

April 2026



Barometer of mobile Internet connections in Kenya

04/01/2025 - 03/31/2026



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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.

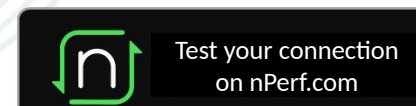
 **26Md+** coverage
scans in total.

 **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. Executive Summary



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

Mobile Internet performance in Kenya

	Airtel	<u>Safaricom</u>
▼ Download bitrates (Mb/s)	13.20	30.55
▲ Upload bitrates (Mb/s)	4.74	9.67
◀▶ Latency (ms)	83.06	49.62
🌐 Web browsing (%)	34.19	40.76
📺 Youtube streaming (%)	60.68	67.17
📶 nPerf Score (nPoints)	30 156	48 015

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 Kenya.

Mobile Internet performance in Kenya

	Airtel	<u>Safaricom</u>
 Download bitrates (Mb/s)	13.73	24.23
 Upload bitrates (Mb/s)	5.15	9.05
 Latency (ms)	78.27	49.13
 Web browsing (%)	35.01	40.33
 Youtube streaming (%)	61.79	67.25
 nPerf Score (nPoints)	31 681	45 706

Source : nPerf.com

The best mobile Internet performance in Kenya for 2026 tells a story of a sector in full transformation. This year's nPerf barometer reveals a significant shift in the competitive landscape, with Safaricom establishing itself as the undisputed leader across all key indicators, while Airtel demonstrates meaningful progress on several fronts despite losing ground overall.

Safaricom: A historic sweep across the board

For the first time in nPerf's barometer history for Kenya, Safaricom claims the top position in the overall rankings, and does so convincingly. With a score of 48,015 — based on nearly 48,000 measurements — Safaricom leads on every major indicator: Download speed (Mb/s) at 30.55 Mb/s, Upload speed (Mb/s) at 9.67 Mb/s, Web Browsing (%) at 40.76%, and Youtube streaming (%) at 67.17%. This dominant performance is mirrored on 4G networks, where Safaricom again ranks first across all usage metrics, recording a Download speed (Mb/s) of 24.23 Mb/s and an Upload speed (Mb/s) of 9.05 Mb/s. The only metric where Safaricom does not lead is Latency (ms), where it ranks second overall with 49.62 ms — a figure that nonetheless reflects a well-optimised network. This milestone marks a decisive turning point: Safaricom's network investments are now clearly translating into measurable user experience gains.

Airtel: Resilient progress in a tougher competitive environment

Airtel enters the current period in a different position than the previous

cycle, when it was the sole operator benchmarked and held all rankings by default. Despite this change in context, Airtel's results are not without merit. The operator records a notable improvement in Upload speed (Mb/s), up 17% overall compared to the previous year — rising from 4.06 Mb/s to 4.74 Mb/s — signalling genuine network enhancement efforts. On 4G, Upload speed (Mb/s) also progresses to 5.15 Mb/s. Latency (ms) shows improvement as well, dropping from 97.61 ms to 83.06 ms overall, reflecting better network responsiveness. However, Download speed (Mb/s) — at 13.20 Mb/s overall and 13.73 Mb/s on 4G — remains below last year's figures of 14.52 Mb/s and 14.64 Mb/s respectively, a slight regression that deserves attention. Overall, a positive trajectory on quality indicators, but the gap with Safaricom is now substantial.

What to watch for in the next barometer

Looking ahead, the Kenyan mobile sector will be shaped by how each operator responds to the current competitive dynamics. For Safaricom, the priority will be to consolidate its leadership — particularly on Latency (ms), where a sub-50 ms performance would complete an already remarkable scorecard, and to sustain its Download and Upload speed (Mb/s) advantages as network demand grows. For Airtel, the challenge is clear: reversing the slight decline in Download speed (Mb/s) while building on the encouraging Upload and Latency (ms) improvements. Closing the score gap with Safaricom will require sustained investment in throughput capacity, as well as continued gains in Web Browsing (%) and Youtube streaming (%) — two everyday use cases where the difference between the two operators remains significant.

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

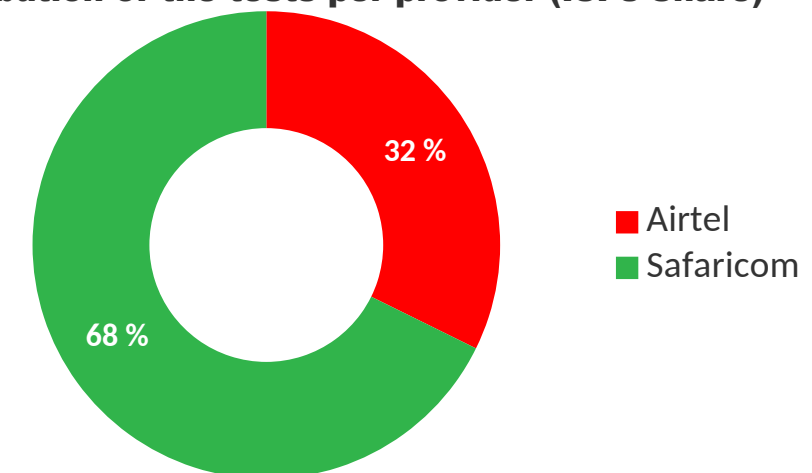
The video streaming test gauges the load time of a fully loaded video in three resolutions on YouTube, considering stalls during playback. This indicator reflects the perceived quality by the user.

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



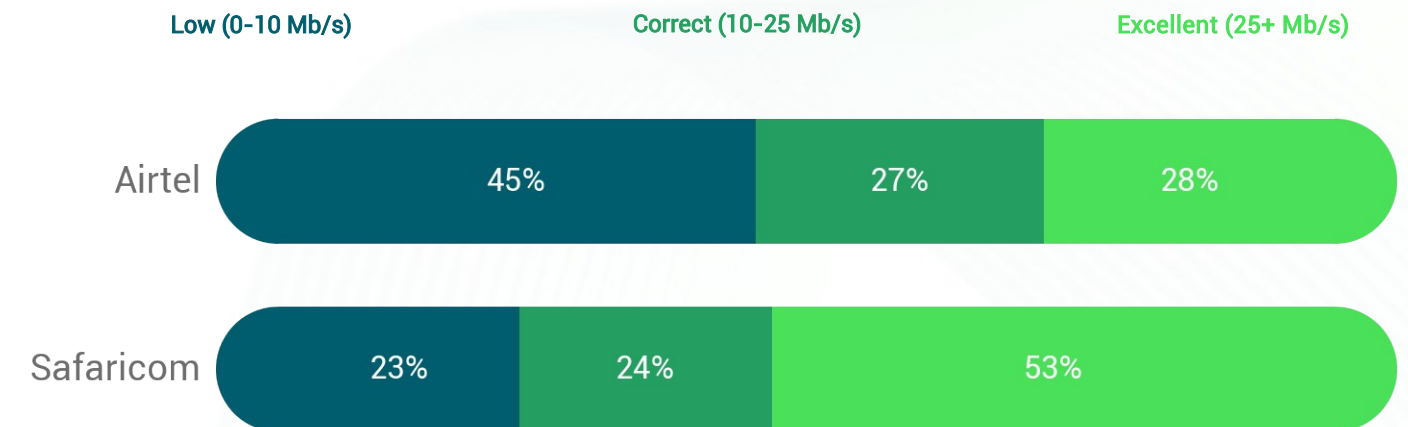
Download Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

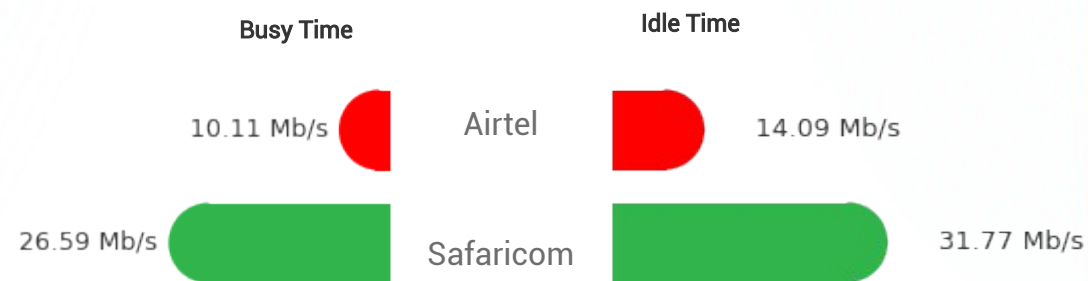
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Download Speed in 2026.

Download Speed results distribution (average)



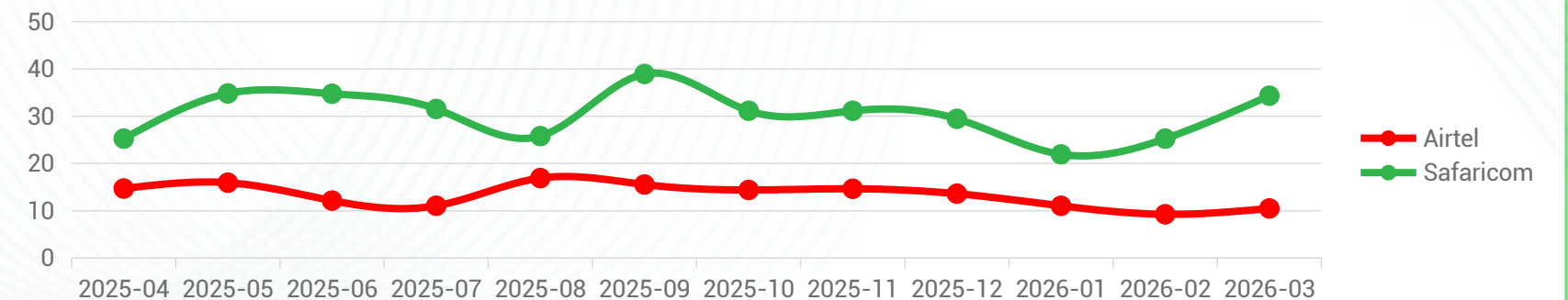
Source : nPerf.com

Download Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

Download Speed evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



Upload Speed



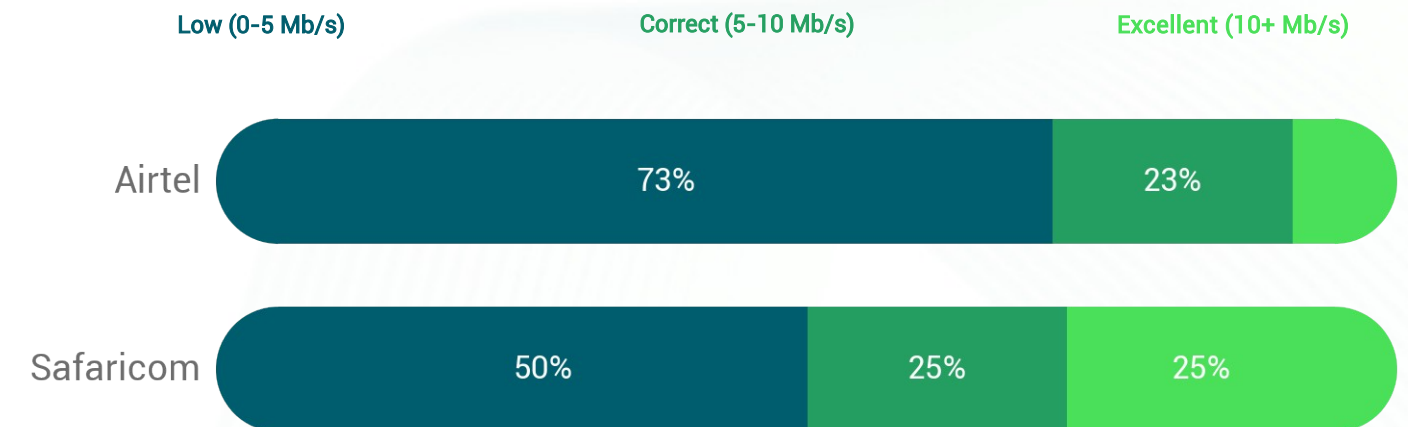
Upload Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

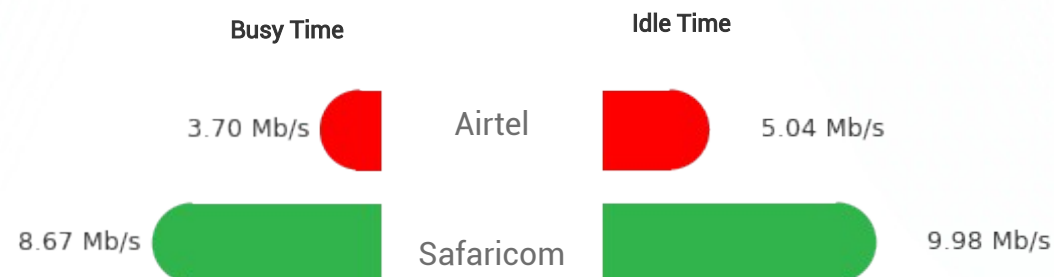
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Upload Speed in 2026.

Upload Speed results distribution (average)



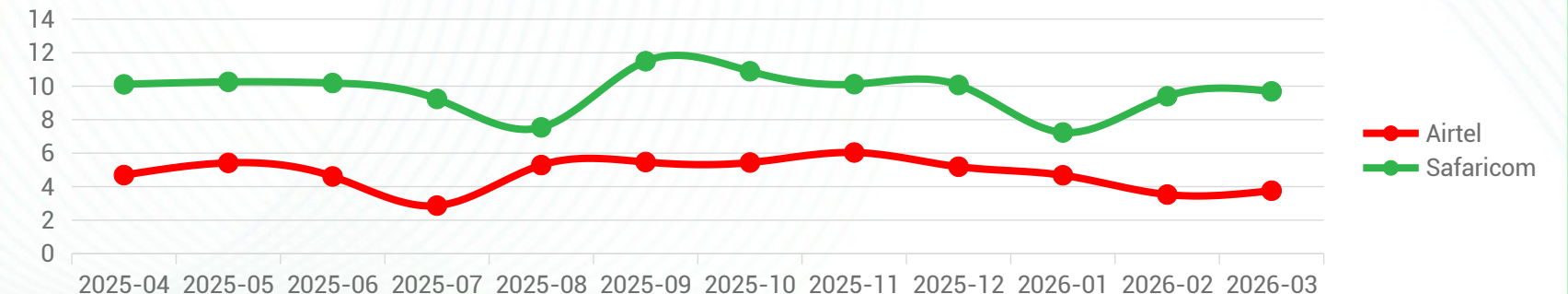
Source : nPerf.com

Upload Speed (average)



Source : nPerf.com

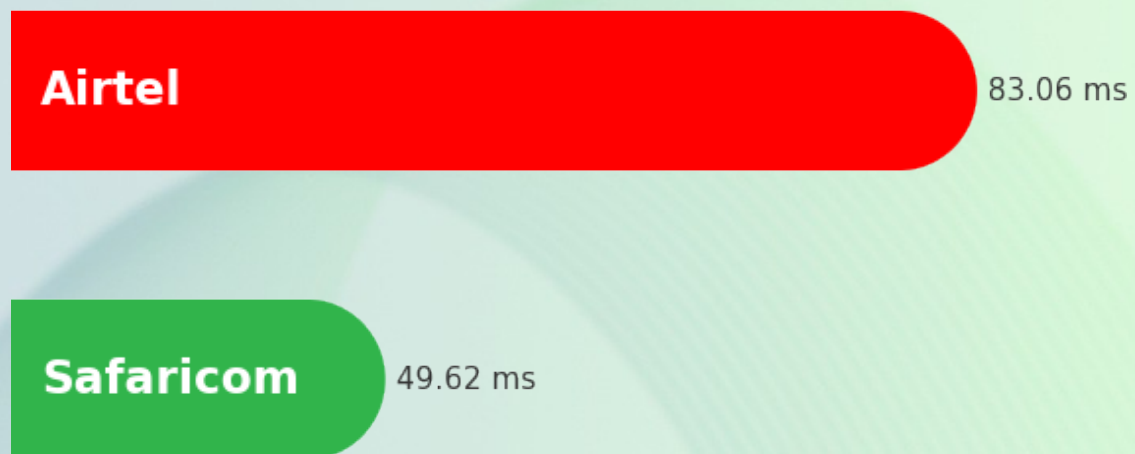
Upload Speed evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



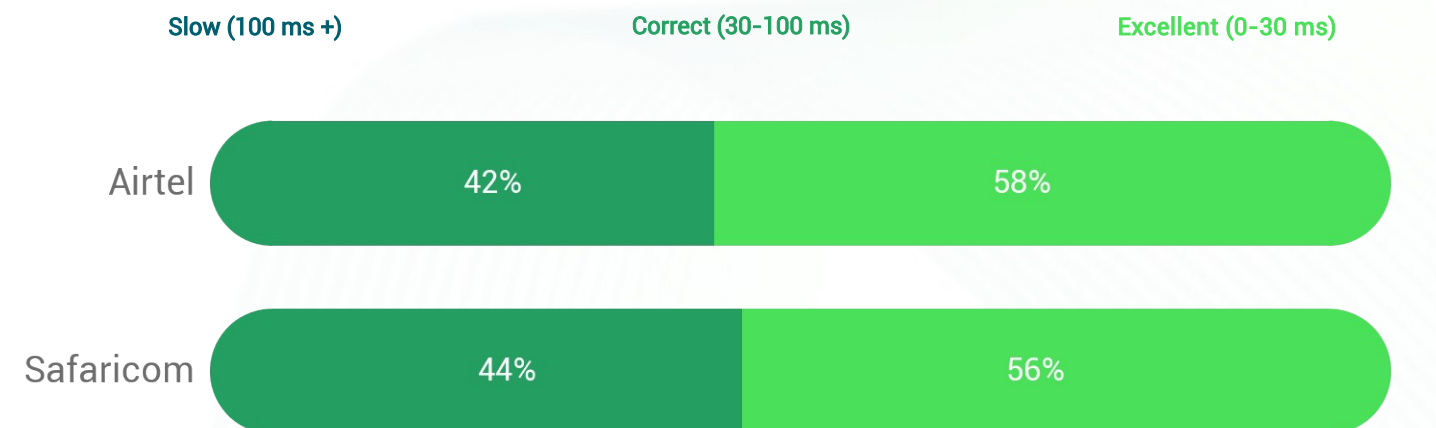
Latency (average)



Source : nPerf.com

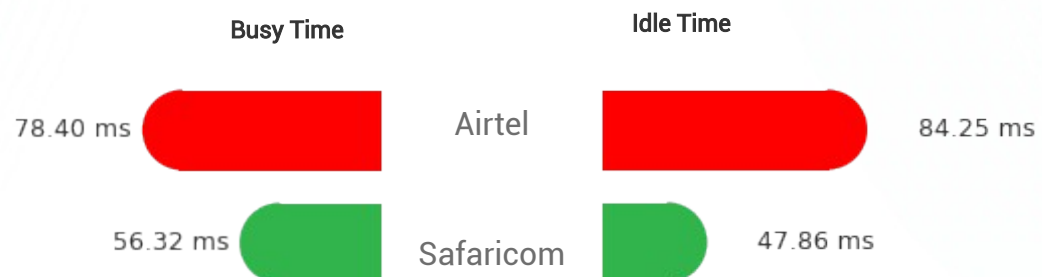
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Latency in 2026.

Latency results distribution (average)



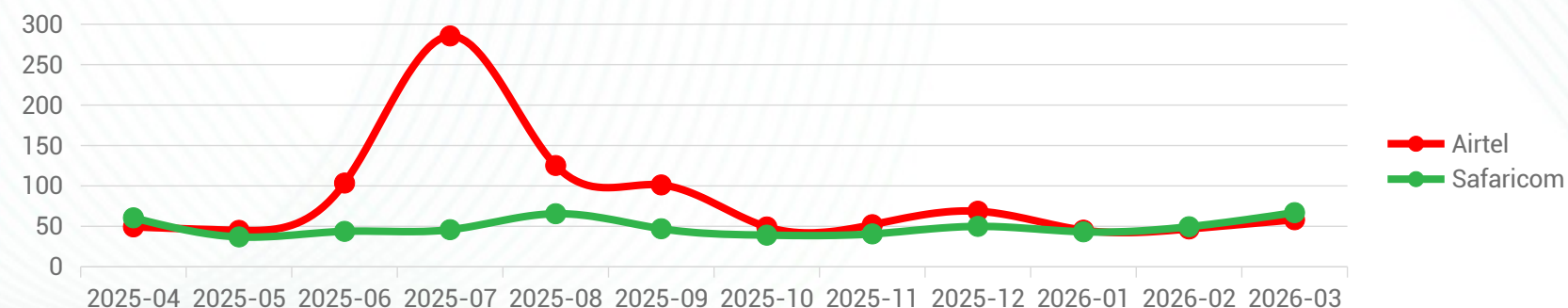
Source : nPerf.com

Latency (average)



Source : nPerf.com

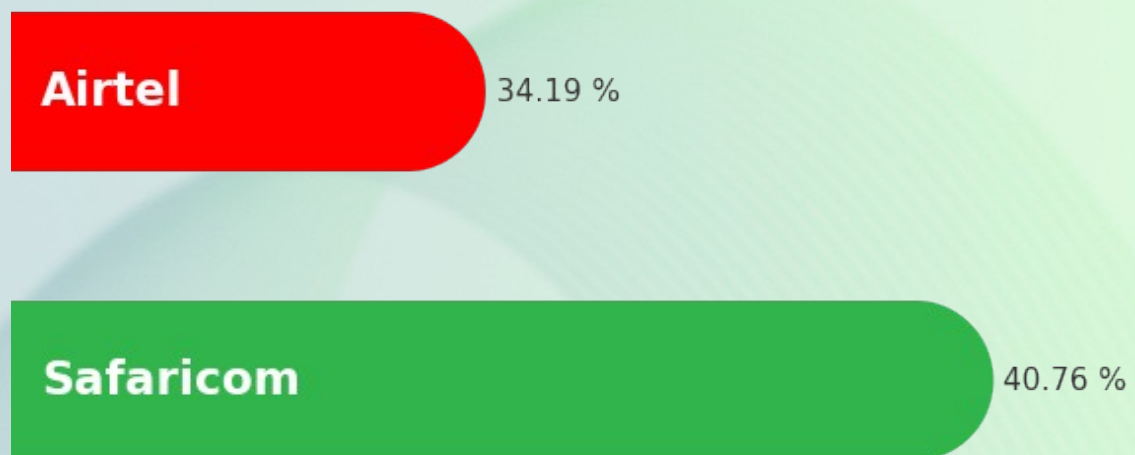
Latency evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



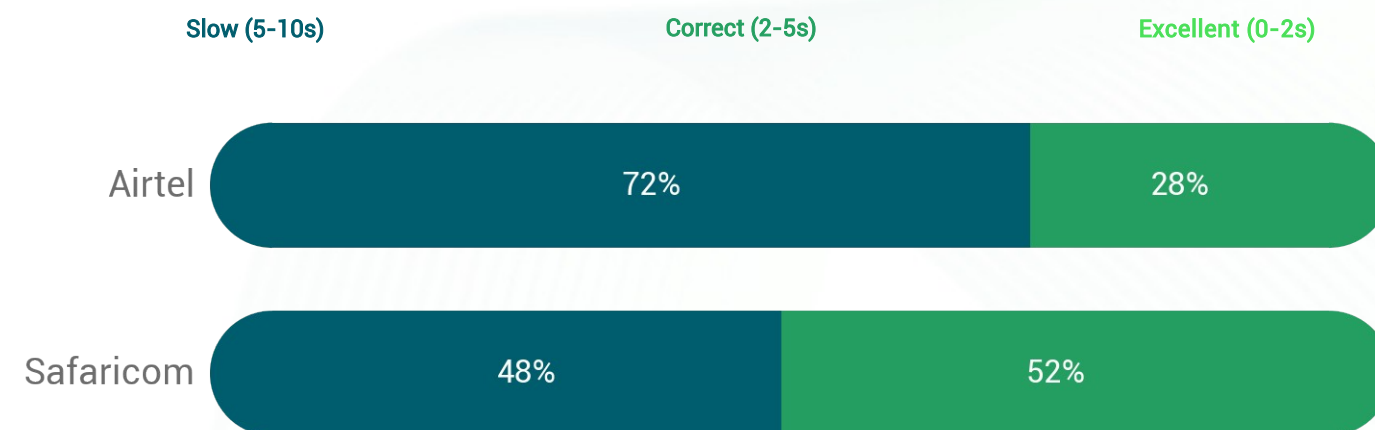
Browsing Performance (average)



Source : nPerf.com

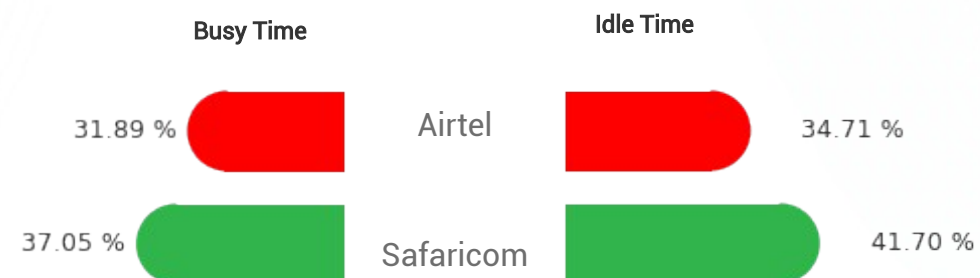
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Browsing Performance in 2026.

Browsing Performance results distribution (average)



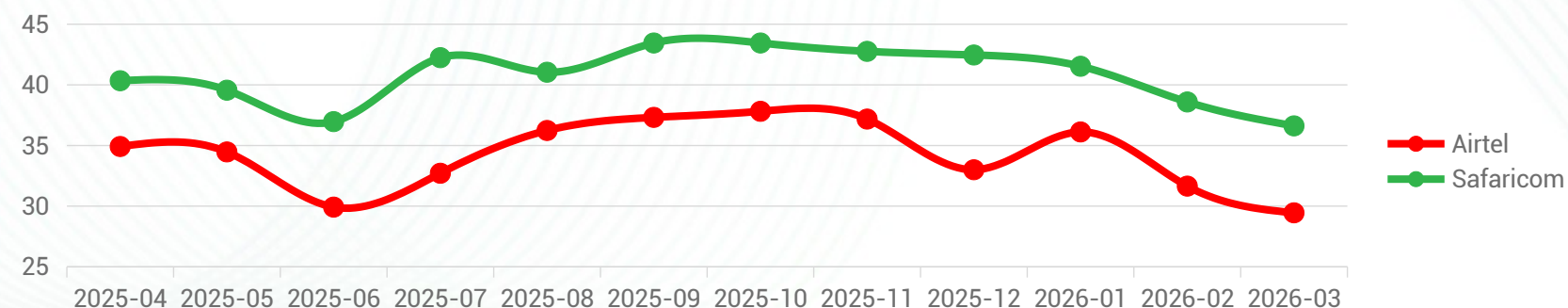
Source : nPerf.com

Browsing Performance (average)



Source : nPerf.com

Browsing Performance evolution over the year (average)



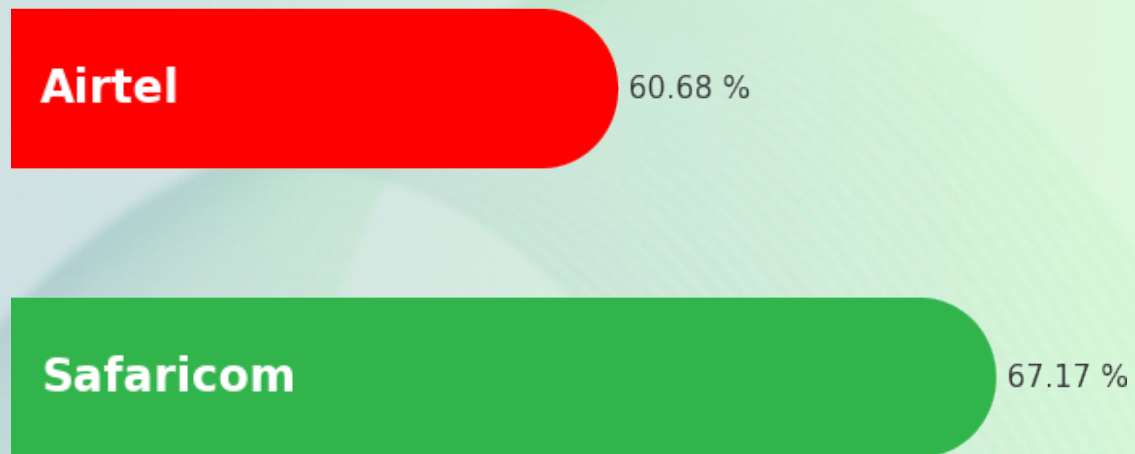
Source : nPerf.com



Streaming Performance



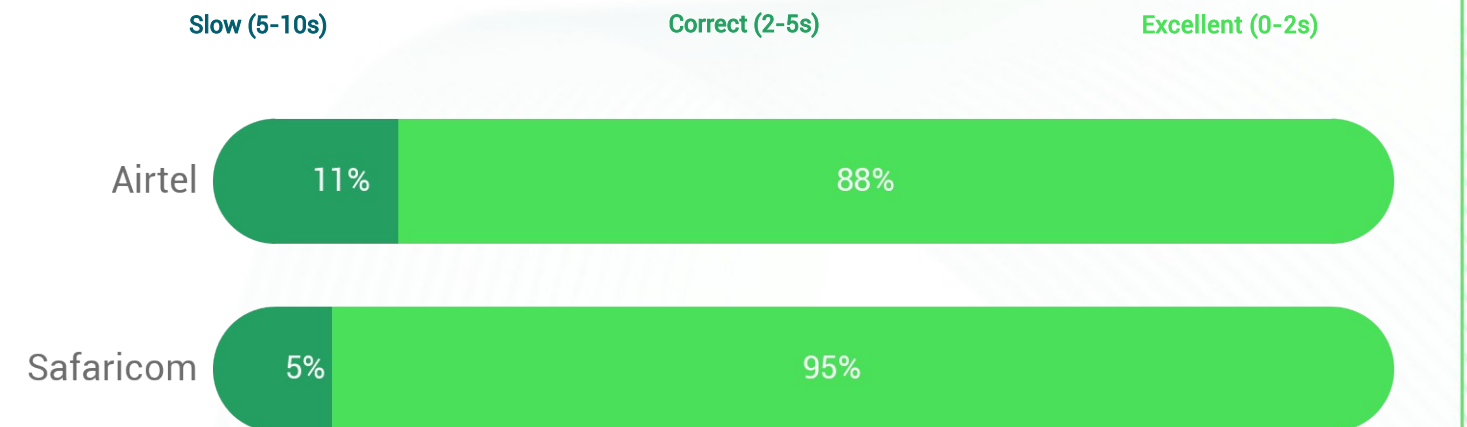
Streaming Performance (average)



Source : nPerf.com

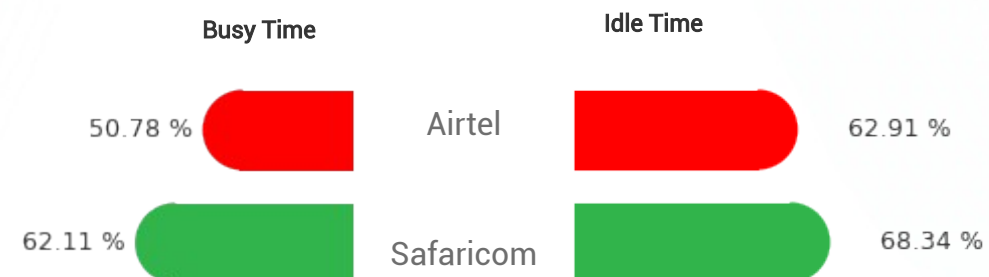
The subscribers of Safaricom enjoyed the best Mobile Internet Streaming Performance in 2026.

Streaming Performance results distribution (average)



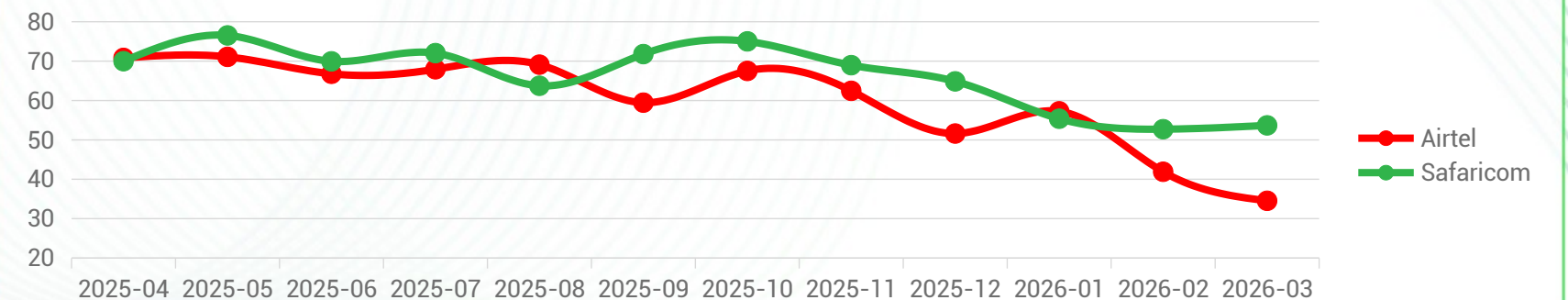
Source : nPerf.com

Streaming Performance (average)



Source : nPerf.com

Streaming Performance evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com

nPerf Score (nPoints)

Airtel

31 681

Safaricom

45 706

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: Safaricom

4G connections with the lowest latency: Safaricom

Best web browsing performances 4G: Safaricom

Best streaming performances 4G: Safaricom

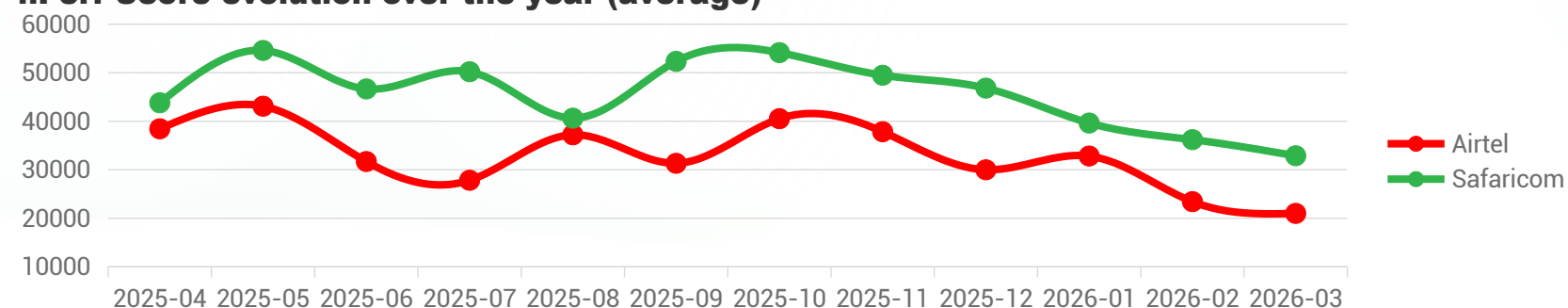
Source : nPerf.com

nPerf Podium



Source : nPerf.com

nPerf Score evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com



nPerf Score (nPoints)

Airtel

30 156

Safaricom

48 015

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



Best Mobile Internet performance
in 2026



2

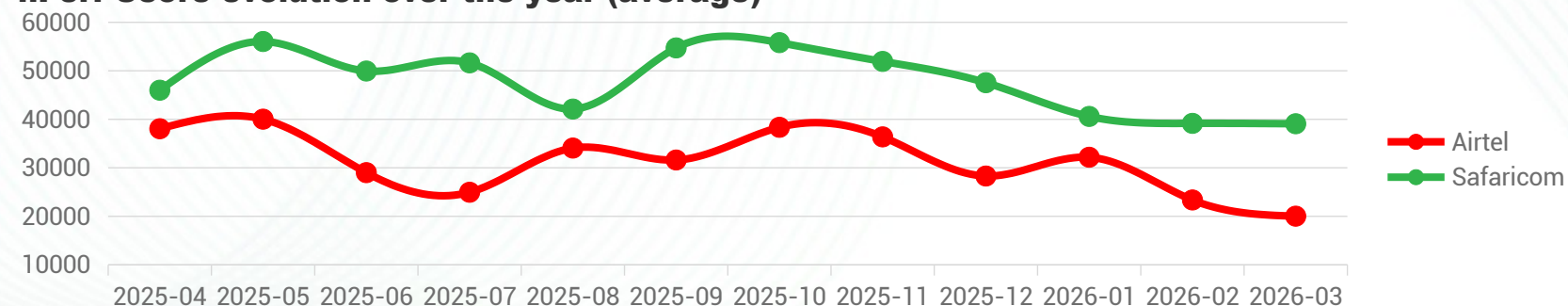


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nPerf Podium

Source : nPerf.com

nPerf Score evolution over the year (average)



Source : nPerf.com

