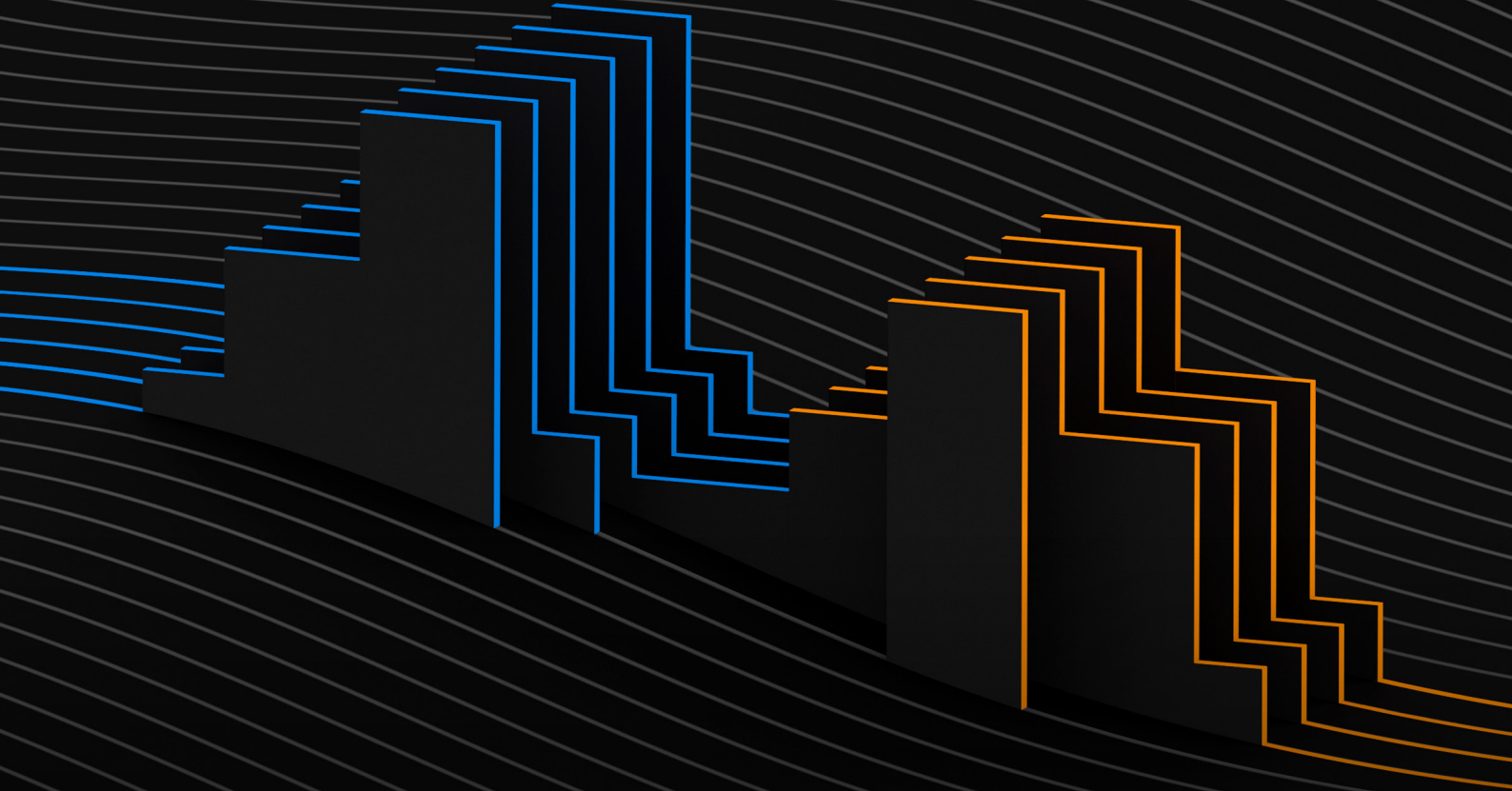




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# Ericsson Mobility Report



## Q2 2020 Update

This document is a scheduled update to the quarterly subscription and traffic data section in the Ericsson Mobility Report, released in June 2020

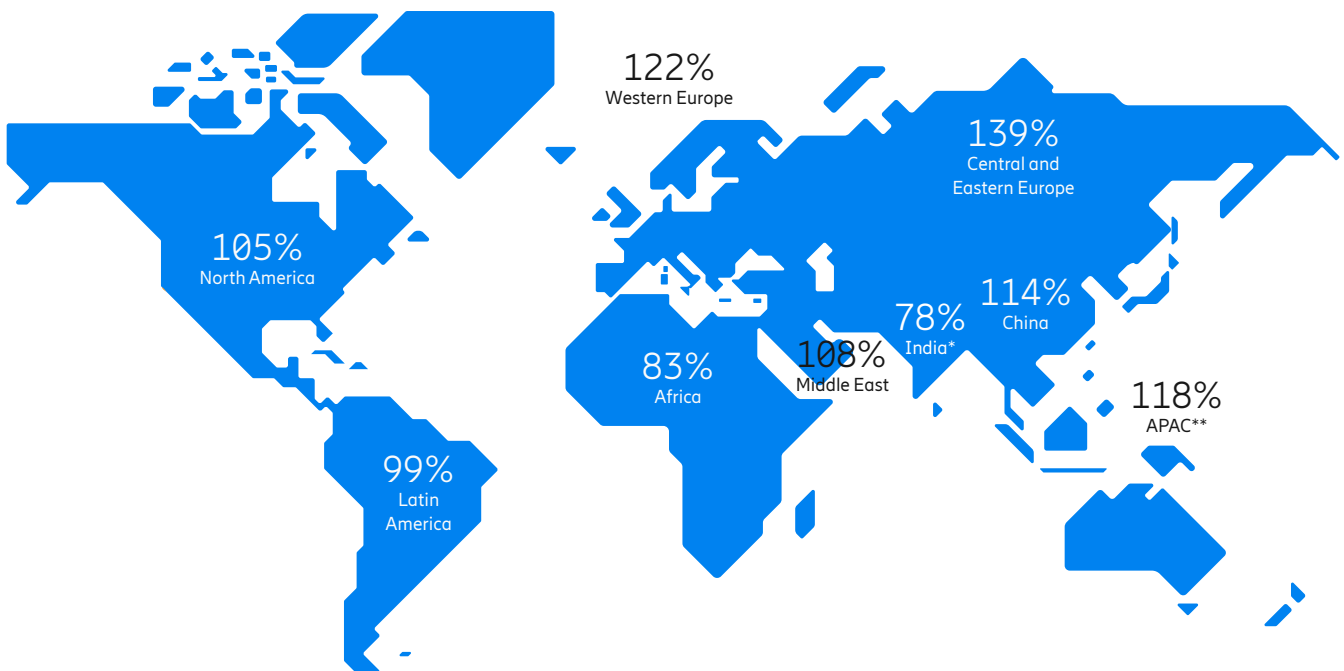
To view or download a copy of the original report, please visit: [www.ericsson.com/mobility-report](http://www.ericsson.com/mobility-report)

# Mobile subscriptions Q2 2020

In Q2 2020, the total number of mobile subscriptions was about 7.9 billion, with a net addition of 15 million subscriptions during the quarter.

- The low net addition of mobile subscriptions during the quarter was most likely due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and associated lockdown restrictions.
- The year-on-year growth of mobile subscriptions was about 2 percent.
- China had the most net additions during the quarter (+6 million), followed by Nigeria (+6 million) and South Africa (+1 million). In India, the number of subscriptions declined by 4 million, probably due to the removal of inactive subscriptions.
- Global mobile subscription penetration was 103 percent.
- The number of mobile broadband subscriptions grew by about 60 million in Q2 2020 to reach about 6.4 billion. This reflects a year-on-year increase of about 7 percent.
- 5G subscriptions with a 5G-capable device grew by around 50 million during the quarter to reach around 80 million.
- LTE subscriptions increased by approximately 120 million to reach a total of around 4.5 billion, equaling 57 percent of all mobile subscriptions, while WCDMA/HSPA subscriptions declined by around 50 million. Most 3G and 4G subscriptions include GSM/EDGE as a fallback.
- GSM/EDGE-only subscriptions declined by 110 million during the quarter, and other technologies<sup>1</sup> decreased by about 5 million.
- About 280 million smartphones were sold in Q2 2020. Seventy-four percent of all mobile phone subscriptions are now associated with smartphones.
- The number of unique mobile subscribers is about 6 billion. The difference between the number of subscriptions and the number of subscribers is due to inactive subscriptions, multiple device ownership and/or optimization of subscriptions for different types of calls.

Subscription penetration Q2 2020 (percent of population)

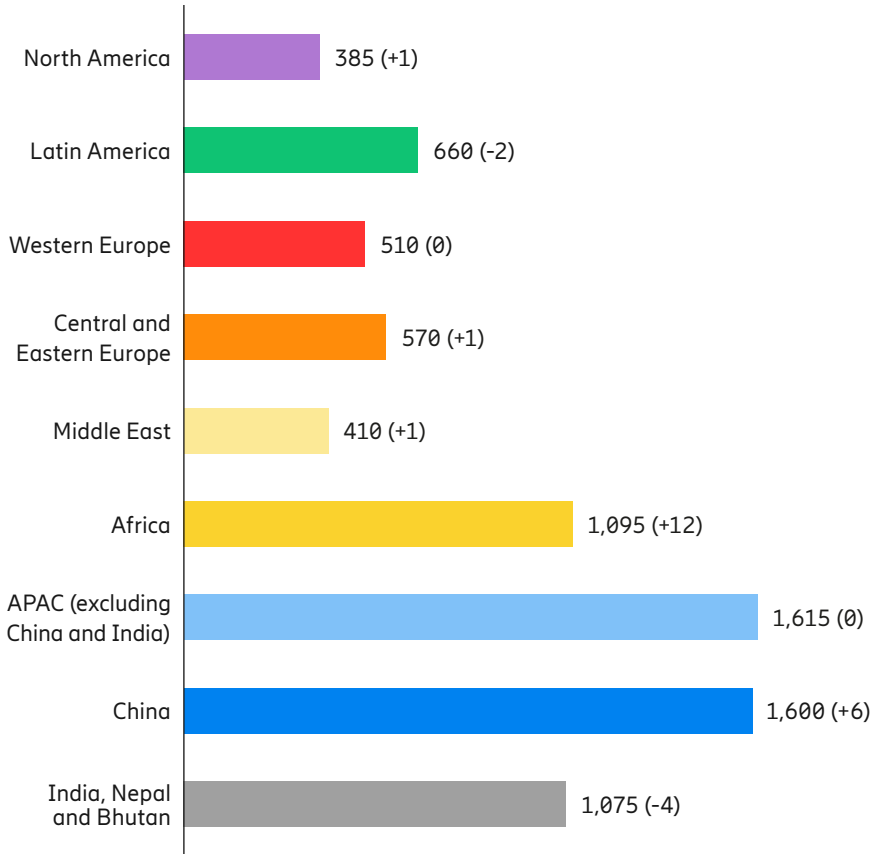


\*India region includes India, Nepal and Bhutan

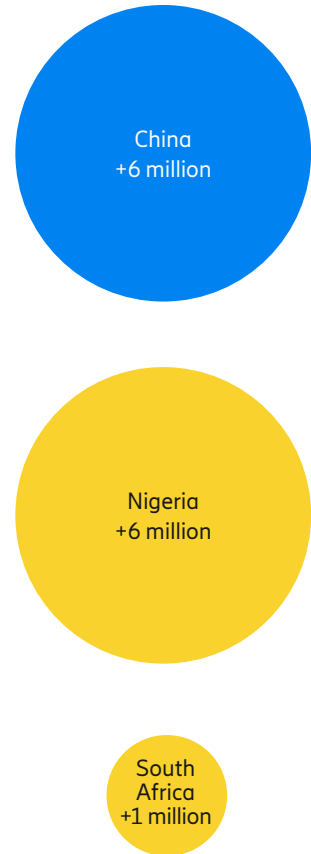
\*\*Excluding China and India

<sup>1</sup> Mainly CDMA2000 EVDO, TD-SCDMA and Mobile WiMAX

Total<sup>2</sup> and net additions for mobile subscriptions Q2 2020 (million)



Top three countries by net additions Q2 2020



**6bn**  
 There are now 6 billion unique mobile subscribers globally.

**80m**  
 5G subscriptions with a 5G-capable device reached 80 million in Q2 2020.

**57%**  
 LTE now accounts for 57 percent of all mobile subscriptions.

<sup>2</sup> Historical data is revised if the underlying data changes, for example if operators report updated subscription figures

# Mobile network traffic Q2 2020

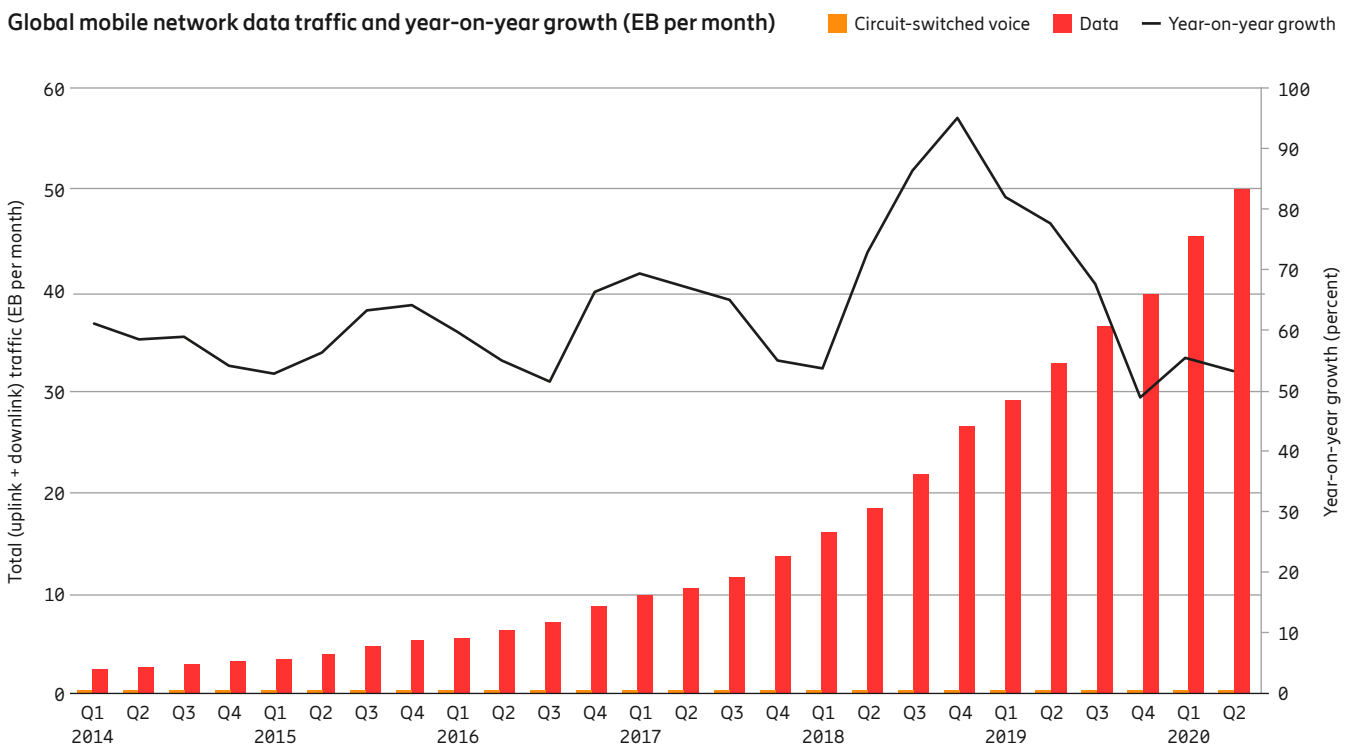
## Mobile network data traffic grew 53 percent between Q2 2019 and Q2 2020.

Just as in Q1 2020, the year-on-year traffic<sup>3</sup> growth rate remained at more normal levels of 53 percent, compared to the extraordinary peak in 2018 and the first part of 2019. The quarter-on-quarter growth rate was close to 11 percent, which is slightly lower than in Q1 2020, when it reached 14 percent.

COVID-19 lockdown restrictions continued to impact consumer behavior during Q2 2020, which in turn affected mobile networks by geographically shifting traffic loads. For example, daytime loads moved, to a degree, from city centers to suburban residential areas due to home-working guidance. This effect was most pronounced in areas with limited penetration of fixed residential broadband connections.

Over the long term, traffic growth is driven by both the rising number of smartphone subscriptions and an increasing average data volume per subscription, fueled primarily by increased viewing of video content. There are large differences in traffic levels between markets, regions and operators.

Global mobile network data traffic and year-on-year growth (EB per month)



Note: Mobile network data traffic also includes traffic generated by fixed wireless access (FWA) services  
 Source: Ericsson traffic measurements (Q2 2020)

<sup>3</sup> Traffic does not include DVB-H, Wi-Fi or Mobile WiMAX. VoIP is included