

6.6 INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS

OVERVIEW

The information & communications sector expanded by 6.1 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter, faster than the 5.4 per cent growth in the previous quarter. Growth was supported by the IT & information services and telecommunications segments.

For the whole of 2018, the sector posted growth of 6.0 per cent, picking up from the 4.5 per cent increase in 2017.

IT & INFORMATION SERVICES

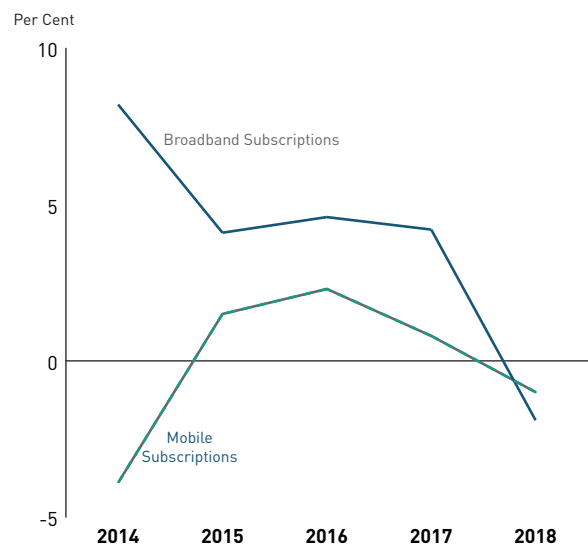
In 2018, the growth of the information & communications sector was led by the robust performance of the IT & information services segment. Specifically, the segment expanded by 8.2 per cent on the back of buoyant demand for computer programming activities such as software development as well as IT consultancy services.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

As at November 2018¹, the number of mobile subscriptions registered a slight contraction of 1.0 per cent from the same period in 2017. The decline was contributed by a 25 per cent fall in 3G subscriptions, with the total number of subscribers easing to 1.8 million. On the other hand, the uptake of 4G subscriptions remained healthy. Notably, there were 6.5 million 4G subscribers as at November 2018, representing an increase of 8.3 per cent compared to the same period a year ago.

In 2018, there was a decline in the number of broadband subscribers. In particular, as at the end of November 2018, total broadband subscriptions had fallen by 1.9 per cent from the same period a year ago, weighed down by a 2.3 per cent decline in wireless broadband subscriptions. The latter was partly due to the decommissioning of inactive Wireless@SG accounts in early 2018. This decrease was partially offset by the 8.5 per cent increase in optical fibre subscriptions.

Exhibit 6.20: Information & Communications Growth



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