

State of Mobile Networks: Cambodia (August 2017)

Cambodia's recent investments in 4G services have yielded dividends in terms of LTE availability, but the country still has work to do to match the rest of the world in LTE speeds. In OpenSignal's first report on Cambodia, we parsed nearly 87 million measurements to examine the 3G and 4G services of the country's three major operators: Cellcard, Metfone and Smart.

Report Facts

86,825,154 Measurements

8,414 Test Devices

Apr 1 - Jun 30, 2017 Sample Period

Cambodia Report Location

Highlights

Cellcard runs away with our 4G speed award

Cellcard easily topped our 4G speed rankings, averaging LTE download speeds of 19.7 Mbps. Those speeds were twice as fast as the test results of its nearest rival Smart Axiata and exceeded the global LTE download average of 16.2 Mbps.

Smart, Cellcard lead in 4G reach

Cambodia is still building out its mobile data infrastructure, but it can already claim good 4G availability from two of its operators. OpenSignal users were able to connect to Smart and Cellcard's LTE networks more than 70% of the time in our test period.

Metfone and Cellcard vie for our 3G speed award

While Cellcard won convincingly in OpenSignal's 4G speed category, it faced stiffer competition in 3G. Metfone and Cellcard were tied for first place in 3G speed, both delivering download speeds of about 2 Mbps in our test results.

Mobile speeds in Cambodia are still slow

Despite Cellcard's high LTE speed score, overall 3G and 4G speeds in Cambodia were quite low. The average connection speed across all networks for Cambodian was 5.7 Mbps, which was the among the lowest of 87 countries we examined in a recent global report.

Awards Table

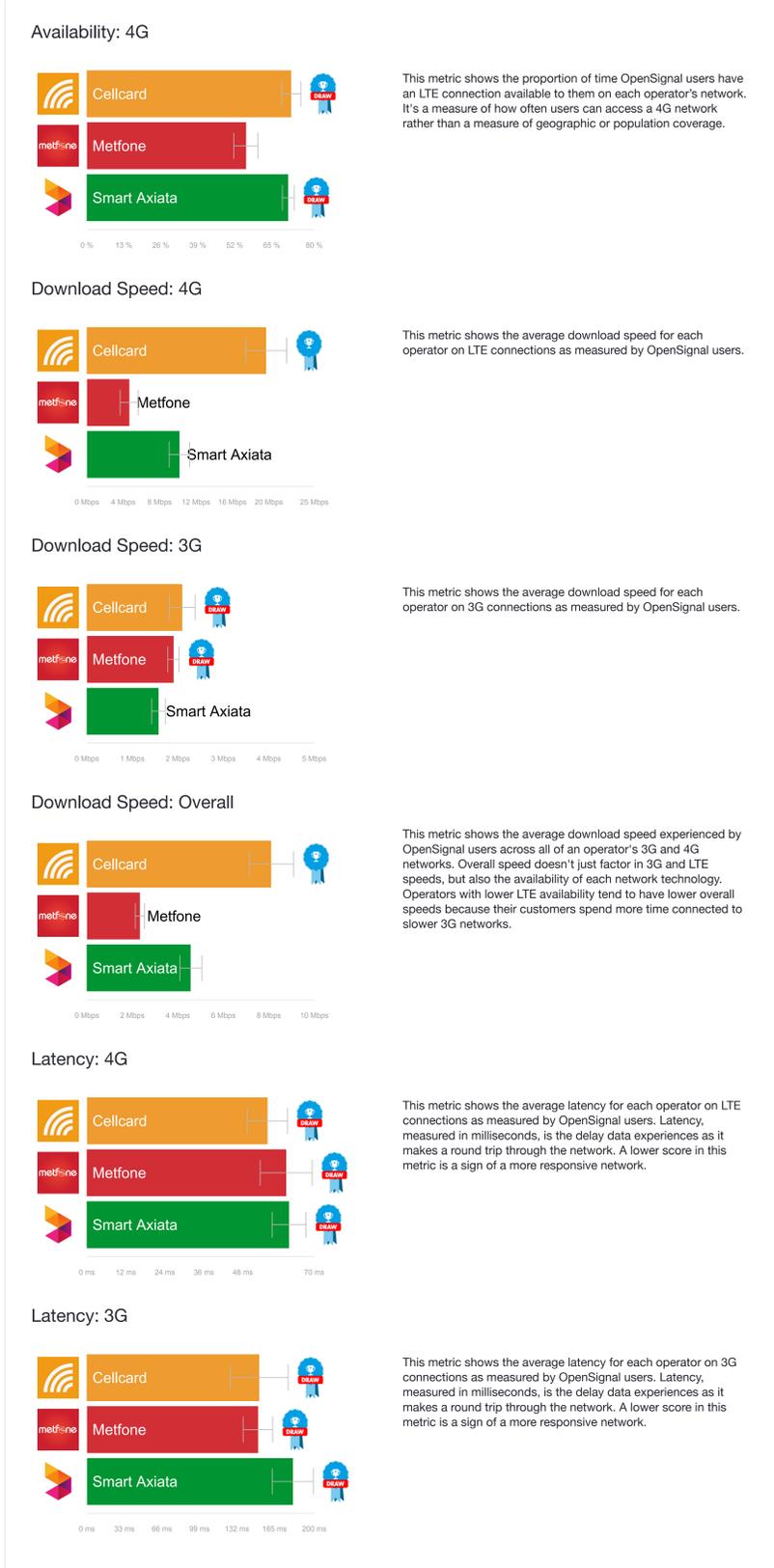
OpenSignal Awards	Download Speed: 4G	Download Speed: 3G	Download Speed: Overall	Latency: 4G	Latency: 3G	Availability: 4G
Cellcard	🏆	🏆	🏆	🏆	🏆	🏆
Metfone		🏆		🏆	🏆	
Smart Axiata				🏆	🏆	🏆

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Performance by Metric



Analysis

In our first look at Cambodia, OpenSignal found a country aggressively building out its 4G networks. But while LTE signals are readily accessible, both 3G and 4G speeds are still slow. Analyzing more than 86 million measurements collected from 8,414 devices in the 2nd quarter, OpenSignal examined the 3G and 4G experience of Cambodian consumers on the country's three major providers: CamGSM's Cellcard, Viettel's Metfone and Smart Axiata. First, let's take a look at how these three stacked up in 4G availability.

Cambodia has been [making up for lost time](#) in the telecommunications sector, focusing on mobile connectivity rather than wireline infrastructure as the primary means of internet access. We definitely see that effort reflected in our 4G availability results. Two operators, Cellcard and Smart had LTE availability scores higher than 70% in our results. OpenSignal's availability metric measures the proportion of time users can access a particular network. In the case of Cellcard and Smart, our testers were able to latch onto their LTE signals more than seven times out of 10. The two operators were statistically tied for the lead in our 4G availability metric, though the same can't be said for Metfone. Our users were only able to find Metfone's LTE service 55.9% of the time.

According to OpenSignal's recent [Slate of LTE report](#), Cambodia overall has an availability score of 63.3%, putting it on par with fellow Southeast Asian countries Indonesia and Malaysia and well ahead of the Philippines. Neighboring Thailand, however, was the country to beat in the region with an overall 4G availability of 75.9% in that first quarter reporting period.

In 4G speed, OpenSignal recorded a clear winner. Cellcard's measured average LTE download speed of 19.7 Mbps was nearly twice as fast as the 2nd place result tested on Smart Axiata. Metfone's 4G download score of 4.6 Mbps was very slow — speeds we typically see on 3G connections. While we're seeing LTE services become more readily accessible in Cambodia, those services are still generally limited in capacity. In our [June LTE report](#), we measured the average worldwide LTE connection at 16.2 Mbps, a benchmark both Metfone and Smart Axiata fell well short of in our speed tests.

We saw another draw for our 3G speed award. Cellcard and Metfone averaged about 2 Mbps in our 3G download tests, producing a statistical tie for first, but none of the major operators offered up particularly fast UMTS speeds. Our average speed test for all three fell well below the global average of 4.4 Mbps. For overall speed, Cellcard again emerged as a clear winner in our tests with an average speed of 8.1 Mbps across all of its data availabilities. Cellcard not only had the fastest LTE speeds but also one of the highest LTE availabilities, which allowed its customers to tap faster 4G connections more often.

Building enough capacity to support fast mobile connection speeds is an issue throughout Southeast Asia. According to our February [Global State of Mobile Networks report](#), the typical connection speed in Cambodia across all networks was 5.7 Mbps, which put it near the bottom of the 87 countries we ranked, but Cambodia was joined on the lower rungs of our chart by Thailand, Myanmar, Indonesia and the Philippines. Still, considering LTE only first launched in Cambodia in 2014, the country has made significant progress in extending 4G services to its population. As Cambodian operators add more capacity to their networks, 4G speeds will increase to match LTE's growing reach.

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Our Methodology

OpenSignal data is collected from consumer smartphones and recorded under conditions of normal usage. As opposed to drive-test data, which attempts to simulate what a user might experience by using the same devices to measure network performance in a small number of locations, we take our measurements from millions of smartphones owned by regular people who have downloaded OpenSignal's apps.

Those measurements are taken wherever users happen to be, whether indoors or out, in a city or in the countryside, representing a mobile data service the way users experience it. For more information on how we collect and analyze our data see our [methodology page](#).

For this particular report, 86,825,154 datapoints were collected from 8,414 users during the period: Apr 1 - Jun 30, 2017.

All data has been collected from users of the OpenSignal mobile app for [Android](#) or [iOS](#).

For every metric we've calculated statistical confidence intervals and plotted them on all of the graphs. When confidence intervals overlap for a certain metric, our measured results are too close to declare a winner in a particular category. In those cases, we show a statistical draw. For this reason, some metrics have multiple operator winners.

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