



NEWS RELEASE
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Telecommunications Industry in North Dakota Growing Steadily

BISMARCK, ND – For the first time in a decade, the number of land line phones in the state has increased, according to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC). The numbers are reported annually to the PSC by telecommunications providers operating in the state.

It is estimated that there are currently 258,152 land line phones in the state, an increase from 255,971 in 2013. This is the first time in 10 years an increase in the number of land line phones has been reported.

“We are all aware that our state is growing in both population and in the number of businesses operating in North Dakota. That growth includes our booming telecommunications sector,” said Commissioner Brian Kalk, who holds the Commission’s telecommunications portfolio. “The telecommunications sector continues to expand and improve services that are good for the consumers and vital to our state’s growth.”

The number of wireless phones currently in use in North Dakota is reported at an estimated 521,578. That compares to an estimated 295,591 in 2004, approximately a 76 percent increase in the past decade.

“The number of wireless phones keeps growing and growing as more people turn to them as an alternative or supplement to a traditional land line phone,” said Kalk. “Wireless phones are no longer considered a luxury item for most, they are an important and vital tool for conducting business and keeping connected with friends and family.”

The PSC and the Federal Communications Commission have varying degrees of authority over portions of the telecommunications industry. The Public Service Commission has very limited jurisdiction over wireless companies.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, grain elevators, auctioneers, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or www.psc.nd.gov.

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