

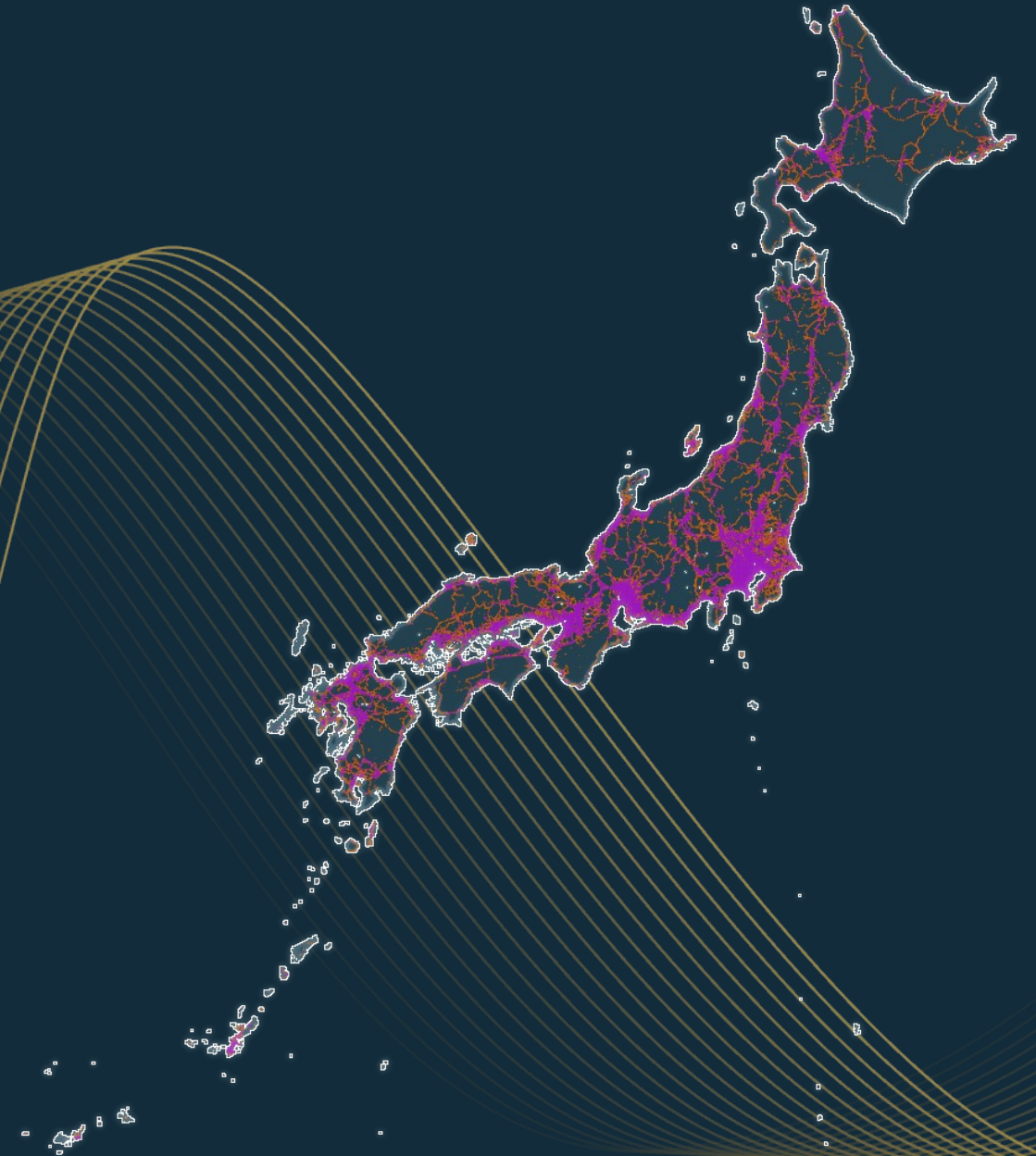
October 2026



Barometer of mobile coverage in Japan

4G/5G

09/01/2025 - 08/31/2026



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1. Introducing nPerf



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.

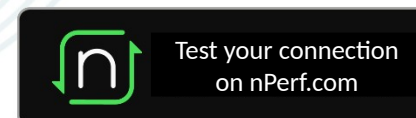
 **26Md+** coverage
scans in total.

 **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. Methodology (1/2) — Measuring coverage in the field



A field study, not a simulation

Mobile operators publish coverage maps computed from radio-propagation models. This barometer contains no modelling: every figure comes from measurements recorded in the field by real users, in real conditions of use — outdoors, indoors, in a car or on a train. It complements the operators' theoretical maps; it does not replace them.

A crowdsourced panel

Measurements are collected by the nPerf mobile application, on Android only: Apple does not open the signal-strength APIs to developers. The application records the signal level reported by the handset every time the device's position is requested by the operating system or by another installed application — maps, navigation, games — and throughout the active mapping sessions users can start themselves. Each record is time-stamped and geolocated to within 20 metres. Anyone can join the panel simply by installing the nPerf app.

Which measurements are kept

- Each measurement is attributed to the network that actually serves the handset, identified by its MCC/MNC codes.
- Measurements reporting no signal at all are kept — the absence of coverage is a result in its own right.
- A country is published only when the volume of measurements and the share of its inhabited territory actually surveyed are sufficient.

Which ISPs are kept

- Only ISPs operating their own network are included; MVNOs are excluded.
- An ISP is published only when its share of measurements is sufficient to be reliably represented in this report.

2. Methodology (2/2) — From measurements to a coverage rate



A grid of parcels

The territory is divided into a regular grid. Each parcel is roughly 400 to 600 m on a side depending on latitude — about 425 m at the latitude of France. A parcel is taken into account for an operator as soon as one of that operator's users has recorded at least one measurement inside it, with or without signal.

Each operator is measured on its own customers' data

This is the cornerstone of the method: an operator's coverage rate is computed from **the measurements collected by its own subscribers, not from those of all operators combined**. The reference perimeter — the denominator of the rate — is therefore specific to each operator: it consists of the parcels its own customers actually visited. Every operator is assessed precisely where its own customer base lives, works and travels.

Technologies are nested

A parcel counts as covered by a technology as soon as at least one measurement of that technology — or of a higher generation — was recorded in it. **3G coverage** is therefore the area where at least 3G is available, **4G coverage** the area where at least 4G is available, and **5G coverage** the area where 5G is available.

Three indicators

- **Geographical Coverage** — the share of the operator's reference parcels in which the technology was recorded. Every parcel carries the same weight, whatever its population.
- **In mobility Pop. Coverage** — the same parcels, each weighted by the number of distinct nPerf devices observed in it. The weighting reflects where users actually are, rather than the number of inhabitants declared per municipality: busy roads and city centres therefore weigh more than sparsely travelled areas.
- **nPerf Coverage Score** — the average of the two indicators above, in equal parts. The higher the score, the better the coverage.

Regional results

Regional figures follow exactly the same method, restricted to the parcels located inside each region's official administrative boundaries.

Reading the 5G figures

All the frequency bands used by each operator are taken into account. Low bands (700 MHz) reach further than mid (2,100 MHz) and high (3,500 MHz) bands but deliver lower speeds: coverage figures should be read alongside the speed results of the nPerf mobile barometer.

3. Executive Summary 4G



The subscribers of au enjoyed the best 4G coverage in 2026 in Japan.

Mobile coverage rate in Japan				
	au	NTT DoCoMo	Rakuten	SoftBank
Geographical Coverage Rate	96.53	95.95	94.73	96.22
Population Coverage Rate	98.38	98.32	97.52	97.39
nPerf Coverage Score	97.45	97.14	96.12	96.80

Source : nPerf.com



4. National 4G coverage maps

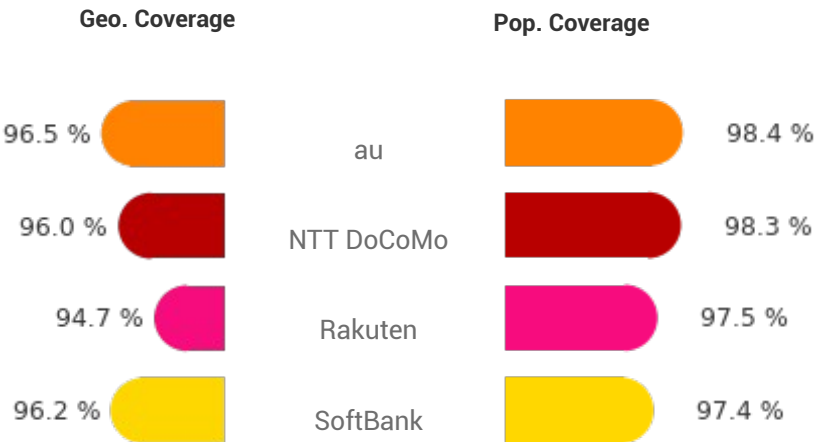


nPerf Coverage Score



Source : nPerf.com

Coverage Indicators



Source : nPerf.com

National Coverage



National 4G coverage maps for NTT DoCoMo



NTT DoCoMo

Geographical Coverage Rate (%)	95.95
Population Coverage Rate (%)	98.32
nPerf Coverage Score (%)	97.14



National 4G coverage maps for Rakuten



Rakuten

Geographical Coverage Rate (%) 94.73

Population Coverage Rate (%) 97.52

nPerf Coverage Score (%) 96.12



National 4G coverage maps for SoftBank



SoftBank

Geographical Coverage Rate (%) 96.22

Population Coverage Rate (%) 97.39

nPerf Coverage Score (%) 96.80



National 4G coverage maps for au



au

Geographical Coverage Rate (%) 96.53

Population Coverage Rate (%) 98.38

nPerf Coverage Score (%) 97.45



5. Executive Summary 5G



The subscribers of SoftBank enjoyed the best 5G coverage in 2026 in Japan.

Mobile coverage rate in Japan				
	au	NTT DoCoMo	Rakuten	<u>SoftBank</u>
Geographical Coverage Rate	42.63	39.17	27.30	49.07
Population Coverage Rate	62.84	56.65	46.27	65.46
nPerf Coverage Score	52.74	47.91	36.78	57.26

Source : nPerf.com

SoftBank

Best Mobile coverage in Japan

Source : nPerf.com

nPerf Podium

Source : nPerf.com

6. National 5G coverage maps

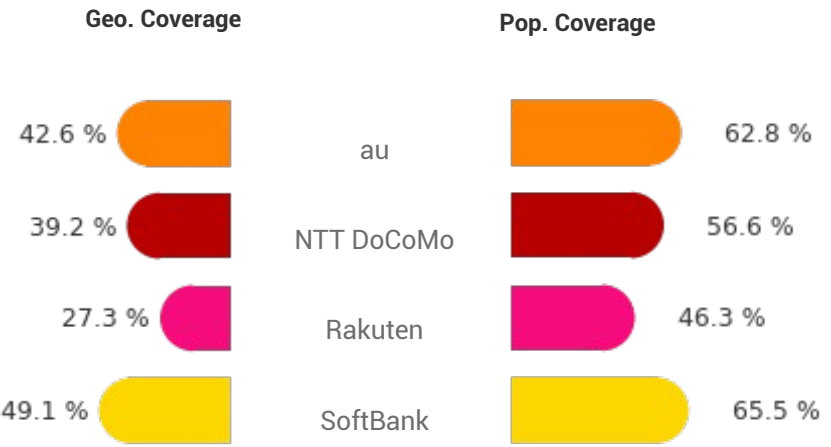


nPerf Coverage Score



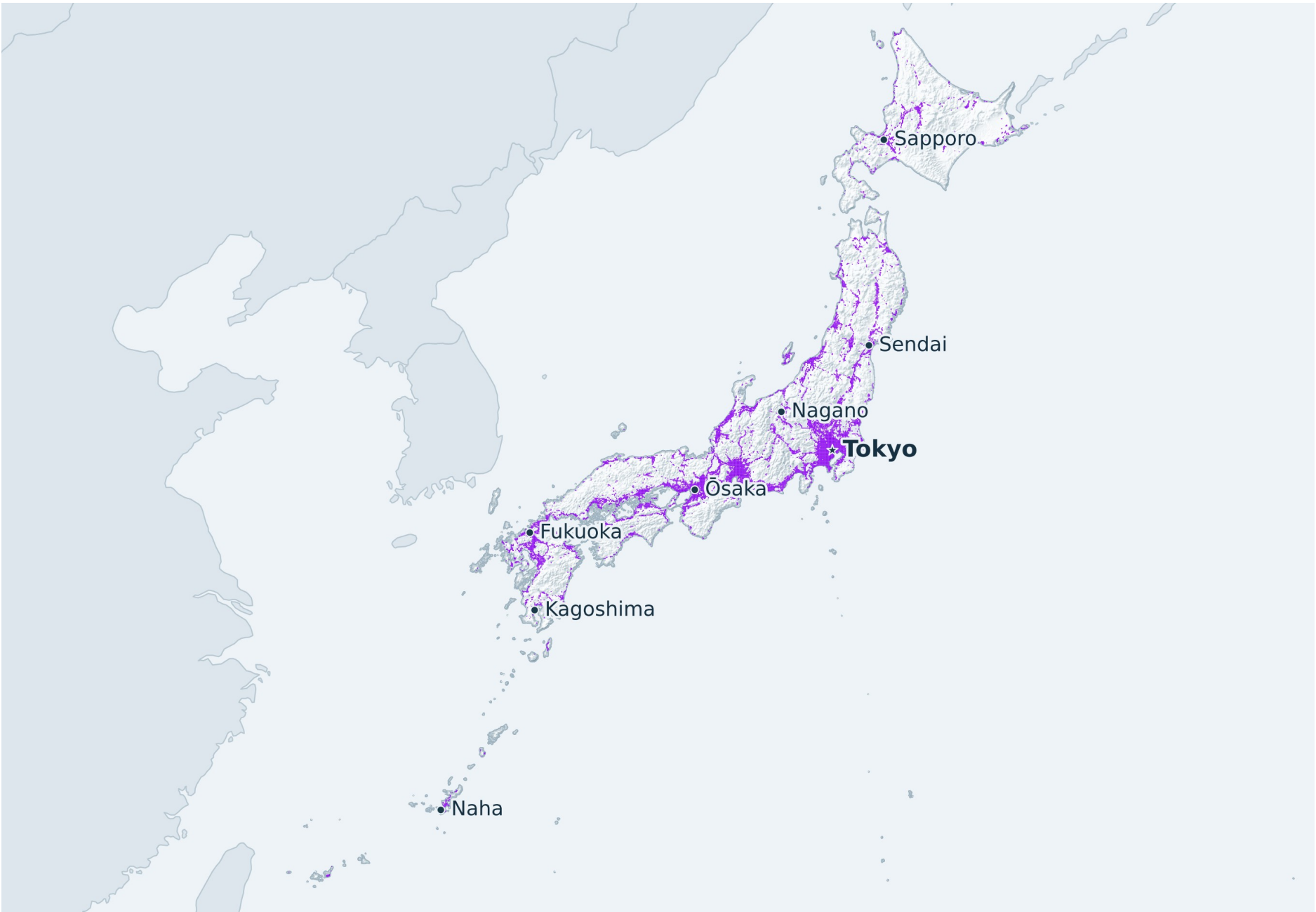
Source : nPerf.com

Coverage Indicators



Source : nPerf.com

National Coverage



NTT DoCoMo

Geographical Coverage Rate (%)	39.17
Population Coverage Rate (%)	56.65
nPerf Coverage Score (%)	47.91



National 5G coverage maps for Rakuten



Rakuten

Geographical Coverage Rate (%) 27.30

Population Coverage Rate (%) 46.27

nPerf Coverage Score (%) 36.78



National 5G coverage maps for SoftBank



SoftBank

Geographical Coverage Rate (%) 49.07

Population Coverage Rate (%) 65.46

nPerf Coverage Score (%) 57.26



National 5G coverage maps for au



au

Geographical Coverage Rate (%) 42.63

Population Coverage Rate (%) 62.84

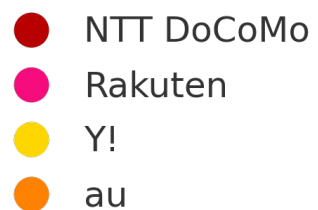
nPerf Coverage Score (%) 52.74



7. Regional 4G coverage: Methodology



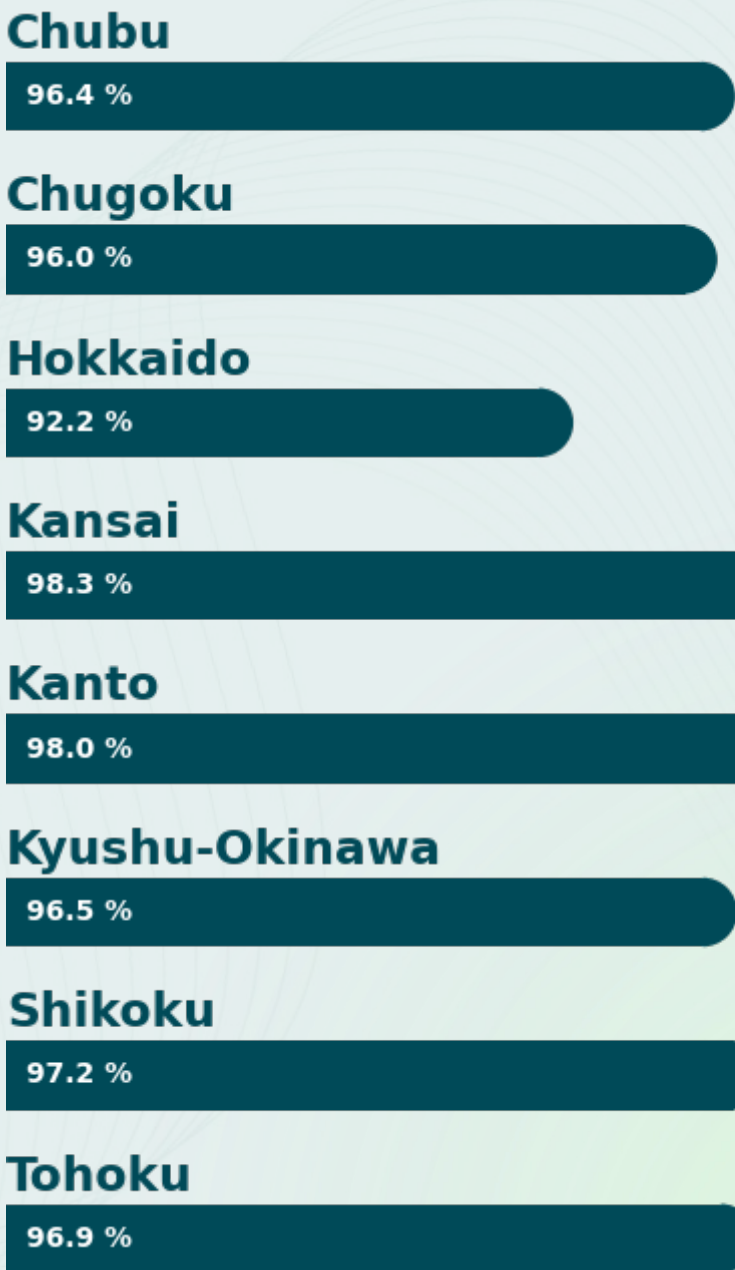
Regions	Measurements	Device count	Measurements per operator
Kanto	4 733 369	126 604	35% 33% 20% 12%
Chubu	3 958 446	108 711	40% 20% 27% 14%
Kansai	2 309 375	68 403	27% 18% 37% 18%
Kyushu-Okinawa	1 325 244	31 922	52% 21% 13% 14%
Tohoku	1 288 305	37 787	47% 19% 27% 7%
Hokkaido	906 072	24 849	56% 25% 12% 7%
Chugoku	859 651	21 878	49% 34% 10% 7%
Shikoku	173 342	6 044	41% 20% 10% 29%



Regional 4G coverage

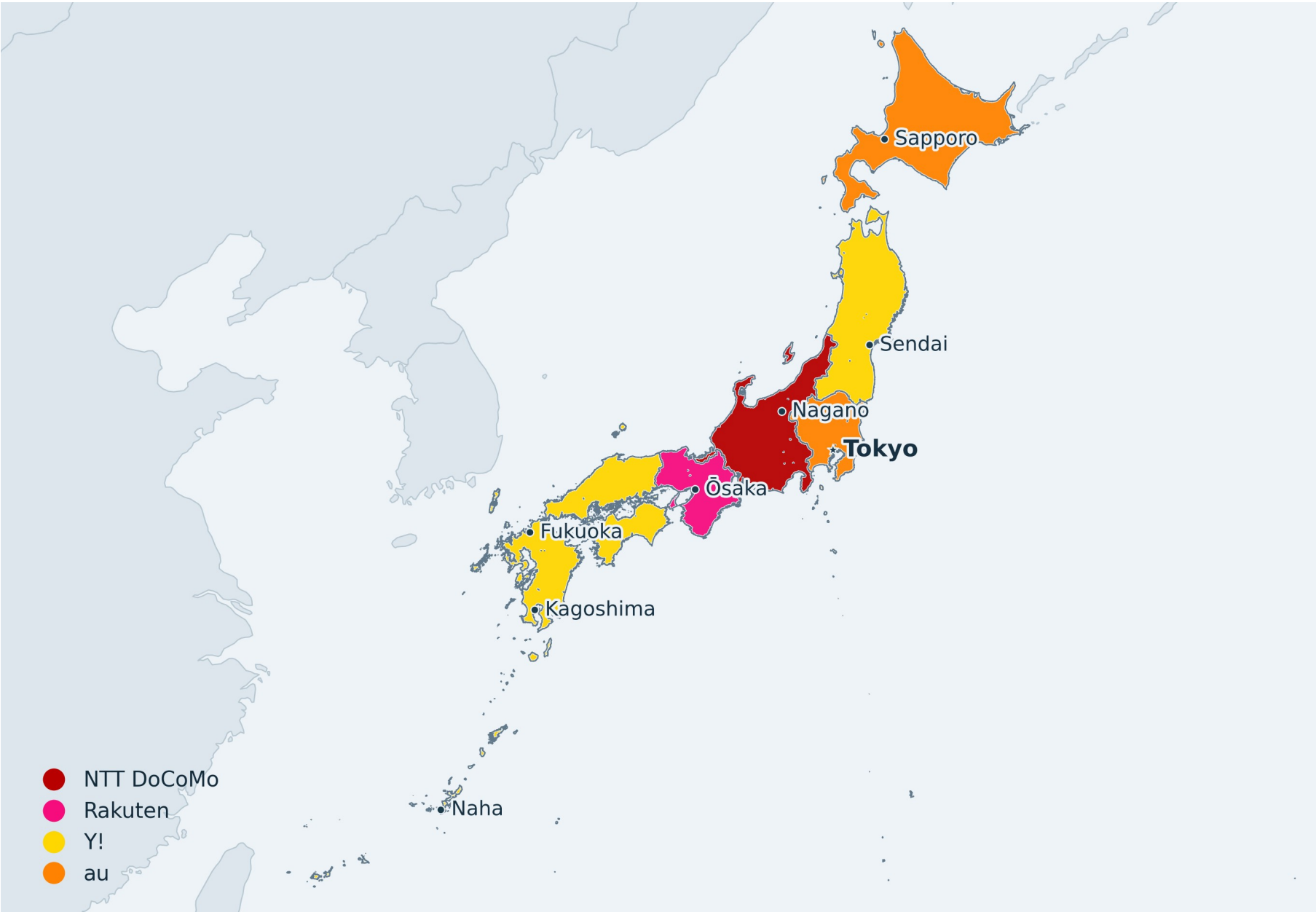


nPerf Coverage Score



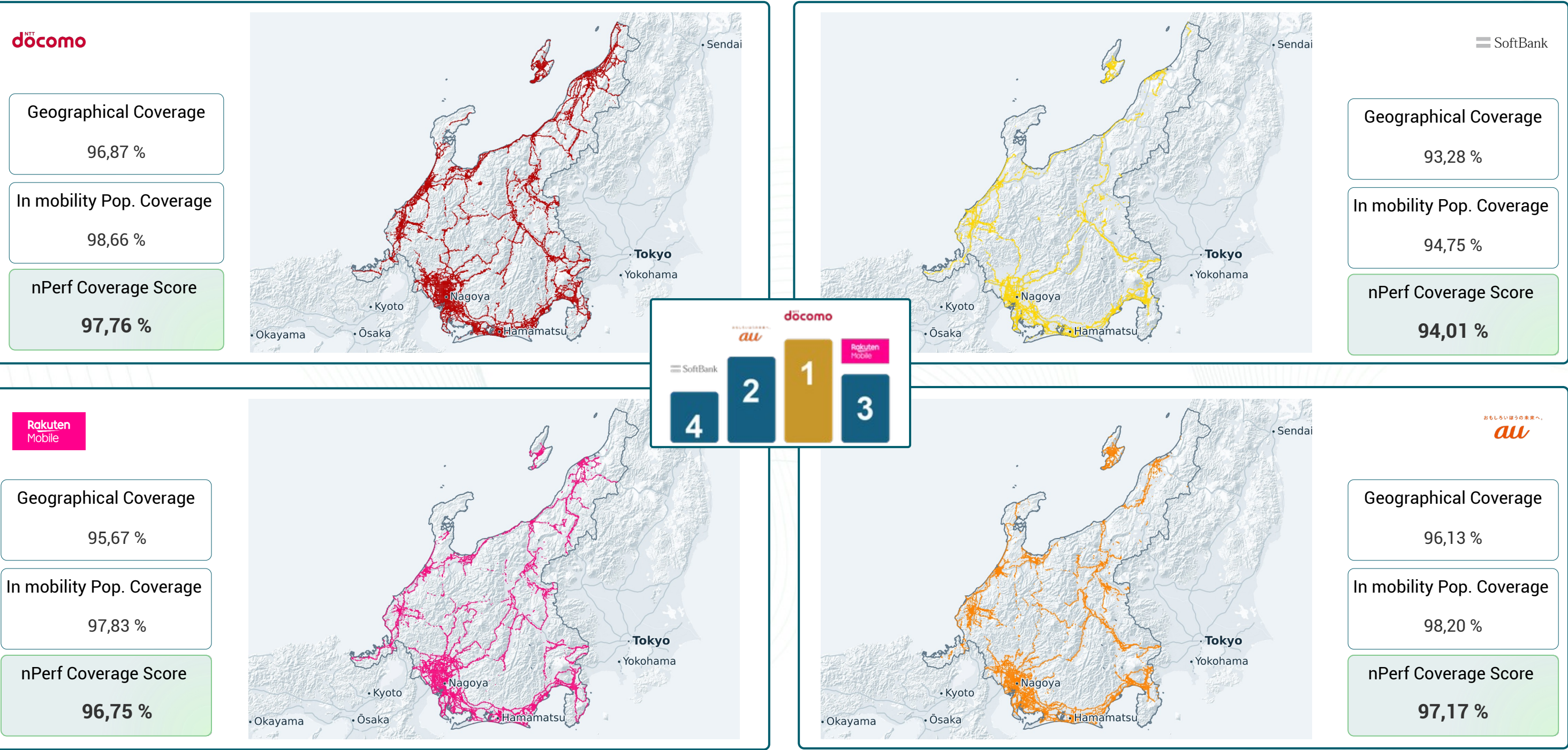
Source : nPerf.com

Regional Winner

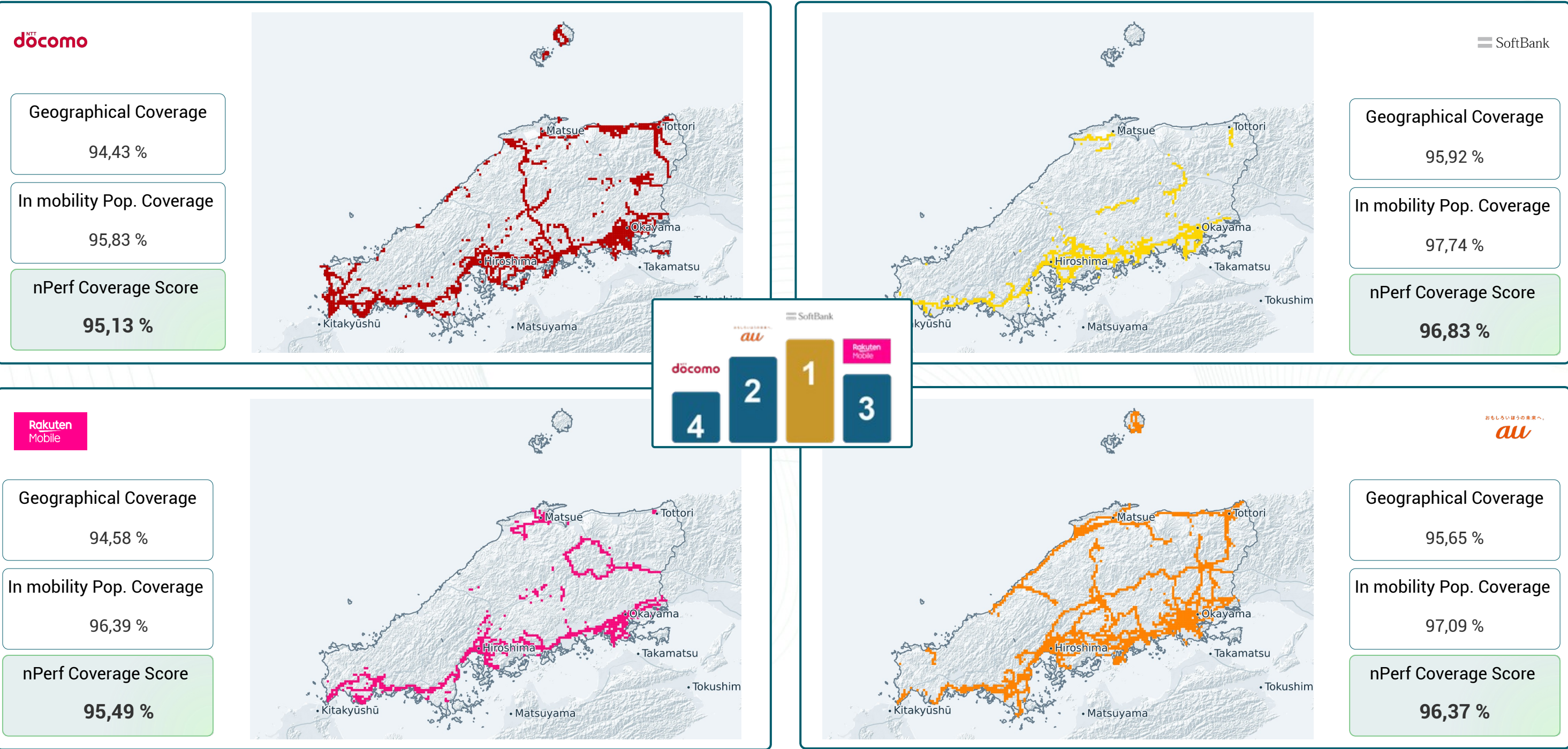


Source : nPerf.com

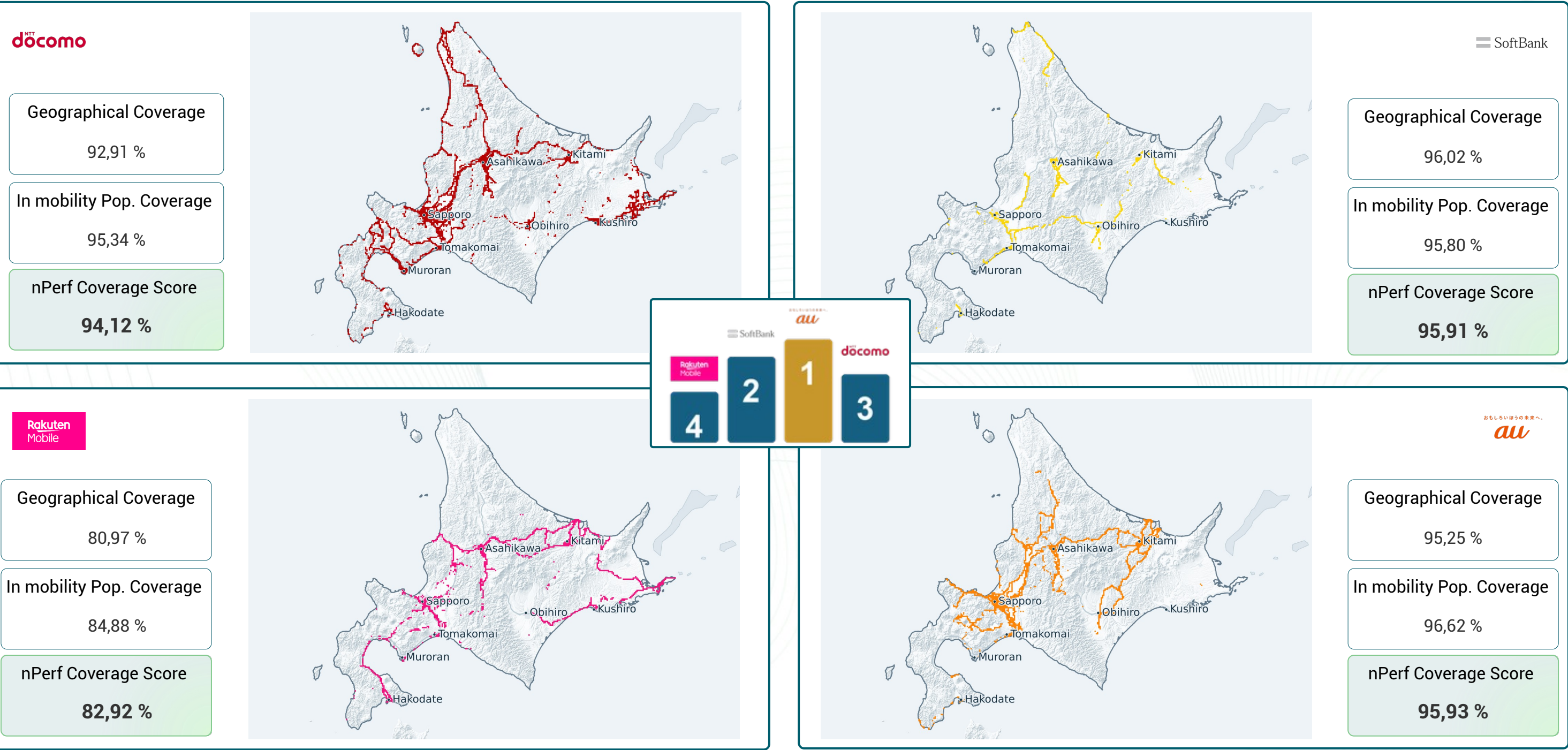
4G coverage — Chubu



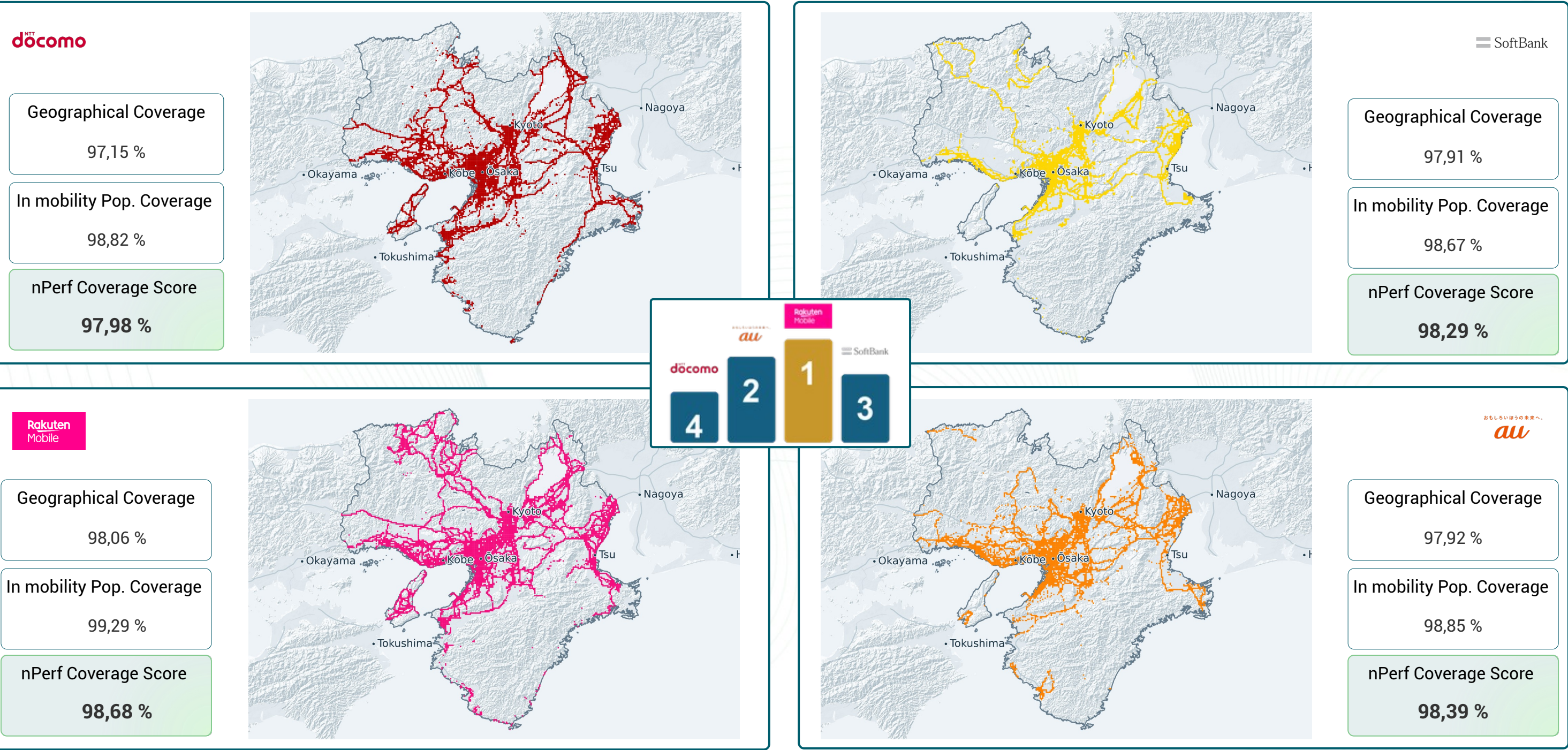
4G coverage — Chugoku



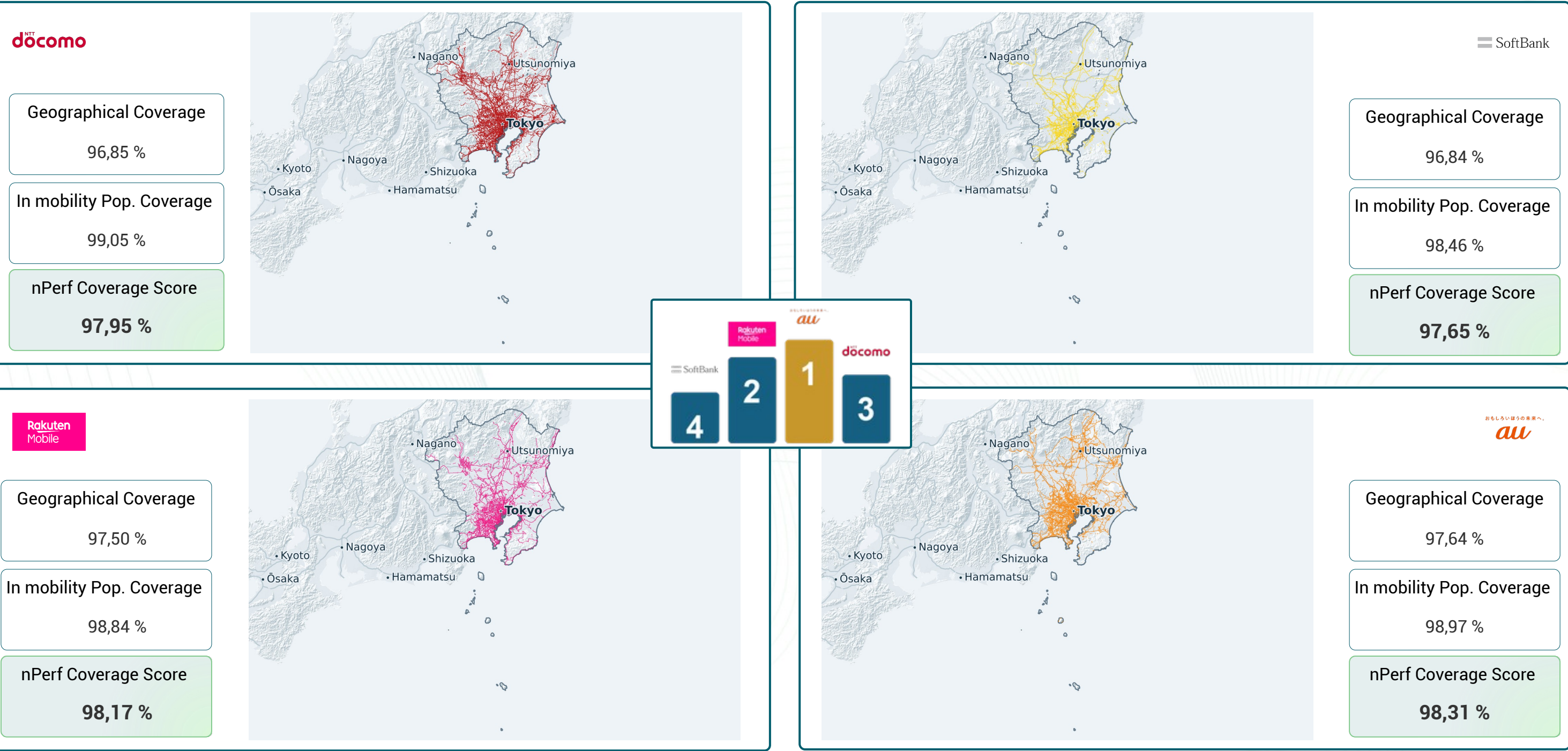
4G coverage — Hokkaido



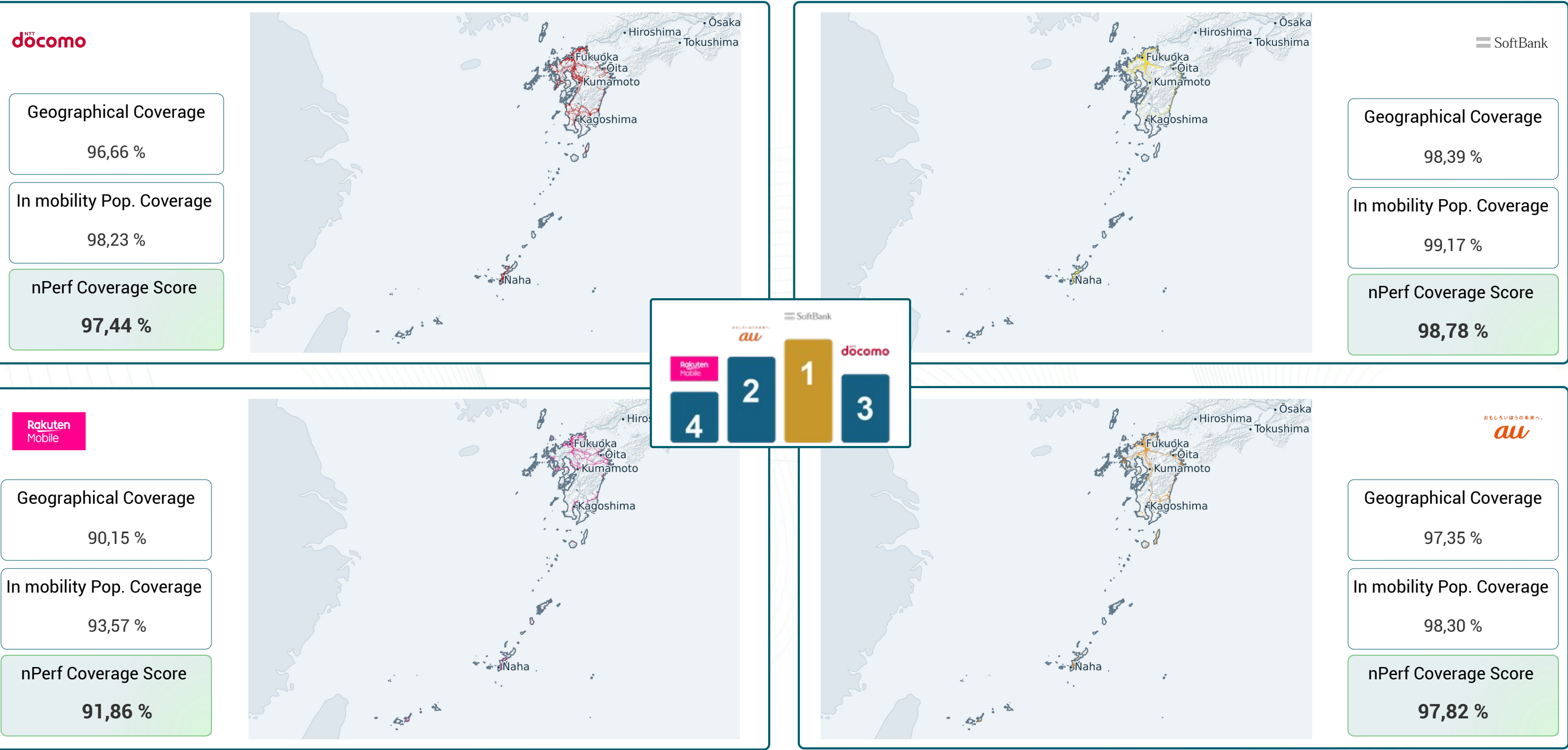
4G coverage — Kansai



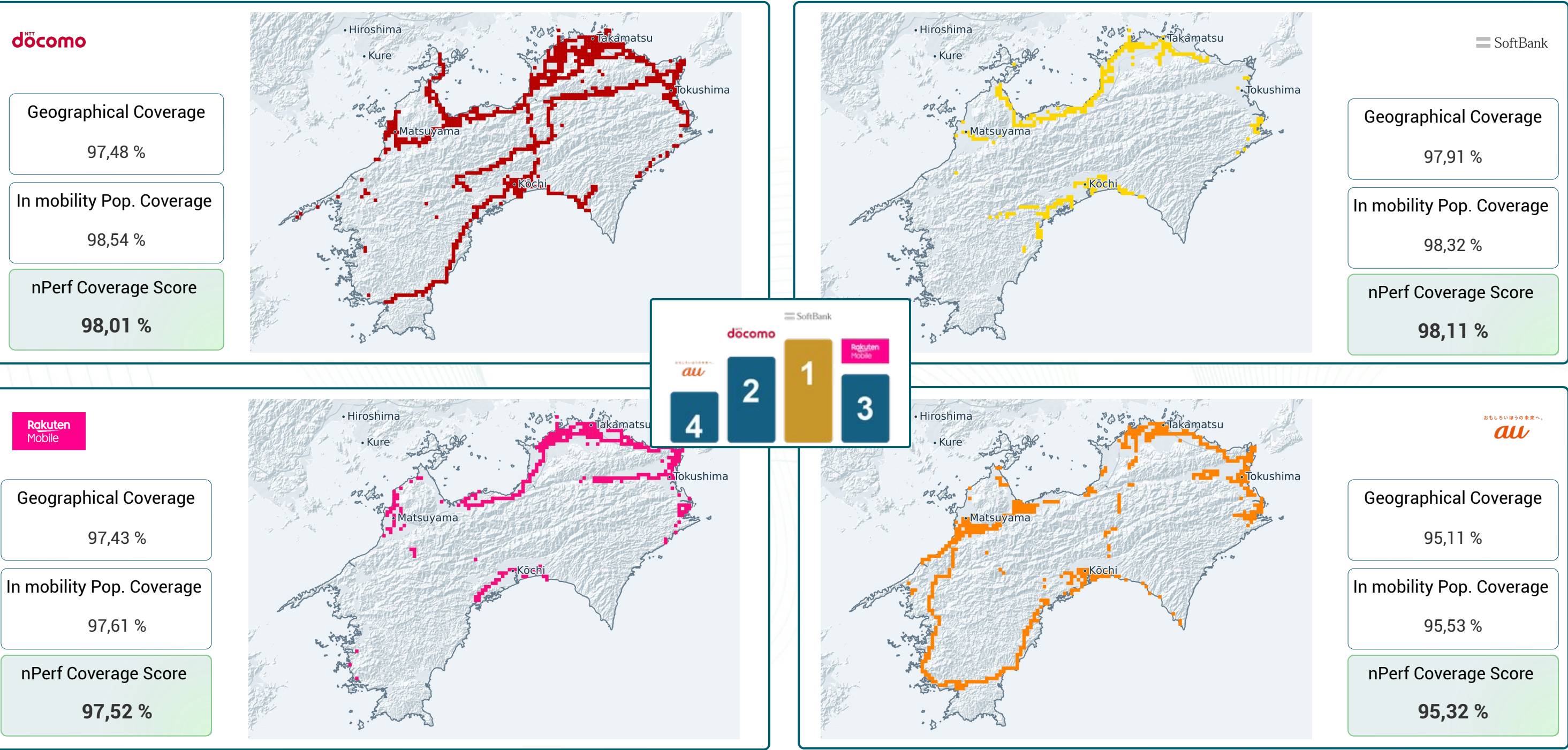
4G coverage — Kanto



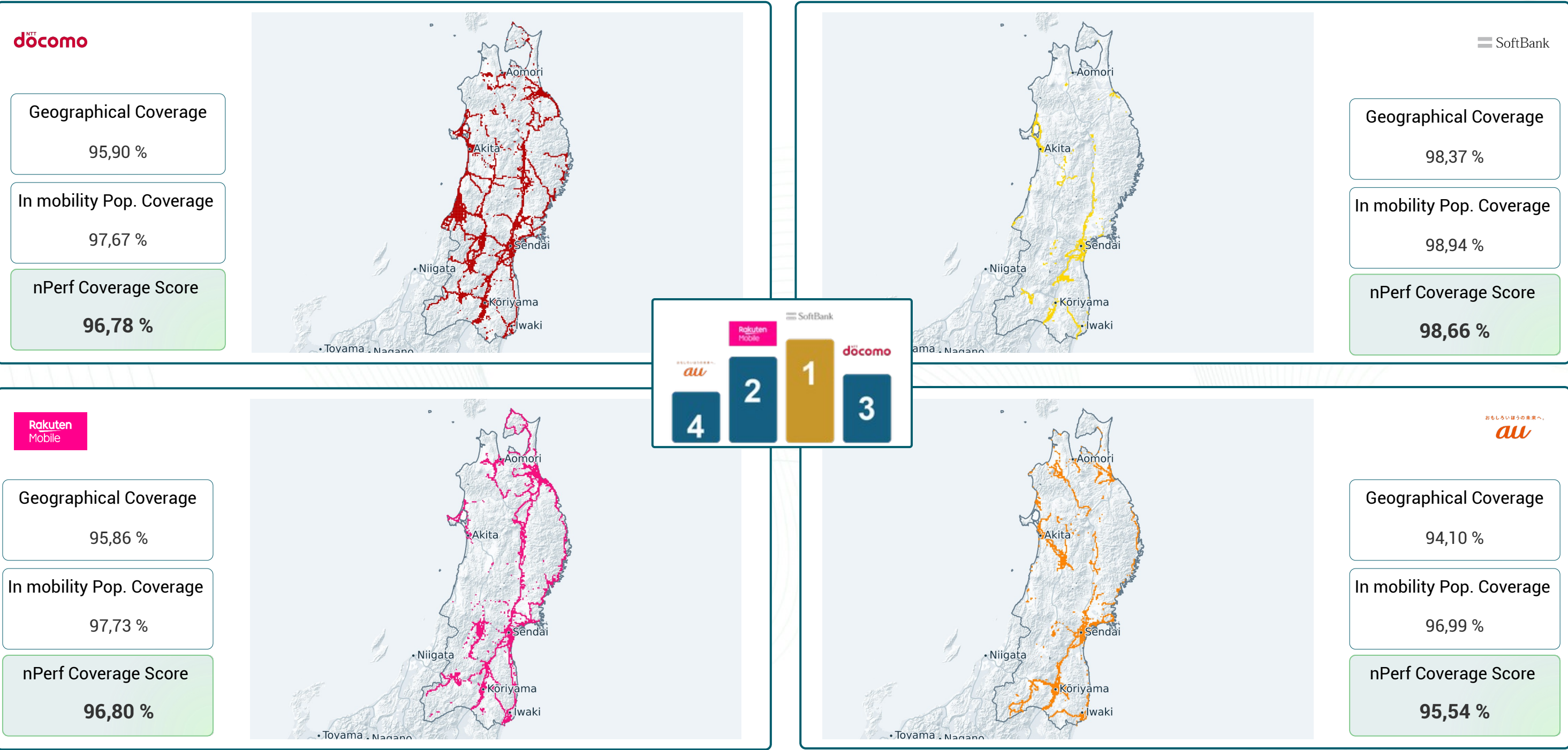
4G coverage — Kyushu-Okinawa



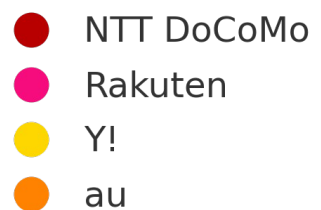
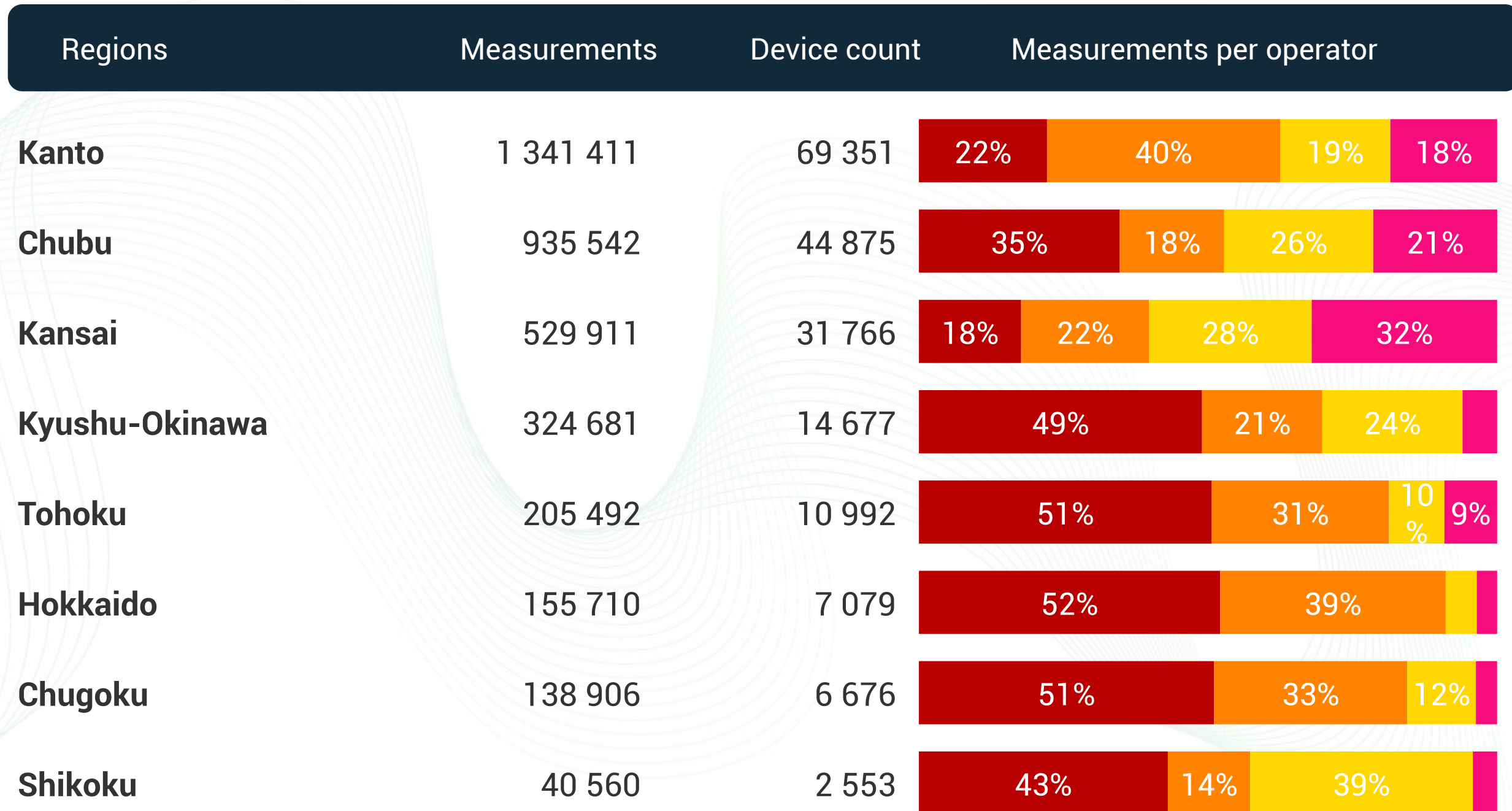
4G coverage — Shikoku



4G coverage — Tohoku



8. Regional 5G coverage: Methodology



Regional 5G coverage

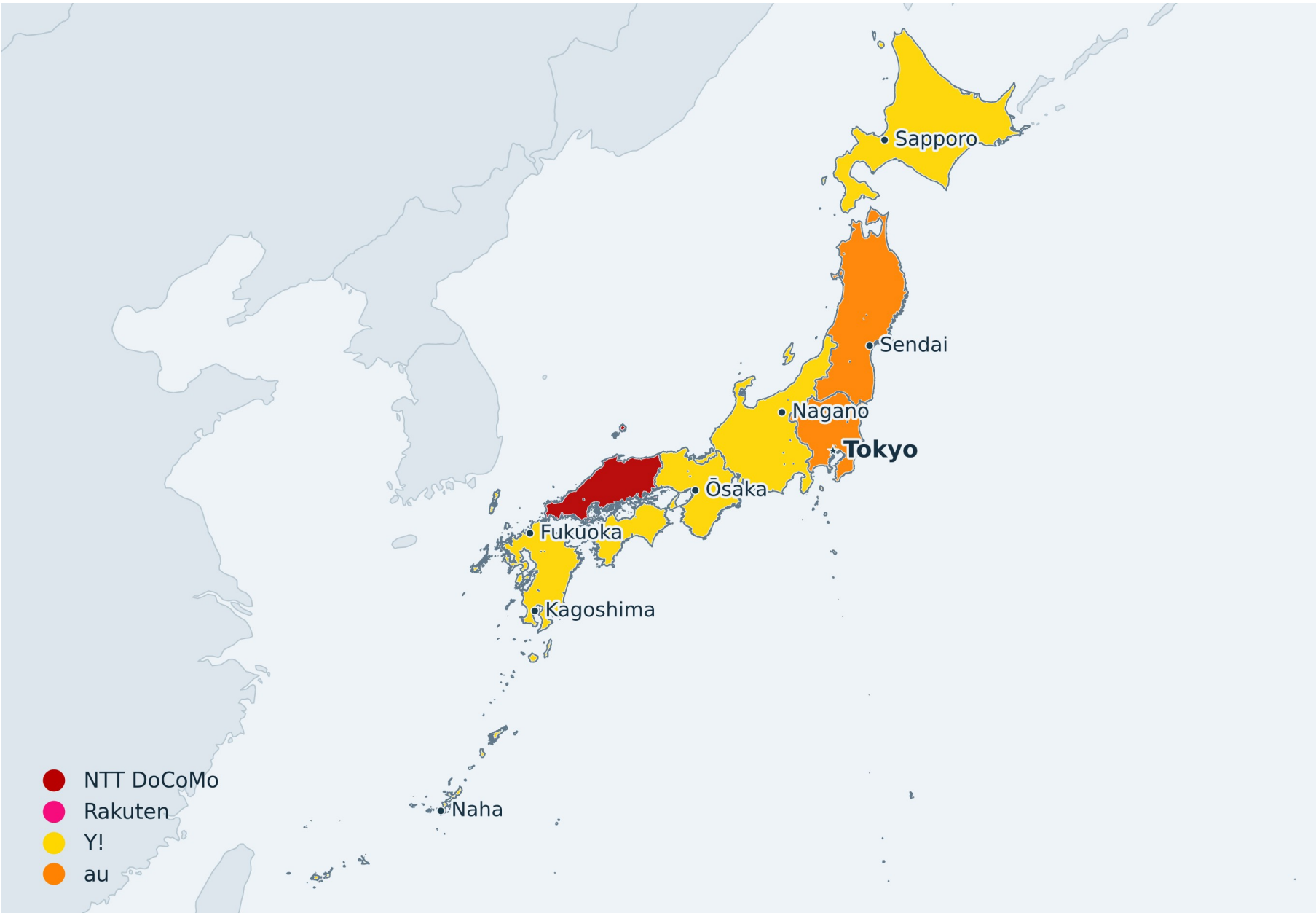


nPerf Coverage Score



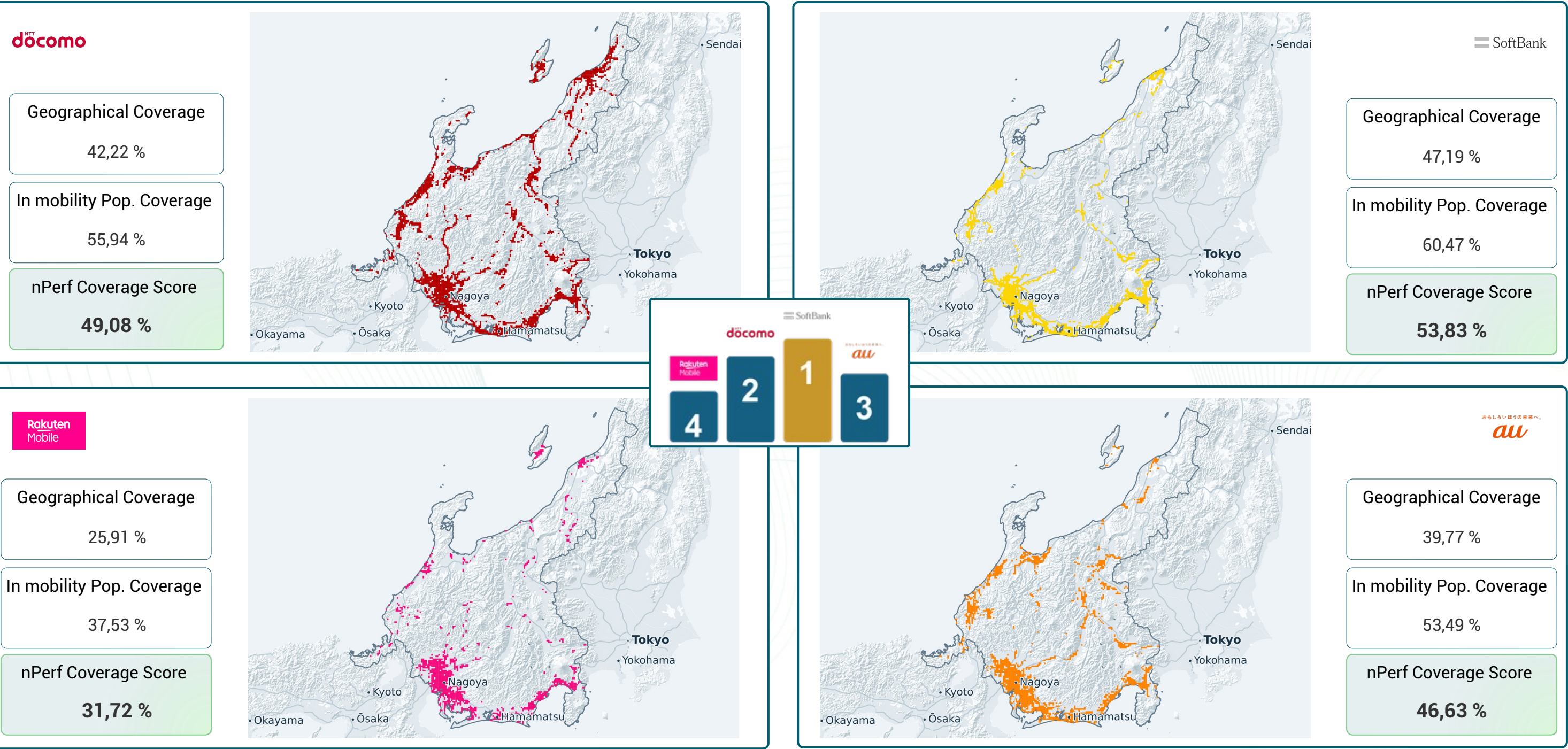
Source : nPerf.com

Regional Winner

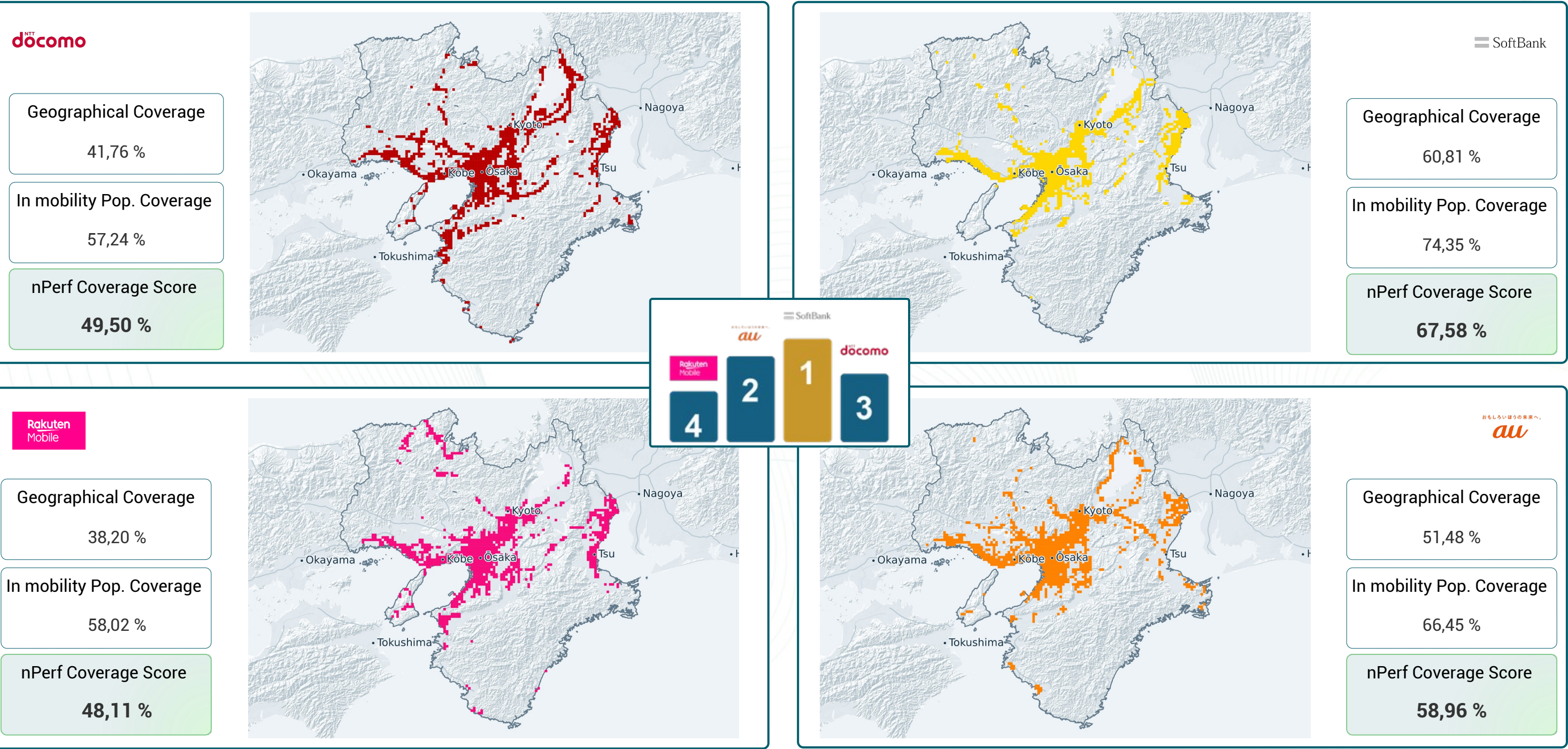


Source : nPerf.com

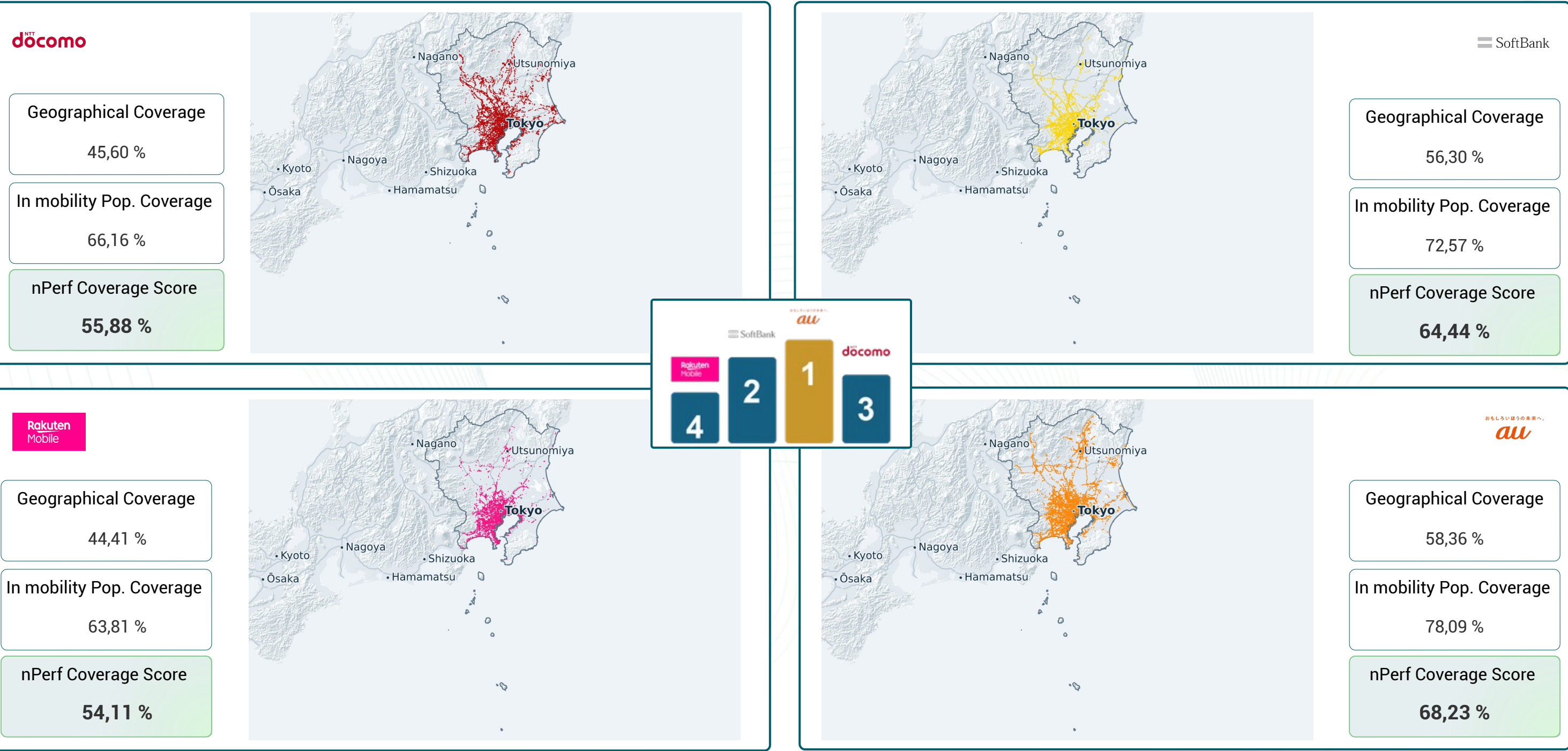
5G coverage — Chubu



5G coverage — Kansai



5G coverage — Kanto



5G coverage — Kyushu-Okinawa

