

# SIERRA LEONE

**Joined Commonwealth:** 1961

**Joined Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation:** 1983

**CTO Representative:** Sierra Leone Telecommunications Company

**Capital:** Freetown

The Republic of Sierra Leone (Portuguese 'Lion Mountain') in West Africa is bordered by Guinea to the north, Liberia to the south-east and the Atlantic to the south and west.

*Source:* The Commonwealth Yearbook 1998

**Policy making authority:**

Ministry of Information, Communication, Tourism and Culture

**Mobile cellular operators:**

Sierra Leone Telecommunications Company (SIERRATEL)

**Regulator:**

Sierra Leone Telecommunications Company (SIERRATEL)

**CTO National Bodies:**

Sierra Leone Telecommunications Company

**Fixed network operator:**

Sierra Leone Telecommunications Company (SIERRATEL)  
- corporate national state owned monopoly operator.

Country Data	1996	1997	1998	1999
Population	4,297,000	4,428,000	4,568,000	4,716,602
Gross domestic product (GDP)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Key Telecommunications data	1996	1997	1998	
Main telephone lines in operation	17,189	17,382	17,407	
Main lines per 100 inhabitants	0.4	0.4	0.4	
% of digital main lines	88	88.3	88.9	
% of main lines equip. for direct int'l dialling	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Cellular mobile telephone subscribers	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Analog cellular subscribers	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Digital cellular subscribers	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Public packet data network subscribers	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Public pay phones	215	284	295	
International outgoing telephone traffic (million minutes)	3.5	4.0	n/a	
International incoming telephone traffic (million minutes)	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Estimated modems in use	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Number of internet hosts	0.0	0.0	13	
Total telecom service revenue	14,184,659,968	2,198,844,928	n/a	

*Source:* [International Telecommunication Union:](#)

**Liberalisation index (1998):**

Local fixed service:	Monopoly
Long distance fixed service:	Monopoly
International fixed service:	Monopoly
Leased lines:	Monopoly
Mobile cellular service, analog:	Competitive
Mobile cellular service, digital:	Competitive
Data service:	n/a

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