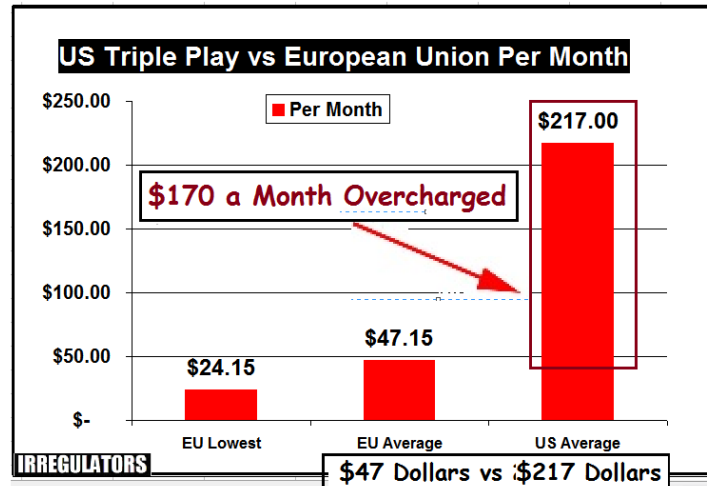


FACT SHEET 2: IS US 'TRIPLE PLAY' OVERCHARGED \$170.00 PER MONTH ON AVERAGE, OR MORE, COMPARED TO EUROPE?



- US Triple Play (broadband, phone, and cable TV) is overcharged, on average, \$170.00 per month or more compared to Europe.
- US average price per month is \$217.00, according to Consumer Reports
- Average price per month is \$24-\$47 dollars, according to European Union

The Digital Divide was created, in large part, because prices are no longer affordable and large areas of the US have little, if any, competition. The United States should be on par with pricing of communications services throughout the world. Instead, we are being gouged.

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

BASIC FINDING: The Us Triple Play (Broadband, Phone, And Cable TV) Averages \$217 A Month and Rising (CR CABLE BILL REPORT 2019)

Consumer Reports

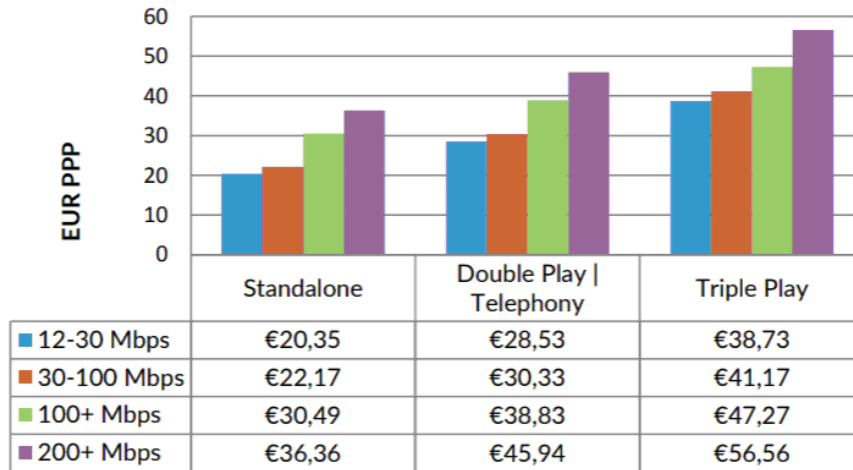
“The average cable bill in our study costs consumers \$217.42 a month. Of this number, a little less than \$157 on average was determined to be the base package price once all fees, taxes, and charges for premium services were subtracted from the total price.”

Overseas, the European Union Basic Triple Play is 21-41 Euros, \$24-\$47 dollars.

The European Union’s 2020 [Full report Study on Mobile and fixed broadband prices in Europe at the end of 2019](#), findings is that ‘standalone’ broadband

with 30–100 Mbps is only 22 Euros. The Triple Play in the US is now \$217 dollars — Europe is paying 41 Euros.

Figure 1 – EU28 average of the lowest prices for each service bundle across four speed baskets



But it gets worse: The report also has a ‘cheapest’ price and the ‘stand alone’ broadband price is 8.71 Euros for up to 100 Mbps— around \$9-\$11 dollars, and the triple play is around \$23–25 dollars, depending on the exchange rate.

Figure 2 - EU28 absolute lowest prices for each service bundle across four speed baskets

	Standalone	Double Play Telephony	Triple Play
12-30 Mbps	€8,71	€15,63	€20,54
30-100 Mbps	€8,71	€15,63	€20,94
100+ Mbps	€11,48	€21,78	€23,73
200+ Mbps	€11,48	€21,78	€23,73

One Reason this is Happening: Made Up Fees: Regulators have allowed outrageous made up fees, such as the Broadcast TV and Sports Programming Fees, as well as ‘cost recovery’ fees, which are not government mandated or even audited.

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 Triple play from \$2.25 only 6 years ago, based on Spectrum Brooklyn, Nov. 2020 bill.