

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**New Delhi, 19th February, 2016

(www.trai.gov.in)



सत्यमेव जयते

Highlights of Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st December, 2015

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless+ Wireline)
Total Telephone Subscribers (Million)	1010.89	25.52	1036.41
Net Addition in December, 2015 (Million)	1.43	-0.21	1.23
Monthly Growth Rate	0.14%	-0.80%	0.12%
Urban Telephone Subscribers (Million)	579.67	20.99	600.66
Net Addition in December, 2015 (Million)	1.82	-0.09	1.73
Monthly Growth Rate	0.32%	-0.43%	0.29%
Rural Telephone Subscribers (Million)	431.22	4.53	435.75
Net Addition in December, 2015 (Million)	-0.39	-0.11	-0.51
Monthly Growth Rate	-0.09%	-2.47%	-0.12%
Overall Tele-density*	79.82	2.01	81.83
Urban Tele-density*	147.12	5.33	152.45
Rural Tele-density*	49.43	0.52	49.94
Share of Urban Subscribers	57.34%	82.25%	57.96%
Share of Rural Subscribers	42.66%	17.75%	42.04%
Broadband Subscribers (Million)	120.02	16.51	136.53

- ❖ In the month of December, 2015, 7.31 million subscribers submitted their requests for Mobile Number Portability (MNP). With this, the cumulative MNP requests increased from 186.69 million at the end of November, 2015 to 194.01 million at the end of December, 2015.
- ❖ Number of active wireless subscribers (on the date of peak VLR#) in December, 2015 was 912.06 million.

Note:

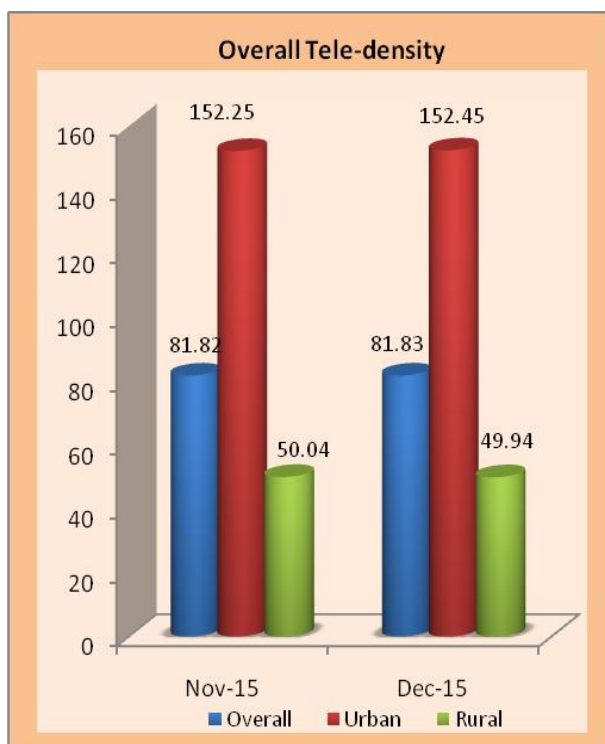
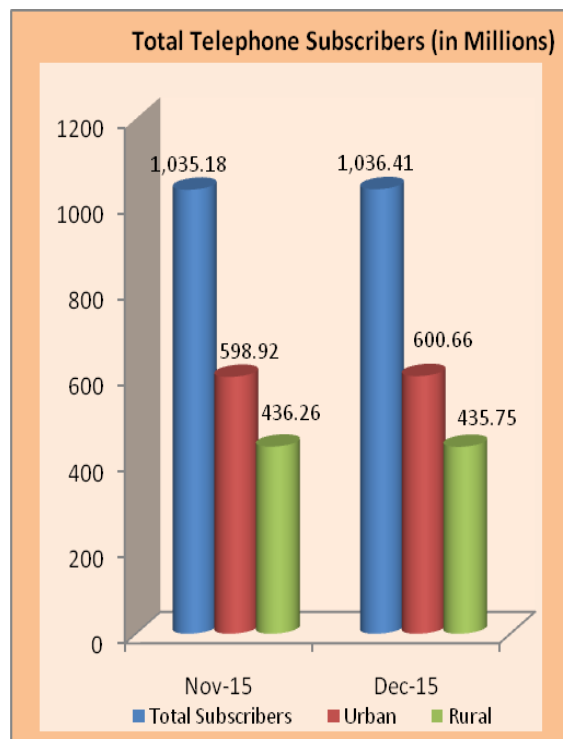
- Information in this Press Release is based on the data provided by the Service Providers

* Based on the population projections from Census data published by the Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India.

VLR is acronym of Visitor Location Register. The dates of peak VLR for various TSPs are different in different service areas.

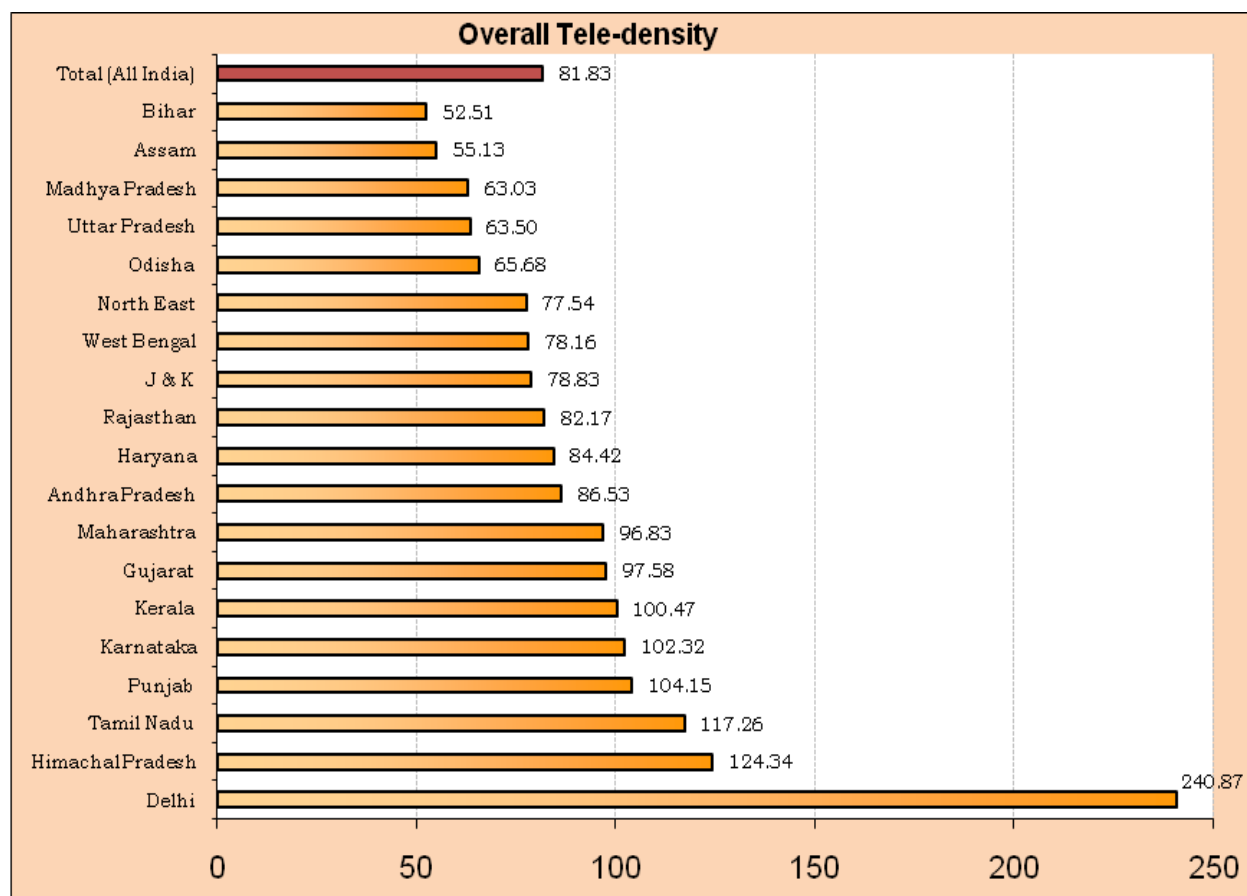
I. Total Telephone Subscribers

- The number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,035.18 million at the end of Nov-15 to 1,036.41 million at the end of Dec-15, thereby showing a monthly growth rate of 0.12%. The urban subscription increased from 598.92 million at the end of Nov-15 to 600.66 million at the end of Dec-15 whereas the rural subscription declined from 436.26 million to 435.75 million during the same period. The monthly growth rates of urban and rural subscription were 0.29% and -0.12% respectively during the month of Dec-15.



- The overall Tele-density in India slightly increased from 81.82 at the end of Nov-15 to 81.83 at the end of Dec-15. The Urban Tele-density increased from 152.25 at the end of Nov-15 to 152.45 at the end of Dec-15. The Rural Tele-density declined from 50.04 at the end of Nov-15 to 49.94 at the end of Dec-15. The share of urban subscribers and rural subscribers at the end of Dec-15 was 57.96% and 42.04% respectively.

Overall Tele-density (Circle/State Wise) – As on 31st December, 2015

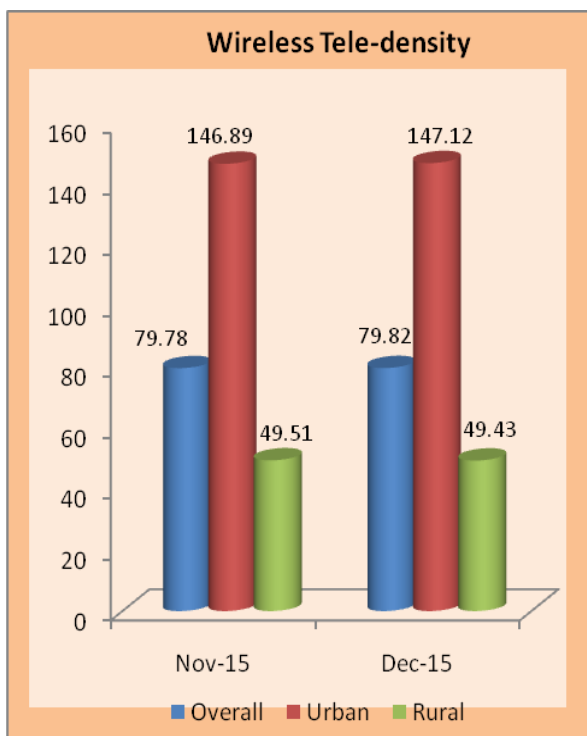
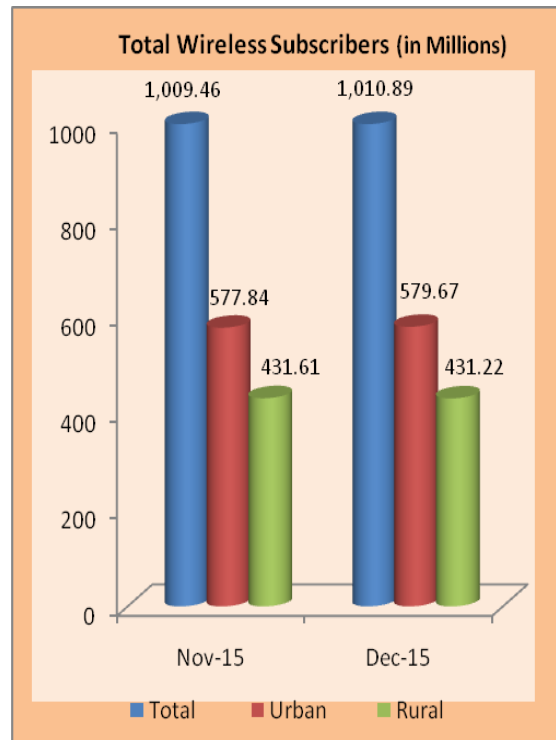


Notes:

1. Population data/projections are available state wise only.
2. Tele-density figures are derived from the telephone subscriber data provided by the access service providers and the projections of population published by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
3. Telephone subscriber data for Delhi, includes, apart from the data for the State of Delhi, wireless subscriber data for the areas served by the local exchanges of Ghaziabad & Noida (in Uttar Pradesh) and Gurgaon & Faridabad (in Haryana). West Bengal includes Kolkata, Maharashtra includes Mumbai and Tamil Nadu includes Chennai.

II. Wireless Subscribers

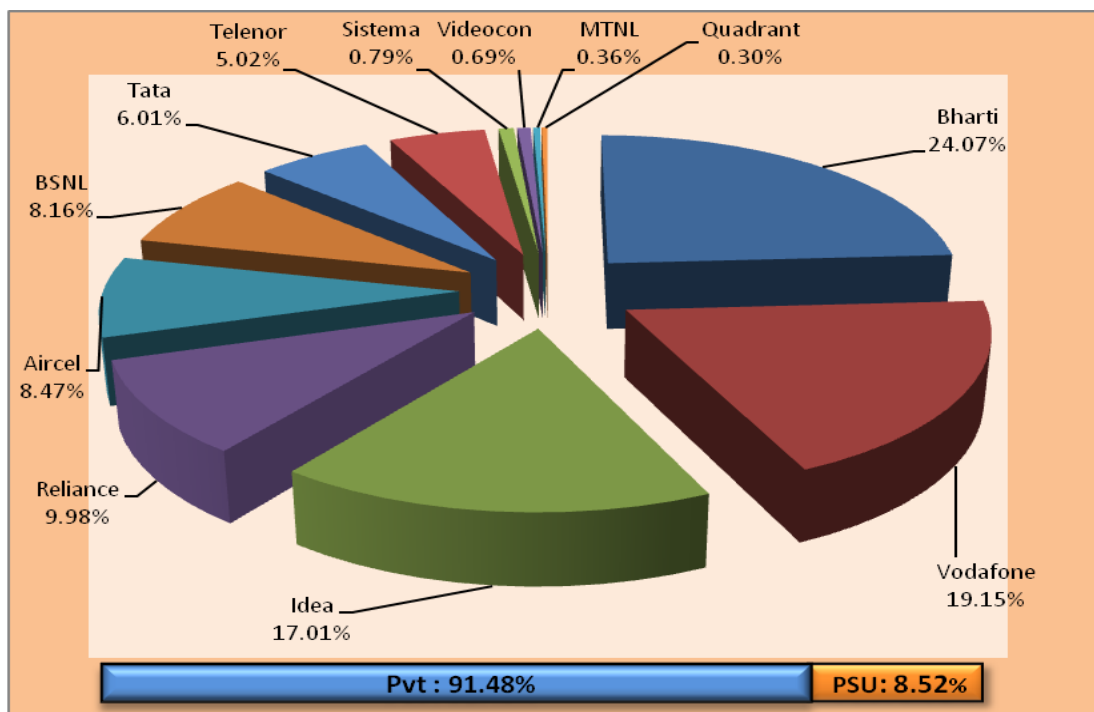
• Total wireless subscriber base increased from 1,009.46 million at the end of Nov-15 to 1,010.89 million at the end of Dec-15, thereby registering a monthly growth rate of 0.14%. The Wireless subscription in urban areas increased from 577.84 million at the end of Nov-15 to 579.67 million at the end of Dec-15, whereas wireless subscription in rural areas slightly declined from 431.61 million to 431.22 million during the same period. The monthly growth rates of urban and rural wireless subscription were 0.32% and -0.09% respectively.



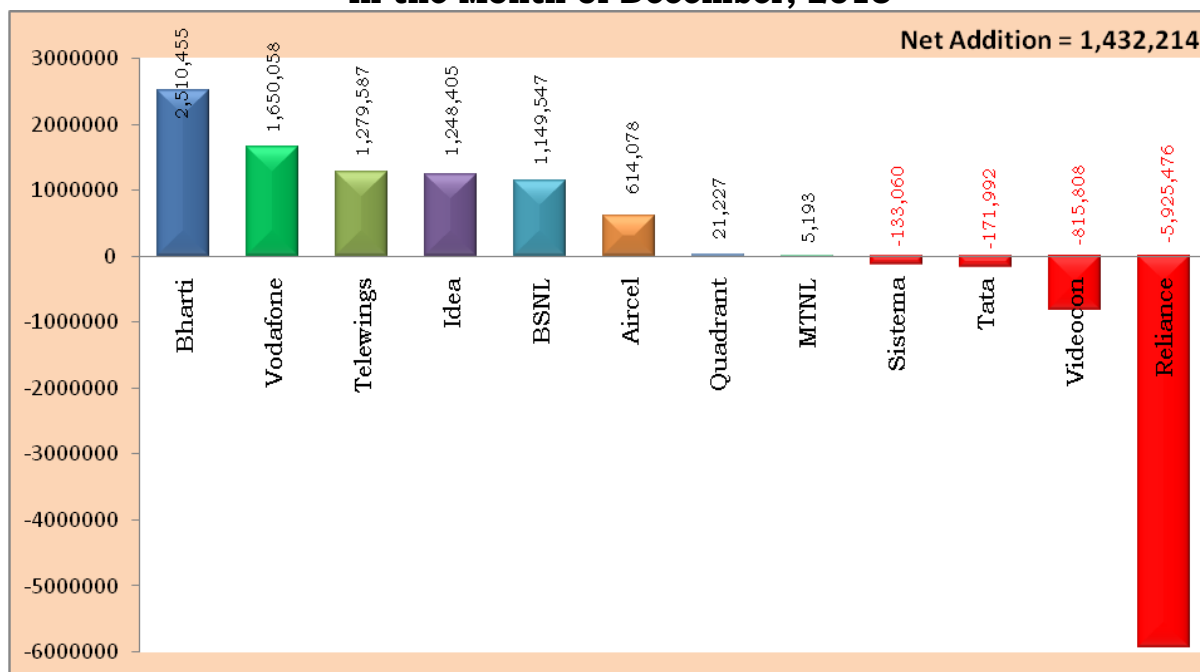
• The Wireless Tele-density in India increased from 79.78 at the end of Nov-15 to 79.82 at the end of Dec-15. The Urban Wireless Tele-density increased from 146.89 to 147.12, whereas Rural Wireless Tele-density declined from 49.51 in Nov-15 to 49.43 in the month of Dec-15. The share of urban and rural wireless subscribers was 57.34% and 42.66% respectively at the end of Dec-15. Detailed statistics of wireless subscriber base is available at **Annexure-I.**

- As on 31st December, 2015, the private access service providers held 91.48% market share of the wireless subscribers whereas BSNL and MTNL, the two PSUs access service providers, had only 8.52% market share. The graphical representations of access service provider-wise market share and net additions in wireless subscriber bases are given below:

Access Service Provider-wise Market Shares in term of Wireless Subscriber base as on 31st December, 2015



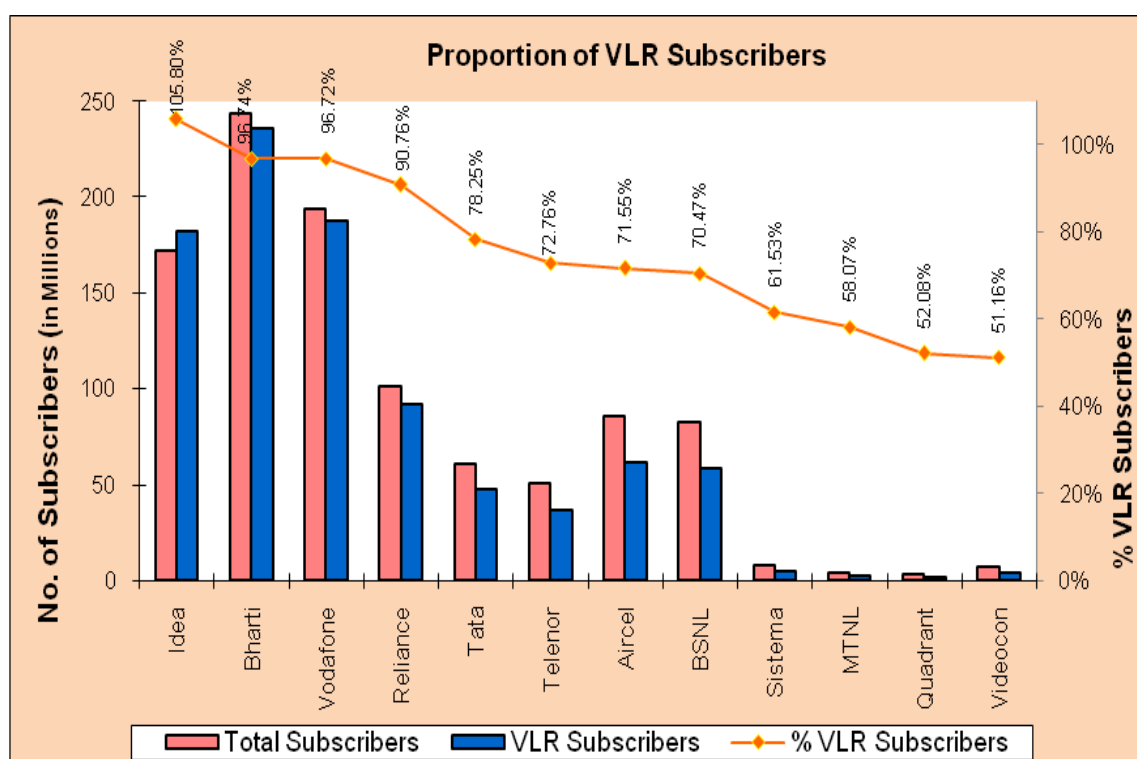
Net Additions in Wireless Subscriber Bases of Access Service Providers in the Month of December, 2015



III. Active Wireless Subscribers (VLR Data)

- Out of the total wireless subscriber base (1,010.89 million), 912.06 million wireless subscribers were active on the date of peak VLR in the month of Dec-15. The proportion of active wireless subscribers was approximately 90.22% of the total wireless subscriber base.
- The detailed statistics on proportion of active wireless subscribers (also referred to as VLR subscribers) on the date of peak VLR in the month of Dec-15 is available at **Annexure-II** and the methodology used for reporting VLR subscribers is available at **Annexure-IV**.

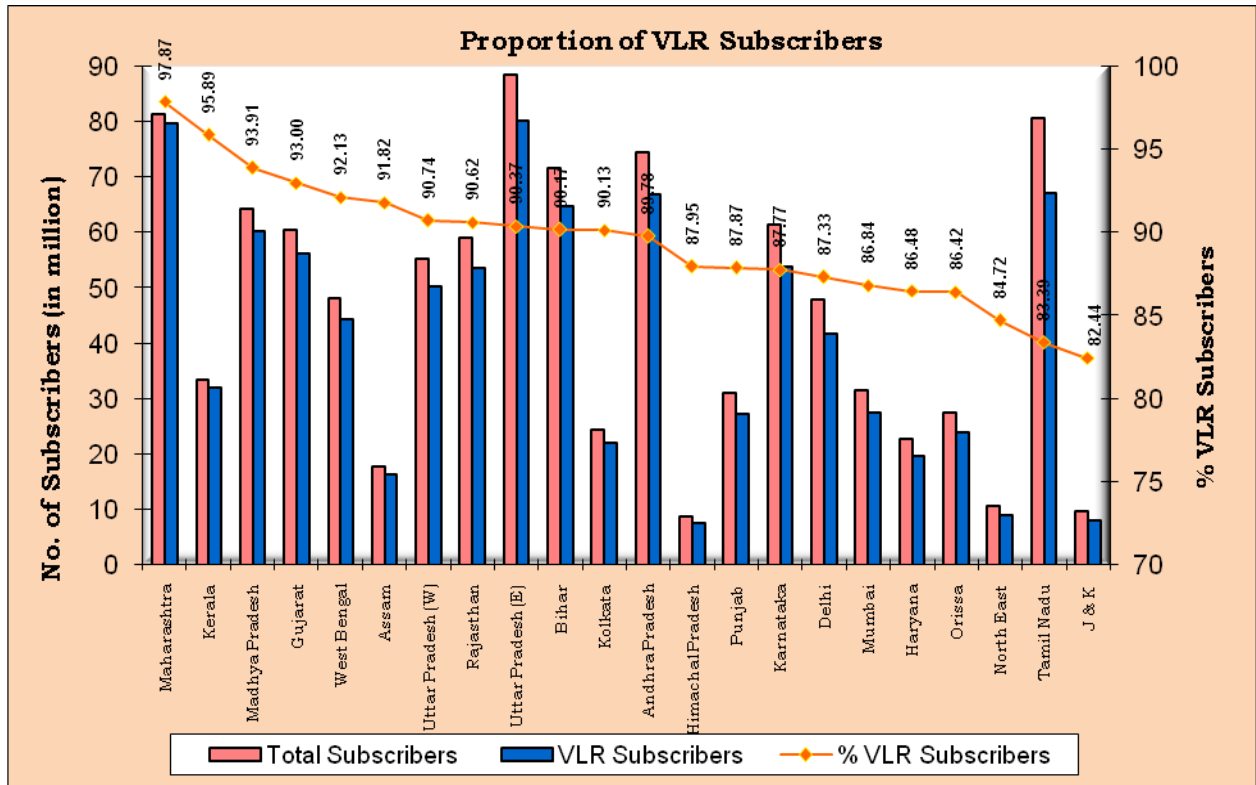
Access Service Provider-wise Proportion of VLR Subscribers in the Month of December, 2015



Note-

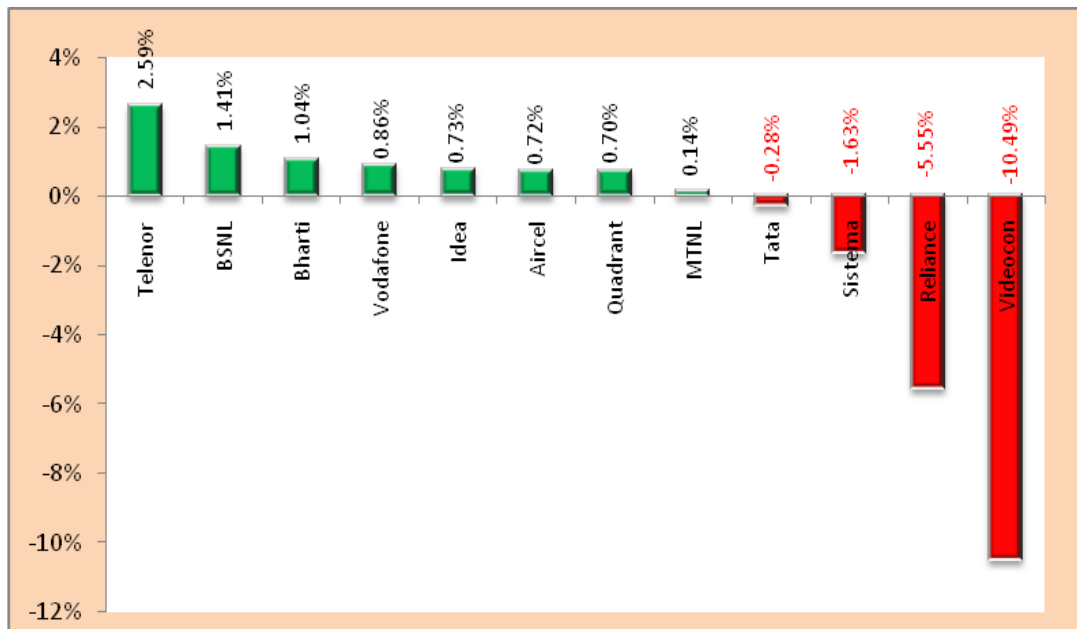
1. Number of VLR subscribers of Idea Cellular was more than its subscriber base due to a large number of inroamers in its network.

Service Area wise proportion of VLR Subscribers in the Month of December, 2015

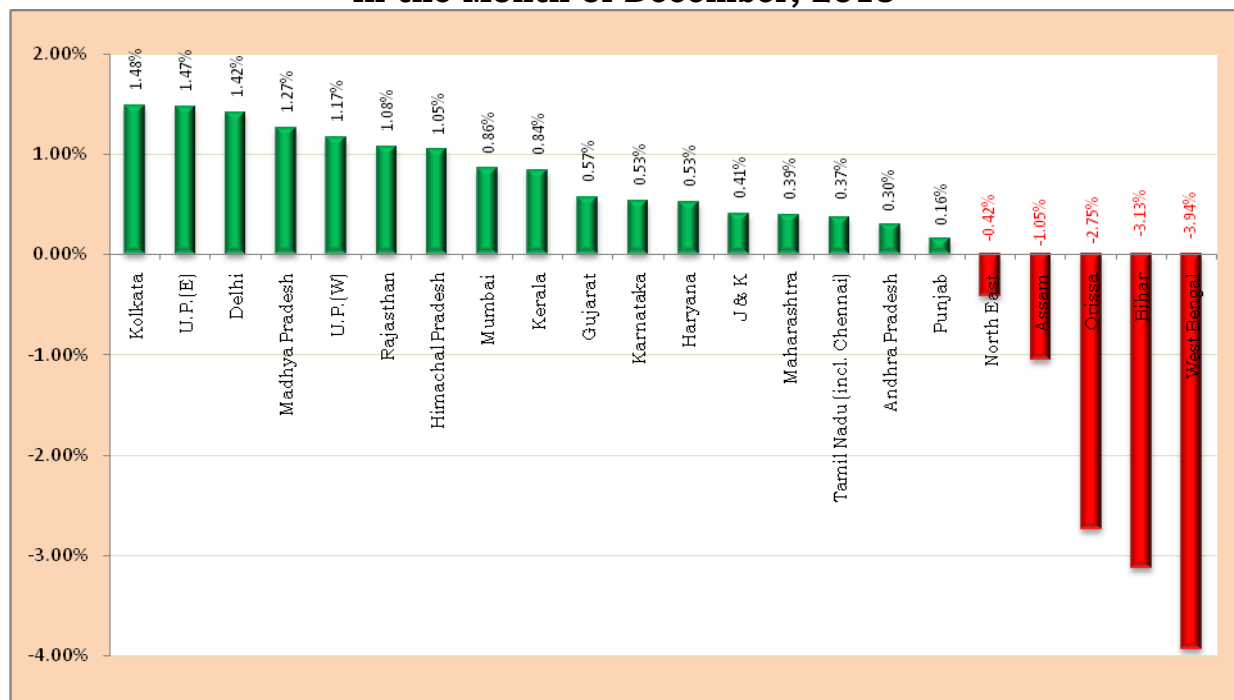


IV. Growth in Wireless Subscribers

Access Service Provider-wise Monthly Growth Rate of Wireless Subscriber base in the Month of December, 2015



Service Area-wise Monthly Growth Rate of Wireless Subscriber base in the Month of December, 2015



- Kolkata service area recorded the highest growth rate in wireless subscribers during the month of Dec-15, whereas West Bengal service area showed maximum decline in subscriber base during the month.

V. Mobile Number Portability (MNP)

- Intra-service area Mobile number portability (MNP) has been implemented in Haryana service area w.e.f. 25.11.2010 and in the rest of the country w.e.f. 20.01.2011. Inter-Service Area MNP has been implemented in the country w.e.f. 03.07.2015. Now, the wireless telephone subscribers can retain their mobile numbers when they relocate from one service area to another.
- In the month of Dec-15, a total of 7.31 million requests were received for MNP. With this, the cumulative MNP requests increased from 186.69 million at the end of Nov-15 to 194.01 million at the end of Dec-15.
- In MNP Zone-I (Northern and Western India), the highest number of requests till date have been received in Rajasthan (about 17.32 million) followed by Gujarat (about 15.17 million).

- In MNP Zone-II (Southern and Eastern India), the highest number of requests till date have been received in Karnataka (about 22.01 million) followed by Andhra Pradesh (about 18.60 million).

Service Area Wise MNP Status at the end of December, 2015			
Zone - I		Zone - II	
Service Area	Number of Porting Requests	Service Area	Number of Porting Requests
Delhi	7651607	Andhra Pradesh	18599842
Gujarat	15174534	Assam	851299
Haryana	6932076	Bihar	6178311
Himachal Pradesh	653419	Karnataka	22007422
Jammu & Kashmir	51368	Kerala	6184494
Maharashtra	14082867	Kolkata	4415095
Mumbai	10554639	Madhya Pradesh	12331056
Punjab	6777888	North East	396340
Rajasthan	17327196	Orissa	3917951
Uttar Pradesh - East	9078222	Tamil Nadu	12120664
Uttar Pradesh - West	9012791	West Bengal	9707267
Total	97,296,607	Total	96,709,741
Total (Zone-I + Zone-II)		194,006,348	
Net Addition (in December, 2015)		7,314,565	

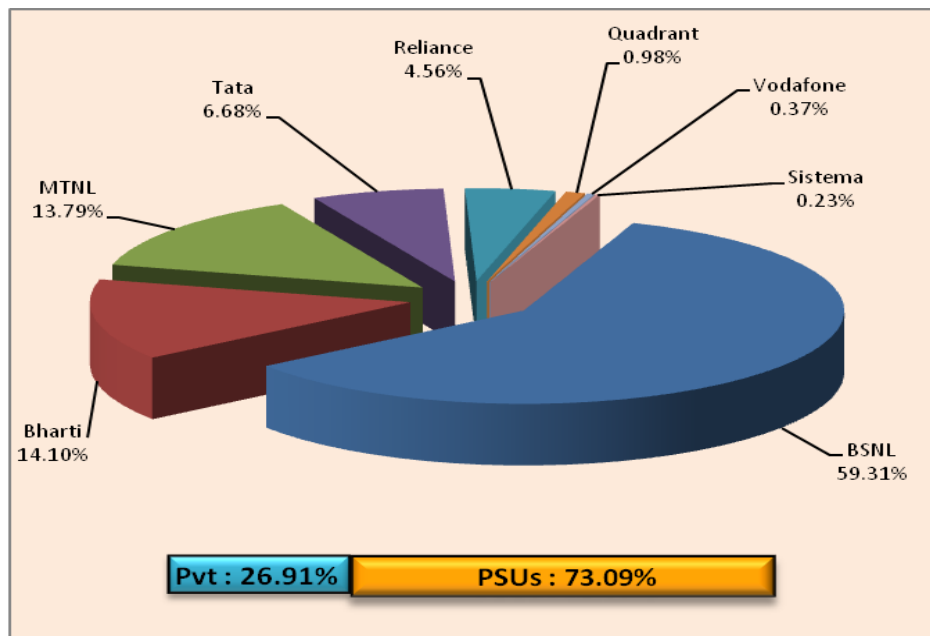
Note: For Zone-II, available MNP data for December, 2015 are provisional.

VI. Wireline Subscribers

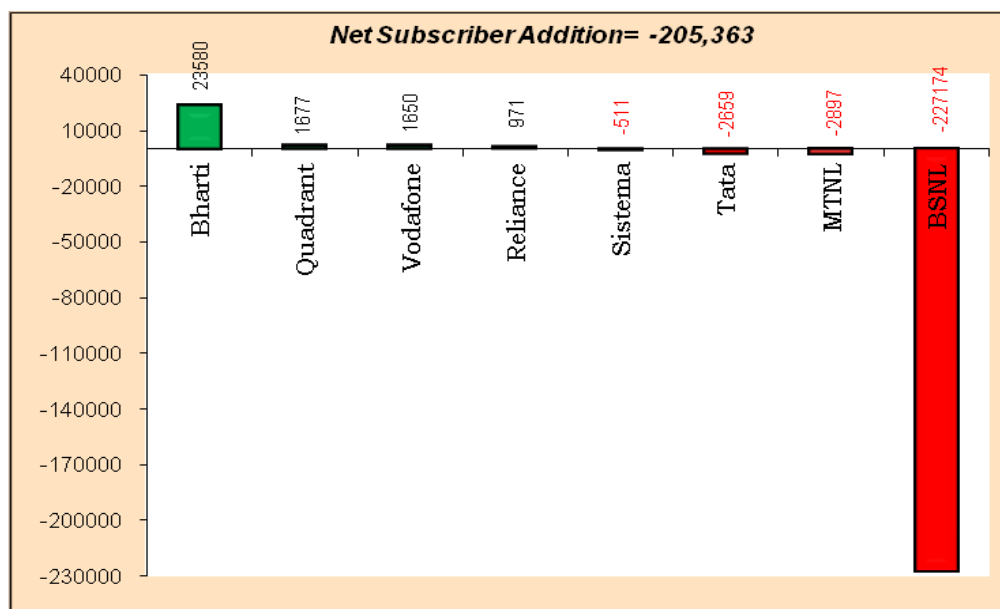
- Wireline subscriber base declined from 25.72 million at the end of Nov-15 to 25.52 million at the end of Dec-15. Net reduction in the wireline subscriber base was 0.21 million at the monthly decline rate of 0.80%. The share of urban and rural subscribers in total wireline subscribers were 82.25% and 17.75% respectively at the end of Dec-15.
- The Overall Wireline Tele-density slightly declined from 2.03 in Nov-15 to 2.01 in Dec-15. Urban Wireline Tele-density and Rural Wireline Tele-density being 5.33 and 0.52 respectively.

- BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, held 73.09% of the wireline market share. Detailed statistics of wireline subscriber base are available at **Annexure-III**.
- The graphical representations of service provider-wise market shares in the wireline segment and net additions in wireline subscriber bases in the month of Dec-15 are given below:

Access Service Provider-wise Market Shares in term of Wireline Subscriber base as on 31st December, 2015



Access Service Provider-wise Net Additions/declines in Wireline Subscriber Base in the Month of December, 2015



VII. Category-wise Growth

Circle Category-wise Net Additions in Telephone Subscribers in the month of December, 2015

Circle Category	Net additions in the month of December, 2015		Telephone Subscriber base as on 31 st December, 2015	
	Wireline segment	Wireless segment	Wireline segment	Wireless segment
Circle A	-111,032	1,508,822	10,141,003	358,444,000
Circle B	-67,685	1,830,380	7,015,141	402,644,799
Circle C	-16,830	-3,202,139	1,242,041	145,945,392
Metro	-9,816	1,295,151	7,120,300	103,855,009
All India	-205,363	1,432,214	25,518,485	1,010,889,200

Circle Category-wise Growth Rates in Telephone Subscribers in the month of December, 2015

Circle Category	Monthly growth rate (%) (Nov-15 to Dec-15)		Yearly growth rate (%) (Dec-14 to Dec-15)	
	Wireline Segment	Wireless Segment	Wireline Segment	Wireless Segment
Circle A	-1.08	0.42	-5.30	5.69
Circle B	-0.96	0.46	-8.97	8.24
Circle C	-1.34	-2.15	-11.44	7.76
Metro	-0.14	1.26	-0.87	6.66
All India	-0.80	0.14	-5.49	7.09

Note: Circle Category-Metro includes Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Data for Chennai has been included in Circle Category-A, as part of TamilNadu.

- As can be seen in the above tables, in wireless segment, the Circles of Category-B showed the maximum net addition and Circles in Metro showed the maximum growth rate in the month Dec-15. Circles in Category-C showed decline during the month. In Wireline segment, Circles of Category-A showed the highest net decline and Circles in Category-C showed the highest monthly decline rate of subscriber base in the month of Dec-15.

VIII. Broadband (\geq 512 Kbps download)

- As per the reports received from the service providers, the number of broadband subscribers increased from 131.49 Million at the end of Nov-15 to 136.53 million at the end of Dec-15 with monthly growth rate of 3.83%. Segment-wise broadband subscribers and their monthly growth rates are as below:

Segment-wise Broadband Subscriber base and Monthly Growth Rates in the month of December, 2015

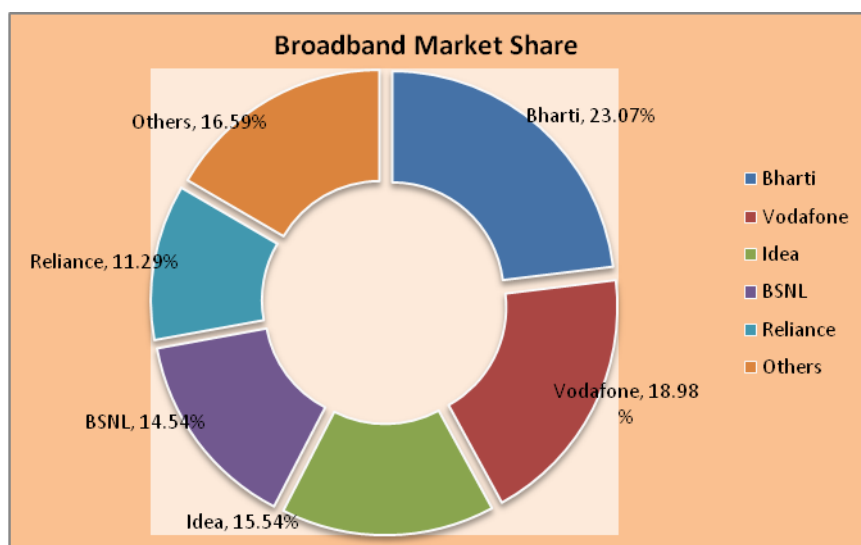
Segment	Broadband subscribers (in million)		Monthly growth rate in the month of Dec-15 (%)
	As on 30 th November, 2015	As on 31 st December, 2015	
Wired subscribers	16.38	16.51	0.82%
Mobile devices users (Phones and dongles)	114.63	119.53	4.27%
Fixed Wireless subscribers (Wi-Fi, Wi-Max, Point-to- Point Radio & VSAT)	0.48	0.49	1.91%
Total	131.49	136.53	3.83%

- Top five service providers constituted 83.41% market share of total broadband subscribers at the end of Dec-15. These service providers were Bharti Airtel (31.49 million), Vodafone (25.91 million), Idea Cellular (21.21 million), BSNL (19.85 million) and Reliance Communications Group (15.41 million).

Note : Some wireless service providers exclude incidental data users from their subscriber base, based on minimum usage decided by them.

- The graphical representation of the service provider-wise market share of broadband services is given below:

**Service Provider-wise Market Share of Broadband
(wired+wireless) Services as on 31.12.2015**



- As on 31st December, 2015, the top five Wired Broadband Service providers were BSNL (9.92 million), Bharti Airtel (1.67 million), MTNL (1.12 million), Atria Convergence Technologies (0.86 million) and YOU Broadband (0.51 million).
- As on 31st December, 2015, the top five Wireless Broadband Service providers were Bharti Airtel (29.82 million), Vodafone (25.91 million), Idea Cellular (21.21 million), Reliance Communications Group (15.30 million) and BSNL (9.93 million).

Contact details in case of any clarification:

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Authorized to issue:

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Advisor (F&EA)

Wireless Subscriber Base

Annexure-I
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Circle	Group											
	Bharti		Reliance		Vodafone		Tata		Idea		Aircel	
	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15
Andhra Pradesh	23149685	23227059	5237082	5443839	7129102	7162882	5295933	5190400	15339140	15298893	2799910	2814331
Assam	5461502	5683518	2001270	1361181	3361391	3448664			996478	1063049	4784443	4853001
Bihar	26705294	26927312	8007129	4959715	9305638	9295680	1855948	1750461	10629622	10859315	6824955	6854934
Delhi	11176180	11222985	8075433	8476557	9947677	10049752	2445849	2510720	6224531	6211520	6028960	6104002
Gujarat	8023153	8272527	5060225	5208676	19079794	19219078	2678250	2783751	11819787	11990608	17063	17063
Haryana	2844931	2856230	2032884	2035193	5298088	5356970	2679733	2719041	4656893	4589375	3092	3092
Himachal Pradesh	2722169	2722881	1703220	1753106	694399	694948	74861	78805	788681	783552	1051819	1058139
J & K	3352447	3348374	830323	849831	1038625	1048029			593363	602415	2547440	2539460
Karnataka	20844180	20840739	5535821	5722224	7644412	7680807	7128288	7202926	8669480	8620705	2993215	3031064
Kerala	4238983	4267406	2101320	2142229	7465045	7481599	1521402	1536248	10191937	10264554	176337	206848
Kolkata	4347411	4452322	4346493	4453591	5188999	5262820	2775631	2770301	2049695	2123788	4026036	4042132
Madhya Pradesh	12101424	12111570	12116316	12629078	6731499	6692882	4712672	4706441	20443130	20568936	20694	20694
Maharashtra	12594430	12687714	5183011	5365998	18177839	18058780	6366553	6341532	23121530	23036628	2441207	2487523
Mumbai	5564650	5564834	5472193	5646175	8609094	8612645	3348923	3361565	4221627	4254544	2801757	2839599
North East	3653273	3818049	609033	326467	1463784	1487135			470129	485744	3080441	3090064
Orissa	9487785	9703785	3112669	1784278	3751204	3879819	2258126	2257596	1504639	1607740	4419363	4445162
Punjab	7934181	7936063	1638636	1593474	5076497	5082701	2575213	2625153	6389209	6357576	1035919	1038960
Rajasthan	18874200	18897726	6557774	6865064	11620969	11707557	1544355	1584001	7688959	7752344	6433143	6461780
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	16639180	16829940	6575002	6570587	15187412	15235488	5308792	5198817	5832232	5934165	21228578	21315077
U.P.(E)	19711807	19988762	8713655	8824862	17956485	18254718	4237204	4155534	10316455	10377719	6645351	6689790
U.P.(W)	7858170	7966851	5502584	5678051	11023862	11193594	3583373	3464897	13765481	13873955	518934	569880
West Bengal	13493914	13962757	6403834	3200255	16198212	16693537	508742	489667	4951205	5255483	5139514	5149654
Total	240778949	243289404	106815907	100890431	191950027	193600085	60899848	60727856	170664203	171912608	85018171	85632249
Net Addition		2510455		-5925476		1650058		-171992		1248405		614078

Wireless Subscriber Base

Annexure-I
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Circle	Group														Net Addition
	BSNL		MTNL		Telenor		Sistema		Videocon		Quadrant		Total		
	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	
Andhra Pradesh	9537430	9566617			5874126	5882383							74362408	74586404	223996
Assam	1273904	1282155											17878988	17691568	-187420
Bihar	2768970	2805456			7956379	8281332			21620	21352			74075555	71755557	-2319998
Delhi			2341622	2339769			958474	953352					47198726	47868657	669931
Gujarat	3283296	3347254			7737624	8130404	212264	212206	2227692	1299648			60139148	60481215	342067
Haryana	2986216	3036386							2143755	2168579			22645592	22764866	119274
Himachal Pradesh	1508653	1541807											8543802	8633238	89436
J & K	1239502	1252820											9601700	9640929	39229
Karnataka	7013832	7096324					1296600	1256837					61125828	61451626	325798
Kerala	7125626	7216834					381700	366013					33202350	33481731	279381
Kolkata	766316	764457					574683	562909					24075264	24432320	357056
Madhya Pradesh	3934484	4036568							3332763	3430269			63392982	64196438	803456
Maharashtra	5301830	5434745			7841472	7933145							81027872	81346065	318193
Mumbai			1267624	1274670									31285868	31554032	268164
North East	1436550	1460866											10713210	10668325	-44885
Orissa	3800490	3877395											28334276	27555775	-778501
Punjab	3315166	3359239									3025873	3047100	30990694	31040266	49572
Rajasthan	3502395	3577314					2166493	2172906					58388288	59018692	630404
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	8705566	8721260					803160	773356					80279922	80578690	298768
U.P.(E)	8116015	8292668			11612557	12017737			19801	15417			87329330	88617207	1287877
U.P.(W)	3829720	3924626			8400651	8457395	161678	159495	28355	22913			54672808	55311657	638849
West Bengal	1912132	1912849					1584822	1549740					50192375	48213942	-1978433
Total	81358093	82507640	3609246	3614439	49422809	50702396	8139874	8006814	7773986	6958178	3025873	3047100	1009456986	1010889200	1432214
Net Addition		1149547		5193		1279587		-133060		-815808		21227		1432214	

Proportion of VLR on the date of Peak VLR in the month of Dec-15 (%)

Annexure-II

Circle	Aircel	Bharti	BSNL	Quadrant	Idea	MTNL	Reliance	Sistema	Tata	Telenor	Videocon	Vodafone	Total
Andhra Pradesh	57.63	98.90	64.65		104.36		98.32		87.96	71.56		85.06	89.78
Assam	88.49	98.22	81.66		99.84		6.12					121.07	91.82
Bihar	79.42	97.07	74.68		100.37		54.25		68.81	70.93	6.48	111.38	90.17
Delhi	64.47	90.96			97.61	51.82	98.09	51.26	51.72			102.34	87.33
Gujarat	2595.53	97.83	79.49		106.21		99.08	41.34	74.76	68.72	72.25	96.04	93.00
Haryana	0.71	98.10	54.54		103.50		96.53		82.26		51.83	96.18	86.48
Himachal Pradesh	54.31	95.80	76.92		111.57		95.32		34.22			93.69	87.95
J & K	87.31	84.37	74.16		96.30		62.59					82.52	82.44
Karnataka	57.84	94.19	58.23		105.05		97.55	68.22	85.97			87.66	87.77
Kerala	91.92	96.76	84.27		108.51		93.57	63.86	86.96			93.44	95.89
Kolkata	71.27	97.09	89.54		86.75		98.86	91.15	80.85			97.56	90.13
Madhya Pradesh	1.40	96.52	76.43		108.29		98.88		85.01		43.39	78.62	93.91
Maharashtra	57.82	98.33	82.63		118.38		98.28		78.91	73.54		98.72	97.87
Mumbai	59.47	95.02			93.89	69.55	98.86		75.81			86.07	86.84
North East	65.63	106.55	70.52		95.93		8.85					95.28	84.72
Orissa	63.93	98.53	79.60		103.70		23.49		80.13			114.18	86.42
Punjab	59.04	95.90	73.99	52.08	107.18		98.71		75.12			90.86	87.87
Rajasthan	60.10	97.16	75.99		104.06		98.97	58.09	102.48			92.05	90.62
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	71.51	95.90	64.13		87.52		95.34	55.30	68.35			97.00	83.39
U.P. (E)	74.12	97.33	60.56		110.88		98.82		72.93	75.44	17.38	100.38	90.37
U.P. (W)	118.10	97.19	63.73		101.83		99.03	51.16	73.54	74.75	17.40	94.40	90.74
West Bengal	88.36	97.76	76.99		105.43		32.65	62.87	50.53			101.47	92.13
Total	71.55	96.74	70.47	52.08	105.80	58.07	90.76	61.53	78.25	72.76	51.16	96.72	90.22

Note: Peak VLR figures in some circles of some of the service providers are more than their HLR figures due to a large number of inroamers.

Wireline Subscriber Base

Annexure-III

Circle	Group																Total		Net Addition
	BSNL		MTNL		Bharti		Reliance		Tata		Quadrant		Sistema		Vodafone		Nov-15	Dec-15	
	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	
Andhra Pradesh	1409062	1375839			139834	142278	75959	75943	163078	164031					9,300	9,450	1797233	1767541	-29692
Assam	161345	161219													1,620	1,710	162965	162929	-36
Bihar	328104	315300					6,711	6,778	13,209	13,156					1020	1020	349044	336254	-12790
Delhi			1611554	1613063	1212095	1212538	175209	174883	136253	133904					21,900	22,140	3157011	3156528	-483
Gujarat	1209967	1196386			67939	68759	76155	75050	86102	86623					3,090	3,180	1443253	1429998	-13255
Haryana	316,147	312,553			18550	18917	4635	4427	38590	38654					30	30	377952	374581	-3371
Himachal Pradesh	171,609	169,765					4343	4343	2736	2733					90	90	178778	176931	-1847
J & K	131,954	131,649															131954	131649	-305
Karnataka	1350401	1325557			586725	592441	141612	144139	199599	200816					8,730	9,120	2287067	2272073	-14994
Kerala	2350063	2302820			55093	55695	34055	34053	17503	17409					1020	1020	2457734	2410997	-46737
Kolkata	683961	678306			114715	115848	70938	70121	48418	48692					3870	3990	921902	916957	-4945
Madhya Pradesh	753979	749297			249340	252550	20990	20459	21470	20784					300	390	1046079	1043480	-2599
Maharashtra	1562601	1553843			72523	73542	82235	82154	280681	280412					10,770	10,860	2008810	2000811	-7999
Mumbai			1909137	1904731	346747	348195	246003	247905	532366	528854					16,950	17,130	3051203	3046815	-4388
North East	125,724	125,580													150	150	125874	125730	-144
Orissa	297958	296128					3289	3290	8079	8170					930	960	310256	308548	-1708
Punjab	692472	683984			100855	103046	20879	21077	16948	16883	248287	249964			690	750	1080131	1075704	-4427
Rajasthan	654291	651453			44575	45248	21160	20843	10601	10888			58443	57932	1,890	1,860	790960	788224	-2736
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	1987284	1938374			484750	487532	134372	134365	101406	102329					7860	7980	2715672	2670580	-45092
U.P.(E)	390347	389410			59303	59845	36158	35585	15198	15225					1,140	1,170	502146	501235	-911
U.P.(W)	399731	395975			20838	21028	6969	7227	10018	10000					450	450	438006	434680	-3326
West Bengal	384119	380507					1901	1902	3768	3801					30	30	389818	386240	-3578
Total	15361119	15133945	3520691	3517794	3573882	3597462	1163573	1164544	1706023	1703364	248287	249964	58443	57932	91830	93480	25723848	25518485	-205363
Net Addition		-227174		-2897		23580		971		-2659		1677		-511		1650		-205363	

VLR Subscribers in the Wireless Segment

Home Location Register (HLR) is a central database that contains details of each mobile phone subscriber that is authorized to use the GSM core network. The HLRs store details of every SIM card issued by the service provider. Each SIM has a unique identifier called an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI), which is the primary key to each HLR record. The HLR data is stored for as long as a subscriber remains with the service provider. HLR also manages the mobility of subscribers by means of updating their position in administrative areas. It sends the subscriber data to a Visitor Location Register (VLR).

Subscriber numbers reported by the service providers is the difference between the numbers of IMSI registered in service provider's HLR and sum of other figures as given below:-

1	Total IMSI's in HLR (A)
2	Less: (B = a + b + c + d + e)
a.	Test/Service Cards
b.	Employees
c.	Stock in hand/in Distribution Channels (Active Card)
d.	Subscriber Retention period expired
e.	Service suspended pending disconnection
3	Subscribers Base (A-B)

Visitor Location Register (VLR) is a temporary database of the subscribers who have roamed into the particular area, which it serves. Each base station in the network is served by exactly one VLR; hence a subscriber cannot be present in more than one VLR at a time.

If subscriber is in active stage i.e. he is able to send/receive calls/SMSs he is available both in HLR and VLR. However, it may be possible that the subscriber is registered in HLR but not in VLR due to the reason that he is either switched-off or moved out of coverage area, not reachable etc. In such circumstances he will be available in HLR but not in VLR. This causes difference between subscriber number reported by the service providers and numbers available in VLR.

The VLR data calculated here is on the basis of active subscribers in VLR on the date of Peak VLR of the particular month for which the data is being collected. This data is to be taken from the switches having the purge time of not more than 72 hours.