07/17/2025

Barometer of mobile Internet connections in Ethiopia

07/01/2024 - 06/30/2025

Agenda

1. Introducing nPerf
2. Executive summary
3. Analysis
4. Methodology
5. nPerf Network assesment

Expert in the telecom network optimization

nPerf is an independent French company based in Lyon (France). For over a decade, nPerf has been a trusted partner for both fixed and mobile operators, providing comprehensive network testing solutions and analysis. Our mission is to accurately measure, evaluate, and enhance the understanding of Internet connectivity around the world.

300k+ tests daily worldwide.

26Md+ coverage scans in total.

3k+ servers all around the world.

Test your Internet connection with nPerf!

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Test your connection on nPerf.com

2. Executive Summary

The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best mobile Internet performances in 2025.

Mobile Internet connections in Ethiopia

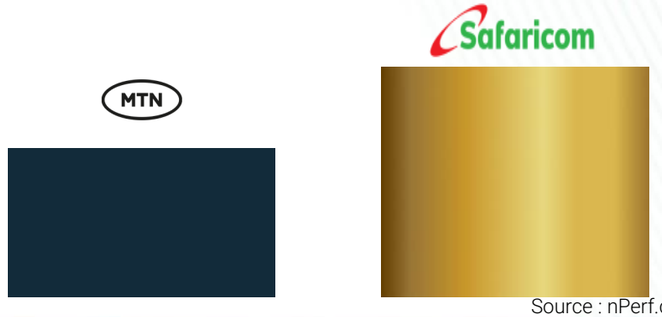
	MTN	Safaricom
Download bitrates (Mb/s)	5.32	9.20
Upload bitrates (Mb/s)	3.20	3.42
Latency (ms)	292.03	176.26
Web browsing (%)	34.08	41.48
Youtube streaming (%)	52.73	63.15
nPerf Score (nPoints)	16 909	26 098

Source : nPerf.com

Safaricom

Best mobile Internet performance in 2025

Source : nPerf.com



Source : nPerf.com

The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best 4G Internet performances in Ethiopia in 2025.

4G mobile Internet connections in Ethiopia

	MTN	Safaricom
Download bitrates (Mb/s)	6.93	11.02
Upload bitrates (Mb/s)	4.36	4.12
Latency (ms)	289.02	175.80
Web browsing (%)	36.99	42.27
Youtube streaming (%)	55.81	66.03
nPerf Score (nPoints)	21 029	29 279

Source : nPerf.com

3. Analysis

Introduction

In Ethiopia's mobile Internet sector, Safaricom maintains its position as the clear leader for another year. The operator delivers strong results across most key performance indicators in the country's 4G network landscape. With consistent performance, Safaricom offers Ethiopian mobile users reliable connectivity for their daily digital needs.

Safaricom: Comprehensive leadership across mobile services

Safaricom achieves a solid score of 26,098 nPoints, securing its position as the n°1 mobile operator in Ethiopia. The company demonstrates strong performance in 4G networks, where it leads in all major performance metrics. Safaricom is particularly effective in download speeds (9.2 Mbps), allowing users to enjoy smoother streaming experiences. The operator also excels in upload speeds (3.4 Mbps), which enables more reliable video conferencing and content sharing. With the best latency performance at 176.3 ms, Safaricom provides good responsiveness for interactive online activities. The company shows noteworthy improvement in several areas, with browsing performance increasing by 24.7% and streaming capabilities improving by 16.1%, enhancing the overall user experience for video content consumption.

MTN: Showing significant progress

MTN achieves a score of 16,909 nPoints, positioning itself as the second operator in Ethiopia's mobile sector. While trailing behind Safaricom, MTN demonstrates impressive growth with a 55.1% improvement in its overall score. The company shows substantial progress in download speeds, which increased by 65.2%, and even more remarkably in upload performance with a 118.1% improvement. MTN's browsing capabilities have also improved by 17.1%, offering users better web navigation experiences. These developments indicate MTN's commitment to enhancing its network performance and narrowing the gap with the sector leader.

Conclusion

Safaricom maintains its leadership position in Ethiopia's mobile Internet sector, delivering consistent performance across all key metrics. Meanwhile, MTN shows promising development with significant improvements in several areas. This competitive dynamic benefits Ethiopian consumers, who can expect continued enhancements in mobile connectivity as operators strive to improve their services. The sector shows healthy progression with both operators demonstrating improvement in multiple performance indicators.

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

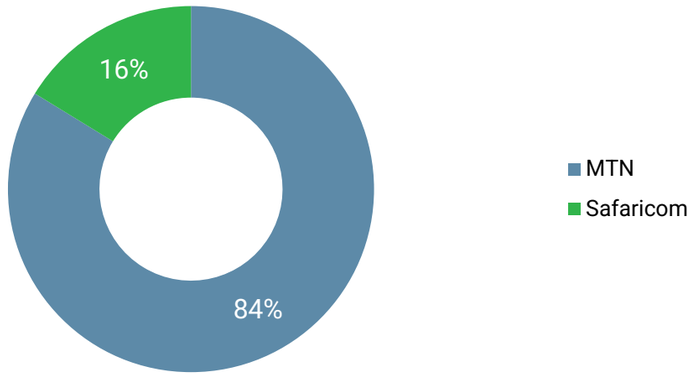
The video streaming test gauges the load time of a fully loaded video in three resolutions on YouTube, considering stalls during playback. This indicator reflects the perceived quality by the user.

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 3.0% precision for absolute values, highlighting the reliability and accuracy of our data.

For a more comprehensive understanding of the user experience, our report features 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.

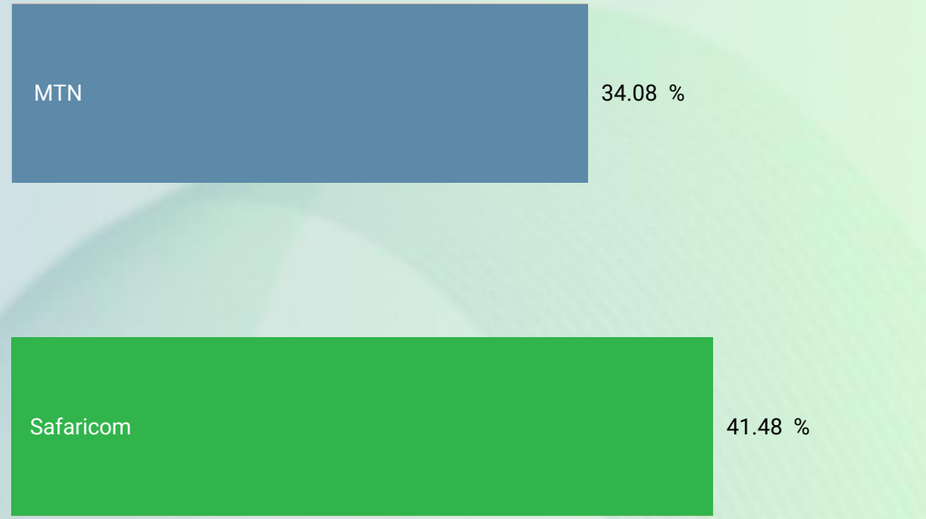
Overall distribution of the tests per provider (ISPs Share)



Source : nPerf.com

Quality of Experience : Browsing

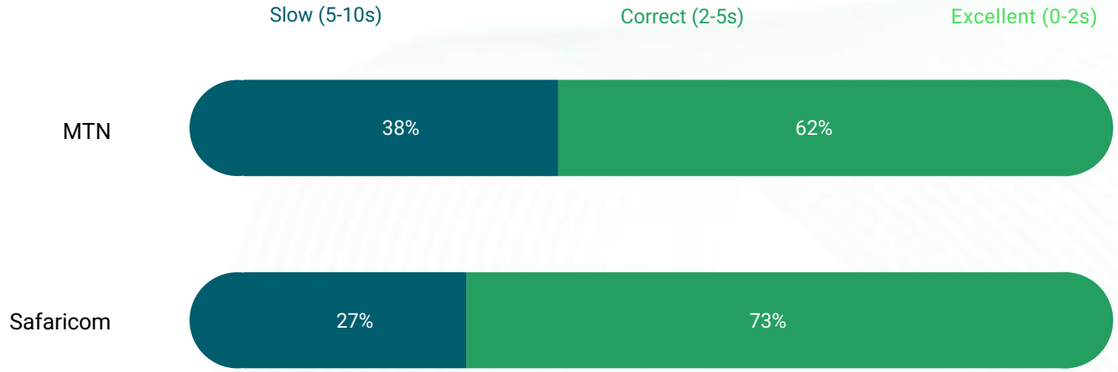
Browsing Performance rate (average)



Source : nPerf.com

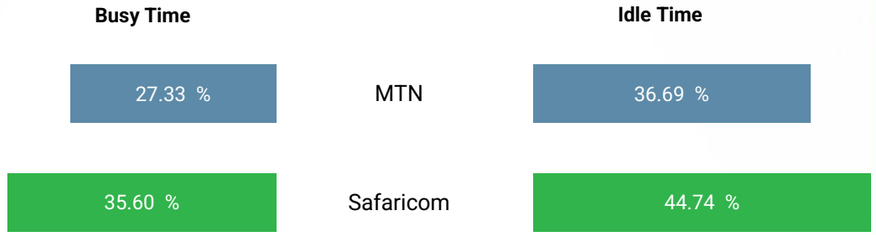
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best mobile Internet browsing performance in 2025.

Browsing Performance results ventilation (average)



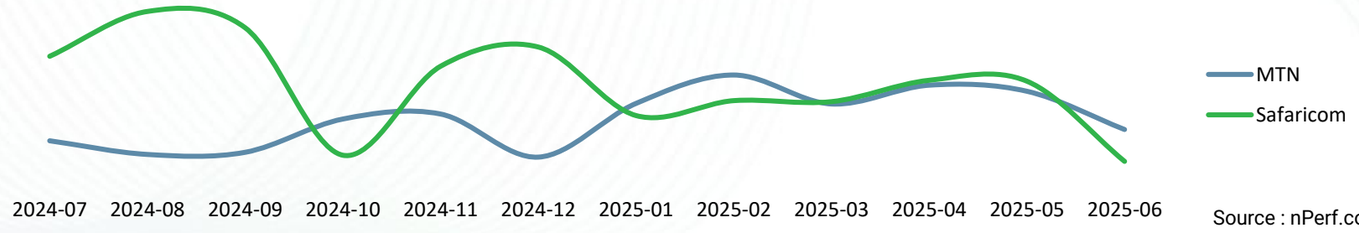
Source : nPerf.com

Browsing Performance rate (average)



Source : nPerf.com

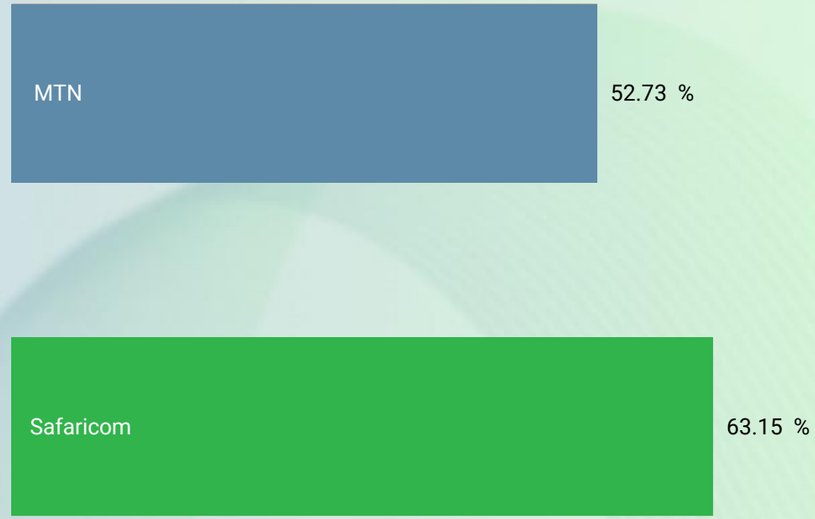
Browsing performance rate (average) evolution over the year



Source : nPerf.com

Quality of Experience : Streaming

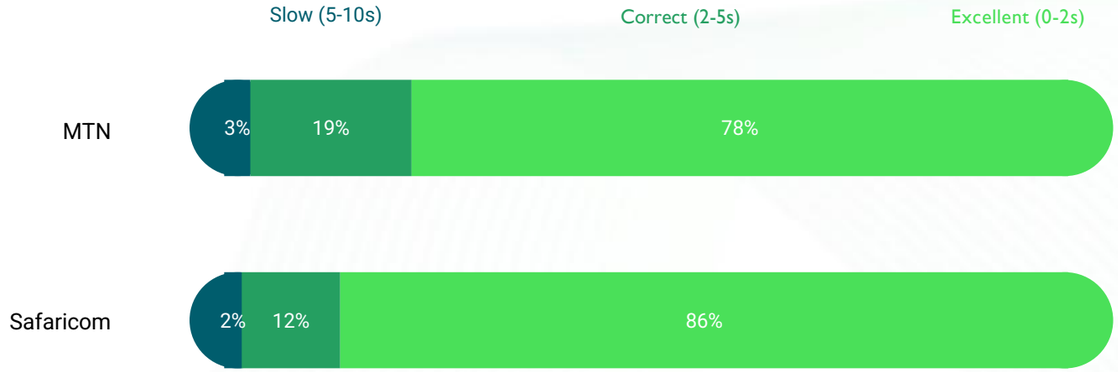
Streaming Performance rate (average)



Source : nPerf.com

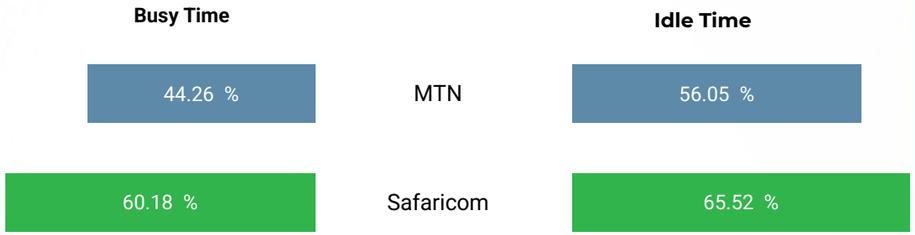
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best mobile Internet streaming performance in 2025.

Streaming Performance results ventilation (average)



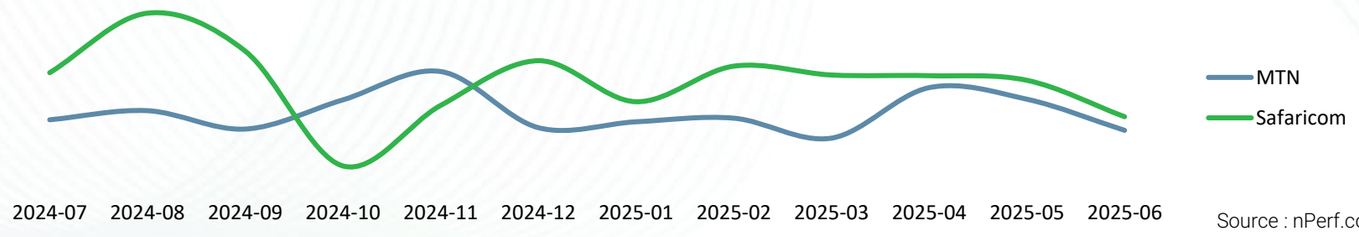
Source : nPerf.com

Streaming Performance rate (average)



Source : nPerf.com

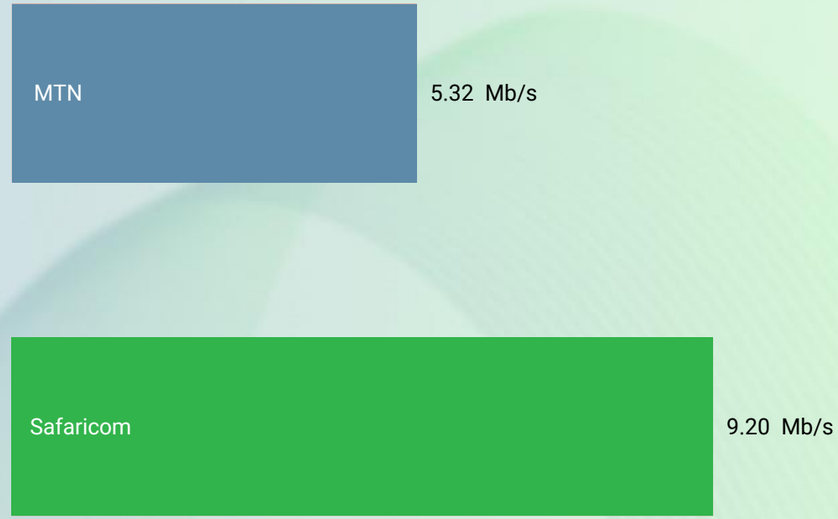
Streaming performance rate (average) evolution over the year



Source : nPerf.com

Speed : Download

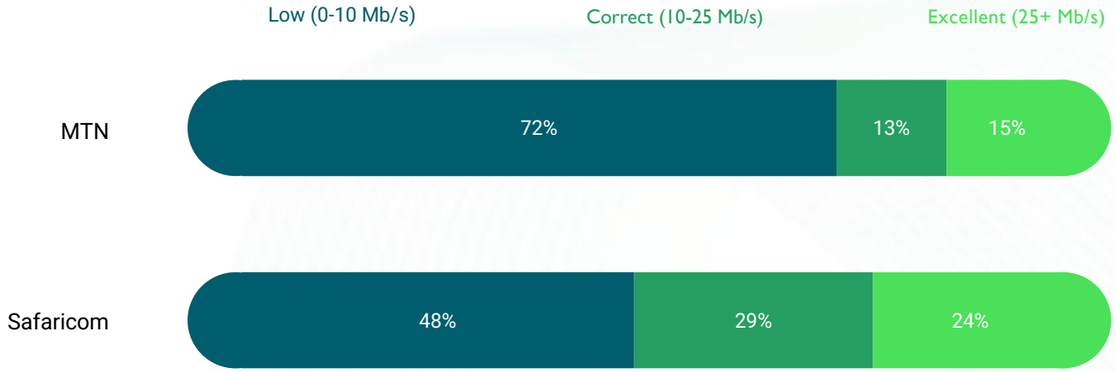
Download Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

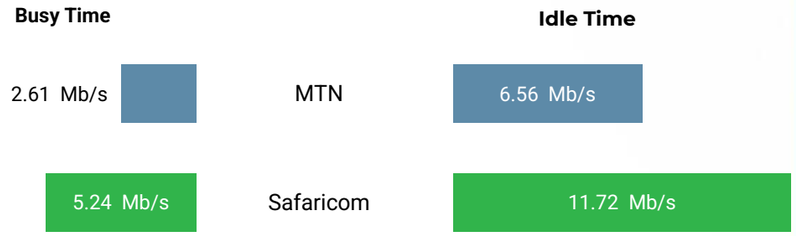
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best average mobile Internet download speed in 2025.

Download Speed results ventilation (average)



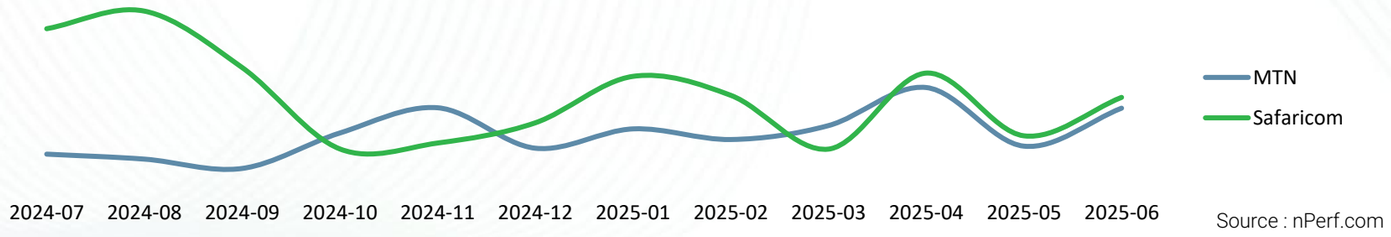
Source : nPerf.com

Download Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

Download Speed evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com

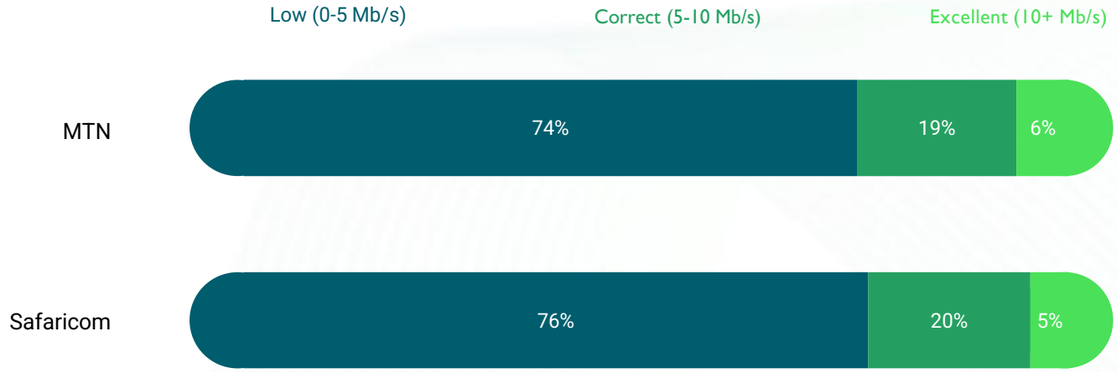
Speed : Upload

Upload Speed (average)

Source : nPerf.com

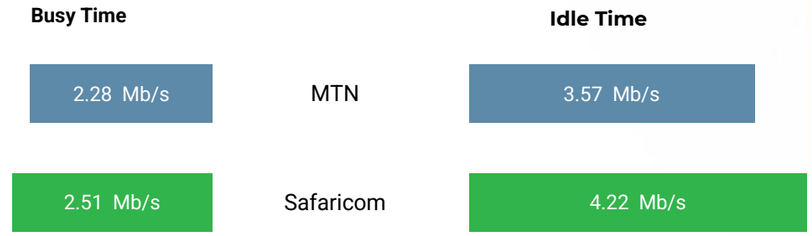
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best average mobile Internet upload speed in 2025.

Upload Speed results ventilation (average)



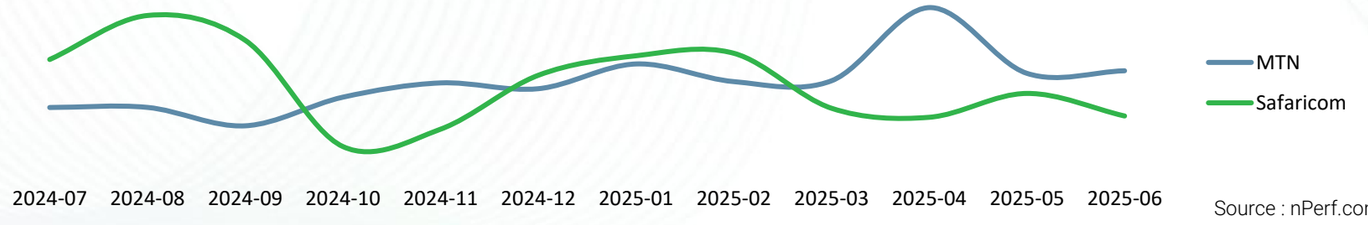
Source : nPerf.com

Upload Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

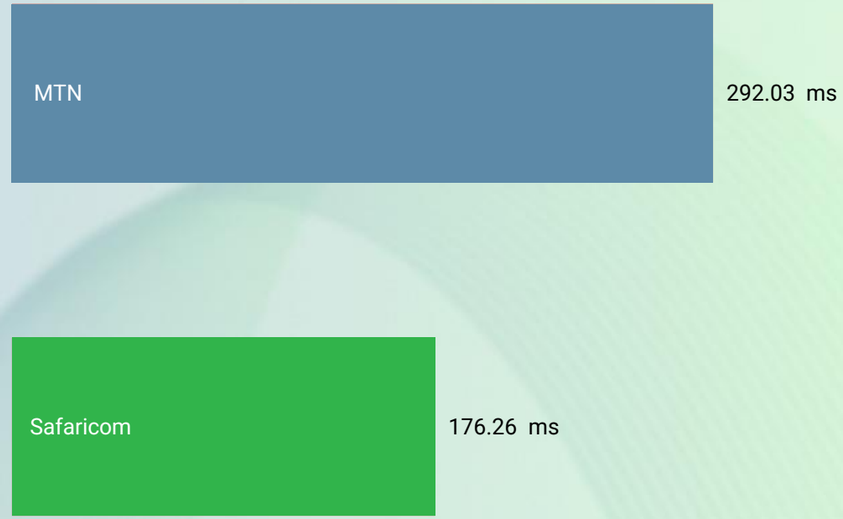
Upload Speed evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com

Speed : Latency

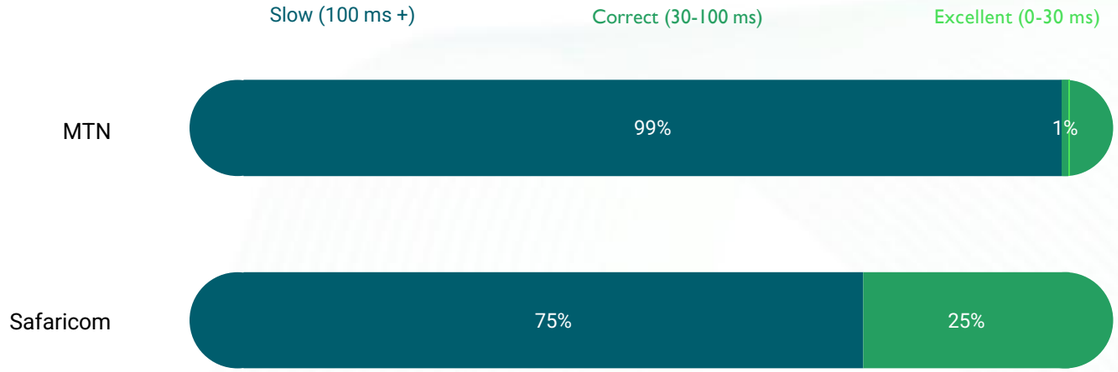
Latency Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best average mobile Internet latency speed in 2025.

Latency Speed results ventilation (average)

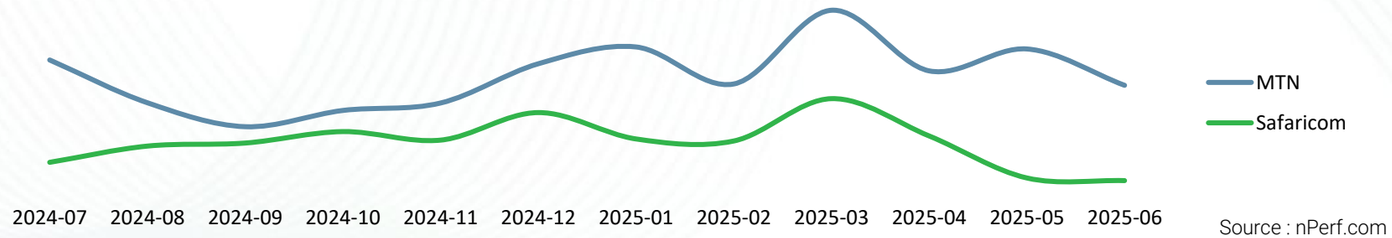


Source : nPerf.com

Latency Speed (average)

Source : nPerf.com

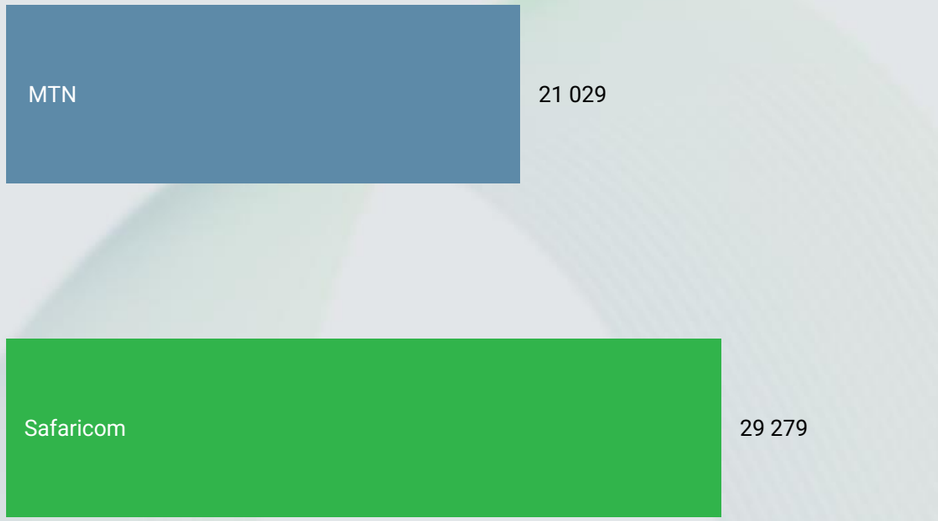
Latency Speed evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com

4G Mobile Internet performance in Ethiopia

nPerf Score (nPoints)



Source : nPerf.com

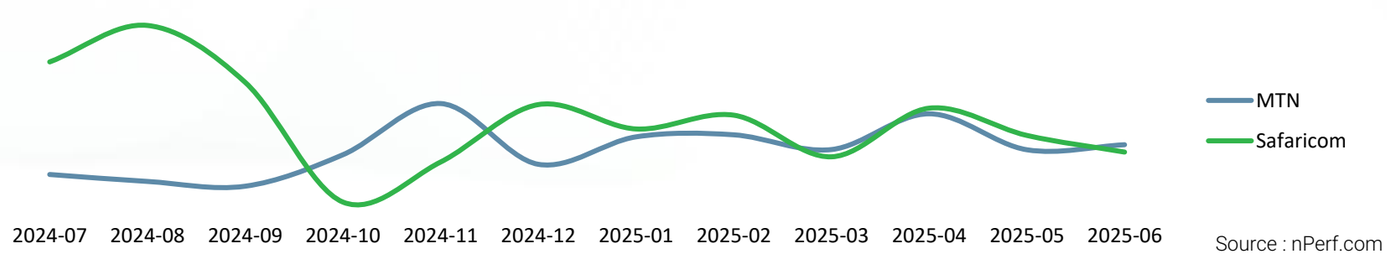
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best 4G Internet performances in 2025.

- Best performances 4G: Safaricom
- Best web browsing performances 4G: Safaricom
- Best video streaming performances 4G: Safaricom
- Fastest performances (Download) 4G: Safaricom
- Fastest performances (Upload) 4G: MTN
- 4G connections with the lowest latency: Safaricom

Source : nPerf.com

Source : nPerf.com

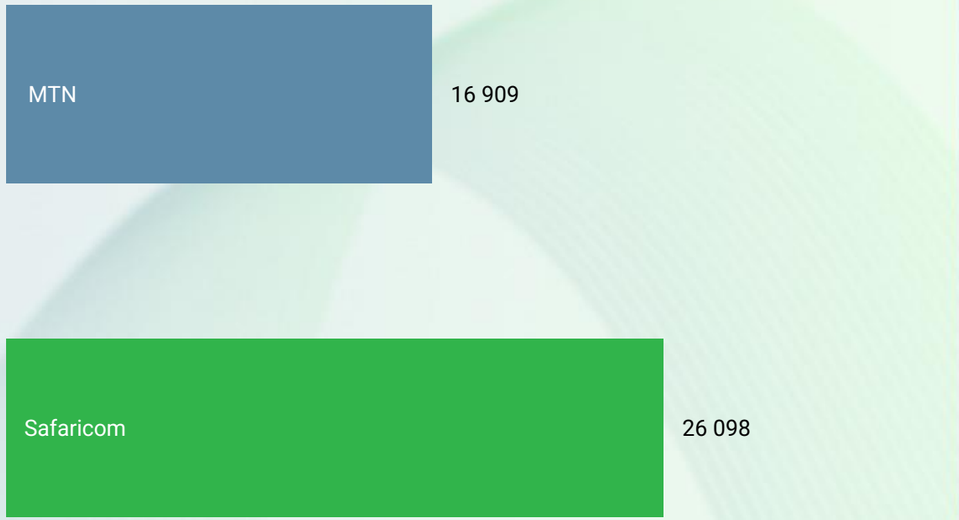
nPerf score evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com

Mobile Internet performance in Ethiopia

nPerf Score (nPoints)



Source : nPerf.com

The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best mobile Internet performances in 2025.

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.

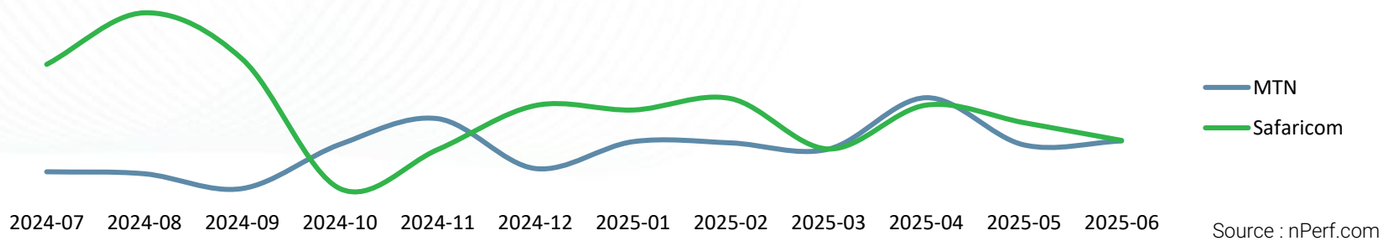
Source : nPerf.com

Safaricom

Best mobile Internet performance in 2025

Source : nPerf.com

nPerf score evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com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