

REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA

Joined Commonwealth: 1966

Joined Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation: 1985

CTO Representative: [Botswana Telecoms Corporation](#)

Capital: Gaborone

The Republic of Botswana is a large, roughly circular, landlocked plateau in the centre of Southern Africa, bordered by South Africa, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Source: The Commonwealth Yearbook 1998

Policy making authority:

Ministry of Works, Transport and Communications

Regulator:

Botswana Telecommunications Authority

Fixed network operator:

Botswana Telecommunications Corporation
- 100% owned by the Government of Botswana

Mobile cellular operators:

Mascom Wireless (Pty)
- jointly owned by Portugal Telecom, Masiyiwa Holdings and DECI Holdings
Vista Cellular (Pty) Ltd
- 51% owned by France Telecom

CTO National Bodies:

Botswana Telecommunications Authority

Country Data	1997	1998	1999	1999
Population	1,518,000	1,570,000	1,570,407	1999
Gross domestic product (GDP)	18,015,100,928	20,428,300,288	n/a	1999
Key Telecommunications data	1996	1997	1998	
Main telephone lines in operation	72,189	85,592	102,016	
Main lines per 100 inhabitants	4.8	5.6	6.5	
% of digital main lines	100	100	100	
% of main lines equip. for direct int'l dialling	100	100	100	
Cellular mobile	0.0	0.0	22,990	

telephone subscribers			
Analog cellular subscribers	0.0	0.0	0.0
Digital cellular subscribers	0.0	0.0	22,980
Public packet data network subscribers	153	n/a	n/a
Public pay phones	1,028	1,943	2,449
International outgoing telephone traffic (million minutes)	30.8	37.0	n/a
International incoming telephone traffic (million minutes)	22.6	26.0	n/a
Estimated modems in use	221	n/a	n/a
Number of internet hosts	24	550	658
Total telecom service revenue	233,260,000	302,022,016	386,300,000
Telecom revenue (US\$)	70,172,376	82,748,024	91,414,640

Source: [International Telecommunication Union: Online Subscriptions; Development Sector; World Telecommunication Indicators](#)

Liberalisation index (1998):

Local fixed service:	Monopoly
Long distance fixed service:	Monopoly
International fixed service:	Monopoly
Leased lines:	Monopoly
Mobile cellular service:	Competitive
Data service:	Competitive

Source: [International Telecommunication Union: General Trends in Telecommunication Reform 1998, Africa Volume II](#)

