

Sources: Carney, World Bank, OECD, government statistics, Cosmote

<b>437 million</b>	cell phone connections in western Europe in 2006
<b>510 million</b>	projected cell phone connections in western Europe by 2011
<b>11,238,162</b>	population of Greece, 2008
<b>3,894,312</b>	cell phone connections in Greece in 1999
<b>12,448,473</b>	cell phone connections in Greece in 2005
<b>9 million</b>	estimated prepaid cell phone connections in Greece, 2009
<b>5 million</b>	estimated calling plan cell phone connections in Greece, 2009
<b>574 million</b>	number of calls placed by Cosmote subscribers during 2009 holidays
<b>849 million</b>	number of minutes clocked by Cosmote subscribers in 2009 holiday calls
<b>8,344,319</b>	population of Austria, 2008
<b>4,300,000</b>	cell phone connections in Austria in 1999
<b>8,369,251</b>	cell phone connections in Austria in 2005
<b>45,568,152</b>	population of Spain, 2008
<b>14,884,207</b>	cell phone connections in Spain in 1999
<b>42,694,115</b>	cell phone connections in Spain in 2005

## Talk ain't cheap

Cell phone carriers reported sharp increases in the number of text messages sent over their networks during Christmas and New Year's over last year, with Greeks sending an average 34 SMSs per person for a total of 415 million text messages—about 30 per cent more than last year. Cosmote said its subscribers sent 55 per cent more text messages between December 24 and January 1, while Vodafone and Wind Hellas reported 20 and 15 per cent increases, respectively, in SMS traffic during the holidays. According to Cosmote data published in the Greek media, its subscribers alone sent 26 million text messages on Christmas and roughly 37 million on New Year's. The figures prompted a debate among sociologists about whether Greeks were becoming more social or less by sending less personal group text messages.