

# INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS

## OVERVIEW

The information & communications sector expanded by 11.2 per cent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2021, extending the 13.9 per cent growth in the previous quarter. The positive outturn was largely due to the IT & information services and “others” segments<sup>8</sup>, while the telecommunications segment saw more modest growth.

For the whole of 2021, the sector grew by 12.2 per cent, accelerating from the 8.4 per cent expansion in 2020.

## IT & INFORMATION SERVICES

In 2021, the growth of the information & communications sector was led by the IT & information services segment. Specifically, the segment expanded by 11.7 per cent, driven by strong enterprise demand for services such as web hosting and web portal.

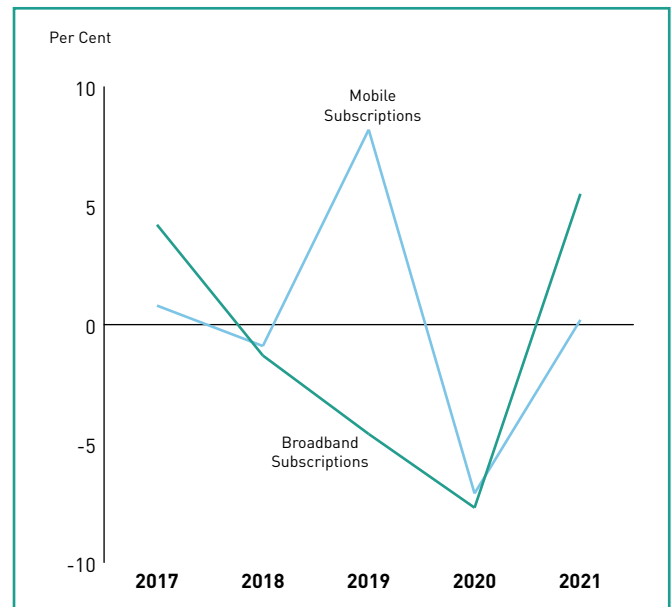
## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The telecommunications segment shrank by 1.0 per cent in 2021, weighed down mainly by weaker demand for mobile and fixed line services. For instance, the total number of outgoing retail international telephone call minutes (including transit minutes) over the January to June 2021 period fell by 7.8 per cent compared to the same period a year ago.

As at September 2021<sup>9</sup>, the number of mobile subscriptions grew slightly by 0.2 per cent compared to the same period in 2020 (Exhibit 6.18). However, there was a fall in the number of prepaid subscriptions, with the total number of prepaid 3G and 4G subscriptions falling by 8.9 per cent to reach around 2.0 million in September 2021. This was offset by an increase in postpaid subscriptions, with the number of postpaid 4G subscriptions rising by 5.2 per cent to around 6.5 million.

In 2021, the number of broadband subscriptions rose by 5.5 per cent. The increase was broad-based, led by a 6.3 per cent increase in wireless broadband subscriptions, including more mobile data and Wireless@SG subscriptions<sup>10</sup>. The exception was the number of resident wired broadband connections, which declined slightly by 0.3 per cent.

Exhibit 6.18: Information & Communications Growth



<sup>8</sup> The “others” segment consists of (i) publishing activities (including computer games and software publishing), (ii) motion picture, video and other programme production, sound recording, and music publishing activities, and (iii) radio and television broadcasting activities.

<sup>9</sup> Full-year data are not available at the time of publication. October and November data are available but subject to further revisions.

<sup>10</sup> The number of Wireless@SG subscriptions in a month includes only active users for the month.