

SECTOR INFORMATION

Sector information covers: Mobile Network operators, Subscriptions, Users of telecommunication services and Tariffs of telecommunication services.

1. Mobile Network Operators and services

Telecommunication sub-sector sector in Tanzania is very competitive with seven Mobile Network Operators (MNO) namely: Vodacom Tanzania PLC (Vodacom), Airtel Tanzania Limited (Airtel), MIC Tanzania PLC (Tigo), Zanzibar Telecom PLC (Zantel), Viettel Tanzania PLC (Halotel), Smile Communications Tanzania Limited (Smile), and Tanzania Telecommunications Corporation (TTCL). Telecommunications services available includes voice calls, short Messages (SMS), Internet, Mobile Financial Services (M-PESA, Tigo-PESA, Airtel Money, Eazy PESA, T-PESA, and Halo-PESA) and many other Value-Added Services (VAS).

2. Subscription

Subscriptions to mobile networks increased significantly from 39.6 million in December 2015 to 51.2 million in December 2020 and tele density from 79% to 89% during the same period as shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Trend of Telecommunication Subscribers from 2015 - 2020

Years	December, 2015	December, 2016	December, 2017	December 2018	December, 2019	December, 2020
Fixed subscription	142,819	129,597	127,094	124,238	76,288	72,469
Mobile subscription	39,665,600	40,044,186	39,953,860	43,497,261	47,685,232	51,220,233
Total	39,808,419	40,173,783	40,080,954	43,621,499	47,761,520	51,292,506
Tele-density	79%	80%	78%	81%	85%	89%
Internet users	17,263,523	19,862,525	22,995,109	23,142,960	25,794,560	28,470,506

Source: TCRA database

Rapid growth in penetration of mobile broadband has enabled access to the Internet services to many Tanzanians. The number of internet users increased by 64% from 17,263,523 in 2015 to 28,470,506 in December 2020. As the population becomes increasingly connected, considerable benefits in economic growth and in social and cultural terms are increasingly realized. Government efforts in the construction of the National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) have also contributed in the increase of internet access, as shown in **Table 1**

3. Users of Telecommunication services

The number of people with SIM Cards in Tanzania is 28,455,685 out of total population of 57,637,628 as of 31st December 2020. Indeed, statistics shows that the country imports an average of 1.5 million mobile phones and other wireless devices. Trend of imported mobile phones and other wireless telecom devices are as shown on **Table 2**.

Table 2: Quantities of Imported mobile phones and other wireless telecom devices for the year 2016-2019

YEAR	QUANTITY
2016	1,583,691
2017	1,443,310
2018	1,252,882
2019	1,761,723

Source: Tanzania Revenue Authority

Considering our geographical position that Tanzania is boarded with eight countries, Tanzania has a potential of becoming a hub of smart phones and other electronic devices exporting to SADC and EAC regions. This is based on the fact that Tanzania has already an existing business networks with Regional.

4. Tariff of Telecommunication services

Average tariffs trend for voice, sms and data for bundle and out of bundle service are provided in figure 1 & 2.

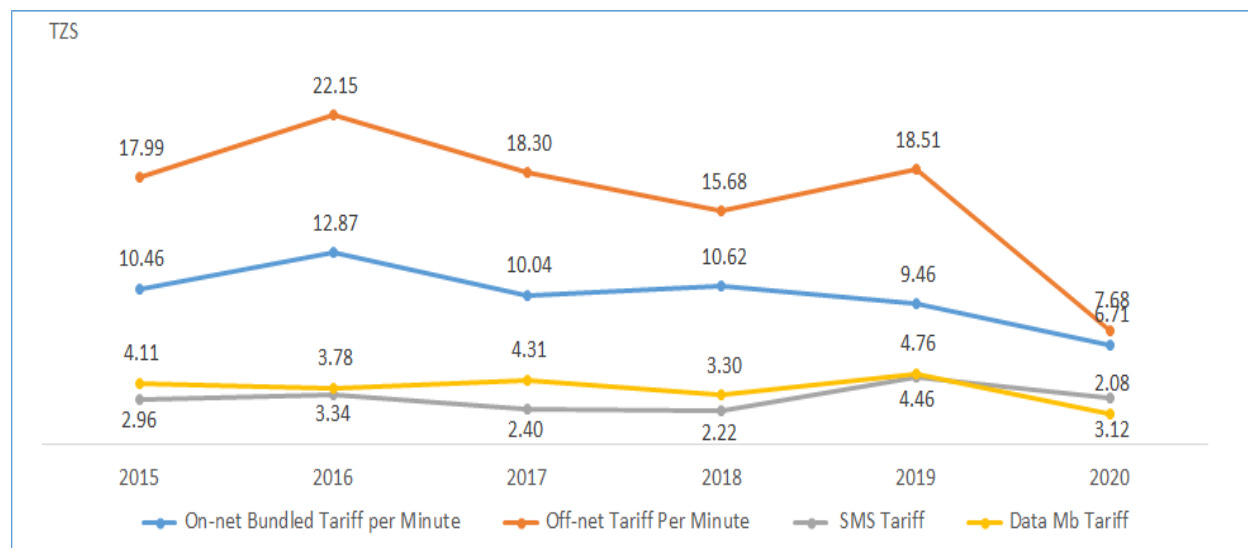


Figure 1: Average bundle tariff trend (TZS)

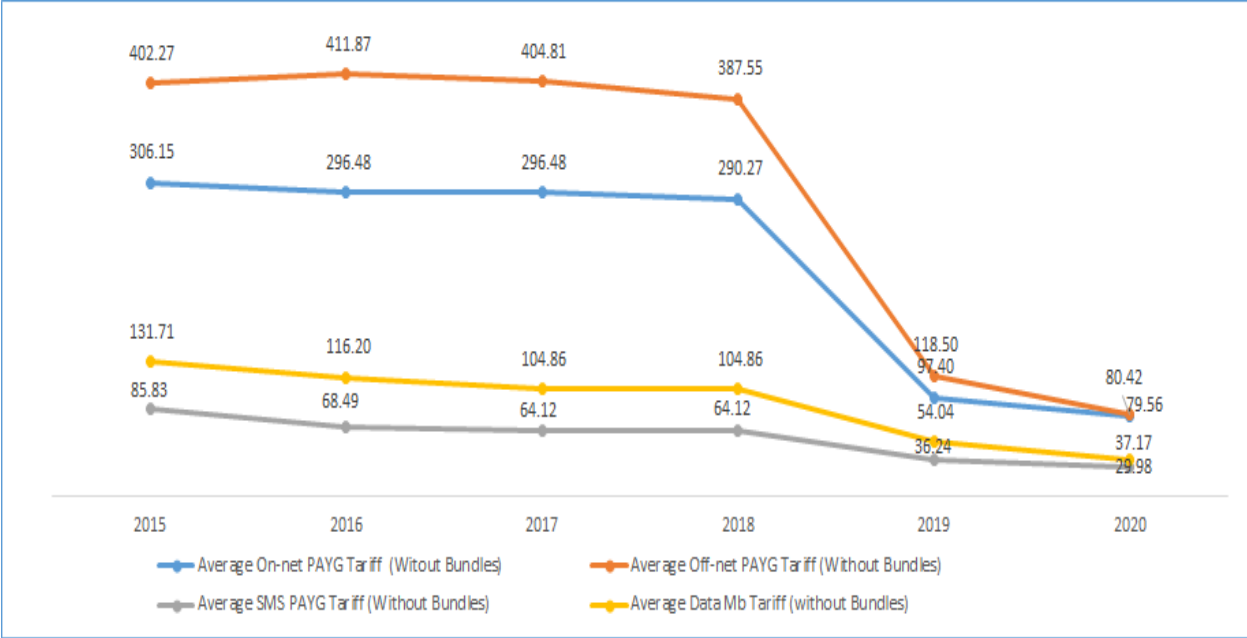


Figure 2: Average Basic tariff trend (TZS)

Figure 1 and 2 shows that average basic and bundle tariffs have declined over time indicating that telecommunication services have become affordable to many people and therefore creating demand for smartphones