

04/17/2025

# Barometer of mobile Internet connections in South Africa

04/01/2024 - 03/31/2025



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### 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.



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## 2. Executive Summary



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

Mobile Internet connections in South Africa

	Cell C	MTN	Telkom	Vodacom
▼ Download bitrates (Mb/s)	25.27	55.99	10.52	38.04
▲ Upload bitrates (Mb/s)	8.69	13.85	3.54	8.27
◀▶ Latency (ms)	45.27	66.57	100.87	45.83
🌐 Web browsing (%)	43.55	43.70	35.60	42.05
📺 Youtube streaming (%)	76.95	80.14	68.70	75.25
nPerf Score (nPoints)	52 207	60 135	29 204	54 247

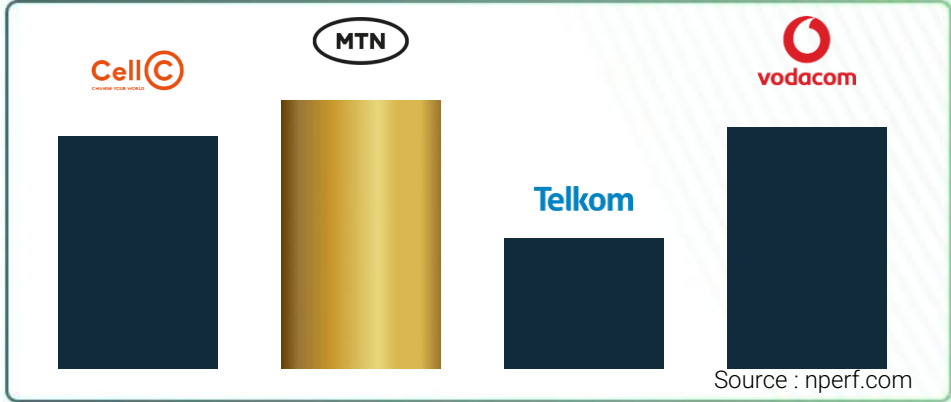
Source : nperf.com



Best mobile Internet performance  
in 2025









Source : nperf.com



The subscribers of MTN enjoyed the best 4G Internet performances in South Africa in 2025.

4G mobile Internet connections in South Africa

	Cell C	MTN	Telkom	Vodacom
 Download bitrates (Mb/s)	26.55	46.04	10.89	22.64
 Upload bitrates (Mb/s)	9.12	12.55	3.76	7.50
 Latency (ms)	45.42	70.14	99.59	46.93
 Web browsing (%)	43.52	43.66	36.24	41.53
 Youtube streaming (%)	77.40	80.06	70.08	75.18
 nPerf Score (nPoints)	53 052	57 296	30 347	48 548

Source : nperf.com



MTN has emerged as the new leader in South Africa's mobile internet market, overtaking Vodacom who held the top position in the previous year. The average performance score in the South African mobile internet market stands at 60,135 nPoints. In the 4G segment, which is the current focus of the market, MTN has claimed the first position. Looking at specific metrics, MTN leads in download speed and upload speed, while Cell C provides the best latency performance. For browsing experience, Cell C and MTN share the top spot, while MTN offers the best video streaming performance.

#### **MTN: New Market Leader with Strong Performance Across Key Metrics**

MTN achieves the highest score of 60,135 nPoints, positioning itself as the new n°1 mobile operator in South Africa. The operator excels in the 4G segment where it holds the top position. MTN delivers the best download speeds in the market at 55.99 Mbps, allowing users to efficiently download large files, and also leads in upload performance with 13.85 Mbps, ideal for high-quality video conferencing. The operator offers a solid browsing experience at 43.70% and provides the best video streaming performance at 80.14%, ensuring smooth playback of online content. MTN has shown significant improvement with a 36.0% increase in its overall score compared to the previous period.

#### **Vodacom: Solid Performer with Consistent Results**

Vodacom places second with 54,247 nPoints, demonstrating good overall performance. The operator delivers competitive download speeds of 38.04 Mbps and upload speeds of 8.27 Mbps. Vodacom performs well in latency (45.83 ms) and provides a reliable browsing experience at 42.05%. Its video streaming performance

stands at a solid 75.25%. The operator has shown improvement with a 10.1% increase in its overall score compared to the previous year.

#### **Cell C: Impressive Growth and Leading Latency Performance**

Cell C secures the third position with 52,207 nPoints and demonstrates the strongest growth among all operators with a 47.3% improvement in its overall score. The operator distinguishes itself by providing the best latency in the market at 45.27 ms, making it ideal for responsive online gaming and real-time communications. Cell C shares the top position with MTN for browsing experience at 43.55%, ensuring fast page loading times for users. Its download speeds of 25.27 Mbps and upload speeds of 8.69 Mbps provide good everyday performance for most online activities.

#### **Telkom: good Improvement in Market Position**

Telkom ranks fourth with 29,204 nPoints but shows good progress with a 15.7% improvement in its overall score. The operator delivers download speeds of 10.52 Mbps and upload speeds of 3.54 Mbps. While Telkom's performance metrics place it behind its competitors, the significant improvement in its score indicates positive momentum in enhancing its network capabilities and service quality.

In conclusion, MTN has taken the lead in South Africa's mobile internet market, demonstrating strong performance across key metrics especially in download and upload speeds and video streaming quality. The market shows healthy competition with all operators showing double-digit improvements in their scores, benefiting South African mobile users with continuously improving service quality.

## 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 main 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

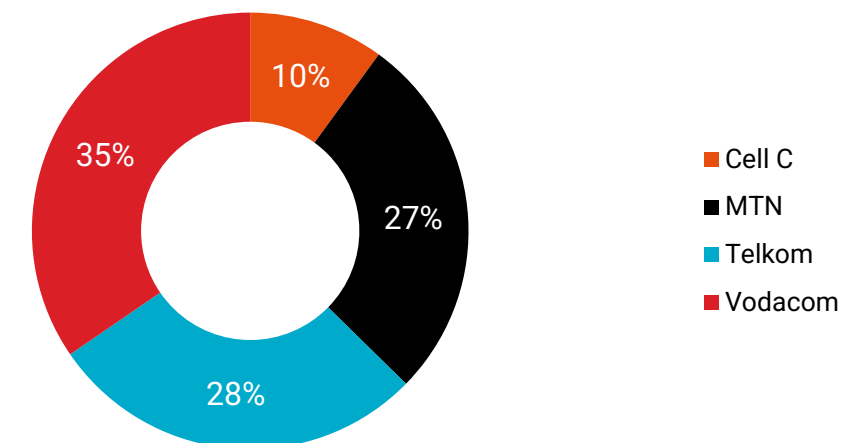
The video streaming test gauges the load time of a fully loaded video in three resolutions on YouTube, considering stalls during playback. This indicator reflects the perceived quality by the user.

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)

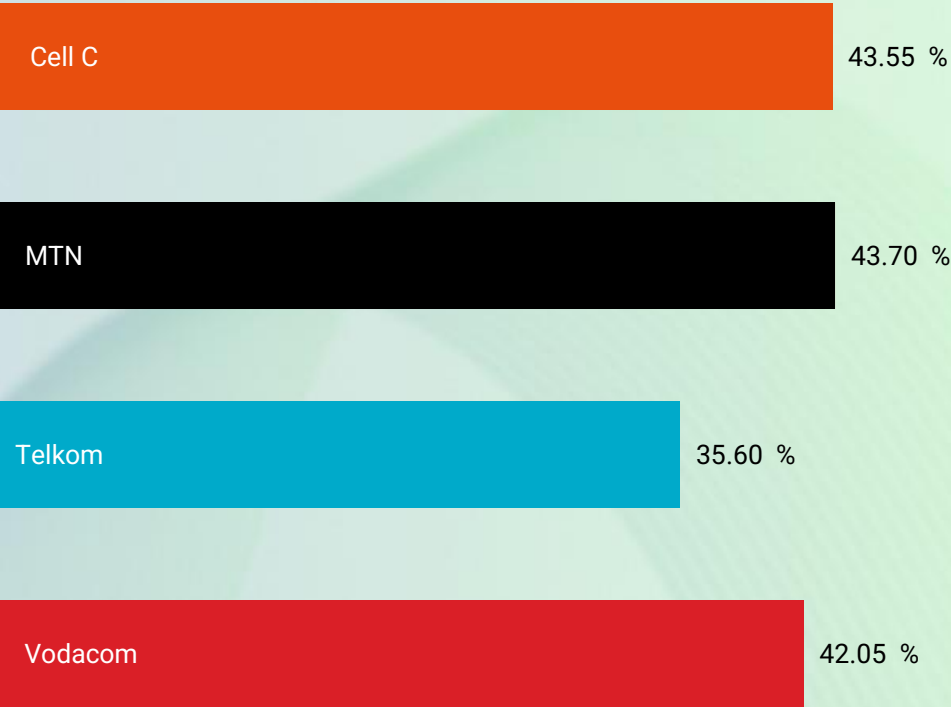


Source : nperf.com





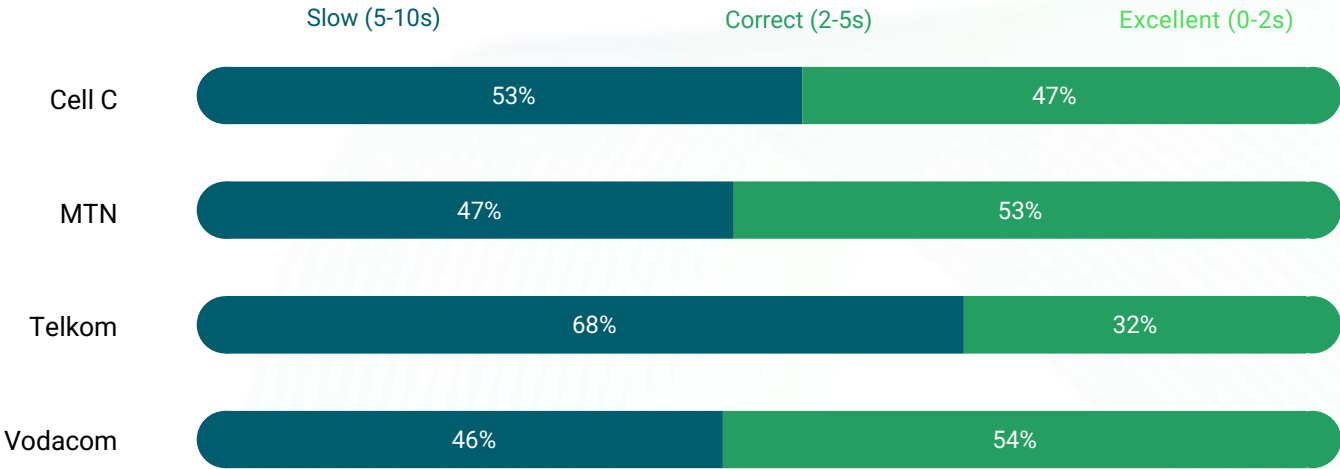
Browsing Performance rate (average)



Source : nperf.com

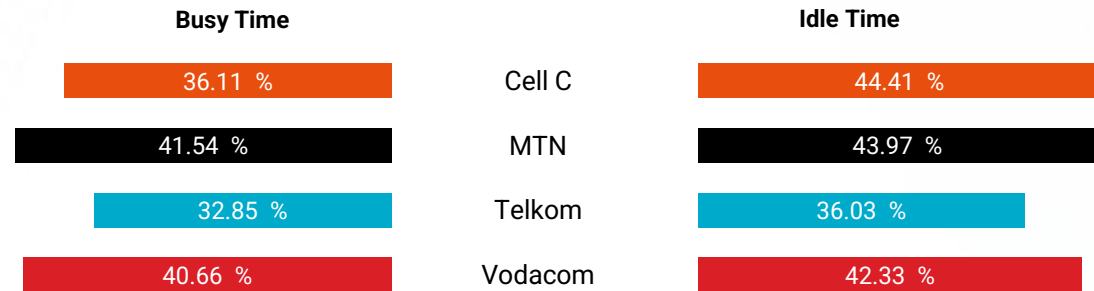
The subscribers of Cell C and MTN enjoyed the best mobile Internet browsing performance in 2025.

Browsing Performance results ventilation (average)



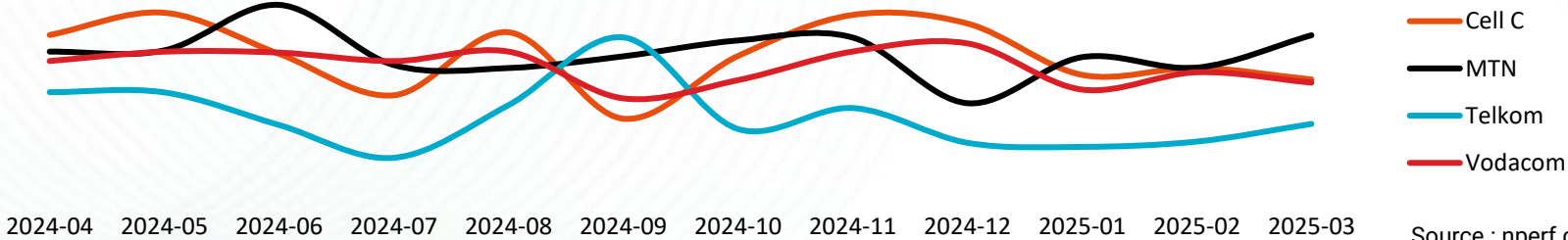
Source : nperf.com

Browsing Performance rate (average)



Source : nperf.com

Browsing performance rate (average) evolution over the year

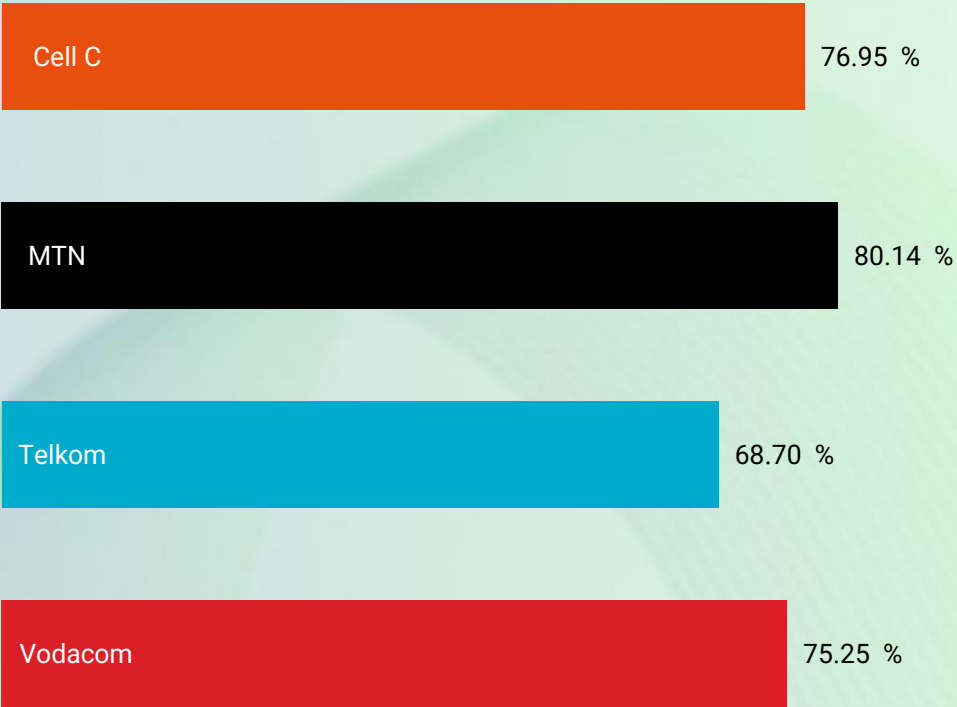


Source : nperf.com





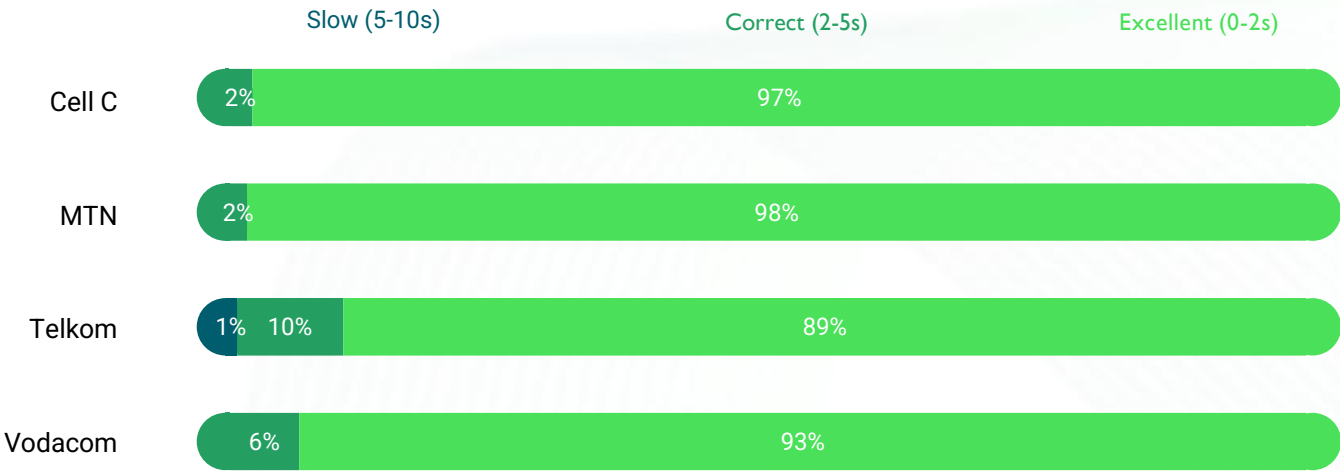
Streaming Performance rate (average)



Source : nperf.com

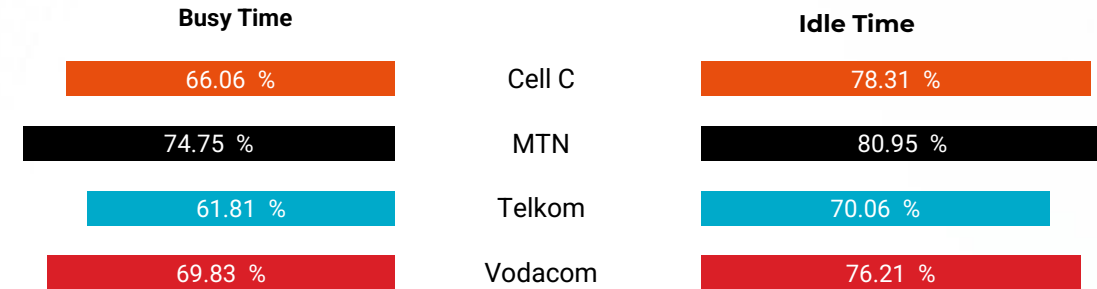
The subscribers of MTN enjoyed the best mobile Internet streaming performance in 2025.

Streaming Performance results ventilation (average)



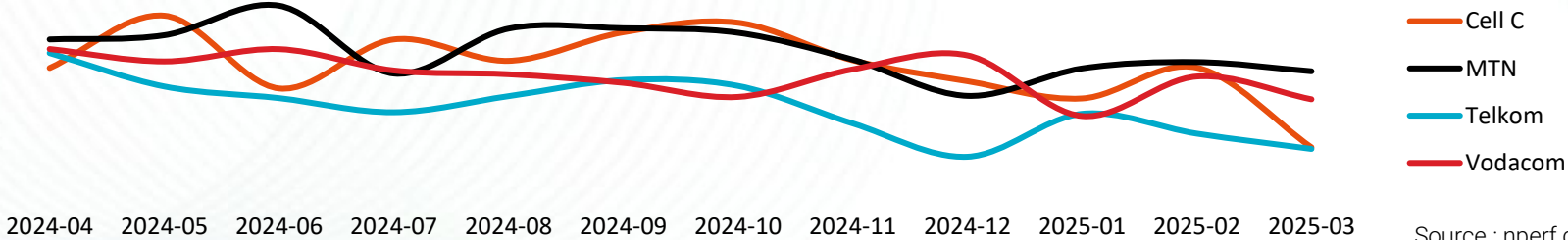
Source : nperf.com

Streaming Performance rate (average)



Source : nperf.com

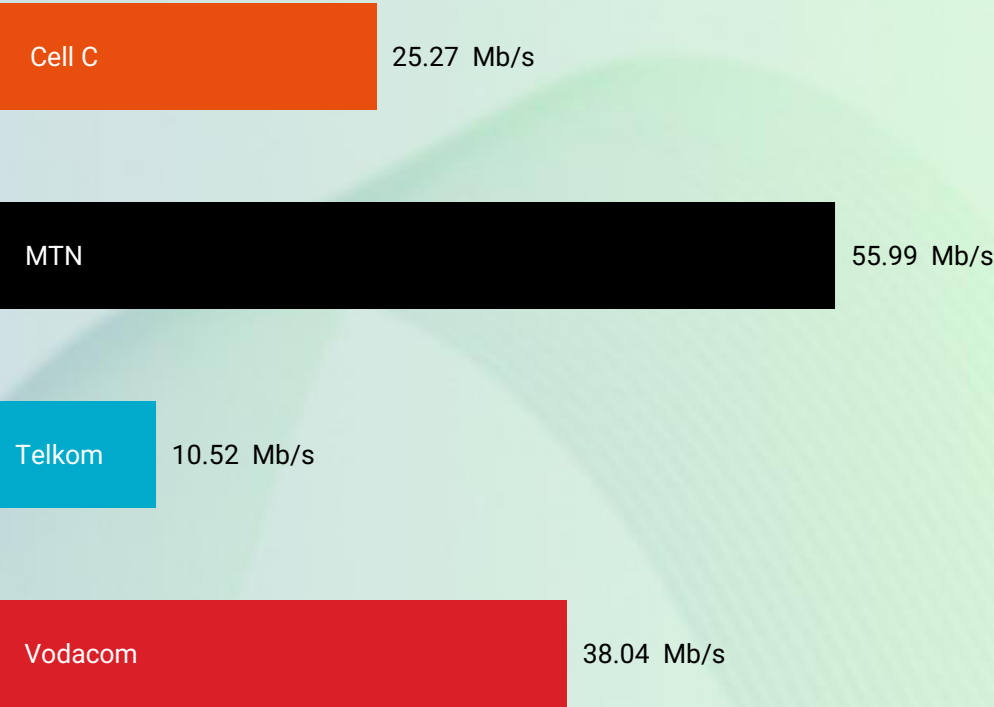
Streaming performance rate (average) evolution over the year



Source : nperf.com



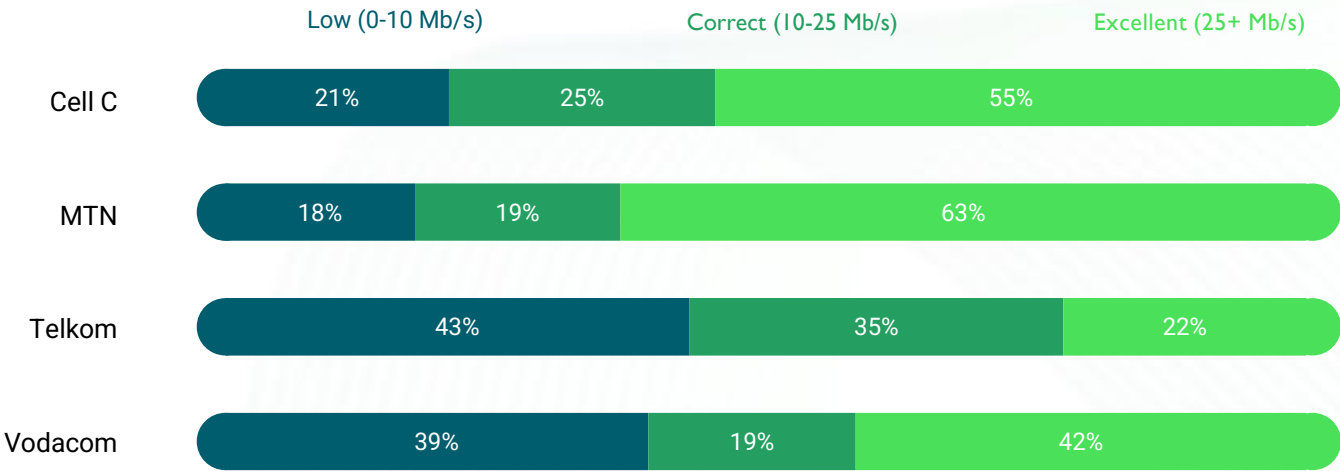
Download Speed (average)



Source : nperf.com

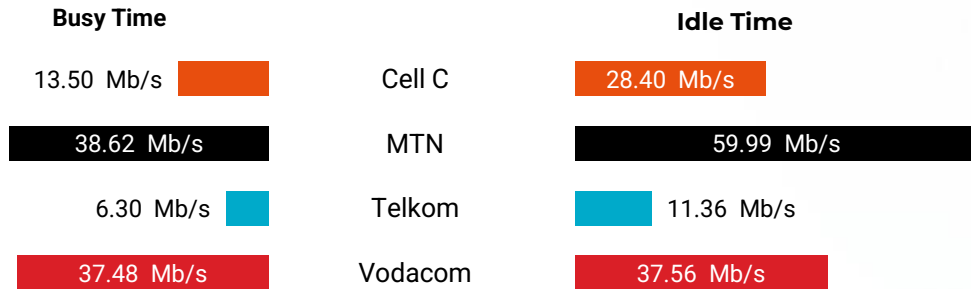
The subscribers of MTN enjoyed the best average mobile Internet download speed in 2025.

Download Speed results ventilation (average)



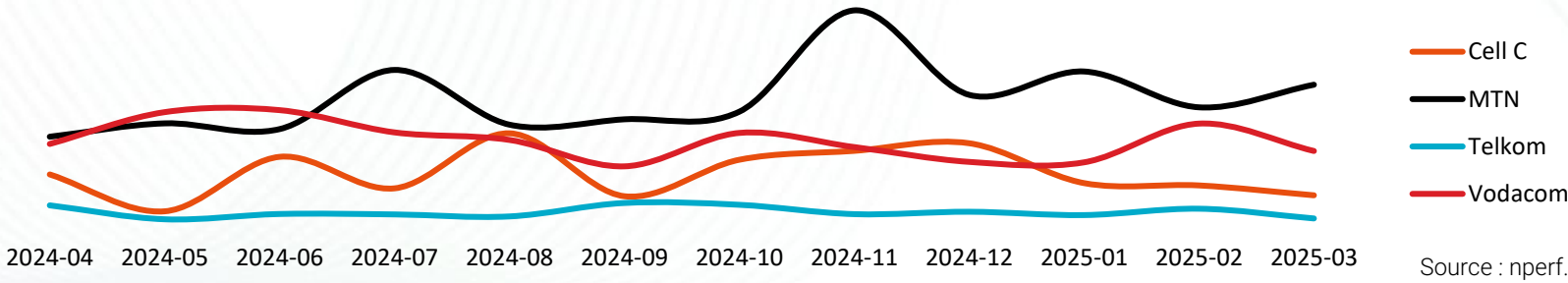
Source : nperf.com

Download Speed (average)



Source : nperf.com

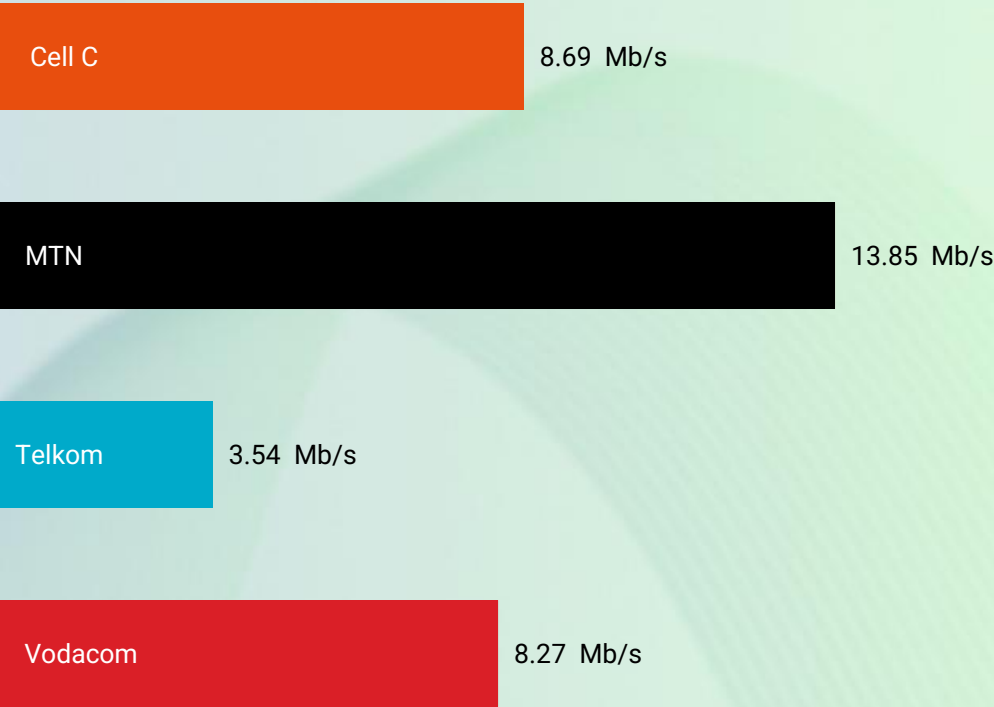
Download Speed evolution over the year (average)







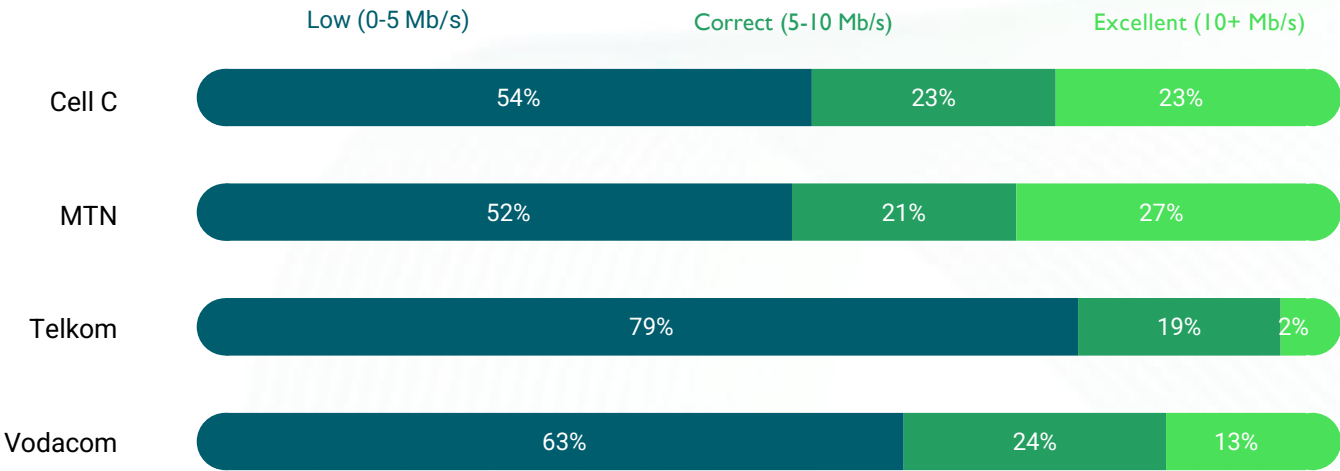
Upload Speed (average )



Source : nperf.com

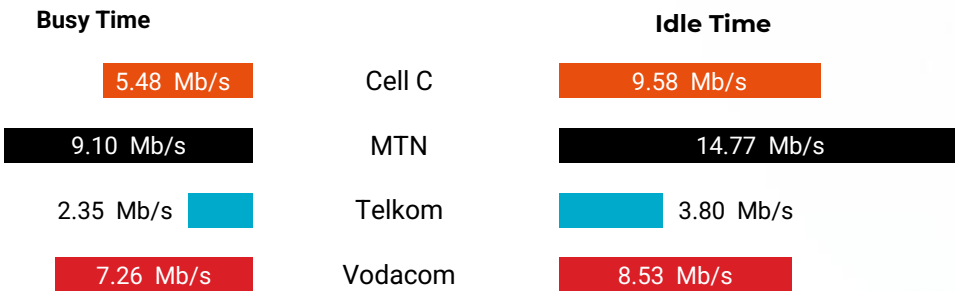
The subscribers of MTN enjoyed the best average mobile Internet upload speed in 2025.

Upload Speed results ventilation (average)



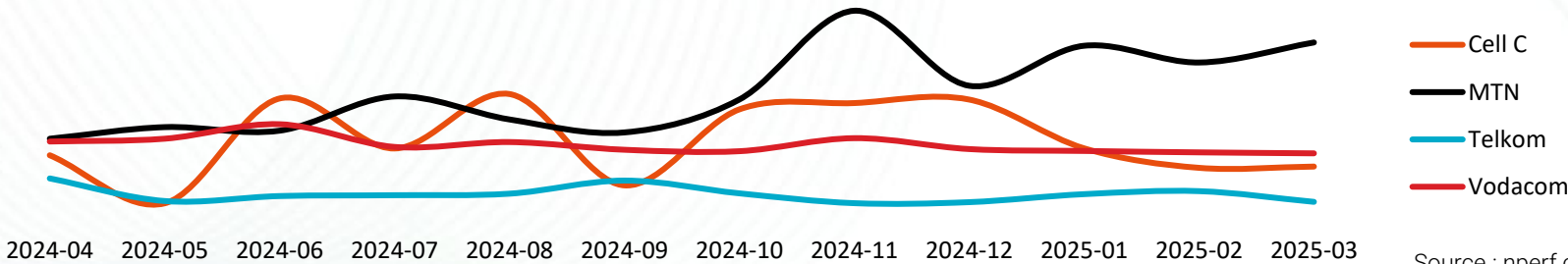
Source : nperf.com

Upload Speed (average )



Source : nperf.com

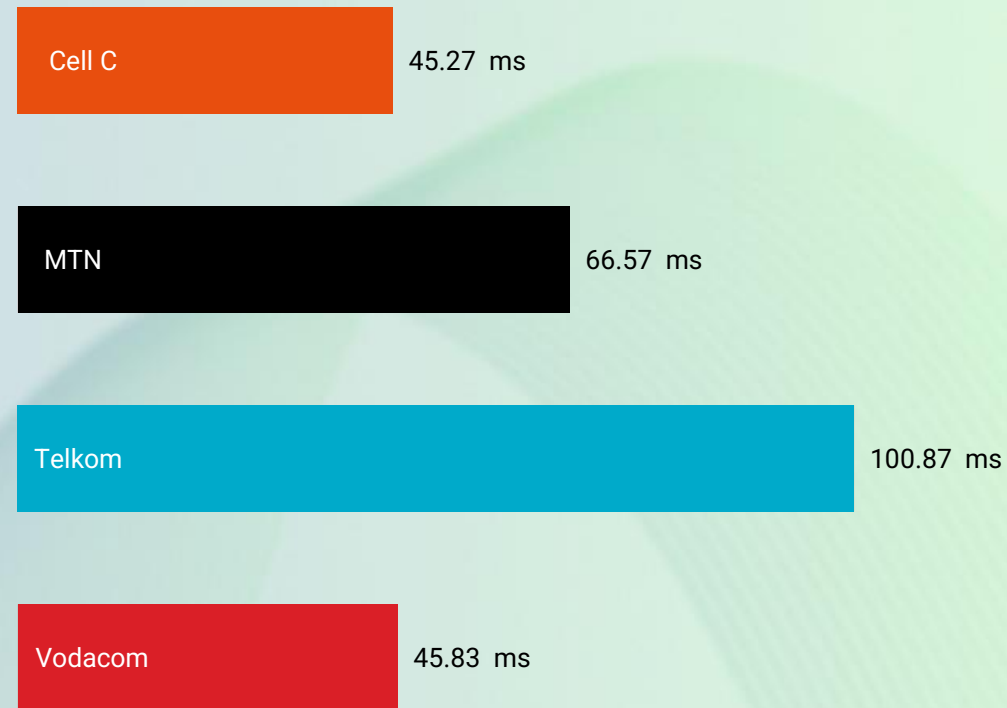
Upload Speed evolution over the year (average)



Source : nperf.com



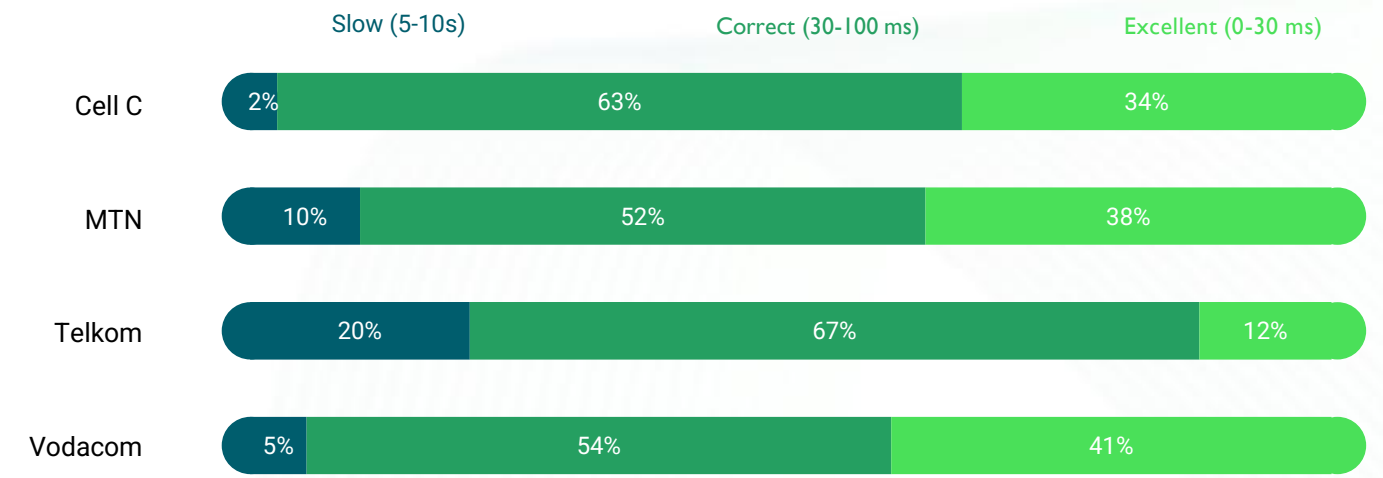
## Latency Speed (average)



Source : nperf.com

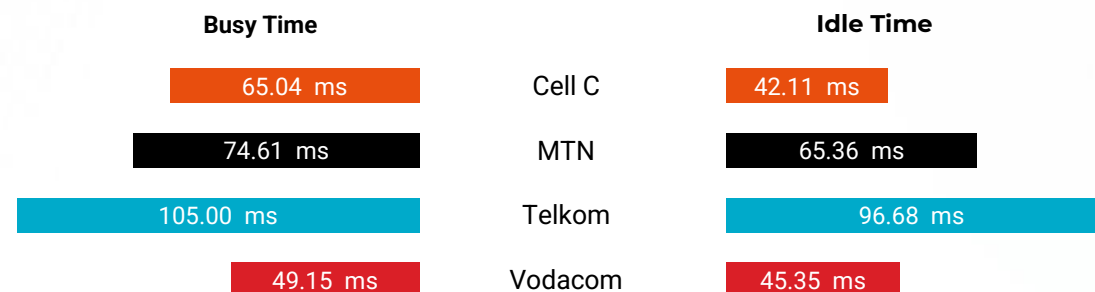
The subscribers of Cell C and Vodacom enjoyed the best average mobile Internet latency speed in 2025.

## Latency Speed results ventilation (average)



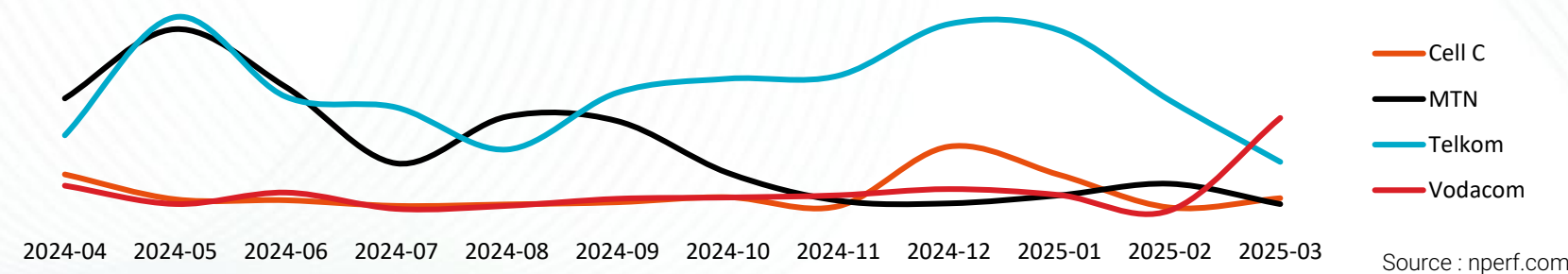
Source : nperf.com

## Latency Speed (average)



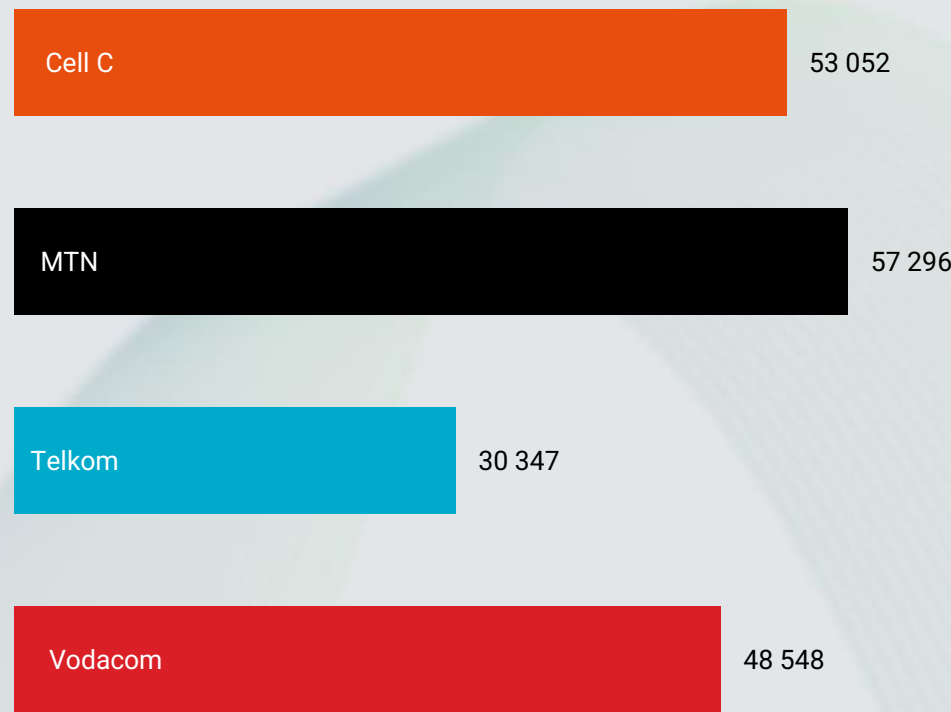
Source : nperf.com

## Latency Speed evolution over the year (average)





nPerf Score (nPoints)

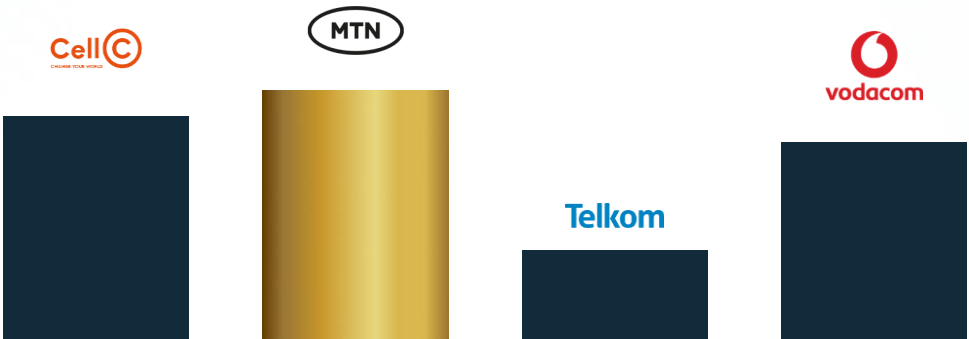


Source : nperf.com

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

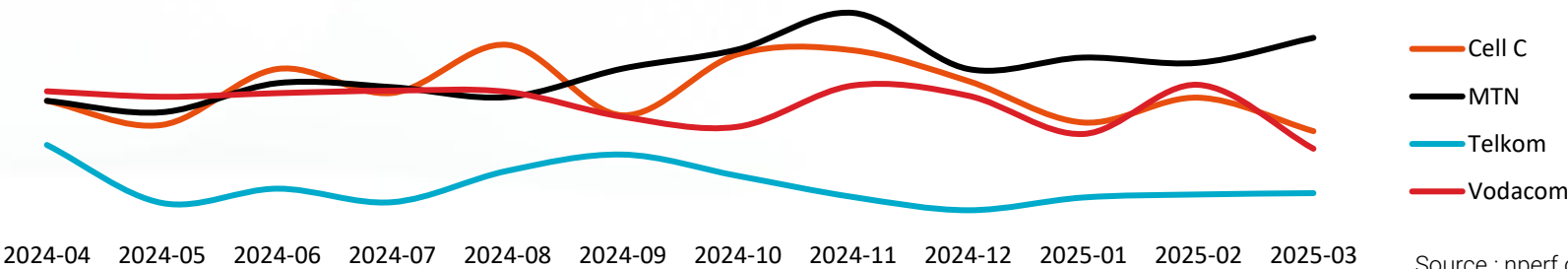
- Best performances 4G: MTN
- Best web browsing performances 4G: Cell C and MTN
- Best video streaming performances 4G: MTN
- Fastest performances (Download) 4G: MTN
- Fastest performances (Upload) 4G: MTN
- 4G connections with the lowest latency: Cell C

Source : nperf.com



Source : nperf.com

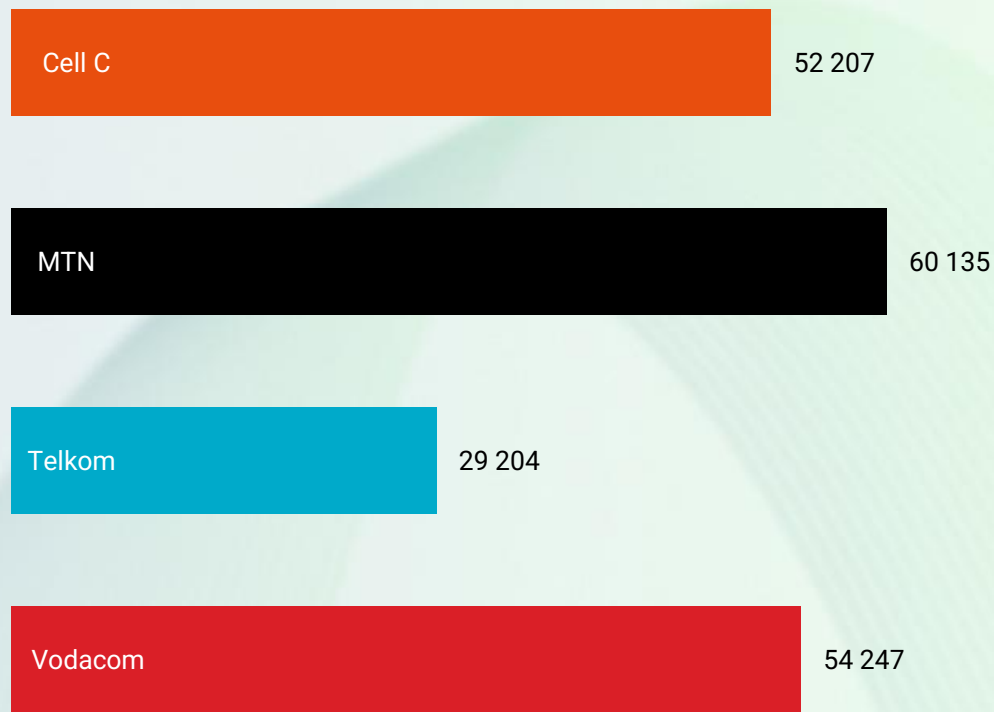
nPerf score evolution over the year (average)



Source : nperf.com



nPerf Score (nPoints)

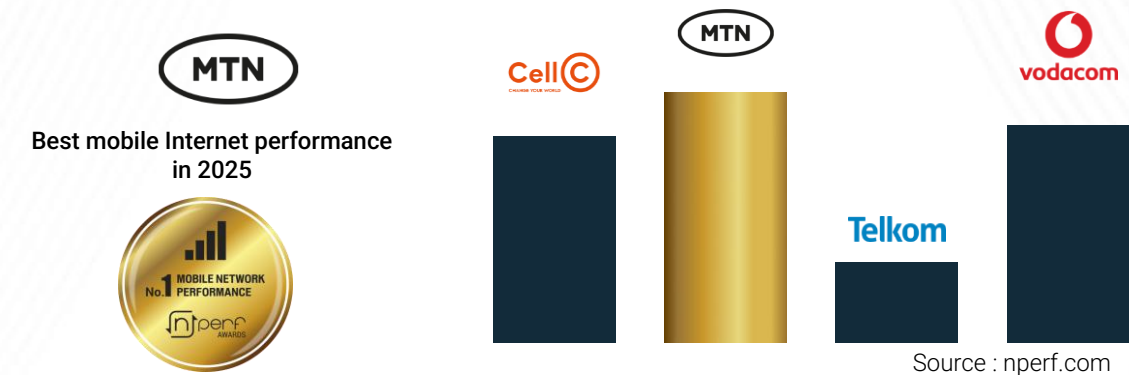


Source : nperf.com

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

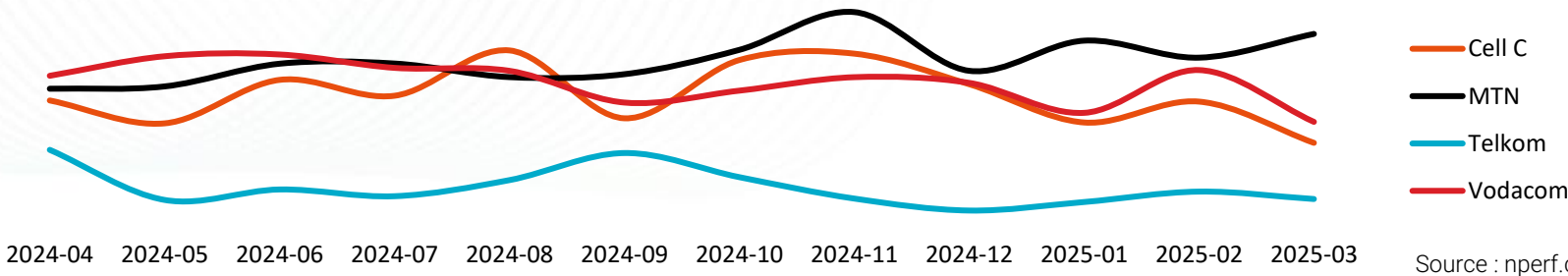
The nperf score takes into account the measured bitrates, the latency and the Qoe tests. The value of the points for the rates and the latency is calculated on a logarithmic scale, to better represent the perception of the user. Thus, this score reflects the overall quality of the connection experienced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

Source : nperf.com



Source : nperf.com

nPerf score evolution over the year (average)



Source : nperf.com



The background of the image features a series of thin, light-colored wavy lines that create a sense of motion and depth. These lines are layered and overlap, forming a complex, organic pattern that flows across the frame. The overall effect is reminiscent of a stylized wave or a digital signal.

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