

COMMUNICATION MARKETS MONITORING SYSTEM COVID-19 monitoring

no. 2/2020



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Parcels: volumes (millions of items)

The following figures are based on AGCOM's elaborations on firms' data. The data are updated until september 2020 where possible. The results are not directly comparable with those reported in other documents produced by the Authority. Percentages may not total 100 due to rounding.



# 1.1: COVID-19 MONITORING: AGCOM'S ROLE DURING COVID-19 EMERGENCY



The so-called "Cura Italia" decree reaffirmed AGCOM's role as the competent authority for any modifications, integrations or derogations to the ordinary regulations which are required necessary to deal with the health emergency, ensuring competition in the infrastructure and services markets and, at the same time, the protection of users.

To this end, permanent consultation panels with sector operators and 2 stakeholders have been set up in order to identify suitable proposals to resolve the main critical issues related to the COVID-19 emergency.

- The **data and information** illustrated in the figures below represent the (3` result of a specific monitoring activity conducted by the Authority, which has the **general objective** of providing an information base that can contribute to a better understanding of trends and any critical issues that may emerge from the current pandemic crisis.
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- The **information presented** in the figures below is the result of a specific monitoring activity carried out by the Authority, achieved also thanks to the effective collaboration with operators, with the aim of providing an information base that can contribute to a better understanding of the trends in progress in such a complex period.

| Permanent consultation panels  | Specific monitoring objectives                                | Indicators   |
|--|---|--|
| Telco and consumers panel  | Track the economic and financial sustainability of the sector | Revenues   |
| https://www.agcom.it/tavolo-telecomunicazioni-e-consumatori  | Track the pressure on network infrastructures                 | Data traffic   |
| Media service panel  | Track the economic and financial sustainability of the sector | Revenues   |
| https://www.agcom.it/tavolo-servizi-media  | Supervise the quality if information                          | Osservatorio sulla disinformazione online  |
| Digital platforms an big data panel<br>https://www.agcom.it/tavolo-piattaforme-digitali-e-big-data | Supervise the online disinformation                           | <u>Osservatorio sulla disinformazione online - Speciale</u><br><u>Coronavirus</u><br>AGCOM Data Science Task Force |
| Postal services panel  | Track the economic and financial sustainability of the sector | Revenues   |
| https://www.agcom.it/tavolo-servizi-postali  | Monitor the use of postal services                            | Mail and parcel delivery volumes   |

# **1.2: REVENUES: MAIN EVIDENCES**



## The communications system

In the first half of 2020, the Authority's reference ecosystem recorded less negative results compared to the overall macroeconomic framework:



This is mainly do to the positive contribution of online advertising and e-commerce.

## **Electronic communications**

In June 2020, the decrease in **revenues** (-5.7% on average compared to June 2019) was less intense for mobile network services (-4.7%) than for fixed network services (-6.5%).

In terms of **volumes**, in the first nine months of the year, daily traffic grew by 44.4% in the fixed network and 55.6% in the mobile network. Correspondingly, the daily average traffic per broadband line is estimated at 5.8 GB (+40.2% on a annual basis) while it is 0.24 GB for a «human» sim card (+64.2%).

(\*) Agcom's elaboration on ISTAT data - https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/246771

## Media

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The decrease in overall **revenues**, which in the first half of 2020 amounted to 10.1% compared to the same period of 2029, was affected by the particularly negative trend in the second quarter of 2020 (-16.8%) mainly due to the decline in advertising resources on traditional media (radio, television and publishing) particularly sensitive to the reduction in consumption due to the health crisis.

Daily and periodical publishing (-19.0%) is the most penalized sector. Television, particularly pay tv, limits the damage thanks to the growth in resources deriving from the consumption of streaming video content, while online advertising (+1.9%) is the only segment to grow.

## Postal services

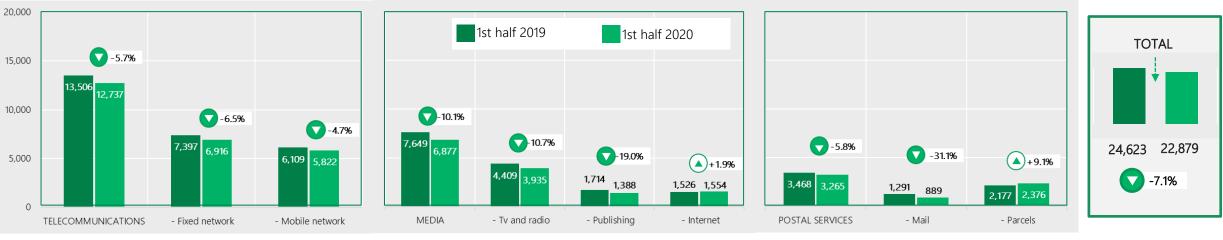
In the first half of 2020, total **revenues** decreased by 5.8% compared to the same period pf 2019, with a substantially equivalent results looking distinctly at the first two quarters of the year. Including also the months of July and August, the decline in overall resources is slightly reduced (-3.6%). The results recorded in the January-August period by mail services (-29.4%) and parcel delivery services (+11.4%) differ significantly.

In the first eight months of the year, **volumes** of traditional postal services decreased on average by 22.6% (by 27.8% the mail services included in the US), while those relating to the delivery of parcels services increased on average by 27.0% (a value that rises to 30.6% with reference to domestic parcels only).



## **1.3: REVENUES: REVENUES IN AGCOM'S AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

### COMPARISION: 1st HALF 2019 - 1st HALF 2020



The reduction in revenues in **AGCOM's areas of competence** in the first half of 2020 was **1,743.3 million euros** compared to the same period in 2019. In the second quarter of 2020 (April-May-June) there was a reduction of 9.1% compared to 2019.

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The **Telecommunications** sector lost -€768.7 million € due to a reduction in both fixed network revenues (-€481.2 million) and, to a lesser extent, mobile network revenues (-€287.6 million).

1st half

**TELECOMMUNICATION -5.8%** 

- Fixed network -5.8%

- Mobile network -5.9%

2st half -5.5%

-7.2%

-3.5%

The **Media** sector recorded the most significant loss (-771.7 million €). Considerable losses were recorded in the publishing sector (-326.4 million €) and television and radio (-473.8 million €), while internet advertising revenues recovered slightly (+28.5 million €).

### QUARTERLY COMPARISION (2019 vs. 2020)

| MEDIA                  | 1st half<br>-3.0% | 2st half<br>-16.8% |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| - Television and radio | -3.9%             | -17.4%             |
| - Publishing           | -12.1%            | -25.5%             |
| - Internet             | +9.6%             | -5.4%              |

In the **Postal sector** (-202.8 million €), the reduction in revenues was mainly due to the Universal Service mail services segment (-401.5 million €), which was offset by growth in the parcel delivery segment (+198.7 million €).

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| POSTAL SERVICES                               | 1st half<br>-5.8% | 2st half<br>-5.9% |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| - Mail services<br>- Parcel delivery services | 2                 | -40.7%<br>+15.1%  |

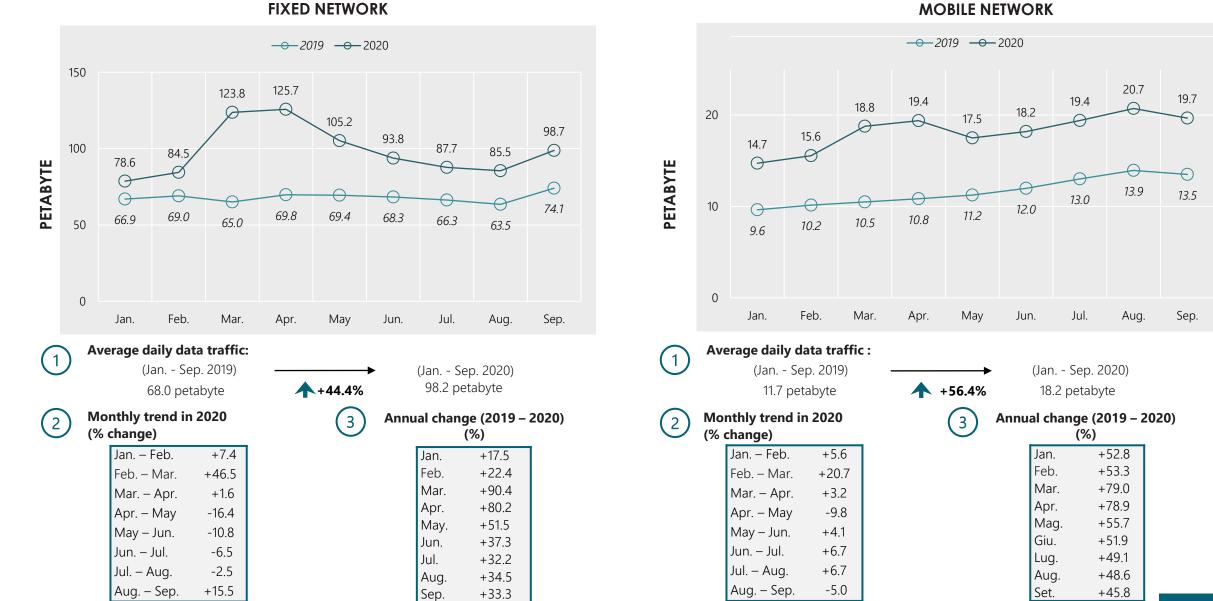


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MILLIONS OF €

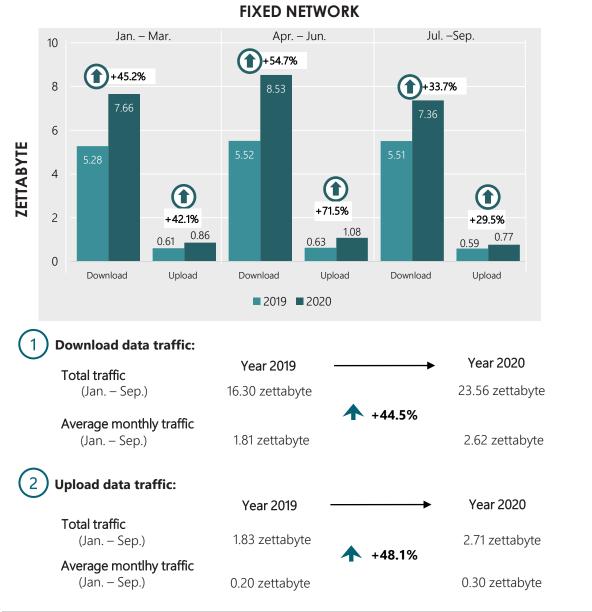
## 2.1: FIXED AND MOBILE NETWORK: AVERAGE DAILY DATA TRAFFIC (download + upload)







## 2.2: FIXED AND MOBILE NETWORK: MONTHLY DATA TRAFFIC IN DOWNLOAD AND UPLOAD



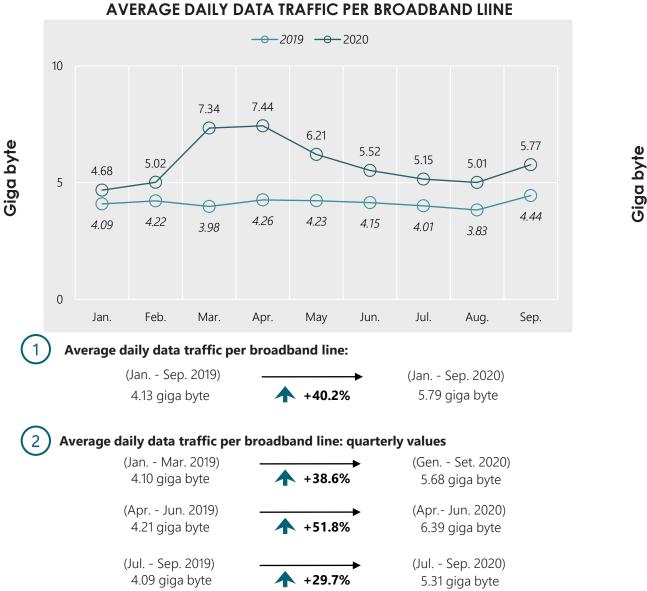
#### Apr. – Jun. Jul. –Sep. Jan. – Mar. 2 +48.4% +64.8% +60.0% 1.64 1.46 1.32 ZETTABYTE $(\mathbf{f})$ +77.9% +56.9% +41.5% 0.17 0.13 0.15 0.08 0.09 0.10 0 Download Upload Download Upload Download Upload ■ 2019 ■ 2020 **Download data traffic:** Year 2020 Year 2019 Total traffic 2.83 zettabyte 4.43 zettabyte (Jan. – Sep.) +56.8% Average monthly traffic 0.31 zettabyte (Jan. – Set.) 0.49 zettabyte **Upload data traffic:** 2 Year 2019 Year 2020 Total traffic (Jan. – Sep.) 0.28 zettabyte 0.45 zettabyte +58.3% Average monthly traffic 0.03 zettabyte 0.05 zettabyte (Jan. – Sep.)

**MOBILE NETWORK** 

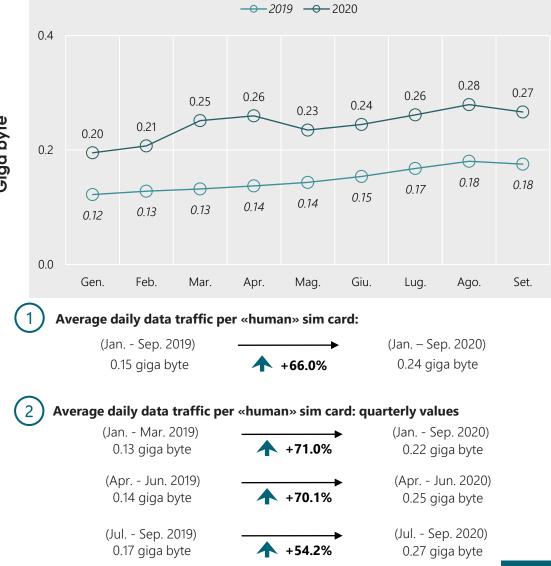


# 2.3: FIXED AND MOBILE NETWORK: AVERAGE DAILY DATA TRAFFIC FOR BROADBAND LINE AND FOR "HUMAN" SIM 应





### AVERAGE DAILY DATA TRAFFIC PER «HUMAN» SIM CARD



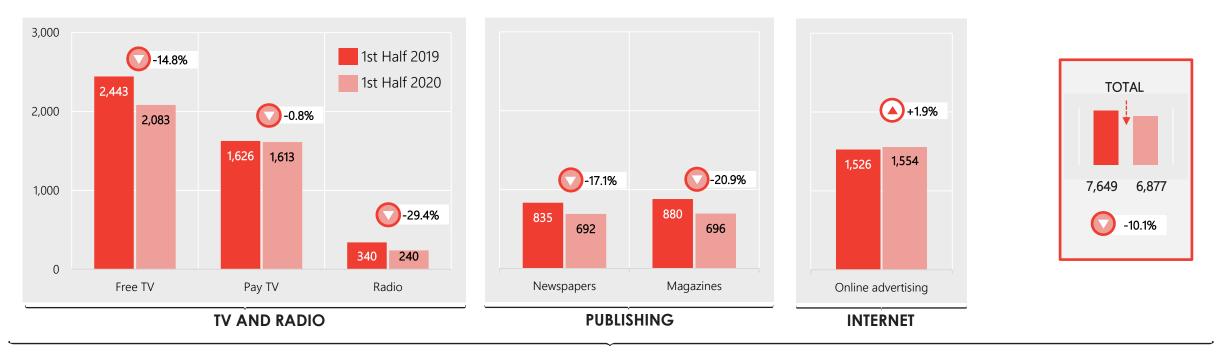


# 3.1: MEDIA: total revenues trend

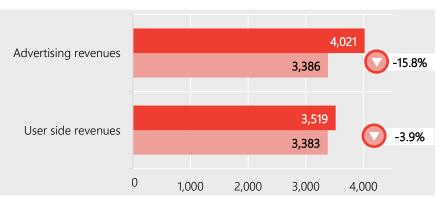


## MILLIONS OF €

### COMPARISION: 1st HALF 2019 - 1st HALF 2020



On a half-yearly basis, **revenues** show a decrease of 10.1% compared to the corresponding half of 2019. Advertising on internet platforms is the only segment to show a growth , while revenues in the other segments are all lower than in the first half of 2019, albeit at different rates.



### **REVENUES BREAKDOWN**

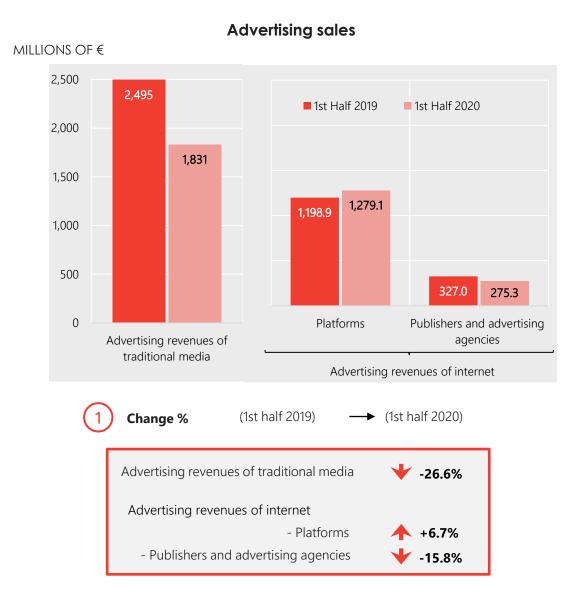
The **breakdown** of total revenues in the first half of 2020 shows a significant change compared to 2019. Due to the stronger reduction in advertising revenues compared to the user side revenues, the two components in the first half of 2020 are almost equal, while in 2019 the advertising revenue component was about 500 million euros higher.

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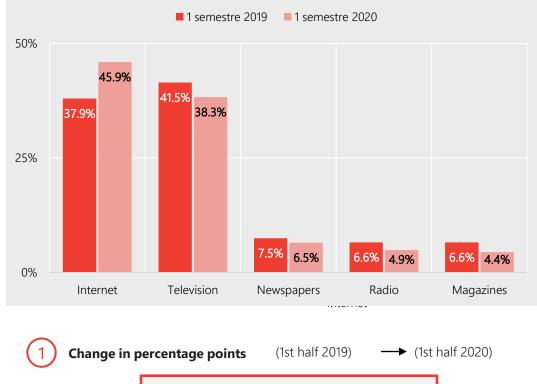
# 3.2: MEDIA: ANDAMENTO DEI RICAVI DA PUBBLICITÀ





Composition of advertising revenues by means

%



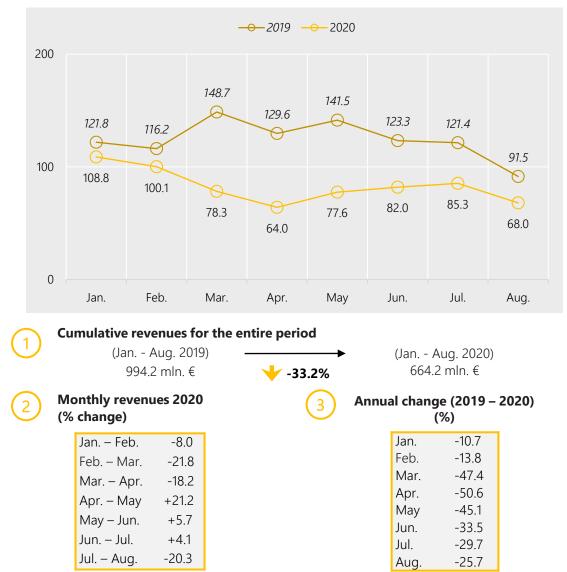
|            | (,          | ( |
|------------|-------------|---|
| Internet   | 🛧 +8.0 p.p. |   |
| Television | 🔸 -3.2 р.р. |   |
| Newspapers | 🔸 -1.0 р.р. |   |
| Radio      | 🔸 -1.7 р.р. |   |
| Magazines  | 🔸 -2.1 р.р. |   |





## 3.1: POSTAL SERVICES: MAIL REVENUES (millions of €)

### **UNIVERSAL SERVICE (US)**



#### <u>→</u>2019 <u>→</u>2020 200 95.6 92.1 85.2 100 82.2 81.8 78.9 78.0 θ 63.8 9 83.9 D 76.9 70.6 56.9 53.9 53.0 52.0 52.2 0 May Jul. Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. Jun. Aug. Cumulative revenues for the entire period 1 (Jan. - Aug. 2019) (Jan. - Aug. 2020) 655.6 mln. € 501.3 mln. € **→** -23.5% Monthly revenues 2020 Annual change (2019 – 2020) 3 2 (% change) (%) Jan. – Feb. Jan. -8.9 -5.9 Feb. +2.7 Feb. – Mar. -31.9 -36.8 Mar. Mar. – Apr. -1.7 -35.3 Apr. Apr. – May -1.9 May -45.6 May – Jun. +9.6 -27.0 Jun. Jun. – Jul. +23.9 Jul. -14.1 Jul. – Aug. -26.1 -18.2 Aug.

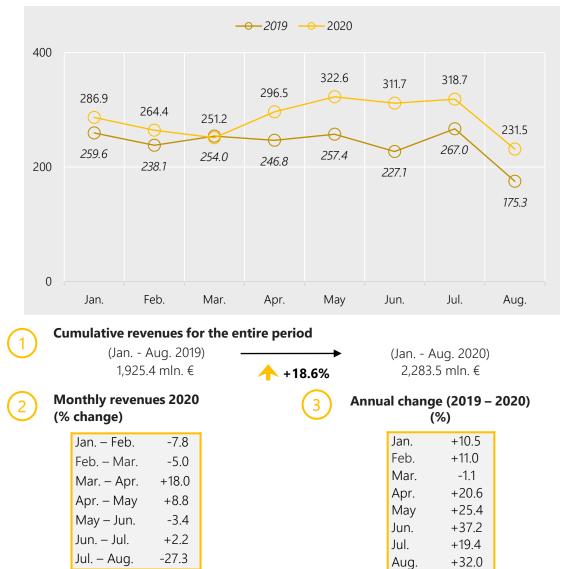
**OTHER SERVICES (NO US)** 

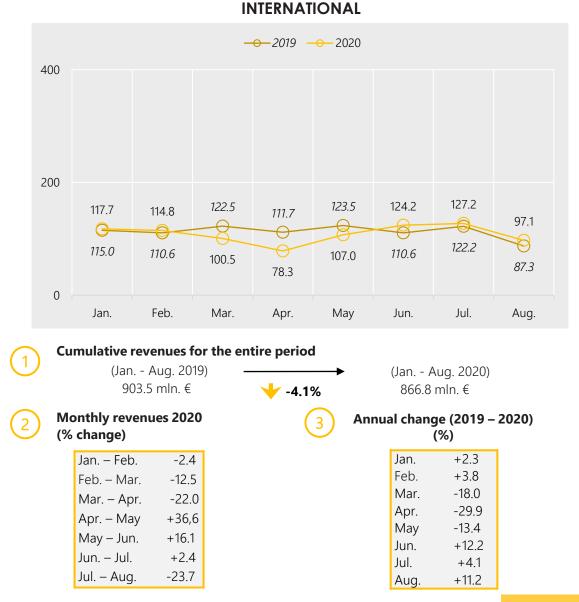


# 3.2: POSTAL SERVICES: PARCELS DELIVERY SERVICES REVENUES (millions of €)



NATIONAL

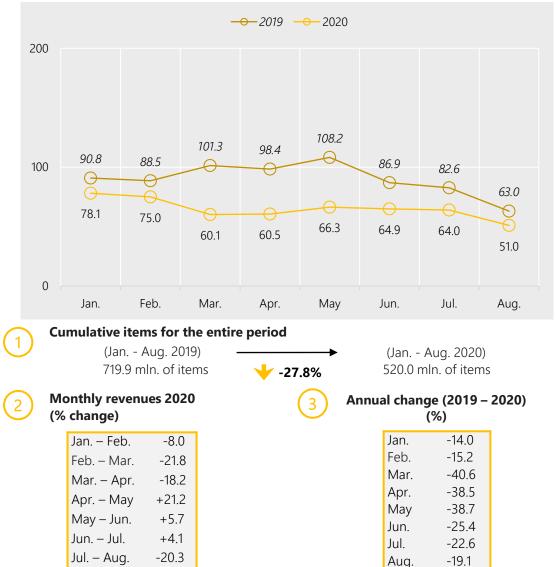




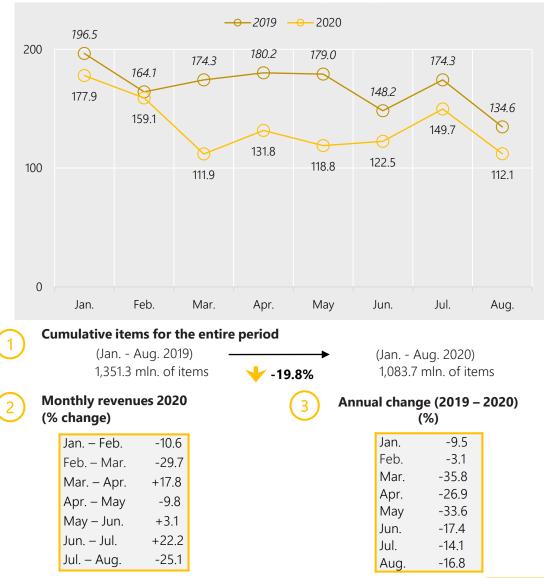


## 3.3: POSTAL SERVICES: MAIL REVENUES (millions of items)



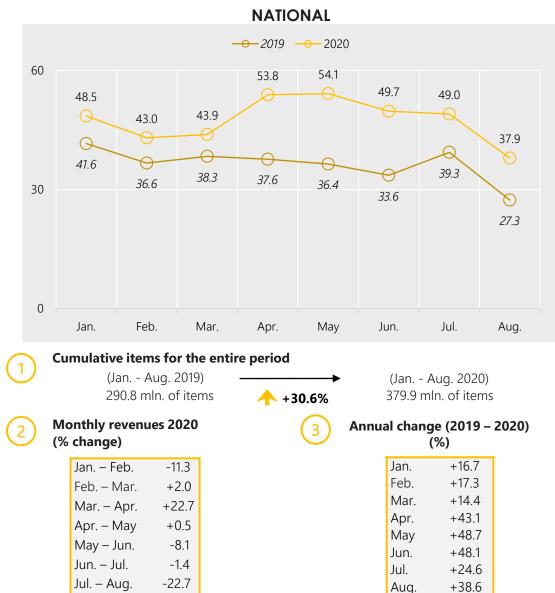


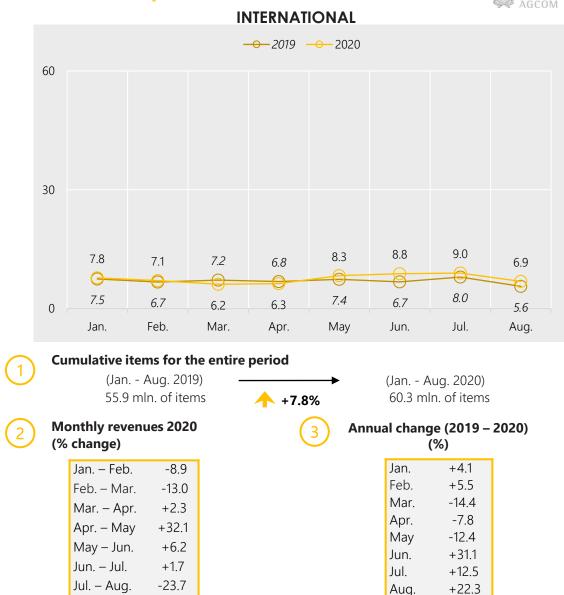
### OTHER SERVICES (NO US)





## 3.4: POSTAL SERVICES: PARCELS DELIVERY SERVICES VOLUMES (millions of items)









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