REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
RATEL
REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES

AN OVERVIEW OF THE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS MARKET

IN THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The Second Quarter of 2023

The Overview presents the data for the second quarter of 2023 along with comparative data for the three previous quarters.

The presented data reflect the overall market status for each given quarter, including the actual quarterly data for the leading business entities that perform electronic communication activities in the Republic of Serbia, whereas the data for the rest of the market were estimated based on the data for 2022 collected in the annual questionnaires. Therefore, the total quarterly report may show discrepancies with respect to the data collected in the regular annual questionnaires. The Regulator shall not be held responsible for the correctness of the data submitted by the business entities in the quarterly and annual questionnaires.

Quarterly electronic communications market indicators referring to fixed telephony include the data on the business entities that make up over 99% of the market, in terms of the number of subscribers. The data on the market situation include CDMA subscribers and the generated traffic.

Quarterly electronic communications market indicators referring to mobile telephony include the data on three business entities providing public mobile electronic communications services and, as of Q1 2019, the Regulator also collects data on business entities providing public mobile electronic communications services in a virtual manner.

Quarterly electronic communications market indicators referring to Internet services include the data for the leading business entities that make up approximately 97% of the market, in terms of the number of subscribers, whereas the data for the remaining 3% of the market were estimated based on the data for 2022 collected in the annual questionnaires.

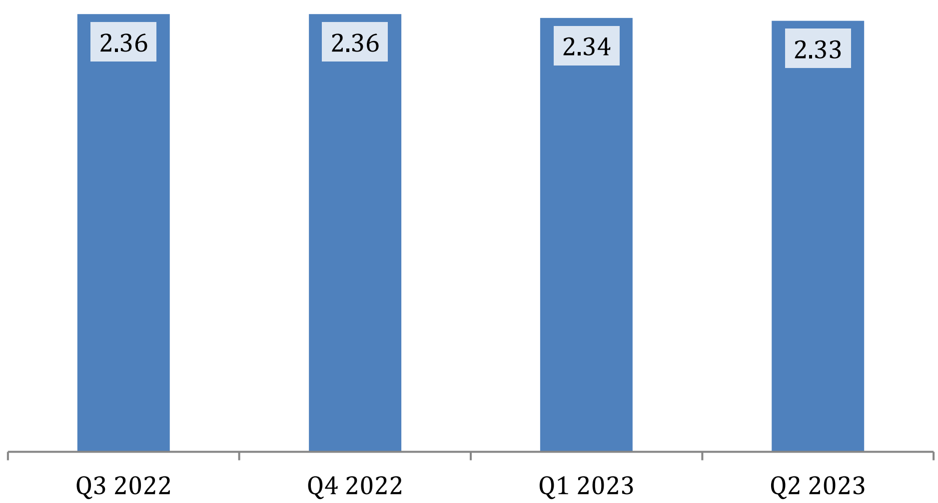
Quarterly electronic communications market indicators referring to media content distribution include the data for the leading electronic communications network operators of media content distribution that make up approximately 99% of the market, in terms of the number of subscribers, whereas the data for the remaining 1% of the market were estimated based on the data for 2022 collected in the annual questionnaires.

Quarterly electronic communications market indicators referring to bundled services include the data for the leading business entities that make up approximately 99% of the market, whereas the data for the remaining 1% of the market were estimated based on the data for 2022 collected in the annual questionnaires.

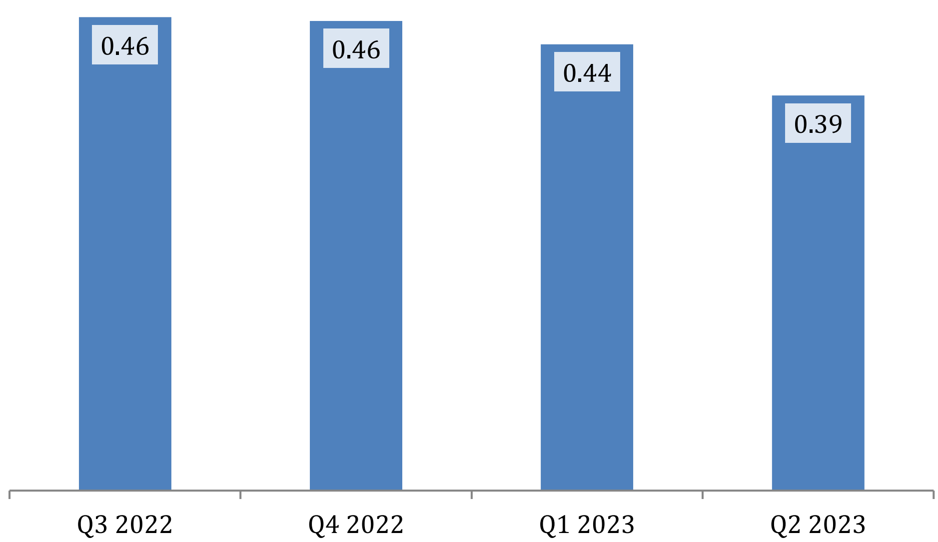
Public Fixed Telecommunications Networks and Services

Both the number of fixed telephony subscribers and generated traffic in the second quarter of 2023 have decreased compared to the previous quarter. Approximately 2.33 million fixed telephony subscribers generated around 390 million minutes of traffic in the last observed quarter, which means that a fixed telephony subscriber on average spent 1.8 minutes a day on calls.

Number of fixed line subscribers (in million)

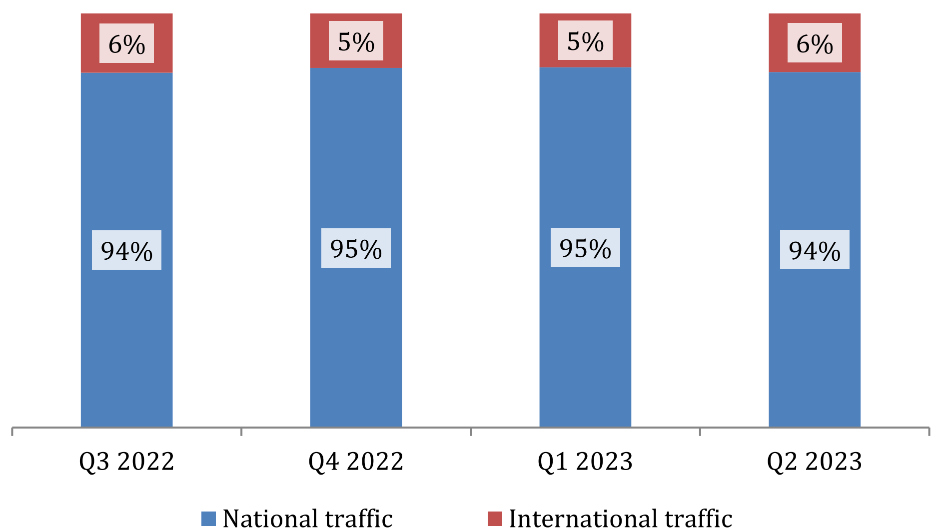


Total fixed telephony traffic (in billion minutes)



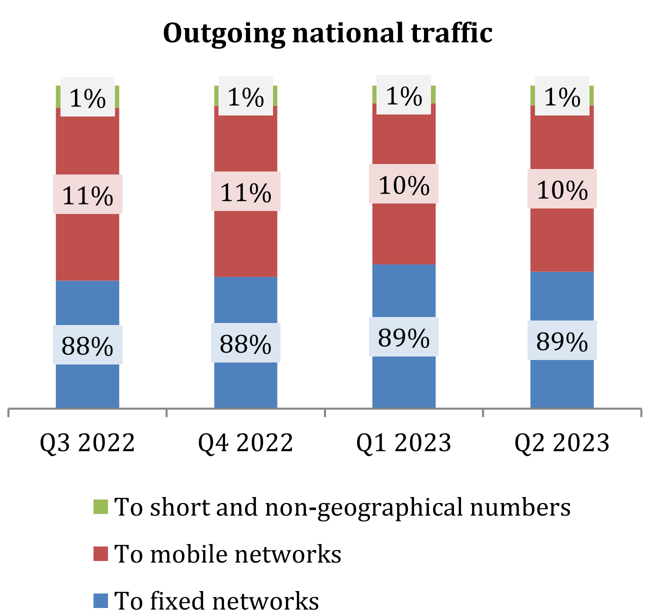
The subscriber structure has not significantly changed over the observed quarters: 87% of the fixed telephony subscribers in the second quarter of 2023 are natural persons, i.e. private users. In all observed quarters, the largest share of the fixed telephony traffic is accounted for by the national traffic, with 94% in Q2 2023.

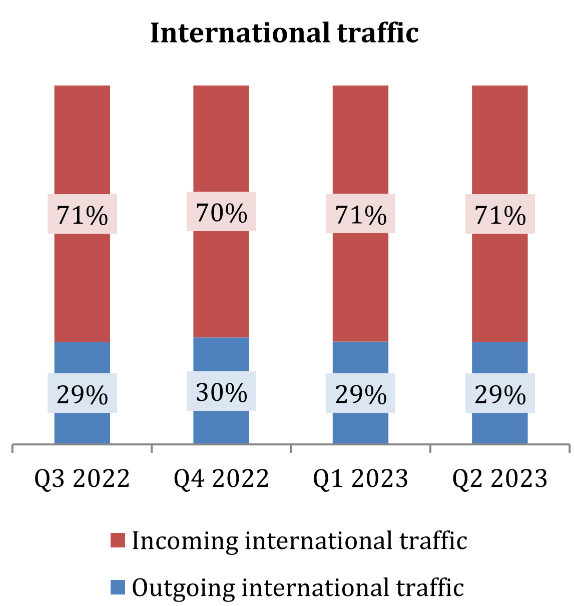
Fixed telephony traffic structure



The outgoing calls from fixed network are mostly directed towards other fixed networks, while the international traffic is dominated by incoming calls.

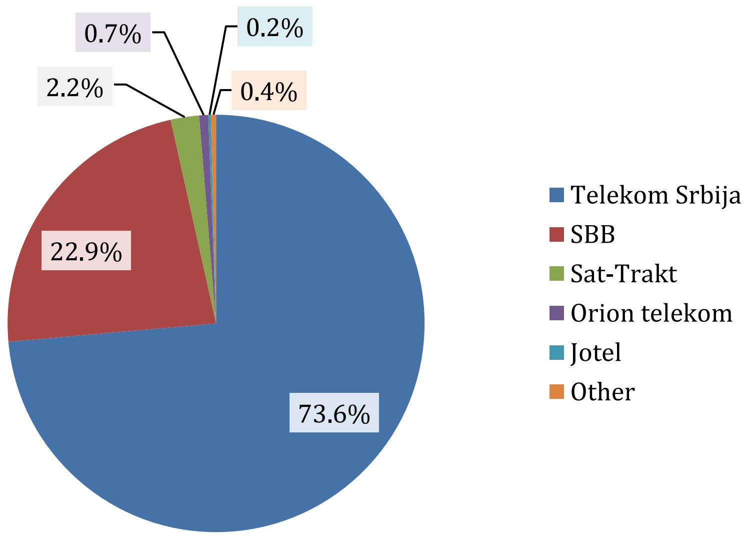
Structure of national and international traffic in fixed telephony





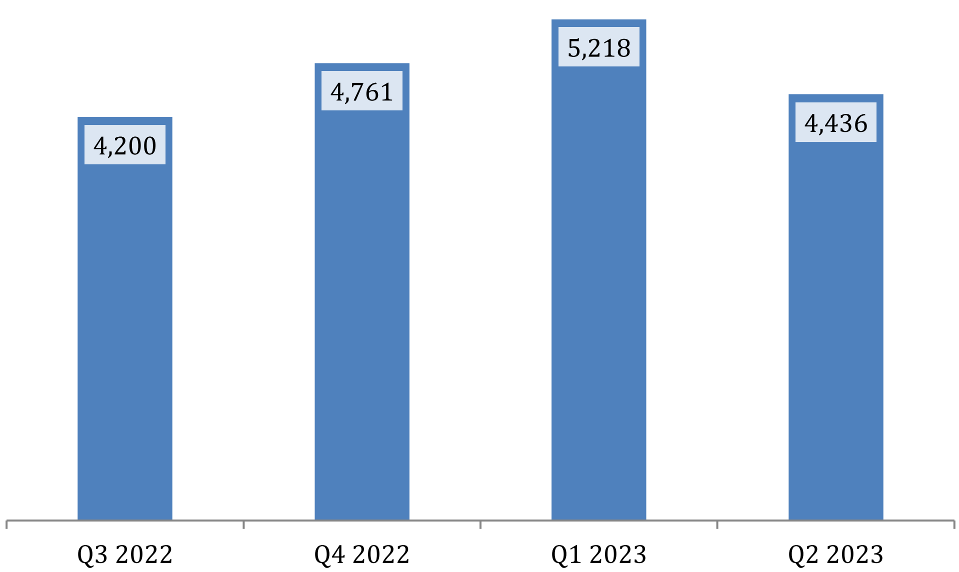
Below is shown the leading business entities' market share in terms of the number of subscribers in Q2 2023.

Business entities' market share by number of subscribers in Q2 2023



The number of portings in Q2 2023 was 4.4 thousand (around 1.5 thousand a month), marking a drop compared to the previous quarter.

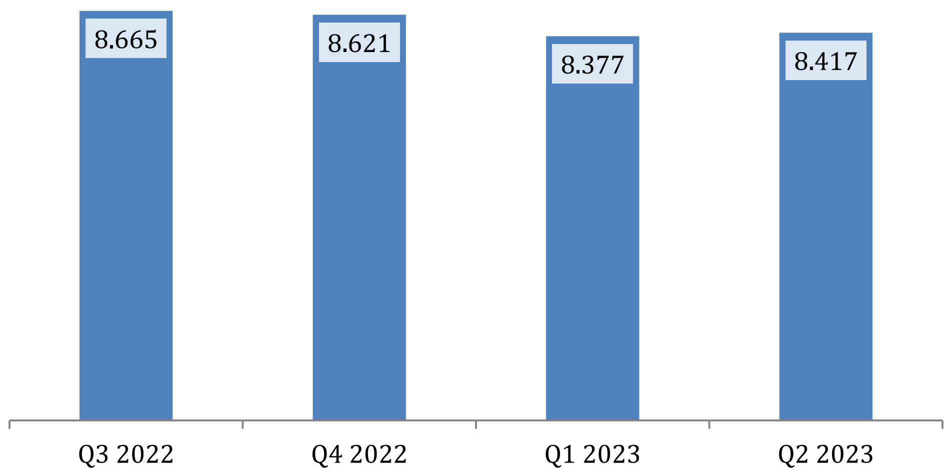
Fixed telephony number portings per quarter



Public Mobile Telecommunications Networks and Services

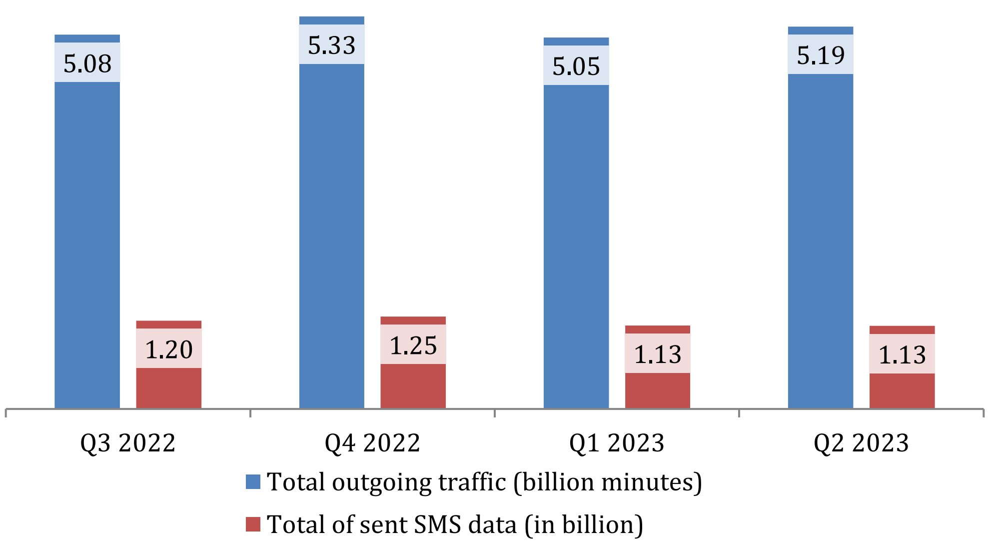
In the second quarter of 2023, there were approximately 8.417 million active mobile telephony subscribers that generated around 5.19 billion minutes of national and international traffic and sent around 1.13 billion SMS messages. On average, in Q2 2023, a mobile user spent around 6.8 minutes a day on calls and sent 1.5 text messages. On the mobile networks market, a slight increase in the number of active mobile telephony subscribers has been observed during Q2 2023.

Total number of active mobile telephony subscribers (in million)



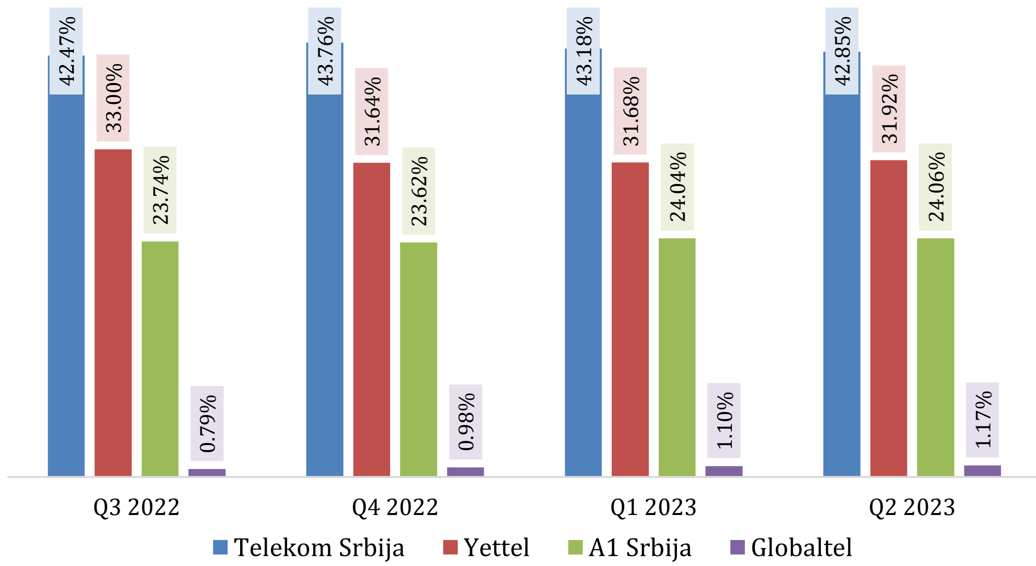
In Q2 2023, the generated voice traffic in mobile networks was bigger than during the previous quarter, whereas the SMS traffic remained approximately on the same level as in Q1 2023.

Generated voice and SMS mobile telephony traffic



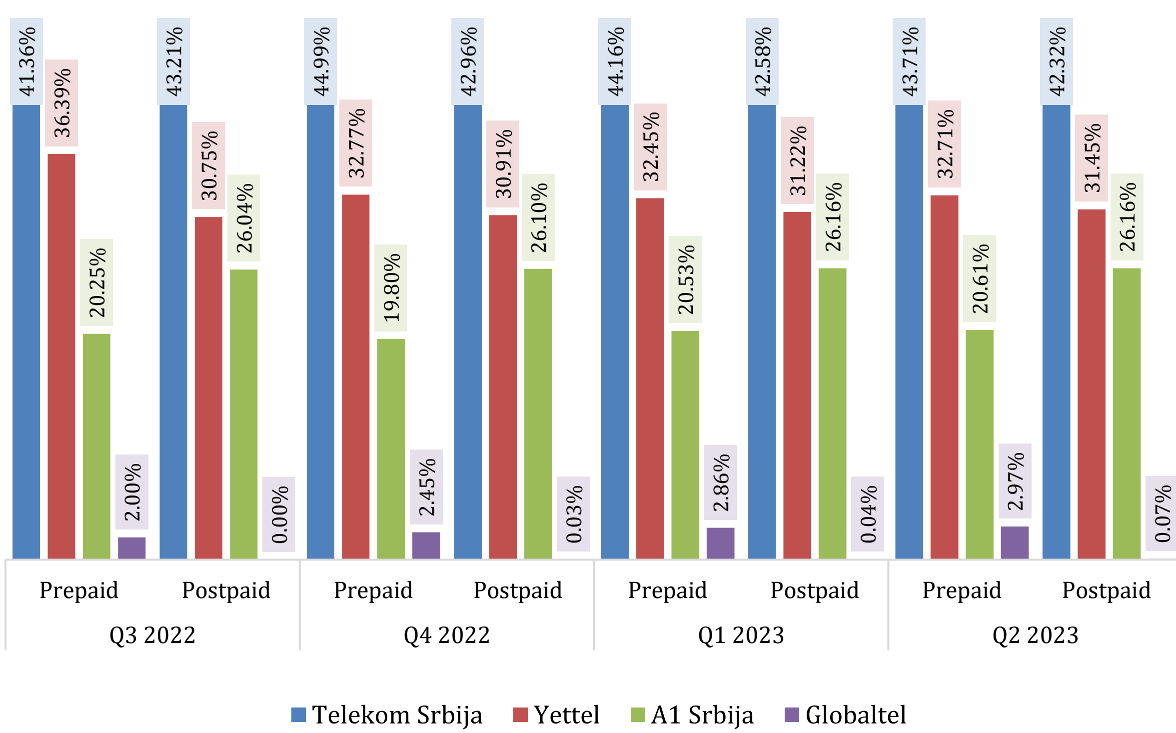
Below are the business entities' shares in the total number of active subscribers.

Business entities' market shares by number of active subscribers



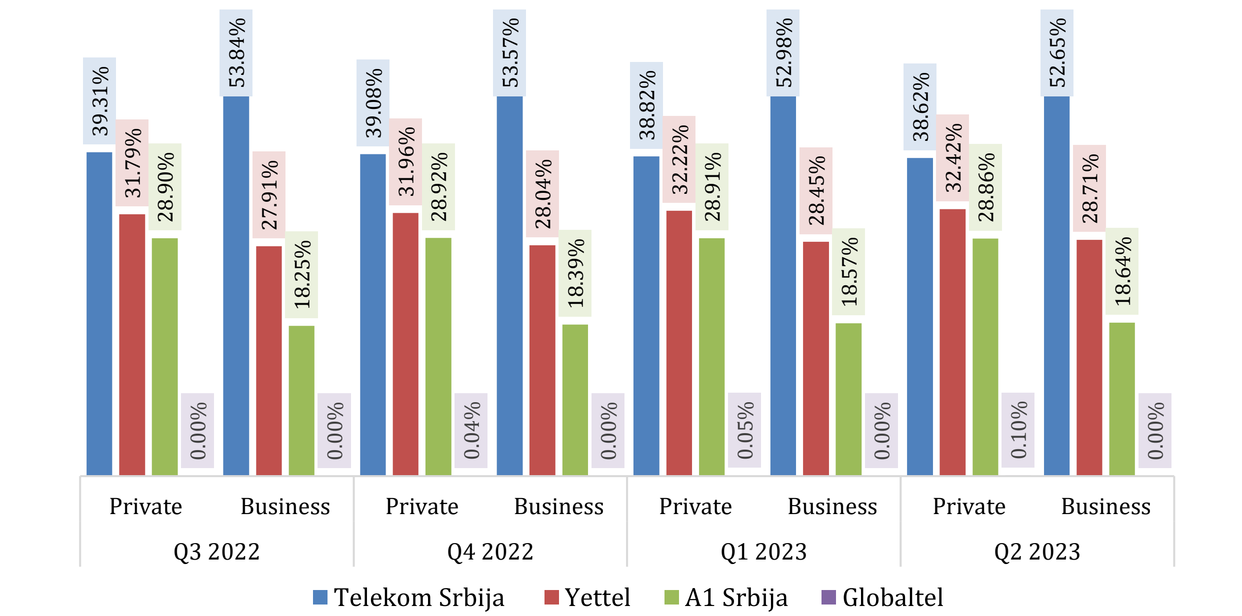
Both the number of postpaid subscribers, amounting to 5.228 million and the number of prepaid users, amounting to 3.189 million in Q2 2023 are showing a modest increase compared to the previous quarter. Below are the business entities' shares in the volume of postpaid and prepaid subscribers.

Business entities' shares in total number of prepaid and postpaid users



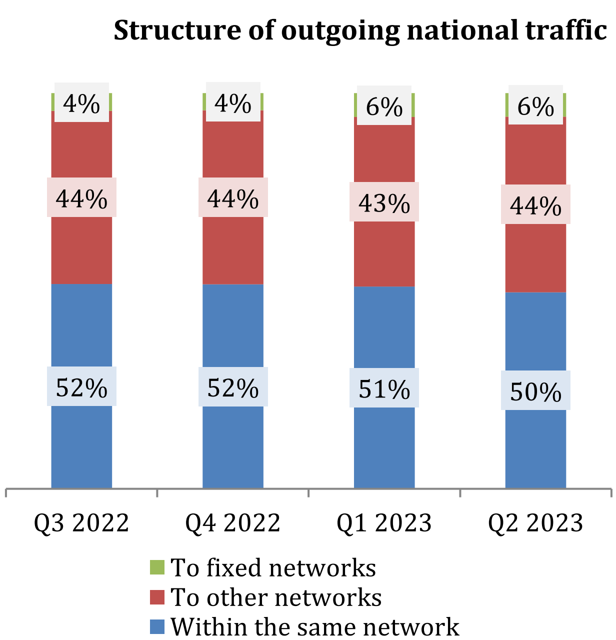
The postpaid users structure in Q2 2023 has not changed significantly compared to the previous quarters. The number of private postpaid users amounts to 3.850 million and the number of business postpaid subscribers to 1.378 million. Below are the business entities' shares in the total number of private and business subscribers.

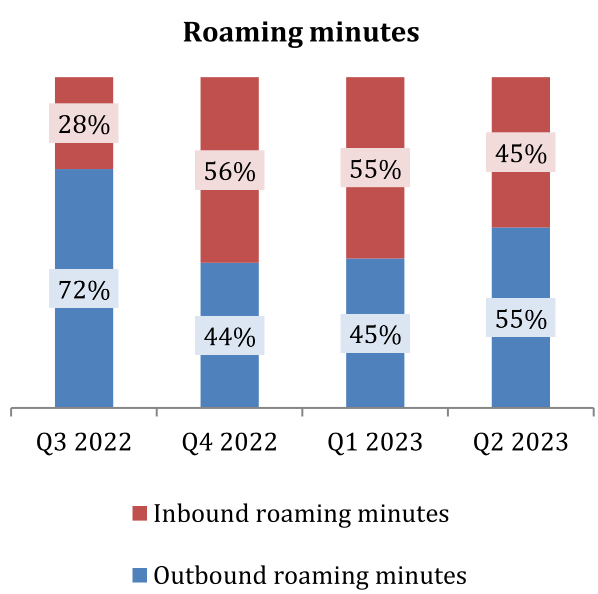
Business entities' shares in total number of private and business users



Most of the outgoing traffic in the second quarter of 2023 was generated within the business entity's own mobile network (50%). As for the roaming, more traffic was generated by the national mobile subscribers abroad than by the users from abroad.

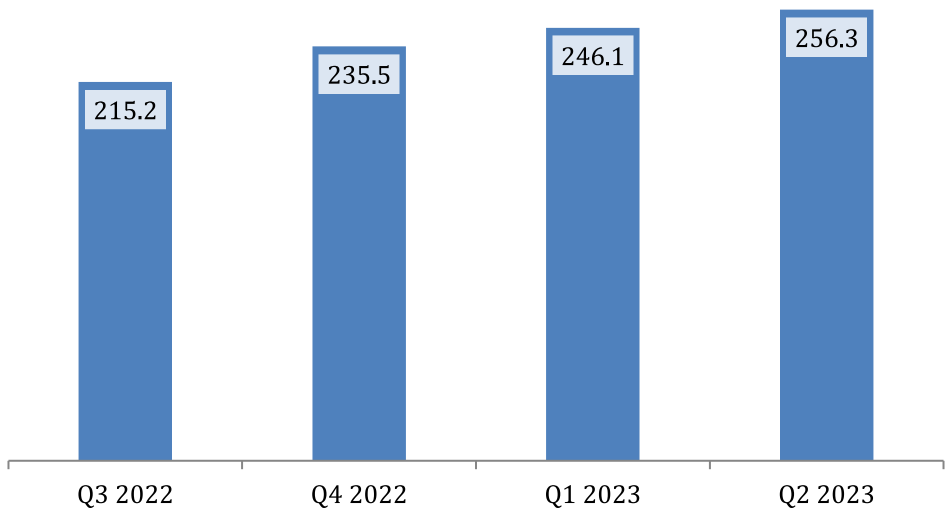
Structure of mobile networks outgoing traffic





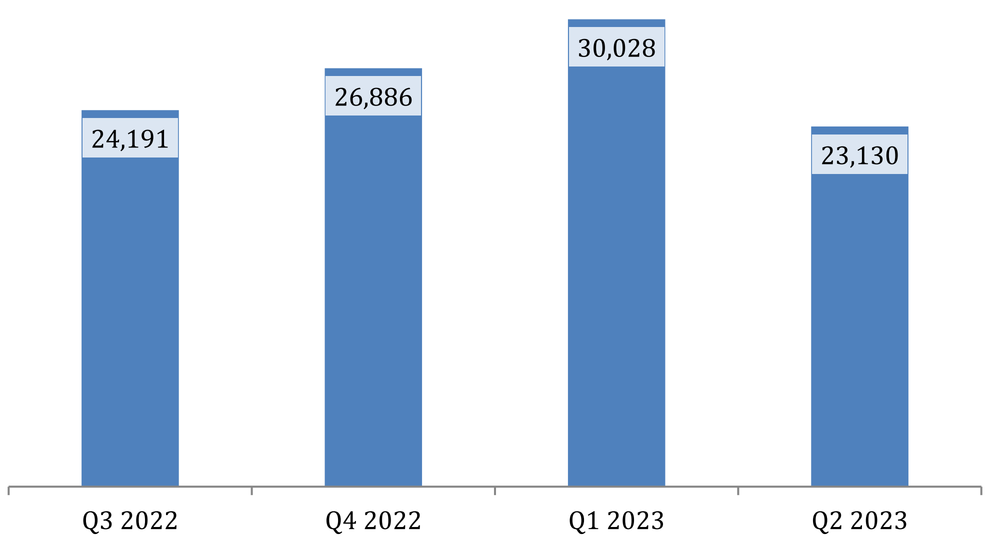
Data transmission over mobile network has increased in the analyzed period, reaching 256.3 million GB in the second quarter of 2023, which means that a mobile broadband subscriber used on average around 398 MB daily, or approximately 11.79 GB a month.

Mobile Internet traffic (in million GB)



The number of mobile telephony number portings was around 23 thousand in the second quarter of 2023, or approximately 7.71 thousand per month, representing a decrease compared to the previous quarter.

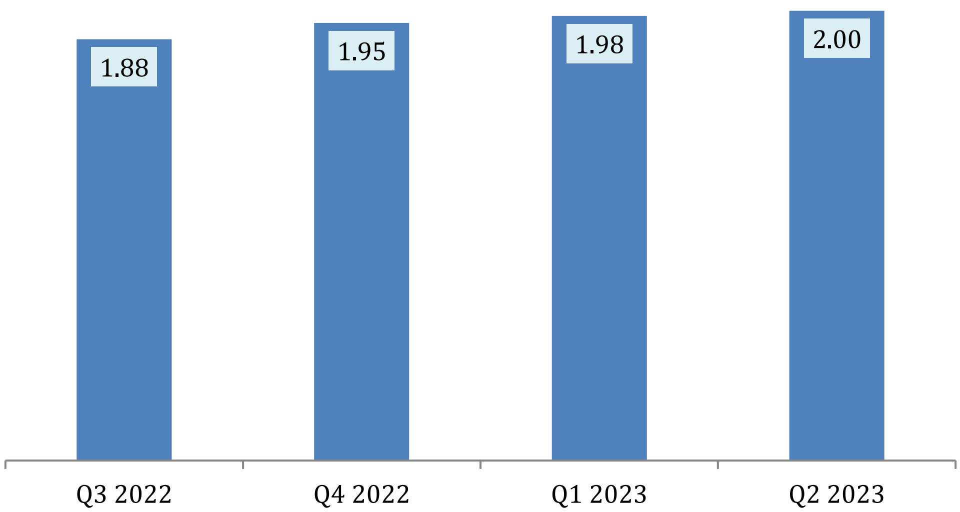
Mobile telephony number portings per quarter



Broadband Internet Access

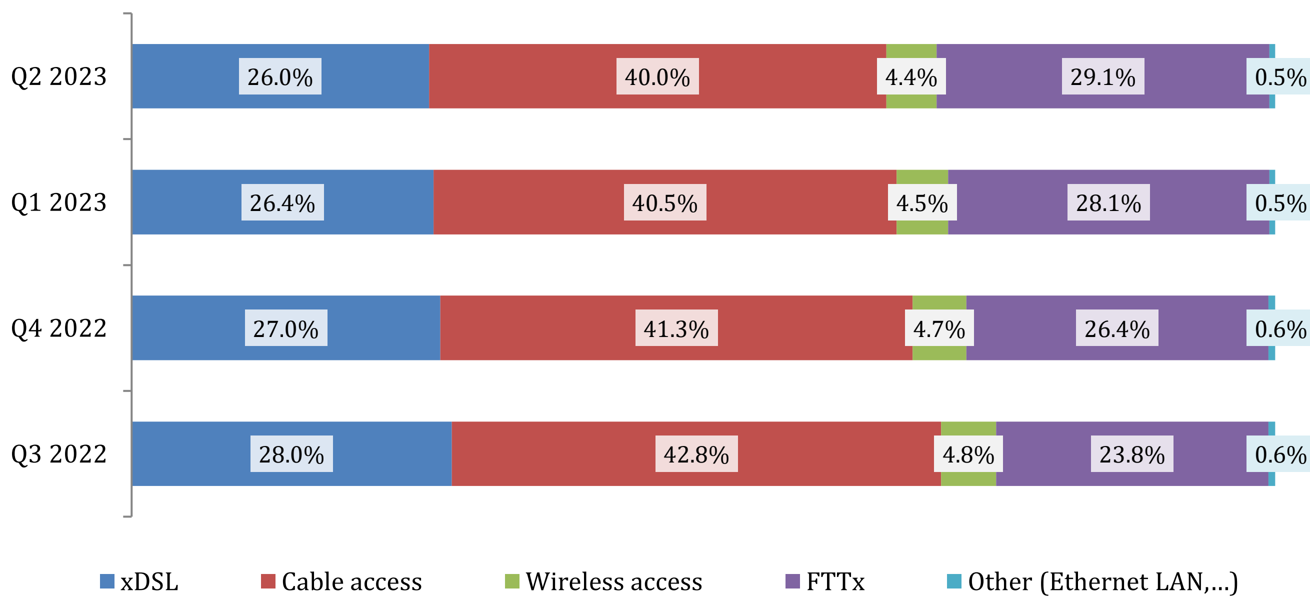
Compared to the previous quarter, the number of fixed broadband Internet access users in Q2 2023 has slighly increased, reaching approximately 2 million subscribers.

Number of fixed broadband Internet subscribers (in million)



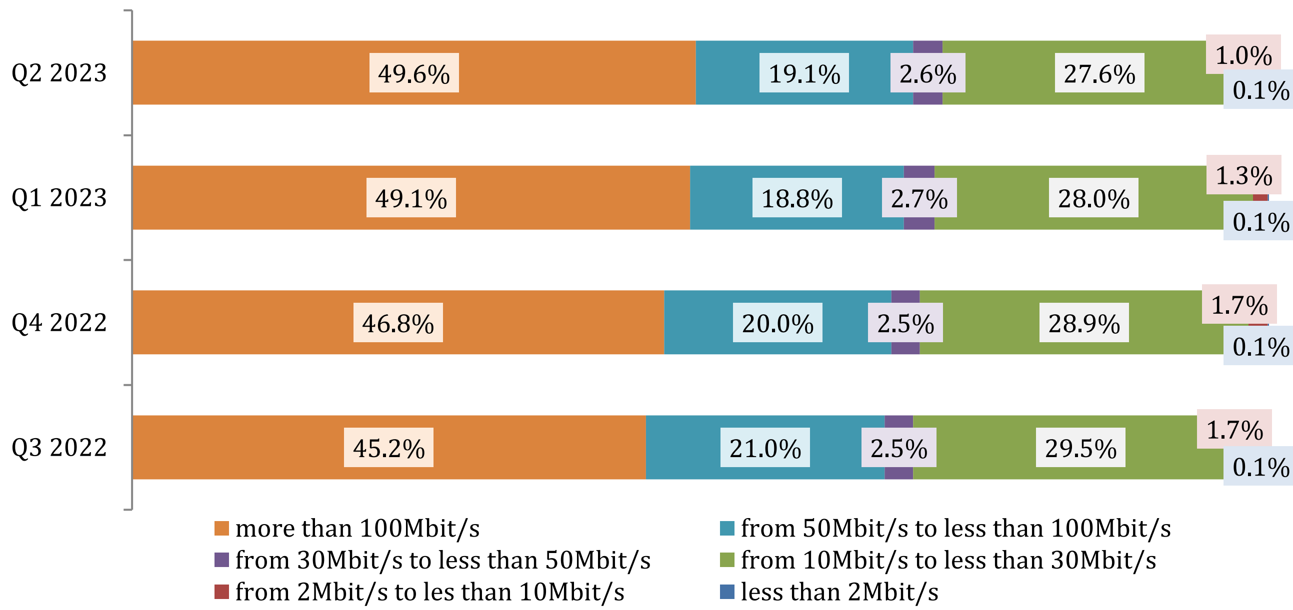
Most fixed broadband Internet subscribers have cable access and FTTx, with the number of both xDSL subscribers and cable access subscribers showing a modest drop in the analyzed period.

Number of subscribers by type of access



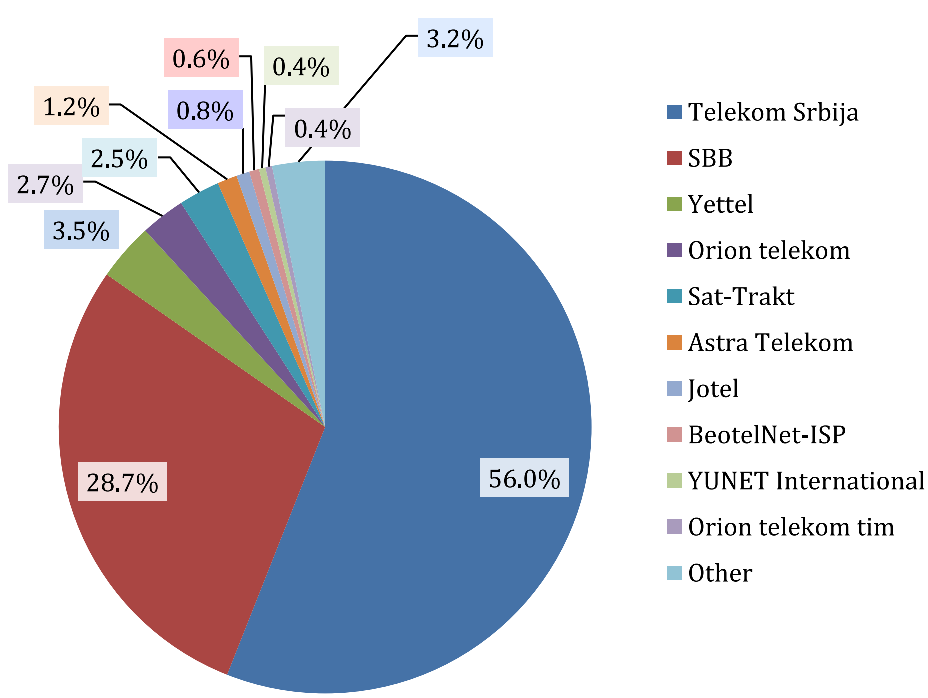
In Q2 2023, the majority of subscribers used Internet speed of more than 100 Mbit/s and between 10 Mbit/s to less than 30 Mbit/s.

Number of fixed broadband Internet subscribers by access rate



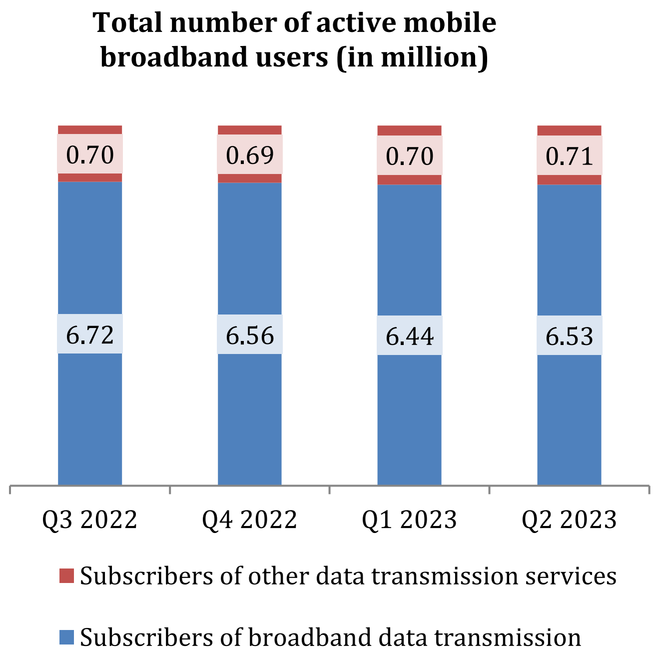
The following figure shows the leading business entities' market shares for Q2 2023, in terms of the number of subscribers.

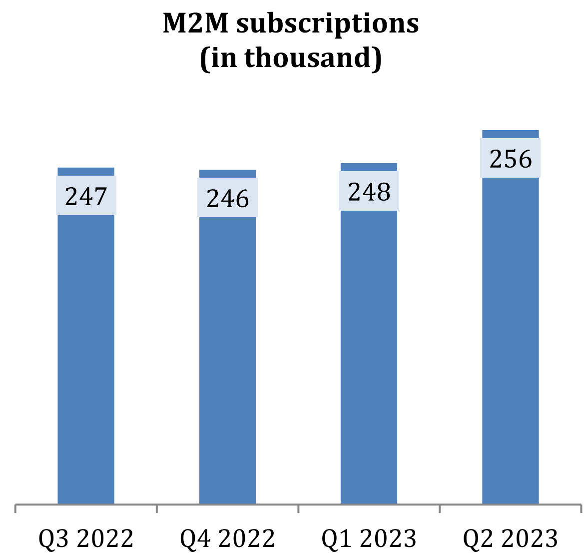
Market shares in terms of number of fixed broadband subscribers in Q2 2023



The number of active mobile broadband subscribers in the second quarter of 2023 has increased compared to the previous quarter, amounting to 7.24 million. The number of M2M subscriptions remains on the rise, with 256 thousand subscribers in Q2 2023.

Number of active mobile broadband users and M2M subscribers



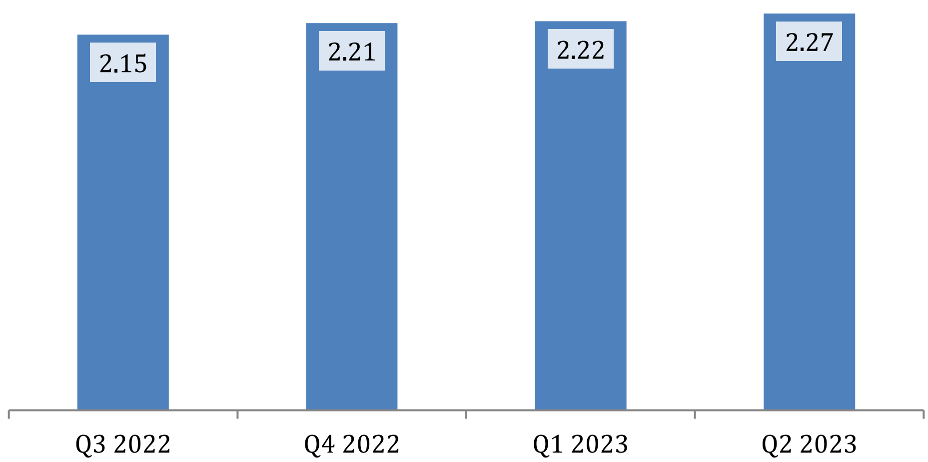


**Active mobile broadband users include subscribers of data transmission services contracted together with voice services, or as an additional package to the voice tariff plan, whereas subscribers of other data transmission services represent mobile broadband transfer users with single service agreement, separate from voice service (data card subscriptions, USB modem/dongle subscriptions, tablet subscriptions and similar).*

Media Content Distribution

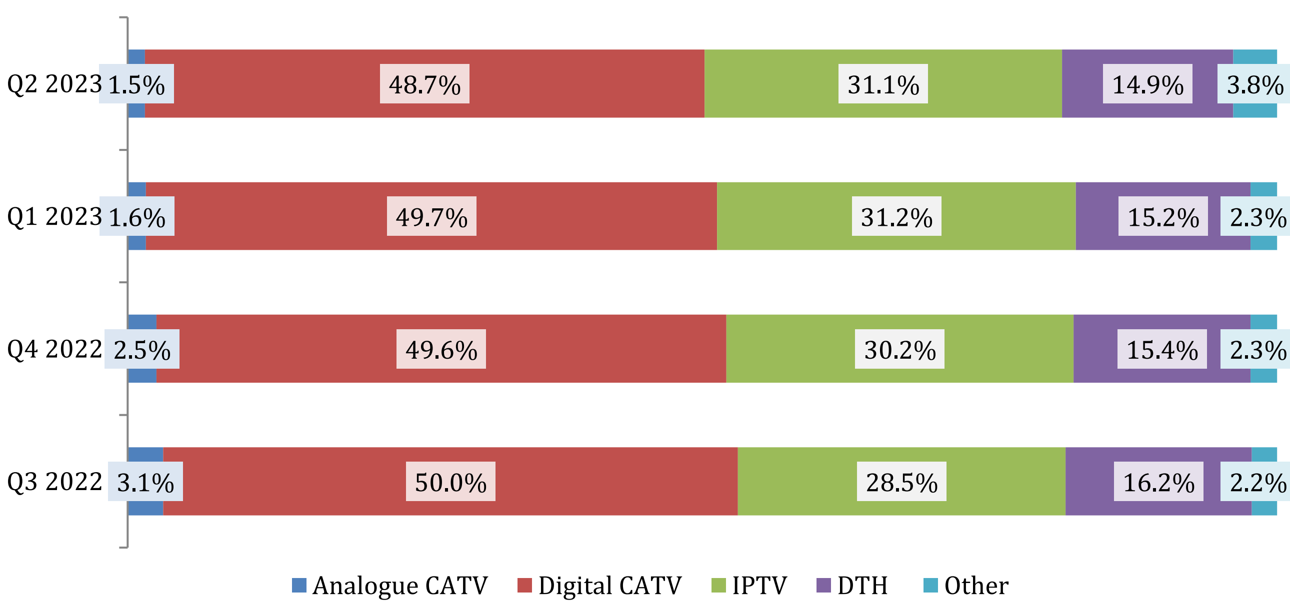
Compared to the previous period, the number of media content distribution service subscribers increased in Q2 2023, reaching approximately 2.27 million.

Number of media content distribution service subscribers (in million)



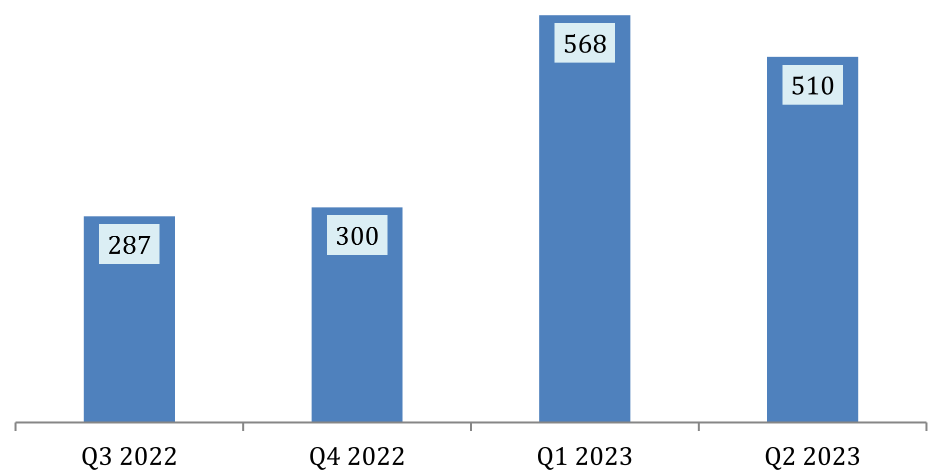
In the second quarter of 2023, most subscribers used digital CATV distribution (around 49%). The number of IPTV and DTH subscribers slightly decreased compared to the previous quarter. The least number of subscribers is connected to analogue CATV (around 1.5%). The media content distribution via Internet and wireless network were the least used in Q2 2023 (around 3.8%).

Media content distribution subscribers by type of distribution



The number of met requests for additional services, such as video on demand (VoD), content recording, TV on mobile devices, playback etc, has decreased in Q2 2023 compared to Q1 2023, reaching approximately 510 million requests, or some 90 requests per user a month. The number of met VoD requests in Q2 2023 was around 10.7 million.

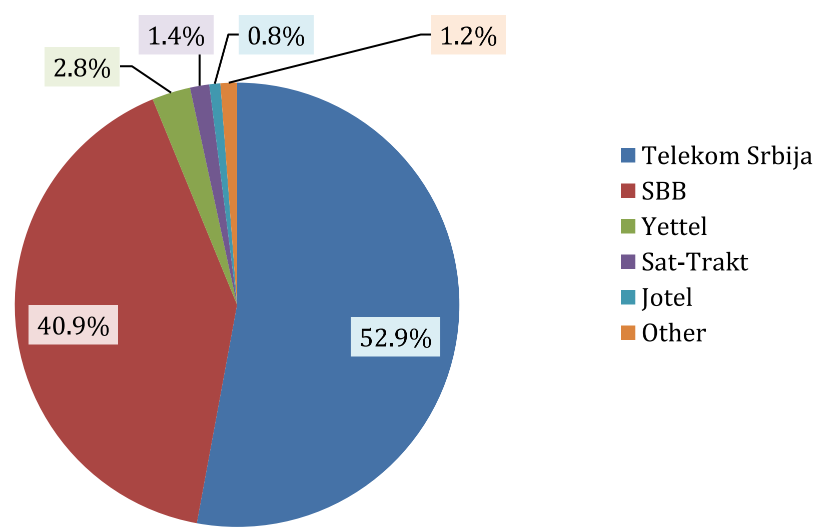
Number of met requests for additional services (in million)



In the second quarter of 2023, around 27% of the media content distribution subscribers with the possibility to have additional channels, subscribed to such programmes.

The following figure shows the Q2 2023 market shares of the electronic communications network operators for media content distribution, in terms of the number of subscribers.

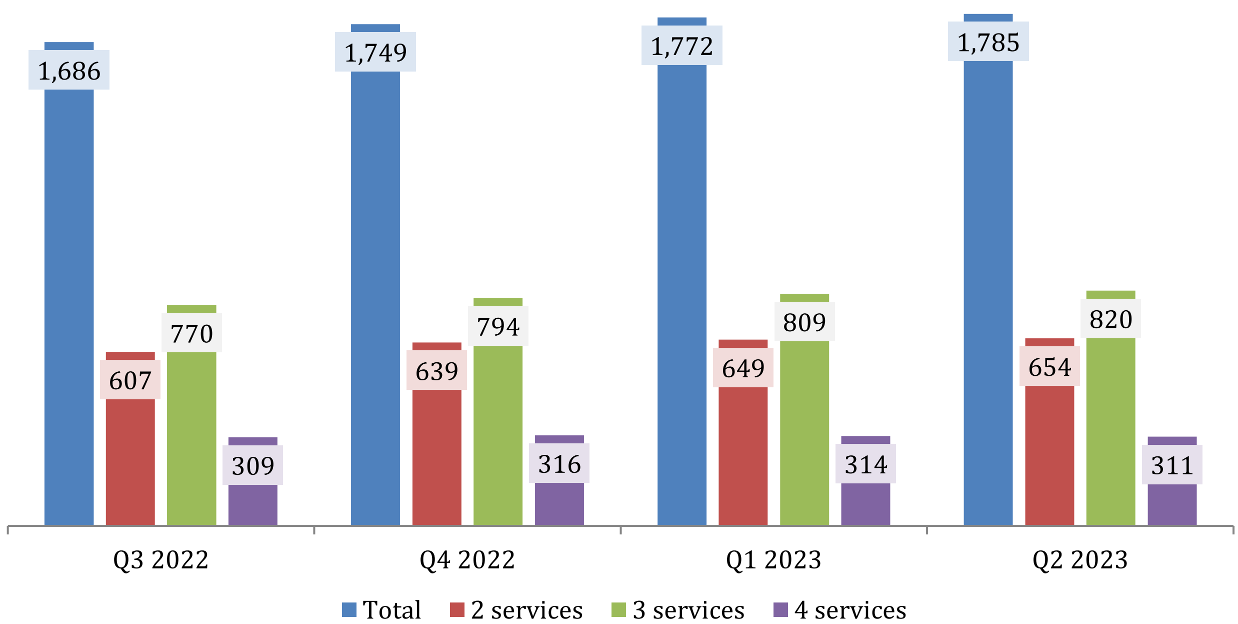
Market shares of electronic communications network operators for media content distribution by number of subscribers in Q2 2023



Bundled Services

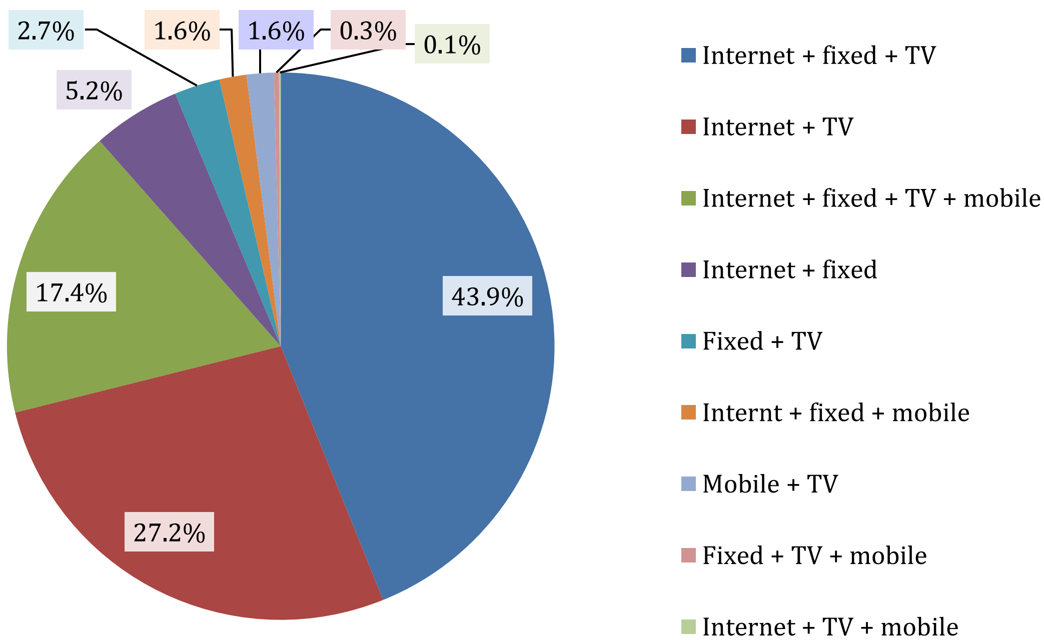
The number of bundled service subscribers in Q2 2023 has increased compared to the previous quarter, reaching approximately 1.785 million. Packages offering three services were most used, whereas least used were packages with four services.

Number of bundled service users (in thousand)



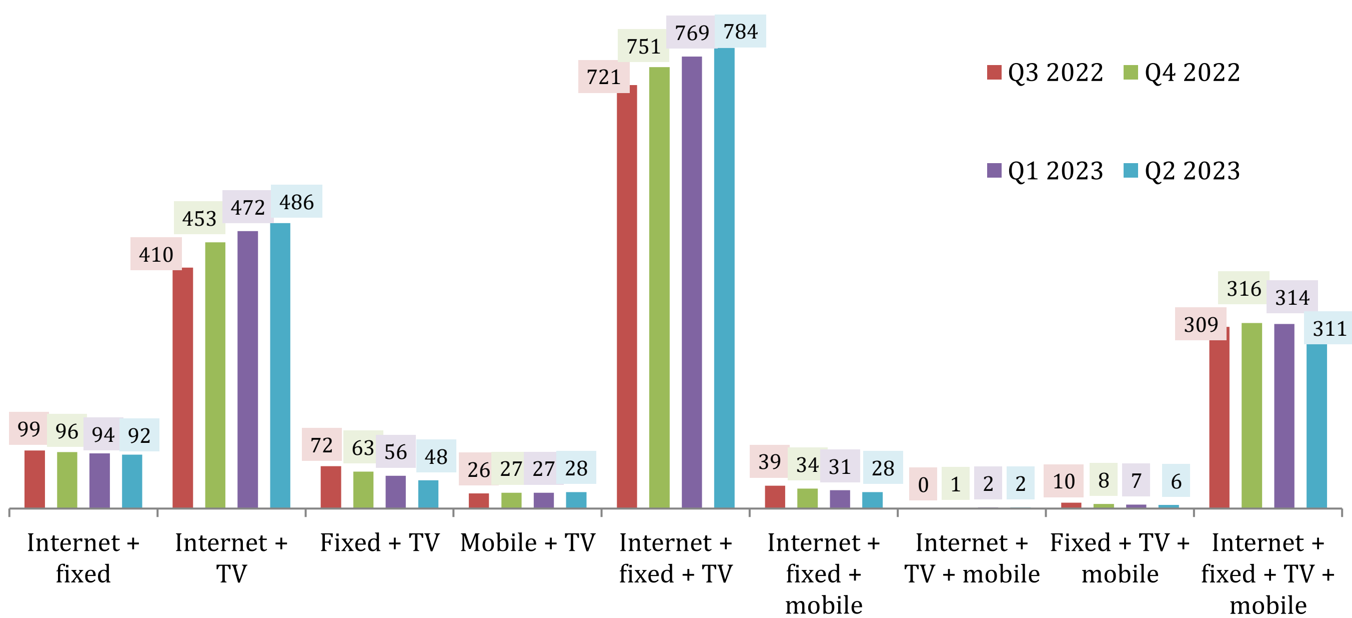
Of all bundled services offered by operators in Q2 2023, the most popular was the package with broadband Internet access, fixed telephony and TV, followed by a double-play offering broadband Internet access and TV, as well as the only available quad-play package including broadband Internet access, fixed telephony, TV and mobile telephony. The biggest growth in the second quarter of 2023 was achieved by a triple-play offering broadband Internet, fixed telephony and TV. A double-play with mobile telephony and TV, a triple-play offering fixed and mobile telephony and TV, as well as a package including Internet access, TV and mobile telephony had the lowest number of subscribers. The shares of different bundled services in terms of the number of subscribers are given below.

Distribution of bundled services in Q2 2023



Changes in different packages' number of subscribers can be seen below.

Number of bundled service users by type of service (in thousand)



Broadband Internet access is mostly purchased as a bundled service, whereas mobile telephony is generally purchased as a stand-alone service.

Distribution of stand-alone and bundled services purchased in Q2 2023