

April 2026



Barometer of mobile Internet connections in United Arab Emirates

04/01/2025 - 03/31/2026



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**nPerf Network
assessment**

An independent authority in network performance

nPerf is an independent French Internet performance measurement platform, powered by real user experience. By turning millions of individual measurements into connectivity insights, nPerf helps operators enhance their networks and contributes to building a faster, more reliable Internet for everyone.

 **300k+** tests daily worldwide.

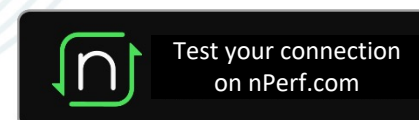
 **26Md+** coverage scans in total.

 **3k+** servers all around the world.

A comprehensive suite of tools to measure real-world connectivity

nPerf provides a complete ecosystem of complete measurement tools designed to capture the true quality of fixed, mobile, and Wi-Fi connections with precision, reaching speeds of up to 10 Gbps.

Users test. Operators learn. Everyone benefits.



2. Executive Summary



The subscribers of Etisalat enjoyed the best Mobile Internet performances in 2026 in United Arab Emirates.

Mobile Internet performance in United Arab Emirates

	du	Etisalat
▼ Download bitrates (Mb/s)	90.39	117.11
▲ Upload bitrates (Mb/s)	12.53	13.62
◀▶ Latency (ms)	95.44	69.24
🌐 Web browsing (%)	56.79	60.05
📺 Youtube streaming (%)	70.65	71.40
🏆 nPerf Score (nPoints)	63 677	71 060

Source : nPerf.com



Best Mobile Internet performance in 2026



Source : nPerf.com

nPerf Podium



Source : nPerf.com

The subscribers of Etisalat enjoyed the best 4G Internet in 2026 in United Arab Emirates.

Mobile Internet performance in United Arab Emirates

	du	<u>Etisalat</u>
 Download bitrates (Mb/s)	43.85	56.30
 Upload bitrates (Mb/s)	9.39	10.14
 Latency (ms)	106.16	78.62
 Web browsing (%)	54.75	58.74
 Youtube streaming (%)	70.28	68.89
 nPerf Score (nPoints)	53 365	59 216

Source : nPerf.com

For the period from April 2025 to March 2026, nPerf measures the best mobile Internet performance in the United Arab Emirates, revealing a dynamic and increasingly competitive landscape. Etisalat consolidates its position at the top of the rankings across all network types, while du continues to close the gap, driven by remarkable improvements in key performance indicators. Both operators demonstrate consistent progress, making the UAE one of the most performance-driven mobile markets in the region.

Etisalat: Sustained leadership across all metrics

Etisalat has now held the top position in nPerf's overall mobile rankings for five consecutive years, leading across every measured KPI – a testament to the operator's ongoing investment in network quality. For the current period, Etisalat records a Download speed of 117.11 Mb/s overall and 56.30 Mb/s on 4G, representing a striking +31% improvement in overall Download speed compared to the previous year. The operator also leads on Upload speed (13.62 Mb/s overall, 10.14 Mb/s on 4G), Latency (69.24 ms overall, 78.62 ms on 4G), Web Browsing (60.05% overall), and Youtube streaming (71.40% overall). This across-the-board dominance, sustained over five years and reinforced by a consistent upward trend in overall score, confirms Etisalat's role as the benchmark operator in the UAE mobile sector.

du: Closing the gap with impressive momentum

du maintains its position as the second-ranked operator in the UAE but is firmly on an upward trajectory. The operator achieves its most

notable result this period with a +43% improvement in overall Download speed, reaching 90.39 Mb/s overall and 43.85 Mb/s on 4G – a significant leap from the previous year's figures of 63.38 Mb/s and 39.73 Mb/s respectively. du also stands out on Youtube streaming, where it matches Etisalat with a rank-1 position both overall and on 4G for the second consecutive year, recording 70.65% and 70.28% respectively. Like Etisalat, du's overall score has grown consistently across five years, reflecting a long-term commitment to network improvement. The narrowing gap between the two operators signals a sector that is becoming increasingly contested.

Looking ahead: What the competition demands

As the UAE mobile sector enters its next competitive cycle, both operators face clear challenges and priorities. Etisalat must focus on maintaining its lead in Latency – a metric where it has seen some regression (69.24 ms vs. 42.68 ms the previous year overall) – while sustaining the Download speed gains that have been a defining feature of this period. Protecting its edge on Web Browsing and Youtube streaming will also be essential as du continues to close in. du, for its part, should direct efforts toward reducing Latency (95.44 ms overall remains a notable weakness relative to its competitor) and improving Web Browsing scores, where it still trails Etisalat. Building on its Youtube streaming parity and accelerating Upload speed performance will be key levers if du is to challenge for overall leadership in future editions of the nPerf barometer.

4. Methodology



nPerf provides a free application to assess Internet connection quality via its website and mobile apps (Android, iOS). Daily, thousands of people rely on nPerf for speed tests in their country, contributing to a comprehensive crowdsourced database covering all operators.

The study employs a strong filtering method to reflect real customer experiences on a specific network (mobile or fixed line). Measures are taken to prevent probes and measurement robots from affecting the results.

We assess:

▼ Download bitrate

Indicates the amount of data your connection can receive in one second from the nPerf server. The highest the measured value, the best is the bitrate of your connection.

▲ Upload bitrate

Indicates the amount of data your connection can send in one second to the nPerf server. The highest the measured value, the best is the bitrate of your connection.

◄► Latency (ping)

It indicated the delay a small packet of data requires to make a round-trip from your computer to the nPerf server. The shorter the delay, the most reactive your connection is. The mean is the minimum value.

🌐 Browsing performance

The browsing test assesses the load time of the fully loaded pages, including images, javascript, CSS, and fonts, for the five most popular sites. This indicator reflects the perceived quality by the user.

📺 Streaming performance

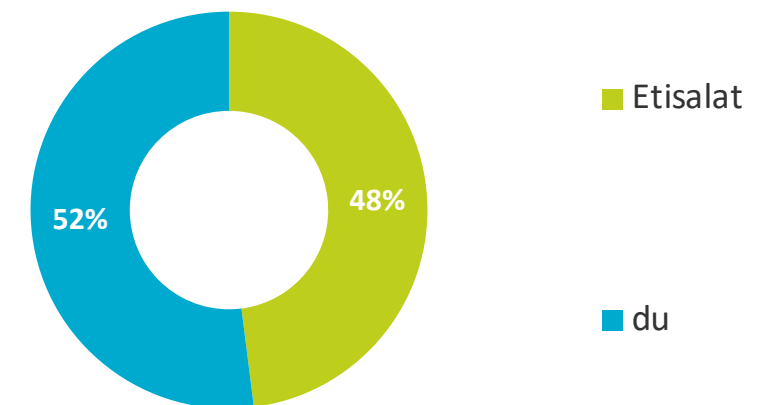
The video streaming test gauges the load time of a fully loaded video in three resolutions on YouTube, considering stalls during playback. This indicator reflects the perceived quality by the user.

Statistical precision is crucial in accurately determining winners. At nPerf, we prioritize test quality, precise reporting, and transparency. Analyzing a large volume of tests in this study, we've achieved 1.5% precision for absolute values and 1% point for percentage-based results, highlighting the reliability and accuracy of our data.

For a more comprehensive understanding of the user experience, our report takes into account test results during both Busy Hours (6 PM to 11 PM) and Idle Hours (the rest of the day). Busy Hours, marked by network strain, can impact user experience through congestion. This approach helps in understanding how network performance fluctuates throughout the day.

We only include national Internet service providers with test share above 5% share. The chart below shows the overall test distribution for each service provider.

Overall distribution of the tests per provider (ISPs Share)



Source : nPerf.com



Download Speed



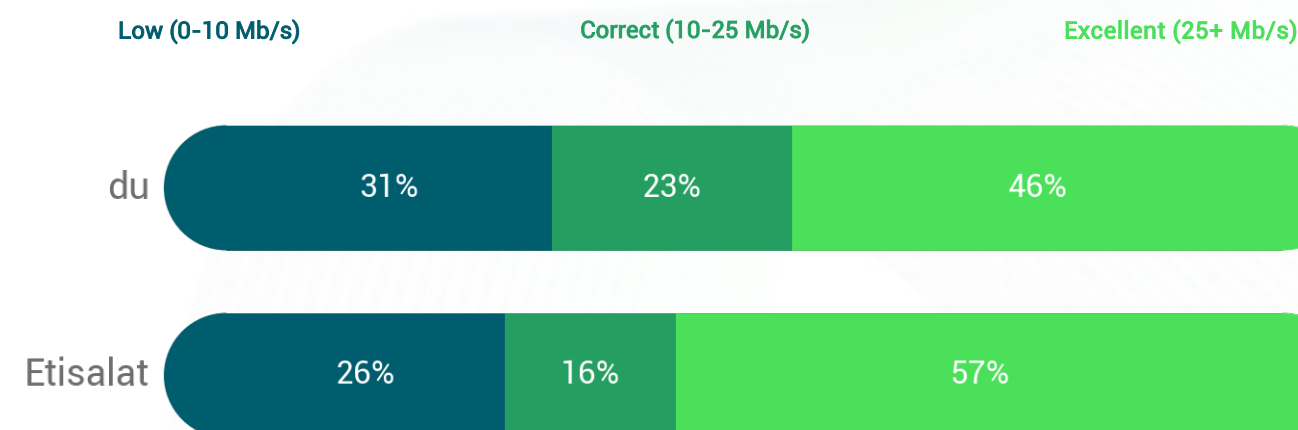
Download Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

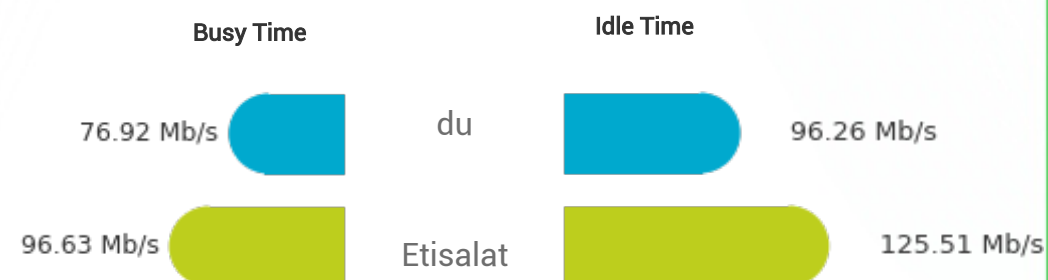
The subscribers of Etisalat enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Download Speed in 2026.

Download Speed results distribution (average)



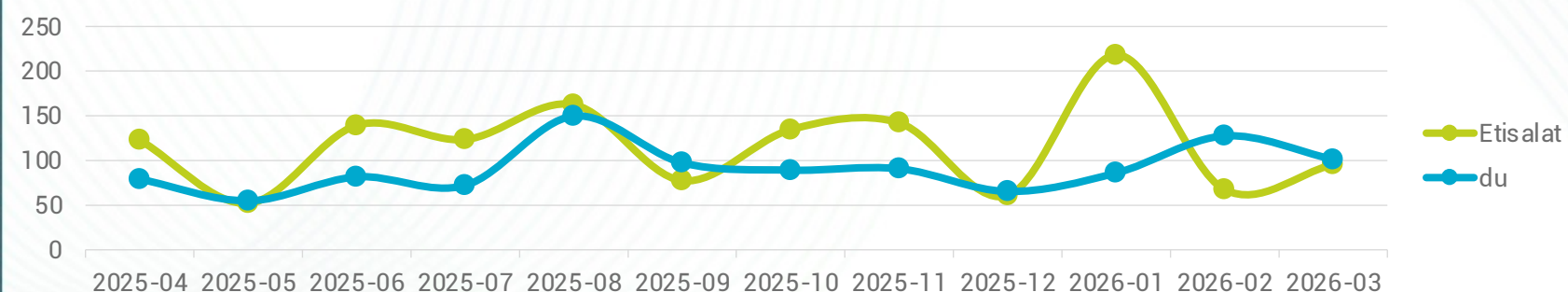
Source : nPerf.com

Download Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

Download Speed evolution over the year (average)



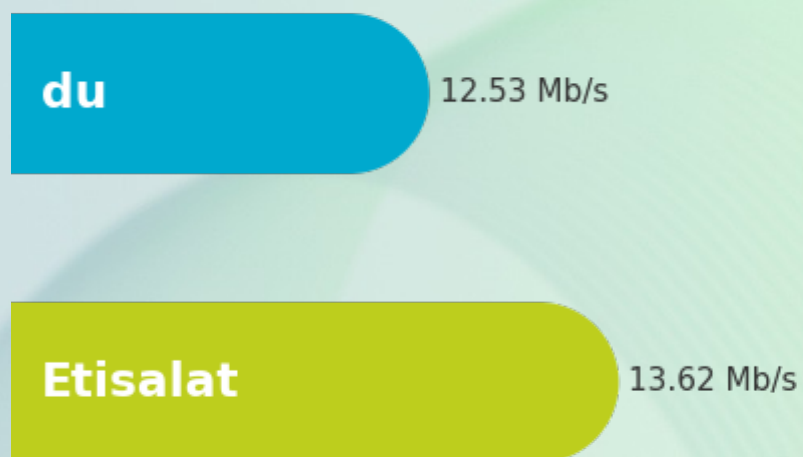
Source : nPerf.com



Upload Speed



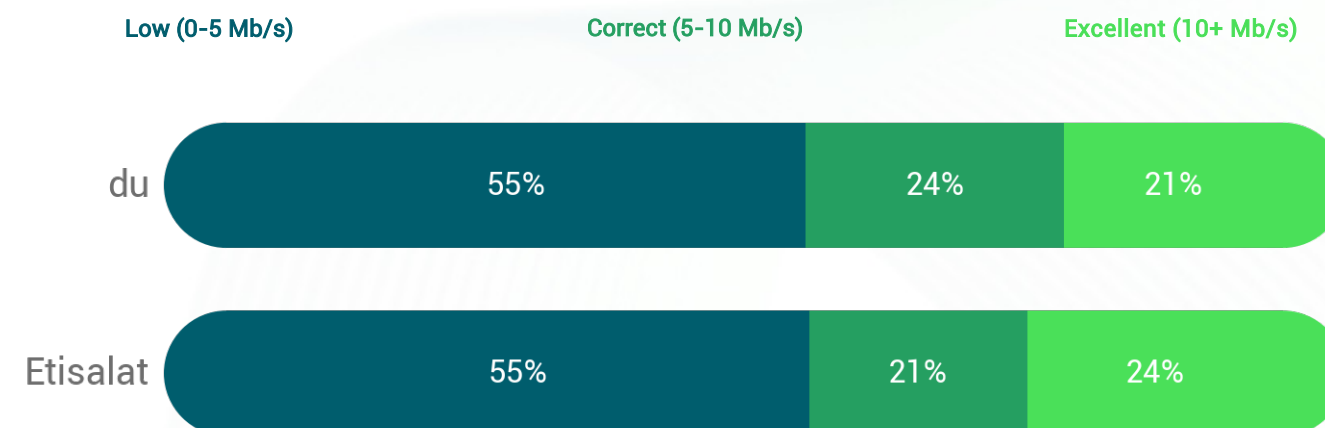
Upload Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

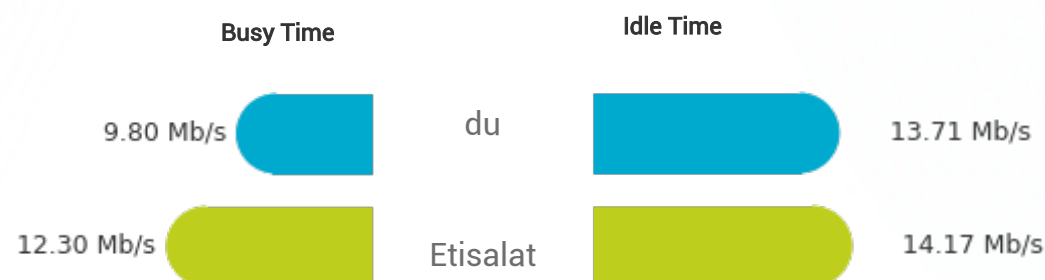
The subscribers of Etisalat enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Upload Speed in 2026.

Upload Speed results distribution (average)



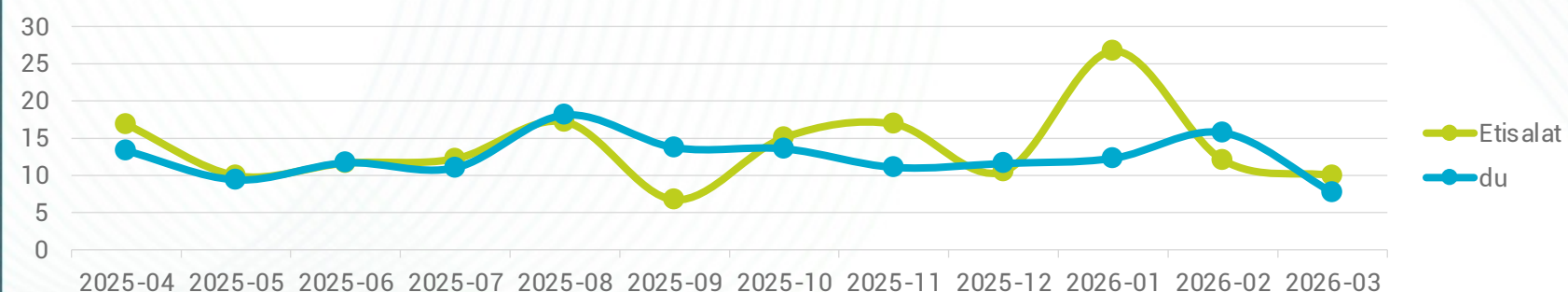
Source : nPerf.com

Upload Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

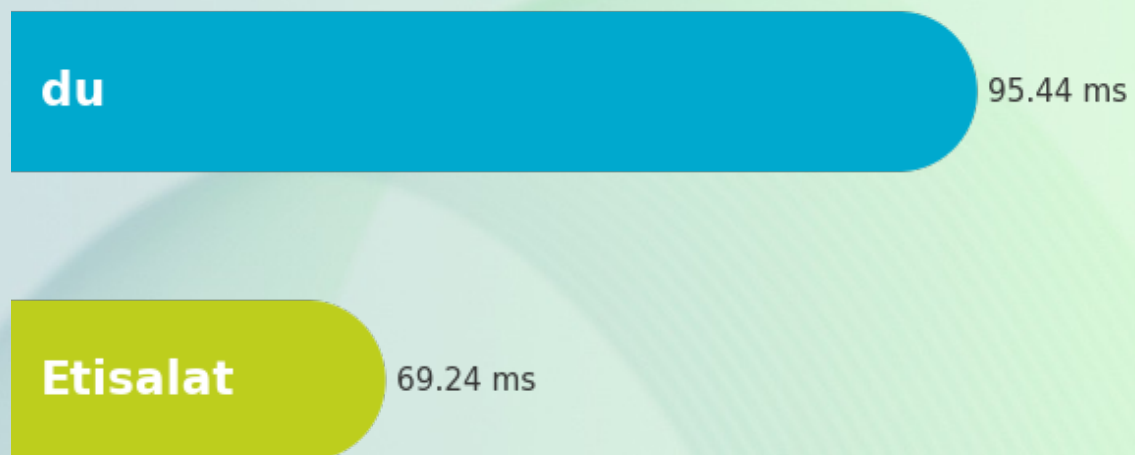
Upload Speed evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



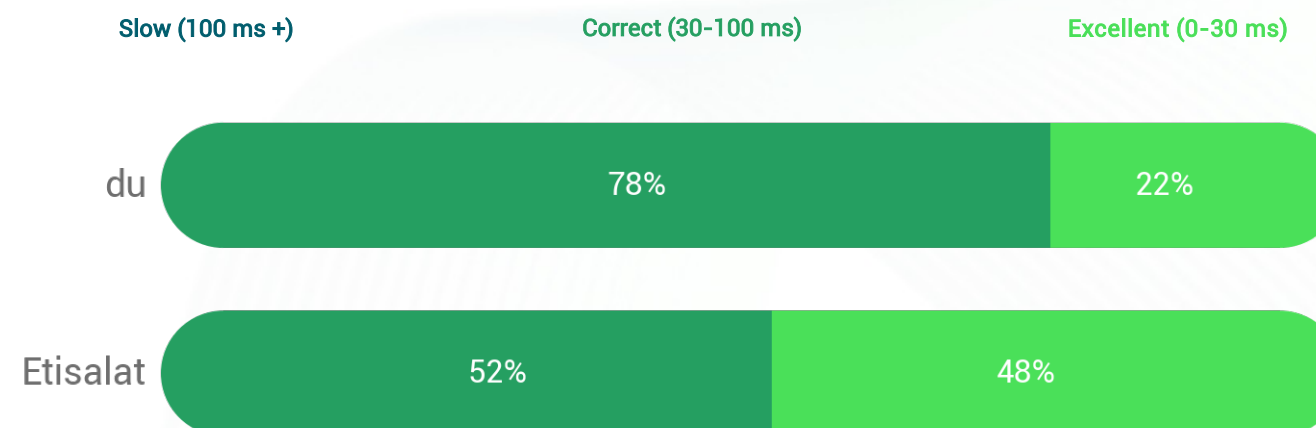
Latency (average)



Source : nPerf.com

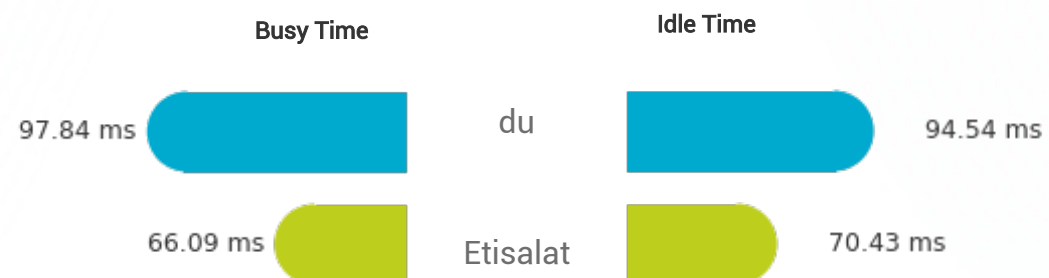
The subscribers of Etisalat enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Latency in 2026.

Latency results distribution (average)



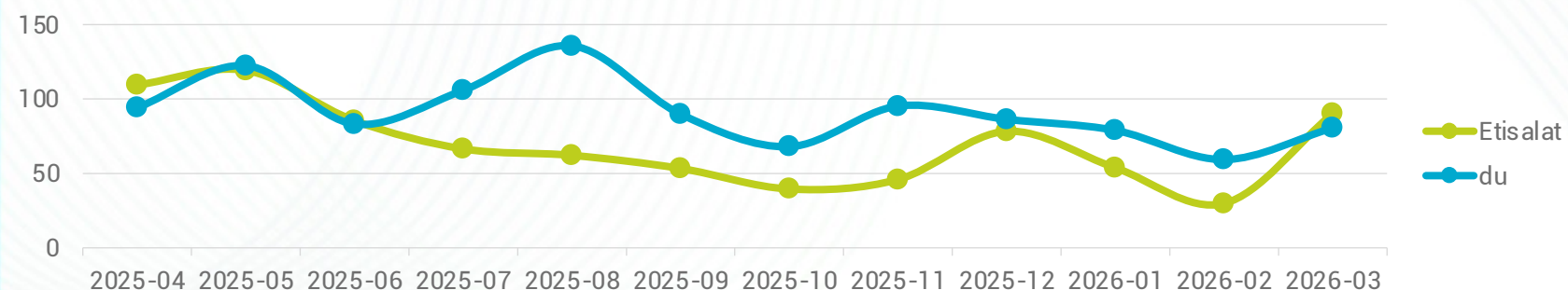
Source : nPerf.com

Latency (average)



Source : nPerf.com

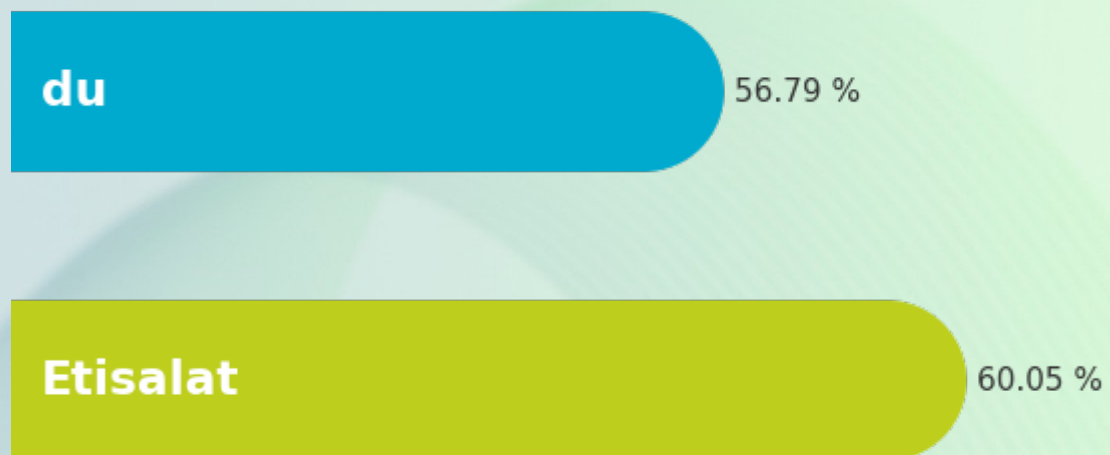
Latency evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



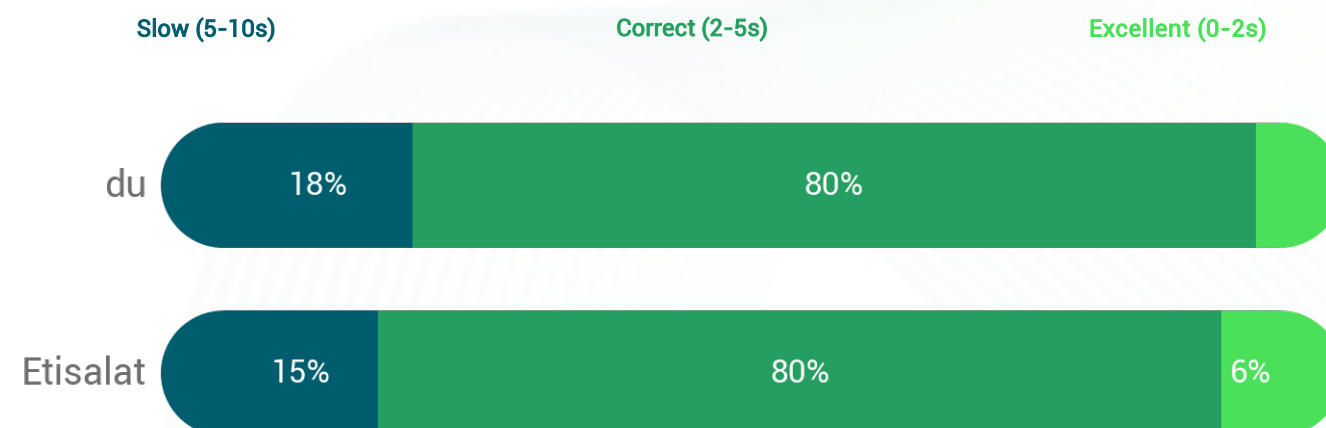
Browsing Performance (average)



Source : nPerf.com

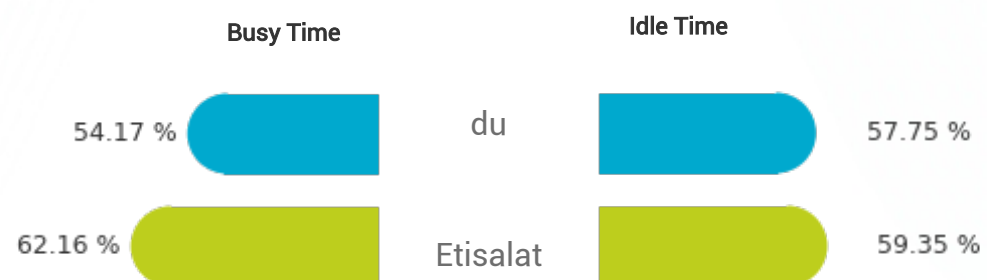
The subscribers of Etisalat enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Browsing Performance in 2026.

Browsing Performance results distribution (average)



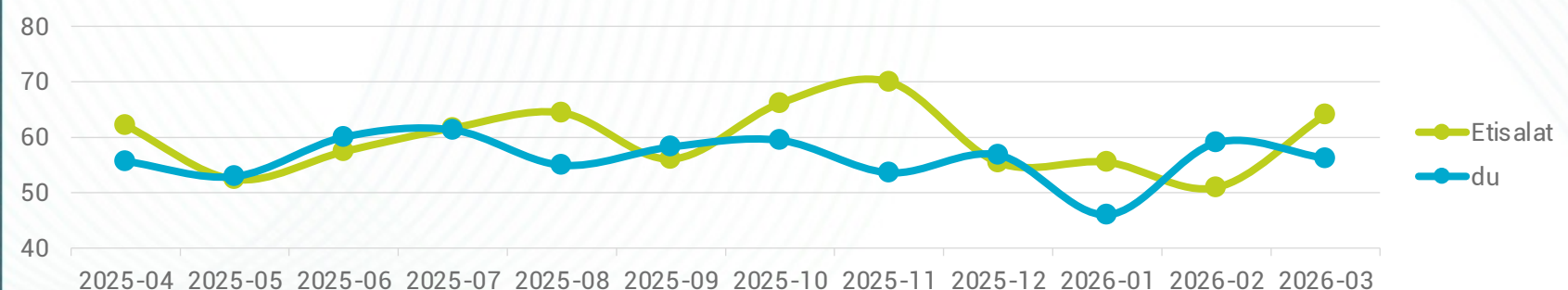
Source : nPerf.com

Browsing Performance (average)



Source : nPerf.com

Browsing Performance evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



Streaming Performance



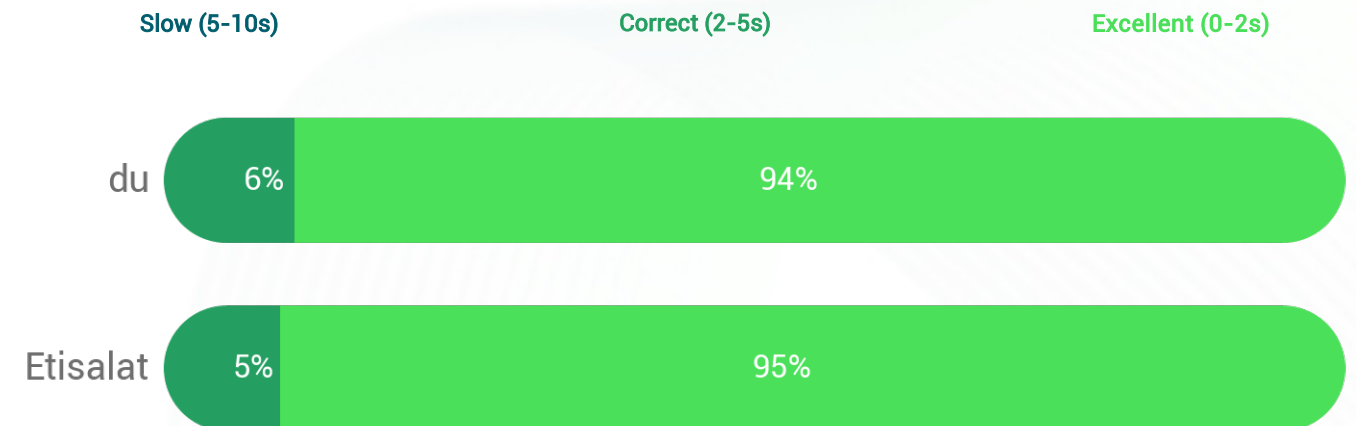
Streaming Performance (average)



Source : nPerf.com

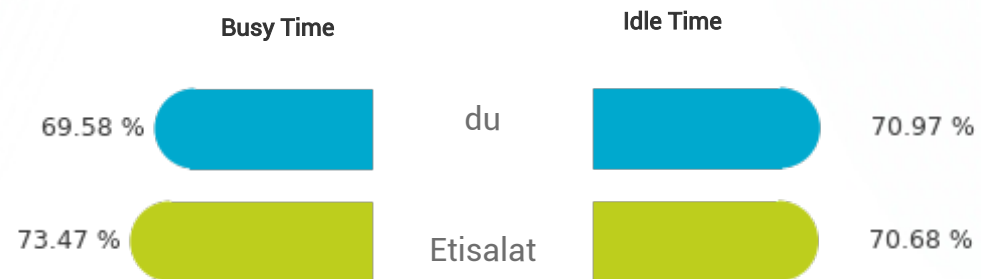
The subscribers of Etisalat and du enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Streaming Performance in 2026.

Streaming Performance results distribution (average)



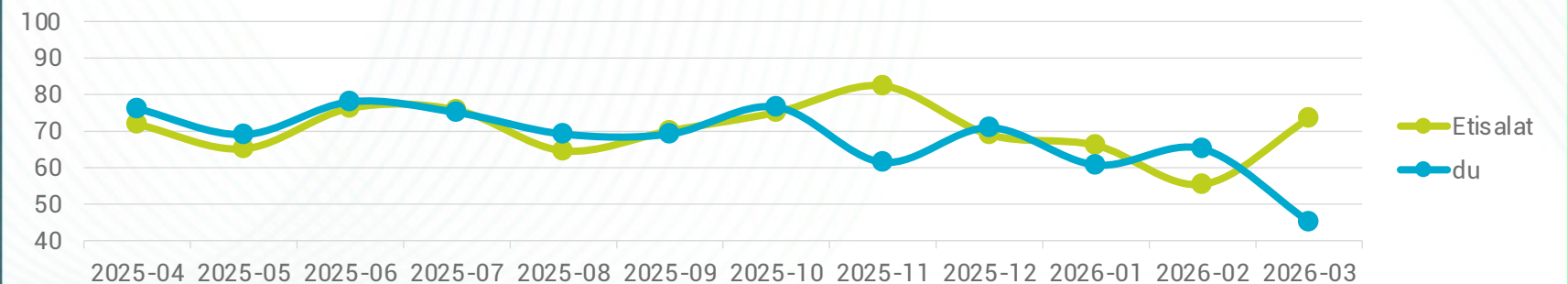
Source : nPerf.com

Streaming Performance (average)

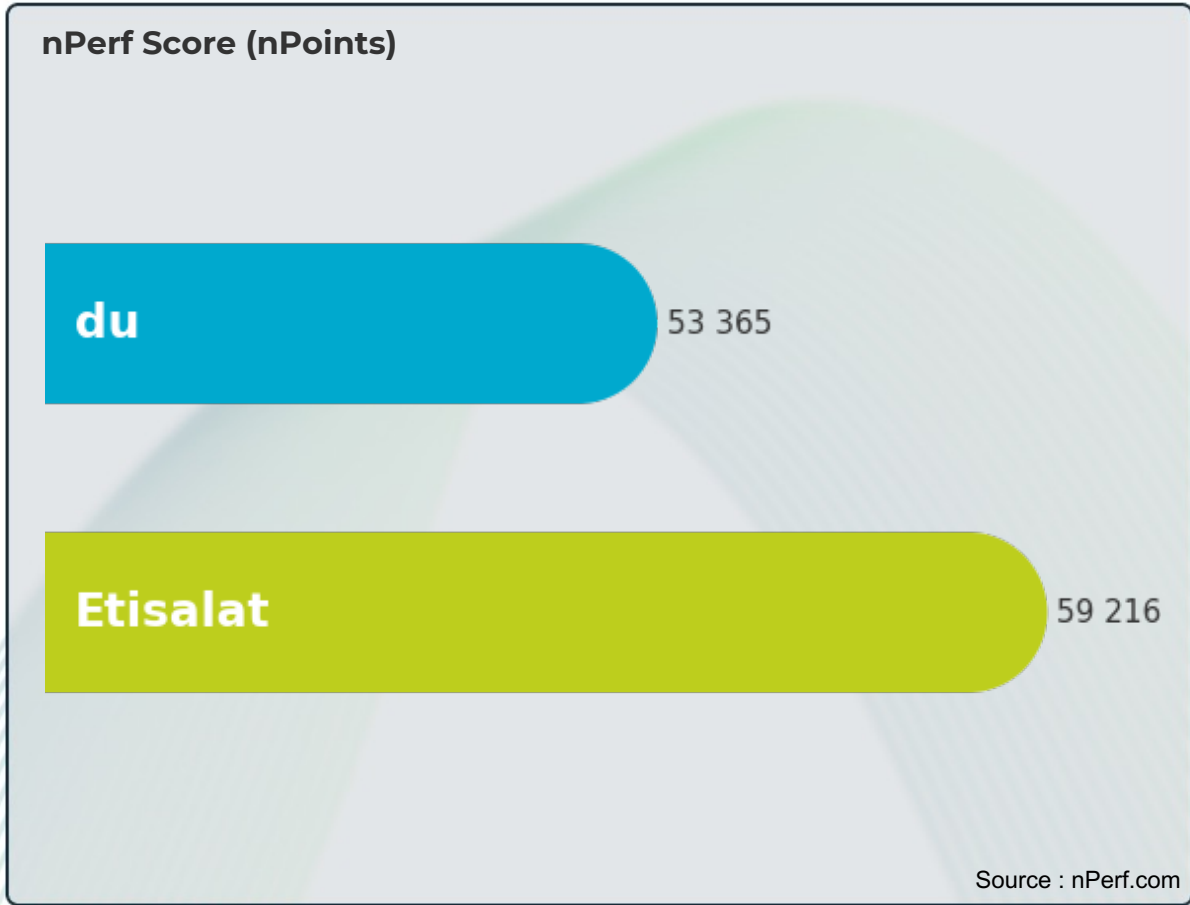


Source : nPerf.com

Streaming Performance evolution over the year (average)

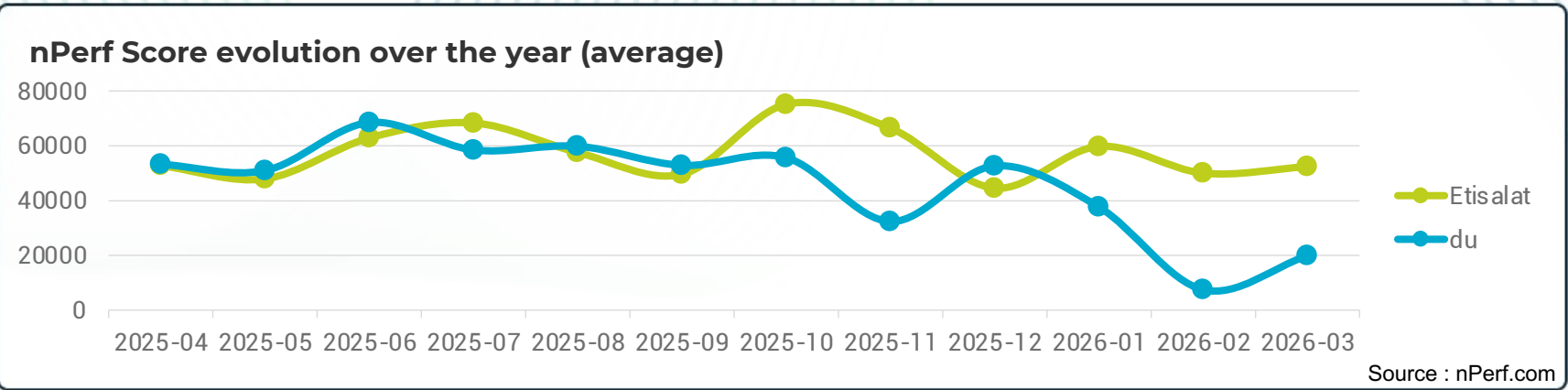


Source : nPerf.com



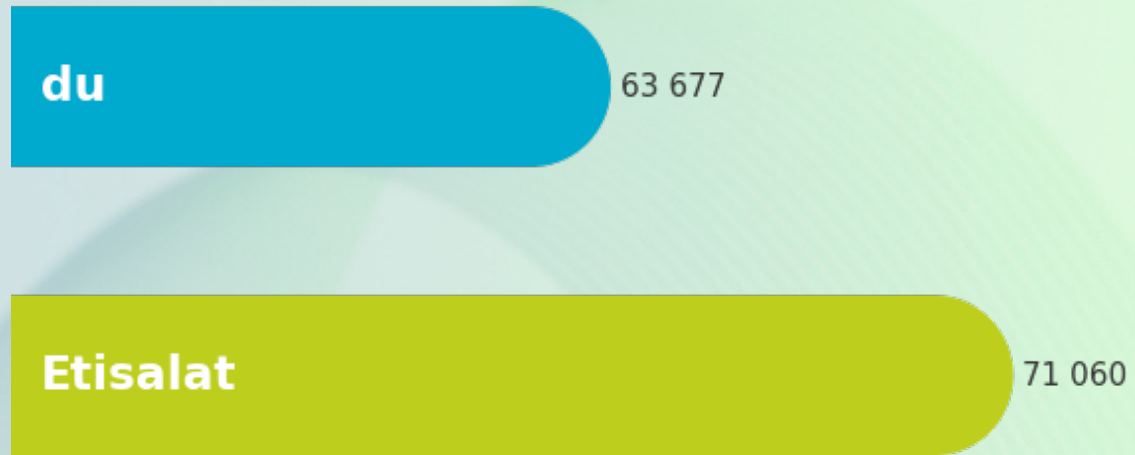
The subscribers of Etisalat enjoyed the best 4G Internet in 2026.

- Best performances 4G: Etisalat
 - Fastest performances (Download Speed) 4G: Etisalat
 - Fastest performances (Upload Speed) 4G: Etisalat
 - 4G connections with the lowest latency: Etisalat
 - Best web browsing performances 4G: Etisalat
 - Best streaming performances 4G: Etisalat and du
- Source : nPerf.com





nPerf Score (nPoints)

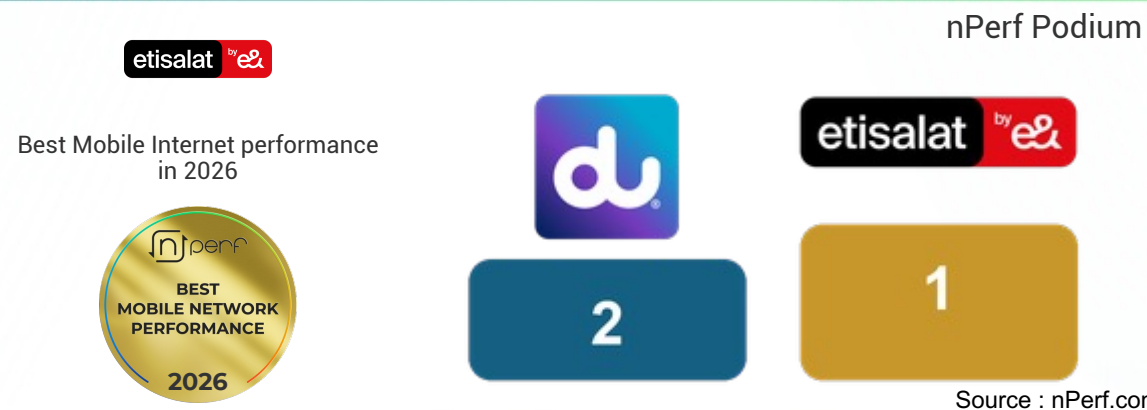


Source : nPerf.com

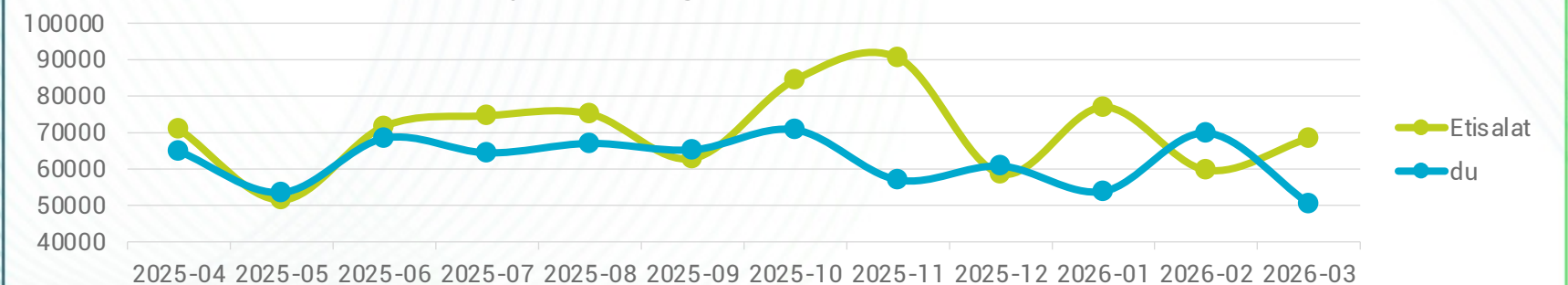
The subscribers of Etisalat enjoyed the best Mobile Internet performances in 2026.

The nPerf score takes into account the measured bitrates, the latency and the QoE tests. The value of the points for the rates and the latency is calculated on a logarithmic scale, to better represent the perception of the user. Thus, this score reflects the overall quality of the connection experienced by the user.

Source : nPerf.com



nPerf Score evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com

