

## GLOBAL DSL ROCKETS TO 164 MILLION SUBSCRIBERS

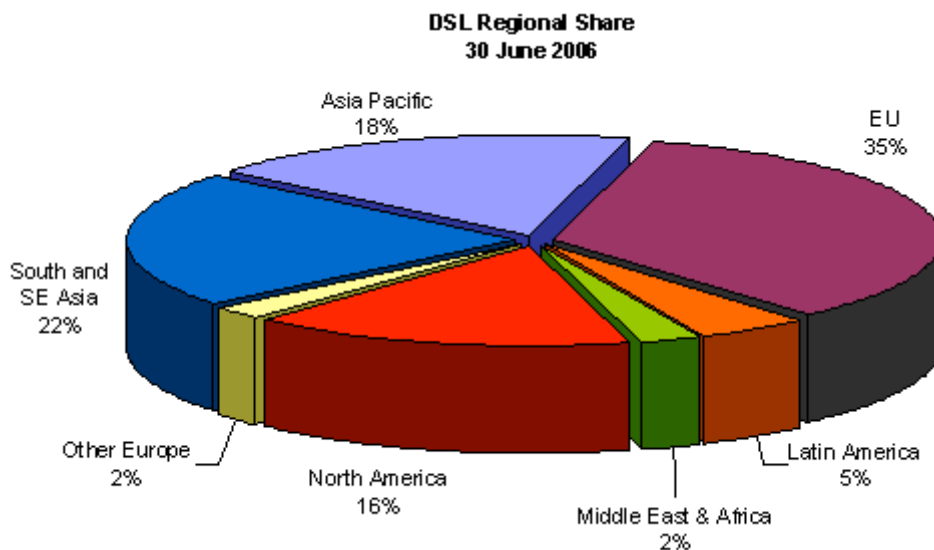
- 46 million new subscribers added in 12 months to 30 June 2006
- Eight countries exceed 25% of telephone lines delivering DSL

Global subscriptions to DSL rocketed to 164 million by 30 June 2006, according to the latest data produced for the international DSL Forum by industry analyst Point Topic. Worldwide, the number of business and residential users selecting DSL (digital subscriber line) for broadband access increased by almost 46 million – a growth of 38% in the 12 months.

“These latest subscriber figures are further evidence of DSL broadband’s remarkable rate of growth across the world”, said Michael Brusca, chairman and president of the DSL Forum.

“Broadband is increasingly a key entertainment and information tool in homes, businesses and organisations worldwide, and sophisticated “quadruple play” broadband offerings of voice, video, data and mobile are now delivering continuous connectivity. Through its new BroadbandSuite initiative, the DSL Forum is committed to developing the specifications that enhance customer satisfaction and drive next-generation services over all broadband access technologies”.

Another 18 million broadband subscribers in European Union (EU) countries chose DSL in the year to 30 June 2006, a growth of 45% that reinforces the region’s global leadership. There are more than 56 million DSL subscribers in the EU, accounting for more than one-third of the global total.



Source: Data provided for the DSL Forum by Point Topic ([www.point-topic.com](http://www.point-topic.com))

South and South East Asia increased its global market share of total DSL subscribers to 22%, adding more than 13 million new subscribers in the 12 months to 30 June 2006. China contributed the bulk of this growth (up 11.6 million), and India began to establish its broadband society, adding more than 1.3 million subscribers to DSL, the fastest growing market worldwide. Latin America added more than three million DSL subscribers, with Brazil (up 1.19 million) and Mexico (up 939,000) leading the way. In the Middle East and Africa, growth was dominated by Turkey (up 1.3 million) – the second fastest moving DSL subscriber market worldwide.

In North America, DSL is steadily increasing its share of the total broadband market and now accounts for more than 46% of the region's broadband subscribers. In the period, broadband DSL (up 6.36 million) added more subscribers than cable modem (up 5.45 million), with growth in Canada (DSL up 22.2%) and the USA (DSL up 32.7%) both far outstripping cable modem growth.

At 30 June 2006, 16 countries had passed the two million DSL subscriber mark – Australia, Turkey and Mexico achieving that number in the period.

**Countries with more than one million DSL subscribers  
30 June 2006**

Ranking	Country	Total DSL Q2 2006	Ranking	Country	Total DSL Q2 2006
1	<b>China</b>	33,305,000	12	<b>Canada</b>	3,570,500
2	<b>USA</b>	23,174,650	13	<b>Australia</b>	2,686,200
3	<b>Japan</b>	14,861,686	14	<b>Netherlands</b>	2,656,000
4	<b>Germany</b>	11,675,000	15	<b>Mexico</b>	2,087,931
5	<b>France</b>	11,082,000	16	<b>Turkey</b>	2,080,457
6	<b>UK</b>	8,718,329	17	<b>India</b>	1,537,000
7	<b>Italy</b>	7,190,300	18	<b>Poland</b>	1,534,955
8	<b>South Korea</b>	6,376,294	19	<b>Sweden</b>	1,432,800
9	<b>Spain</b>	4,582,700	20	<b>Belgium</b>	1,385,906
10	<b>Taiwan</b>	3,835,000	21	<b>Switzerland</b>	1,253,000
11	<b>Brazil</b>	3,796,600	22	<b>Finland</b>	1,136,000

*Source: Data provided for the DSL Forum by Point Topic ([www.point-topic.com](http://www.point-topic.com))*

China extended its DSL population to 33 million, the largest of any country and more than 10 million subscribers ahead of the USA in second place. Of the emerging DSL nations, significant subscriber increases were seen in Vietnam (147% increase), the Czech Republic (143%), Morocco (141%) and Russia (130%).

In eight countries, over 25% of telephone lines are now delivering broadband services over DSL, rising to a third in France and almost 40% in Finland.

**DSL penetration of phone lines, 30 June 2006**  
**Countries with DSL populations of more than one million**

Ranking	Country	Penetration (DSL/100 phone lines) Q2 2006 (%)	Ranking	Country	Penetration (DSL/100 phone lines) Q2 2006 (%)
1	<b>Finland</b>	39.9%	8	<b>Australia</b>	25.4%
2	<b>France</b>	32.6%	9	<b>UK</b>	24.8%
3	<b>Taiwan</b>	29.3%	10	<b>Spain</b>	24.5%
4	<b>South Korea</b>	27.4%	11	<b>Switzerland</b>	23.5%
5	<b>Belgium</b>	27.0%	12	<b>Sweden</b>	21.8%
6	<b>Netherlands</b>	26.6%	13	<b>Germany</b>	21.7%
7	<b>Italy</b>	26.2%	14	<b>Japan</b>	20.9%

*Source: Data provided for the DSL Forum by Point Topic ([www.point-topic.com](http://www.point-topic.com))*

"DSL is the world's widespread broadband technology, and service providers are constantly evolving advanced next generation services to meet subscriber demand," continued Michael Brusca. "It is vital that carriers evolve their access infrastructures and remote management systems to scale to customer demands and provide Quality of Service (QoS) for delivery of a mix of data, voice and video services. The DSL Forum, through its international membership, develops specifications that address the common requirements for these services, which facilitate broadband services advancement and continued explosive global broadband growth."

#### **About the DSL Forum**

The DSL Forum tailors broadband to meet the needs of the next generation of multi-media services and the online community. By forging agreement on common technical requirements and embracing new applications, the Forum defines specifications, streamlines processes and shares best practices that set the stage for effective deployments and explosive global broadband growth. Established in 1994, the DSL Forum is an international industry consortium of over 200 leading service providers, equipment manufacturers and other interested parties. [www.dslforum.org](http://www.dslforum.org).

All DSL Forum Technical Report (TR) specifications are available at:  
<http://www.dslforum.org/techwork/treports.shtml>.

Country specific DSL subscriber data and charts available from:

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