



सत्यमेव जयते

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIANew Delhi, 14th July, 2020

(www.traigov.in)

**Highlights of Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st March, 2020**

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless+ Wireline)
Total Telephone Subscribers (Million)	1157.75	20.22	1177.97
Net Addition in March, 2020 (Million)	-2.84	-0.04	-2.88
Monthly Growth Rate	-0.24%	-0.20%	-0.24%
Urban Telephone Subscribers (Million)	638.48	17.97	656.46
Net Addition in March, 2020 (Million)	-4.76	-0.01	-4.77
Monthly Growth Rate	-0.74%	-0.05%	-0.72%
Rural Telephone Subscribers (Million)	519.27	2.24	521.51
Net Addition in March, 2020 (Million)	1.92	-0.03	1.89
Monthly Growth Rate	0.37%	-1.46%	0.36%
Overall Tele-density*(%)	85.87%	1.50%	87.37%
Urban Tele-density*(%)	138.41%	3.90%	142.31%
Rural Tele-density*(%)	58.54%	0.25%	58.79%
Share of Urban Subscribers	55.15%	88.91%	55.73%
Share of Rural Subscribers	44.85%	11.09%	44.27%
Broadband Subscribers (Million)	668.26	19.18	687.44

❖ In the month of March, 2020, 5.74 million subscribers submitted their requests for Mobile Number Portability (MNP). With this, the cumulative MNP requests increased from 481.59 million at the end of Feb-20 to 487.33 million at the end of Mar-20, since implementation of MNP.

❖ Number of active wireless subscribers (on the date of peak VLR#) in March, 2020 was 989.10 million.

Note:

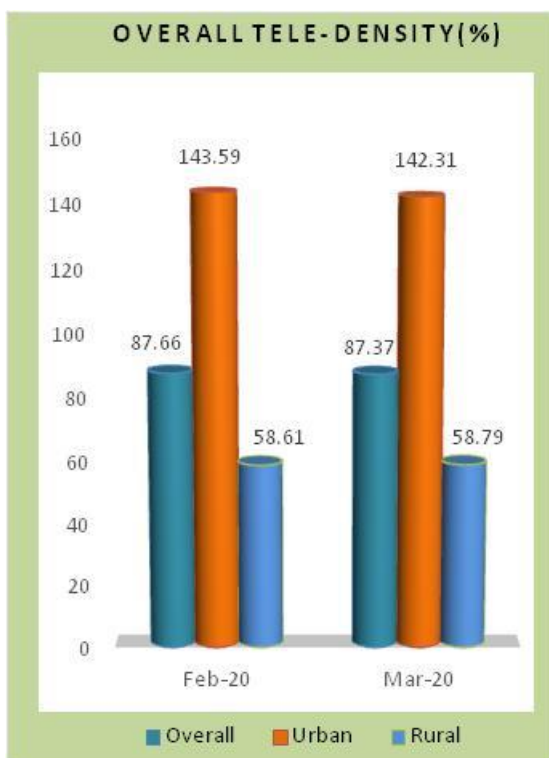
- Information in this Press Release is based on the data provided by the Service Providers

* Based on the data of Census of India 2011, Population Projections for India and States, 2011-2036.

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

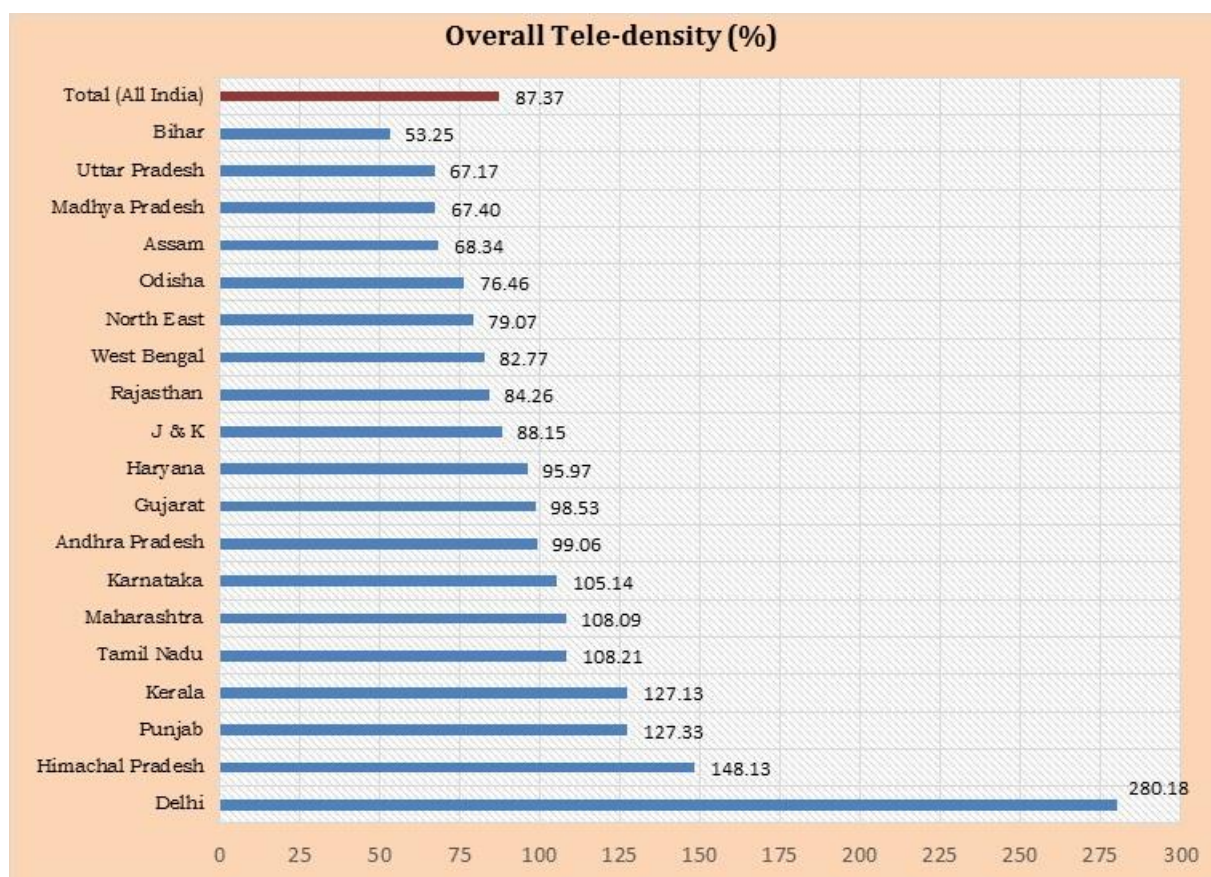
I. Total Telephone Subscribers

- The number of telephone subscribers in India decreased from 1,180.84 million at the end of Feb-20 to 1,177.97 million at the end of Mar-20, thereby showing a monthly decline rate of 0.24%. Urban telephone subscription decreased from 661.23 million at the end of Feb-20 to 656.46 million at the end of Mar-20, however the rural subscription increased from 519.62 million to 521.51 million during the same period. The monthly growth rates of urban and rural telephone subscription were -0.72% and 0.36% respectively during the month of Mar-20.



- The overall Tele-density in India decreased from 87.66 at the end of Feb-20 to 87.37 at the end of Mar-20. The Urban Tele-density declined from 143.59 at the end of Feb-20 to 142.31 at the end of Mar-20. Rural Tele-density increased from 58.61 at the end of Feb-20 to 58.79 at the end of Mar-20. The share of rural and urban subscribers in total number of telephone subscribers at the end of Mar-20 was 44.27% and 55.73% respectively.

Overall Tele-density (Circle/State Wise) – As on 31st March 2020



- As may be seen in the above chart, eight states have less tele-density than the all India average tele-density at the end of Mar-20. Delhi service area has maximum tele-density of 280.18 and the Bihar service area has minimum tele-density of 53.25 at the end of Mar-20.

Notes:

- Population data/projections are available state wise only.
- Tele-density figures are derived from the telephone subscriber data provided by the access service providers and the Projections of Population of the CENSUS OF INDIA 2011.
- 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).
- Data/information for West Bengal includes Kolkata, Maharashtra includes Mumbai, Tamil Nadu includes Chennai, Jammu & Kashmir includes Ladakh and Uttar Pradesh includes UPE & UPW service area(s).
- Data/information for Andhra Pradesh includes Telengana, Madhya Pradesh includes Chhathishgarh, Bihar includes Jharkhand, Maharashtra includes Goa, Uttar Pradesh includes Uttarakhand, West Bengal includes Sikkim and North-East includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland & Tripura States.

II. Category-wise Growth in subscriber base

Circle Category-wise Net Additions in Telephone Subscribers in the month of March, 2020

Circle Category	Net additions in the month of March, 2020		Telephone Subscriber base as on 31 st March, 2020	
	Wireline segment	Wireless segment	Wireline segment	Wireless segment
Circle A	-9,961	-6,28,983	78,27,989	39,81,94,741
Circle B	-38,528	-14,31,541	45,66,334	46,62,61,026
Circle C	-654	-1,45,286	8,28,493	17,63,32,914
Metro	7,683	-6,30,914	69,95,271	11,69,59,823
All India	-41,460	-28,36,724	2,02,18,087	1,15,77,48,504

Circle Category-wise monthly and yearly Growth Rates in Telephone Subscribers in the month of March, 2020

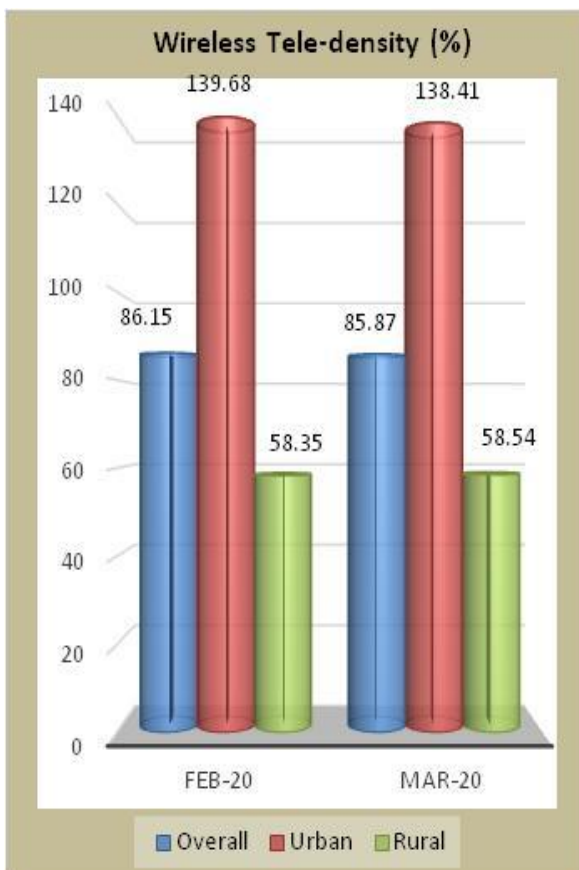
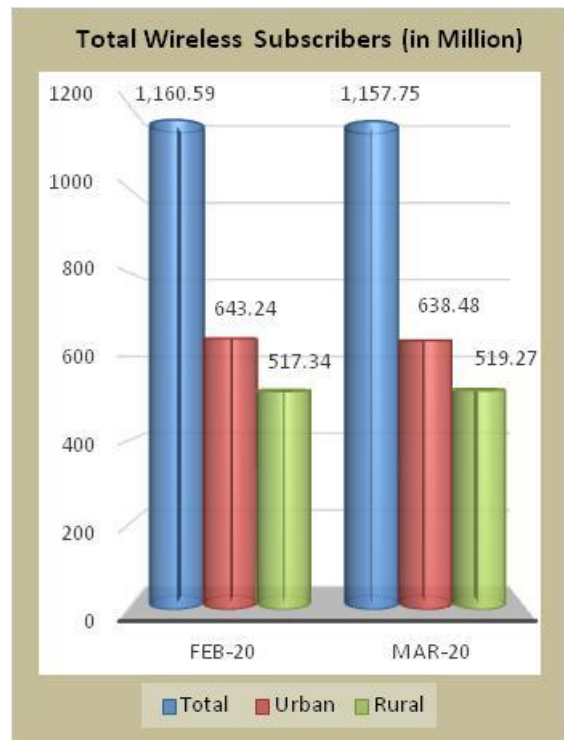
Circle Category	Monthly growth rate (%) (Feb-20 to Mar-20)		Yearly growth rate (%) (Mar-19 to Mar-20)	
	Wireline Segment	Wireless Segment	Wireline Segment	Wireless Segment
Circle A	-0.13%	-0.16%	-8.39%	-0.37%
Circle B	-0.84%	-0.31%	-14.85%	-1.02%
Circle C	-0.08%	-0.08%	-8.01%	1.00%
Metro	0.11%	-0.54%	1.56%	0.40%
All India	-0.20%	-0.24%	-6.81%	-0.35%

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, Circles of all Categories showed monthly decline rate in their subscribers during the month of Mar-20. On yearly basis, Metro and Circle C showed growth in their number of wireless subscribers.
- In Wireline segment, except Metro Circles of all Categories showed monthly decline rate in their subscribers during the month of Mar-20. On yearly basis, only Metro Circles showed growth in their number of wireline subscribers.

III. Wireless Subscribers

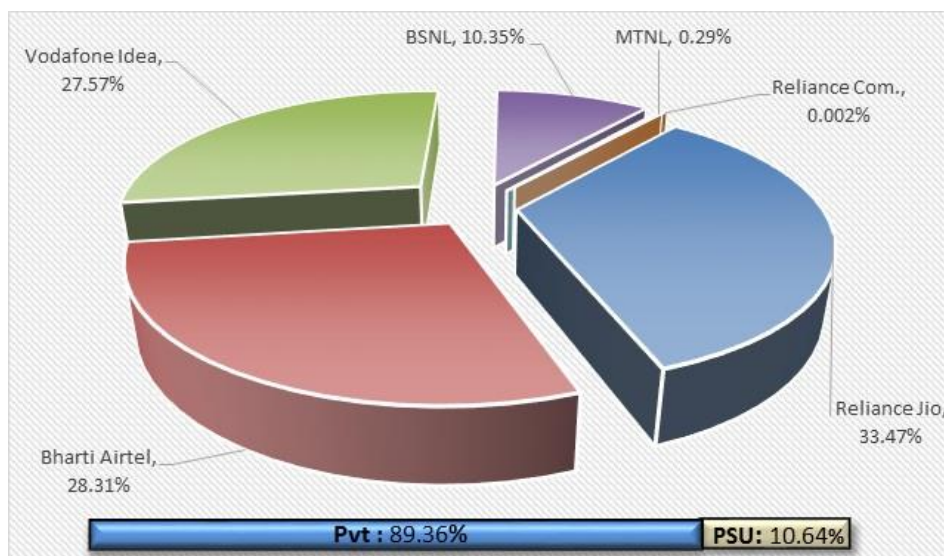
- Total wireless subscribers (2G, 3G & 4G) decreased from 1,160.59 million at the end of Feb-20 to 1,157.75 million at the end of Mar-20, thereby registering a monthly decline rate of 0.24%. Wireless subscription in urban areas decreased from 643.24 million at the end of Feb-20 to 638.48 million at the end of Mar-20 however wireless subscription in rural areas increased from 517.34 million at the end of Feb-20 to 519.27 million at the end of Mar-20. Monthly growth rates of urban and rural wireless subscription were -0.74% and 0.37% respectively.



- The Wireless Tele-density in India decreased from 86.15 at the end of Feb-20 to 85.87 at the end of Mar-20. The Urban Wireless Tele-density declined from 139.68 at the end of Feb-20 to 138.41 at the end of Mar-20, however, Rural Wireless Tele-density increased from 58.35 to 58.54 during the same period. The share of urban and rural wireless subscribers in total number of wireless subscribers was 55.15% and 44.85% respectively at the end of Mar-20. Detailed statistics of wireless subscriber base is available at **Annexure-I**.

- As on 31st March, 2020, the private access service providers held 89.36% market share of the wireless subscribers whereas BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, had a market share of only 10.64%.
- The graphical representation of access service provider-wise market share and net additions in wireless subscriber base are given below:

Access Service Provider-wise Market Shares in term of Wireless Subscribers as on 31st March, 2020



Net Additions in Wireless Subscribers of Access Service Providers in the month of March, 2020

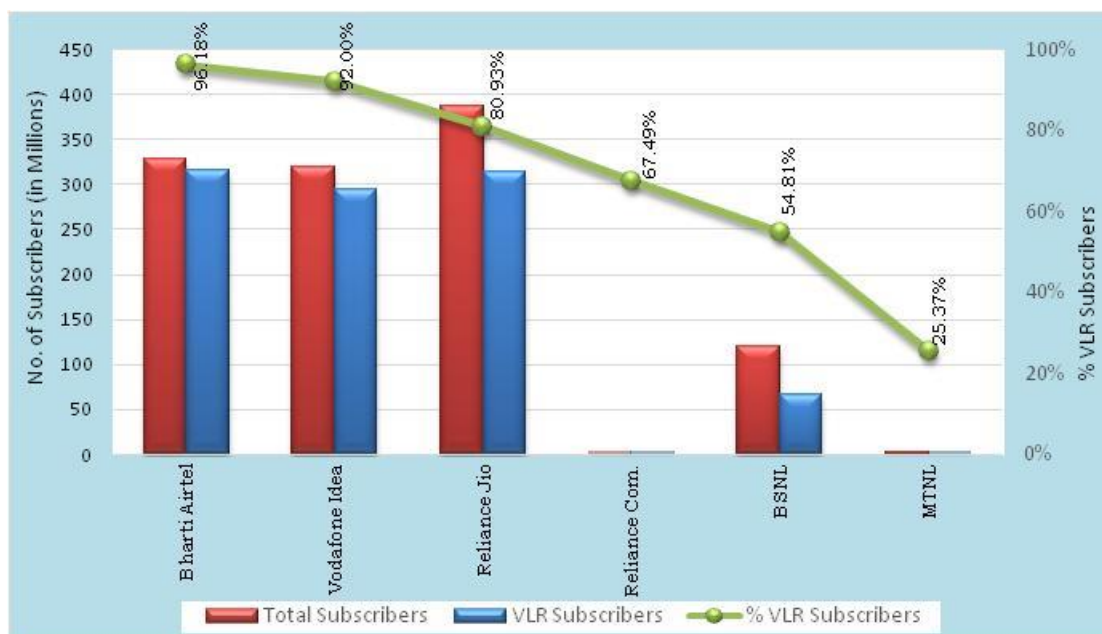


- Note:**
- M/s Bharti Airtel Ltd has reported the wireless subscribers including the subscribers of M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
 - Virtual Network Operator (VNO) of BSNL has started reporting of its subscribers from the month of October, 2018 and the same has been included in the subscriber base of BSNL.

IV. Active Wireless Subscribers (VLR Data)

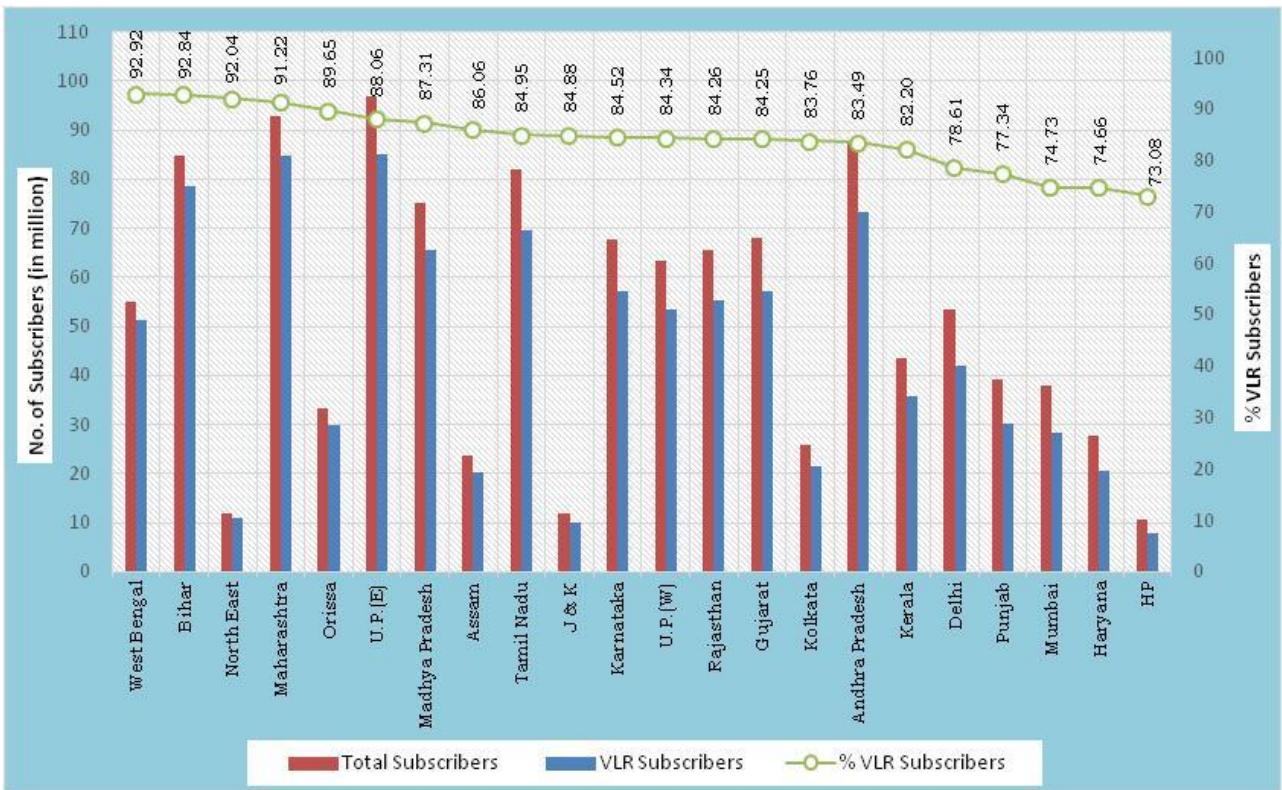
- Out of the total wireless subscribers (1,157.75 million), 989.10 million wireless subscribers were active on the date of peak VLR in the month of Mar-20. The proportion of active wireless subscribers was approximately 85.43% of the total wireless subscriber base.
- The detailed statistics on proportion of active wireless subscribers (also referred to as VLR subscribers) on the date of peak VLR in the month of Mar-20 is available at **Annexure-II** and the methodology used for reporting VLR subscribers is available at **Annexure-IV**.

Access Service Provider-wise Percentage of VLR Subscribers in the month of March, 2020



- Bharti Airtel has the maximum proportion (96.18%) of its active wireless subscribers (VLR) as against its total wireless subscribers (HLR) on the date of peak VLR in the month of Mar-20 and MTNL has the minimum proportion of VLR (25.37%) of its HLR during the same period.

Service Area wise percentage of VLR Subscribers in the Month of March, 2020



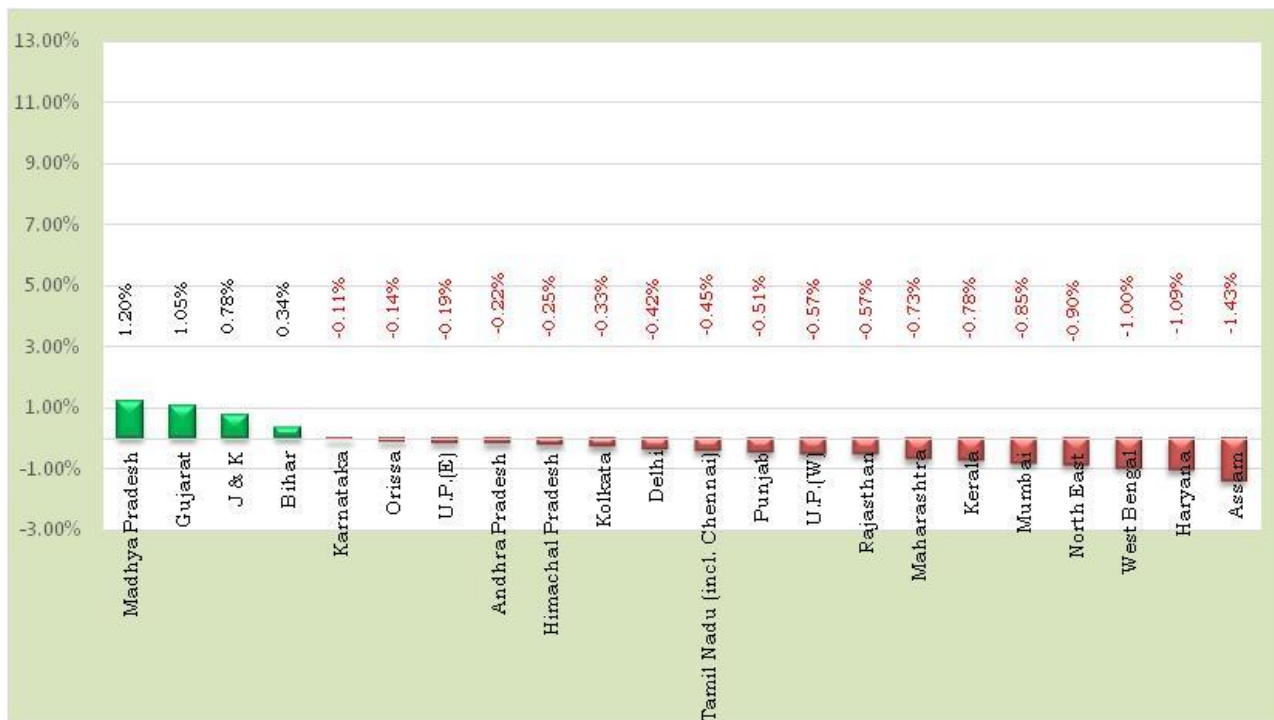
V. Growth in Wireless Subscribers

Access Service Provider-wise Monthly Growth Rate of Wireless Subscribers in the month of March, 2020



Note: BSNL includes its Virtual Network Operator (VNO).

Service Area-wise Monthly Growth Rate of Wireless Subscribers in the month of March, 2020



- All service areas showed decline except Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat J&K and Bihar in their wireless subscribers during the month of

Mar-20. Madhya Pradesh service area showed maximum growth of 1.20% in their wireless subscriber during the month.

VI. Mobile Number Portability (MNP)

- Intra-service area Mobile number portability (MNP) was implemented first 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.

- During the month of Mar-20, a total of 5.74 million requests were received for MNP. Out of total 5.74 million new requests, 3.23 million requests received from Zone-I and 2.51 million requests received from Zone-II. The cumulative MNP requests increased from 481.59 million at the end of Feb-20 to 487.33 million at the end of Mar-20, since the implementation of MNP.

- In MNP Zone-I (Northern and Western India), the highest number of requests till date have been received in Maharashtra (about 37.79 million) followed by Rajasthan (about 37.38 million) service area.

- In MNP Zone-II (Southern and Eastern India), the highest number of requests till date have been received in Karnataka (about 43.61 million) followed by Andhra Pradesh (about 40.79 million).

Service Area Wise MNP Status					
Zone - 1			Zone - 2		
Service Area	Number of Porting Requests (in Million)		Service Area	Number of Porting Requests (in Million)	
	Feb-20	Mar-20		Feb-20	Mar-20
Delhi	24.78	25.05	Andhra Pradesh	40.42	40.79
Gujarat	32.14	32.57	Assam	3.67	3.70
Haryana	17.33	17.49	Bihar	19.88	20.21
Himachal Pradesh	2.35	2.38	Karnataka	43.37	43.61
Jammu & Kashmir	1.16	1.18	Kerala	12.21	12.39
Maharashtra	37.15	37.79	Kolkata	11.31	11.40
Mumbai	23.91	24.05	Madhya Pradesh	32.07	32.61
Punjab	18.58	18.78	North East	1.43	1.44
Rajasthan	37.10	37.38	Orissa	9.57	9.68
U.P.(East)	27.50	28.12	Tamil Nadu	39.98	40.29
U.P.(West)	22.10	22.57	West Bengal	23.57	23.87
Total	244.11	247.35	Total	237.48	239.98
Total (Zone-1 + Zone-2)				481.59	487.33
Net Addition (March, 2020)			5.74 million		

VII. Wireline Subscribers

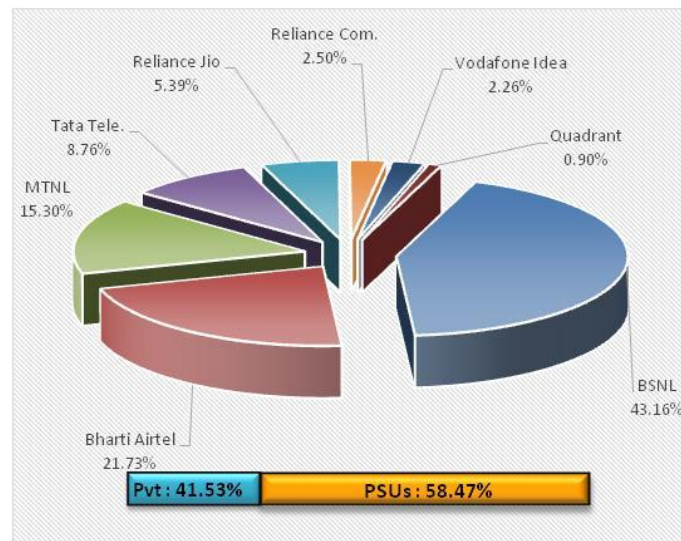
- Wireline subscribers decreased from 20.26 million at the end of Feb-20 to 20.22 million at the end of Mar-20. Net decline in the wireline subscriber base was 0.04 million with a monthly decline rate

of 0.20%. The share of urban and rural subscribers in total wireline subscribers were 88.91% and 11.09% respectively at the end of Mar-20.

- The Overall Wireline Tele-density remained same i.e. 1.50 at the end of Mar-20 as it was at the end of Feb-20. Urban and Rural Wireline Tele-density were 3.90 and 0.25 respectively during the same period.

- BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, held 58.47% of the wireline market share as on 31st March, 2020. Detailed statistics of wireline subscriber base are available at **Annexure-III.**

Access Service Provider-wise Market Shares of Wireline Subscribers as on 31st March, 2020



Access Service Provider-wise Net Additions/declines in Wireline Subscribers during the month of March, 2020



VIII. Broadband (\geq 512 Kbps download)

- As per the reports received from 342 operators in the month of March, 2020, the number of broadband subscribers increased from 681.11 million at the end of Feb-20 to 687.44 million at the end of Mar-20 with a monthly growth rate of 0.93%. Segment-wise broadband subscribers and their monthly growth rates are as below:

Segment-wise Broadband Subscribers and Monthly Growth Rate in the month of March, 2020

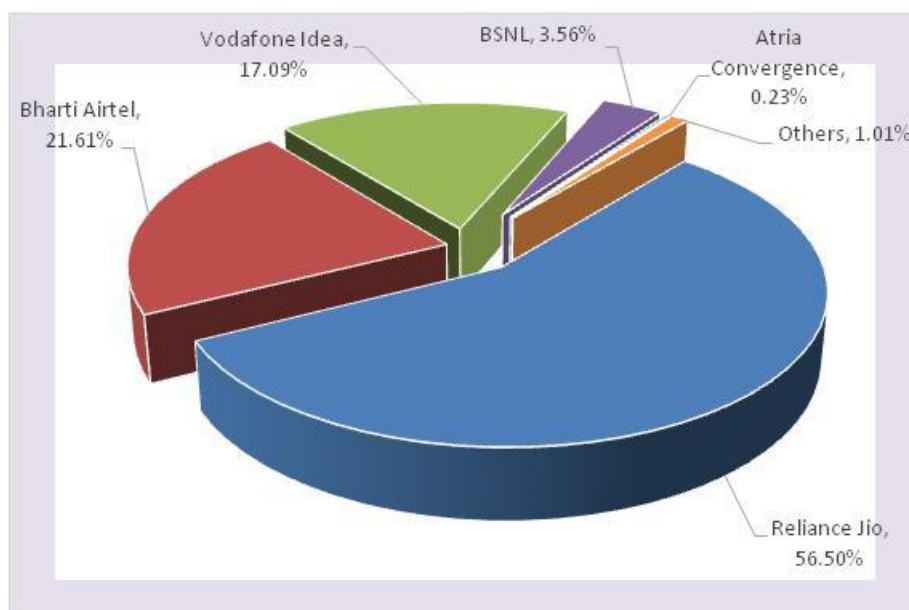
Segment	Broadband subscribers (in million)		Monthly growth rate in the month of Mar-20
	As on 29 th February, 2020	As on 31 st March, 2020	
Wired subscribers	19.07	19.18	0.51%
Mobile devices users (Phones and dongles)	661.45	667.66	0.94%
Fixed Wireless subscribers (Wi-Fi, Wi-Max, Point-to-Point Radio & VSAT)	0.58	0.60	2.48%
Total	681.11	687.44	0.93%

- Top five service providers constituted 98.99% market share of the total broadband subscribers at the end of Mar-20. These service providers were Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (388.39 million), Bharti Airtel (148.57 million), Vodafone Idea (117.45 million), BSNL (24.50 million) and Atria Convergence (1.61 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 31.03.2020**



- As on 31st March, 2020, the top five Wired Broadband Service providers were BSNL (8.08 million), Bharti Airtel (2.47 million), Atria Convergence Technologies (1.61 million), Hathway Cable & Datacom (0.97 million) and Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (0.87 million).
- As on 31st March, 2020, the top five Wireless Broadband Service providers were Reliance Jio Infocom Ltd (387.52 million), Bharti Airtel (146.10 million), Vodafone Idea (117.43 million), BSNL (16.43 million) and MTNL (0.18 million).

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Wireless Subscriber Base																	Annexure-I
Circle	Bharti Airtel (including Tata Tele.)		Reliance Com.		Vodafone Idea		BSNL		BSNL (VNO's)		MTNL		Reliance Jio		Total		Net Addition
	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	
Andhra Pradesh	29401184	29359105	2213	2215	18581845	18117771	9897992	9880476					30170146	30496220	88053380	87855787	-197593
Assam	8344039	8353872	0	0	4658150	4183200	2778094	2790779					8165090	8275824	23945373	23603675	-341698
Bihar	35124320	34977894	381	381	14563927	14591200	5551247	5628326					29195038	29526256	84434913	84724057	289144
Delhi	15691909	15622321	1789	1789	17743366	17332519					2182809	2181486	18000340	18259352	53620213	53397467	-222746
Gujarat	11061517	10993217	605	605	26374653	27072381	6111291	6111290					23679880	23755633	67227946	67933126	705180
Haryana	4541532	4537398	136	136	9050170	8785711	5046554	5003797					9339766	9347510	27978158	27674552	-303606
Himachal Pradesh	3366740	3328098	104	104	885017	850315	2983302	2991601					3582892	3620570	10818055	10790688	-27367
J & K	5846046	5928411	0	0	610300	610483	1261136	1257282					4052254	4064862	11769736	11861038	91302
Karnataka	28789394	28721892	1540	1540	11640204	11268724	7328042	7318035					19945174	20318123	67704354	67628314	-76040
Kerala	5618292	5609440	632	634	18366590	17962231	10975611	10944293					8811746	8915611	43772871	43432209	-340662
Kolkata	6297202	6244080	36	36	7567960	7368356	2030138	2096657					9921868	10024019	25817204	25733148	-84056
Madhya Pradesh	14598227	14476869	750	750	23262800	23870180	6356537	6368950					30122380	30517136	74340694	75233885	893191
Maharashtra	16187603	16099766	1050	1050	39037114	38126290	7192711	7051528					31065417	31518967	93483895	92797601	-686294
Mumbai	9954018	9921502	2397	2397	13124525	12712857					1182023	1178701	13890357	14013751	38153320	37829208	-324112
North East	5242050	5232246	0	0	1863866	1721989	1407763	1422503					3617709	3645578	12131388	12022316	-109072
Orissa	11535226	11428399	364	364	3341790	3159284	6175768	6227956					12325587	12515137	33378735	33331140	-47595
Punjab	10347907	10288523	316	316	9581610	9328394	5776616	5779360					13669665	13777111	39376114	39173704	-202410
Rajasthan	21282306	21115780	368	368	13943032	13598361	6207245	6271217					24474431	24547174	65907382	65532900	-374482
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	25352753	25220269	3133	3135	21049736	20335566	12553826	12604529	91660	92015			23303041	23724399	82354149	81979913	-374236
U.P.(E)	31004679	30968581	866	866	26365167	25719403	11715869	11693544					27859162	28376042	96945743	96758436	-187307
U.P.(W)	13826814	13933712	301	301	24351921	23633309	5989988	5964689					19573971	19849305	63742995	63381316	-361679
West Bengal	15661175	15451606	809	809	19558071	18820090	2345305	2373296					18063250	18428223	55628610	55074024	-554586
Total	329074933	327812981	17790	17796	325521814	319168614	119685035	119780108	91660	92015	3364832	3360187	382829164	387516803	1160585228	1157748504	-2836724
Net Addition		-1261952		6		-6353200		95073		355		-4645		4687639	0	-2836724	
Rural Subscribers	150437858	153181508	0		168051655	167016669	40083083	38085638	0	0	45621	45593	158722801	160935668	517341018	519265076	1924058

Note: 1. The subscribers of M/s Bharti Airtel includes subscribers of M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.

2. Virtual Network Operator (VNO) of BSNL has reported its subscriber number from the month of October, 2018.

Proportion of VLR on the date of Peak VLR in the month of Mar-20 (%)							Annexure-II
Circle	Bharti	BSNL	Vodafone Idea	MTNL	Reliance Com.	Reliance Jio	Total
Andhra Pradesh	95.13	64.49	91.35		58.47	73.77	83.49
Assam	99.25	52.03	89.61		-	82.42	86.06
Bihar	96.19	50.99	87.03		98.71	99.72	92.84
Delhi	88.85		85.25	15.96	29.26	71.03	78.61
Gujarat	93.77	50.92	92.95		29.26	78.51	84.25
Haryana	104.47	38.02	90.80		52.94	64.63	74.66
Himachal Pradesh	99.89	38.68	101.38		33.65	70.20	73.08
J & K	94.82	57.85	87.31		-	78.40	84.88
Karnataka	93.03	58.46	93.60		88.38	76.85	84.52
Kerala	94.85	67.23	94.82		28.39	67.19	82.20
Kolkata	92.98	50.61	91.82		-	79.01	83.76
Madhya Pradesh	94.19	49.10	88.13		47.73	91.37	87.31
Maharashtra	102.21	57.94	95.47		49.33	87.92	91.22
Mumbai	76.52		79.52	42.79	126.83	71.79	74.73
North East	101.13	75.00	85.91		-	88.53	92.04
Orissa	101.06	66.17	95.82		13.46	89.34	89.65
Punjab	97.62	42.51	91.63		21.20	67.14	77.34
Rajasthan	97.91	47.87	95.41		36.14	75.65	84.26
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	94.83	65.76	92.90		72.34	77.91	84.95
U.P. (E)	101.68	39.28	96.90		38.11	85.27	88.06
U.P. (W)	99.97	44.68	91.37		11.63	76.90	84.34
West Bengal	97.86	82.04	95.72		27.07	87.34	92.92
Total	96.18	54.81	92.00	25.37	67.49	80.93	85.43

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	
Service Area	BSNL		MTNL		Bharti Airtel		Reliance Com.		Tata Tele.		Quadrant		Vodafone Idea		Reliance Jio		Total		Net Addition
	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	Feb-20	Mar-20	
Andhra Pradesh	756922	754108			208792	213913	30371	29286	168529	166571			51315	51345	97292	100686	1313221	1315909	2688
Assam	95443	95015											3420	3450	12218	12875	111081	111340	259
Bihar	146849	146322					2092	2056	8444	8402			1980	1980	16465	17614	175830	176374	544
Delhi	0	0	1398989	1395358	1487412	1491730	69477	67232	148121	147802			76755	78115	86395	87626	3267149	3267863	714
Gujarat	664016	643726			97649	99478	10173	9725	85910	85404			31782	32052	132800	130278	1022330	1000663	-21667
Haryana	178089	175363			22247	22600	1598	1526	38508	38096			360	360	24698	26290	265500	264235	-1265
Himachal Pradesh	95403	94579					1178	1117	1926	1933			60	60	752	795	99319	98484	-835
J & K	122309	120470					0	0	0	0			0	0	12160	14337	134469	134807	338
Karnataka	868598	863720			745374	778931	98612	97249	275265	272504			79977	82947	51705	51624	2119531	2146975	27444
Kerala	1459835	1445592			63469	62520	10464	10242	19705	19648			5640	5670	14099	14857	1573212	1558529	-14683
Kolkata	395948	389392			134767	135817	33844	33239	49019	48882			11480	11480	32321	36071	657379	654881	-2498
Madhya Pradesh	360002	358417			241403	240632	4864	4692	13363	13334			2280	2310	49253	50033	671165	669418	-1747
Maharashtra	889585	877812			111503	113704	36927	35947	259341	257716			29503	29723	36610	36781	1363469	1351683	-11786
Mumbai	0	0	1703443	1698442	395256	398083	141314	137505	540146	538886			77476	85887	205425	213724	3063060	3072527	9467
North East	91944	90954											270	270	5724	6265	97938	97489	-449
Orissa	186829	185731					1651	1651	8667	8697			5730	5760	7633	8160	210510	209999	-511
Punjab	319377	314234			139025	139989	9776	9444	12298	12314	189283	182269	3030	3030	36137	37031	708926	698311	-10615
Rajasthan	362816	356233			57538	58468	12825	12659	11558	11599			9810	9960	38981	39655	493528	488574	-4954
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	1172524	1165205			548407	547423	47341	45557	123527	122719			32305	32545	95295	99310	2019399	2012759	-6640
U.P.(E)	284198	277783			63086	63353	2888	2745	8361	8308			13330	13330	67778	36200	439641	401719	-37922
U.P.(W)	212806	209990			25248	25940	2213	2118	4924	4820			5550	5550	26858	62279	277599	310697	33098
West Bengal	163120	162457					1615	1615	2444	2473			120	120	7992	8186	175291	174851	-440
Total	8826613	8727103	3102432	3093800	4341176	4392581	519223	505605	1780056	1770108	189283	182269	442173	455944	1058591	1090677	20259547	20218087	-41460
Net Addition		-99510		-8632		51405		-13618		-9948		-7014		13771		32086			-41460
Rural Subscribers	2189498	2158197	0	0	0	0	972	945	46896	45723	36531	35478	0	0	2619	2838	2276516	2243181	-33335

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 based on HLR and numbers available in VLR.

The VLR subscriber data calculated here is based on active subscribers in VLR on the date of Peak subscriber number in 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.