

April 2026



Barometer of mobile Internet connections in Ethiopia

04/01/2025 - 03/31/2026



1

**Introducing
nPerf**

2

**Executive
summary**

3

Analysis

4

Methodology

5

**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.

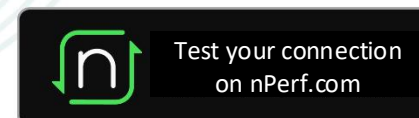
 **26Md+** coverage scans in total.

 **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 Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet performances in 2026 in Ethiopia.

Mobile Internet performance in Ethiopia

	MTN	<u>Safaricom</u>
▼ Download bitrates (Mb/s)	7.10	9.51
▲ Upload bitrates (Mb/s)	4.29	3.39
◀▶ Latency (ms)	267.57	136.26
🌐 Web browsing (%)	33.45	39.18
📺 Youtube streaming (%)	45.69	45.20
📶 nPerf Score (nPoints)	18 128	21 864

Source : nPerf.com



Best Mobile Internet performance
in 2026



Source : nPerf.com

nPerf Podium



Source : nPerf.com

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

Mobile Internet performance in Ethiopia

	MTN	<u>Safaricom</u>
 Download bitrates (Mb/s)	7.66	11.17
 Upload bitrates (Mb/s)	5.37	4.00
 Latency (ms)	266.87	137.03
 Web browsing (%)	36.06	40.09
 Youtube streaming (%)	48.09	46.55
 nPerf Score (nPoints)	20 480	24 043

Source : nPerf.com

The best mobile Internet performance in Ethiopia for 2026 reveals a competitive landscape shaped by two operators – Safaricom and MTN – delivering contrasting yet evolving network experiences across the country. While Safaricom continues to assert its dominance overall, MTN has made significant strides in key performance areas, signalling a sector that is becoming increasingly contested.

Safaricom: Five Years at the Top

Safaricom has been the undisputed leader in Ethiopia's mobile Internet sector for five consecutive years, and the latest nPerf barometer confirms that position remains firmly intact. Overall, the operator leads on Download speed (Mb/s) – a title it has held for five years running – as well as on Latency (ms) for the third consecutive year, Web Browsing (%) for the second consecutive year, and Youtube streaming (%) for the second consecutive year. On 4G specifically, Safaricom tops the rankings for Download speed (Mb/s) over five years, Latency (ms) for the third year in a row, and Web Browsing (%) for the second consecutive year. A particularly notable achievement this period is a 21% reduction in Latency (ms) overall compared to the previous year, bringing response times down from 171.65 ms to 136.26 ms – a meaningful improvement for end-user experience. With an overall score of 21,864 and a 4G score of 24,043, Safaricom retains clear leadership across the board.

MTN: A Rising Challenger

MTN enters this barometer cycle with genuine momentum. The operator has recorded a consistent upward progression in its overall

score across all five available years, reflecting a sustained investment in network quality. Most strikingly, MTN has posted an 81% improvement in Upload speed (Mb/s) overall compared to the previous year – rising from 2.37 Mb/s to 4.29 Mb/s – earning it the top position in that category overall for the first time. MTN also claims first place for Upload speed (Mb/s) and Youtube streaming (%) on 4G this period, demonstrating that its network improvements are tangible and measurable. With an overall score climbing from 13,987 to 18,128, and nPerf data confirming a narrowing gap with Safaricom overall, MTN is now a credible and growing competitive force in the Ethiopian mobile sector.

What to Watch in the Year Ahead

The trajectory is clear: Ethiopia's mobile Internet sector is becoming more competitive. For Safaricom, the priority will be maintaining its leadership across all key indicators while continuing to drive down Latency (ms) and sustaining strong Download speed (Mb/s) performance – two pillars on which its reputation is built. The slight year-on-year decline in overall score (from 30,346 to 21,864) and in Download speed (Mb/s) (from 11.63 to 9.51 Mb/s) overall are areas that deserve attention heading into next year. For MTN, the challenge is to consolidate its gains in Upload speed (Mb/s) and Youtube streaming (%), while addressing a persistently high Latency (ms) of 267.57 ms overall – a figure that remains almost double that of Safaricom. Closing that latency gap will be critical if MTN is to mount a credible challenge for overall leadership in the next barometer cycle.

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

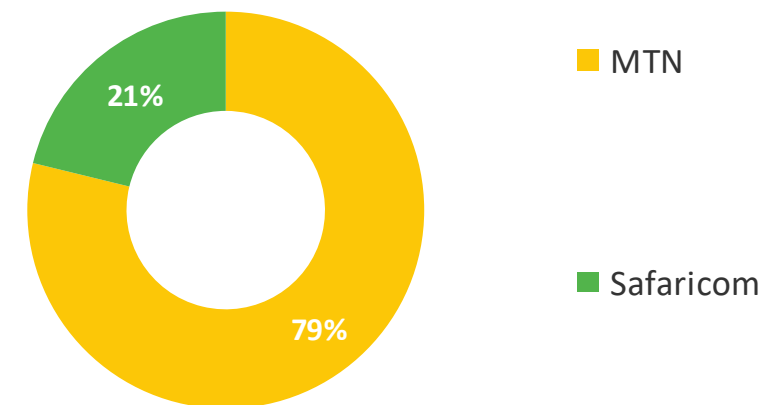
The video streaming test gauges the load time of a fully loaded video in three resolutions on YouTube, considering stalls during playback. This indicator reflects the perceived quality by the user.

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



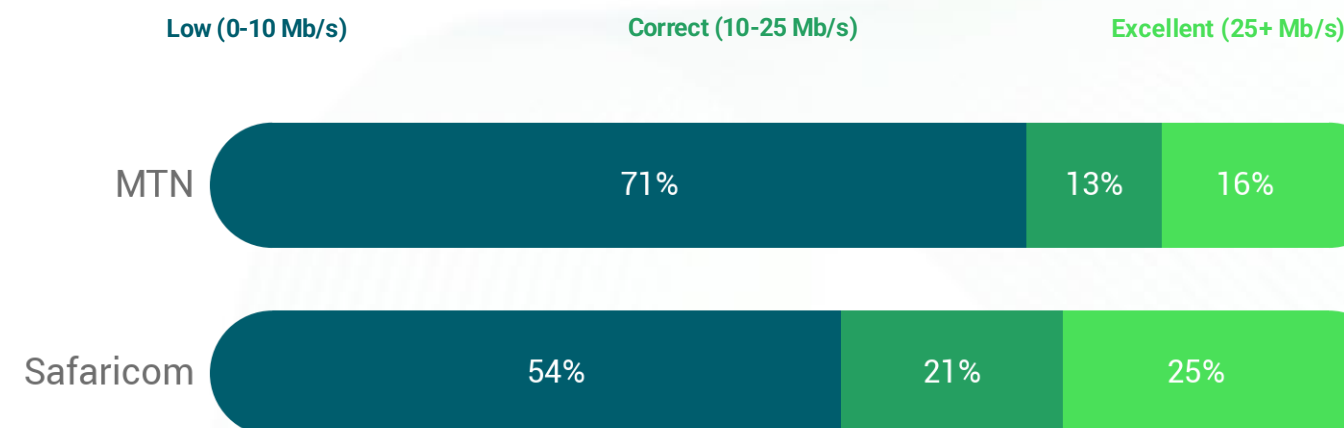
Download Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

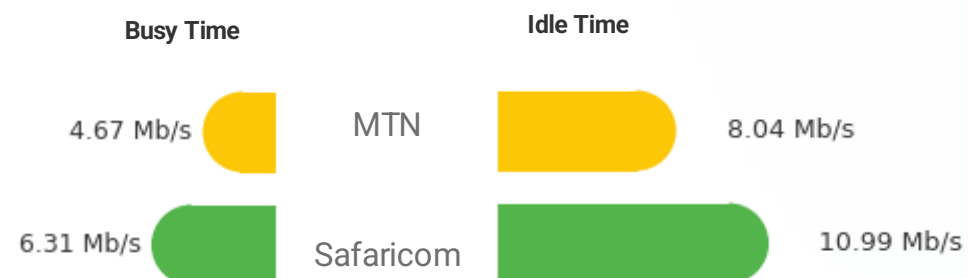
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Download Speed in 2026.

Download Speed results distribution (average)



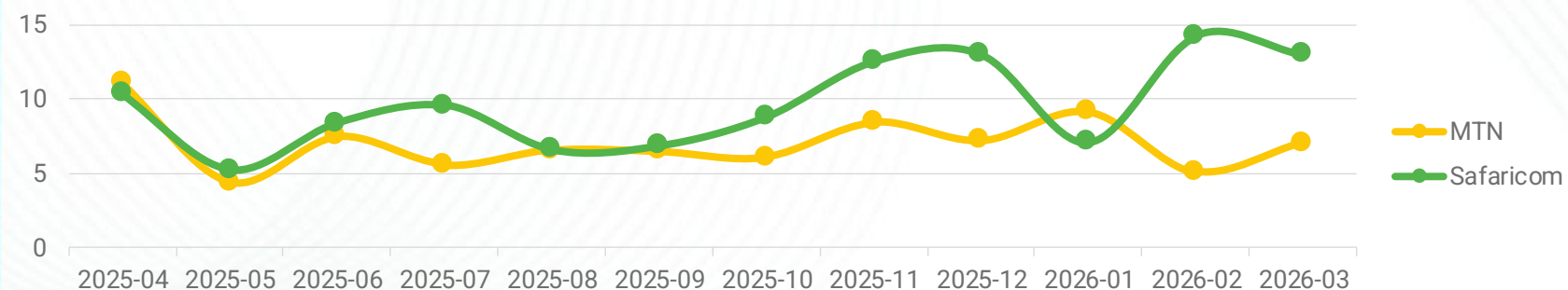
Source : nPerf.com

Download Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

Download Speed evolution over the year (average)



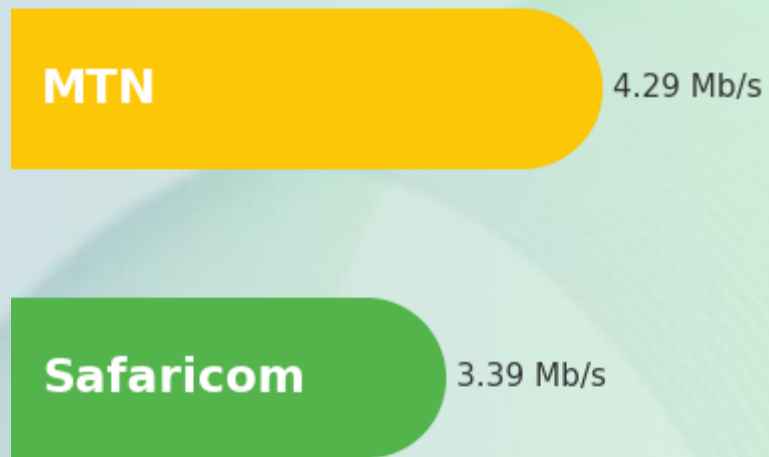
Source : nPerf.com



Upload Speed



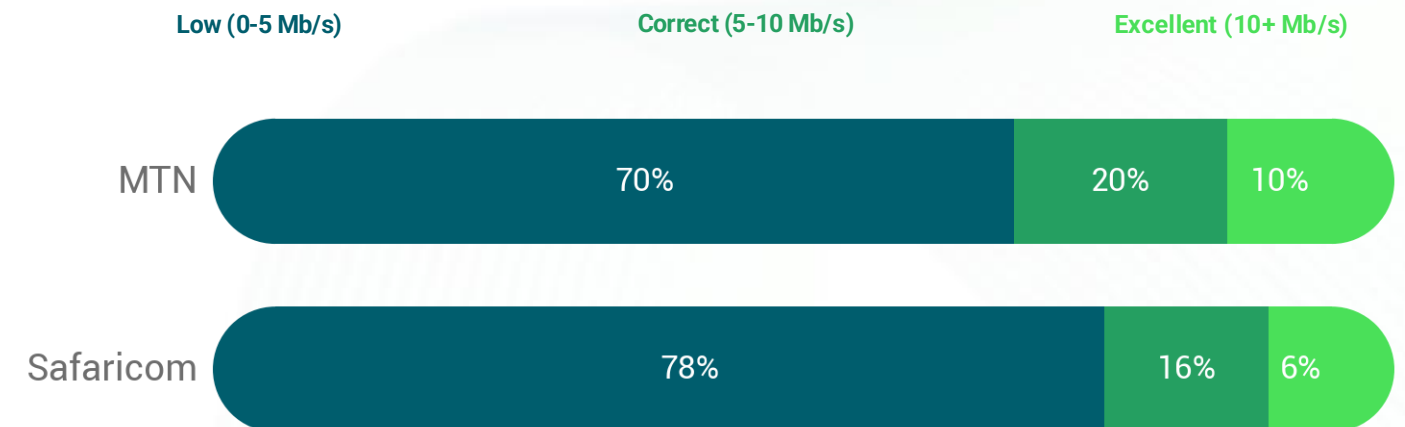
Upload Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

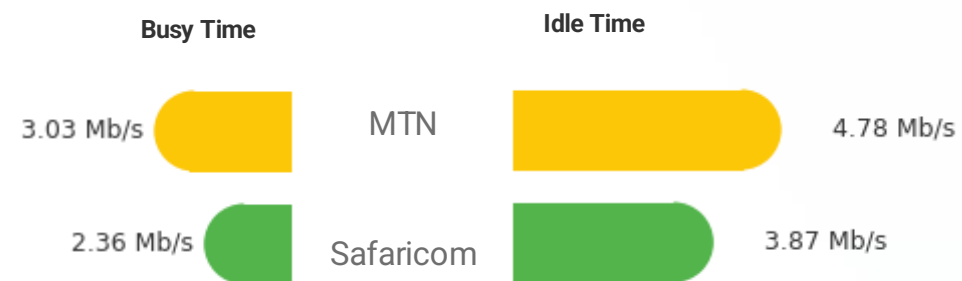
The subscribers of MTN enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Upload Speed in 2026.

Upload Speed results distribution (average)



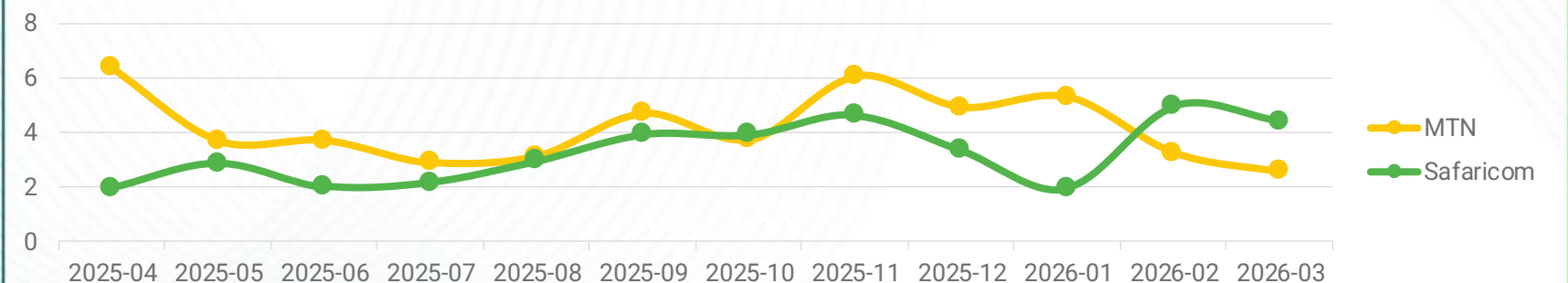
Source : nPerf.com

Upload Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

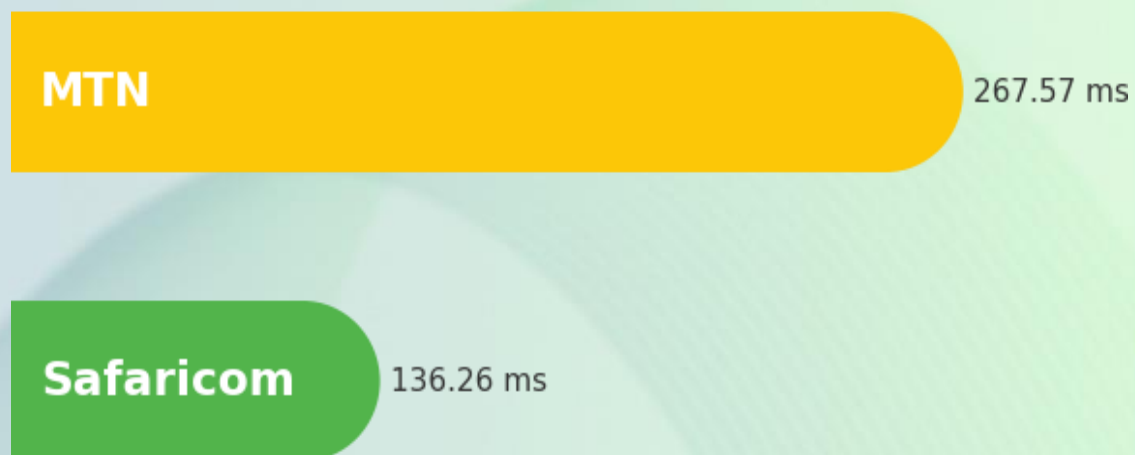
Upload Speed evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



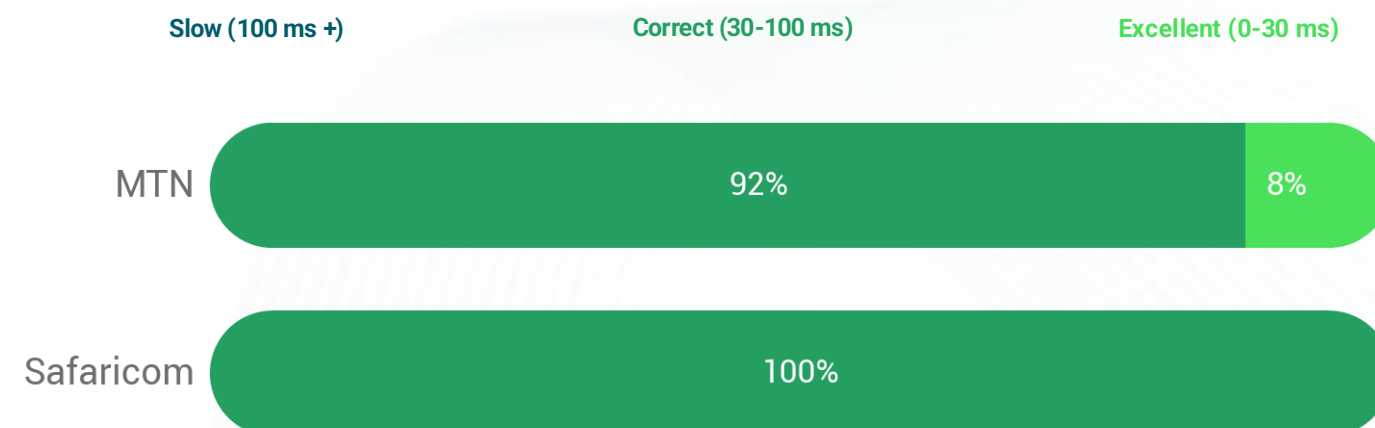
Latency (average)



Source : nPerf.com

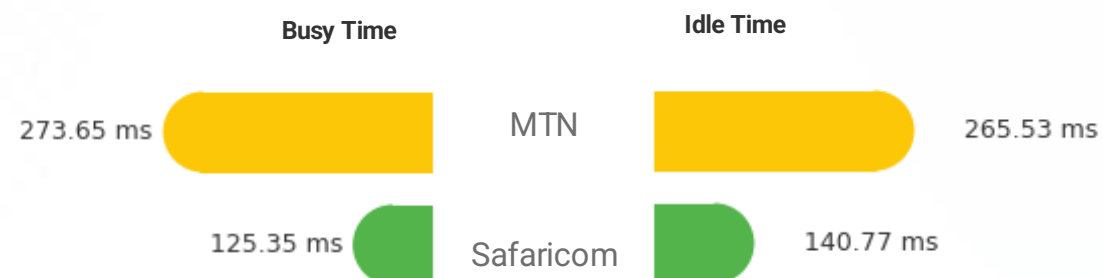
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Latency in 2026.

Latency results distribution (average)



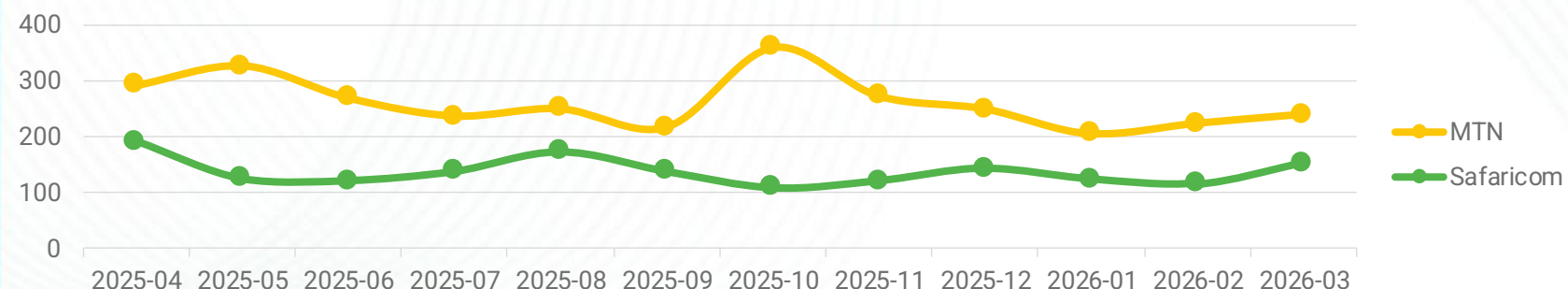
Source : nPerf.com

Latency (average)



Source : nPerf.com

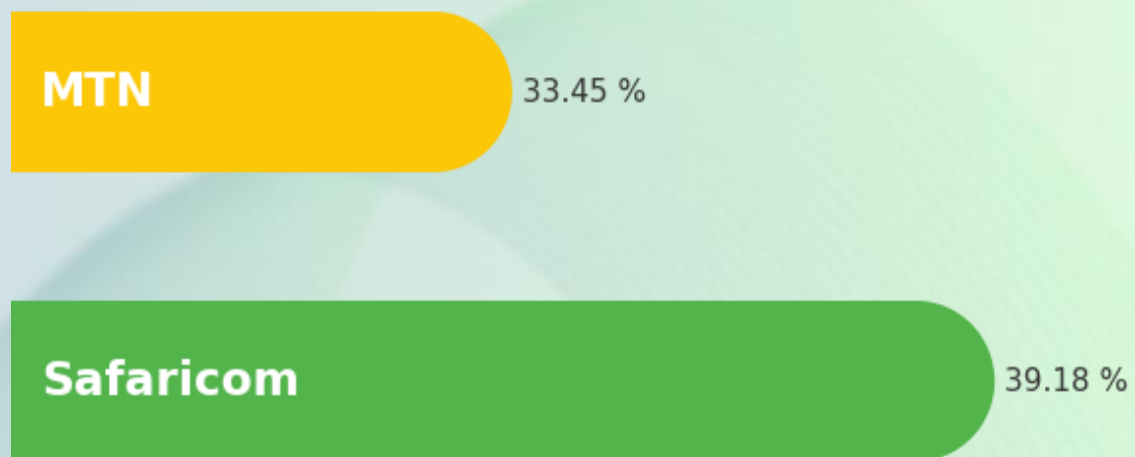
Latency evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



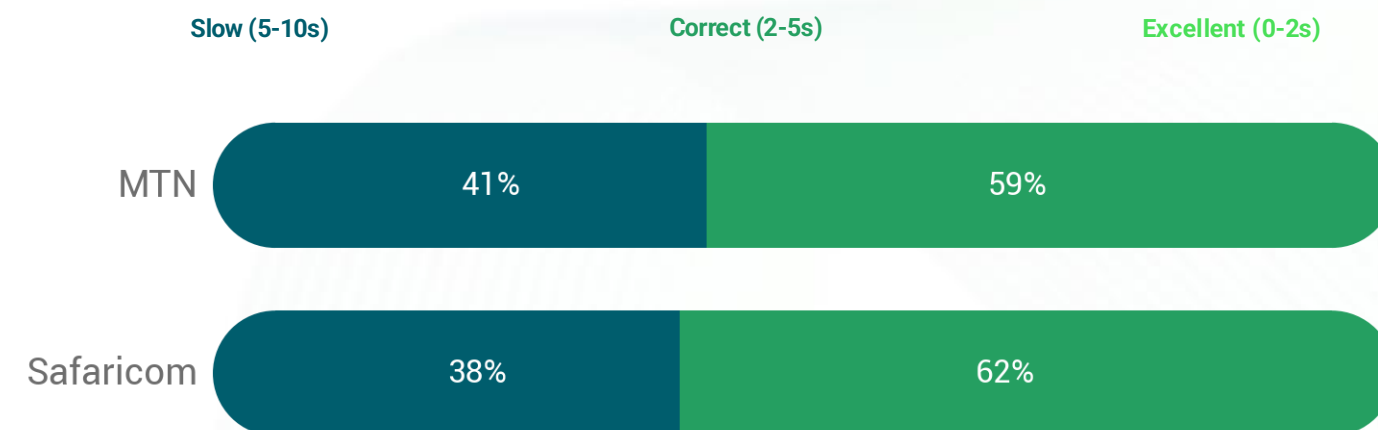
Browsing Performance (average)



Source : nPerf.com

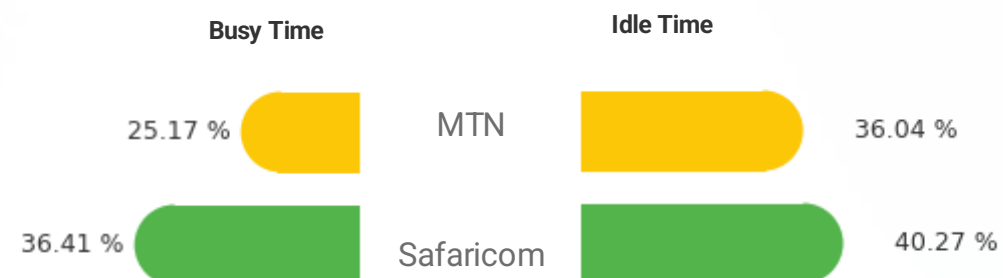
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Browsing Performance in 2026.

Browsing Performance results distribution (average)



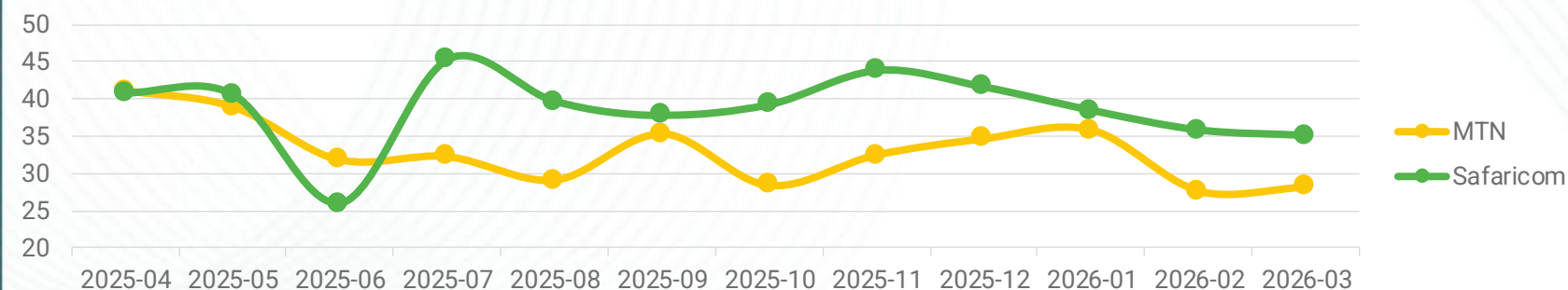
Source : nPerf.com

Browsing Performance (average)



Source : nPerf.com

Browsing Performance evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



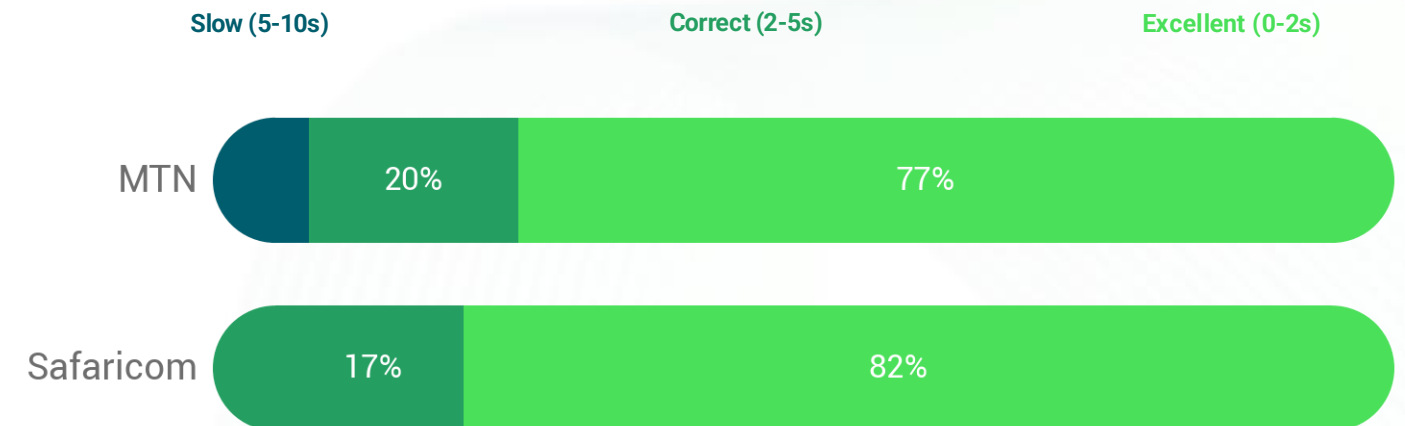
Streaming Performance (average)



Source : nPerf.com

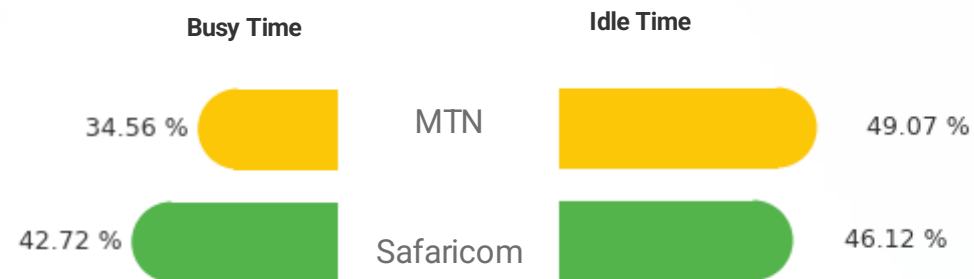
The subscribers of MTN and Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Streaming Performance in 2026.

Streaming Performance results distribution (average)



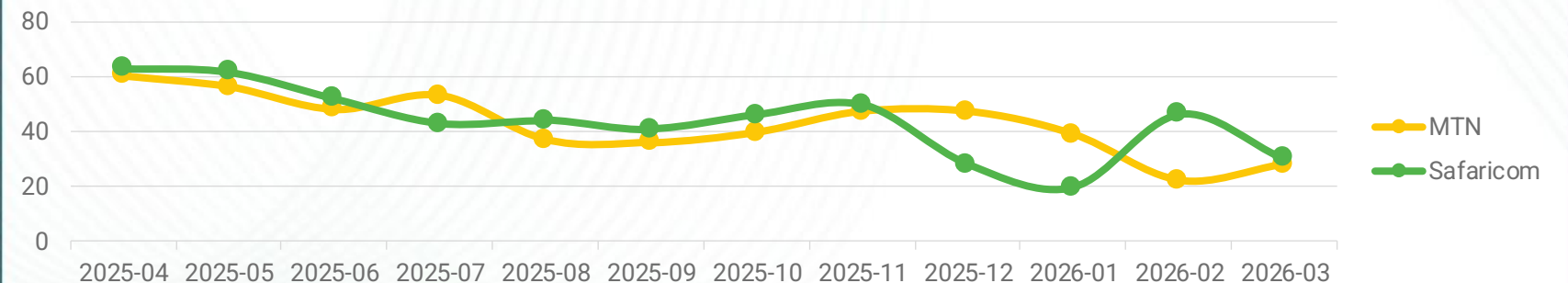
Source : nPerf.com

Streaming Performance (average)



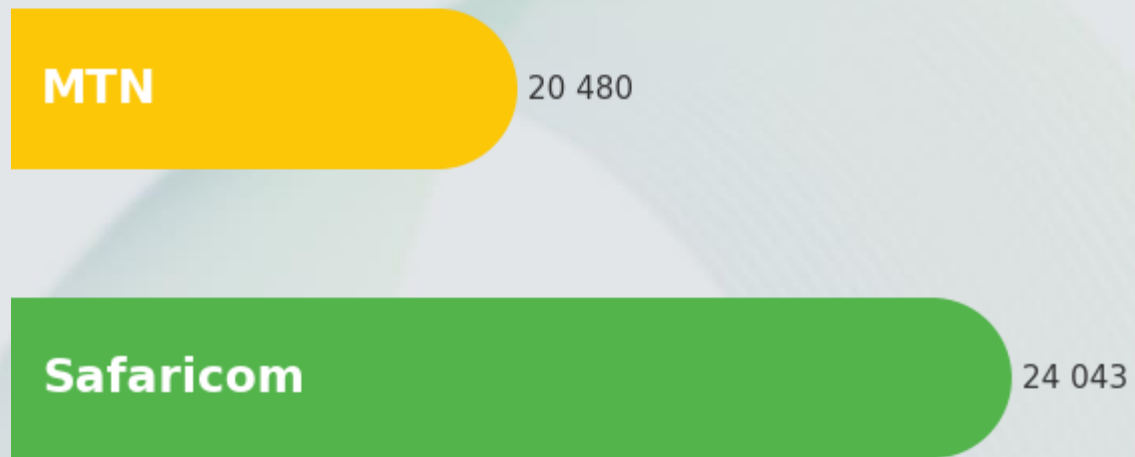
Source : nPerf.com

Streaming Performance evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com

nPerf Score (nPoints)



Source : nPerf.com

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

Best performances 4G: Safaricom

Fastest performances (Download Speed) 4G: Safaricom

Fastest performances (Upload Speed) 4G: MTN

4G connections with the lowest latency: Safaricom

Best web browsing performances 4G: Safaricom

Best streaming performances 4G: MTN

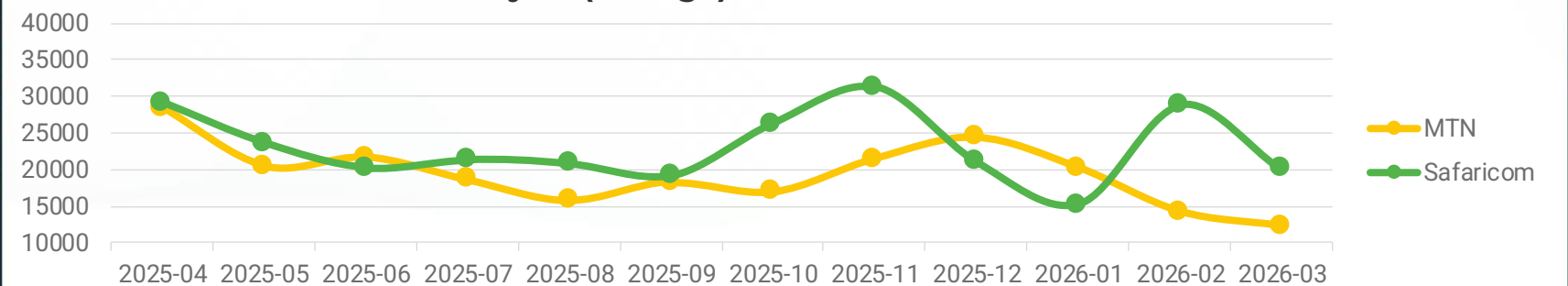
Source : nPerf.com

nPerf Podium



Source : nPerf.com

nPerf Score evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



nPerf Score (nPoints)

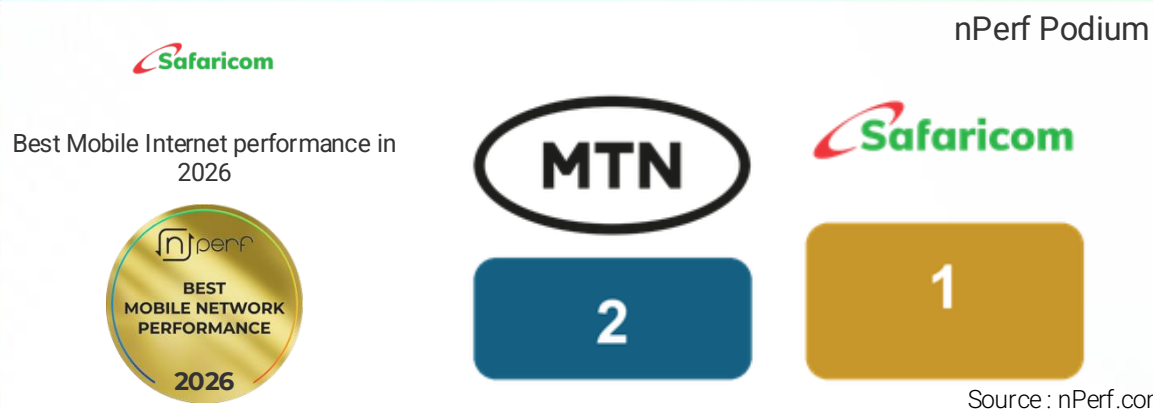


Source : nPerf.com

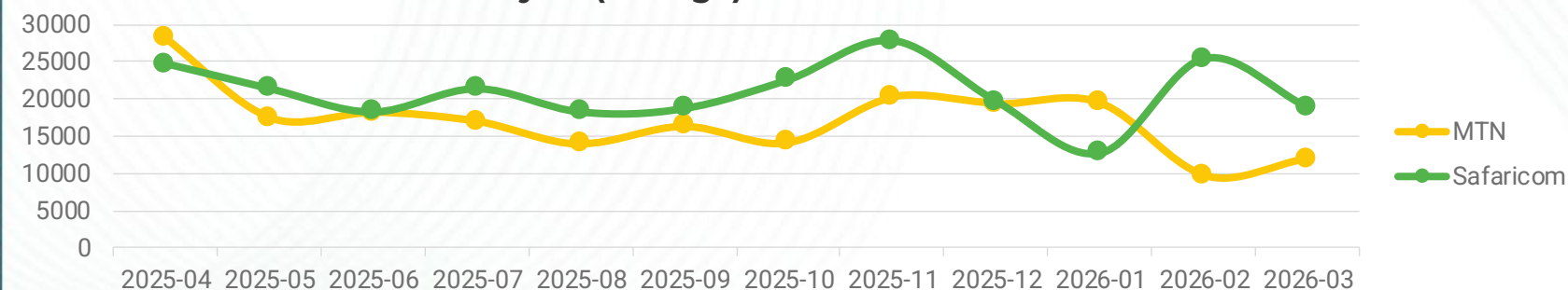
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet performances in 2026.

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

