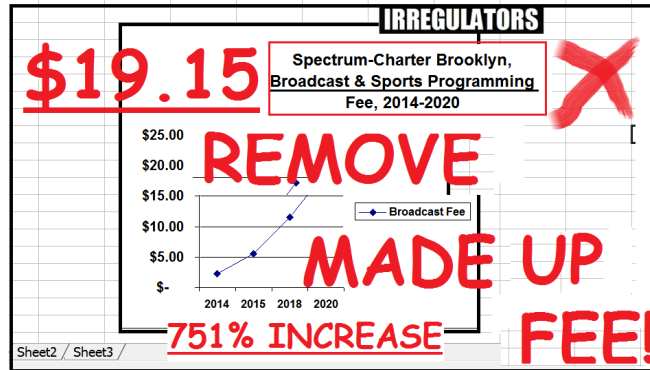


**FACT SHEET 1: REMOVE MADE UP FEES: BROADCAST & SPORTS FEE**

**Broadcast TV and Sports Programming Fee** went up 751% to \$19.15 a month on a basic Spectrum Brooklyn, (Nov. 2020) Triple Play from \$2.25 only 6 years ago.



The United States should be on par with pricing of communications services throughout the world. Instead, we are being gouged.

**Finding: The Us Triple Play (Broadband, Phone, and Cable TV) Averages \$217.00 a Month and Rising**, but over \$60 has additional charges above a base price of \$157.00.

**Consumer Reports Study:** [How Cable Companies Use Hidden Fees to Raise Prices and Disguise the True Cost of Service](#) (CR CABLE BILL REPORT 2019)

“The average cable bill in our study costs consumers \$217.42 a month. Of this number, a little less than \$157 on average was determined to be the base package price once all fees, taxes, and charges for premium services were subtracted from the total price.”

**But one charge in particular stands out.**

- **Broadcast TV and Sports Programming Fee** went up 751% to \$19.15 a month on a basic Spectrum Triple play from \$2.25 only 6 years ago, based on Spectrum Brooklyn, Nov. 2020 bill.

2014	2015	2018	2020	INCREASE
\$ 2.25	\$ 5.50	\$11.55	<b>\$19.15</b>	<b>751%</b>

Spectrum **IRREGULATORS**

Spectrum web site gives this definition of the [Broadcast TV Surcharge](#)

“Federal law allows local U.S. broadcast television stations (i.e. affiliates of networks such as CBS, NBC, ABC, Fox, etc.) to negotiate with cable and satellite providers in order to obtain "consent" to carry their broadcast signals (Cable TV Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992).


“As a direct result of local broadcast or "network-affiliated" TV stations in recent years dramatically increasing the rates to Charter Communications to distribute

their signals to our customers, we're forced to pass those charges on as a "Broadcast TV Surcharge. These local TV signals were historically made available to us at no cost or low cost. However, in recent years the prices demanded by local broadcast TV stations have necessitated that we pass these costs on to customers."

### Reason for Investigations

This definition on the web site is not telling the truth. This charge is actually a combination of 2 charges the 'sports programming fee' and the 'broadcast TV' fee—the company has decided since no one audits the bills they can violate multiple truth-in-billing, truth-in-advertising laws. **This is the fine print from verizon's FiOS TV info March 2015, the almost impossible to read info supplied.**

**Verizon's Made up Broadcast and Regional Sports Fees, March 2015**



FIOS TV and Internet res. custs. subscribing to a FIOS Triple Play with Verizon Freedom@E apply. Price guarantee applies to base monthly rate only; excl. optional services & equip. charge. \$99 activation fee, \$1.99/mo. Broadcast Fee, up to \$4.99/mo. Regional Sports Network Fee, u  
 up. charges & terms may apply. Subj. to credit approval & may require a deposit. FIOS avail. in select areas.  
 or video). Custom TV Channel Packs require a minimum 30-day billing period. Channel lineup is subject to ch  
 cannot modify channel lineup within Channel Packs. © 2015 Verizon.

This is in the Fine Print

March 2015 -- 2 Fees adding \$7 a month  
 \$1.99 Broadcast and \$4.99 Regional Sports

**IRREGULATORS**

**In 2021, these fees are through the roof.** Suddenlink, in California, has a "Broadcast Station Programming Surcharge" of \$15.00/month plus a Sports Programming Surcharge of \$6.65/month - total of \$21.65/month.

**NOT A GOVERNMENT FEE OR MANDATED.** [COMCAST Xfinity: Broadcast TV Fee](#)

"The Broadcast TV Fee is an itemized charge that you'll see on your bill. **This charge is not a government-mandated fee** and will increase from time to time. It is based on our costs of providing the local broadcast stations that we carry on our cable systems in each area. These costs include the fees that the broadcast stations charge us to carry them on our cable systems, which are among our largest increasing costs. **The Broadcast TV Fee is not included as a part of our promotional pricing or pricing under your minimum-term agreement** and can increase during your promotion or minimum-term."

And it appears that Comcast still separates these fees:

#### Regional Sports Network Fee

"The Regional Sports Network Fee is an itemized charge that you'll see on your bill. **This charge is not a government-mandated fee and will increase from time to time.** It's based on our costs of providing the regional sports networks that we carry on our cable systems in each area. These costs include the fees that regional sports networks charge us to carry them on our cable systems, which are among our largest increasing costs. **The Regional Sports Network Fee is not included in our promotional pricing or pricing under your minimum-term agreement** and can increase during your promotion or minimum-term."