

# 6.6 Information & Communications

## OVERVIEW

Supported by growth in the IT & information services segment, the information & communications sector expanded by 1.4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2016, continuing the 1.3 per cent growth in the previous quarter.

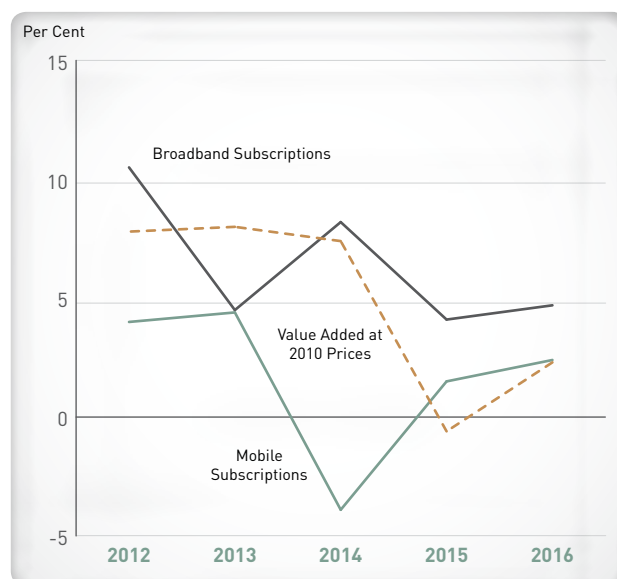
For the whole of 2016, the sector posted growth of 2.3 per cent, reversing the 0.6 per cent contraction recorded in 2015.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

In 2016, an increase in the number of consumers who upgraded to the more profitable 4G tiered data plans boosted the telecommunications segment. As at the end of November 2016<sup>1</sup>, overall 4G subscriptions had risen by 18 per cent as compared to the same period a year ago. Conversely, 2G and 3G subscriptions declined by 40 per cent and 11 per cent respectively. Nevertheless, the switch to the 4G subscription plans has shown signs of slowing down as the market becomes more saturated.

At the same time, the number of broadband subscribers has continued to rise. In particular, by November 2016, total broadband subscriptions had risen by 4.7 per cent, on the back of healthy growth in both wireless broadband (5.6 per cent) and optical fibre broadband (23 per cent) subscriptions (Exhibit 6.20).

Exhibit 6.20: Information & Communications Growth



<sup>1</sup> Full year data are not available at the time of publication.