications industry, 2010 and 2013

Item	2010	2013	Annualised change
	R million		%
Services	213 120	236 923	3,6
Sales	21 398	30 008	11,9
Other	66 966	9 381	-48,1
Total	301 484	276 312	-2,9

Table 4 – Income in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013

Item	Post and associated courier activities	Tele-communications	Total
	R million		
Services	13 385	223 538	236 923
Sales	195	29 813	30 008
Other	574	8 807	9 381
Total	14 154	262 158	276 312

Table 5 – Expenditure in the post and telecommunications industry, 2010 and 2013

Item	2010	2013	Annualised change
	R million		%
Purchases	49 802	52 435	1,7
Sub-contractors' payments	34 172	36 055	1,8
Wages and salaries	27 073	31 919	5,6
Repair and maintenance	3 780	3 964	1,6
Motor vehicle expenditure	224	319	12,5
Railage and transport out	1 847	1 344	-10,1
Telecommunications services	20 481	49 068	33,8
Other	88 199	68 120	-8,3
Total expenditure	225 578	243 224	2,5

Table 6 – Expenditure in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013

Item	Post and associated courier activities	Telecommunications	Total
	R million		
Purchases	1 521	50 914	52 435
Sub-contractors' payments	253	35 802	36 055
Wages and salaries	5 429	26 490	31 919
Repair and maintenance	241	3 723	3 964
Customs duties	2 334	59	2 393
Excise duties	136	0	136
Motor vehicle expenditure	195	124	319
Railage and transport out	1 141	203	1 344
Telecommunications services	234	48 834	49 068
Other	2 490	63 101	65 591
Total expenditure	13 974	229 250	243 224

Table 7 – Concentration ratios in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013

Item		Post and associated courier activities	Tele-communications	Total
Total income	R million	14 154	262 158	276 312
Income of the 5 largest enterprises	R million	10 567	173 602	173 602 ²
Relative contribution of the 5 largest enterprises	%	74,7	66,2	62,8
Income of the 10 largest enterprises	R million	11 957	211 042	212 639 ²
Relative contribution of the 10 largest enterprises	%	84,5	80,5	77,0
Income of the 20 largest enterprises	R million	12 867	236 444	241 962 ²
Relative contribution of the 20 largest enterprises	%	90,9	90,2	87,6

² These figures reflect income of the 5 (respectively 10 and 20) largest enterprises, and not the row total.

Table 8 – Employment in the post and telecommunications industry, 2010 and 2013

Item		2010	2013	Annualised change
		Number		%
Working proprietors	Male	56	125	30,7
	Female	10	25	35,7
	Total	66	150	30,8
Permanent	Male	50 025	51 070	0,7
	Female	34 223	31 623	-2,6
	Total	84 248	82 693	-0,6
Temporary	Male	1 821	8 322	65,9
	Female	2 071	7 069	50,6
	Total	3 892	15 391	58,1
Casual	Male	896	5 517	83,3
	Female	757	3 249	62,5
	Total	1 653	8 766	74,4
Total	Male	52 798	65 034	7,2
	Female	37 061	41 966	4,2
	Total	89 859	107 000	6,0

Table 9 – Employment in the post and telecommunications industry by type of activity, 2010 and 2013

Item		Post and associated courier activities		Telecommunications		Total	
		Number of employees					
		2010	2013	2010	2013	2010	2013
Working proprietors	Male	32	45	24	80	56	125
	Female	6	9	4	16	10	25
	Total	38	54	28	96	66	150
Permanent	Male	16 687	15 772	33 338	35 298	50 025	51 070
	Female	10 024	10 249	24 199	21 374	34 223	31 623
	Total	26 711	26 021	57 537	56 672	84 248	82 693
Temporary	Male	365	1 498	1 456	6 824	1 821	8 322
	Female	385	739	1 686	6 330	2 071	7 069
	Total	750	2 237	3 142	13 154	3 892	15 391
Casual	Male	174	5 339	722	178	896	5 517
	Female	32	3 120	725	129	757	3 249
	Total	206	8 459	1 447	307	1 653	8 766
Total	Male	17 258	22 654	35 540	42 380	52 798	65 034
	Female	10 446	14 117	26 615	27 849	37 061	41 966
	Total	27 704	36 771	62 155	70 229	89 859	107 000

Table 10 – Details of income from sales of goods and services of post and associated courier activities, 2010 and 2013

Type of sales and services	2010	2013	Annualised change
	R million		%
Bulk mail, stamps, franking and re-mailing and courier activities	6 584	9 908	14,6
Box rental	316	350	3,5
Banking	335	286	-5,1
Agency services	415	401	-1,1
Other postal and courier sales and services	2 161	2 635	6,8
Total income from sales and services	9 811	13 580	11,4

Table 11 – Details of income from services in telecommunications, 2010 and 2013

Type of service	2010	2013	Annualised change
	R million		
Fixed lines and mobile phones	146 107	154 594	1,9
Fixed-line calls (national and international)	16 262	11 618	-10,6
Airtime	51 402	60 080	5,3
Subscriptions	38 354	40 554	1,9
Interconnection income	39 383	41 407	1,7
Public phones	706	935	9,8
Internet	27 353	35 081	8,6
Narrowband	202	264	9,3
Broadband	3 552	4 115	5,0
Data revenue – fixed	10 345	10 985	2,0
Data revenue – wireless	13 254	19 717	14,2
Broadcasting	12 796	17 166	10,3
Television subscription and television licence	4 959	6 626	10,1
Advertising	7 033	9 627	11,0
Sponsorship	804	913	4,3
Other services	17 220	16 697	-1,0
Total income from services in telecommunications	203 476	223 538	3,2

Table 12 – Details of purchases in the post and telecommunications industry, 2010 and 2013

Purchases	2010	2013	Annualised change
	R million		%
Fuel	932	1 683	1,8
Fixed-line phones	1 951	722	-28,2
Cell phones	11 453	15 022	9,5
Air time cards and starter packs	9 546	13 935	13,4
Decoders	1 383	2 091	14,8
Other purchases	24 537	18 982	-8,2
Total	49 802	52 435	1,7

Table 13 – Client base in the post and telecommunications industry, 2013

Item	Post and associated courier activities	Tele-communications	Total
	R million		
Business	10 301	130 235	140 536
Individual	3 060	96 554	99 614
Government	219	26 562	26 781
Total	13 580	253 351	266 931

Table 14 – Details of information technology in the post and telecommunications industry by type of activity, 2013

ICT usage	Post and associated courier activities	Telecommunications	Total
Use computer	97,0	98,6	98,1
Use internet	97,0	98,1	97,7
Use internet banking	91,0	82,8	85,4
Have web page	54,0	67,9	63,4
Receive orders over internet	53,0	42,6	46,0
Place orders over internet	47,0	45,0	45,6
IT outsourced	49,0	31,6	37,2

Table 15 – Details of information technology in the post and telecommunications industry by enterprise size, 2013

ICT usage	Large enterprises	Medium enterprises	Small enterprises	Micro enterprises	Total
Use computer	100,0	100,0	96,2	97,3	98,1
Use internet	100,0	100,0	96,2	96,7	97,7
Use internet banking	80,0	90,9	86,5	87,3	85,4
Have web page	89,4	90,9	59,6	46,0	63,4
Receive orders over internet	45,9	40,9	40,4	48,7	46,0
Place orders over internet	42,4	45,5	42,3	48,7	45,6
IT outsourced	32,9	40,9	44,2	36,7	37,2

Explanatory notes

Background The results presented in this publication have been derived from the 2013 post and telecommunications industry large sample survey. This is a periodic survey which measures economic activity in the post and telecommunications sector of the South African economy. This survey is based on a census of private and public enterprises operating in the post and telecommunications industry

The census was conducted from Stats SA's business register, based on the units registered for value added tax (VAT).

All figures exclude VAT.

Reference period The information was collected from enterprises for their financial year which ended on any date between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2013.

Purpose of the survey Results of the survey are used within Stats SA for compiling the gross domestic product (GDP) and its components. These statistics are also used by government policy advisers in monitoring the performance and contribution of individual industries to the South African economy and the effectiveness of industry policies, and by private sector users in analyses of comparative business and industry performance.

Classification by industry The 1993 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (SIC), Fifth Edition, Report No. 09-09-02, was used to classify the statistical units in the survey. The SIC is based on the 1990 *International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities* (ISIC) with suitable adaptations for local conditions. Statistics in this publication are presented at 4-digit SIC level (group). Each enterprise is classified to an industry which reflects its predominant activity.

Statistical unit The statistical unit for the collection of the information is an enterprise. An enterprise is a legal unit (or a combination of legal units) that includes and directly controls all functions necessary to carry out its activities.

Size groups The enterprises are divided into four size groups according to the value of turnover recorded for them on the Stats SA business register. Large enterprises are those with an annual recorded turnover of R78 million and above. Table 16 presents the size groups defined using the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) cut-off points multiplied by three.

Table 16 – Size groups for the post and telecommunications industry

Size Group	VAT Turnover
1	Turnover ≥ R78 000 000
2	R78 000 000 > Turnover ≥ R39 000 000
3	R39 00 000 > Turnover ≥ R9 000 000
4	Turnover < R9 000 000

Survey methodology and design The census of enterprises in the post and telecommunications industry was conducted by post, email, fax, telephone and personal visits.

The enterprises were first stratified at 4-digit level according to the SIC and then by size of enterprise. Business register turnover was used as the measure of size for stratification.

Collection rate Collection rate = ((collected units + finalised investigations) / sample size) x 100. The collection rate was 84%.

Weighting methodology All the enterprises were each assigned a weight of one because a census of the industry was conducted.

Revisions to 2010 results	Revisions were made to the 2010 results due to new information obtained after the publication.																								
Non-sampling errors	Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by enterprises and errors made in the collection and processing of the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as non-sampling errors. Every effort is made to minimise non-sampling errors by careful design of questionnaires, testing them in pilot studies, editing reported data and implementing efficient operating procedures. Non-sampling errors occur in both sample surveys and censuses.																								
Rounding-off of figures	The figures in the tables have, where necessary, been rounded off to the nearest final digit shown. There may therefore be slight discrepancies between the sums of the constituent items and the totals shown.																								
Symbols and abbreviations	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>DTI</td> <td>Department of Trade and Industry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GDP</td> <td>Gross domestic product</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ISIC</td> <td>International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IT</td> <td>Income tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RSE</td> <td>Relative standard error</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SARS</td> <td>South African Revenue Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SE</td> <td>Standard error</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SIC</td> <td>Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SNA</td> <td>System of National Accounts</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stats SA</td> <td>Statistics South Africa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VAT</td> <td>Value added tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>Nil or less than half the final digit shown</td> </tr> </table>	DTI	Department of Trade and Industry	GDP	Gross domestic product	ISIC	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities	IT	Income tax	RSE	Relative standard error	SARS	South African Revenue Service	SE	Standard error	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities	SNA	System of National Accounts	Stats SA	Statistics South Africa	VAT	Value added tax	0	Nil or less than half the final digit shown
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IT	Income tax																								
RSE	Relative standard error																								
SARS	South African Revenue Service																								
SE	Standard error																								
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification of all Economic Activities																								
SNA	System of National Accounts																								
Stats SA	Statistics South Africa																								
VAT	Value added tax																								
0	Nil or less than half the final digit shown																								

Glossary

Casual employees	Casual employees are employees who fall neither within the ‘permanent employees’ category nor the ‘temporary employees’ category. Such employees are typically working daily or hourly.
Employees	Employees are those people employed by the business or organisation who received payment (in salaries, wages, commission, piece rates or payments in kind) for the last pay period ended on or before 30 June 2013.
Other expenditure	<p>Other expenditure includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ accommodation; ○ advertising; ○ amortisation; ○ bank; ○ bursaries; ○ computers; ○ containers and packaging materials; ○ donations; ○ entertainment; ○ excise and customs duty; ○ insurance; ○ leasing and hiring of plant, machinery, equipment; ○ losses on liabilities; ○ losses on foreign exchange; ○ mineral rights leases; ○ motor vehicle running expenditure; ○ paper, printing and stationery; ○ railage and transport-out; ○ road tolls; ○ subcontractors; ○ security services; ○ postal and courier services; ○ property tax; ○ provisions; ○ rental of land, buildings and other structures; ○ research and development; ○ royalties; ○ severance, termination and redundancy payments; ○ skills development levy; ○ staff training (payment to outside organisations); ○ subcontracting expenses; ○ subscriptions; ○ telecommunication services; ○ travelling; and ○ other.
Other income	<p>Other income includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ profit for redemption, liquidation or revaluation of liabilities; ○ mineral rights; ○ provisions; ○ leasing income; ○ dividends; ○ subsidies; and ○ other.
Permanent employees	Permanent employees are employees appointed on an open-ended contract with no stipulated termination date or a fixed-term contract for periods of more than one year.
Statistical unit	A statistical unit is a unit about which statistics are tabulated, compiled or published. The statistical units are derived from and linked to the South African Revenue Service (SARS) administrative data.
Stratum	A stratum is constructed by concatenating the SIC classification and size group variables.
Telecommunication services	<p>Telecommunication services includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ internet charges; ○ interconnection cost (paid by provider); and ○ international roaming costs (paid by provider).

Temporary employees

Temporary employees are employees appointed on a short-term contract basis with a stipulated termination date for periods not exceeding one year.

Turnover

Turnover includes:

- value of sales of goods;
- amount received for services rendered;
- rent and lease payments received for land and buildings; and
- rent, leasing and hiring received for machinery, vehicles and other equipment.

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