

# Iraq Telecommunications Report Q1 2016

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#### **Abstracts**

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BMI View: Iraq is fundamentally an attractive telecoms market owing to its large population, a mobile penetration rate of just 85%, and the recent allocation of 3G licences, but the emergence of Islamic State (IS) and falling oil prices are impacting the economy and weighing on mobile growth. BMI believes the short-term outlook for telecoms operators is grim, as these challenges are set to remain in place over the next year, at least. Nevertheless, over the longer term, we expect strong growth in the mobile sector, particularly for 3G services given the lack of affordable wireline broadband alternatives.

Latest Updates & Industry Developments

The mobile market contracted by 8.3% y-o-y in Q3 2015 as the security situation continues to take its toll.

Both Zain and Asiacell's revenues recovered slightly in Q3 2015. Take up of 3G services throughout 2015 may help to further stabilise ARPUs over the coming quarters.

Iraq's fixed-line and broadband penetration rates remained low at 5.6% and 1.6% respectively at the end of 2014. 3G will drive access to affordable broadband connectivity over the coming years.



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