

# **Qatar Telecom Pricing**

**International Benchmarking Report,  
comparing prices in Qatar with other  
GCC countries**



## *Report overview*

*This report focusses on retail prices for telecommunications services in Qatar compared to other GCC countries. Comparison with relevant Arab and OECD averages is also included.*

*The information behind this report is drawn from the price benchmarking study for Aregnet countries performed by Strategy Analytics Ltd. This study is based on OECD price benchmarking methodologies, and uses data gathered in June 2015.*

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## Benchmarking methodology

- The services covered in this report are the same as the services covered in the main AREGNET report, namely:
  - Fixed voice (PSTN)
  - Mobile telephony
  - Fixed Broadband
  - Mobile Broadband
  - Leased lines
- The geographical coverage for this report is the GCC countries
  - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE
    - Fixed service data for Kuwait is not available
- This report shows results based on the relevant OECD baskets for each service
- In addition, aggregate analyses have been included, to illustrate the likely total costs faced by consumers and businesses separately who subscribe to a number of communications services. In this analysis, 3 types of user have been defined for consumers; with low usage, medium usage and high usage, and 2 types of user for businesses; medium and high usage.
- This study is based on OECD price benchmarking methodologies, and uses data gathered from operator websites in June 2015.

The Aregnet report was produced by Strategy Analytics for TRA Bahrain, covering the 22 Aregnet member countries. This report is available from the website of TRA Bahrain.

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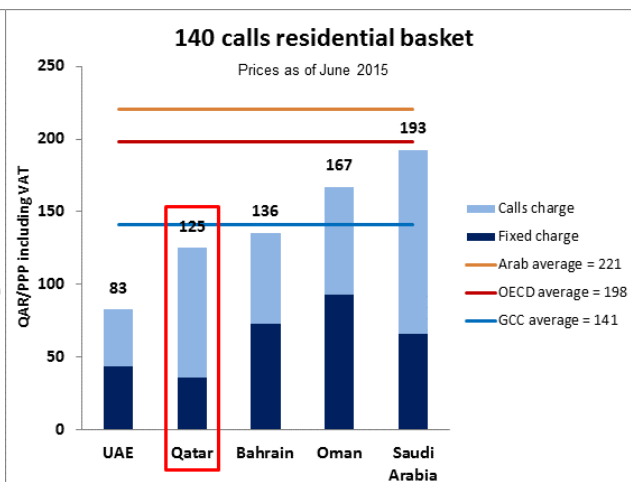
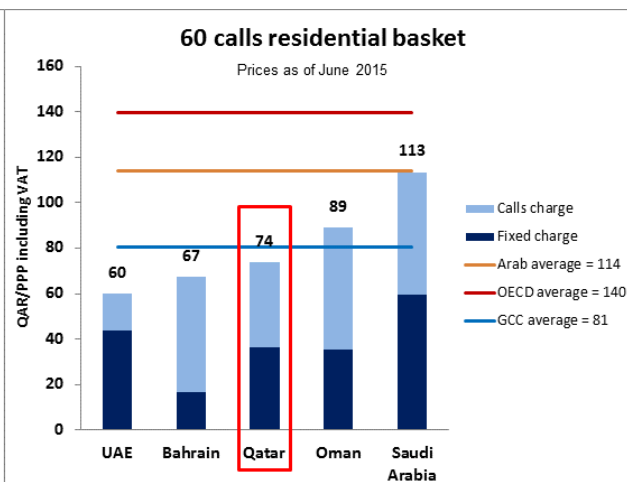
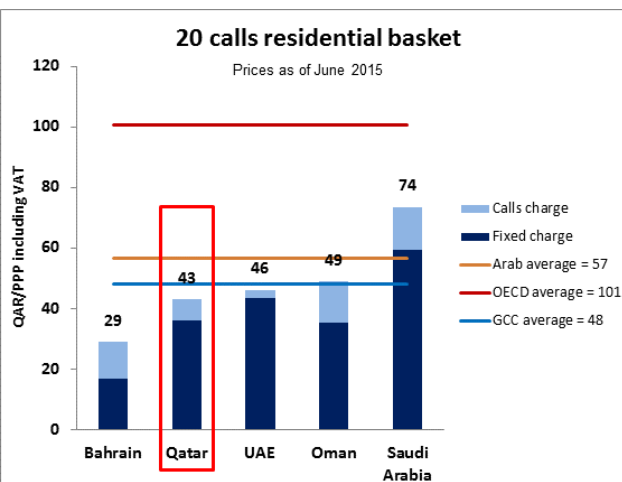
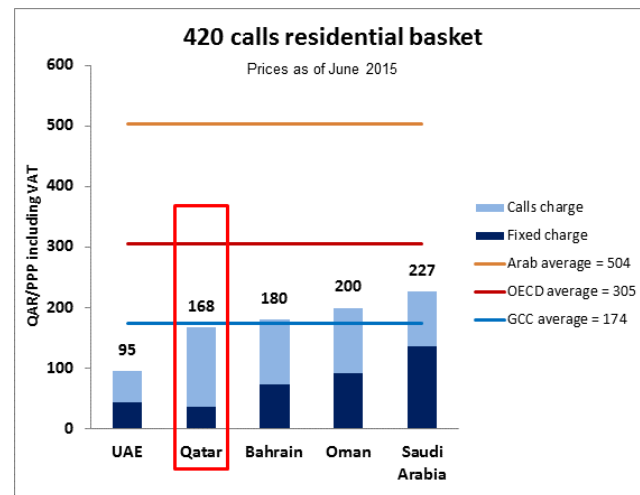
# 1

## Fixed Voice Services (PSTN)

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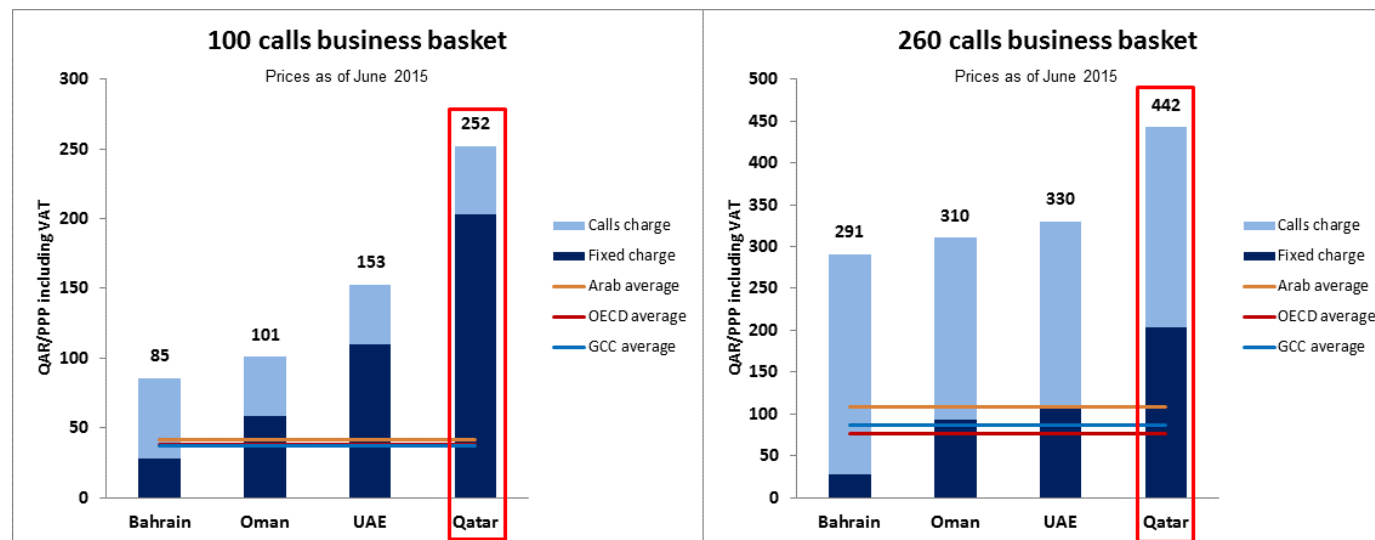
# PSTN residential baskets

- Qatar does, for most usage scenarios have the second lowest prices in GCC. The fixed cost element is mid range at low usage, but becomes relatively lower as usage increases.
- Qatari prices are well below the Arab and OECD averages, and close to the GCC averages.
- The Ooredoo tariff has no call charges for national calls to fixed lines. The charge for calls to mobiles is on the high side compared to other GCC countries.



## PSTN business baskets

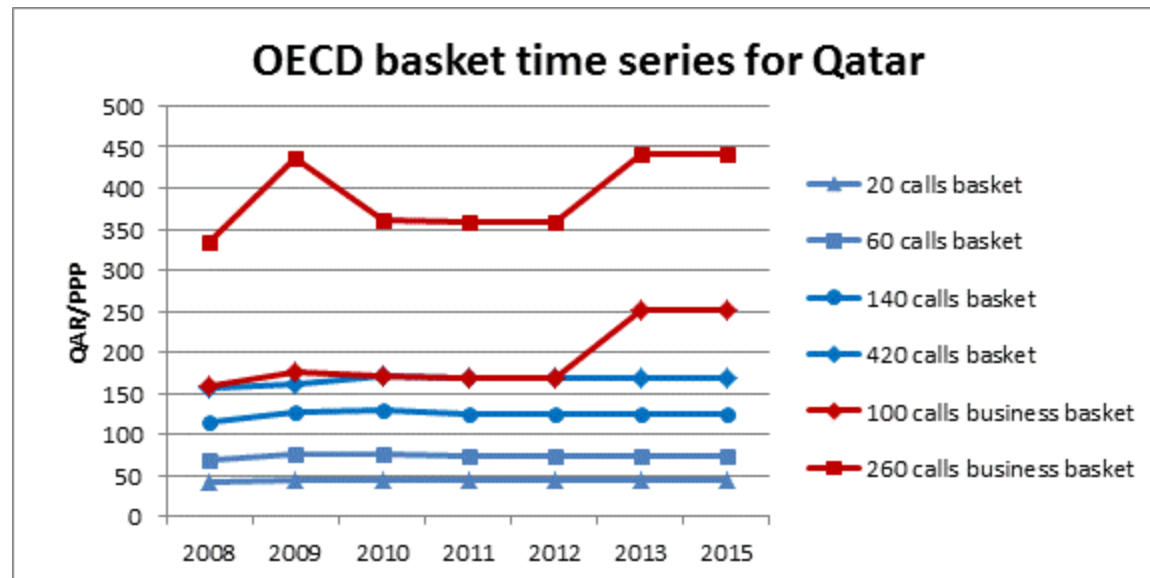
- Qatar has the most expensive business service in GCC, mainly because of high line rental for business phones from Ooredoo.
- Usage charges are free for national calls to fixed lines, and are overall comparable with other GCC countries.



Business prices based on 2013 data, as it was not possible to confirm Ooredoo business prices in 2015.

## PSTN basket results time series for Qatar

- Residential PSTN prices in Qatar have not changed much over the last 5-6 years.
- Business PSTN prices however have been on an upward trend.



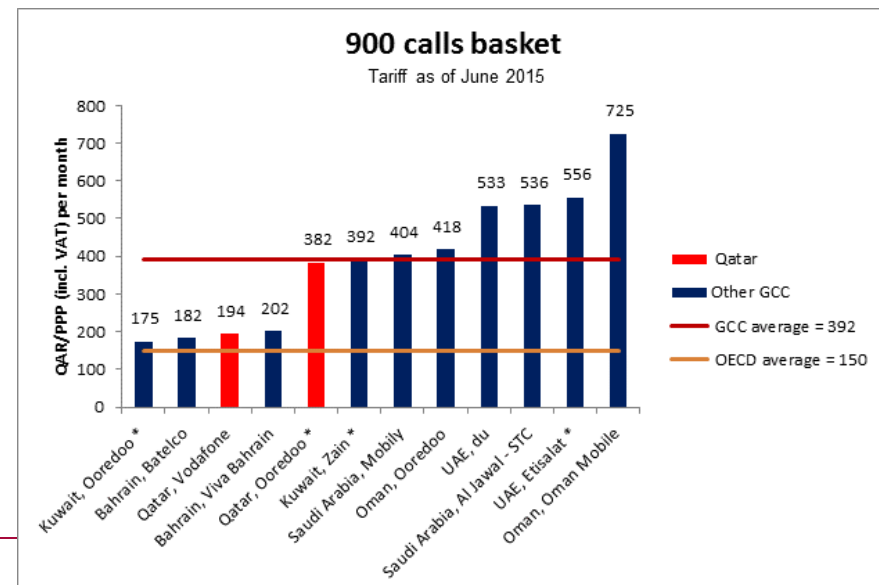
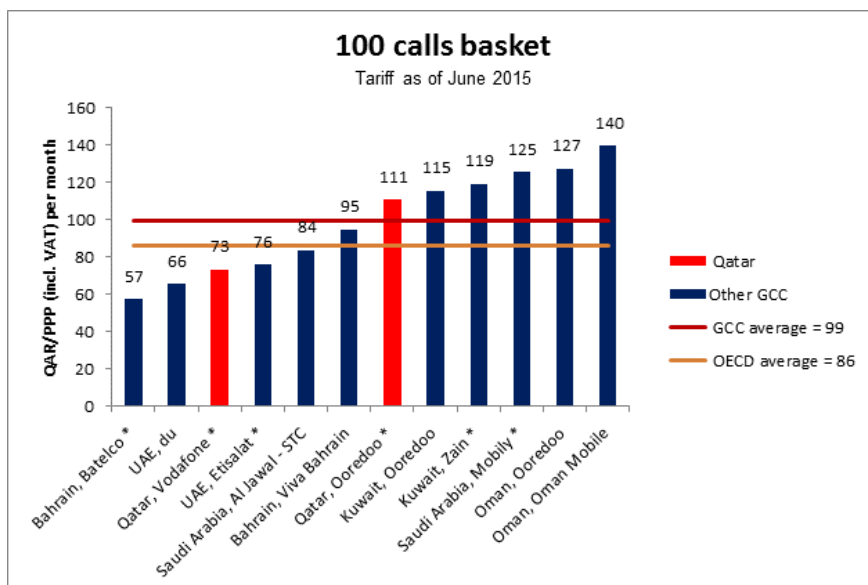
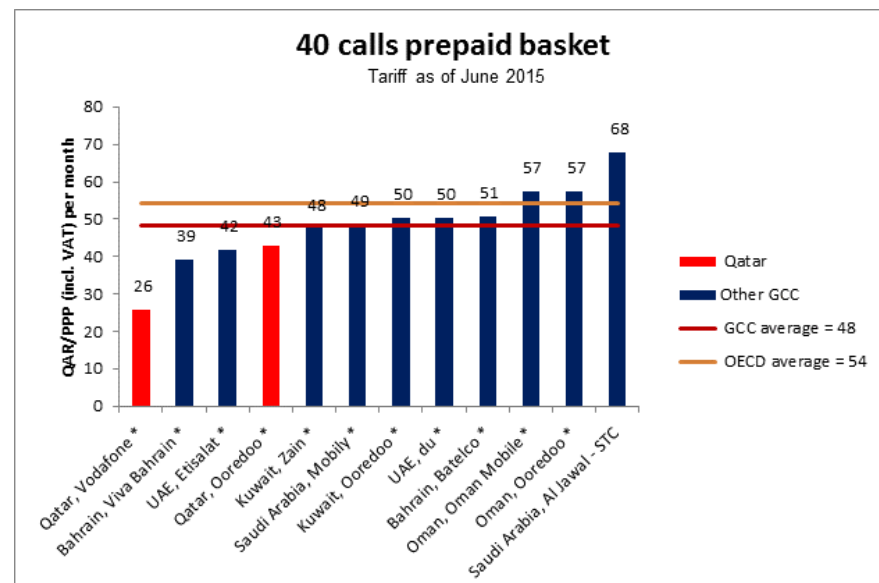


# 2

## Mobile Voice Services

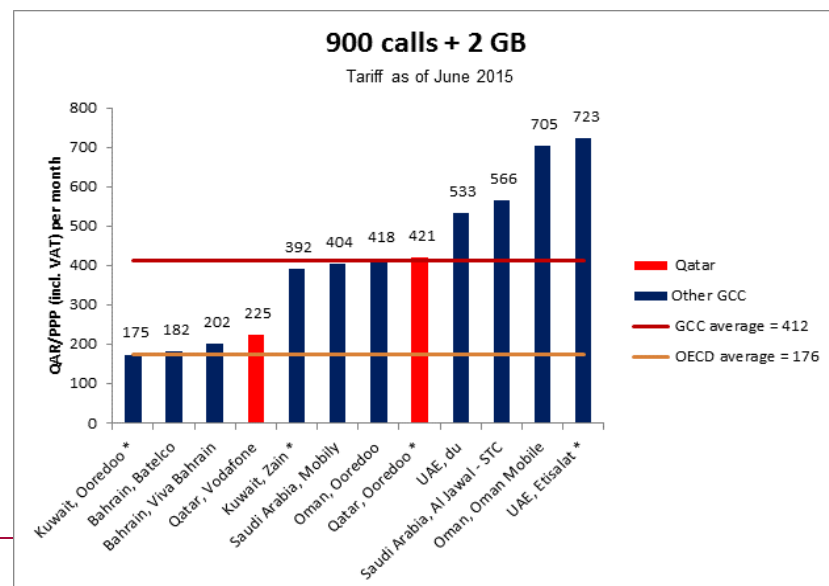
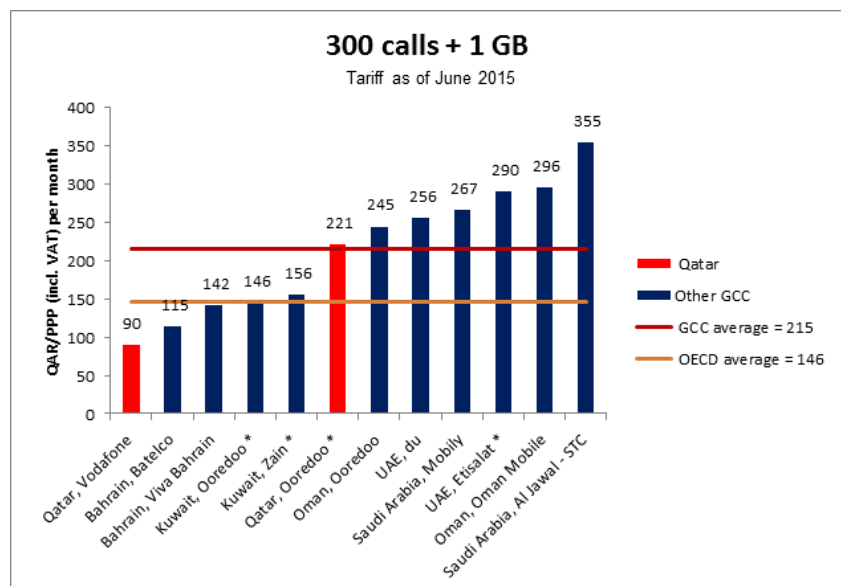
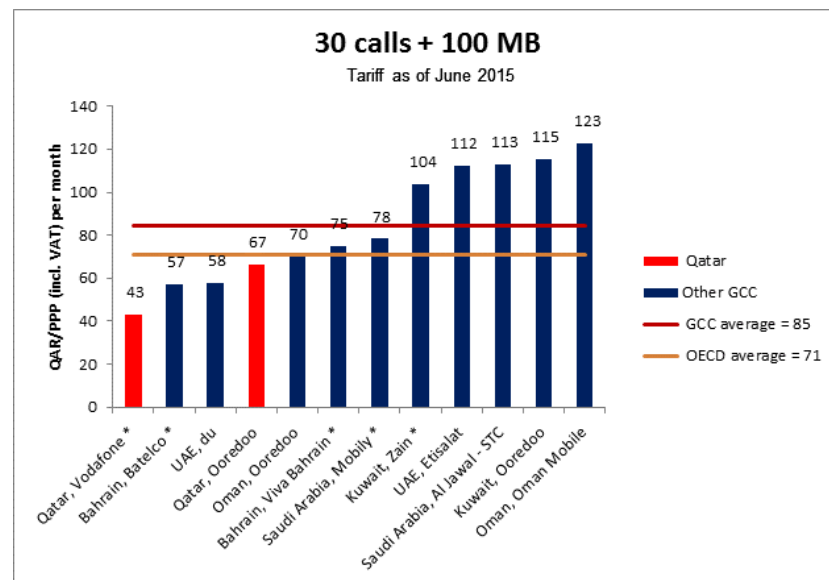
## Mobile baskets without data

- Mobile prices in Qatar are below or around the GCC average
- For low usage the best Qatari prices are below other GCC prices, and in most cases below the OECD average.
- There is a consistent difference between the two Qatari operators across the range of baskets



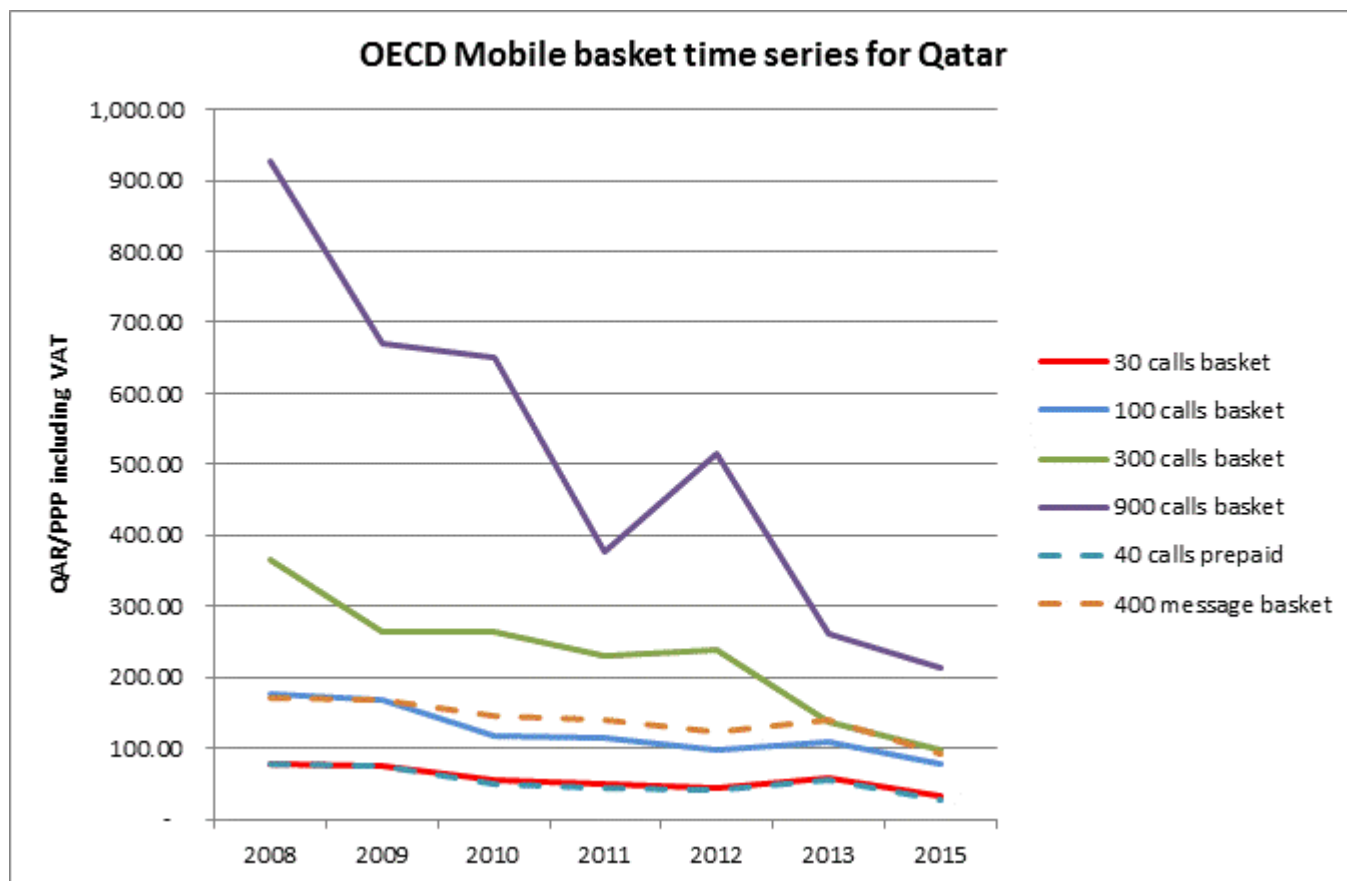
## Mobile baskets with data

- Mobile prices with data in Qatar are below or around the GCC average
- For most usage levels the best Qatari prices are below other GCC prices, and in most cases below the OECD average.
- There is a consistent difference between the two Qatari operators across the range of baskets



## Mobile basket results time series for Qatar

- Mobile prices in Qatar have fallen on average 63% since 2008.
- Year-on-year changes of the average have been modest, with a significant dip over the last two years of 34% reduction on average.



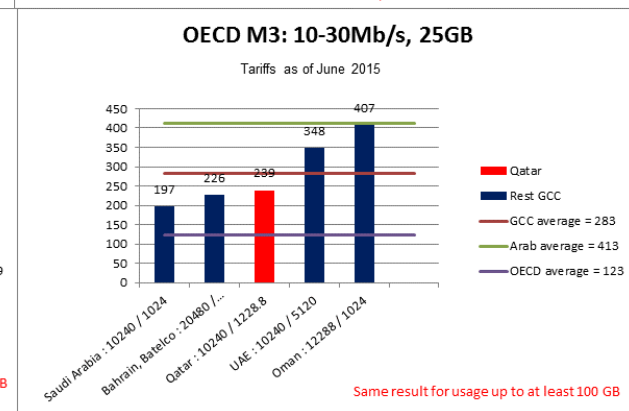
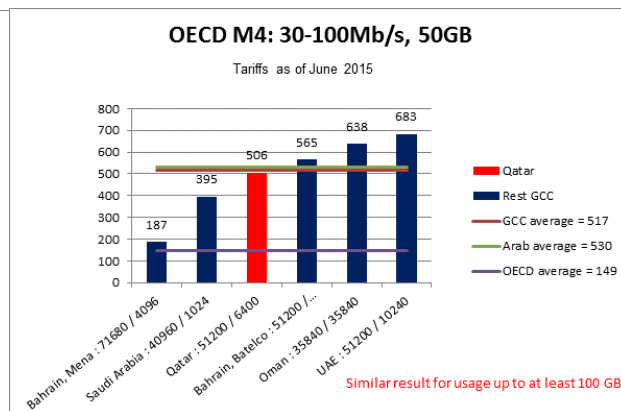
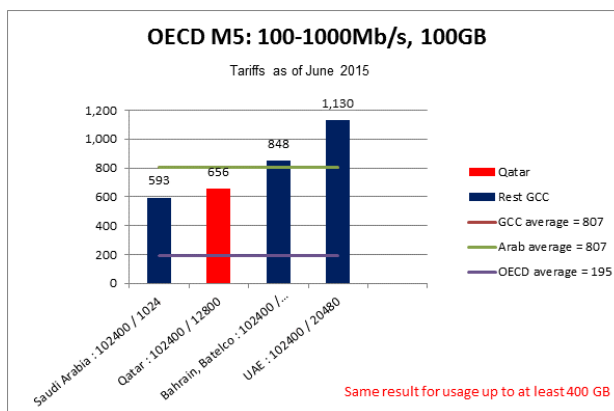
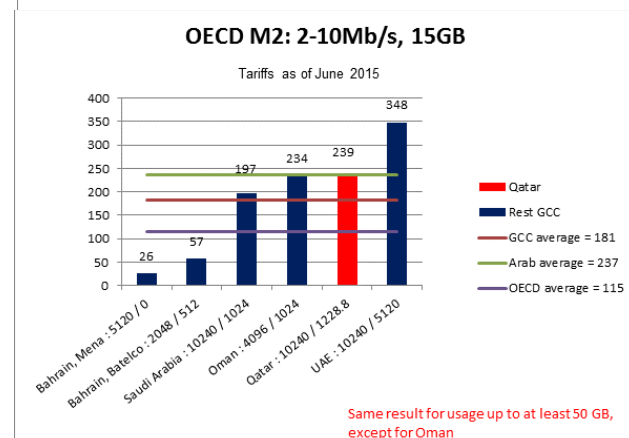
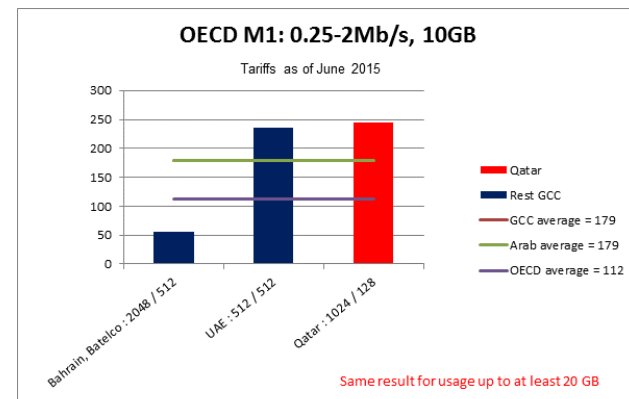
# 3

## Fixed Broadband Services

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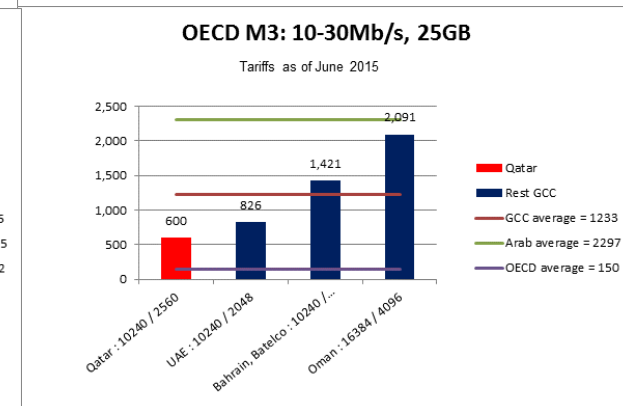
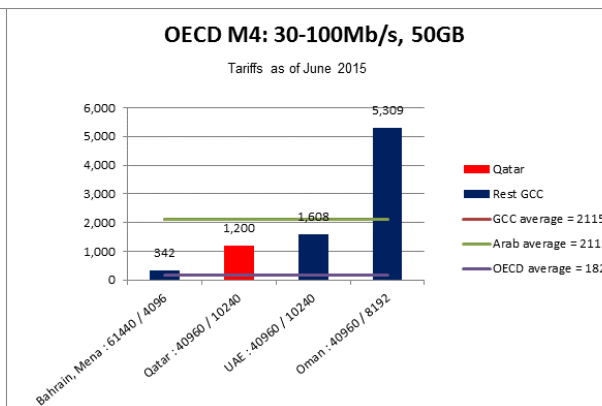
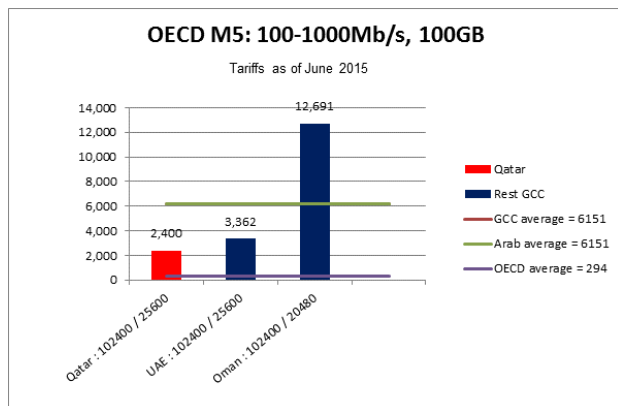
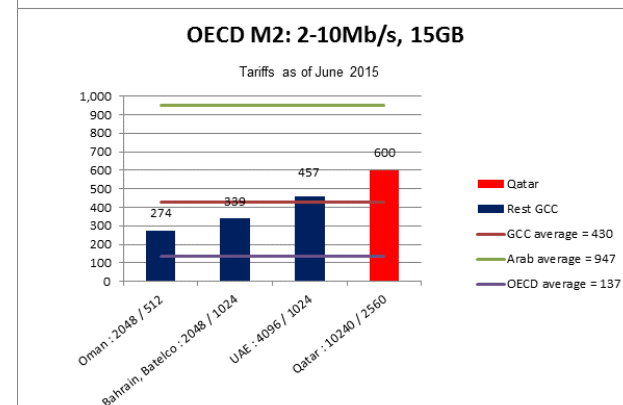
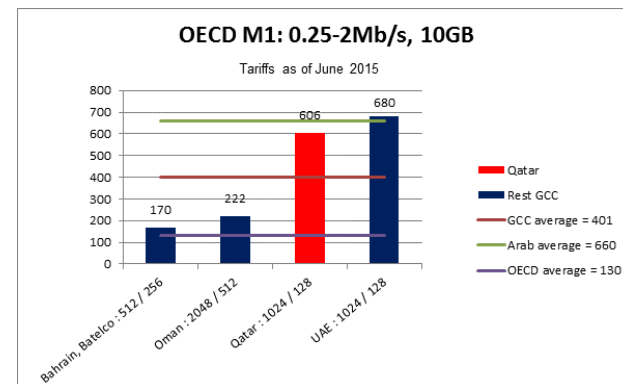
# Fixed Broadband Baskets, residential tariffs

- The prices in Qatar do not vary with usage level
  - As the prices in other countries may vary with usage, the ranking position of Qatar may change. This happens in the 30-100 Mb/s basket where at high usage the Qatari position moves from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>, where usage costs increase the overall cost in other countries
- The OECD average is significantly lower than the Arab and GCC averages.
- For higher speeds, the prices in Qatar are below the GCC average, but well above the OECD average.
- The OECD Medium baskets (M1-M5) are used in these graphs. Prices shown in QAR/PPP



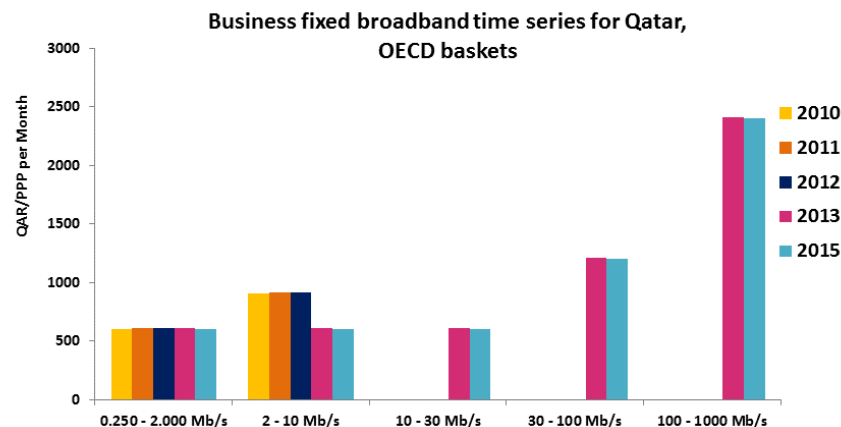
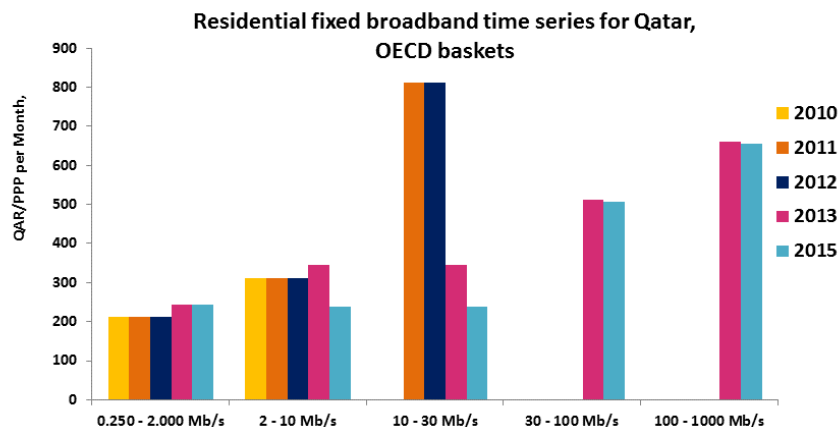
# Fixed Broadband Baskets, business tariffs

- The prices in Qatar do not vary with usage level
  - As the prices in other countries may vary with usage, the ranking position of Qatar may change. This happens in the 0.25-2 Mb/s basket where at medium to high usage the Qatari position moves from 4<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The OECD average is significantly lower than the Arab and GCC averages.
- For higher speeds, the prices in Qatar are below the GCC average, but well above the OECD average.
- The OECD Medium baskets (M1-M5) are used in these graphs. Prices shown in QAR/PPP



## Fixed Broadband Time Series

- Medium speed residential broadband prices have fallen from 2013 to 2015
  - Reduced by 31% for speeds from 2 Mb/s to 30 Mb/s
- In the speed range 10-30 Mb/s there was a significant price drop before 2013
- Business tariffs have remained fairly stable over time





# 4

## Mobile Broadband Services

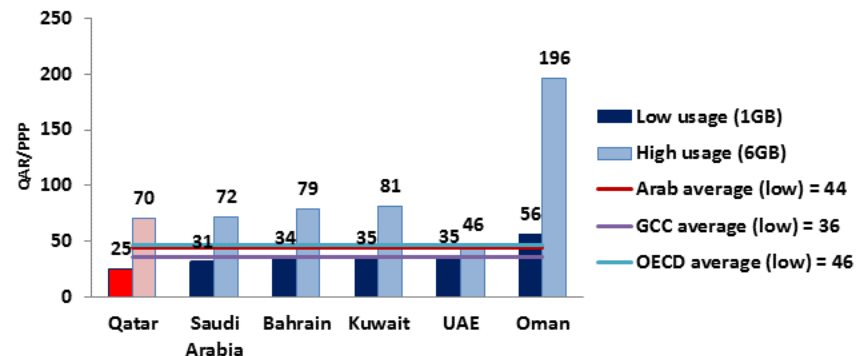
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## Mobile Broadband baskets

- All services provided in Qatar offer 4G speeds
- For low usage residential tariffs Qatar offers the lowest prices in GCC, with most other countries following close behind.
- For high usage residential tariffs Qatar ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in GCC, after UAE.
- Price increase from low to high usage is relatively smaller than in the other GCC countries.
- For low usage business tariffs Qatar ranks as 4<sup>th</sup> in GCC. For high usage Qatar ranks as 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- For residential tariffs the GCC (and Arab) average is lower than the OECD average. For business this is opposite.

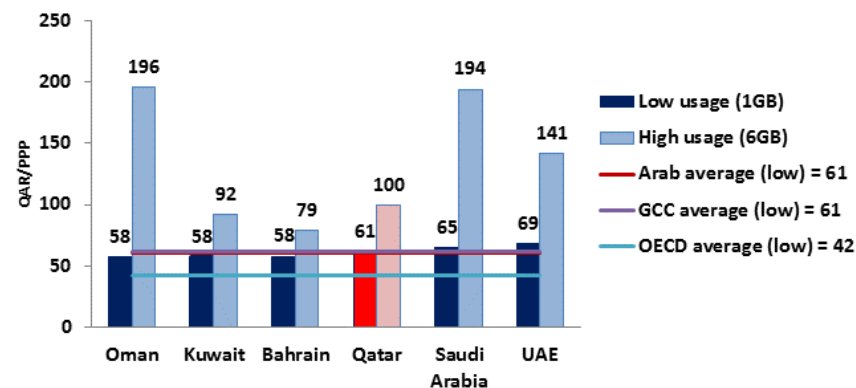
Residential Mobile Broadband,  
high speed >8Mb/s

Tariffs as of June 2015



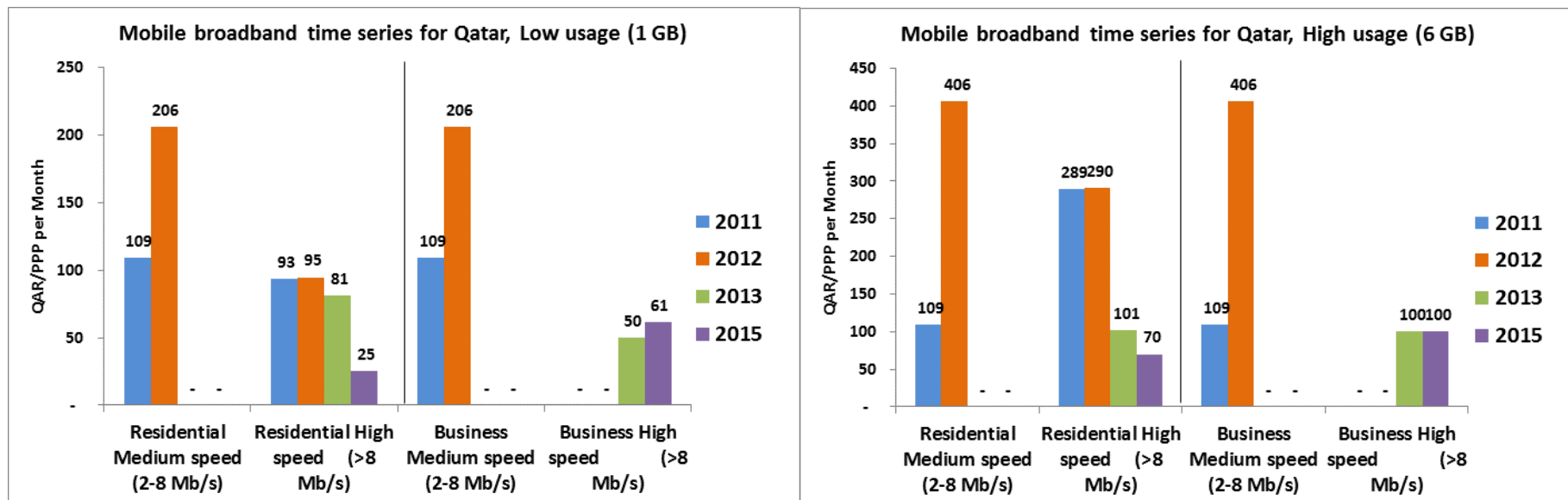
Business Mobile Broadband,  
high speed >8Mb/s

Tariffs as of June 2015



## Mobile Broadband Time Series

- There have been significant changes for mobile broadband services in Qatar over the last five years, mainly due to the change from 3G to 4G services.
- The current 4G services are generally cheaper than the previous 3G services, and of course faster.



# 5

## Leased Line Services

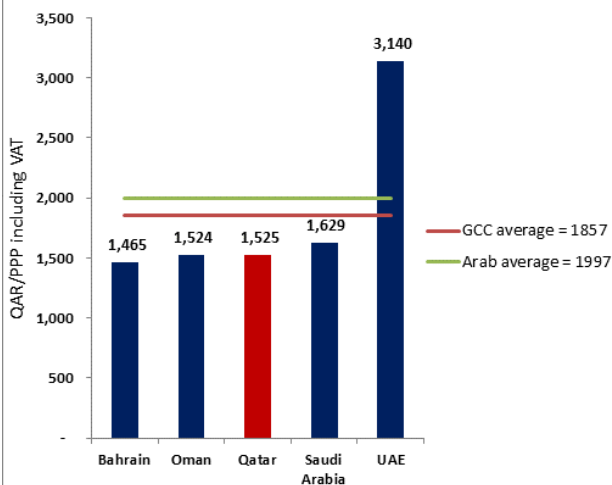
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## Leased Line basket results for Qatar (1)

- Leased lines prices in Qatar ranks among the lower half of the GCC countries.
- Qatari prices are well below the GCC and Arab averages, and below the OECD average for 2 Mb/s.

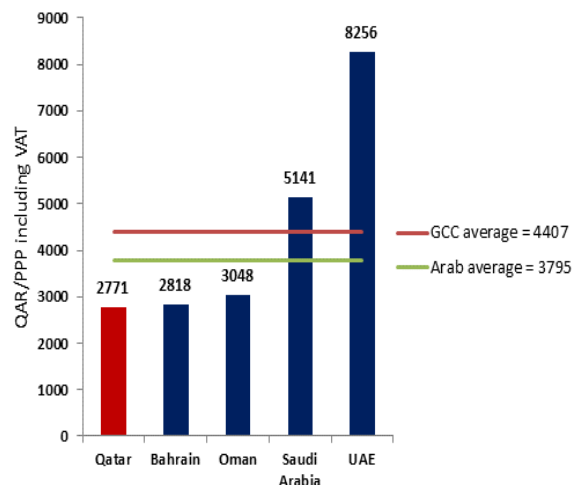
Leased line basket 64 kb/s circuit prices

Tariffs as of June 2015



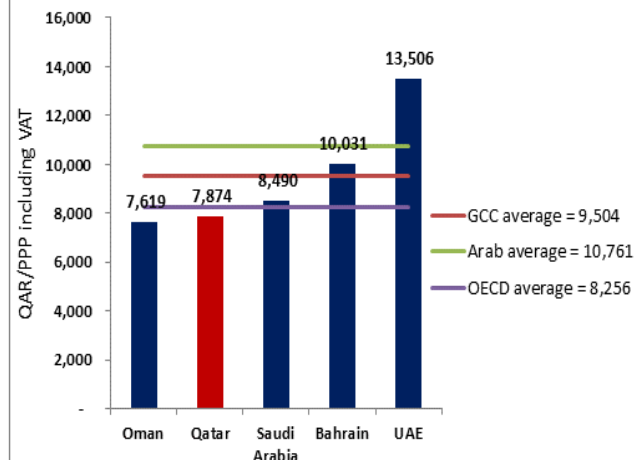
Leased line basket 256 kb/s circuit prices

Tariffs as of June 2015



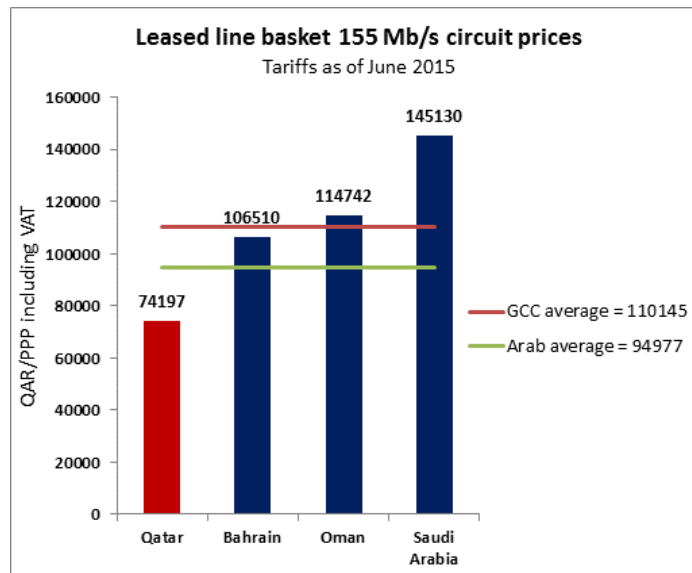
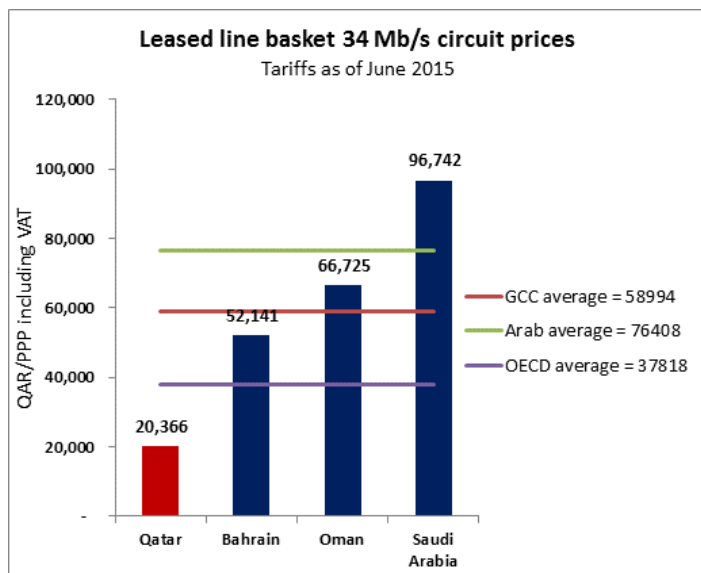
Leased line basket 2 Mb/s circuit prices

Tariffs as of June 2015



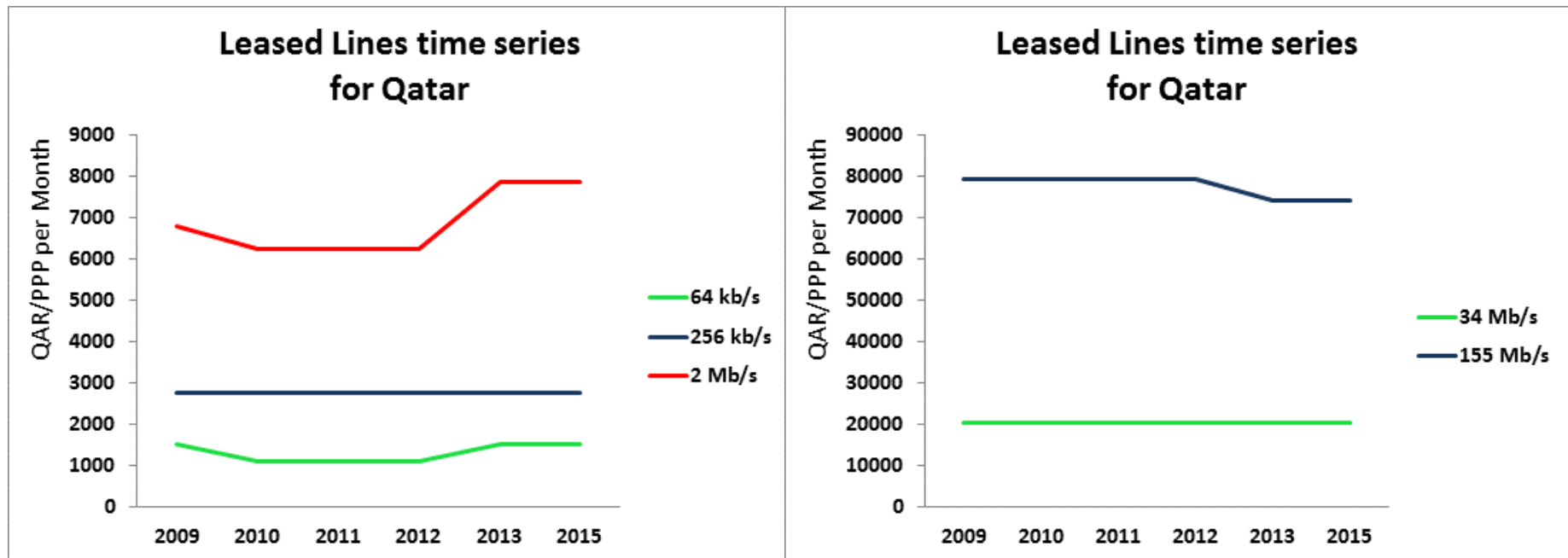
## Leased Line basket results for Qatar (2)

- For high speed Leased Lines the prices in Qatar are the lowest among the GCC countries.
  - Qatari prices are also here well below the GCC and Arab averages, and below the OECD average for 34 Mb/s.



## Leased Line time series for Qatar

- There have been minor price changes for leased lines in Qatar over the last few years.
- No price changes since 2013



# 6

## Aggregate basket analysis

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## Aggregate residential baskets

A simple aggregation of services for residential use has been constructed, based on three separate usage profiles, as follows:

Low user: low usage across fixed and mobile voice, and with a requirement for only basic fixed broadband

PSTN	Mobile voice	Fixed broadband
20 calls	30 calls + 100MB	L2: 2-10Mb/s, 5GB

Medium: a user who makes modest use of fixed and mobile voice and broadband services

PSTN	Mobile voice	Fixed broadband	Mobile broadband
60 calls	100 calls + 500MB	L3: 10-30Mb/s, 10GB	all speeds, low usage

High: a more intensive user, with high use of services, and with a requirement for higher broadband speeds than a medium user

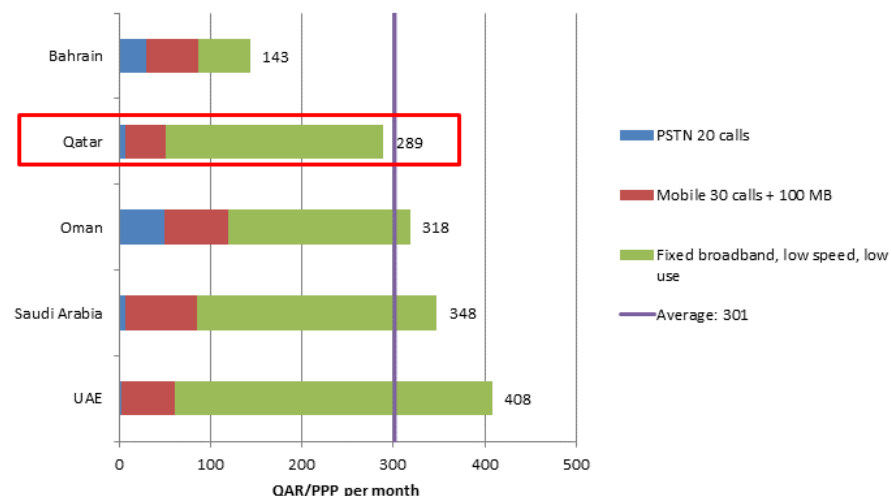
PSTN	Mobile voice	Fixed broadband	Mobile broadband
140 calls	300 calls + 1GB	H4: 30-100Mb/s, 200GB	all speeds, high usage

Each user profile has been costed by taking the result for each individual service basket, and summing to produce a total cost. This is a relatively simplistic method for considering multiple service use, however, it provides an indication of likely overall costs that different types of users will face.

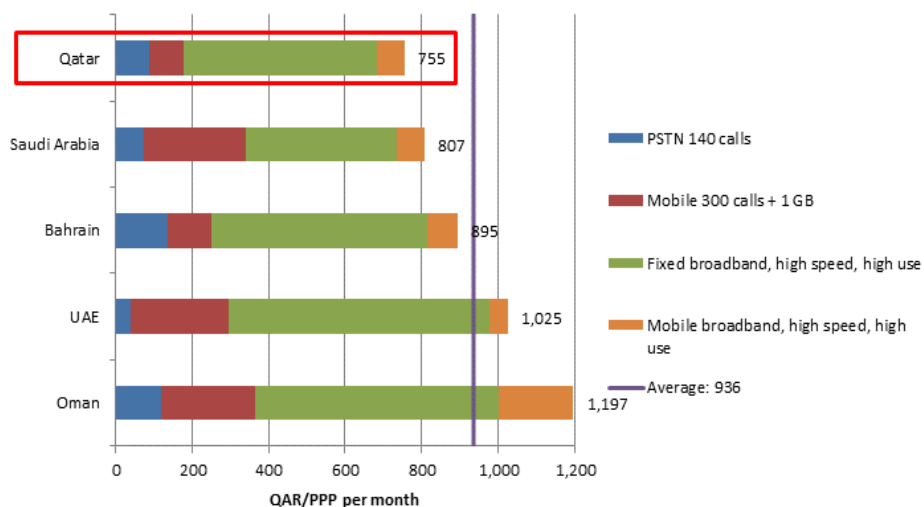
# Residential aggregate basket results

- Qatar is the cheapest GCC country for medium and high usage, and the second cheapest for low usage.
- The fixed broadband service dominates the cost picture

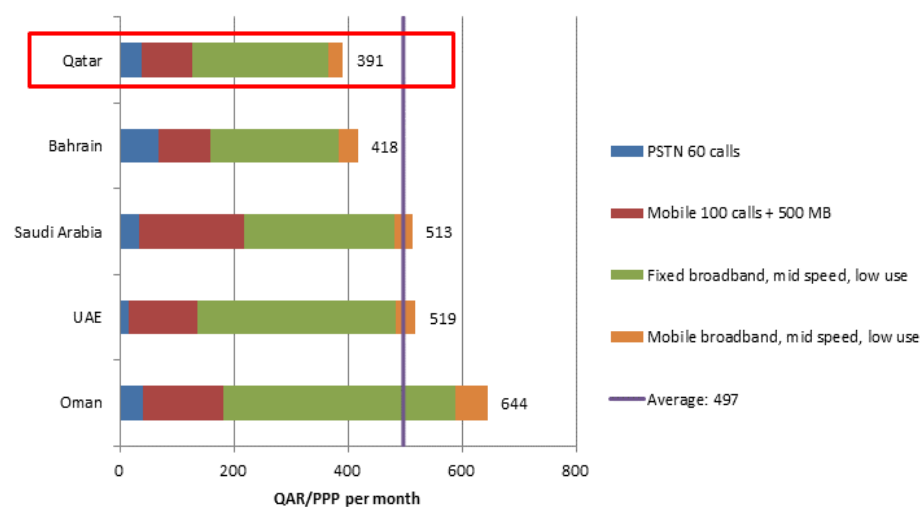
Low residential use



High residential use



Medium residential use



## Aggregate business baskets

- Similar to the approach for residential use, a simple aggregation of services has been constructed for business use, based on two separate usage profiles, as follows:
- Medium: a user who makes modest use of fixed and mobile voice and broadband services

PSTN	Mobile voice	Fixed broadband	Mobile broadband
100 calls (business)	100 calls + 500MB	L2: 2-10Mb/s, 5GB	all speeds, low usage

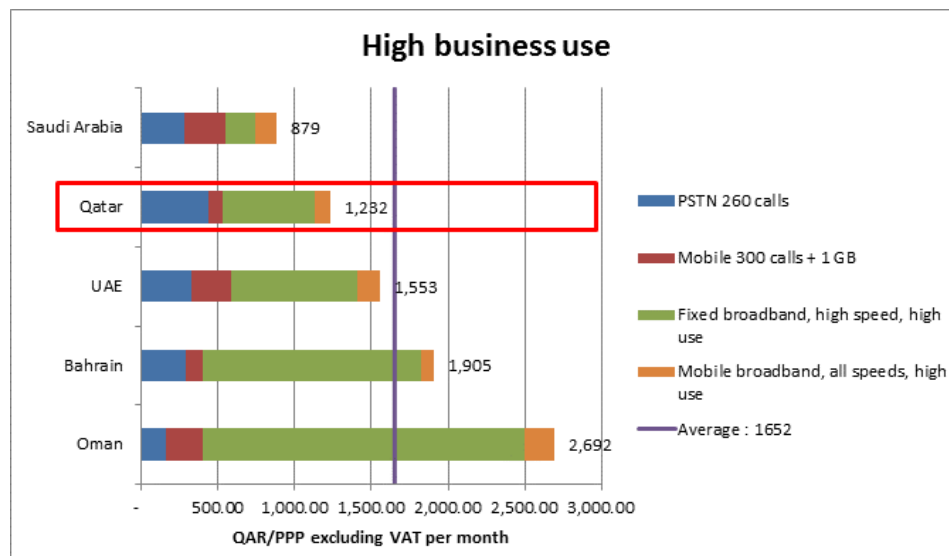
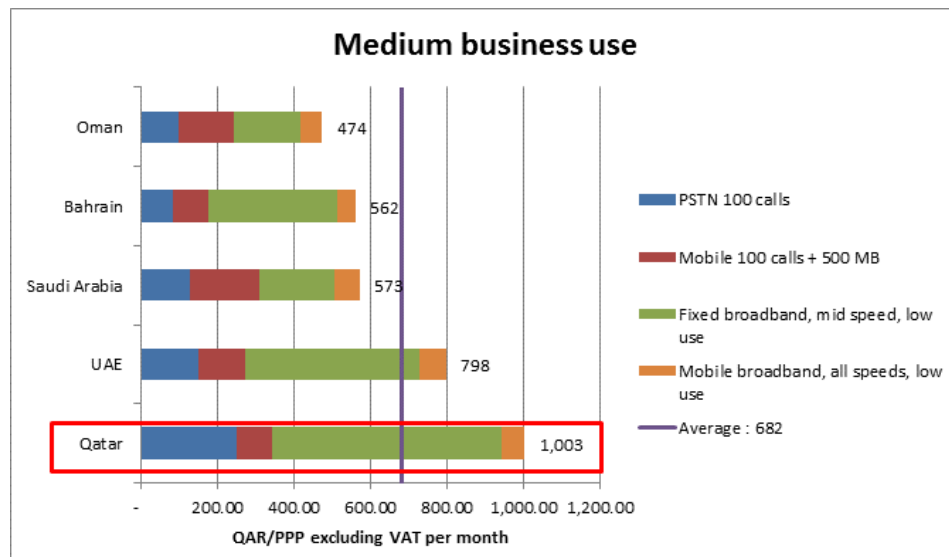
- High: a more intensive user, with high use of services, and with a requirement for higher broadband speeds than a medium user














































PSTN	Mobile voice	Fixed broadband	Mobile broadband
260 calls (business)	300 calls + 1GB	M3: 10-30Mb/s, 25GB	all speeds, high usage

- The business profiles are similar to the residential profiles but use the business baskets (and business pricing) for fixed voice, and business pricing for fixed broadband. As many business users will use residential services for mobile, the results used for mobile voice and broadband services consider both business and residential offerings.
- Each user profile has been costed by taking the result for each individual service basket, and summing to produce a total cost. This is a relatively simplistic method for considering multiple service use, however, it provides an indication of likely overall costs that different types of users will face.
- As there are no business-specific fixed plans published for Saudi Arabia, residential services have been used, to ensure it is not entirely excluded from the aggregate analysis.

## Business aggregate basket results

- For the medium usage aggregate basket Qatar is the most expensive GCC country.
- Qatar's position improves with usage, where the cost increase vs. usage is lower than in the other GCC countries.
- As for residential services, the business fixed broadband service dominates the cost picture
  - With fixed telephony as a good second
- The mobile telephony part is relatively lower in Qatar than in other GCC countries.



Qatar results compared to:	Residential			Business		
	GCC average	Arab average	OECD average	GCC average	Arab average	OECD average
PSTN (Low usage)						
PSTN (High usage)						
Mobile (Low usage)						
Mobile (High usage)						
Fixed broadband (Low speed)						
Fixed broadband (High speed)						
Mobile broadband (Low usage)						
Mobile broadband (High usage)						
Leased lines						 *

More expensive than ...



On par with ...



Better than ...



\* Not all speeds can be compared with the OECD results

- OECD: Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development
- OECD countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Rep., Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA
- AREGNET: Arab Regulators Network.
- AREGNET member countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen
- PPP: Purchasing Power Parity, exchange rates adjusted for the purchasing power of consumers in each country. Used in international comparisons to adjust for market differences.
- Service: A telecommunications service
- Basket: A theoretical usage profile describing the usage volumes across different types of calls and/or different kinds of usage. The basket includes all important elements of the service, including fixed cost elements.
- Tariff: The description of all the end user prices related to a service
- Tariff element: The part of a tariff describing the price(s) for a single type of call or service component.
- Basket calculation: The process where the Basket is applied to the individual tariff in order to calculate the cost of the individual tariff elements and the overall cost.
- Basket result: The cost of using the service as described in the Basket.
- Re-balancing: The process through which the prices are changed so that individual Tariff elements will cover their own cost, and not subsidise other Tariff elements.