

ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION ET DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUES



ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

## **OECD COMMUNICATIONS OUTLOOK 2001 Broadcasting Section**

**Country: Ireland**

**Date completed: 20 July 2000**

# BROADCASTING

## **Broadcasting services available**

1. Please provide details of the broadcasting and cable television services available in your country.

Infrastructure provision for following service	Number of licensed operators (2000)	Number of privately owned companies <sup>1</sup>	Number of public service organisations <sup>2</sup>
Terrestrial TV (National coverage <sup>3</sup> )	2	1	1
Terrestrial TV (Local coverage <sup>4</sup> only)	1	1	0
Terrestrial radio (National coverage)	2	1	1
Terrestrial radio (Local coverage only)	37	37	0
Cable television service <sup>5</sup>	12	12	0
Analogue direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service	0	0	0
Digital DBS service	0	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Defined as private sector companies holding one or more licences for service provision.

<sup>2</sup> Including state-owned corporations or institutions holding one or more licences for service provision.

<sup>3</sup> A service with national coverage is defined as a service by a group of television or radio stations distributing a majority of the same programming, that are licensed on a national or regional basis but collectively provide nation-wide coverage. Affiliating companies of the nation-wide broadcast network are included in this category. If new operators have been licensed to provide national coverage in the last three years but are at the stage of rolling out networks please include these operators in the total.

<sup>4</sup> A service with local coverage is defined as a service by a group of television or radio stations that are licensed on a national or regional basis but distribute the programming in the local area only. If new operators have been licensed to provide local coverage in the last three years but are at the stage of rolling out networks please include these operators in the total.

<sup>5</sup> Please indicate if more than one organisation is permitted to own and operate cable television infrastructure in the same area.

**2. Please provide details on the major terrestrial TV broadcasting companies which have national coverage in your country<sup>6</sup>.**

Name of national terrestrial broadcaster	Ownership status (private or public)	Analogue or digital service or both	If digital		Relationship with transmission network owner <sup>7</sup>
			Free to Air (FTA) <sup>8</sup> or subscription	Number of channels	
RTE	State Owned	Analogue			Broadcaster owns network
TV3	Privately Owned	Analogue			Broadcaster has a commercial relationship with state owned network

**3. Please provide details on the major cable and satellite broadcasters and transmission networks in your country.**

<sup>6</sup> A service with national coverage is defined as a service by a group of television or radio stations distributing a majority of the same programming, that are licensed on a national or regional basis but collectively provide nation-wide coverage. Affiliating companies of the nation-wide broadcast network are included in this category. If new operators have been licensed to provide national coverage in the last three years but are at the stage of rolling out networks please include these operators in the total.

<sup>7</sup> Options include:

- (a) broadcaster owns network
- (b) broadcaster has a commercial relationship with a privately owned network
- (c) broadcaster has a commercial relationship with state owned network
- (d) broadcaster has non-commercial relationship with state owned network
- (e) other; please describe.

<sup>8</sup> A free to air (FTA) service is one which is available to viewers without paying a direct fee.

	Name of broadcaster	Number of channels in premium service		Does the broadcaster own the transmission network? If not, who does?	Is the transmission network used to deliver more than one broadcasting service?
		Analogue service	Digital service		
<b>CABLE</b>	Cablelink Ltd.	15		Yes	no
	Princes Holdings Ltd. T/A Irish Multichannel	15		Yes	no
	Casey Cablevision Ltd.	23		Yes	no
<b>SATELLITE</b>					

4. What was the price of a subscription service in the largest city of your country on 1st January 2000? Basic service corresponds to the least expensive option to a customer and premium service the most expensive option. (Local currency, current prices)

	Name of operator	Connection fee	Basic service		Premium service	
			Monthly subscription fees	Number of cable channels included in the basic option (excluding free services)	Monthly subscription fees (In Addition to Basic)	Number of cable channels included in the premium option (excluding free services)
<b>Cable Television services</b>	Cablelink Dublin	£25 up to £120	£9.20	11	Premium Sports Collection - £16.99 Movie Collection – £22.99 Sports & Movies – £27.99	3 4 7
<b>Satellite television service</b>						
<b>Digital terrestrial television service</b>						

## Communication services available on broadcasting networks

5. Please provide details on the communication services available from broadcasting transmission networks in your country.

	<b>Terrestrial</b>	<b>Cable</b>	<b>Satellite</b>
<b>Services provided over the network, e.g.</b> FTA broadcasting, Subscription broadcasting, Telephony, New digital services, Internet access	FTA	FTA Broadcasting, Subscription Internet Access	
How many cable and satellite operators are providing telephony and internet access services?		1. Casey Cablevision Ltd. 2. Princes Holdings Ltd	- Internet Only, 1 Centre - Internet Only, 2 Centres
<b>Regulatory restrictions</b> Does the owner/manager of the transmission network face regulatory requirements in the following areas. If so, please give details. -Access to infrastructure or transmission services -Providing access to conditional access systems -Ownership restrictions -Restrictions on services which can be provided		NO NO NO Subject to Licensing Requirements. General or Basic Telecommunications Licence	

## Digital television

6. (a) Please indicate on which transmission networks digital television is (or will be) available and whether it is provided as a subscription service or FTA. Also indicate the year in which the service first became available (or will become available).

	Terrestrial	Cable	Satellite
FTA			
Subscription			

(b) Please provide data indicating the take-up rate of digital television by consumers, such as percentage of households with a digital television receiver.	Information not available, Broadcasting Bill not yet enacted.
(c) Do regulations restrict the type of services which digital broadcasters can provide? If so, please provide details.	Broadcasting Bill not yet enacted.
(d) Are digital terrestrial broadcasters required to provide a simulcast service in analogue and digital? If so, please describe the requirement.	

### Broadcasting regulatory framework

7. Which organisation(s) administer the following services (carriage and content) in your country and what are their main responsibilities? Please mention agencies dealing with spectrum allocation and management, and providing licences.

Terrestrial broadcasting service	Content Regulation is carried out by (i) the RTE Authority, (ii) the IRTC for independent broadcasters. Spectrum Management and Allocation is the responsibility of the ODTR.
Cable Television service	The Office of the Director of Telecommunications Regulation is responsible for Licensing
Direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service	

**8. How would a carriage network which delivered television, telephony and internet services be regulated in your country?**

Please provide details:

Regulated by the provisions in S.I No. 73 of 1999 Wireless Telegraphy (Programme Services Distribution) Regulations, 1999, for television and General Telecommunications Licences for telephony and internet.

**9. Please provide a description of significant recent policy changes affecting the provision of broadcasting services, as well as any draft laws, or regulatory proposals to be implemented in 2000-2001.**

Please provide details:

Regulations governing digital MMDS and Cable – Wireless Telegraphy (Programme Services Distribution) Regulations, 1999. (S.I. No. 73 of 1999).

Broadcasting Bill, 1999 which will enable Digital Terrestrial Television

Wireless Telegraphy (UHF Television Programme Retransmission) Regulations, 1999. (S.I. No. 348 of 1999)

**10. Please indicate whether public service obligations in broadcasting regulations have changed since 1998 and provide details of any changes.**

Please provide details:

**11. Please indicate whether regulations concerning content have changed since 1998. Please provide details of any changes in relation to:**

<b>Local content requirements</b>	
<b>Must-carry requirements</b>	The Radio and Television Act, 1998 specified that TV3 is a must carry on cable and MMDS. The Wireless Telegraphy Regulations, 1999 require the carriage of RTE1, Network 2, TV3 and TG4 on cable and TV3 only on MMDS.
<b>Community standards</b>	Under the Broadcasting Bill, 1999 the ITRC is to be renamed the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland. It will be given powers in relation to the taste and decency of programme material and broadcast advertising and other forms of commercial promotion.

12. Please indicate whether regulations concerning ownership and market entry (for terrestrial, cable and satellite) have changed since 1998. Please provide details of any changes in the following areas:

<b>Limitations on number of stations</b>	
<b>Foreign ownership</b>	
<b>Cross media and cross sector provisions</b>	
<b>Other restrictions on ownership</b>	

### **Convergence**

13. Under the communication regulation existing in your country how would services provided over the Internet, which some have likened to broadcasting services (e.g. audio and video services transmitted over the Internet) be defined and treated?

Please provide details:

No regulation at this time, if the services are defined as above.

14. Would a video-on-demand service be treated differently in terms of regulations, according to the transmission methods (for example, PSTN, cable or satellite)?

Please provide details:

No

15. Under the communication regulation existing in your country how would conditional access services, such as in digital DBS services, be treated?

Please provide details:

Controlled under conditions to licence, possible class licence at some point in the future.