

6.6

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS

OVERVIEW

The information & communications sector expanded by 4.5 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2019, extending the 4.4 per cent growth in the previous quarter. Growth was supported by the IT & information services and telecommunications segments.

For the whole of 2019, the sector posted growth of 4.3 per cent, slowing from the 6.5 per cent increase registered in 2018.

IT & INFORMATION SERVICES

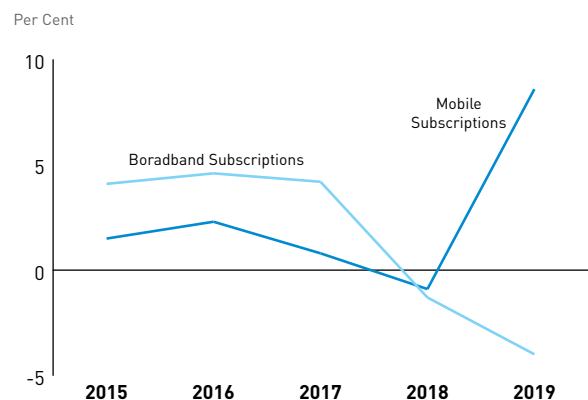
In 2019, the growth of the information & communications sector was supported by the healthy performance of the IT & information services segment. Specifically, the IT & information services segment grew by 6.9 per cent on the back of robust demand for services such as software development, web hosting and web portals, as well as information technology consultancy

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

As at November 2019⁸, the number of mobile subscriptions was 8.6 per cent higher compared to the same period in 2018. This was driven by a 13 per cent increase in 4G subscriptions, with the total number of 4G subscriptions reaching 7.4 million. By contrast, the number of 3G subscriptions fell by 8.4 per cent to 1.6 million.

In 2019, the number of broadband subscriptions dipped by 4.0 per cent. This was due to a 4.6 per cent decline in wireless broadband subscriptions, led primarily by fewer Wireless@SG subscriptions. Nevertheless, the decline was partially offset by a 11 per cent increase in optical fibre subscriptions.

Exhibit 6.20: Changes in Mobile and Broadband Subscriptions



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