



هيئة تنظيم الاتصالات
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
Kingdom of Bahrain - مملكة البحرين

Telecommunications Markets Indicators in the Kingdom of Bahrain

February 2016



2016



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Introduction

The collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate and timely market information significantly enhances the design of effective, proportionate and efficient market regulation.

The publication of this report is in accordance with Article 54 of the Telecommunications Law of Bahrain.

Unless specified, the analysis presented in this report is based on data collected from licensed operators by TRA. TRA would like to thank licensed operators for the information provided and looks forward to their continued collaboration in the future.

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This is the tenth Telecommunications Markets Indicators Report and it covers a large range of telecoms services indicators up to Q4 2014 such as the number of subscribers, penetration rates, calls usage and telecoms revenues. Some subscriber numbers and penetration rates cover the period up to 2015.

¹ Note that Person is defined in the Telecommunications Law to mean any natural or artificial person or public authority.

² See TRA's position paper on its treatment of confidential and non-confidential information at http://www.tra.org.bh/en/pdf/Confidentiality_Guidelines_Final.pdf



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2015

2014

2013

Mobile



Broadband



Internet users



↑8%

↓3%

↑17%

↑3%





Services offered by active operators

Operator Name	National Fixed	International Calls	Mobile	Internet	Leased line	Other data service	Others
2Connect W.L.L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Ascentech Technical Services		✓					
Batelco	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bahrain Internet Exchange						✓	
Bahrain Broadband Company W.L.L	✓	✓		✓			
BT Solutions LTD					✓	✓	
Equant Global Network - Foreign Branch (EGN BV)					✓	✓	
Etisalcom Bahrain Company W.L.L	✓	✓		✓			
Gateway Gulf Company B.S.C (Closed)							Value added services
Golden Sands Electronics and Phone							Bulk SMS
Gulf Electronic Tawasul Company					✓		
Kalaam Telecom Bahrain B.S.C. (Closed)	✓	✓		✓	✓		
IMC						✓	
SITA						✓	
Mena Telecom W.L.L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Moving Gulf Telecom W.L.L		✓					
Mobitel Communication W.L.L							Bulk SMS
North Star Technology Company W.L.L		✓		✓	✓		
Nuetel Communications S.P.C	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Orbit Data Systems Company W.L.L							VSAT
Rapid Telecom W.L.L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
ViaCloud W.L.L	✓	✓					
VIVA Bahrain B.S.C		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Zain Bahrain B.S.C	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Zajil Information Technologies International W.L.L					✓	✓	

Notes: The above data is as of May 2015



Main telecom indicators

Indicator	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Growth 2013-2014	CAGR 2008 - 2014
Number of fixed lines	220,386	237,621	227,353	248,479	260,000	251,000	244,880	-3.5%	2%
Fixed line penetration	20%	20%	19%	21%	21%	20%	19%		
Total mobile subscribers	1,440,782	1,401,974	1,567,745	1,693,650	2,123,903	2,210,190	2,322,860	5.4%	8%
Mobile penetration	130%	119%	128%	142%	172%	173%	176%		
Total broadband subscribers	114,502	161,815	306,235	567,884	1,148,264	1,507,956	1,679,642	13.9%	60%
Broadband penetration	10%	13%	25%	48%	93%	118%	128%		
Percentage of individuals using the Internet	52%	53%	55%	77%	88%	90%	91%		
Telecommunications revenues (BD in million)	303	338	360	406	409	423	430	1.7%	6%
Number of employees in the telecommunications sector	2469	2504	2584	2708	3141	3000	3,092	3.0%	4%

Notes:

1- The number of subscribers refers to the end of the period.

2- Number of broadband subscribers include fixed, mobile and wireless.

3- The total number of broadband subscriptions have been revised due to the revision of the pay-per-use mobile broadband subscriptions reported by Zain.

4- As noted in previous reports, the new numbers of total broadband subscriptions for 2010-2012 have been revised to ensure better alignment with the ITU definition of active mobile broadband subscribers (see definition in slide 38). Comprehensive Pay-per-use figures are not available for 2011 and earlier.

5- 2011, 2012 2013 and 2014 revenues include handsets sales.

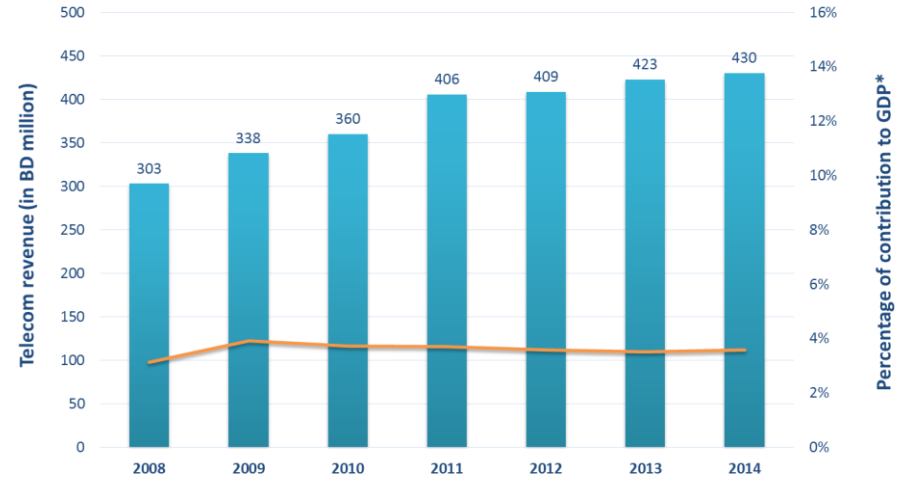
6- CAGR: Compound Annual Growth Rate.

7- The source of Percentage of individuals using the Internet is the ITU and TRA residential survey.

Revenues in the telecom sector

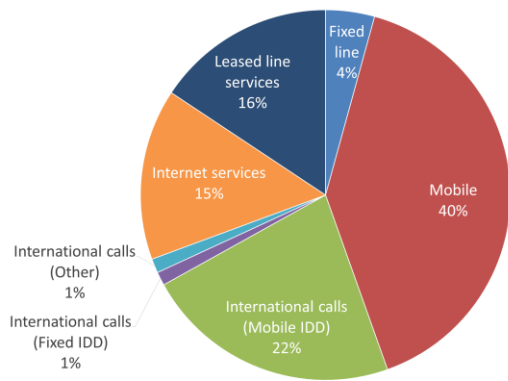
- Telecom revenues reached BD 430 million in 2014 compared to BD 423 million in 2013 (1.65% growth between 2013 and 2014).
- The compound annual growth rate is 6% between 2007 and 2014.
- Telecom revenues represent about 4% of the GDP.
- Mobile services revenue account for nearly half of the telecom retail services revenue (As it reached 64% with the revenues generated from international).

Telecom sector revenue (in BD million)



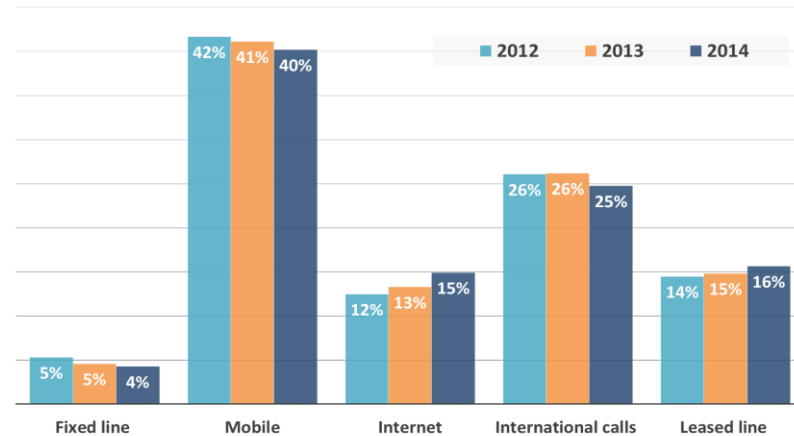
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Breakdown of retail services revenues in 2014



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Evolution of retail services revenue by segment



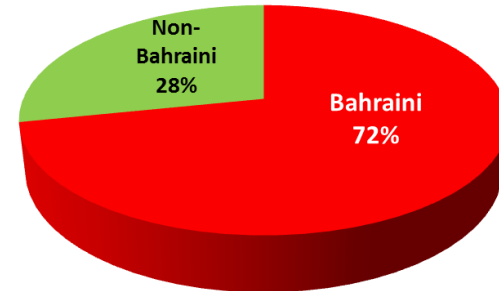
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



Employment in the telecom sector

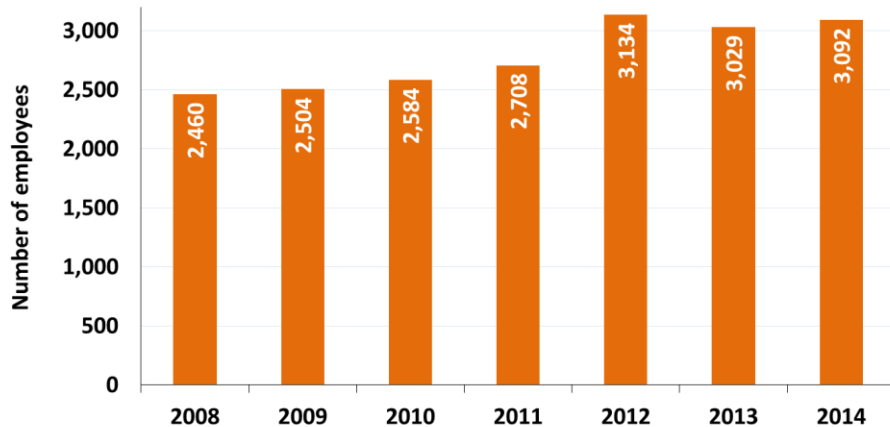
- 3,092 employees are working in the telecommunication sector in 2014.
- The compound annual growth rate in the number of employees is 4% between 2008 and 2014.
- The sector achieves high degree of Bahrainisation (72% as of 2014).
- 28% of employees are female.

Distribution of employees by nationality 2014



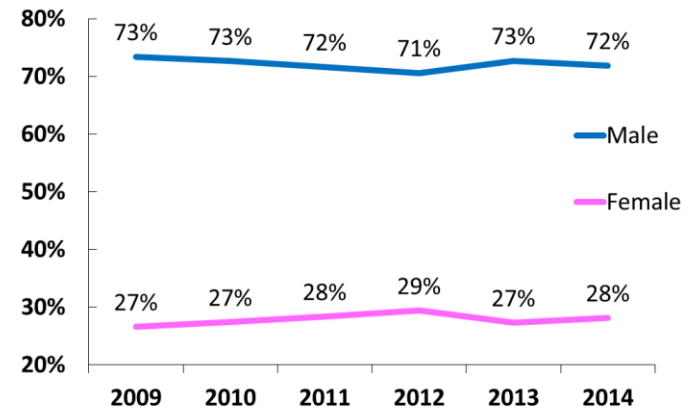
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Number of employees working in the telecommunications sector



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Proportion of male and female working in the telecommunication sector

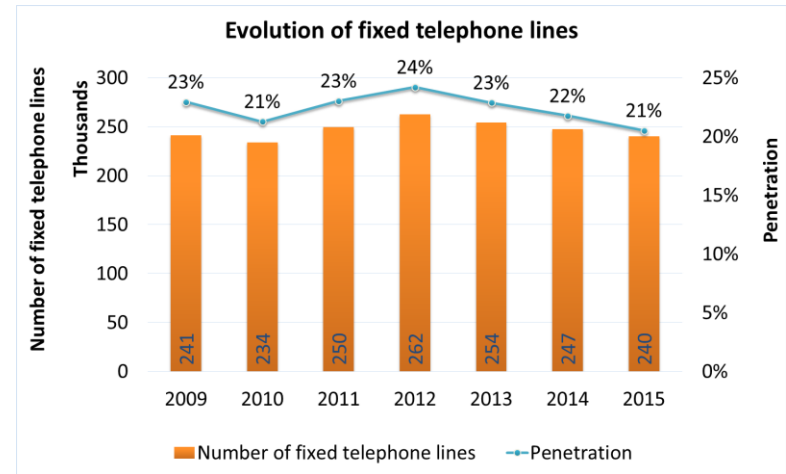


Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Fixed telephony services

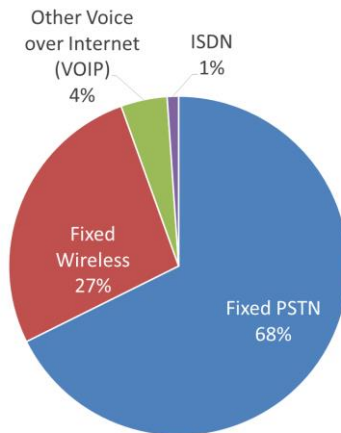
By the end of November 2015, there were 238,000 fixed lines (20% penetration*), a fall of -3.6% compared to the number of fixed lines in 2014.

- The number of fixed wired telephone services increased by almost 2.4% during 2015;
- While the number of fixed wireless telephone services continue in falling, it decreased by almost 16%.

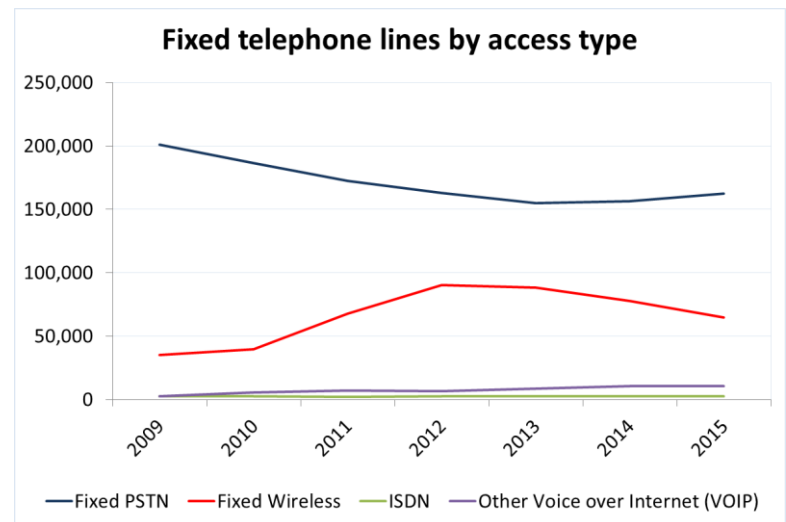


Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Proportion of fixed line by access type 2015



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.
Note: The ISDN data is based on 2014

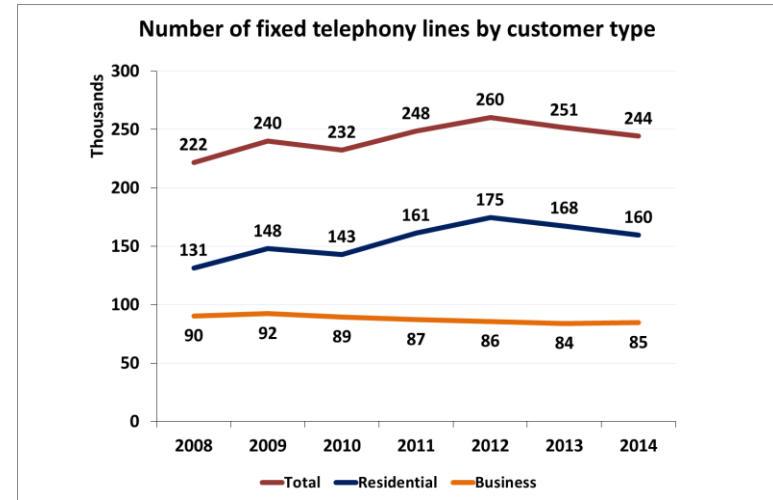


Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

* ISDN voice channel equivalents are included in the penetration rate. Basic-rate voice-channel equivalents is the number of basic-rate ISDN subscriptions multiplied by 2, and primary-rate voice-channel equivalents is the number of primary-rate ISDN subscriptions multiplied by 30.

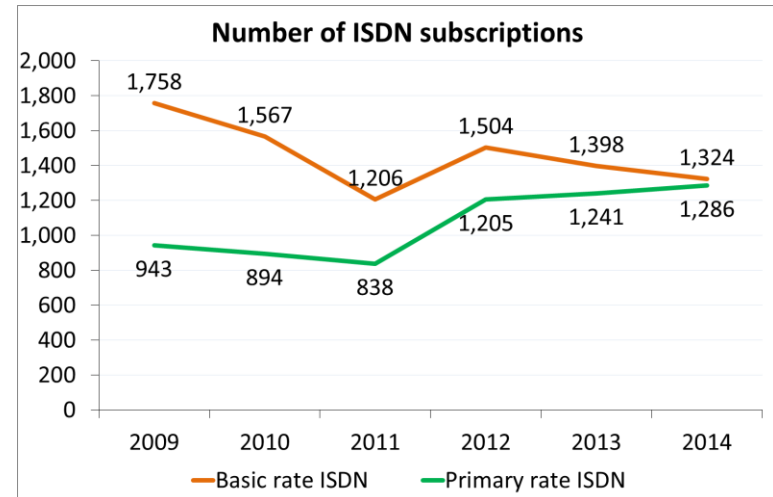
Fixed telephony services by customer type

The reduction in the total number of fixed telephony lines in 2014 mirrors the reduction in residential services.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

By the end of 2014 there were 1,324 Basic rate ISDN and 1,286 Primary rate ISDN services.

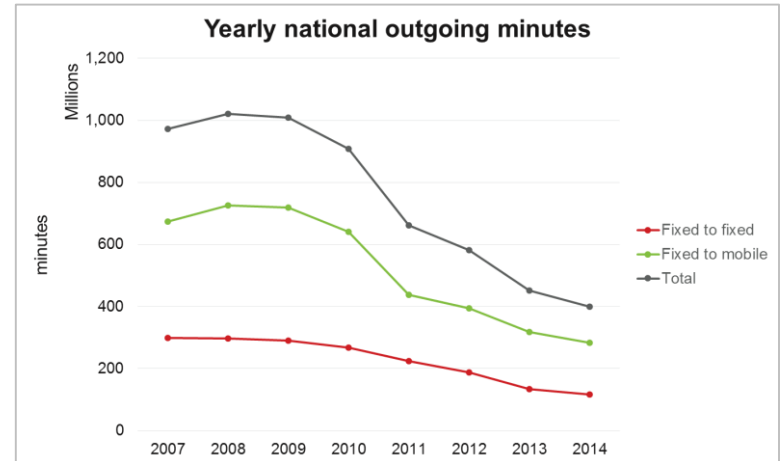


Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

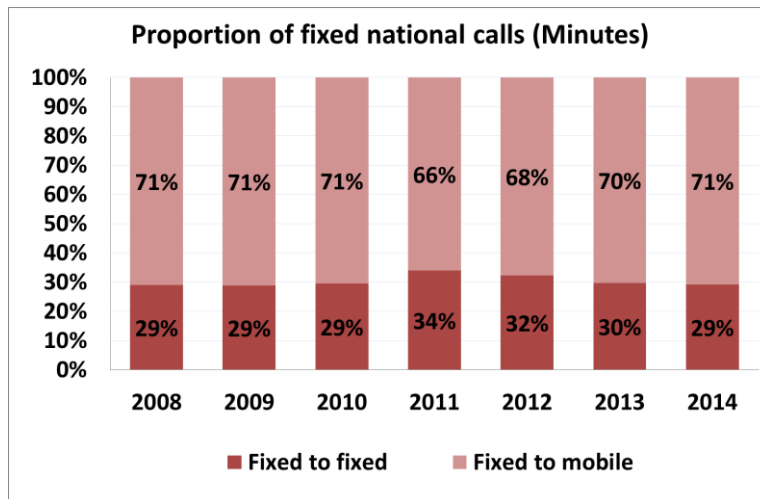


Fixed line outgoing minutes

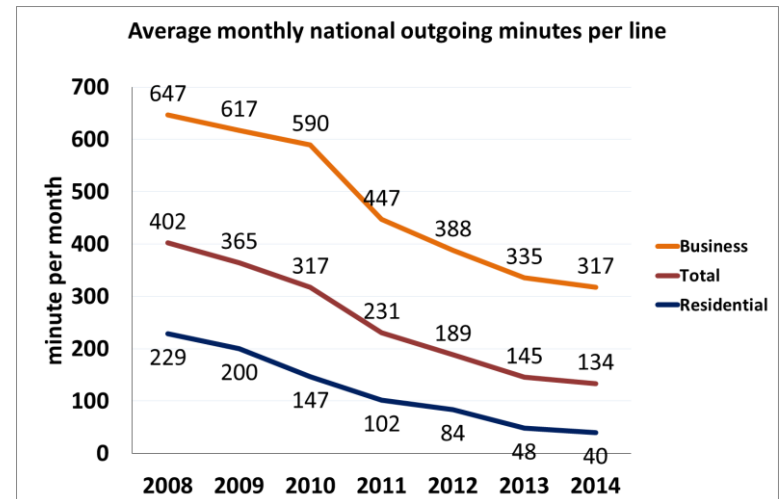
- Fixed telephony national traffic decreased by 12% between 2013 and 2014 due to substitution towards mobile.
- 71% of national traffic originated from fixed lines are fixed-to-mobile calls.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



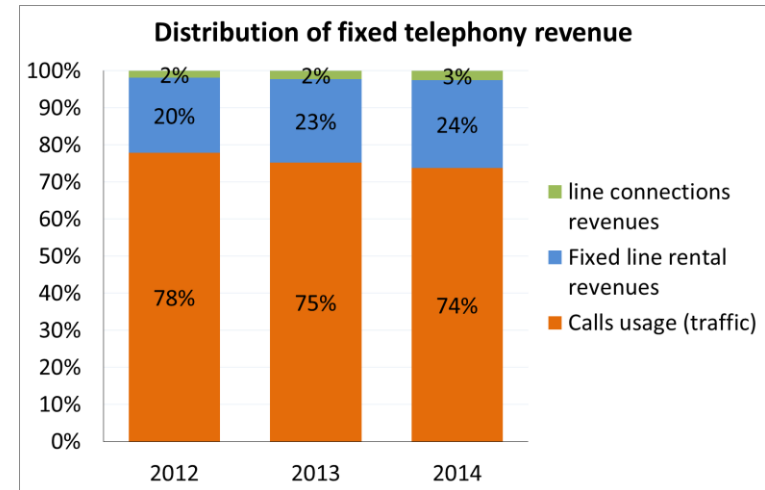
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Fixed line service revenue

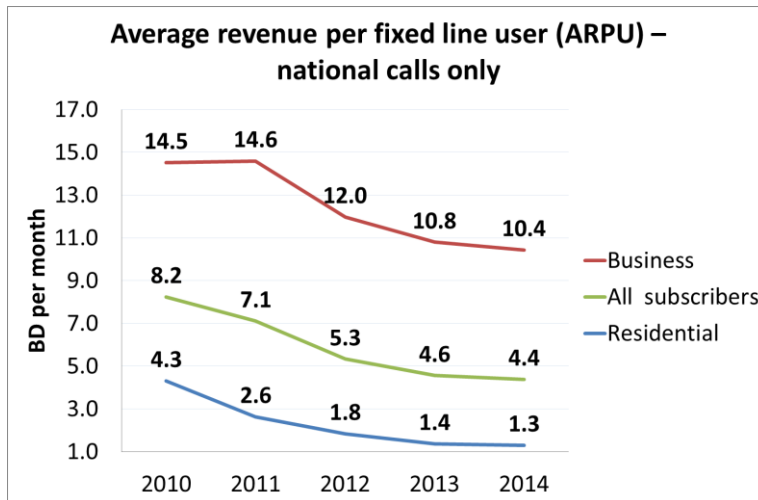
Fixed line revenues dropped by 7% between 2013 and 2014.

BD in million	2013	2014	Growth 2013 - 2014
Residential	2.8	2.6	-7%
Non-residential	11.3	10.5	-7%
Total	14.1	13.1	-7%

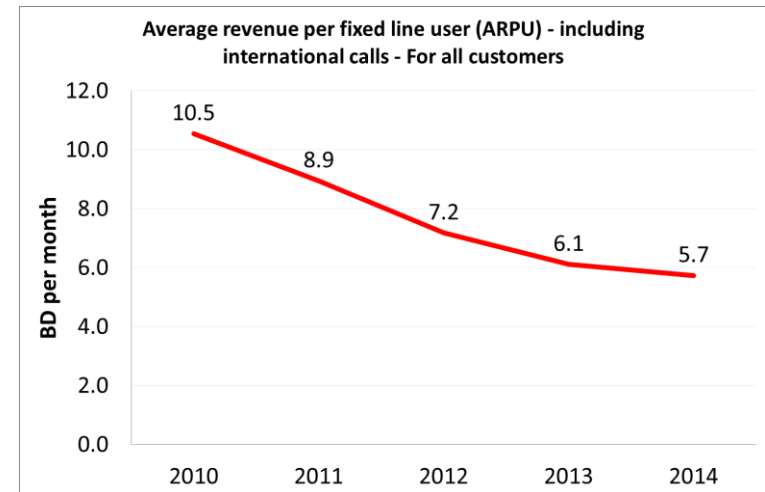
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.
Note: the 2013 revenue has been revised



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



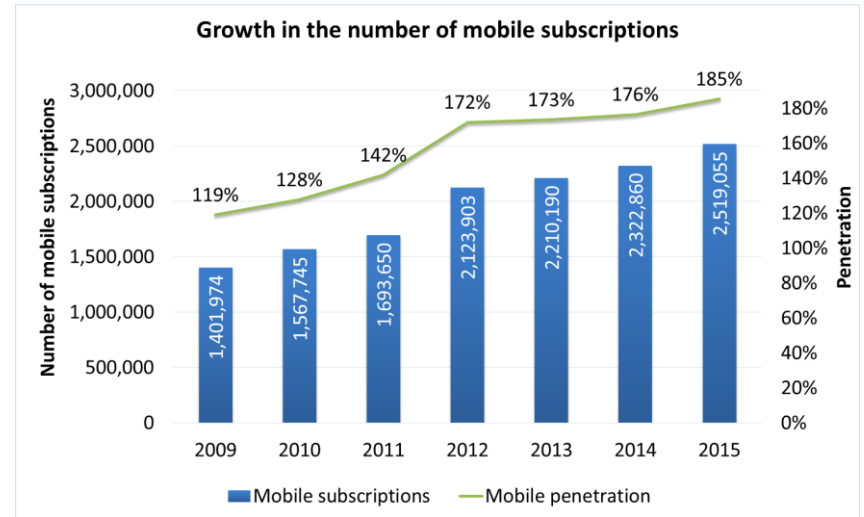
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Mobile services

- 📶 At the end of 2015 there were about 2.52 million mobile subscribers in Bahrain, an increase of 8% compared to 2014.
 - 📶 Prepaid increased by 8%
 - 📶 Postpaid increased by 13%
- 📶 At the end of 2015 mobile penetration in Bahrain rose to 185% from 176% at the end of 2014.
- 📶 The mobile market in Bahrain remains predominantly prepaid. Prepaid subscribers represented 78% of mobile subscribers at the end of 2015.
- 📶 Mobile postpaid subscriptions increased by 104% between 2010 and 2015.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Mobile Subscriptions	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Growth 2014 - 2015
Prepaid	1,289,274	1,379,820	1,720,958	1,777,864	1,821,364	1,975,192	8%
Postpaid	278,471	313,830	402,945	432,326	507,630	566,496	13%
Total	1,567,745	1,693,650	2,123,903	2,210,190	2,328,994	2,519,055	8%

Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

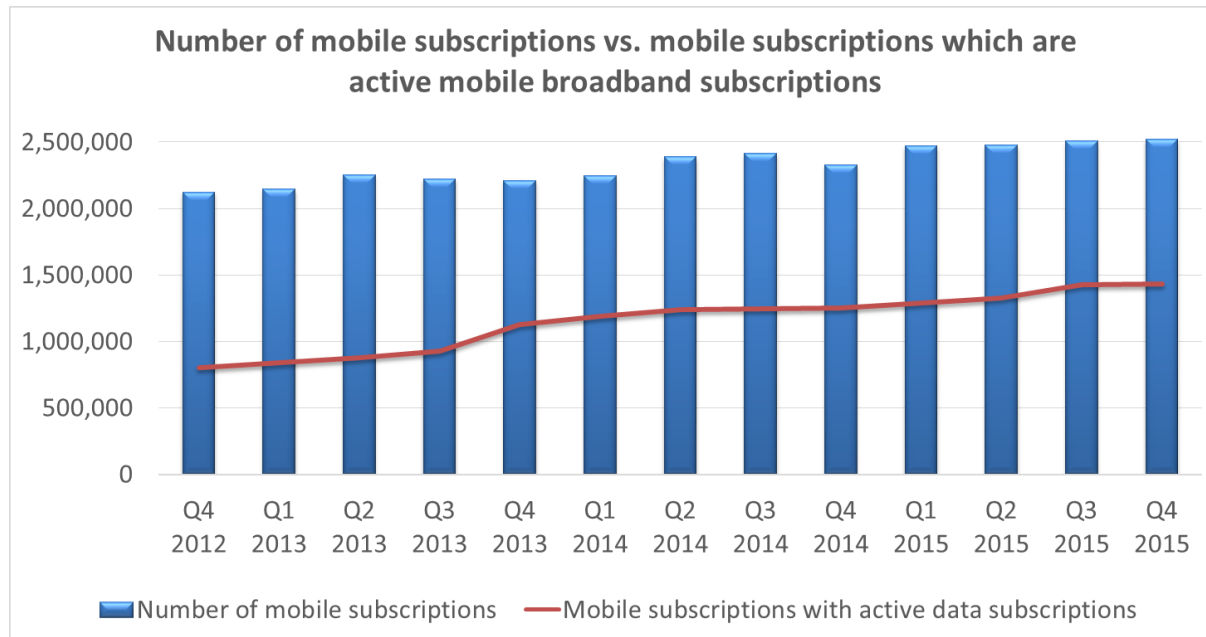
Proportion of prepaid and postpaid subscriptions as of 2015



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Mobile subscriptions having data subscriptions (pay per use, add-on and bundles)

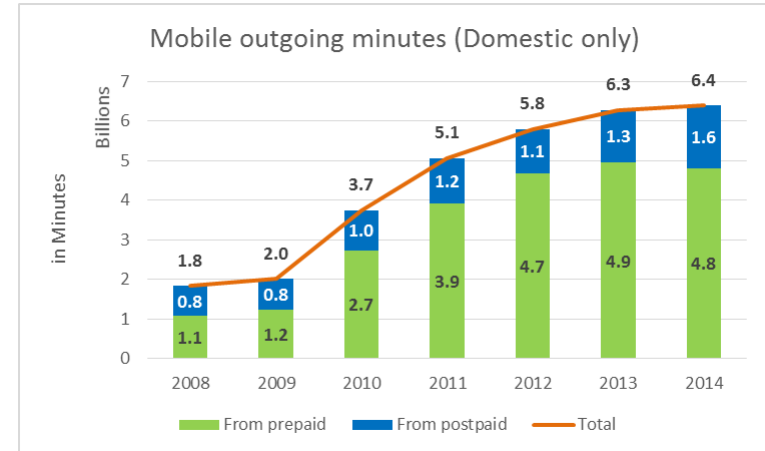
- At the end of 2015, there were 1.41 million mobile subscribers with a mobile broadband subscription (pay per use, add-on and bundles) compared to 800,000 in 2012 (increase by 76%).
- Active mobile broadband subscriptions (pay per use, add-on and bundles) represent 56% of the total mobile subscriptions at the end of 2015.



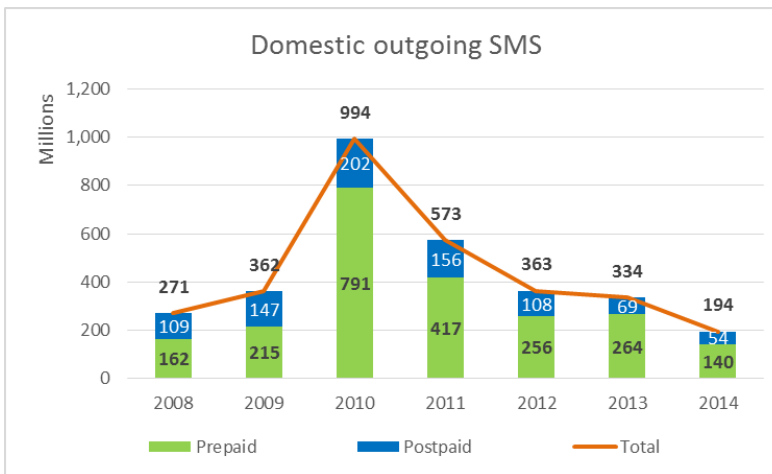
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Mobile traffic

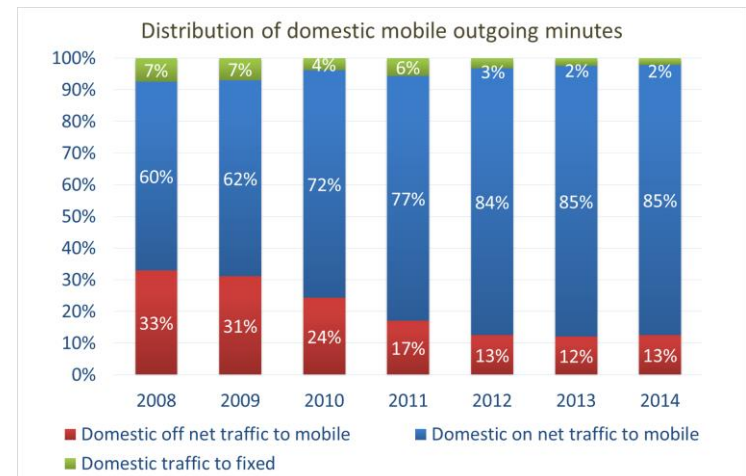
- At the end of 2014, mobile generated 6.4 billion domestic minutes, representing a growth of 1.7% 2013 and 2014.
- 200% growth in domestic mobile originated traffic between 2010 and 2014.
- The domestic postpaid mobile outgoing minutes grew by 18.6%, while the traffic originated from prepaid dropped by 2.9%. This could be a result of the increase of postpaid subscriptions.
- In 2014, 85% of domestic mobile originated traffic was on-net traffic to mobile.
- Number of domestic SMS dropped by 42% between 2013 to 2014 mainly due to the increase in mobile data services/applications (e.g. WhatsApp).



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



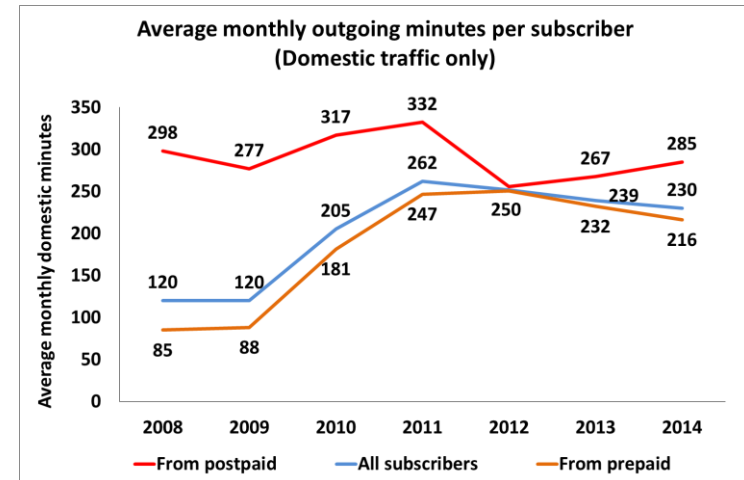
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Average monthly outgoing minutes

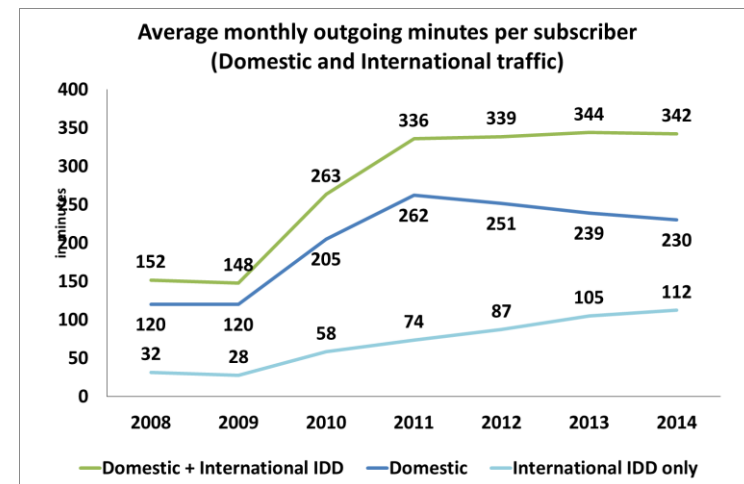
As shown in the figure the average monthly domestic traffic (in minutes) for postpaid subscribers increased from 267 minutes in 2013 to 285 minutes in 2014, a result of an increase in unlimited calls plans. report



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

The average monthly domestic traffic (in minutes) for prepaid customers dropped from 232 minutes in 2013 to 216 minutes in 2014.

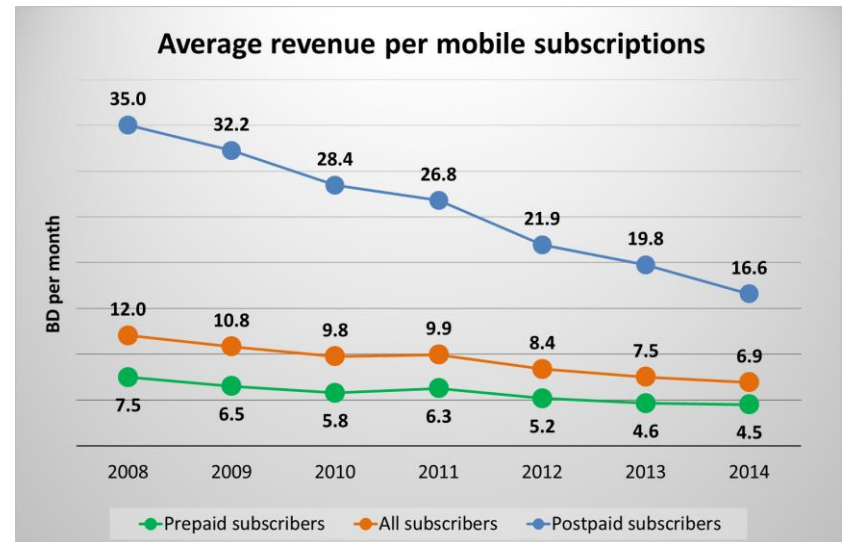
The average monthly volume of international direct dial (IDD) calls has increased by 7% between 2013 and 2014.



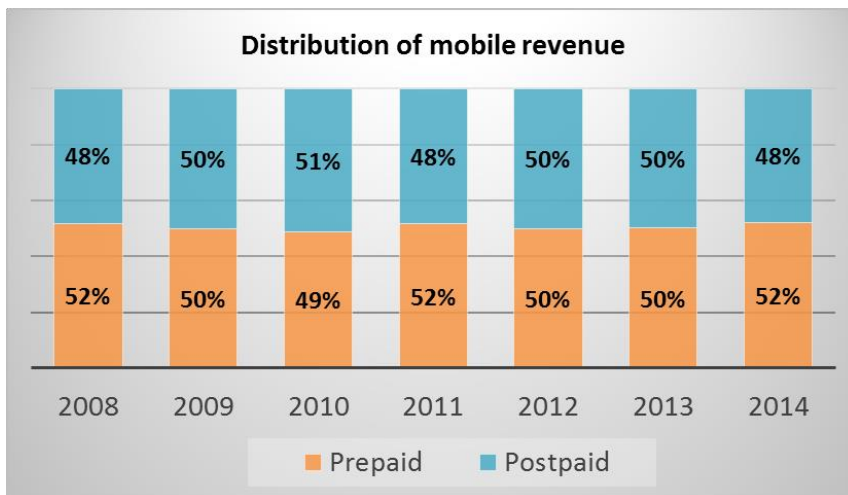
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

Mobile revenue

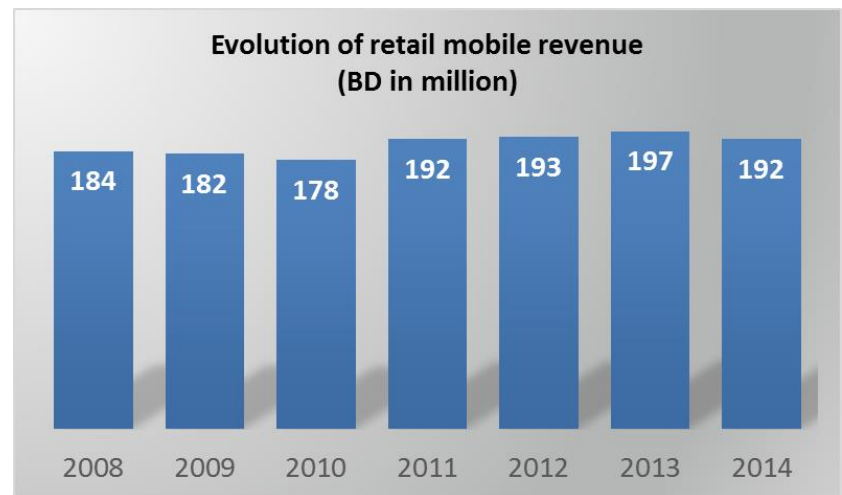
- Mobile revenues dropped by 2.7% between 2013 and 2014.
- Although postpaid mobile subscriptions represent 21.6% of total mobile subscriptions, however, the revenue generated from postpaid mobile subscriptions represent 52% of the total retail mobile revenue in 2014.
- The reduction in mobile prices resulted in a drop in the average revenue per subscription by 49% for postpaid and 31% for prepaid in the last five years.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data






Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

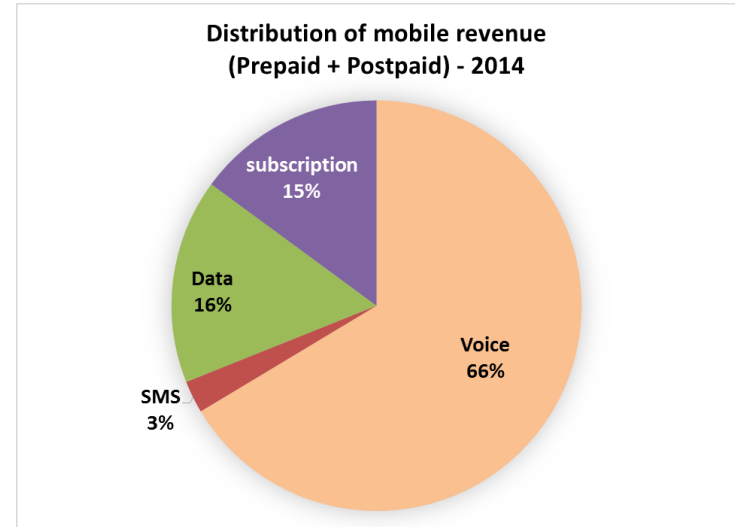
Note: Revenues including connection charges, monthly subscription fees and usage charges (including international direct dial usage).



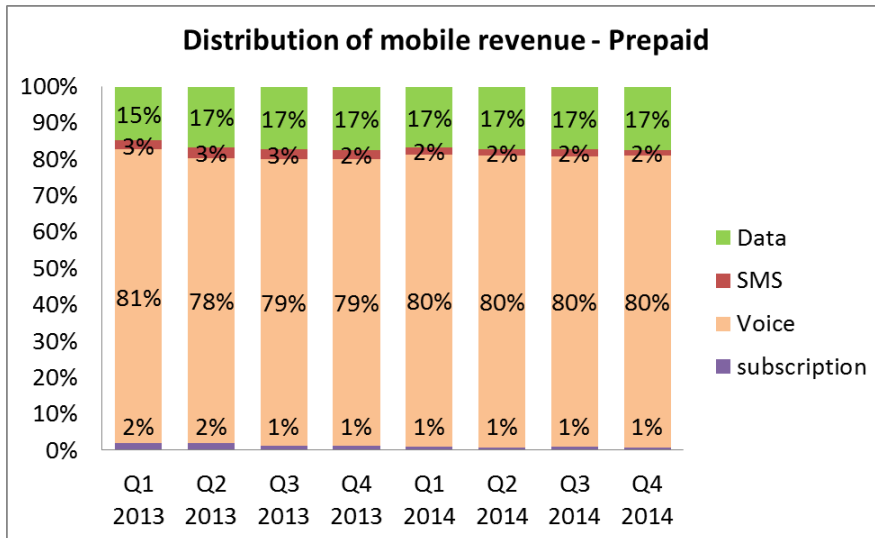
Distribution of mobile revenue

 Voice services continue to be the main source of revenues for mobile operators, followed by data.

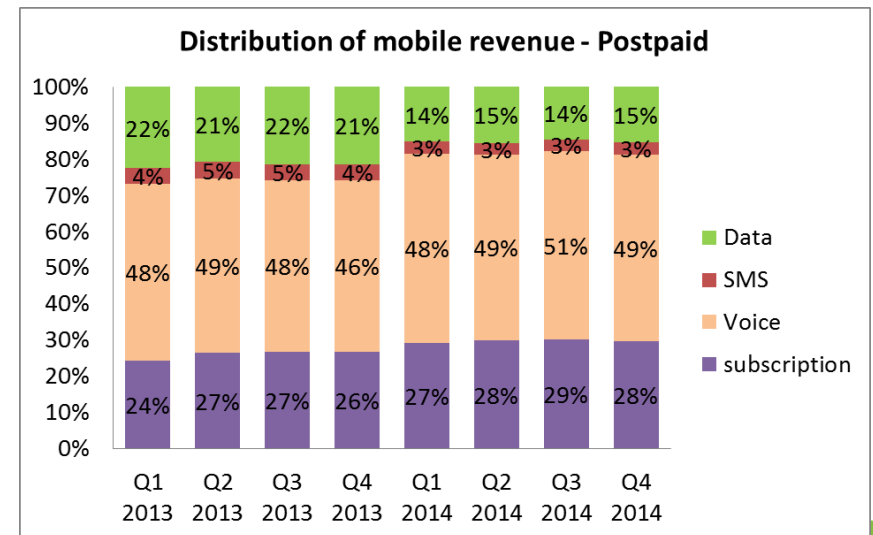
-  For prepaid, voice generated about 80% of prepaid revenues and data generated 17% in Q4 2014.
-  For postpaid, voice generated about 49% of postpaid revenues and data generated 15% in Q4 2014.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data



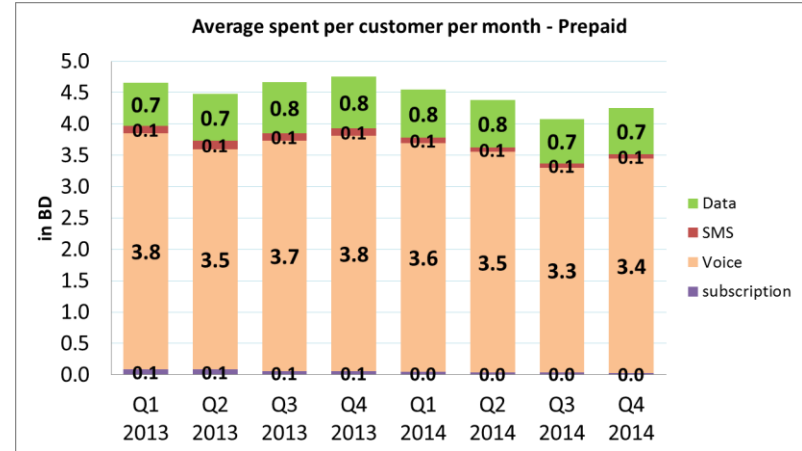
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

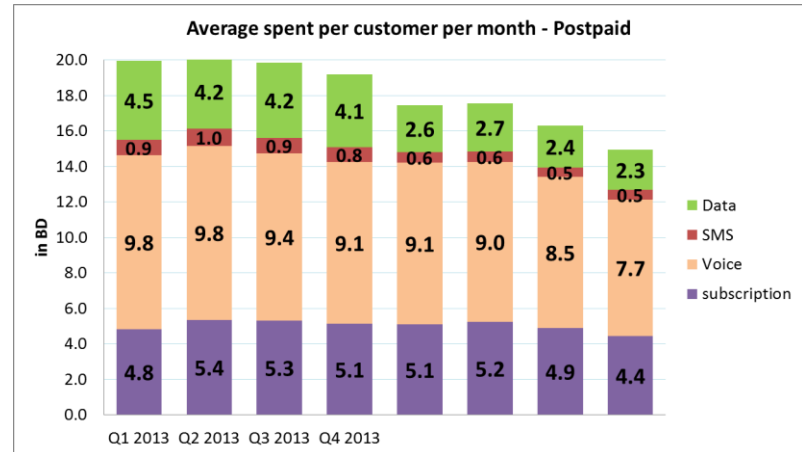
Average spend per subscriber per month

The average monthly spend per subscriber for voice is about BD3.4 for prepaid and BD7.7 for postpaid subscribers in Q4 2014.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

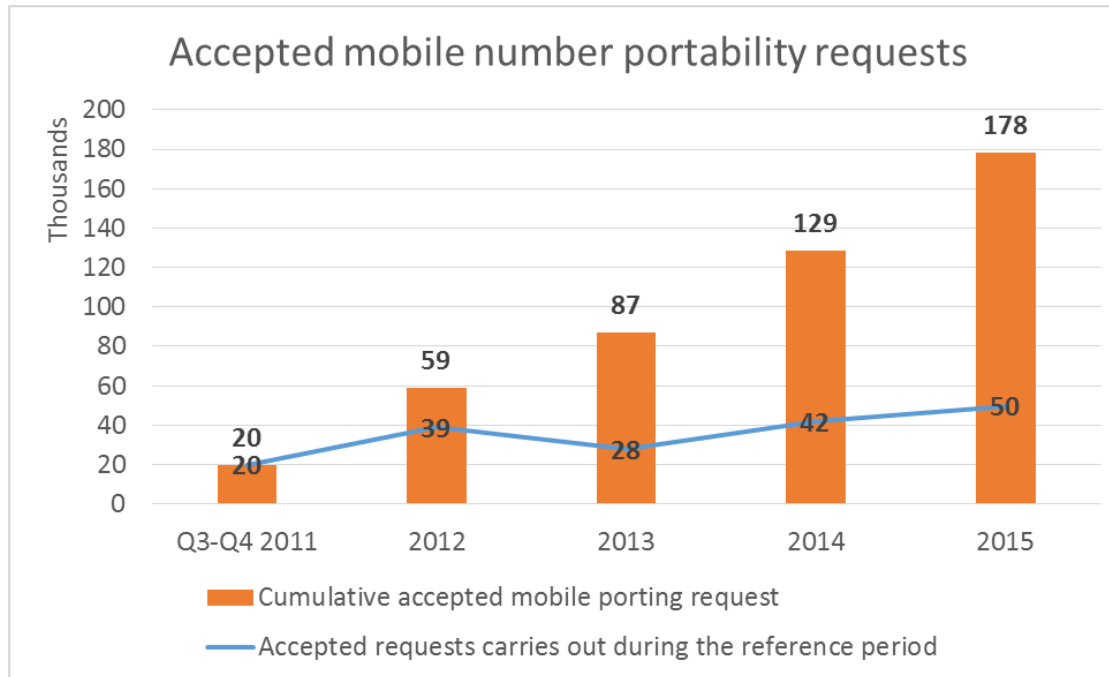
The average monthly spend per subscriber for data is about BD 0.700 for prepaid and BD2.300 for postpaid subscribers in Q4 2014.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

Mobile number portability

- Since the introduction of number portability in July 2011, the volume of mobile numbers successfully ported has gradually increased. By the end of 2015, a total of approximately 178,000 mobile numbers had been ported successfully.
- This represents 7% of the mobile customer base at the end of 2015.

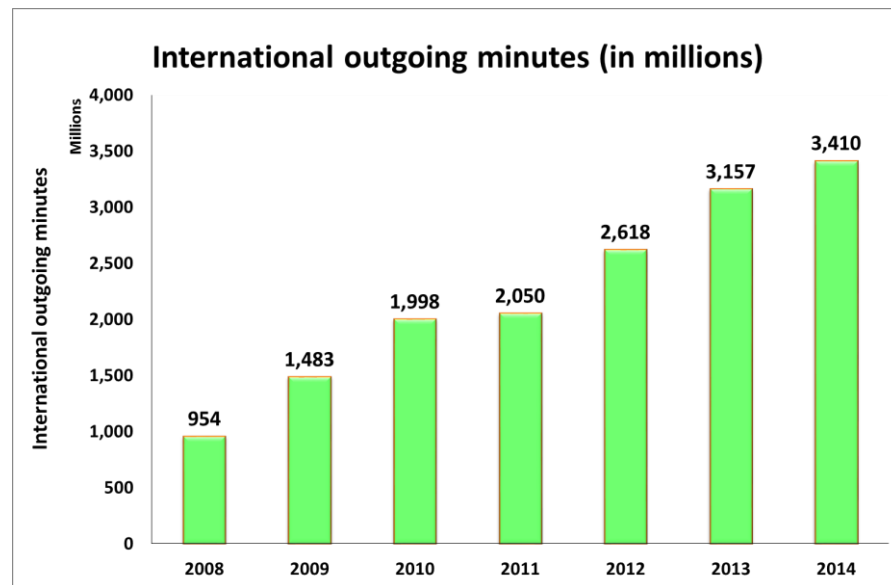


Source: TRA analysis based on operators data



International outgoing minutes

- While the traffic volume increased by 8% between 2013 and 2014, the international calls revenue has decreased by -5% between 2013 and 2014, indicating ongoing competitive pressure on pricing.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

International outgoing minutes

Minutes (in millions)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Growth 2013-2014
GCC ¹	193.0	108.3	123.6	124.3	104.3	-16%
Zone 2	1,570.0	1,713.8	2,236.	2,763.0	3,060.6	11%
Zone 3	84.0	53.3	87.1	82.5	66.4	-17%
Zone 4	151.0	174.6	170.9	187.0	177.0	-5%
Total	1,998.0	2,050.0	2,617.6	3,156.8	3,410.3	8%

Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

International calls revenue

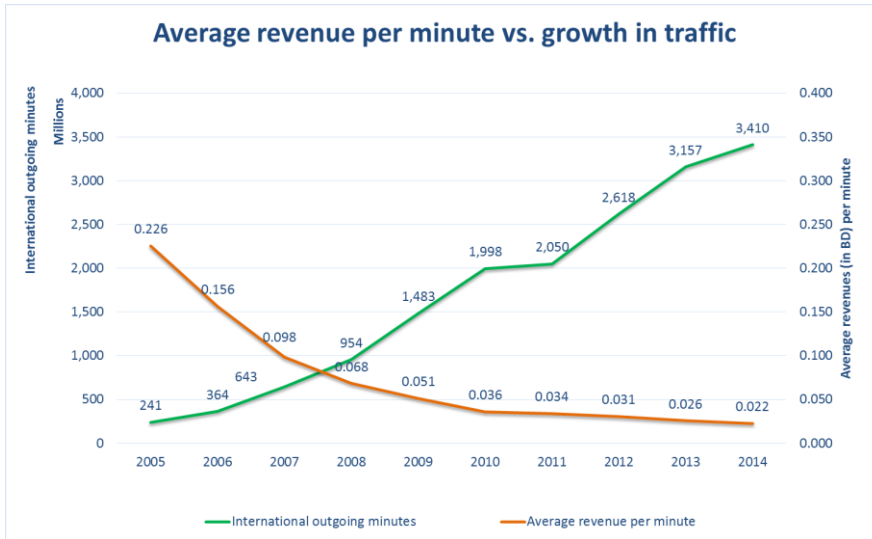
Revenues (BD in millions)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Growth 2013-2014
GCC	12.70	11.40	11.8	12.4	11.00	-11%
Zone 2	38.80	38.80	46.5	49.2	48.78	-1%
Zone 3	6.70	5.10	8.5	6.3	5.2	-18%
Zone 4	13.90	13.90	13.7	13.09	11.69	-11%
Total	72.10	69.20	80.5	80.9	76.67	-5%

Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

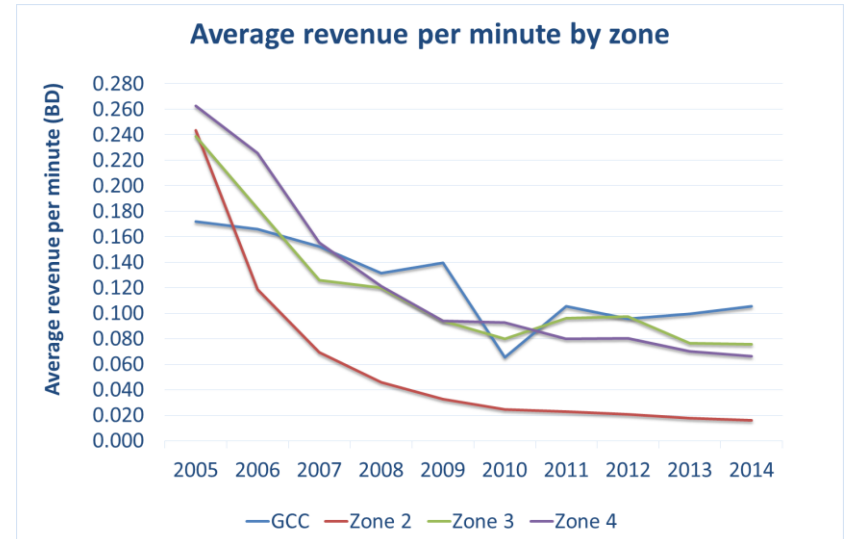
GCC countries (Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates).
 Zone 2: Calls to South Asian countries (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka).
 Zone 3: Calls to other major destinations (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Iran, New Zealand, Thailand, UK, USA and Yemen).
 Zone 4: Calls to all other international destinations.

Average revenue per minute for international calls

- The average revenue per minute for international calls has fallen by almost 90% over the last nine years, with a particularly large fall observed for zone 2 followed by zone 4.



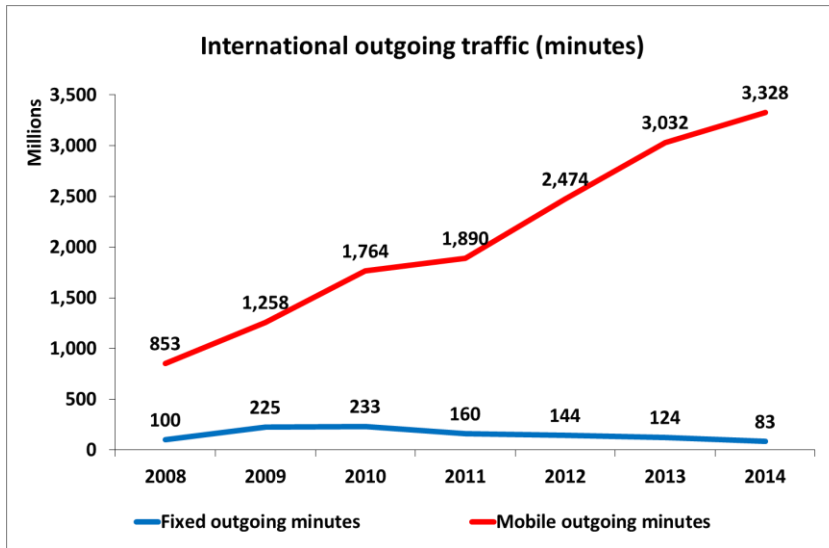
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



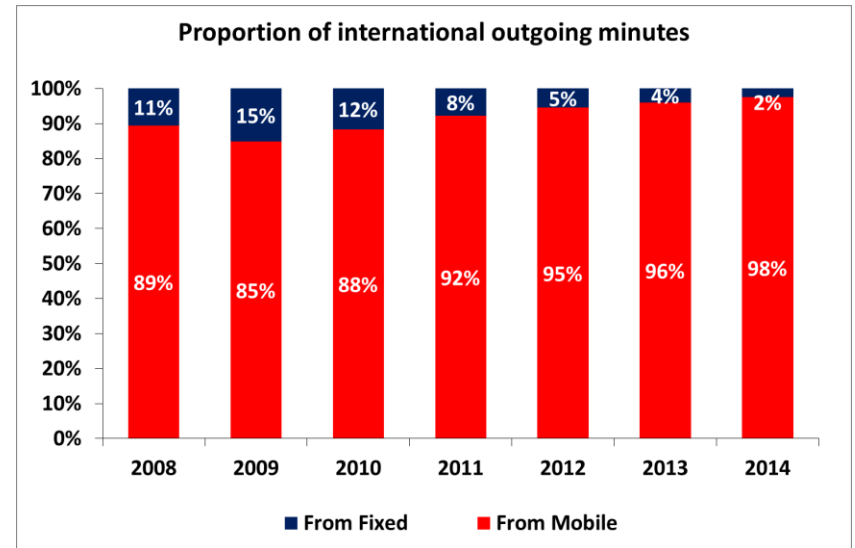
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

International outgoing minutes

- International outgoing minutes originated on mobile¹ grew by 10% between 2013 and 2014 while the minutes originated on fixed fell by 34% between 2013 and 2014.
- International outgoing minutes originated on mobile represented 98% of the total international outgoing minutes in 2014.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



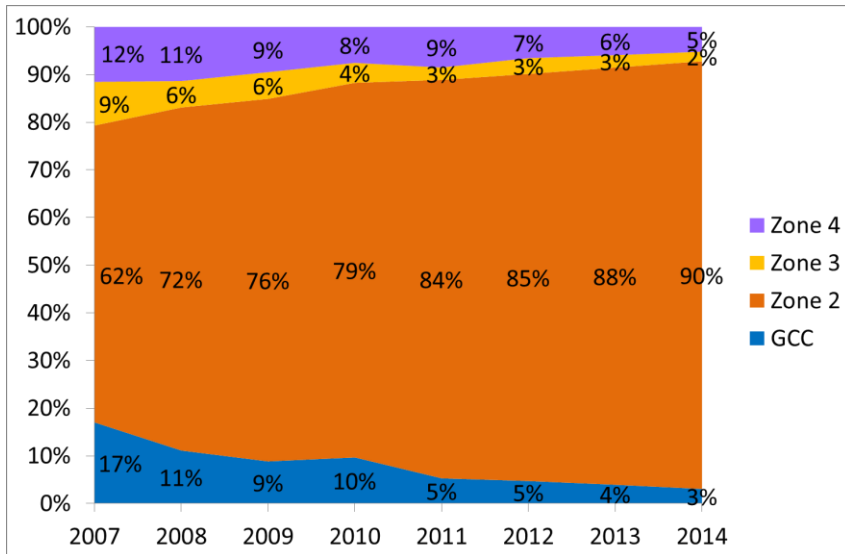
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

¹ Minutes including prepaid calling card traffic.

International traffic Vs. Revenues by destination called

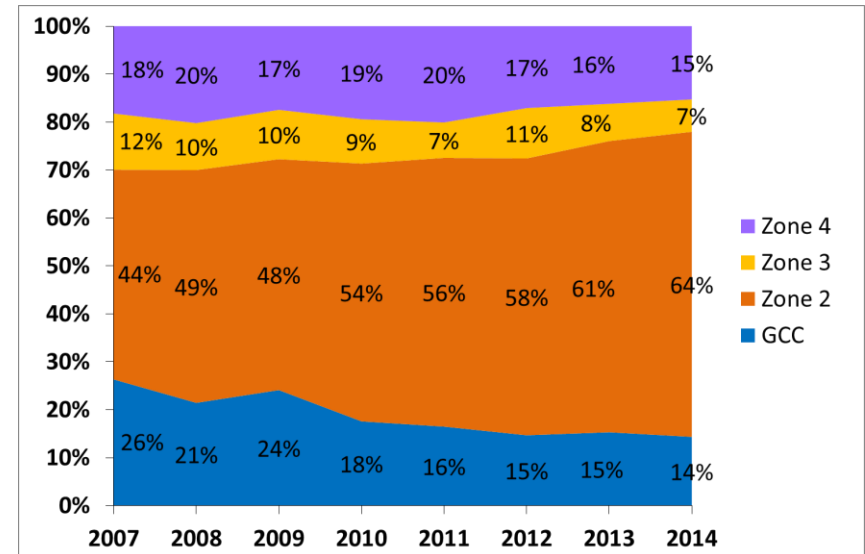
- The average revenue per minute earned from calls to South Asian countries (Zone 2) continues to be relatively low

90% of total international calls **minutes** were made to Zone 2 (South Asian countries) in 2014.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

64% of international **revenues** were generated from calls to Zone 2 (South Asian countries) in 2014.

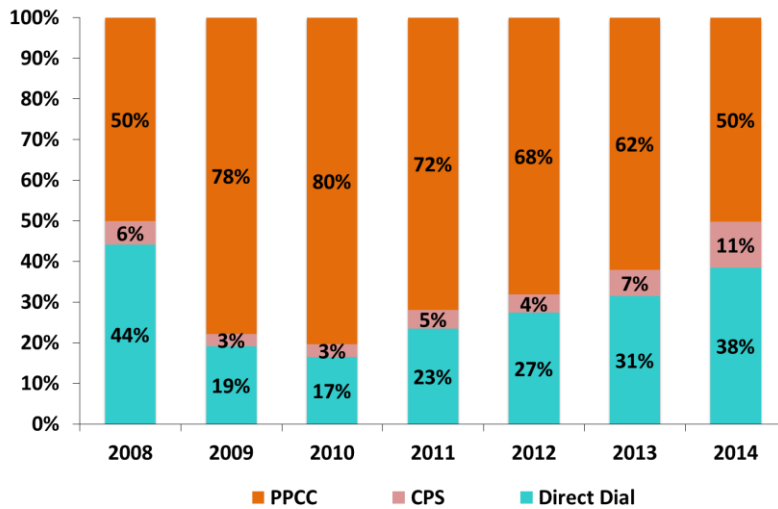


Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



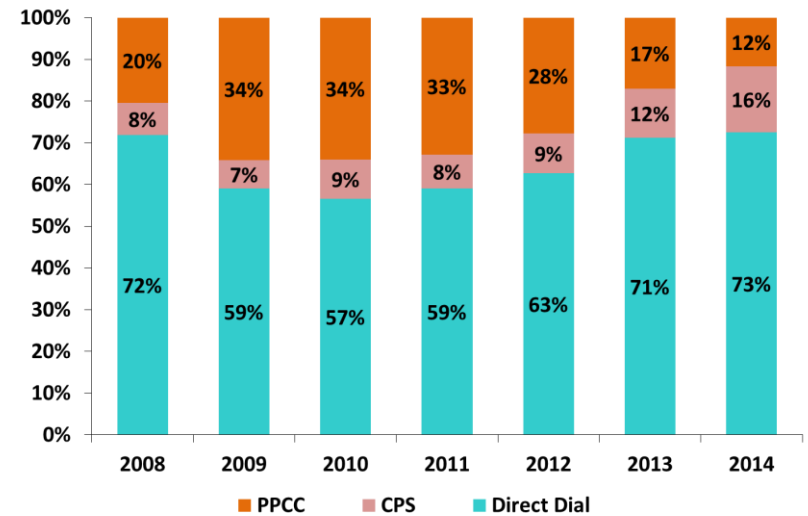
Distribution of international outgoing minutes/revenues by access type - Fixed telephony

Distribution of international **minutes** originated from fixed by access type



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Distribution of international **revenues** originated from fixed by access type



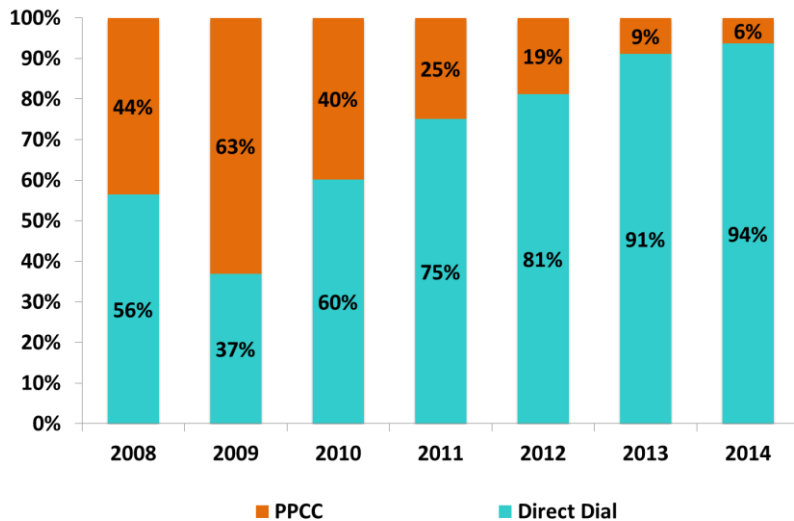
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

- Traffic originated from fixed lines using prepaid calling cards in 2014 dropped to 50% from 62% of international fixed line traffic in 2013, the revenue share for calling cards dropped as well from 17% in 2013 to 12% in 2014.



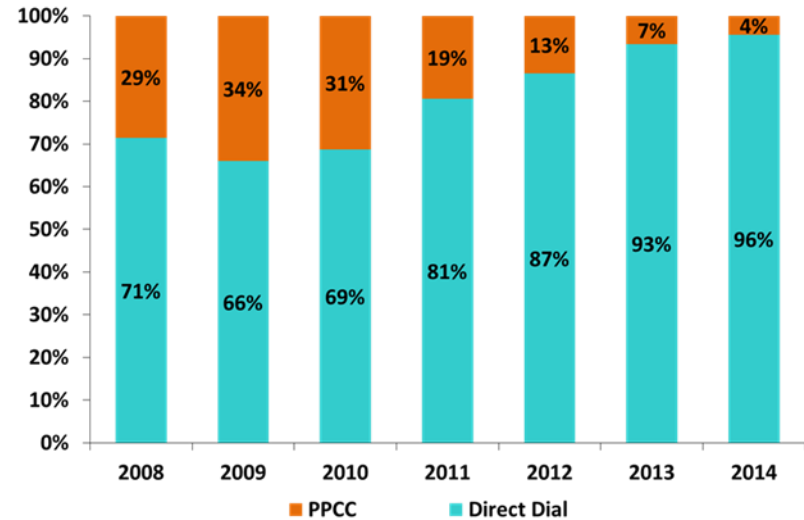
Distribution of international outgoing minutes/revenues by access type - Mobile

Distribution of international **minutes** originated from mobile by access type



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Distribution of international **revenues** originated from mobile by access type

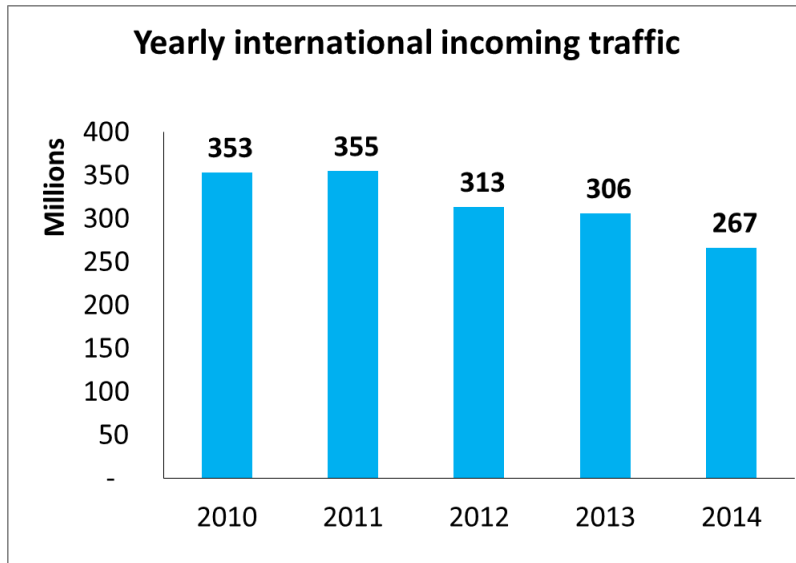


Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

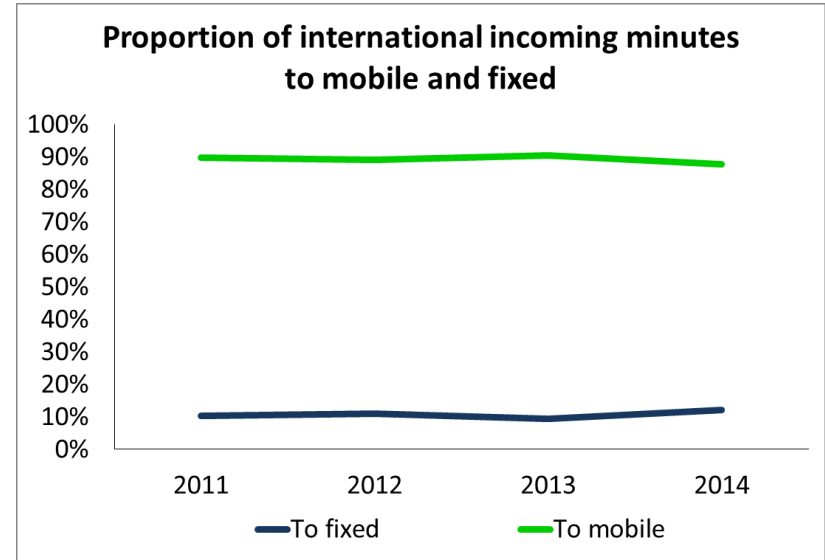
- 📡 In 2014, international direct dial traffic originated from mobile represented 94% of the total traffic, up from 91% in 2013 and 81% in 2012. The pricing of mobile-originated international direct dial services has become even more competitive in recent years.
- 📡 The direct dial represented 96% of total revenues originated from mobile.



International incoming call minutes



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

- 📶 In 2014, the total volume of international incoming minutes was 267 million minutes, compared to 306 million in 2013 a decrease by 12.7%.
- 📶 About 90% of international incoming calls were made to mobile.

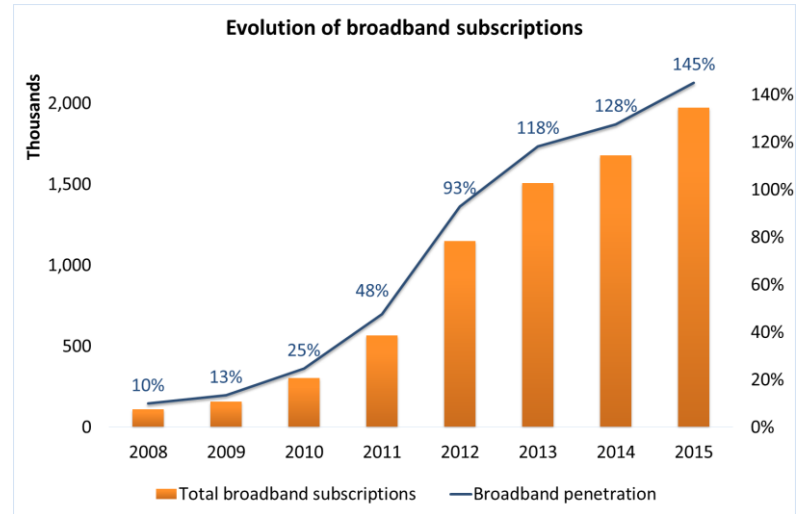


Broadband services

At the end of 2015, there were approximately 2.0 million broadband subscriptions compared to 1.68 million at the end of 2014 (17% growth), representing a broadband penetration of 145%.

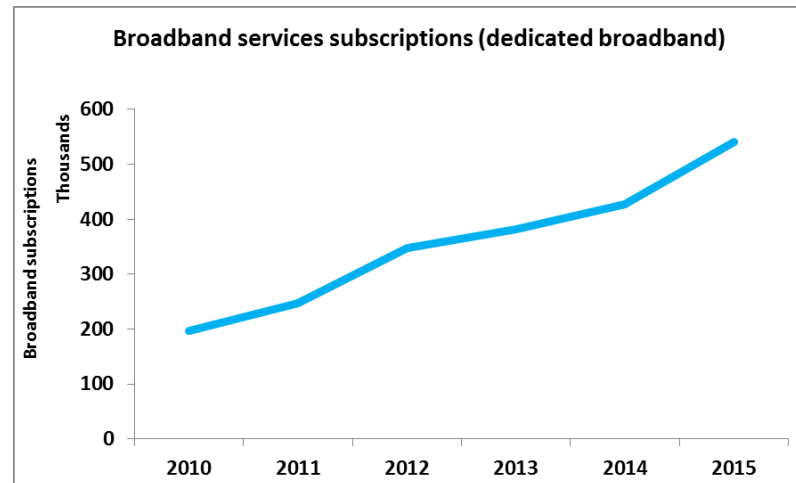
Broadband subscription growth continues to be driven by growth in the number of mobile broadband subscriptions.

At the end of 2015, there were 540 thousand subscriptions for dedicated broadband services.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Note: Zain has restated its pay-per-use mobile broadband subscriptions. Consequently the Authority the total broadband subscriptions for the period from 2012 – 2014 have been revised.



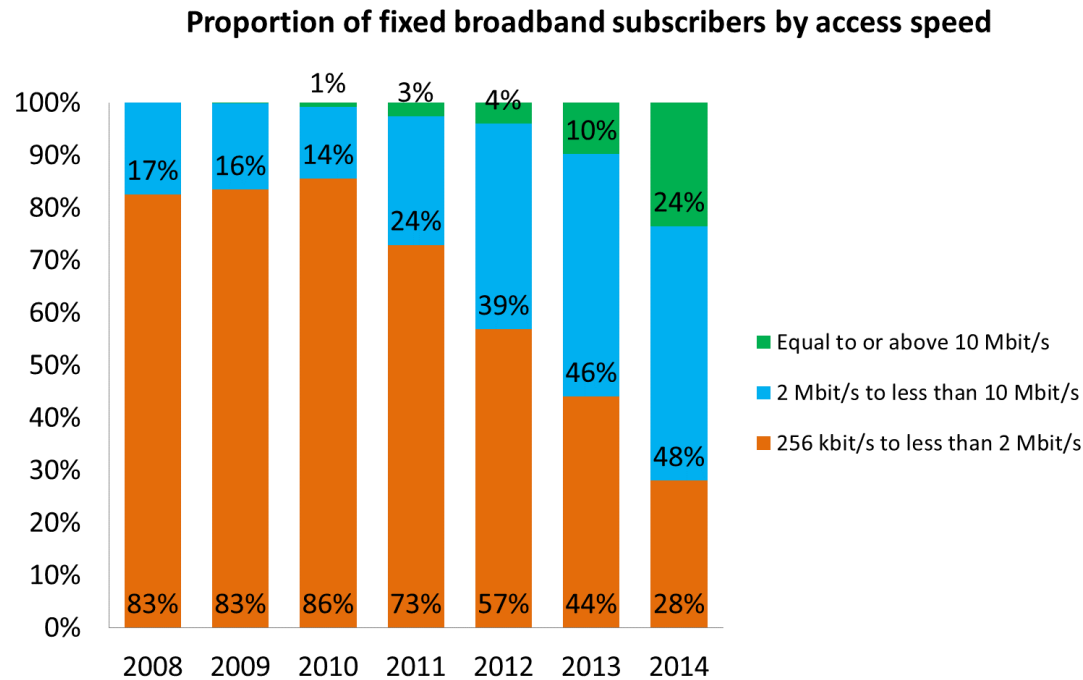
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data.

Note: Include fixed wired, fixed wireless and standalone mobile broadband subscriptions



Proportion of broadband subscribers by access speed

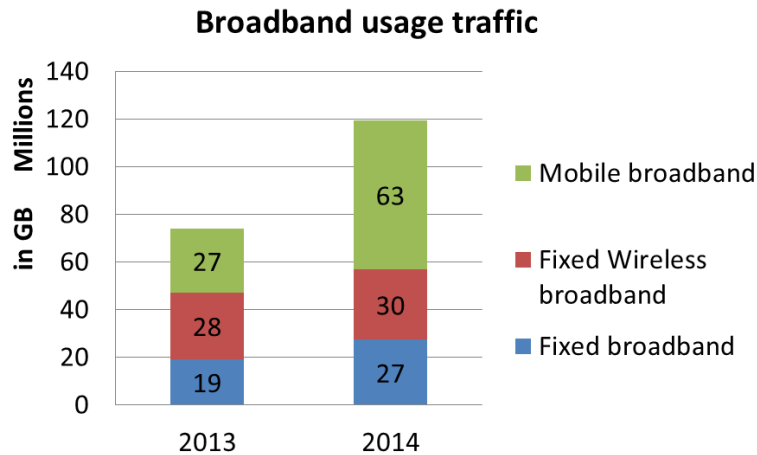
- About 72% of fixed broadband subscribers at the end of 2014 were on plans with advertised speeds of 2Mbps and above compared to only 15% in 2010.



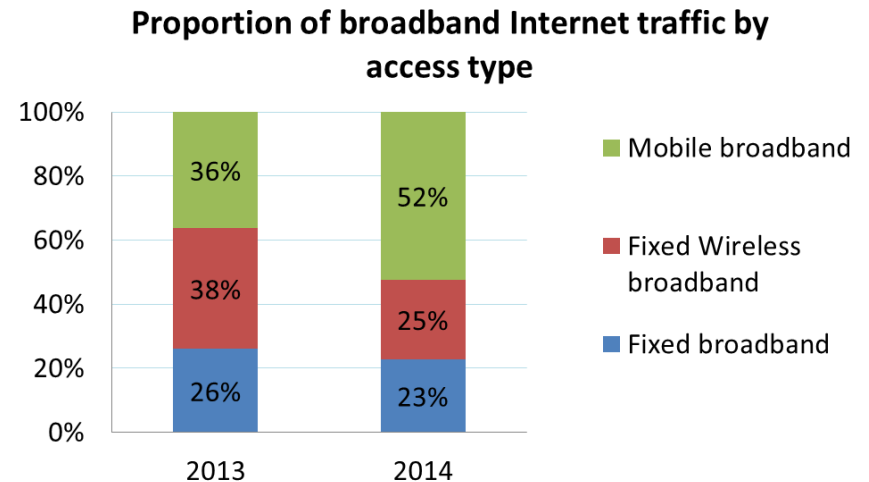
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

Broadband usage

- In 2014, total broadband usage reached about 119 million GB comparing to 74 million GB in 2013 (62% growth).
 - The yearly usage of mobile broadband doubled between 2013 and 2014.
 - The traffic (in GB) generated from mobile broadband represented 52% of the total broadband usage in 2014, compared to 36% in 2013.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data



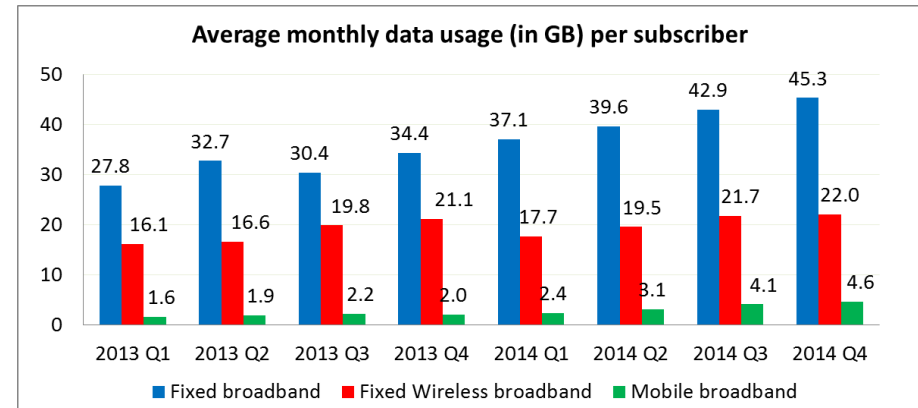
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

Average usage (in GB) per broadband subscription

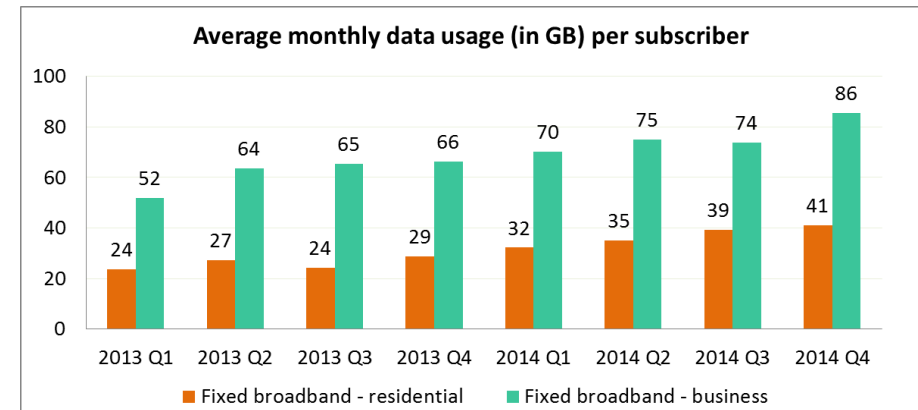
The average usage (in GB) per subscriber per month varies based on the broadband access type.

Fixed (wired) broadband subscribers generated the highest average monthly usage followed by Wireless subscribers and lowest usage was generated by mobile broadband subscribers (although the mobile broadband usage per subscriber is heavily influenced by low use pay-per-use subscribers).

The average monthly usage for fixed broadband business subscribers represents almost double of the average usage of fixed broadband residential subscribers.



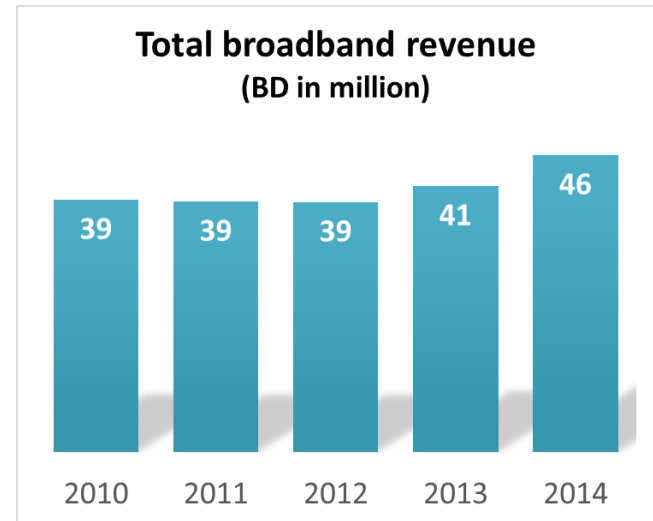
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data



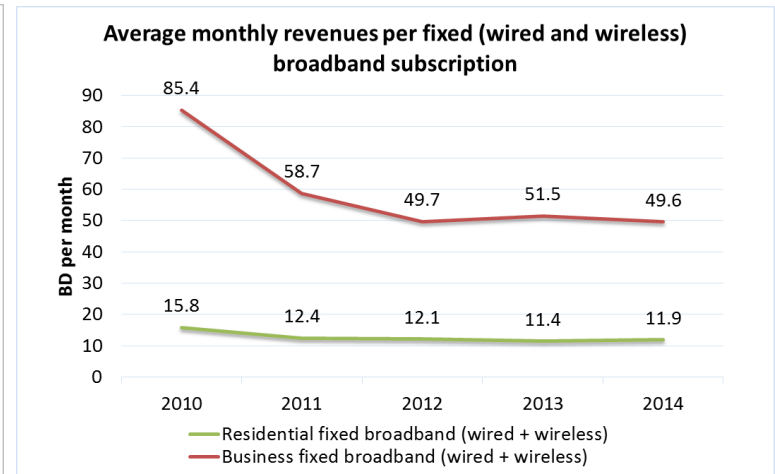
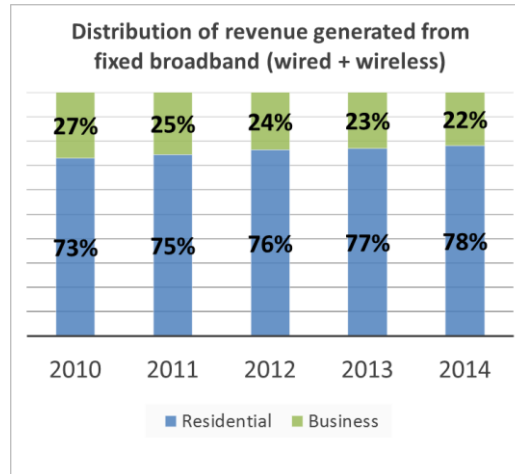
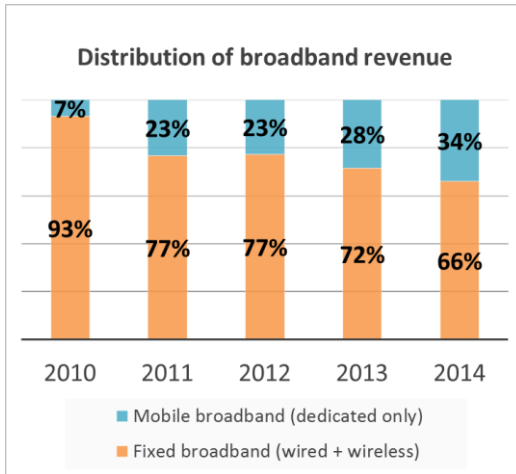
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

Broadband revenue

- Broadband revenues increased by 12% between 2013 and 2014.
- Revenue generated from mobile broadband represents about 34% of total broadband revenue in 2014 compared to 7% in 2010.
- Revenue generated from residential fixed broadband represents about 22% of total fixed broadband revenue in 2014 compared to 27% in 2010.
- The reduction in broadband prices resulted in a drop in the average revenue per subscription by 25% for Residential and 42% for Business over the last four years.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data
 Note: Broadband revenues include fixed (wired and wireless) and standalone mobile broadband



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

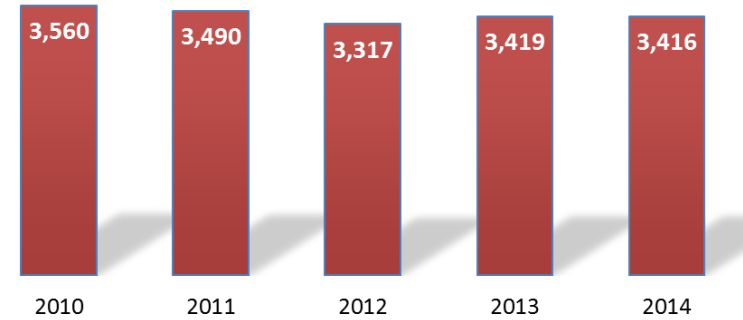
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

Domestic Leased line

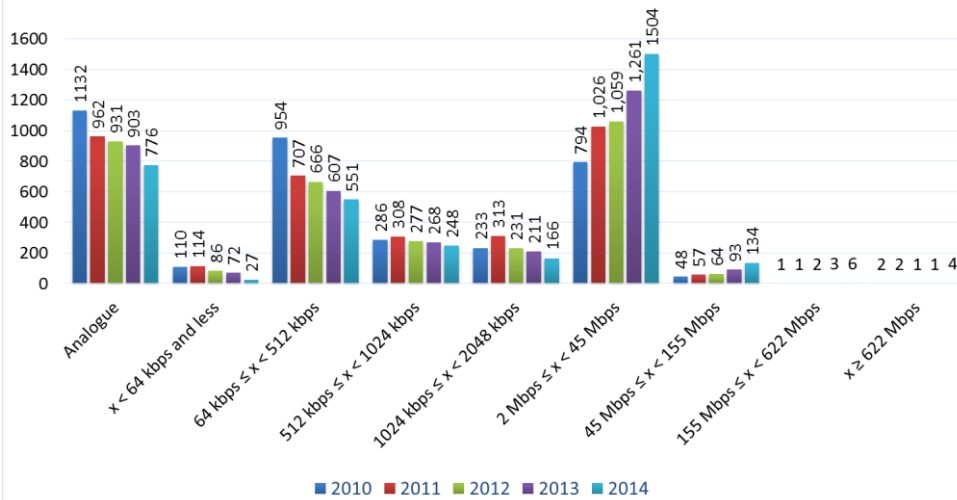
- The total number of domestic leased lines has been stable in recent years, although there has been a huge drop in slower speed services, that drop was corresponded by increase in higher speed services.
- A similar pattern has been observed in respect of international leased lines in recent years.

Evolution of the number of domestic leased line



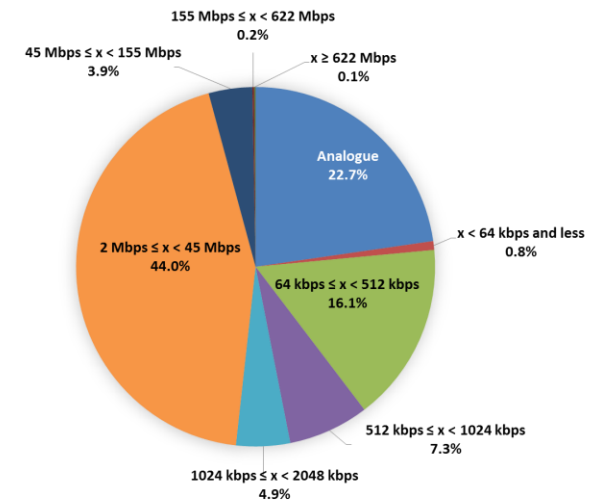
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

Evolution of domestic leased line for each speed



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

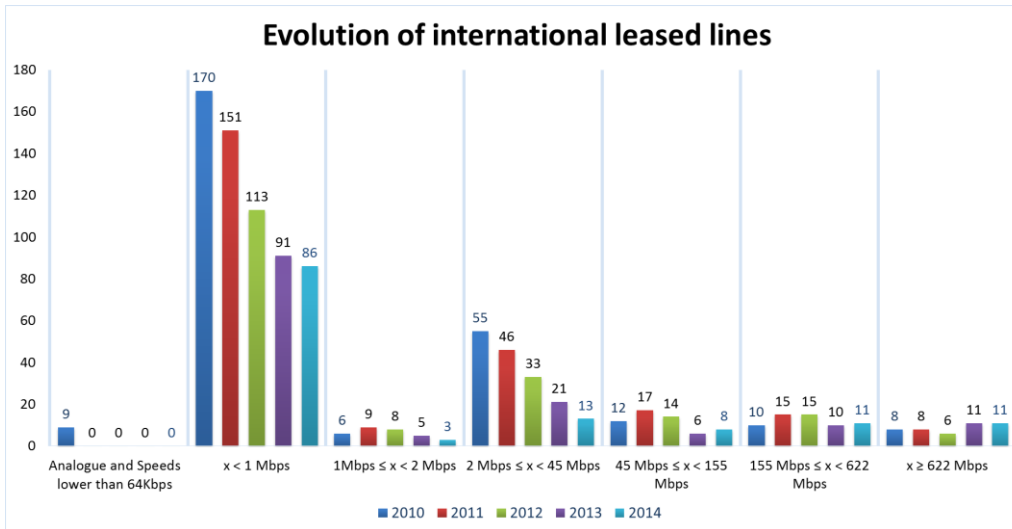
Distribution of domestic leased line by speed



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

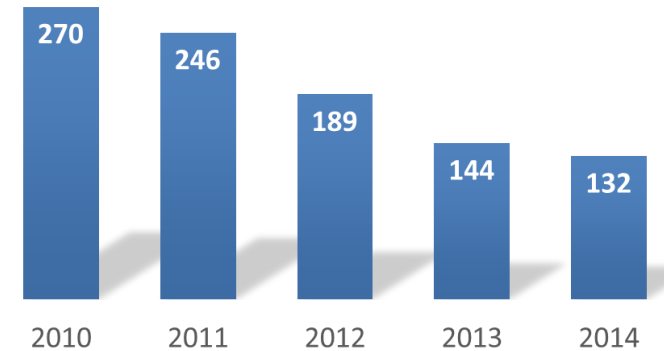
International leased lines

- Similar pattern to the domestic leased line has been observed in respect of international leased lines in recent years
- The total number of international leased lines has been stable in recent years, although there has been a huge drop in slower speed services, that drop was corresponded by increase in higher speed services.



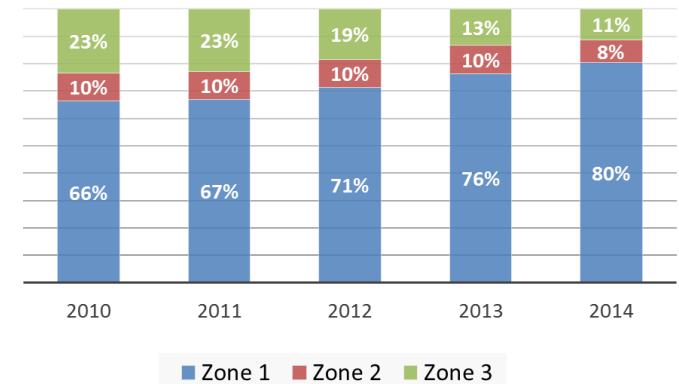
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

Evolution of international leased line



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

Distribution of international leased lines by destination zone



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

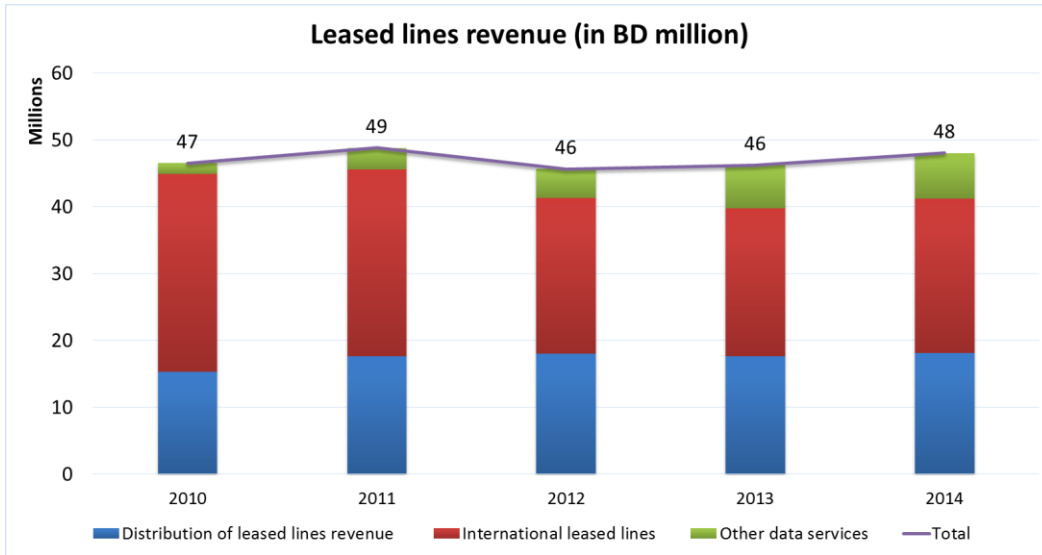
Zone 1 (GCC)

Zone 2 (rest of Middle East, Turkey, Cyprus, Greece, India, Pakistan, South Africa)

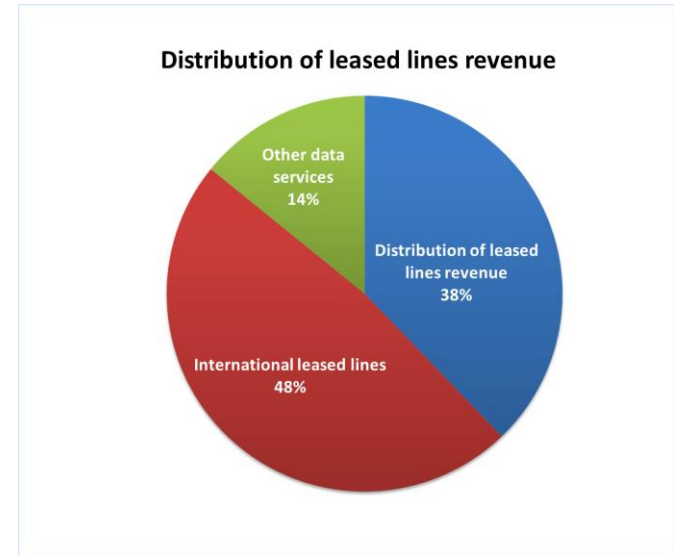
Zone 3 (Continental USA, Canada, Europe, SE Asia)

Leased line revenues

- ❶ The revenue generated from leased lines services has been stable over the last five years.



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

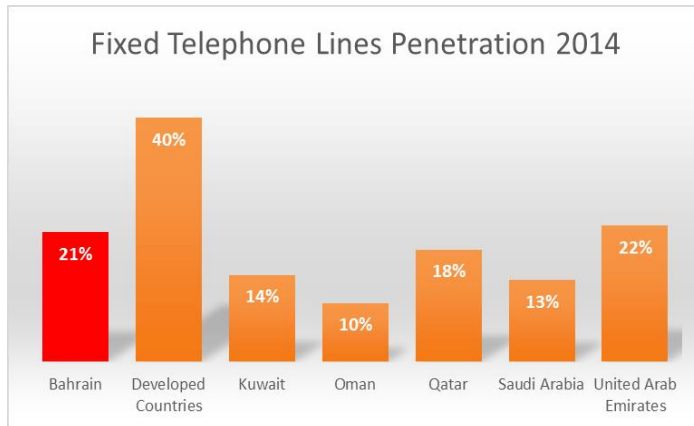


Source: TRA analysis based on operators data

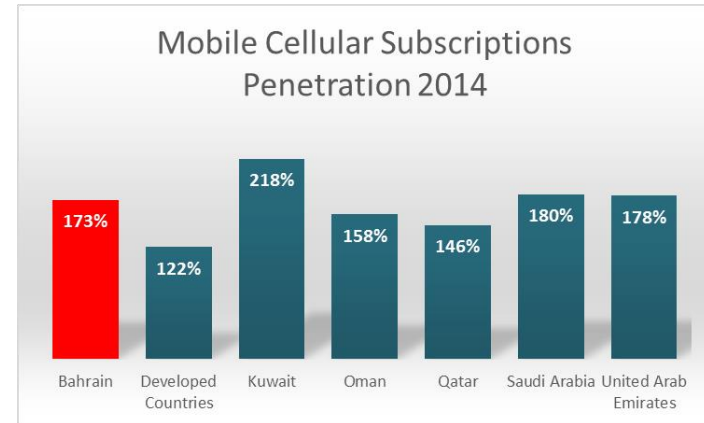


Benchmarking of telecom service penetration rates with GCC countries

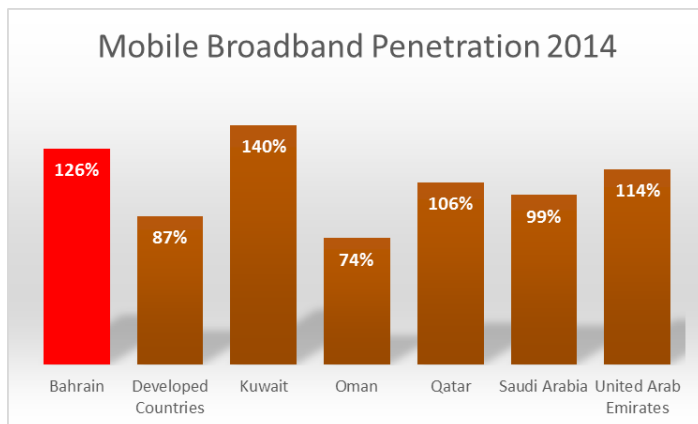
Bahrain compares well with other GCC countries and with developed countries in terms of telecom services penetration.



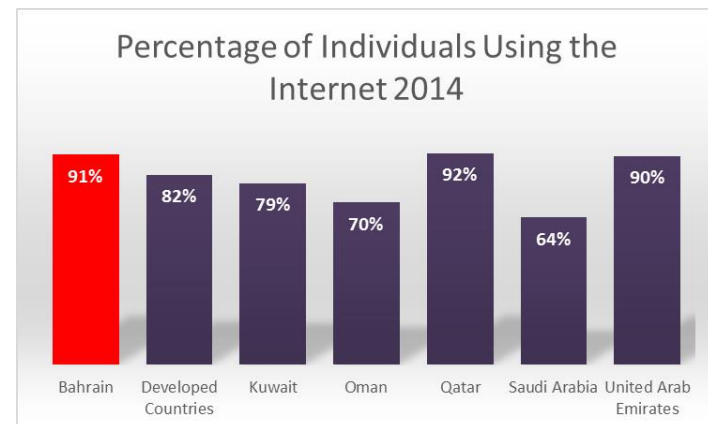
Source: TRA analysis based on operators data



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data



Source: TRA analysis based on operators data



Bahrain Telecom Pricing

	Bahrain results compared to GCC averages	Bahrain results compared to Arab averages	Bahrain results compared to OECD averages
PSTN (Low usage)			
PSTN (High usage)			
Mobile (Low usage)			
Mobile (High usage)			
Fixed broadband (Low speed)			
Fixed broadband (High speed)		Res Bus	
Mobile broadband (Low usage)			
Mobile broadband (High usage)			
Leased lines			*

Better than ...	
On par with ...	
More expensive than ...	

* Only 2 Mb/s speed can be compared with the OECD data



List of acronyms

ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
BD	Bahraini Dinar
CPS	Carrier Pre-Selection
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
IDD	International Direct Dial
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
Kb/s	Kilobit per second
Mb	Megabit
Mbps	Megabit per second
OLO	Other licensed operators
PPCC	Pre-Paid Calling Card
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network
PPP	Purchasing power parity
SMS	Short Message Service
TRA	Telecommunications Regulatory Authority



Definitions

Indicator	Definition
Fixed-telephone subscriptions	Fixed-telephone subscriptions refers to the sum of active number of analogue fixed-telephone lines, voice-over-IP (VoIP) subscriptions, fixed wireless local loop (WLL) subscriptions.
Prepaid mobile subscribers	Prepaid mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions (ITU code i271p) Refers to the total number of mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions that use prepaid refills. These are subscriptions where, instead of paying an ongoing monthly fee, users purchase blocks of usage time. Only active subscriptions should be included (those used at least once in the last three months for making or receiving a call or carrying out a non-voice activity such as sending or reading an SMS or accessing the Internet).
Postpaid mobile subscribers	Postpaid mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions Refers to the total number of mobile-cellular subscriptions where subscribers are billed after their use of mobile services, at the end of each month. The postpaid service is provided on the basis of a prior arrangement with a mobile cellular operator. Typically, the subscriber's contract specifies a limit or allowance of minutes, text messages, etc. The subscriber will be billed at a flat rate for any usage equal to or less than that allowance. Any usage above that limit incurs extra charges. Theoretically, a subscriber in this situation has no limit on use of mobile services and, as a consequence, unlimited credit.
Active mobile-broadband subscriptions	<p>Active mobile-broadband subscriptions refers to the sum of standard mobile-broadband and dedicated mobile broadband subscriptions to the public Internet. It covers actual subscribers, not potential subscribers, even though the latter may have broadband enabled-handsets. The indicator can be further broken down into:</p> <p>Standard mobile-broadband subscriptions (ITU code i271mb_active): Refers to active mobile-cellular subscriptions with an advertised data speed of 256 kbit/s or greater that allow access to the greater Internet via HTTP and have been used to make a data connection using Internet protocol (IP) in the previous three months. Standard SMS and MMS messaging do not count as active Internet data connections, even if they are delivered via IP.</p> <p>This includes mobile subscriptions that use mobile-broadband services on a pay-per-use basis. It excludes mobile subscriptions with a separate monthly data plan for mobile-broadband access (see Indicator 25b, Dedicated mobile broadband subscriptions). Dedicated mobile-broadband subscriptions (ITU code i271md): Refers to subscriptions to dedicated data services (over a mobile network) that allow access to the greater Internet and that are purchased separately from voice services, either as a standalone service (e.g. using a data card such as a USB modem/dongle) or as an add-on data package to voice services that requires an additional subscription. All dedicated mobile-broadband subscriptions with recurring subscription fees are included as 'active data subscriptions' regardless of actual use. Prepaid mobile-broadband plans require use in the last three months if there is no monthly subscription. This indicator could also include mobile WiMAX subscriptions.</p>



Thank You!