

BELGIAN INSTITUTE FOR POSTAL SERVICES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

PRESS RELEASE

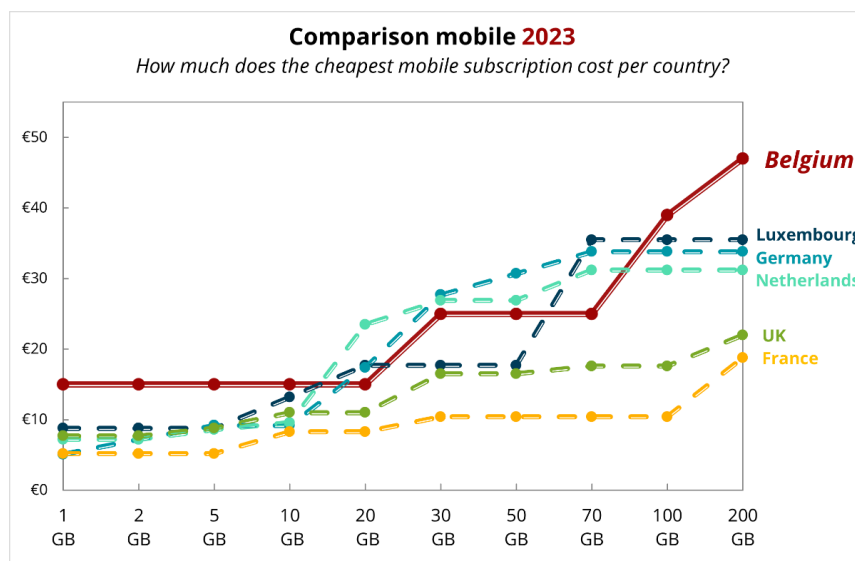
The BIPT publishes international comparative price study for 2023

Brussels, 20 December 2023 – The BIPT publishes its study which compares the prices of telecom services in Belgium with those in the neighbouring countries. The study shows that our country is generally expensive for mobile services, fixed Internet as well as telecom bundles. Especially for large bundles and mobile subscriptions that offer either a limited or a very large amount of data, Belgian telecom prices largely surpass those in our neighbouring countries.

The BIPT has once again compared the prices of Belgian telecommunications services for private users with those in our neighbouring countries: Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The study is based on October 2023 prices and determines the cheapest offer on the market for several consumer profiles.

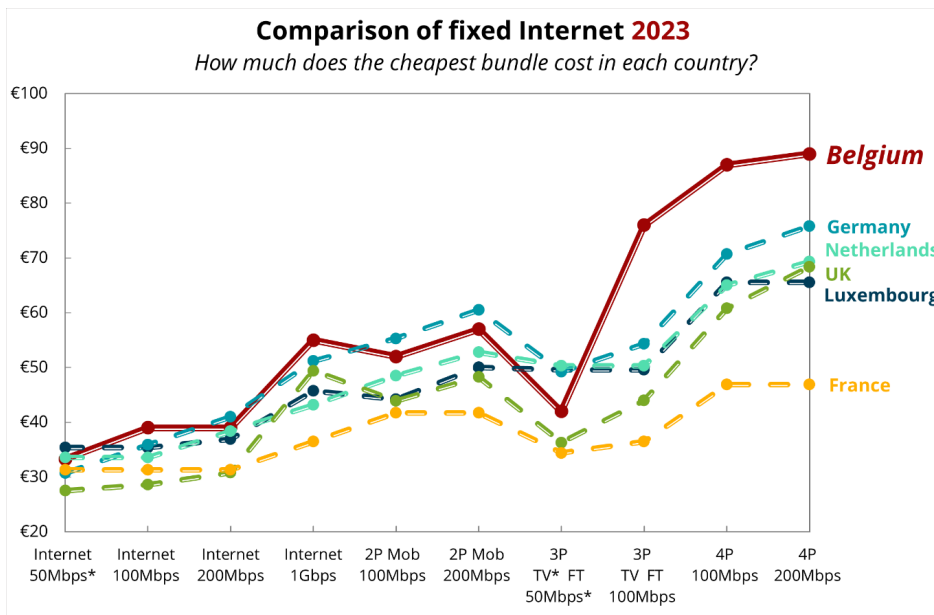
Regarding consumer profiles that require mobile telephony with 1000 minutes and a small data volume of up to 5 GB a month, Belgian consumers pay more than their neighbours by a large margin. For profiles with medium data requirements between 20 and 70 GB, Belgium maintains its middle position and for some consumer profiles Belgium can be found in the cheaper half of the six countries. However, consumers who want 100 GB or more again pay the most in Belgium.

For every mobile profile in this analysis, the United Kingdom and France provide a remarkably cheaper offer than the one available in Belgium. The biggest gap can be found where 100 and 200 GB are required. The cheapest offer on the Belgian market is €28 a month more expensive than in France.



For Internet as a stand-alone service or as part of a bundle including mobile, Belgium is somewhat in line with Luxembourg and Germany but always ranks in the top half. The only profile for which Belgium achieves a good position is the bundle that includes fixed telephony, at least thirty television channels and Internet with the moderate minimum speed of 50 Mbps, for which Scarlet's offer is competitively priced. However, as was also shown in last year's study, our country becomes remarkably more expensive as bundles become bigger. For example, the popular 4P bundles including Internet, digital television, mobile and fixed telephony are by far the most expensive in Belgium.

For fixed Internet and bundles as well, the United Kingdom and France are cheaper than Belgium for all analysed profiles. The biggest difference occurs for the 4P bundle with a 200 Mbps download speed. For the cheapest offer on the market, a consumer with such a profile pays €42 a month more in Belgium than in France.



In the context of high inflation, operators made several adjustments to their offers this year, for mobile subscriptions as well as for fixed Internet and bundles. On the Belgian mobile market this usually involved a 'more for more' approach, whereby both the price and the number of gigabytes went up.

In the case of fixed Internet or bundles, it were generally mere price indexations. This difference between fixed and mobile prices is among other things linked to the position of Orange, which has shifted from a challenger to a more established market player on the fixed market. On the mobile market, there is a higher churn rate and the expected entry of the fourth mobile operator DIGI in 2024. A possible launch of bundles including fixed Internet by DIGI could lead to a revival of the competitive dynamic on the fixed market.

For more information:



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