

OECD COMMUNICATIONS OUTLOOK 2001
Broadcasting
Austria

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 ¹	Number of public service organisations ²
Terrestrial TV (National coverage ³)	1	no	1
Terrestrial TV (Local coverage ⁴ only)	1	no	1
Terrestrial radio (National coverage)	1	no	1
Terrestrial radio (Local coverage only)	62	53	9
Cable television service ⁵	no licence just notification	aprox. 300	no
Analogue direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service	5	4	1
Digital DBS service	No	no	no

¹ Defined as private sector companies holding one or more licences for service provision.

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

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

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

3. Please provide details on the major terrestrial TV broadcasting companies which have national coverage in your country⁶.

Name of national terrestrial broadcaster	Ownership status (private or public)	Analogue or digital service or both	If digital		Relationship with transmission network owner ⁷
			Free to Air (FTA) ⁸ or subscription	Number of channels	
ORF	public	Both	FTA and subscription (starting in August 2000)	3	(a)

⁶ 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 nationwide 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.

⁷ 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.
- (f)

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

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

	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		
C A B L E	ATV	1	no	no; Telekabel Wien	yes
	TIV	1	no	no; Telekabel Wien	yes
	Steiermark 1	1	no	no	yes
S A T E L L I T E	ATV	1	no	no data	no data
	SAT 1	no service			
	K-TV	no service			

5. 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	Number of cable channels included in the premium option (excluding free services)

Cable Television services	Telekabel Wien	690 ATS	199 ATS	32	99 ATS	11
Satellite television service	no service					
Digital terrestrial television service	no service					

Communication services available on broadcasting networks

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

	Terrestrial	Cable	Satellite
Services provided over the network, e.g. FTA broadcasting, Subscription broadcasting, Telephony, New digital services, Internet access	FTA	FTA, subscription broadcasting, telephony, internet	FTA, subscription
How many cable and satellite operators are providing telephony and internet access services?		no data available	no data available
Regulatory restrictions 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	Regulations for private terrestrial broadcasting are actually drafted and will probably include ownership regulations following a market concept	Owner of cable or satellite broadcasting enterprises may not hold more than 26% of another broadcasting company. The same restriction is for owners of print media as regards broadcasting companies	see answer to cable

Digital television

7. (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	aprox. 2002		
Subscription			August 2000

(b) Please provide data indicating the take-up rate of digital television by consumers, such as percentage of households with a digital television receiver.	no data available
(c) Do regulations restrict the type of services which digital broadcasters can provide? If so, please provide details.	no
(d) Are digital terrestrial broadcasters required to provide a simulcast service in analogue and digital? If so, please describe the requirement.	Provisions are in consideration

Broadcasting regulatory framework

8. 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	Federal Ministry of Transport and Innovation (spectrum allocation and management); Private broadcasting authority (licence)
Cable Television service	Private broadcasting authority (notification)
Direct broadcast satellite (DBS) service	Private broadcasting authority (licence)

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

Please provide details:

There are separate regulations (Telekommunikation Act, Cable-and Satellite Act); following the draft new framework for communication services of the EU a horizontal approach - as regards infrastructure regulation - will be included in the new concept.

11. 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:

A draft concerning a single authority both for telecommunication and broadcasting is under preparation and should enter into force in 2001. Media concentration regulation and competition law may be restructured as well (market concept instead of strict ownership limitations).

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

Please provide details:

No changes. The public remit is being discussed. Dynamic concept supporting the development of public broadcasting in the media field is a political aim.

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

Local content requirements	No changes.
Must-carry requirements	No changes.
Community standards	Implementation of the TV-directive of the EU for private broadcasters

- 14. 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:**

Limitations on number of stations	no
Foreign ownership	no
Cross media and cross sector provisions	no
Other restrictions on ownership	no

Convergence

- 15. 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:

These services are not covered by special broadcasting laws but by general regulations related to all forms of media (e.g. pornography act, media act). Special provisions for “services similar to broadcasting” are considered and may enter into force in due time (following the German “Mediendienste-Staatsvertrag”).

- 16. 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:

Yes. Video-on-demand services actually seen as a form of individual communication (broadcasting law is not applicable).

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

Please provide details:

Austria has transposed the regulation of the 95/47/EG-directive, which states that conditional access service providers have to offer their services on a fair, proper and non-discriminatory basis.

