

South Korea Telecom Investment Environment Report, 2008-2009



In virtue of communications infrastructure construction and improvement, the number of subscribers for broadband and mobile services surged. South Korea's telecom market has boosted up since the beginning of the 21st century. Yet, the market is almost saturated when communication business has been popularized to a certain degree, and market growth stems primarily from business innovation. As of the end of 2008, the number of broadband subscribers in South Korea reached 15.48 million, that of fixed-phone subscribers 22.13 million and that of mobile phone users 45.63 million.

South Korea Main Telecom Revenue by Business, 2004-2008 (Unit: KWR million)

	Pre2008.11	2007	2006	2005	2004
Fixed Telephone	13,040,336	14,035,397	13,490,307	12,780,927	13,484,132
Wireless Telephone	19,230,790	20,353,694	18,678,989	18,137,991	16,691,893
Total	32,271,126	34,389,091	32,169,296	30,918,918	30,176,025

Source: The Korea Association of Information and Telecommunication

Although the traditional telecommunications services market is now close to saturation, plus the higher entry barrier, there is still insufficiency of telecom-related content supply and differentiated service, and no restriction is exerted on the access of foreign capital in this regard in South Korea telecom market.

In addition, South Korean telecom market is faced with relatively loose supervision, but the market will employ new technologies and standards rapidly due to technological advancement. The new entrants should trail and research South Korea's industry policies and monitoring systems, and actively establish and maintain a close relationship with governmental departments and major telecom operators in order to avoid regulatory and policy risks.

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