

Middle East - Mobile Network Operators and MVNOs

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Abstracts

The Middle East - Mobile Network Operators and MVNOs report includes all BuddeComm research data and analysis on this country. Covering trends and developments in telecommunications, mobile, internet, broadband, infrastructure and regulation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Middle East mobile operators face challenges during COVID-19

Mobile operators across the Middle East have faced extraordinary challenges in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic impacting on most facets of mobile services and operations. The operators have had to quickly meet the increased demand for online communication and Internet services, stemming from citizens working and studying remotely, along with supporting service providers offering tele-health and e-education solutions.

In Saudi Arabia, for example, mobile operators have demonstrated a keen sense of social responsibility during the pandemic by launching various initiatives to support society in terms of education, enterprise, and healthcare. Saudi Telecom Company (STC) and Royal Philips (a healthcare solution provider) worked together to develop and implement solutions based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) which allow doctors to treat and diagnose patients remotely.

Many of the operators have observed a change in consumer behaviour during the pandemic, with Du from the United Arab Emirates, for example, experiencing a decline in mobile revenues which was partly attributed to a shift by consumers towards pre-paid mobile phones rather than fixed contracts, in order to manage personal budgets throughout the crisis. Revenues from roaming services have also been impacted upon

with less travel and movement by citizens.

Despite the acute disruption to the Telcos usual business operations; a number of the operators have continued to work on their original strategic plans for 2020 and while progress towards 5G may have slowed, it is still a key priority for many of the operators across the Middle East.

This report provides valuable information, analyses and statistics into the mobile operators in markets of the Middle East and includes the countries of Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Recent developments:

Some operators experienced a decline in roaming revenue due to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The virus outbreak has led to an increased demand for tele-health and e-education services and collaboration with mobile operators to deliver such services.

Many mobile operators in the Middle East have formed partnerships in order to develop and progress 5G readiness.

Companies mentioned in this report include:

Mobile Telecommunications Co (MTC) / Zain, Ooredoo Kuwait (previously National Mobile Telecommunication Co (NMT) / Wataniya Telecom), Kuwait Telecom Company (KTC) / Viva, Batelco, Zain Bahrain, Viva Bahrain, Telecommunication Company of Iran (TCI), Mobile Communications Iran (MCI), MTN Irancell, Tamin Telecom (Rightel), Mobile Telecommunications Company of Isfahan (MTCE), Telecommunication Kish Company (TKC), Iraqi Telephone and Postal Company (ITPC), Asiacell, Zain Iraq, Korek Telecom, Regional Telecom, Cellcom, Orange (Partner), Pelephone (Bezeq), HOT Mobile, Golan Telecom, Rami Levy, Jordan Telecom Group/Orange, Zain Jordan, Batelco/Umniah, Saudi Telecom Company (STC)/Bravo, Integrated Telecom Company (ITC)/Bayn Consortium, GO Telecom/Etihad Atheeb, Mobily/Ettihad Etisalat/Bayanat Al-Oula, Zain KSA, Lebara KSA/Etihad Jawraa, Virgin Mobile Middle East & Africa (Virgin Mobile MEA), Axiom Telecom, VIVA, Etisalat, du, Jordan Telecom Group/Orange, Zain

Jordan, Batelco/Umniah, MTC Touch, Alfa Telecom, Ooredoo Qatar, Vodafone Qatar, OmanTel, Ooredoo Oman, FRiENDi, Majan Telecom (Renna), Samatel, Syrian Telecommunication Establishment (STE), MTN Syria, Syriatel, Turkcell, Vodafone Turkey, Avea.

Contents

1 MOBILE OPERATORS AND COVID-19

2 COUNTRY IMPACT OF COVID-19

- 2.1 Bahrain
- 2.2 Iran
- 2.3 Iraq
- 2.4 Israel
- 2.5 Jordan
- 2.6 Kuwait
- 2.7 Lebanon
- 2.8 Oman
- 2.9 Qatar
- 2.10 Saudi Arabia
- 2.11 Syria
- 2.12 Turkey
- 2.13 United Arab Emirates
- 2.14 Yemen

3 REGIONAL MOBILE OVERVIEW

- 3.1 Middle East country summary

4 REGIONAL MOBILE STATISTICS

- 4.1 Middle East mobile subscriber growth
- 4.2 Middle East mobile data and smartphone growth
- 4.3 Middle East major operators and subscribers

5 BAHRAIN

- 5.1 Market analysis
- 5.2 Mobile network developments
- 5.3 Subscriber registration
- 5.4 Roaming tariff reduction
- 5.5 Mobile Termination Rates (MTR)
- 5.6 OTT providers

- 5.7 Spectrum developments
- 5.8 Major mobile operators

6 IRAN

- 6.1 Market analysis
- 6.2 Mobile network developments
- 6.3 Major mobile operators

7 IRAQ

- 7.1 Market analysis
- 7.2 Mobile regulatory issues
- 7.3 Major mobile operators

8 ISRAEL

- 8.1 Market analysis
- 8.2 Operator statistics
- 8.3 Mobile network developments
- 8.4 Major mobile operators
- 8.5 MVNOs

9 JORDAN

- 9.1 Market analysis
- 9.2 Mobile regulatory issues
- 9.3 Major mobile operators

10 KUWAIT

- 10.1 Market analysis
- 10.2 Operator statistics
- 10.3 Mobile regulatory issues
- 10.4 Major mobile operators

11 LEBANON

- 11.1 Market overview

- 11.2 Operator statistics
- 11.3 Mobile regulatory issues
- 11.4 Major mobile operators

12 OMAN

- 12.1 Mobile market analysis
- 12.2 Operator statistics
- 12.3 Mobile regulatory issues
- 12.4 Major mobile operators

13 QATAR

- 13.1 Market overview
- 13.2 Operator statistics
- 13.3 Mobile regulatory issues
- 13.4 Major mobile operators

14 SAUDI ARABIA

- 14.1 Market overview
- 14.2 Market analysis
- 14.3 Operator statistics
- 14.4 Mobile network developments
- 14.5 Major mobile operators

15 SYRIA

- 15.1 Market analysis
- 15.2 Mobile network developments
- 15.3 Major mobile operators

16 TURKEY

- 16.1 Market analysis
- 16.2 Mobile network developments
- 16.3 Major mobile operators

17 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

17.1 Market analysis

17.2 Major mobile operators

18 YEMEN

18.1 Historical overview

18.2 Market overview

18.3 Regulatory issues

18.4 Major mobile operators

19 GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS

20 RELATED REPORTS

List Of Tables

LIST OF TABLES

- Table 1 Middle East mobile market country profiles - 2019
- Table 2 Middle East - mobile subscriptions and annual growth 2014 - 2020
- Table 3 Zain Bahrain mobile data market share of total revenue 2015 2019
- Table 4 Middle East - mobile smartphone adoption growth 2017; 2020
- Table 5 Middle East Major domestic operators by subscribers 2014 - 2019
- Table 6 Middle East international mobile operators by subscribers 2014 - 2019
- Table 7 Batelco Bahrain revenue by segment 2018; 2019
- Table 8 Batelco total group mobile subscribers 2008 Q1 2018
- Table 9 Zain Bahrain revenue, EBITDA and ARPU - 2008 2019
- Table 10 - Zain Bahrain market share of mobile data revenues 2015 2019
- Table 11 Iran MCI mobile subscribers - 2019
- Table 12 MTN Irancell Revenue and CAPEX 2018 2019
- Table 13 MTN Irancell mobile subscribers and ARPU 2009 Q1 2019
- Table 14 Iraq - mobile operator market shares 2009 2019
- Table 15 Iraq Asiacell revenue, EBITDA and Blended ARPU 2016 2019
- Table 16 Iraq Asiacell subscribers 2015 2019
- Table 17 Zain Iraq financial data 2009 2019
- Table 18 Zain Iraq mobile subscribers 2009 2019
- Table 19 Zain Iraq market share of prepaid subscribers 2009 2019
- Table 20 Iraq Korek Telecom subscribers 2013 2019
- Table 21 Israel - major mobile operators' monthly mobile ARPU 2013 2020
- Table 22 Israel - major mobile operators' market share by subscribers 2010 2017
- Table 23 Israel Cellcom consolidated revenue 2009 Q1 2020
- Table 24 Israel Cellcom mobile subscribers and ARPU 2009 2019
- Table 25 Israel Partner revenue and operating profit 2009 2019
- Table 26 Israel Partner mobile subscribers, churn and monthly ARPU 2009 2019
- Table 27 Israel Pelephone revenue 2010 Q1 2020
- Table 28 Israel Pelephone mobile subscribers and monthly ARPU 2008 2020
- Table 29 Israel HOT Mobile revenue and EBITDA 2017 Q2 2019
- Table 30 Israel HOT Mobile mobile subscribers 2010 2018
- Table 31 Zain Jordan financial data (including ARPU) 2008 2018
- Table 32 Zain Jordan prepaid market share - mobile subscribers 2008 Q1 2019
- Table 33 Orange Jordan mobile revenue and subscribers 2012 2018
- Table 34 Orange Jordan total revenue and EBITDA 2016 - 2018
- Table 35 Jordon Umniah revenue 2016 - 2018

- Table 36 Jordon Umniah mobile subscribers 2008 Q1 2018
- Table 37 Kuwait - mobile operators' market share 2005 2018
- Table 38 Kuwait - mobile operators, subscribers and annual change 2018
- Table 39 Kuwait Zain Group subscribers and revenue 2009 2019
- Table 40 Zain Kuwait revenue, net profit, ARPU and subscribers 2009 2019
- Table 41 Zain Kuwait prepaid share 2005 2018
- Table 42 Ooredoo Kuwait financial data, subscribers, ARPU 2016 - 2019
- Table 43 Kuwait STC (Viva) revenue, net profit, EBITDA, and subscribers 2012 Q1 2019
- Table 44 Lebanon - mobile operators' market share 2009 2019
- Table 45 Lebanon Touch mobile subscribers 2009 2019
- Table 46 Lebanon Alfa mobile subscribers 2009 2019
- Table 47 Oman - operators mobile market share by subscribers 2012 Q1 2019
- Table 48 - Omantel Oman revenue 2018 2019
- Table 49 Omantel Mobile- mobile subscribers 2016 Q2 2019
- Table 50 Ooredoo Oman revenue, EBITDA, ARPU 2015 2019
- Table 51 Ooredoo Oman total fixed and mobile subscribers 2011 2019
- Table 52 - Qatar Major mobile operators' market share 2009 2018
- Table 53 - Vodafone Qatar financial data 1H 2018 1H 2019
- Table 54 - Vodafone Qatar financial data 2009 2019
- Table 55 Vodafone Qatar mobile subscribers 2009 2019
- Table 56 Saudi Arabia - major mobile operators' market share 2005 2018
- Table 57 Saudi Arabia Mobily revenue and mobile subscribers 2006 1H 2019
- Table 58 Saudi Arabia Zain KSA customers, revenue, EBITDA 2016 2018
- Table 59 Syriatel revenue 2008 1H 2018
- Table 60 MTN Syria - revenue and CAPEX 2016 2019
- Table 61 MTN Syria subscribers and annual ARPU 2014 2019
- Table 62 Turkey - mobile operators' spectrum and subscriber market share - 2018; Q2 2019
- Table 63 Turkey - mobile operators' revenue market share by service Q3 2017
- Table 64 Turkey - mobile operators' market share by subscribers 2009 Q2 2019
- Table 65 Turkcell Turkey subscribers 2016 - 2019
- Table 66 Turkcell Turkey monthly mobile ARPU, mobile data usage, MoU 2009 - 2019
- Table 67 Turkcell smartphone penetration 2012 Q2 2019
- Table 68 Vodafone Turkey financial and subscriber data 2008 2020
- Table 69 Turk Telekom Group - prepaid, post-paid subscribers and blended ARPU 2012 2019
- Table 70 UAE mobile operators' market share by subscribers 2010 1H 2018
- Table 71 Etisalat (UAE) mobile revenue and blended ARPU 2016 2018

Table 72 Etisalat (UAE) mobile subscribers 2011 2019
Table 73 UAE du mobile revenue 2017; 2018
Table 74 UAE du mobile subscribers and ARPU 2010 2018
Table 75 MTN Yemen subscribers - 2009 Q2 2019
Table 76 MTN Yemen - ARPU and market share 2009 2018
Table 77 MTN Yemen revenue 2016 2018
Table 78 Yemen Sabafon mobile subscribers 2009 Q2 2019
Table 79 Yemen Mobile mobile subscribers Q2 2017 Q2 2019
Table 80 Yemen Y-Telecom mobile subscribers 2016 2019
Chart 1 Major mobile operators monthly mobile ARPU decline 2013 - 2018
Chart 2 Saudi Arabia major mobile operators market share - 2018
Chart 3 Mobile operator market share based on subscribers - 2019
Exhibit 1 Background information - Orascom Telecom Iraq Corporation/Iraqna
Exhibit 2 Saudi Arabia Historical Bravo acquisition

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