

Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.



"Brands are becoming increasingly savvy in making pricing adjustments that favor their ARPU. But as subscribers become more sophisticated, these shifts will eventually become transparent to them. It may be time for marketers to primarily focus on growing new services that benefit consumers, rather than tinkering further with plans."

— Billy Hulkower, Senior Analyst, Technology and Media

This report looks at the following areas:

- How can the industry grow past universal penetration?
- · Has the future been prepaid?

With phone penetration approaching universality, the only ways for service providers to grow is by poaching customers from other carriers, or by increasing ARPU (Average Revenue Per User). In response to this need, this report addresses how to hone messaging and promote data consumption. The report analyzes how subscribers view their current provider, and whether they are willing to switch carriers. Subjects of focus include use of cellular service for laptops and tablets, attitudes to mobile internet, providers under consideration for future use, and reasons for wanting to switch carriers, with an eye toward how subscribers can be won over from competitors.

Mintel defines this market to include payments to telecommunications carriers for wireless-service subscriptions. Mobile voice and data communication among adults aged 18+ is the focus of the report. This report builds on the analysis presented in Mintel's *Mobile Phone Service – US, February 2013*.

BUY THIS <u>REPORT</u> NOW

VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533

> Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250

+61 (0) 2 8284 8100

EMAIL: oxygen@mintel.com

DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Table of Contents

Scope and Themes

What you need to know

Definition

Data sources

Sales data

Consumer survey data

Advertising creative

Abbreviations and terms

Abbreviations

Terms

Executive Summary

The market

Slow growth driven by data

Figure 1: Total US sales and fan chart forecast of cellular service revenue, at current prices, 2008-18

Prepaid gains, but remains a niche

Figure 2: US cellular service revenue, postpaid vs prepaid, 2013

Smartphone-centered lifestyles drive mobile data growth

Figure 3: Features used on cell phone in past 30 days, January 2011-September 2013

Data growth competes with faster speed, lower-cost fixed-point

Connected devices waiting for carriers to pick up

Key players

Figure 4: Cellular carrier, January-September 2013

T-Mobile's pricing revolution

Network wars dominate airwaves

The consumer

Growth in highest-income group perk for pricy plans

Figure 5: Spend on monthly cell/wireless phone bill, by household income, January-September 2013

Younger subscribers more likely to switch

Figure 6: Interest in switching carriers, and switched to new service in past 12 months, by age, December 2013

Switchers seek cost-relief

Figure 7: Reasons for switching carriers, December 2013

What we think

Issues and Insights

How can the industry grow past universal penetration?

The issues

The implications



VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Has the future been prepaid?

The issues

The implications

Trend Application

Trend: Guiding Choice

Trend: Who are the Joneses?

Mintel futures: Human

Market Size and Forecast

Key points

New competitive landscape dampened growth in 2013

Increased data use to offset lower connection fees

Sales and forecast

Figure 8: Total US sales and forecast of cellular service revenue, at current prices, 2008-18

Figure 9: Total US sales and forecast of cellular service revenue, at inflation-adjusted prices, 2008-18

Figure 10: US cellular subscriptions, 2008-13

Fan chart forecast

Figure 11: Fan Chart and Forecast: Total US sales of cellular service revenue, at current prices, 2008-18

Market Drivers

Key points

Smartphone ownership

Figure 12: Smartphone ownership, by age, December 2013

Tablets and laptops relatively untapped market

Figure 13: Ownership of smartphones, tablets, and laptops, December 2013

Figure 14: Use of laptops and tablets with cellular plans, December 2013

Rapid shifts in phone use

Figure 15: Features used on cell phone in past 30 days, January 2011-September 2013

Age and spend

Figure 16: Spend on monthly cell/wireless phone bill, by age, January 2013-September 2013

Figure 17: US population by age, 2014-19

Income and spending

Figure 18: Spend on monthly cell/wireless phone bill, by household income, January-September 2013

Figure 19: Household income distribution, 2011-13

Competitive Context

Key points

Home internet major competitor for mobile data

Speed

Price

WiFi hotspots reduce spend on mobile data

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Municipal WiFi limited threat, but hotspots at retail are spreading

Home ISPs enhance WiFi coverage

Segment Performance

Key points

Prepaid continues to gain, but more slowly

Figure 20: US cellular service revenues, postpaid vs. prepaid, 2008-18

Postpaid rallies on data use and connected devices

Figure 21: US cellular service postpaid subscriptions, 2008-13

Prepaid gains revenue share but not subscription share

Figure 22: US cellular service prepaid subscriptions, 2008-13

Leading Carriers

Key points

Stasis

Figure 23: Current carrier, January 2008-September 2013

Figure 24: Current carrier, by household income, January-September 2013

Figure 25: Current carrier, by type of plan, December 2013

Figure 26: Current carrier, by recent change in service, December 2013

Top tier even more dominant in total connections

Figure 27: Retail connections, by carrier, December 2012-December 2013

Innovations and Innovators

Key points

The "Uncarrier" shakes up plan design

Sprint charts its own course with Framily pricing

New upgrade options lure customers with the very latest devices

Carriers want to pay your termination fees

Sponsored content opens up supply-side revenue stream

Internet-connected autos represent ongoing opportunity

Marketing Strategies

Overview of the brand landscape

T-Mobile doubles down on support for Un-carrier initiatives

Figure 28: T-Mobile TV ad, "No Contract", 2014

Figure 29: T-Mobile TV ad, "Pipes", 2014

Figure 30: AT&T TV ad, "CatchJeremy.com, Day 3", 2013

AT&T's kids continue to win fans

Figure 31: AT&T TV ad, "It's Not Complicated – Pet Turkey," 2013

Figure 32: AT&T TV ad, "Hours," 2014

 $Verizon: \ "It's \ the \ network, \ stupid"$

Figure 33: Verizon Wireless TV ad, "Map Gallery," 2013

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Figure 34: Verizon Wireless TV ad, "48 Hours," 2013

Sprint focuses on people

Figure 35: Sprint TV ad, "Framily Plan: Band," 2013

Value carriers downplay differences, emphasize price

Cricket and Straight Talk suggest all mobile service is the same

Figure 36: Cricket Wireless TV ad, "Half is More," 2013

Virgin Mobile declares National Breakup Day

Attitudes to Plans and Service

Key points

Confusion reigns

Figure 37: Finding cell phone plans confusing, by age, January-September 2013

Few prefer contract plans

Figure 38: Attitudes to cell phone plans, by age, December 2013

Attitudes to internet service

Figure 39: Attitudes to internet service, by age, December 2013

Figure 40: Attitudes to internet service, by plans to change service, December 2013

Limited interest in docking stations

Figure 41: Preference for landline use, by age, January 2013-September 2013

Figure 42: Interest in docking stations, by age, December 2013

Near-term switchers see value in docks

Figure 43: Interest in docking stations, by plans to change service, December 2013

Prepaid vs postpaid

Figure 44: Type of plan: Prepaid vs contract, by household income, December 2013

Two thirds on group plans

Figure 45: Type of plan: family vs individual, by age, January 2013-September 2013

Figure 46: Type of plan: family vs individual, by household income, January 2013-September 2013

Use of laptops with mobile plans

Figure 47: Use of laptops with cellular plans, by age, December 2013

Use of tablets with mobile plans

Figure 48: Use of tablets with cellular plans, by age, December 2013

Incidence and Interest in Switching

Key points

Sticking with the plan

Figure 49: Relationship between quality of service and interest in switching, by age, January-September 2013

Younger adults switch more frequently

Figure 50: Switched to new service in past 12 months, by age, December 2013

Figure 51: Tenure at current carrier, by age, January-September 2013

Figure 52: Interest in changing carriers, by age, December 2013

Figure 53: Tenure at current carrier, by household income, January-September 2013

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Prepaid subscribers like exiting

Figure 54: Switched to new service in past 12 months, by type of plan, December 2013

Figure 55: Interest in changing carriers, by type of plan, December 2013

Changers ready to move again

Figure 56: Interest in changing carriers, by recent change in service, December 2013

18-44s more confident about carrier selection

Figure 57: Carriers under consideration for future use, by age, December 2013

Reasons for Switching

Key points

Price top reason for switching

Figure 58: Reasons for switching carriers, by age, December 2013

Figure 59: Reasons for switching carriers, by type of plan, November 2013

Sentiments related to loyalty

Figure 60: Reasons for not switching carriers, by age, December 2013

Near-term switchers seek customer support

Figure 61: Reasons for switching carriers, by plans to change service, December 2013

Plans, Attitudes and Switching Sentiment by Carrier

Key points

Verizon and TracFone customers happiest with service

Figure 62: Interest in changing carriers, by carrier, December 2013

Figure 63: Reasons to not switch carriers, by carrier, December 2013

Speed still an issue for Sprint

Figure 64: Attitudes to cellular internet service, by carrier, December 2013

Tier one subscribers seek cost-relief, tier two better reception

Figure 65: Type of plan: Prepaid vs contract, by carrier, December 2013

Figure 66: Reasons for switching carriers, by carrier, December 2013

Race and Hispanic Origin

Key points

Overview

Second and third tier more successful with multicultural groups

Figure 67: Cellular carrier subscribed to, by race and Hispanic origin, January-September 2013

Figure 68: Type of plan: family vs individual, by race and Hispanic origin, January-September 2013

Figure 69: Switched to new service in past 12 months, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2013

Figure 70: Tenure (years) at current carrier, by race and Hispanic origin, January-September 2013

Figure 71: Spend on monthly bill, by race and Hispanic origin, January-September 2013

Appendix - Other Useful Consumer Tables

Responses by age

Figure 72: Current carrier, by age, January-September 2013

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.con

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

- Figure 73: Current carrier in online survey, by age, December 2013
- Figure 74: Type of plan: Prepaid vs contract, by age, December 2013

Responses by household income

- Figure 75: Current carrier in online survey, by household income, December 2013
- Figure 76: Family plan use across multiple households, by household income, January-September 2013
- Figure 77: Interest in changing carriers, by household income, December 2013
- Figure 78: Attitudes to cell phone plans, by household income, December 2013
- Figure 79: Interest in docking stations, by household income, December 2013
- Figure 80: Attitudes to internet service, by household income, December 2013
- Figure 81: Switched to new service in past 12 months, by household income, December 2013
- Figure 82: Reasons for not switching, by household income, December 2013
- Figure 83: Use of laptops with cellular plans, by household income, December 2013
- Figure 84: Attitudes to cell phone service, by household income, January-September 2013
- Figure 85: Carriers under consideration for future use, by household income, December 2013

Responses by race/Hispanic origin

- Figure 86: Cell phone ownership, by race and Hispanic origin, January-September 2013
- Figure 87: Tenure (years) at current carrier, by race and Hispanic origin, January-September 2013
- Figure 88: Carriers under consideration for future use, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2013
- Figure 89: Attitudes to plans, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2013
- Figure 90: Type of plan: Prepaid vs contract, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2013
- Figure 91: Attitudes to cell phone plans, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2013
- Figure 92: Reasons for not switching, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2013
- Figure 93: Reasons for switching carriers, by race/Hispanic origin, November 2013
- Figure 94: Use of laptops with cellular plans, by race/Hispanic origin, December 2013
- Figure 95: Family plan use across multiple households, by race and Hispanic origin, January 2013-September 2013

Responses by carrier

- Figure 96: Attitudes to cell phone plans, by carrier, December 2013
- Figure 97: Switched to new service in past 12 months, by carrier, December 2013
- Figure 98: Use of laptops with cellular plans, by carrier, December 2013

Responses by type of plan

- Figure 99: Attitudes to internet service, by type of plan, December 2013
- Figure 100: Reasons for not switching, by type of plan, December 2013
- Figure 101: Carriers under consideration for future use, by type of plan, December 2013
- Figure 102: Use of tablets with cellular plans, by type of plan, December 2013

Responses by intent to change service

- Figure 103: Attitudes to cell phone plans, by plans to change service, December 2013
- Figure 104: Use of laptops with cellular plans, by plans to change service, December 2013
- Figure 105: Use of tablets with cellular plans, by plans to change service, December 2013
- Figure 106: Type of plan: Prepaid vs contract, by plans to change service, December 2013



VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094



Report Price: £2466.89 | \$3995.00 | €3133.71 The above price

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Figure 107: Current carrier, by plans to change service, December 2013

Figure 108: Reasons for not switching, by plans to change service, December 2013

Appendix – Trade Associations

VISIT: store.mintel.com

CALL: EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100