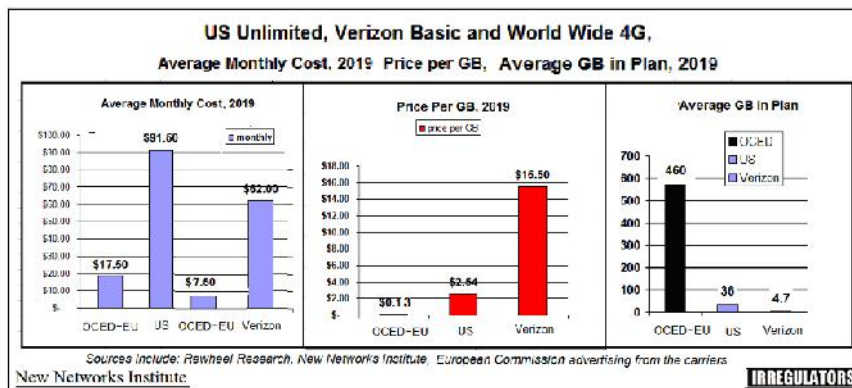


FACT SHEET 2: Wireless Overcharging: Why is America’s Wireless Prices 6-10 Times More than Other Countries?



BACKDROP: [SEE FACT SHEET 5:](#) On July 22nd, 2019, the IRREGULATORS v FCC moved forward with the filing of our initial brief. The FCC has until September 5th, 2019 to respond. This legal challenge exposes one of the largest accounting scandals in American history, AT&T, Verizon and CenturyLink have been able to manipulate the FCC accounting rules—the consequence has been massive overcharging of communications services in the US.

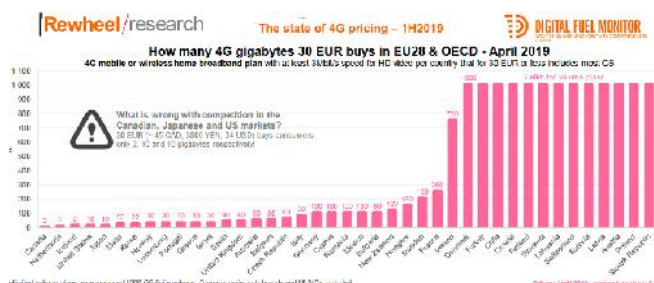
FOR MORE DETAILS SEE:

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In countries around the world, from Slovenia and Korea to Finland, the price for a totally unlimited 4G wireless service, with 500–1000GB, can be under \$30 US dollars. The US unlimited wireless packages, with taxes, fees and surcharges, are mostly over \$90 dollars (special deals aside) and can be capped at 22–50GB.

- **US “unlimited” wireless customers are being overcharged an estimated \$50-\$75.00 a month, not counting the additional 500–1000GB of a real unlimited service that they do not receive--an average of \$873 a year extra.**
- **Severe customer gouging in the US low-end wireless market.** A 1GB “data booster” from Verizon costs \$15.00; not counting taxes. We estimate that the overcharging is \$20–50 a month --an average of \$654 a year extra.
- **Overcharging by Capping GB Usage** OECD-EU have real unlimited usage of 500–1000GB as standard, US has been capped at 25–75GB, and then the service is slowed to being almost unusable.

[Rewheel Research](#) analysis of America’s wireless prices vs the rest of the world.

“**US Wireless** median mobile broadband gigabyte prices were 6 times higher than the median price in the 36 [OECD countries](#) (from South Korea and Japan to Spain, Slovakia and the UK), and 10 times higher than the median price in [European Union](#) (EU28) markets.”



The Numbers: America Really is Number 1 in Wireless, Really...

NOTE: This exhibit summarizes US wireless unlimited plans, Verizon basic wireless plans, and the prices of 4G wireless from OECD-EU countries.¹ We used published sources and actual bills in the US, but there is a paucity of data by government sources in the US, and none supply basic info about actual prices paid or usage, much less relying on auditing actual bills for their analysis.

	OCED-EU	OCED-EU	OCED-EU	OCED-EU	US Unlimited	Verizon
Monthly	\$ 7.50	\$17.5	\$40.00	\$70.00	\$ 91.50	\$ 82.00
GB	5.47	75	322	460	36	4.7
Price Per GB	\$1.90	\$0.23	\$0.12	\$0.15	\$ 2.54	\$ 15.50
Overcharge Monthly					\$ 72.73	\$ 54.50
Annual					\$872.74	\$654.00

US Wireless Unlimited

- US average unlimited plans (not the most expensive) were around \$91.50 counting taxes, fees and surcharges and the average came with 36GB before they slow to a crawl.
- However, the standard has been that the services crap out after around 25GB.
- With this generous accounting, the US unlimited costs \$2.54 per GB.

OECD-EU Combined

- Using a blended model of Rewheel and European Commission data, the average monthly cost that would match the US average costs comes to around \$17.50, and delivers an average of 75GB (i.e.; much more than the US 22GB.)
- The cost per GB also varies but with plans costing over \$40, we found that the cost per gig averaged around \$.10-\$.15 per GB; we use \$.13 as compared to the US \$2.54 per GB.
- NOTE: Different reports on wireless pricing can have averages of \$.27-\$.54 per gig; In the US, different price ranges can have 1GB cost dollars, depending on the plan and usage.

Verizon Wireless Compared

- America's low end data costs are so ludicrous as compared to OECD that it demands immediate investigations.
- A basic plan, which comes with 2G or 4G or 8G, averaged \$15.50 per GB and \$15.00 if you start to run out or go over your allotted amount.

¹ <https://medium.com/@kushnickbruce/really-unlimited-4g-wireless-for-30-dollars-aeb2c0f316a>