

6.6 INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS

OVERVIEW

Supported by growth in the IT & information services segment, the information & communications sector expanded by 6.0 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2017, accelerating from the 5.1 per cent growth in the previous quarter.

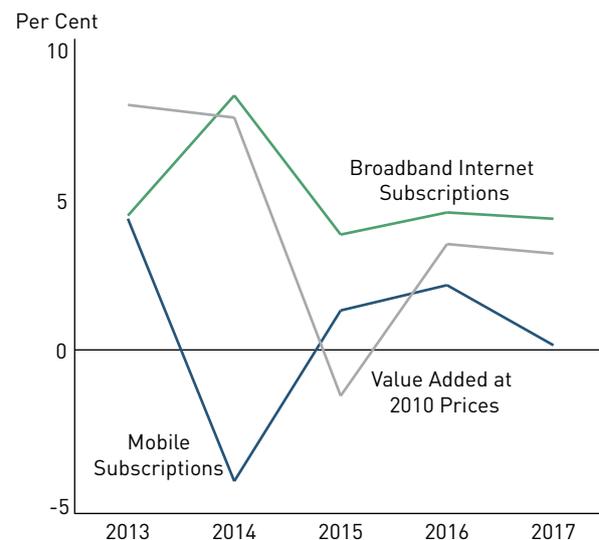
For the whole of 2017, the sector posted growth of 3.3 per cent, easing from the 3.6 per cent increase in 2016.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

In 2017, the telecommunications segment was bolstered by an increase in the number of broadband subscribers. In particular, as at the end of November 2017,¹ total broadband subscriptions had risen by 4.4 per cent on the back of healthy growth in both wireless broadband (4.9 per cent) and optical fibre broadband (10 per cent) subscriptions.

As at November 2017, the growth in overall mobile subscriptions had moderated to 0.4 per cent from 2.3 per cent in 2016, as the market became more saturated. Nonetheless, overall 4G subscriptions rose by 29 per cent in the first 11 months of 2017 as compared to the same period last year. The increased take up of the more profitable 4G subscriptions is likely to be due to the discontinuation of 2G mobile offerings as well as consumers upgrading from 3G subscriptions, which in turn saw a decline of 33 per cent.

Exhibit 6.20: Information & Communications Growth



¹ Full year data are not available at the time of publication.