

**TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

New Delhi, 25th May, 2016
(www.trai.gov.in)

**Highlights of Telecom Subscription Data as on 31st March, 2016**

Particulars	Wireless	Wireline	Total (Wireless+ Wireline)
Total Telephone Subscribers (Million)	1033.63	25.22	1058.86
Net Addition in March, 2016 (Million)	6.97	0.01	6.98
Monthly Growth Rate	0.68%	0.04%	0.66%
Urban Telephone Subscribers (Million)	588.79	20.90	609.69
Net Addition in March, 2016 (Million)	1.23	0.03	1.26
Monthly Growth Rate	0.21%	0.14%	0.21%
Rural Telephone Subscribers (Million)	444.84	4.32	449.17
Net Addition in March, 2016 (Million)	5.73	-0.02	5.71
Monthly Growth Rate	1.31%	-0.46%	1.29%
Overall Tele-density*	81.38	1.99	83.36
Urban Tele-density*	148.73	5.28	154.01
Rural Tele-density*	50.88	0.49	51.37
Share of Urban Subscribers	56.96%	82.86%	57.58%
Share of Rural Subscribers	43.04%	17.14%	42.42%
Broadband Subscribers (Million)	132.77	16.98	149.75

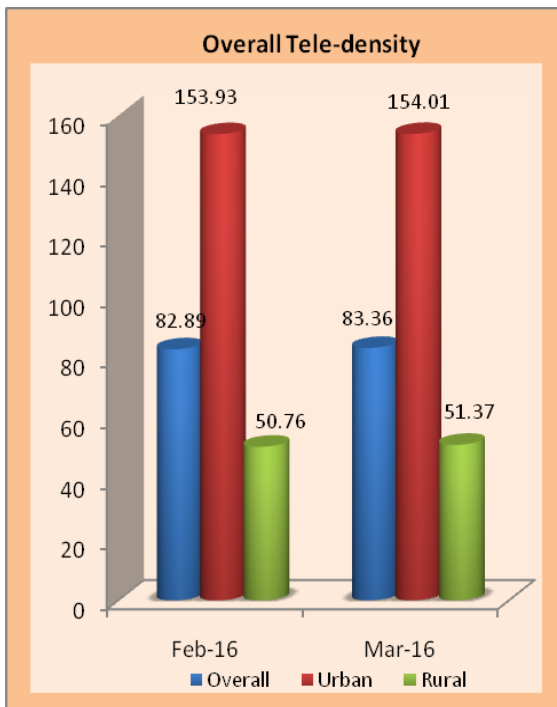
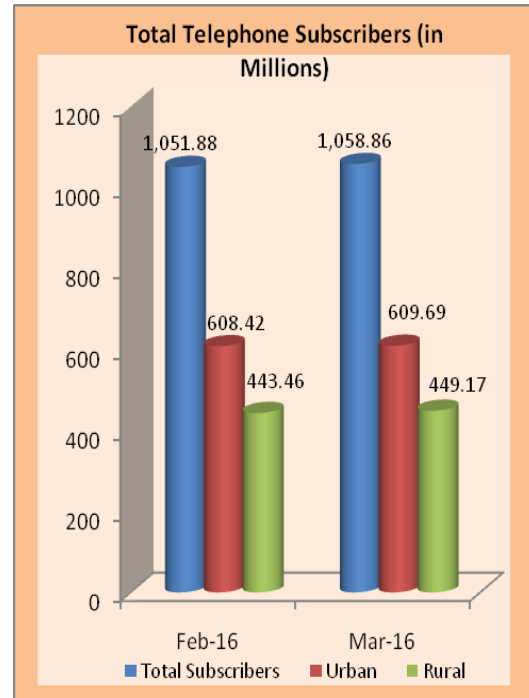
- ❖ In the month of March, 2016, 4.40 million subscribers submitted their requests for Mobile Number Portability (MNP). With this, the cumulative MNP requests increased from 204.73 million at the end of Feb-16 to 209.13 million at the end of Mar-16, since implementation of MNP.
- ❖ Number of active wireless subscribers (on the date of peak VLR[#]) in March, 2016 was 936.46 million.

Note:

- Information in this Press Release is based on the data provided by the Service Providers
- * Based on the population projections from Census data published by the Office of Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India.
- # VLR is acronym of Visitor Location Register. The dates of peak VLR for various TSPs are different in different service areas.

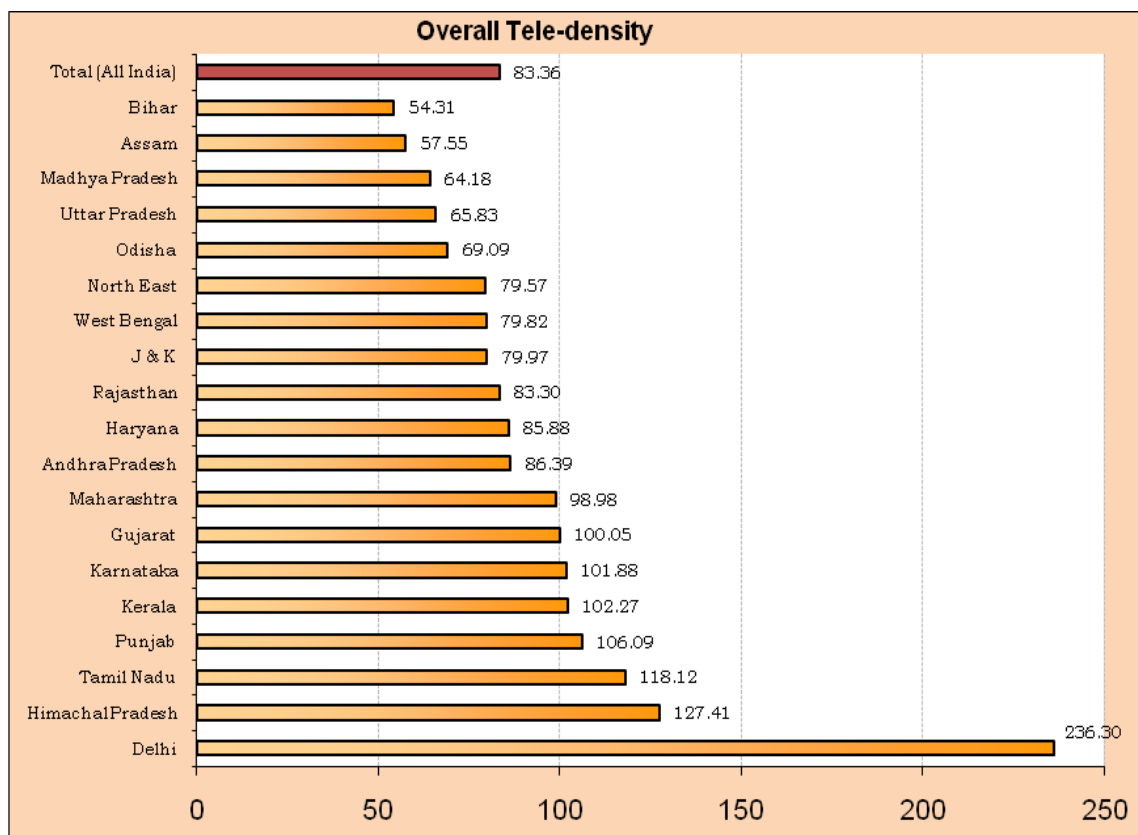
I. Total Telephone Subscribers

- The number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,051.88 million at the end of Feb-16 to 1,058.86 million at the end of Mar-16, thereby showing a monthly growth rate of 0.66%. The urban subscription increased from 608.42 million at the end of Feb-16 to 609.69 million at the end of Mar-16 and the rural subscription increased from 443.46 million to 449.17 million during the same period. The monthly growth rates of urban and rural subscription were 0.21% and 1.29% respectively during the month of Mar-16.



- The overall Tele-density in India increased from 82.89 at the end of Feb-16 to 83.36 at the end of Mar-16. The Urban Tele-density increased from 153.93 at the end of Feb-16 to 154.01 at the end of Mar-16. The Rural Tele-density increased from 50.76 at the end of Feb-16 to 51.37 at the end of Mar-16. The share of urban subscribers and rural subscribers in total number of subscribers at the end of Mar-16 was 57.58% and 42.42% respectively.

Overall Tele-density (Circle/State Wise) – As on 31st March, 2016



Notes:

1. Population data/projections are available state wise only.
2. Tele-density figures are derived from the telephone subscriber data provided by the access service providers and the projections of population published by the Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India.
3. Telephone subscriber data for Delhi, includes, apart from the data for the State of Delhi, wireless subscriber data for the areas served by the local exchanges of Ghaziabad & Noida (in Uttar Pradesh) and Gurgaon & Faridabad (in Haryana). West Bengal includes Kolkata, Maharashtra includes Mumbai and Tamil Nadu includes Chennai.

II. Category-wise Growth

Circle Category-wise Net Additions in Telephone Subscribers in the month of March, 2016

Circle Category	Net additions in the month of March, 2016		Telephone Subscriber base as on 31 st March, 2016	
	Wireline segment	Wireless segment	Wireline segment	Wireless segment
Circle A	21,567	717,954	10,027,898	363,690,755
Circle B	-11,911	4,551,427	6,851,653	414,161,744
Circle C	-1,690	2,229,976	1,225,825	151,711,710
Metro	1,377	-532,400	7,119,192	104,066,616
All India	9,343	6,966,957	25,224,568	1,033,630,825

Circle Category-wise monthly and yearly Growth Rates in Telephone Subscribers in the month of March, 2016

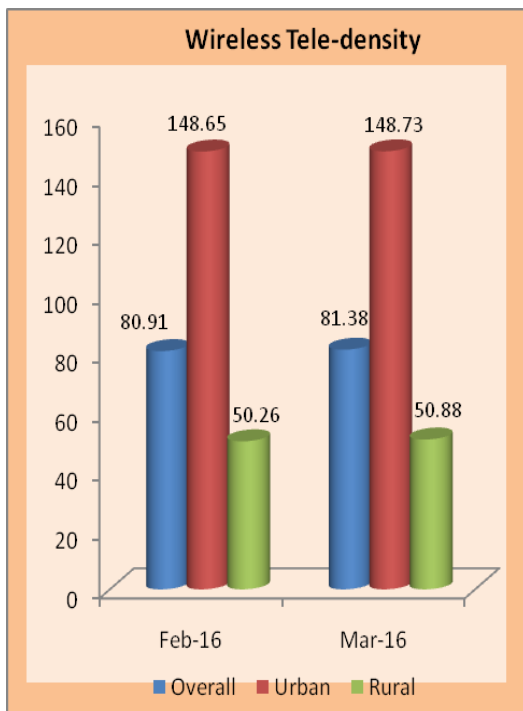
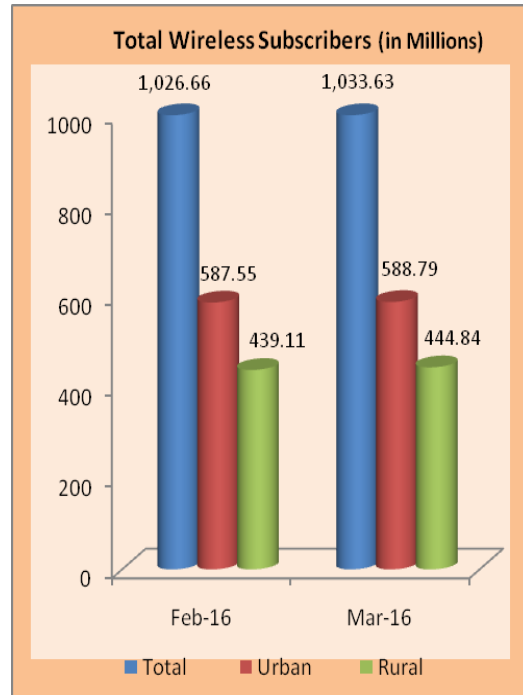
Circle Category	Monthly growth rate (%) (Feb-16 to Mar-16)		Yearly growth rate (%) (Mar-15 to Mar-16)	
	Wireline Segment	Wireless Segment	Wireline Segment	Wireless Segment
Circle A	0.22	0.20	-5.17	5.17
Circle B	-0.17	1.11	-8.41	8.18
Circle C	-0.14	1.49	-7.82	6.95
Metro	0.02	-0.51	-1.24	4.71
All India	0.04	0.68	-5.15	6.57

Note: Circle Category-Metro includes Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Data for Chennai has been included in Circle Category-A, as part of TamilNadu.

- As can be seen in the above tables, in wireless segment, the Circles of Category-B showed the maximum net addition while the Circles in Category-C showed the maximum growth rate in the month Mar-16. Metro Circles showed the decline in their wireless subscribers.
- In Wireline segment, Circles of Category-A showed the highest net addition and highest monthly growth rate in subscriber base in the month of Mar-16. However, Circles in Category-B & C showed decline in wireline segment during the same period.

III. Wireless Subscribers

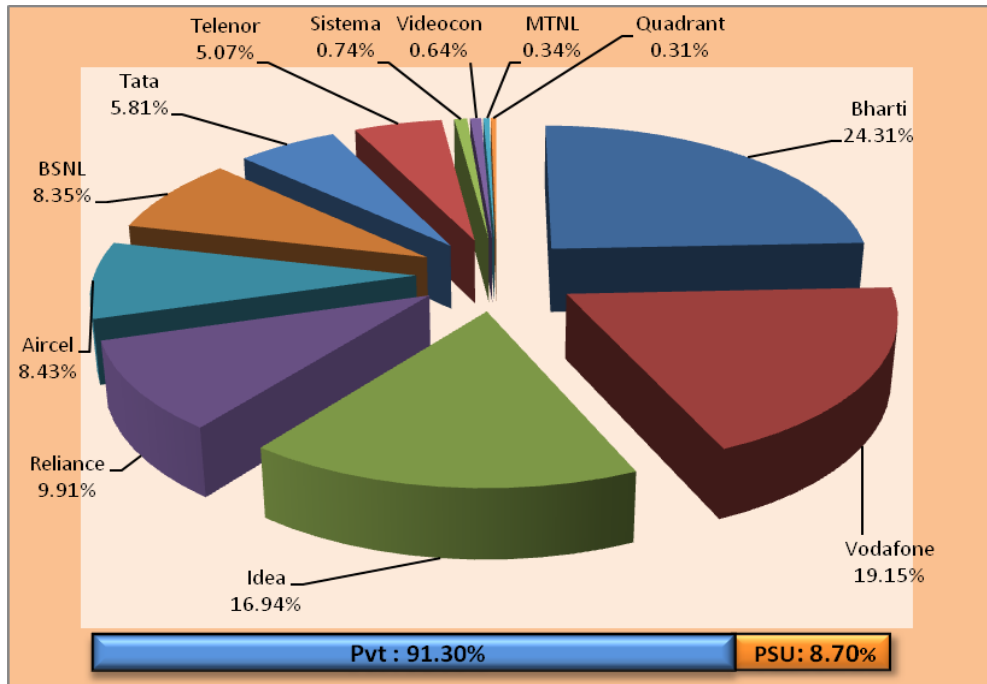
• Total wireless subscriber base increased from 1,026.66 million at the end of Feb-16 to 1,033.63 million at the end of Mar-16, thereby registering a monthly growth rate of 0.68%. The Wireless subscription in urban areas increased from 587.55 million at the end of Feb-16 to 588.79 million at the end of Mar-16, and wireless subscription in rural areas also increased from 439.11 million to 444.84 million during the same period. The monthly growth rates of urban and rural wireless subscription were 0.21% and 1.31% respectively.



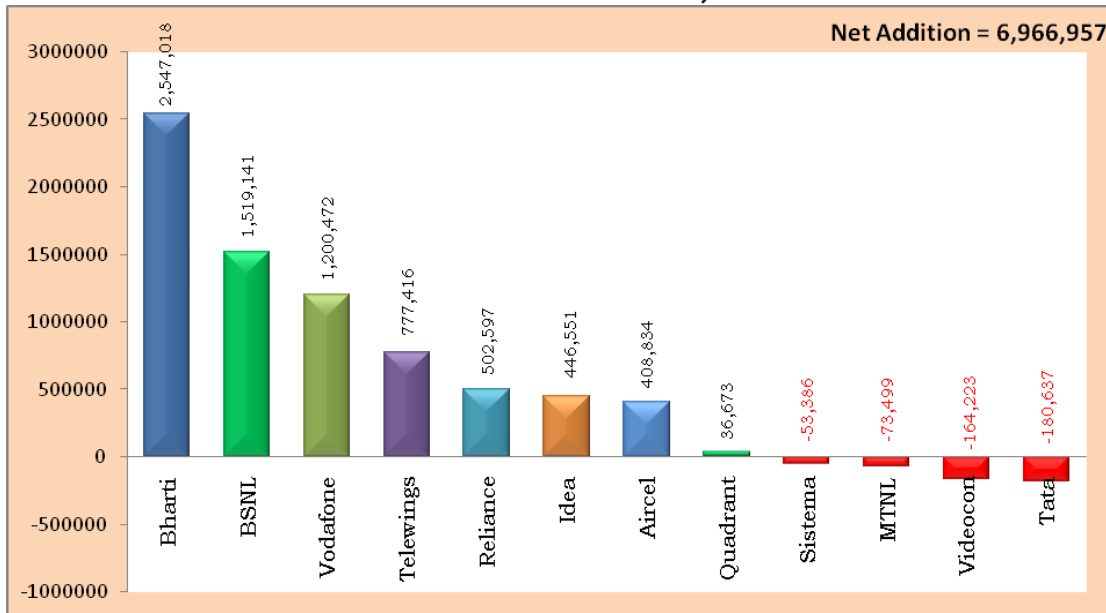
• The Wireless Tele-density in India increased from 80.91 at the end of Feb-16 to 81.38 at the end of Mar-16. The Urban Wireless Tele-density increased from 148.65 at the end of Feb-16 to 148.73 at the end of Mar-16, and Rural Wireless Tele-density also increased from 50.26 to 50.88 during the same period. The share of urban and rural wireless subscribers in total number of wireless subscribers was 56.96% and 43.047% respectively at the end of Mar-16. Detailed statistics of wireless subscriber base is available at **Annexure-I**.

- As on 31st March, 2016, the private access service providers held 91.30% market share of the wireless subscribers whereas BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, had a market share of only 8.70%. The graphical representation of access service provider-wise market share and net additions in wireless subscriber base are given below:

Access Service Provider-wise Market Shares in term of Wireless Subscriber base as on 31st March, 2016



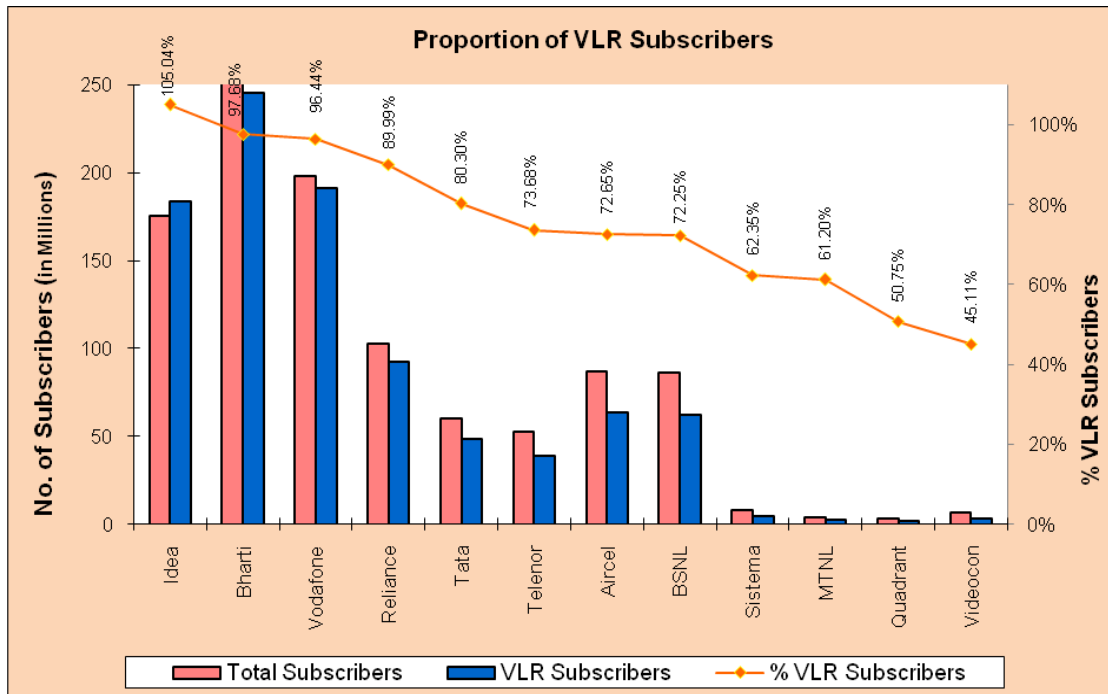
Net Additions in Wireless Subscriber Bases of Access Service Providers in the Month of March, 2016



IV. Active Wireless Subscribers (VLR Data)

- Out of the total wireless subscriber base (1,033.63 million), 936.46 million wireless subscribers were active on the date of peak VLR in the month of Mar-16. The proportion of active wireless subscribers was approximately 90.60% of the total wireless subscriber base.
- The detailed statistics on proportion of active wireless subscribers (also referred to as VLR subscribers) on the date of peak VLR in the month of Mar-16 is available at **Annexure-II** and the methodology used for reporting VLR subscribers is available at **Annexure-IV**.

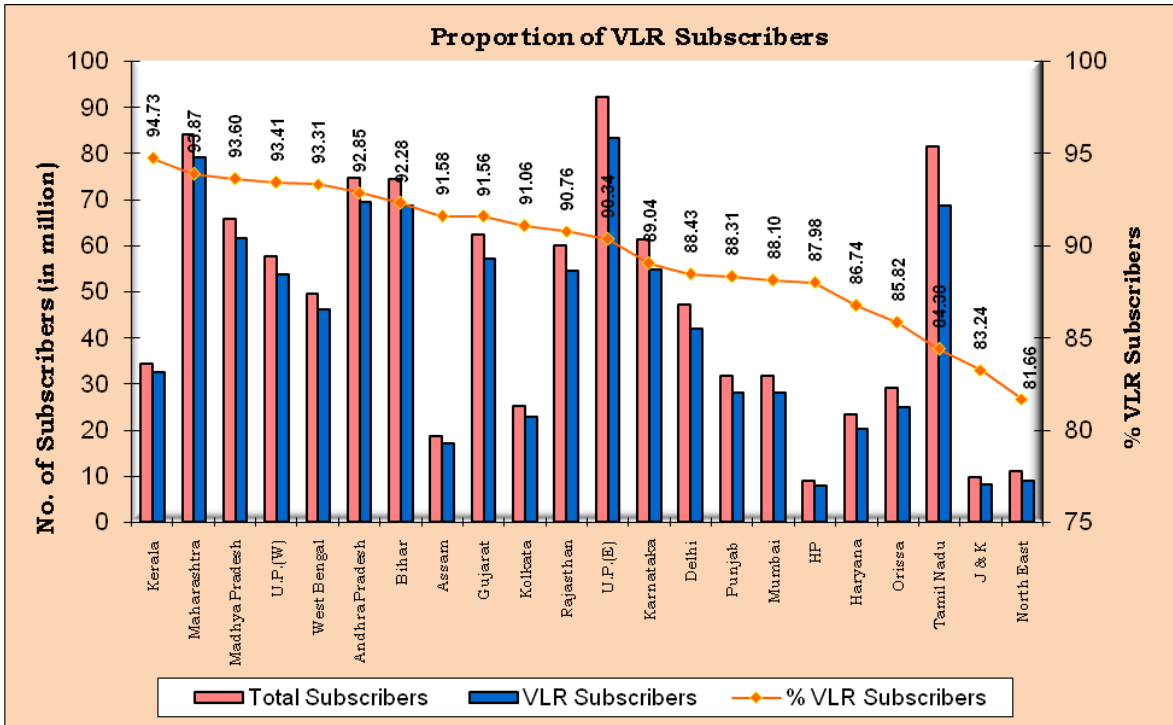
Access Service Provider-wise Proportion of VLR Subscribers in the Month of March, 2016



Note-

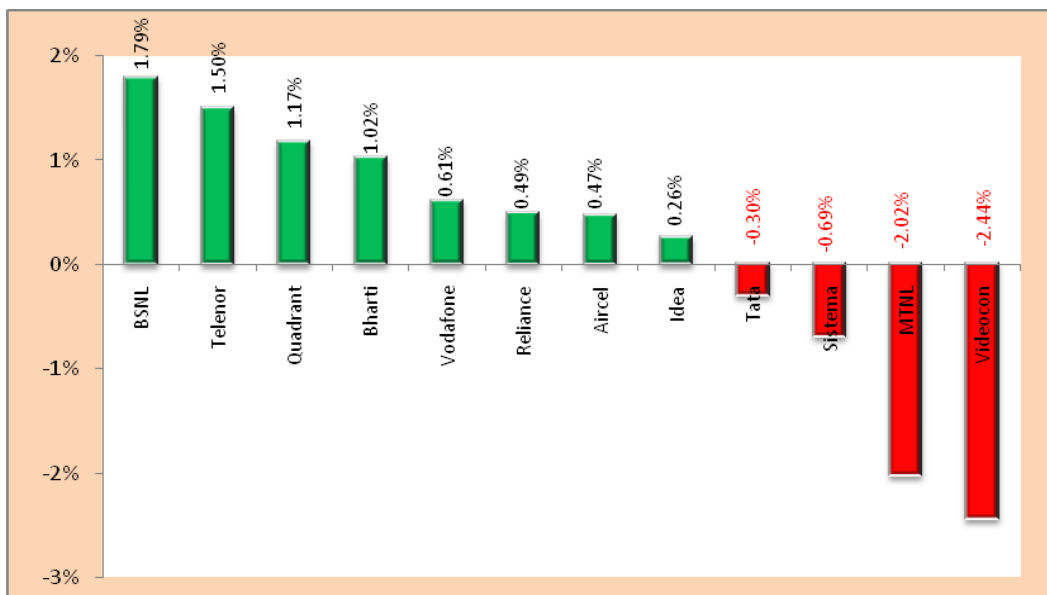
1. Number of VLR subscribers of Idea Cellular was more than its subscriber base due to a large number of inroamers in its network.

Service Area wise proportion of VLR Subscribers in the Month of March, 2016



V. Growth in Wireless Subscribers

Access Service Provider-wise Monthly Growth Rate of Wireless Subscriber base in the Month of March, 2016



Service Area-wise Monthly Growth Rate of Wireless Subscriber base in the Month of March, 2016



- Orissa service area recorded the highest growth rate in wireless subscribers during the month of Mar-16, while Delhi, Mumbai, A.P. and Karnataka service areas showed a decline.

VI. Mobile Number Portability (MNP)

- Intra-service area Mobile number portability (MNP) has been implemented in Haryana service area w.e.f. 25.11.2010 and in the rest of the country w.e.f. 20.01.2011. Inter-Service Area MNP has been implemented in the country w.e.f. 03.07.2015. Now, the wireless telephone subscribers can retain their mobile numbers when they relocate from one service area to another.
- In the month of Mar-16, a total of 4.40 million requests were received for MNP. With this, the cumulative MNP requests increased from 204.73 million at the end of Feb-16 to 209.13 million at the end of Mar-16, since the implementation of MNP.
- In MNP Zone-I (Northern and Western India), the highest number of requests till date have been received in Rajasthan (about 18.32 million) followed by Gujarat (about 16.08 million).

- In MNP Zone-II (Southern and Eastern India), the highest number of requests till date have been received in Karnataka (about 23.42 million) followed by Andhra Pradesh (about 20.01 million).

Service Area Wise MNP Status at the end of March, 2016			
Zone -I		Zone - II	
Service Area	Number of Porting Requests	Service Area	Number of Porting Requests
Delhi	8327904	Andhra Pradesh	20009891
Gujarat	16078452	Assam	993987
Haryana	7433136	Bihar	7372102
Himachal Pradesh	715721	Karnataka	23424452
Jammu & Kashmir	72675	Kerala	6462051
Maharashtra	14914184	Kolkata	4700394
Mumbai	11478663	Madhya Pradesh	13350032
Punjab	7402093	North East	420304
Rajasthan	18322698	Orissa	4317720
Uttar Pradesh - East	9797167	Tamil Nadu	13173385
Uttar Pradesh - West	9594903	West Bengal	10767899
Total	104,137,596	Total	104,992,217
Total (Zone-I + Zone-II)			209,129,813
Net Addition (in March, 2016)			4,403,688

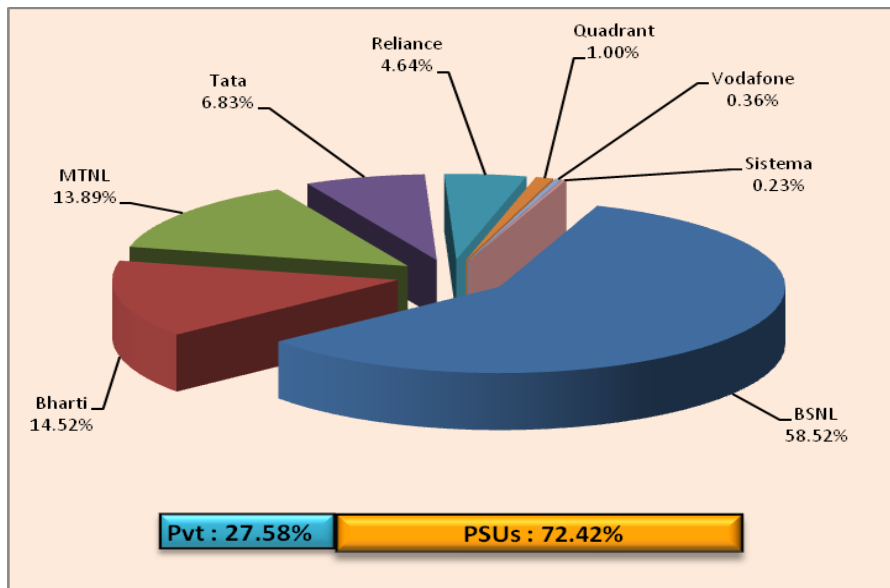
Note: For Zone-II, available MNP data for March, 2016 are provisional.

VII. Wireline Subscribers

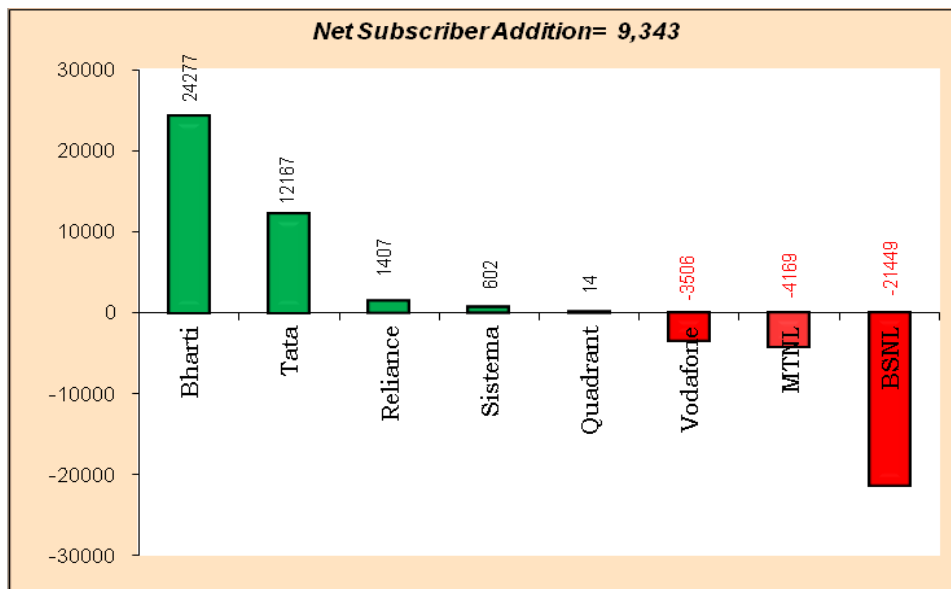
- Wireline subscriber base slightly increased from 25.215 million at the end of Feb-16 to 25.225 million at the end of Mar-16. Net addition in the wireline subscriber base was 0.01 million with a monthly growth rate of 0.04%. The share of urban and rural subscribers in total wireline subscribers was 82.86% and 17.14% respectively at the end of Mar-16.
- The Overall Wireline Tele-density remained same at the end of Mar-16 at 1.99 as compare to the end of Feb-16. Urban Wireline Tele-density and Rural Wireline Tele-density were workout as 5.28 and 0.49 respectively.

- BSNL and MTNL, the two PSU access service providers, held 72.42% of the wireline market share. Detailed statistics of wireline subscriber base are available at **Annexure-III**.
- The graphical representation of service provider-wise market shares in the wireline segment and net additions in wireline subscriber bases in the month of Mar-16 are given below:

Access Service Provider-wise Market Shares in term of Wireline Subscriber base as on 31st March, 2016



Access Service Provider-wise Net Additions/declines in Wireline Subscriber Base in the Month of March, 2016



VIII. Broadband (\geq 512 Kbps download)

- As per the reports received from the service providers, the number of broadband subscribers increased from 144.87 Million at the end of Feb-16 to 149.75 million at the end of Mar-16 with a monthly growth rate of 3.37%. Segment-wise broadband subscribers and their monthly growth rates are as below:

Segment-wise Broadband Subscriber base and Monthly Growth Rates in the month of March, 2016

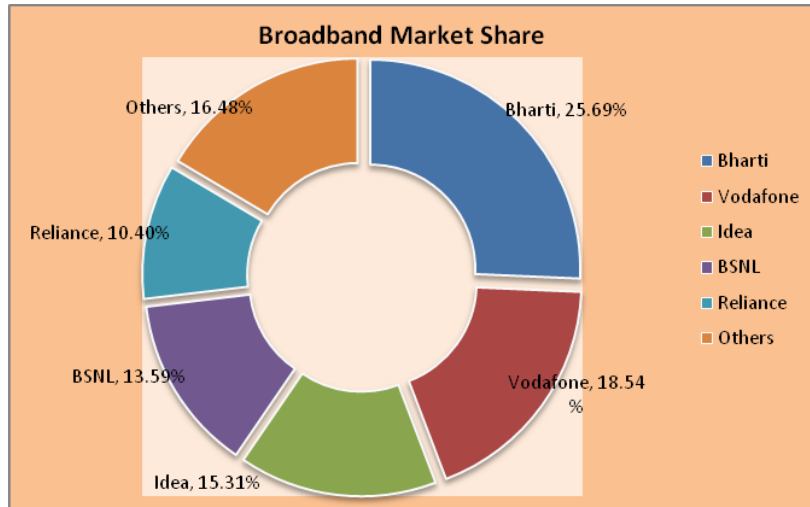
Segment	Broadband subscribers (in million)		Monthly growth rate in the month of Mar-16 (%)
	As on 29 th February, 2016	As on 31 st March, 2016	
Wired subscribers	16.75	16.98	1.38%
Mobile devices users (Phones and dongles)	127.61	132.24	3.64%
Fixed Wireless subscribers (Wi-Fi, Wi-Max, Point-to-Point Radio & VSAT)	0.51	0.52	2.36%
Total	144.87	149.75	3.37%

- Top five service providers constituted 83.52% market share of the total broadband subscribers at the end of Mar-16. These service providers were Bharti Airtel (38.47 million), Vodafone (27.76 million), Idea Cellular (22.92 million), BSNL (20.35 million) and Reliance Communications Group (15.57 million).

Note : Some wireless service providers exclude incidental data users from their subscriber base, based on minimum usage decided by them.

- The graphical representation of the service provider-wise market share of broadband services is given below:

**Service Provider-wise Market Share of Broadband
(wired+wireless) Services as on 31.03.2016**



- As on 31st March, 2016, the top five Wired Broadband Service providers were BSNL (9.94 million), Bharti Airtel (1.74 million), MTNL (1.11 million), Atria Convergence Technologies (0.94 million) and YOU Broadband (0.53 million).
- As on 31st March, 2016, the top five Wireless Broadband Service providers were Bharti Airtel (36.74 million), Vodafone (27.75 million), Idea Cellular (22.92 million), Reliance Communications Group (15.45 million) and BSNL (10.41 million).

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Authorized to issue:

(Vinod Kotwal)
Advisor (F&EA)

Wireless Subscriber Base

Annexure-I

Circle	Group											
	Bharti		Reliance		Vodafone		Tata		Idea		Aircel	
	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16
Andhra Pradesh	23565923	23592784	5505992	5611249	7151028	7032368	5055271	4962611	15460845	15390077	2780988	2725320
Assam	5868703	5943777	1323923	1337953	3589406	3649556			1148252	1175401	5077054	5109583
Bihar	27823152	28421472	4443980	4489922	9385723	9499503	1686839	1688734	11181318	11184133	6968769	7065809
Delhi	11215868	11207790	8475237	8097724	10067193	10045493	2210894	2192037	6206267	6131926	6279187	6327144
Gujarat	8547322	8530459	5734826	5923507	19408608	19357609	2851559	2878694	12136328	12087098	17063	17063
Haryana	2890693	2934743	1953530	1958375	5433466	5476264	2737340	2785633	4617519	4642834	3092	3092
Himachal Pradesh	2722433	2742531	1749347	1749583	707815	716728	68906	69516	791062	801146	1088770	1092515
J & K	3336575	3340288	927846	930371	1057201	1062347			618001	636451	2524344	2544817
Karnataka	20873398	20874185	5880750	5893750	7657352	7669476	7266697	7274119	8474547	8414950	3072137	3095767
Kerala	4252748	4412144	2204897	2192179	7507592	7490687	1565841	1575054	10362356	10397873	258032	292060
Kolkata	4640914	4667382	4572025	4657717	5360276	5380984	2776797	2774173	2170173	2144452	4134247	4083162
Madhya Pradesh	12359120	12626117	12246323	12129248	6850557	6884697	4715828	4757032	21089876	21316755	20694	20694
Maharashtra	13235522	13436216	5585631	5606947	18377409	18491225	6580574	6577919	23344618	23364582	2607191	2609745
Mumbai	5704299	5783099	5802671	5763604	8668030	8643366	3331467	3306116	4269970	4200800	2829840	2858561
North East	3876134	3903133	363365	375245	1525366	1531194			501369	503791	3109130	3133041
Orissa	10131407	10314568	1810611	1874859	4049948	4113658	2249134	2250642	1703251	1742044	4560539	4625593
Punjab	7998157	8013787	1589121	1652868	5123789	5114504	2667707	2694392	6440321	6464695	1051297	1058525
Rajasthan	19218246	19375697	6686427	6682282	11922052	12164350	1498041	1506298	7819633	7795738	6403330	6442470
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	17174868	17244929	6651953	6820841	15466507	15527782	4956244	4795665	5995868	5860715	21527561	21589089
U.P.(E)	20619383	20852300	9219019	9353005	18871460	19003913	4115330	4084133	10687993	10828315	6830208	6896435
U.P.(W)	8159465	8334605	5970058	6024904	11331528	11572864	3478791	3472982	14209495	14489273	648563	680246
West Bengal	14475915	14685257	3207943	3281939	17233977	17518187	465365	452238	5398429	5500993	4885742	4815881
Total	248690245	251237263	101905475	102408072	196746283	197946755	60278625	60097988	174627491	175074042	86677778	87086612
Net Addition		2547018		502597		1200472		-180637		446551		408834

Wireless Subscriber Base

Annexure-I (contd.)

Circle	Group														Net Addition
	BSNL		MTNL		Telenor		Sistema		Videocon		Quadrant		Total		
	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	
Andhra Pradesh	9625078	9650492			5712060	5685052							74857185	74649953	-207232
Assam	1298631	1316094											18305969	18532364	226395
Bihar	3095018	3285224			8633814	8806055			20774	10009			73239387	74450861	1211474
Delhi			2339788	2318460			934410	924066					47728844	47244640	-484204
Gujarat	3502686	3604183			8644338	8904356	206740	206366	879413	754570			61928883	62263905	335022
Haryana	3160674	3202110							2236766	2252375			23033080	23255426	222346
Himachal Pradesh	1631227	1702674											8759560	8874693	115133
J & K	1279230	1294364											9743197	9808638	65441
Karnataka	6963766	6946561					1184568	1166079					61373215	61334887	-38328
Kerala	7440807	7574666					356748	355554					33949021	34290217	341196
Kolkata	775958	781883					538938	534281					24969328	25024034	54706
Madhya Pradesh	4254389	4361599							3557834	3529215			65094621	65625357	530736
Maharashtra	5720172	5849854			8093312	8163400							83544429	84099888	555459
Mumbai			1294567	1242396									31900844	31797942	-102902
North East	1509729	1537268											10885093	10983672	98579
Orissa	4043638	4140118											28548528	29061482	512954
Punjab	3497932	3582508									3126765	3163438	31495089	31744717	249628
Rajasthan	3820584	3969428					2109340	2107751					59477653	60044014	566361
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	8740237	8752792					755851	750309					81269089	81342122	73033
U.P.(E)	8689512	8901885			12071627	12307775			13155	7989			91117687	92235750	1118063
U.P.(W)	4157713	4257841			8522382	8588311	157017	153244	20043	9604			56655055	57583874	928819
West Bengal	1619587	1634165					1501153	1493729					48788111	49382389	594278
Total	84826568	86345709	3634355	3560856	51677533	52454949	7744765	7691379	6727985	6563762	3126765	3163438	1026663868	1033630825	6966957
Net Addition		1519141		-73499		777416		-53386		-164223		36673		6966957	

Proportion of VLR on the date of Peak VLR in the month of Mar-16 (%)

Annexure-II

Circle	Aircel	Bharti	BSNL	Quadrant	Idea	MTNL	Reliance	Sistema	Tata	Telenor	Videocon	Vodafone	Total
Andhra Pradesh	60.74	99.88	79.01		105.40		98.65		88.03	75.49		86.00	92.85
Assam	92.30	98.11	84.89		98.71		5.93					111.44	91.58
Bihar	87.99	99.07	76.23		104.21		45.21		71.68	72.96	8.87	110.59	92.28
Delhi	61.51	93.64			99.13	54.43	97.13	51.49	59.16			103.67	88.43
Gujarat	2705.95	95.97	76.57		106.63		98.99	42.89	75.48	65.73	27.59	95.71	91.56
Haryana	0.49	97.94	56.41		104.19		96.22		86.48		50.93	95.21	86.74
Himachal Pradesh	54.17	98.41	74.53		111.47		95.70		37.12			91.37	87.98
J & K	88.01	87.63	72.41		97.37		60.58					82.59	83.24
Karnataka	60.06	94.42	61.36		106.47		97.37	67.08	88.19			89.77	89.04
Kerala	73.34	101.91	81.76		106.50		93.61	63.16	85.87			91.80	94.73
Kolkata	73.48	96.96	88.64		89.88		98.97	92.93	82.55			97.46	91.06
Madhya Pradesh	1.07	96.40	75.83		108.31		98.80		82.30		45.42	77.83	93.60
Maharashtra	58.24	96.66	79.55		105.79		98.15		78.86	73.93		99.18	93.87
Mumbai	57.52	99.56			95.86	73.83	97.00		78.01			86.76	88.10
North East	70.53	94.74	69.35		97.22		8.43					96.27	81.66
Orissa	66.27	98.67	78.69		103.08		20.53		82.23			107.19	85.82
Punjab	61.42	97.84	72.64	50.75	107.97		98.64		75.83			91.57	88.31
Rajasthan	52.66	98.80	76.08		105.22		99.13	60.24	110.07			91.98	90.76
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	71.56	97.23	64.34		95.80		95.96	55.42	72.82			94.82	84.38
U.P. (E)	81.34	98.12	60.53		107.51		98.85		75.28	77.05	12.14	96.93	90.34
U.P. (W)	109.11	101.07	65.83		104.04		99.05	52.85	76.86	76.38	10.30	99.08	93.41
West Bengal	85.83	98.92	91.12		108.25		22.91	64.35	54.99			102.84	93.31
Total	72.65	97.68	72.25	50.75	105.04	61.20	89.99	62.35	80.30	73.68	45.11	96.44	90.60

Note: Peak VLR figures in some circles of some of the service providers are more than their HLR figures due to a large number of inroamers.

Wireline Subscriber Base

Annexure-III

Circle	Group																		Net Addition
	BSNL		MTNL		Bharti		Reliance		Tata		Quadrant		Sistema		Vodafone		Total		
	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	
Andhra Pradesh	1337334	1340655			144421	145755	75955	75937	163835	164318					9,330	9,240	1730875	1735905	5030
Assam	158178	158772													1,860	1,770	160038	160542	504
Bihar	312638	311091					6,813	6,883	13,038	13,134					1050	930	333539	332038	-1501
Delhi			1615252	1615433	1223012	1227042	174783	174750	130991	132930					21,810	21,030	3165848	3171185	5337
Gujarat	1172038	1172423			70694	72192	74851	74762	86407	86802					3,240	2,910	1407230	1409089	1859
Haryana	306,304	305,885			19799	20344	4427	4427	38587	38644					30	30	369147	369330	183
Himachal Pradesh	164,877	164,336					4125	4126	2721	2747					90	0	171813	171209	-604
J & K	130,509	131,214															130509	131214	705
Karnataka	1294883	1294726			594467	596146	146996	148398	204732	206366					9,840	9,750	2250918	2255386	4468
Kerala	2194482	2187427			56428	56574	34056	33623	17773	18115					1200	1440	2303939	2297179	-6760
Kolkata	672447	668964			117092	117242	69643	69214	49694	50059					3930	3630	912806	909109	-3697
Madhya Pradesh	742034	741227			258891	261310	20440	20471	18380	18222					390	360	1040135	1041590	1455
Maharashtra	1534025	1534836			74377	74684	83066	82987	282594	284063					10,830	10,650	1984892	1987220	2328
Mumbai			1893005	1888655	348783	349585	249542	250477	530821	534127					17010	16054	3039161	3038898	-263
North East	124,995	124,177													150	150	125145	124327	-818
Orissa	294136	294061					3290	3290	8115	8214					930	930	306471	306495	24
Punjab	665065	659460			106809	108897	21214	21276	16934	16882	252789	252803			810	750	1063621	1060068	-3553
Rajasthan	646594	646839			45660	46187	20838	20832	11460	11510			58528	59130	1,980	1,950	785060	786448	1388
Tamil Nadu (incl. Chennai)	1889070	1887457			496373	504323	134326	134303	105057	107105					7590	7110	2632416	2640298	7882
U.P.(E)	391177	390103			60965	61575	35141	35129	15183	15210					1,140	990	503606	503007	-599
U.P.(W)	388390	388005			21601	21793	7105	7105	10027	10037					480	480	427603	427420	-183
West Bengal	364643	360712					1934	1962	3846	3877					30	60	370453	366611	-3842
Total	14783819	14762370	3508257	3504088	3639372	3663649	1168545	1169952	1710195	1722362	252789	252803	58528	59130	93720	90214	25215225	25224568	9343
Net Addition		-21449		-4169		24277		1407		12167		14		602		-3506		9343	

VLR Subscribers in the Wireless Segment

Home Location Register (HLR) is a central database that contains details of each mobile phone subscriber that is authorized to use the GSM core network. The HLRs store details of every SIM card issued by the service provider. Each SIM has a unique identifier called an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI), which is the primary key to each HLR record. The HLR data is stored for as long as a subscriber remains with the service provider. HLR also manages the mobility of subscribers by means of updating their position in administrative areas. It sends the subscriber data to a Visitor Location Register (VLR).

Subscriber numbers reported by the service providers is the difference between the numbers of IMSI registered in service provider's HLR and sum of other figures as given below:-

1	Total IMSI's in HLR (A)
2	Less: (B = a + b + c + d + e)
a.	Test/Service Cards
b.	Employees
c.	Stock in hand/in Distribution Channels (Active Card)
d.	Subscriber Retention period expired
e.	Service suspended pending disconnection
3	Subscribers Base (A-B)

Visitor Location Register (VLR) is a temporary database of the subscribers who have roamed into the particular area, which it serves. Each base station in the network is served by exactly one VLR; hence a subscriber cannot be present in more than one VLR at a time.

If subscriber is in active stage i.e. he is able to send/receive calls/SMSs he is available both in HLR and VLR. However, it may be possible that the subscriber is registered in HLR but not in VLR due to the reason that he is either switched-off or moved out of coverage area, not reachable etc. In such circumstances he will be available in HLR but not in VLR. This causes difference between subscriber number reported by the service providers and numbers available in VLR.

The VLR data calculated here is on the basis of active subscribers in VLR on the date of Peak VLR of the particular month for which the data is being collected. This data is to be taken from the switches having the purge time of not more than 72 hours.