

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**New Delhi, 2nd January, 2019

(www.traigov.in)

**Highlights of Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st October, 2018**

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless+ Wireline)
Total Telephone Subscribers (Million)	1170.02	22.02	1192.04
Net Addition in October, 2018 (Million)	0.72	-0.09	0.64
Monthly Growth Rate	0.06%	-0.40%	0.05%
Urban Telephone Subscribers (Million)	648.24	18.88	667.12
Net Addition in October, 2018 (Million)	0.54	-0.06	0.48
Monthly Growth Rate	0.08%	-0.34%	0.07%
Rural Telephone Subscribers (Million)	521.77	3.14	524.91
Net Addition in October, 2018 (Million)	0.18	-0.03	0.15
Monthly Growth Rate	0.03%	-0.81%	0.03%
Overall Tele-density*(%)	89.48	1.68	91.17
Urban Tele-density*(%)	156.12	4.55	160.67
Rural Tele-density*(%)	58.48	0.35	58.83
Share of Urban Subscribers	55.40%	85.74%	55.96%
Share of Rural Subscribers	44.60%	14.26%	44.04%
Broadband Subscribers (Million)	478.02	18.10	496.12

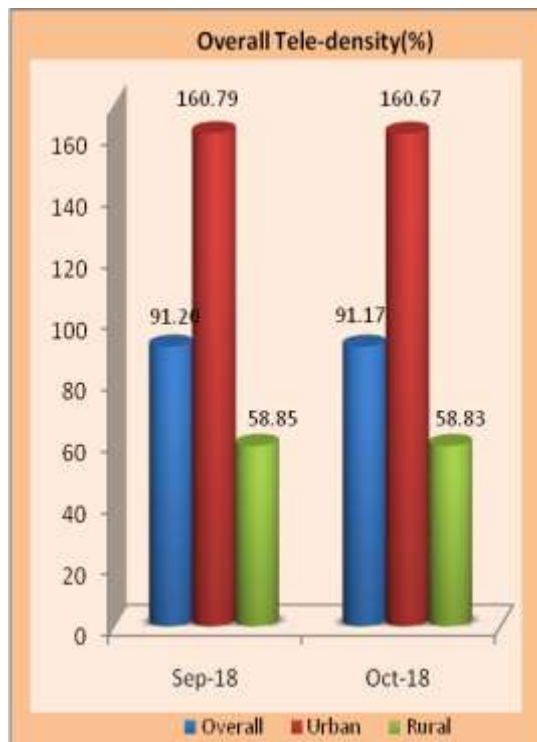
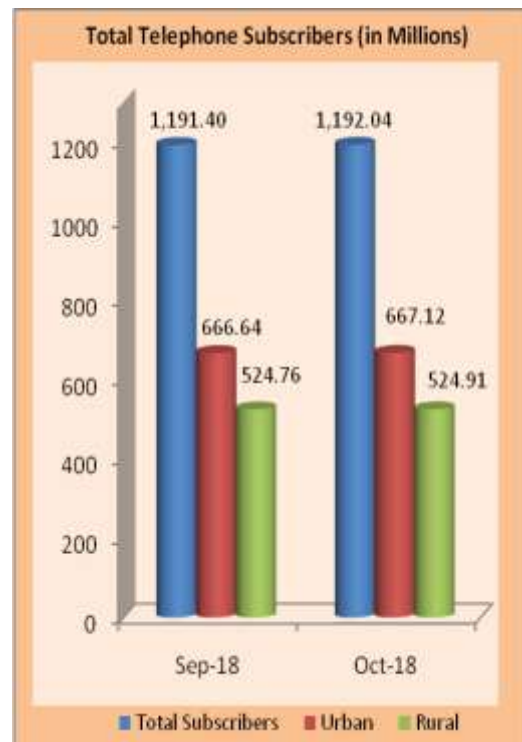
- ❖ In the month of October, 2018, 3.22 million subscribers submitted their requests for Mobile Number Portability (MNP). With this, the cumulative MNP requests increased from 400.76 million at the end of Sep-18 to 403.97 million at the end of Oct-18, since implementation of MNP.
- ❖ Number of active wireless subscribers (on the date of peak VLR#) in October, 2018 was 1,021.73 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.

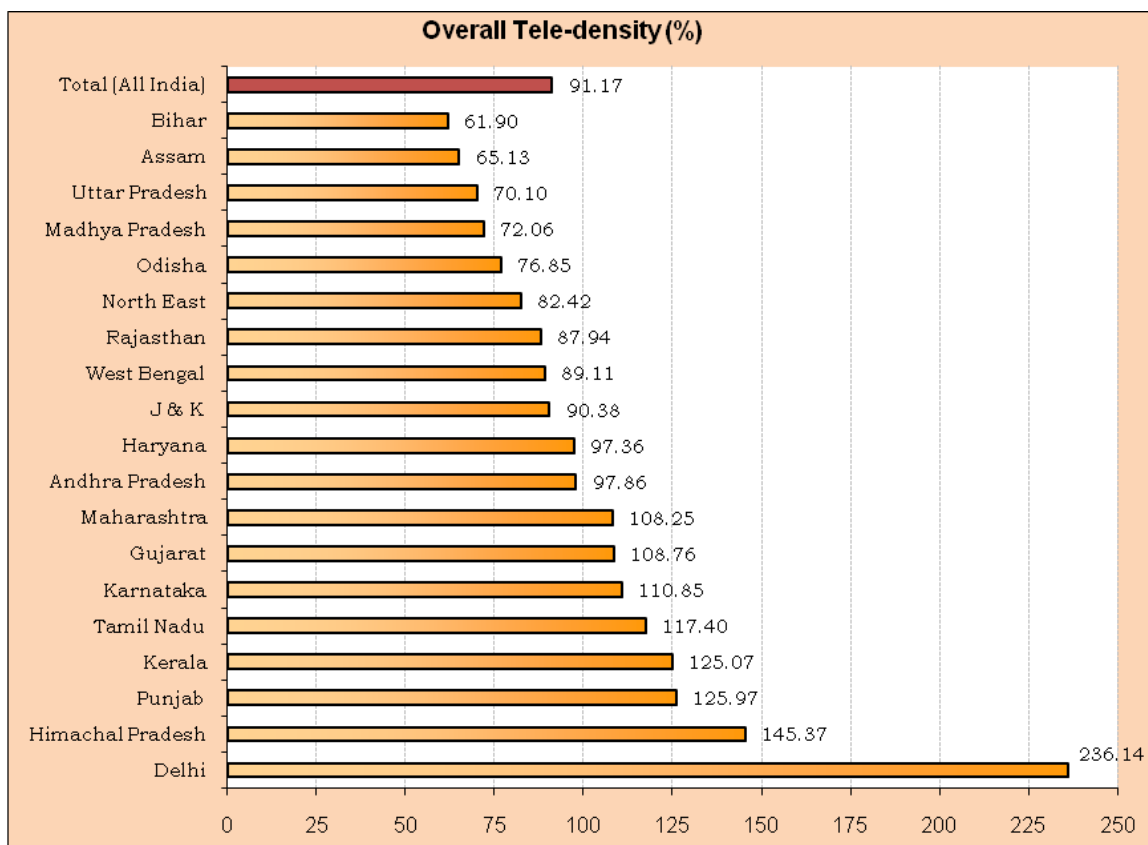
I. Total Telephone Subscribers

- The number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,191.40 million at the end of Sep-18 to 1,192.04 million at the end of Oct-18, thereby showing a monthly growth rate of 0.05%. The urban subscription increased from 666.64 million at the end of Sep-18 to 667.12 million at the end of Oct-18, and the rural subscription also increased from 524.76 million to 524.91 million during the same period. The monthly growth rates of urban and rural subscription were 0.07% and 0.03% respectively during the month of Oct-18.



- The overall Tele-density in India declined from 91.20 at the end of Sep-18 to 91.17 at the end of Oct-18. The Urban Tele-density declined from 160.79 at the end of Sep-18 to 160.67 at the end of Oct-18, and Rural Tele-density also slightly declined from 58.85 at the end of Sep-18 to 58.83 at the end of Oct-18. The share of urban and rural subscribers in total number of telephone subscribers at the end of Oct-18 was 55.96% and 44.04% respectively.

Overall Tele-density (Circle/State Wise) – As on 31st October, 2018



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).
4. Data/information for West Bengal includes Kolkata, Maharashtra includes Mumbai, Tamil Nadu includes Chennai and Uttar Pradesh includes UPE & UPW service area(s).
5. Data/information for Andhra Pradesh includes Telengana, Madhya Pradesh includes Chhatisgarh, 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 October, 2018

Circle Category	Net additions in the month of October, 2018		Telephone Subscriber base as on 31 st October, 2018	
	Wireline segment	Wireless segment	Wireline segment	Wireless segment
Circle A	-31,314	354,362	8,674,096	402,182,658
Circle B	-37,813	-396,003	5,510,862	476,960,321
Circle C	-13,697	73,493	943,372	175,673,238
Metro	-6,436	692,873	6,895,163	115,199,691
All India	-89,260	724,725	22,023,493	1,170,015,908

Circle Category-wise monthly and yearly Growth Rates in Telephone Subscribers in the month of October, 2018

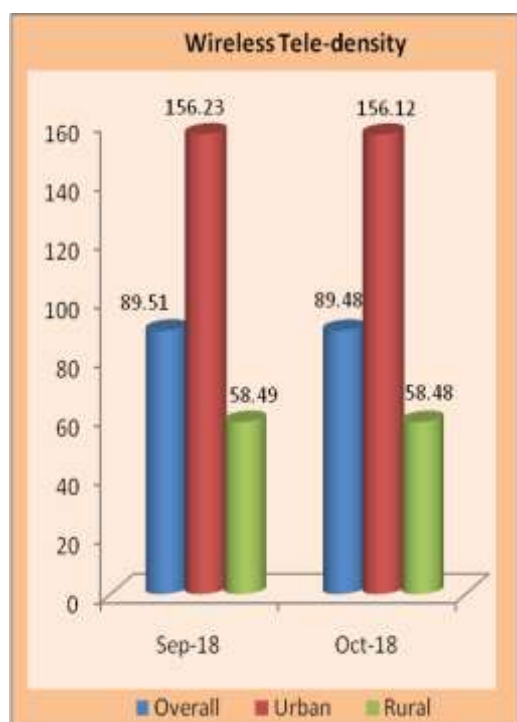
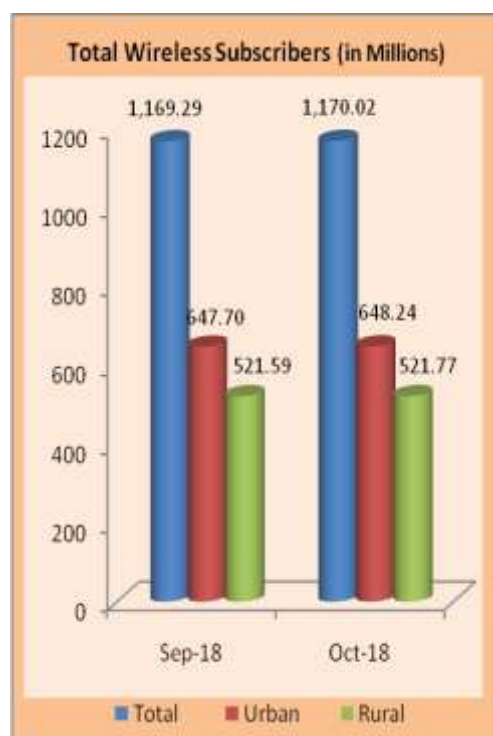
Circle Category	Monthly growth rate (%) (Sep-18 to Oct-18)		Yearly growth rate (%) (Oct-17 to Oct-18)	
	Wireline Segment	Wireless Segment	Wireline Segment	Wireless Segment
Circle A	-0.36	0.09	-6.99	-1.93
Circle B	-0.68	-0.08	-9.16	1.35
Circle C	-1.43	0.04	-10.71	-0.41
Metro	-0.09	0.61	-2.61	-4.88
All India	-0.40	0.06	-6.40	-0.69

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 except Category 'B' showed positive growth on monthly and yearly basis in their subscriber base during the month of Oct-18.
- In Wireline segment, Circles of all Categories showed monthly and yearly (Y-o-Y basis) decline in their number of wireline subscribers during the month of Oct-18.

III. Wireless Subscribers

- Total wireless subscribers (GSM, CDMA & LTE) increased from 1,169.29 million at the end of Sep-18 to 1,170.02 million at the end of Oct-18, thereby registering a monthly growth rate of 0.06%. The Wireless subscription in urban areas increased from 647.70 million at the end of Sep-18 to 648.24 million at the end of Oct-18, and wireless subscriptions in rural areas also increased from 521.59 million to 521.77 million during the month. The monthly growth rates of urban and rural wireless subscription were 0.08% and 0.03% respectively.

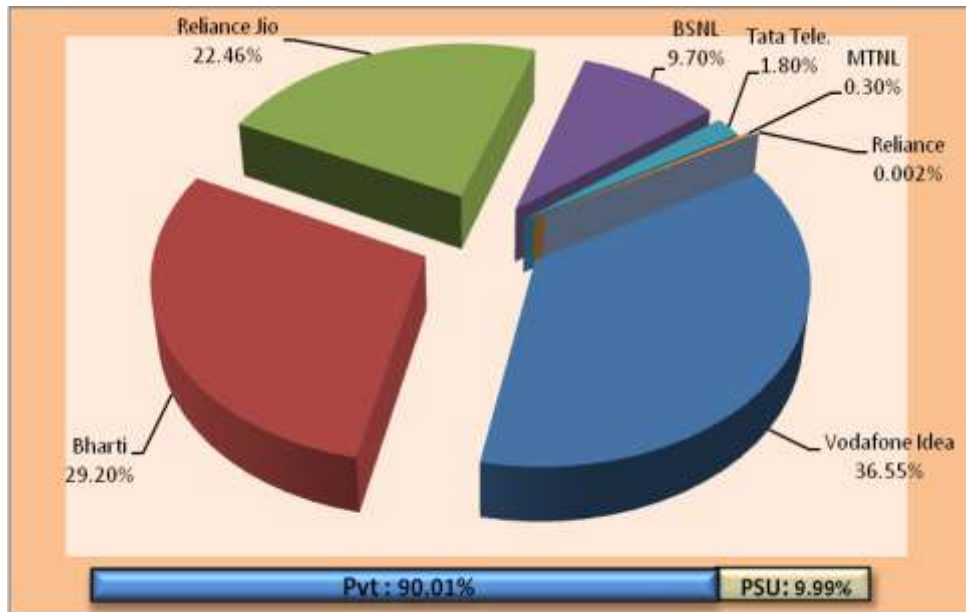


- The Wireless Tele-density in India declined from 89.51 at the end of Sep-18 to 89.48 at the end of Oct-18. The Urban Wireless Tele-density declined from 156.23 at the end of Sep-18 to 156.12 at the end of Oct-18, and Rural Wireless Tele-density also slightly declined from 58.49 to 58.48 during the same period. The share of urban and rural wireless subscribers in total number of wireless subscribers was 55.40% and 44.60% respectively at the end of Oct-18. Detailed statistics of wireless subscriber base is available at **Annexure-I**.

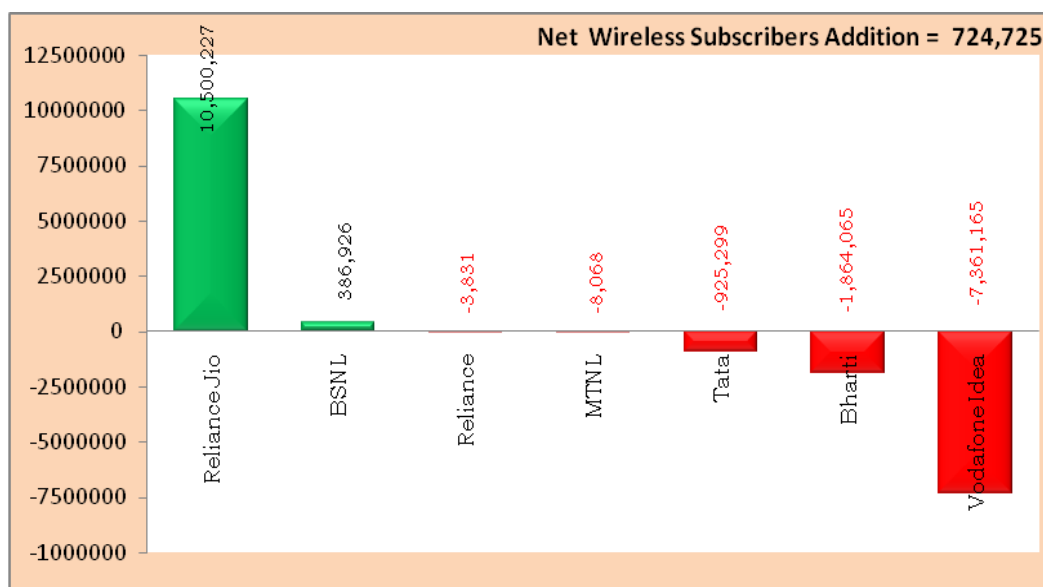
- As on 31st October, 2018, the private access service providers held 90.01% market share of the wireless subscribers whereas BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, had a market share of only 9.99%.

- 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 October, 2018



Net Additions in Wireless Subscribers of Access Service Providers in the Month of October, 2018

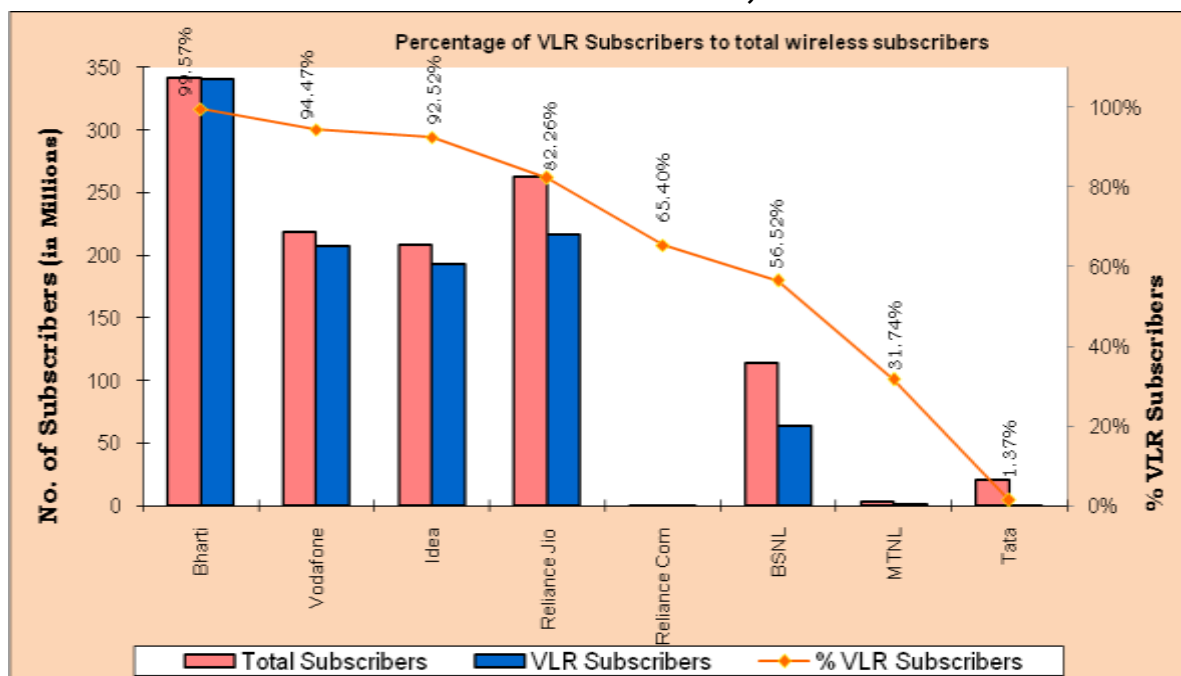


- Note:**
- On noticing that while reporting number of subscribers, some of the TSPs were deducting inactive subscribers. A Direction was issued on 18th August 2017 to TSPs to strictly adhere to the Department of Telecommunications’ methodology for reporting their number of subscribers. However, some of the Telecom Service Providers are yet to comply with the Direction.
 - M/s Vodafone and M/s Idea have been merged together and became a new company namely M/s Vodafone Idea Ltd.**
 - Virtual Network Operator (VNO) of BSNL has started reporting of its subscribers in the month of October, 2018 and the same has been included in the subscriber number of BSNL.**

IV. Active Wireless Subscribers (VLR Data)

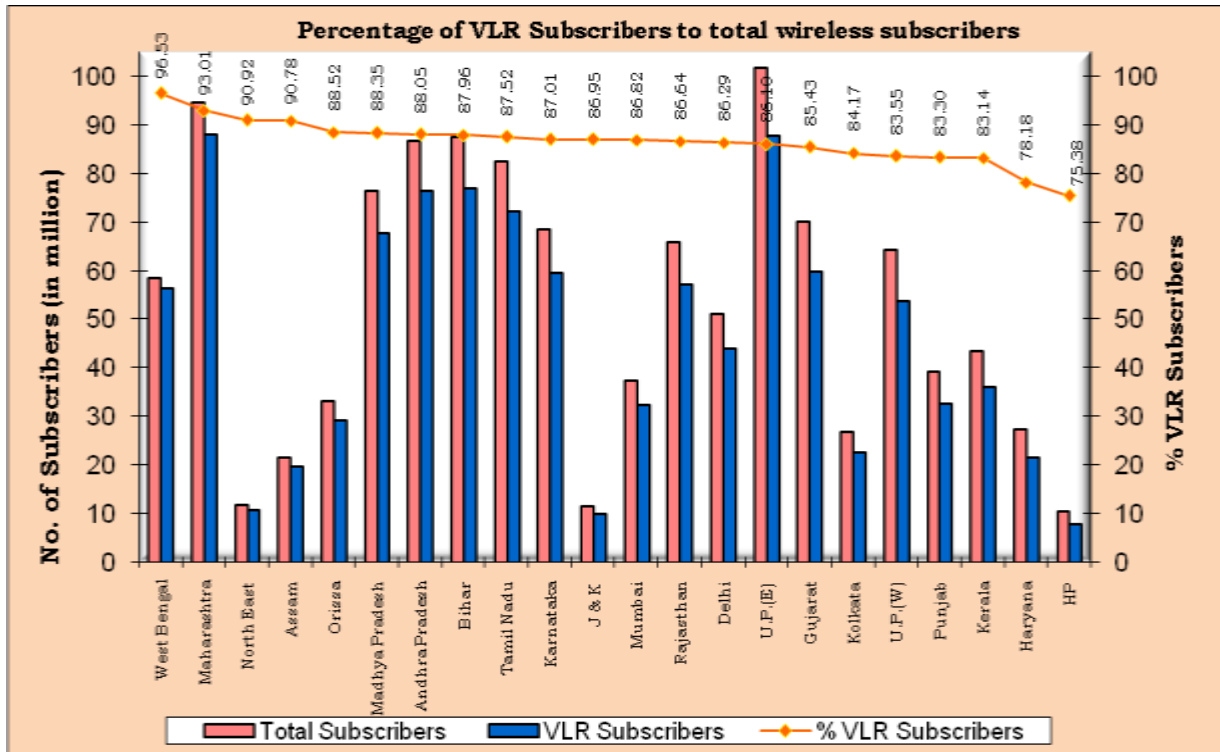
- Out of the total wireless subscribers (1,170.02 million), 1,021.73 million wireless subscribers were active on the date of peak VLR in the month of Oct-18. The proportion of active wireless subscribers was approximately 87.33% of the total wireless subscriber base.
- The detailed statistics on proportion of active wireless subscribers (also referred to as VLR subscribers) on the date of peak VLR in the month of Oct-18 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 October, 2018



- Bharti Airtel has the maximum proportion (99.57%) of its active wireless subscribers (VLR) as against its total wireless subscribers (HLR) on the date of peak VLR in the month of Oct-18.

Service Area wise percentage of VLR Subscribers in the Month of October, 2018



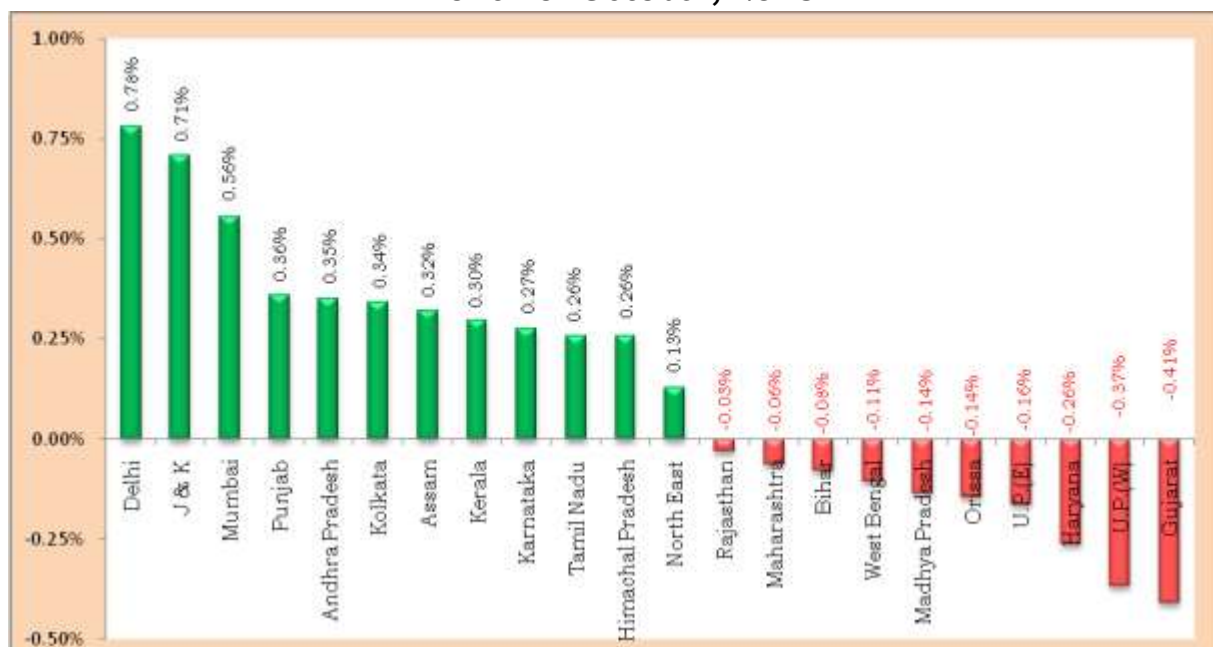
V. Growth in Wireless Subscribers

Access Service Provider-wise Monthly Growth Rate of Wireless Subscribers in the Month of October, 2018



- Note: 1. M/s Vodafone and M/s Idea have been merged together and became a new company namely M/s Vodafone Idea Ltd.
 2. BSNL includes its Virtual Network Operator (VNO)

Service Area-wise Monthly Growth Rate of Wireless Subscribers in the Month of October, 2018



- During the month of October, 2018, Delhi service area showed maximum monthly growth rate of 0.78% followed by J&K service area 0.71%). Gujarat service area showed maximum monthly decline rate of 0.41% in their wireless subscriber base.

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 Oct-18, a total of 3.22 million requests were received for MNP. Out of total 3.22 million requests, 1.49 million requests received from Zone-I and 1.73 million requests received from Zone-II. The cumulative MNP requests increased from 400.76 million at the end of Sep-18 to 403.97 million at the end of Oct-18, since the implementation of MNP.

- In MNP Zone-I (Northern and Western India), the highest number of requests till date have been received in Rajasthan (about 32.83 million) followed by Maharashtra (about 28.56 million) service area. In MNP Zone-II (Southern and Eastern India), the highest number of requests till date have been received in Karnataka (about 38.33 million) followed by Andhra Pradesh (about 34.35 million).

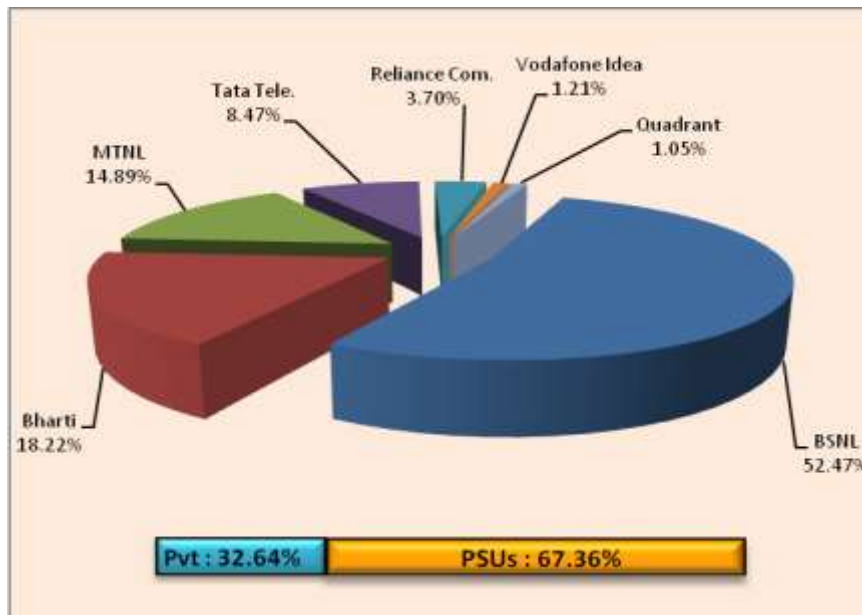
Service Area Wise MNP Status					
Zone - 1			Zone - 2		
Service Area	Number of Porting Requests (in Million)		Service Area	Number of Porting Requests (in Million)	
	Sep-18	Oct-18		Sep-18	Oct-18
Delhi	20.42	20.74	Andhra Pradesh	33.94	34.35
Gujarat	26.31	26.34	Assam	3.22	3.24
Haryana	14.51	14.65	Bihar	15.44	15.59
Himachal Pradesh	1.92	1.94	Karnataka	38.04	38.33
Jammu & Kashmir	0.94	0.96	Kerala	9.64	9.74
Maharashtra	28.26	28.56	Kolkata	9.83	9.89
Mumbai	20.95	21.14	Madhya Pradesh	26.23	26.46
Punjab	15.15	15.32	North East	1.27	1.28
Rajasthan	32.65	32.83	Orissa	7.90	7.96
U.P.(East)	21.89	22.02	Tamil Nadu	34.05	34.34
U.P.(West)	17.67	17.65	West Bengal	20.54	20.63
Total	200.66	202.15	Total	200.09	201.82
Total (Zone-1 + Zone-2)				400.76	403.97
Net Addition (October, 2018)				3.22	

VII. Wireline Subscribers

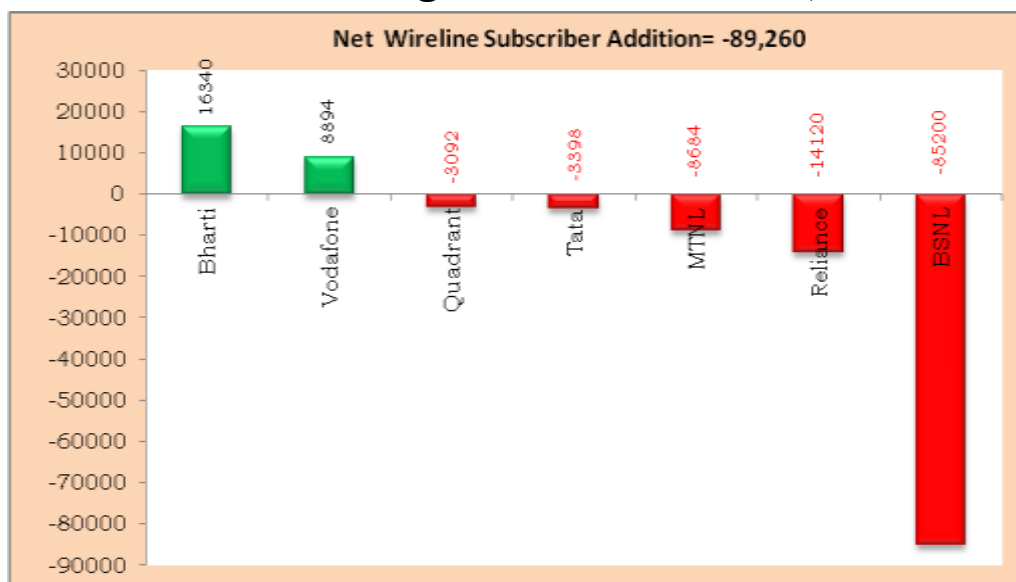
- Wireline subscribers further declined from 22.11 million at the end of Sep-18 to 22.02 million at the end of Oct-18. Net decline in the wireline subscriber base was 0.09 million with a monthly decline rate of 0.40%. The share of urban and rural subscribers in total wireline subscribers were 85.74% and 14.26% respectively at the end of Oct-18.

- The Overall Wireline Tele-density(%) declined from 1.69 at the end of Sep-18 to 1.68 at the end of Oct-18. Urban and Rural Wireline Tele-density were 4.55 and 0.35 respectively during the same period.
- BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, held 67.36% of the wireline market share. Detailed statistics of wireline subscriber base are available at **Annexure-III**.

Access Service Provider-wise Market Shares of Wireline Subscribers as on 31st October, 2018



Access Service Provider-wise Net Additions/declines in Wireline Subscribers during the Month of October, 2018



VIII. Broadband (\geq 512 Kbps download)

- As per the reports received from 306 operators, the number of broadband subscribers increased from 481.70 million at the end of Sep-18 to 496.12 million at the end of Oct-18 with a monthly growth rate of 2.99%. Segment-wise broadband subscribers and their monthly growth rates are as below:

Segment-wise Broadband Subscribers and Monthly Growth Rate in the month of October, 2018

Segment	Broadband subscribers (in million)		Monthly growth rate in the month of Oct-18
	As on 30 th September, 2018	As on 31 st October, 2018	
Wired subscribers	17.99	18.10	0.60%
Mobile devices users (Phones and dongles)	462.89	477.20	3.09%
Fixed Wireless subscribers (Wi-Fi, Wi-Max, Point-to-Point Radio & VSAT)	0.821	0.818	-0.43%
Total	481.70	496.12	2.99%

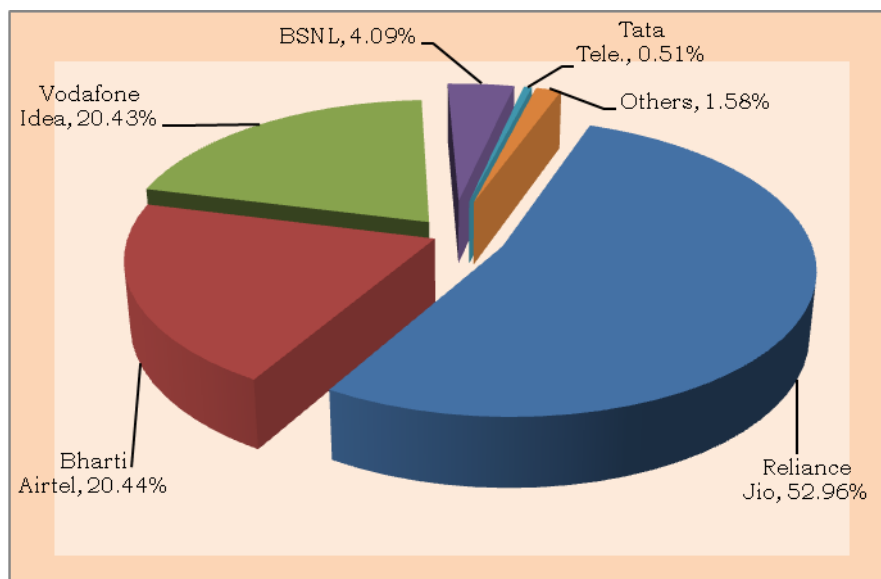
- Top five service providers constituted 98.42% market share of the total broadband subscribers at the end of Oct-18. These service providers were Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (262.75 million), Bharti Airtel (101.39 million), Vodafone Idea (101.33 million), BSNL (20.30 million) and Tata Tele. Group (2.51 million).

Note: 1. Some wireless service providers exclude incidental data users from their subscriber base, based on minimum usage decided by them.

2. M/s Vodafone and M/s Idea have been merged together and became a new company namely M/s Vodafone Idea Ltd.

- 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 31.10.2018**



- As on 31st October, 2018, the top five Wired Broadband Service providers were BSNL (9.15 million), Bharti Airtel (2.25 million), Atria Convergence Technologies (1.37 million), MTNL (0.79 million) and Hathway Cable & Datacom (0.75 million).
- As on 31st October, 2018, the top five Wireless Broadband Service providers were Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (262.75 million), Vodafone Idea (101.32 million), Bharti Airtel (99.14 million), BSNL (11.15 million) and Tata Teleservices (1.99 million).

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Wireless Subscriber Base

Annexure-I

Circle	Bharti Airtel		Reliance Com.		Vodafone Idea		Tata Teleservices		BSNL		BSNL (VNO's)		MTNL		Reliance Jio		Total		Net Addition
	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	
Andhra Pradesh	30026566	29902547	2623	2261	23977810	23678091	1931249	1852045	10117353	10118070					20399046	21205842	86454647	86758856	304209
Assam	8418266	8400558			5776230	5619521		0	2336741	2368109					5028609	5240777	21559846	21628965	69119
Bihar	39593326	39476741	102	108	25036871	24224417	386772	358305	4724672	4774861					17780229	18617878	87521972	87452310	-69662
Delhi	15172046	15187013	6424	5025	19728674	19628067	137248	106345					2233956	2227662	13325084	13844596	50603432	50998708	395276
Gujarat	12449875	12345373	287	288	34564187	34238324	1066720	1007691	5641764	5665661					16576888	16754132	70299721	70011469	-288252
Haryana	3869469	3823169	76	81	11729137	11445660	981753	933061	4779107	4842023					6179323	6422849	27538865	27466843	-72022
Himachal Pradesh	3657922	3625105	72	72	1495380	1454925	6073	5311	2715771	2733636					2505658	2588414	10380876	10407463	26587
J & K	5659892	5658666			1483982	1423521		0	1208592	1214396					2975802	3111852	11328268	11408435	80167
Karnataka	27196971	27227312	3743	3433	16906191	16495015	3533210	3408060	7014510	7091733					13666438	14283293	68321063	68508846	187783
Kerala	5097537	5145521	260	238	20502232	20446732	390245	364961	10825739	10811257					6501146	6676436	43317159	43445145	127986
Kolkata	6480384	6461736	45	46	10024532	9886389	1214176	1177537	1683227	1723664					7424214	7668703	26826578	26918075	91497
Madhya Pradesh	15822548	15670666	498	537	33786811	33014816	2222462	2143359	6017078	5987994					18740661	19667288	76590058	76484660	-105398
Maharashtra	16649830	16471221	982	989	50270674	49597331	2024488	1889095	6925452	6919638					18698415	19630101	94569841	94508375	-61466
Mumbai	8389788	8458979	6989	6146	15980680	15906536	1068859	988803					1260470	1258696	10370022	10663748	37076808	37282908	206100
North East	5387075	5348491			2353972	2287469		0	1603167	1619490					2349334	2453087	11693548	11708537	14989
Orissa	13194247	13152845	47	55	6583705	6303530	646536	603887	5510262	5515519					7180438	7491692	33115235	33067528	-47707
Punjab	10450837	10447702	84	116	12090901	11896958	1029811	989320	5212346	5256963					10310181	10643713	39094160	39234772	140612
Rajasthan	23850722	23446963	248	251	20042460	19292176	162978	148359	5640989	5650565					16165830	17304294	65863227	65842608	-20619
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	26015186	25967209	4806	3721	26463679	26083651	1706322	1655878	11696433	11708598		22935			16296598	16953120	82183024	82395112	212088
U.P.(E)	33187047	32844119	470	491	37840566	37210434	1889481	1885794	11905520	11939298					17103514	17879616	101926598	101759752	-166846
U.P.(W)	14213444	14000286	59	61	30321177	29935403	1530798	1490990	5886864	5885866					12598432	13000001	64550774	64312607	-238167
West Bengal	18740367	18597058	198	263	28004555	27534275	51789	46870	1602433	1584670					10076141	10650798	58475483	58413934	-61549
Total	343523345	341659280	28013	24182	434964406	427603241	21980970	21055671	113048020	113412011	0	22935	3494426	3486358	252252003	262752230	1169291183	1170015908	724725
Net Addition		-1864065		-3831		-7361165		-925299		363991		22935		-8068		10500227	0	724725	
Rural Subscribers	171325432	170188344	0	0	230557038	225575652	3107673	2907365	35724341	35828917	0	0	46690	46558	80832574	87227196	521593748	521774032	180284

Note: 1. M/s Vodafone and M/s Idea have been merged together and became a new company namely M/s Vodafone Idea Ltd.
2. Virtual Network Operator (VNO) of BSNL has reported its subscriber number in the month of October, 2018.

Proportion of VLR on the date of Peak VLR in the month of Oct-18 (%)

Annexure-II

Circle	Bharti	BSNL	Idea	MTNL	Reliance	Reliance Jio	Tata	Vodafone	Total
Andhra Pradesh	100.79	68.74	97.67		72.98	79.84	0.30	84.37	88.05
Assam	95.40	64.77	88.88			90.34		97.13	90.78
Bihar	90.25	56.52	89.29		7.41	93.37	0.41	85.09	87.96
Delhi	99.20		87.76	20.65	76.02	73.30	24.32	96.39	86.29
Gujarat	100.42	44.45	94.50		29.86	72.84	0.05	96.20	85.43
Haryana	122.92	35.08	94.34		3.70	65.50	0.56	95.38	78.18
Himachal Pradesh	92.40	45.51	101.17		2.78	70.74	1.09	90.44	75.38
J & K	94.81	74.27	93.73		-	74.85		92.39	86.95
Karnataka	103.77	61.84	94.40		72.65	77.99	0.49	97.62	87.01
Kerala	95.91	63.18	94.18		58.82	73.38	1.91	96.65	83.14
Kolkata	105.22	54.59	92.84		39.13	72.36	7.55	94.26	84.17
Madhya Pradesh	103.87	54.76	94.41		2.79	90.77	0.36	75.44	88.35
Maharashtra	114.83	55.49	95.46		42.57	91.33	1.91	94.63	93.01
Mumbai	116.73		84.95	51.36	62.17	84.50	7.10	78.25	86.82
North East	96.53	75.03	97.33		-	85.73		93.90	90.92
Orissa	95.24	70.22	85.59		5.45	94.18	0.74	95.26	88.52
Punjab	104.56	48.86	98.37		2.59	74.55	0.11	88.13	83.30
Rajasthan	91.58	46.83	88.84		7.57	85.13	0.57	97.90	86.64
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	100.42	66.31	86.79		86.00	77.97	0.67	98.76	87.52
U.P. (E)	98.94	44.99	89.21		15.48	88.75	0.15	91.97	86.10
U.P. (W)	102.42	41.46	88.59		21.31	76.25	0.20	92.74	83.55
West Bengal	93.93	87.95	83.62		8.75	86.11	1.28	108.63	96.53
Total	99.57	56.52	92.52	31.74	65.40	82.26	1.37	94.47	87.33

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		Vodafone		Sep-18	Oct-18	
	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Sep-18	Oct-18			
Andhra Pradesh	1012648	1006300			170731	171938	49901	49519	175192	173861			30230	30370	1438702	1431988	-6714
Assam	123444	121400											2790	2790	126234	124190	-2044
Bihar	230498	228096					4374	4282	8749	8517			1800	1830	245421	242725	-2696
Delhi			1503186	1498491	1358401	1363540	140679	136911	151721	151886			42580	44610	3196567	3195438	-1129
Gujarat	1009137	1008722			81614	82081	23975	24161	91102	91065			20088	20328	1225916	1226357	441
Haryana	225606	222112			22668	22668	3049	2956	35843	36367			150	150	287316	284253	-3063
Himachal Pradesh	114891	114192					3121	3098	2001	1905			0	60	120013	119255	-758
J & K	107958	106883													107958	106883	-1075
Karnataka	1052271	1047452			661126	666765	146662	144875	277374	275152			40145	41925	2177578	2176169	-1409
Kerala	1813189	1810470			59559	59686	19857	18942	19854	19606			2880	2970	1915339	1911674	-3665
Kolkata	515718	511235			125629	125746	43375	42960	53060	52548			7940	8020	745722	740509	-5213
Madhya Pradesh	656329	656396			242223	242456	11487	11631	15728	16064			690	930	926457	927477	1020
Maharashtra	1162466	1147993			87100	87663	54992	54164	297202	292885			16597	17564	1618357	1600269	-18088
Mumbai			1784706	1780717	362239	362562	195555	191229	569615	574701			47195	50007	2959310	2959216	-94
North East	107170	107090											270	270	107440	107360	-80
Orissa	237613	230662					2642	2574	7798	7743			1950	1980	250003	242959	-7044
Punjab	426496	420330			126264	127130	11702	11578	14502	14439	233693	230601	1530	1590	814187	805668	-8519
Rajasthan	470038	463994			52352	52956	25527	25149	12199	12498			7140	7170	567256	561767	-5489
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	1474450	1468675			557755	557876	76665	76452	118397	118445			17590	17865	2244857	2239313	-5544
U.P.(E)	362054	358242			65518	66111	10285	9371	8897	8590			11520	11550	458274	453864	-4410
U.P.(W)	289358	278226			22736	23077	4271	4151	6051	5672			3900	3900	326316	315026	-11290
West Bengal	249066	246730					1757	1753	2587	2530			120	120	253530	251133	-2397
Total	11640400	11555200	3287892	3279208	3995915	4012255	829876	815756	1867872	1864474	233693	230601	257105	265999	22112753	22023493	-89260
Net Addition		-85200		-8684		16340		-14120		-3398		-3092		8894			-89260
Rural Subscribers	3063310	3039590	0	0	0	0	1582	1523	52713	51943	48805	47780	0	0	3166410	3140836	-25574

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.