



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC RELEASES PRELIMINARY 1998 INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC DATA

Washington, D.C. -- The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has released a report prepared by the Common Carrier Bureau's Industry Analysis Division entitled *Preliminary 1998 International Telecommunications Data*.

Traffic between the United States and other countries is reported on a country-by-country basis for international message telephone and private line services. Starting with 1998 traffic data, carriers were no longer required to file country-by-country data for international telex and telegraph services. Although international traffic data is reported in great detail, it is not reported until after U.S. and foreign carriers can reconcile their books. Carriers were required to file their 1998 data by July 31, 1999, and revisions by October 31.

U.S. carriers reported that in 1998, they billed \$13.4 billion for international telephone service, \$.9 billion for private line services and \$.1 billion for international telex, telegraph and other miscellaneous services.

U.S. and foreign carriers compensate each other for completed calls. Because U.S. customers place more calls than do foreign customers, U.S. carriers make net payments to foreign carriers. The net amount was approximately \$5.0 billion in 1998, down from \$5.5 billion in 1997. U.S. carriers retained about \$9.4 billion of international revenues, down from \$10.8 billion in 1997.

The report is available for reference in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. Copies may be purchased by calling International Transcription Services, Inc. (ITS) at (202) 857-3800. The report, including the spreadsheets containing the report's statistical tables and the figures, can be downloaded [file names: 4361-P98.ZIP or 4361-P98.PDF] from the **FCC-State Link** internet site at <http://www.fcc.gov/ccb/stats> on the World Wide Web.

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