



NEWS

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FCC RELEASES TELEPHONE NUMBERING RESOURCE UTILIZATION REPORT

Over 36 Million Telephone Numbers Recovered in 2002 from Carriers to be Reused

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today released its latest in an ongoing series of reports on telephone number utilization in the United States. Telephone number utilization refers to how efficiently telephone numbers are being used by carriers. At the end of 2002, numbering resource utilization was 39.2%, down from 39.7% a year earlier.

The report presents numbering resource utilization statistics based on December 31, 2002 data that carriers submitted to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), as well as other information.

Summary Data

1. ***Utilization Statistics by Carrier Type*** – Reporting carriers have over 1.2 billion telephone numbers, of which 483 million were assigned to customers, more than 651 million were available to be assigned, and about 97 million were used for other purposes, such as for administrative use.

Following is utilization statistics by carrier type as of December 31, 2002:

- The overall utilization rate for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs) is 52.2%, down from 52.5% the year before.
- The overall utilization rate for Cellular/PCS carriers is 47.8%, up from 47.2% the year before.
- The overall utilization rate for Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) is 10.6%, down from 11.4% the year before.
- The overall utilization rate for Paging carriers is 17.0%, down from 20.2% the year before.

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2. ***Telephone Numbers Returned*** – As required by the Commission’s Numbering Resource Optimization Orders, carriers are returning large quantities of telephone numbers that they do not need to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator so that those numbers can be assigned to other carriers with more immediate needs. Each area code has up to 7.9 million usable telephone numbers. In 2002, carriers returned the equivalent of more than four area codes to the NANPA. No significant quantities of telephone numbers had been voluntarily returned to the NANPA before the second quarter of 1999.
 - In the first half of 2002, carriers returned 24.6 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.
 - In the second half of 2002, carriers returned 11.5 million telephone numbers to the NANPA.

3. ***Most Utilized Area Codes in the United States*** – New York’s area code 212 (New York City) is the most utilized with 76.6% of numbers assigned to customers. Arizona’s area code 480 (Phoenix) is next with 66.2% of numbers assigned to customers.

This report is updated twice a year and is available in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Contact the Commission’s duplicating contractor Qualex International at (202) 863-2893 to purchase a copy. This and many other reports can be downloaded from the **FCC-State Link** Internet site at www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats.

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