

# ***Pricing strategies for the Mobile Services***

**Seminar on Costs & Tariffs  
Niamey, April 2001**



This document has been prepared mainly by Dr. Tim Kelly. The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ITU or its Membership. Dr Kelly can be contacted by e-mail at [Tim.Kelly@itu.int](mailto:Tim.Kelly@itu.int)

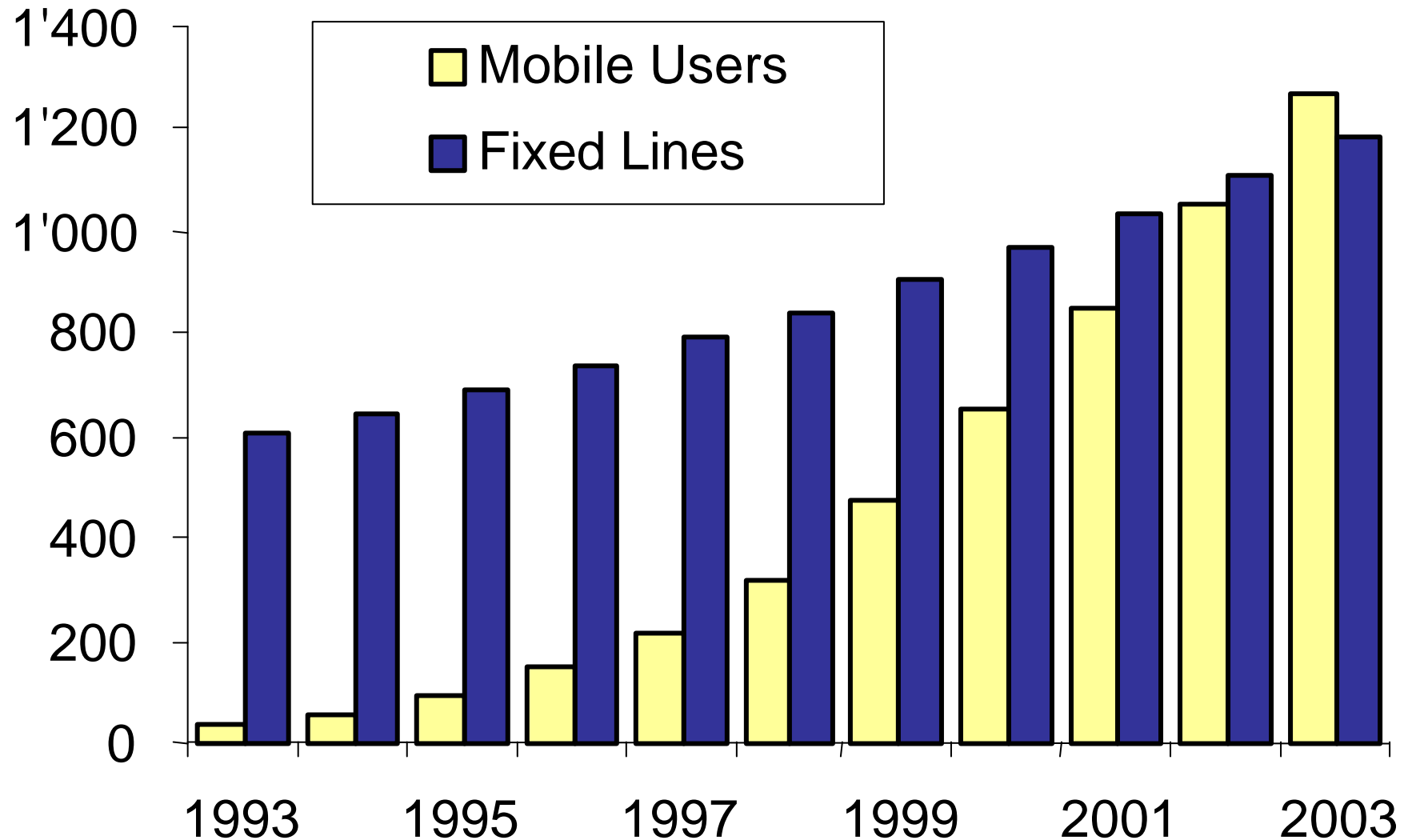


# ***Pricing mobile services: Agenda***

- **A Mobile Revolution**
  - **Worldwide and in the sub-region**
- **Pricing Mobile**
  - **Options**
  - **Price comparisons and trends**
  - **Price trends**
  - **Average Revenue Per User (ARPU)**
- **Fixed-Mobile Interconnect**
- **A Mobile Future**

# ***A Mobile Revolution***

**Fixed Lines vs. Mobile Users, worldwide, Million**

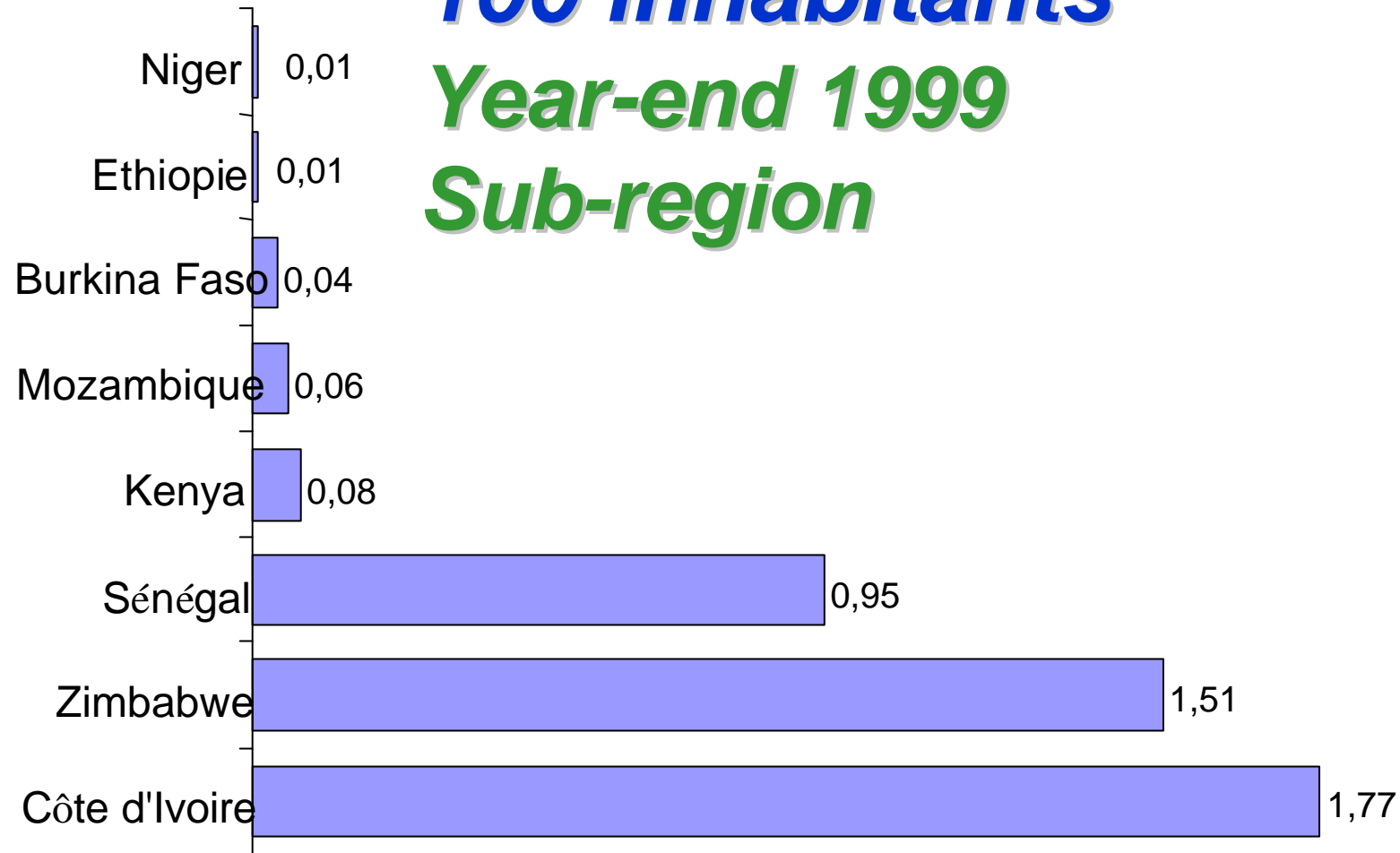


*Source: ITU World Telecommunication Indicators Database.*

# **Mobile subscribers per 100 inhabitants**

## **Year-end 1999**

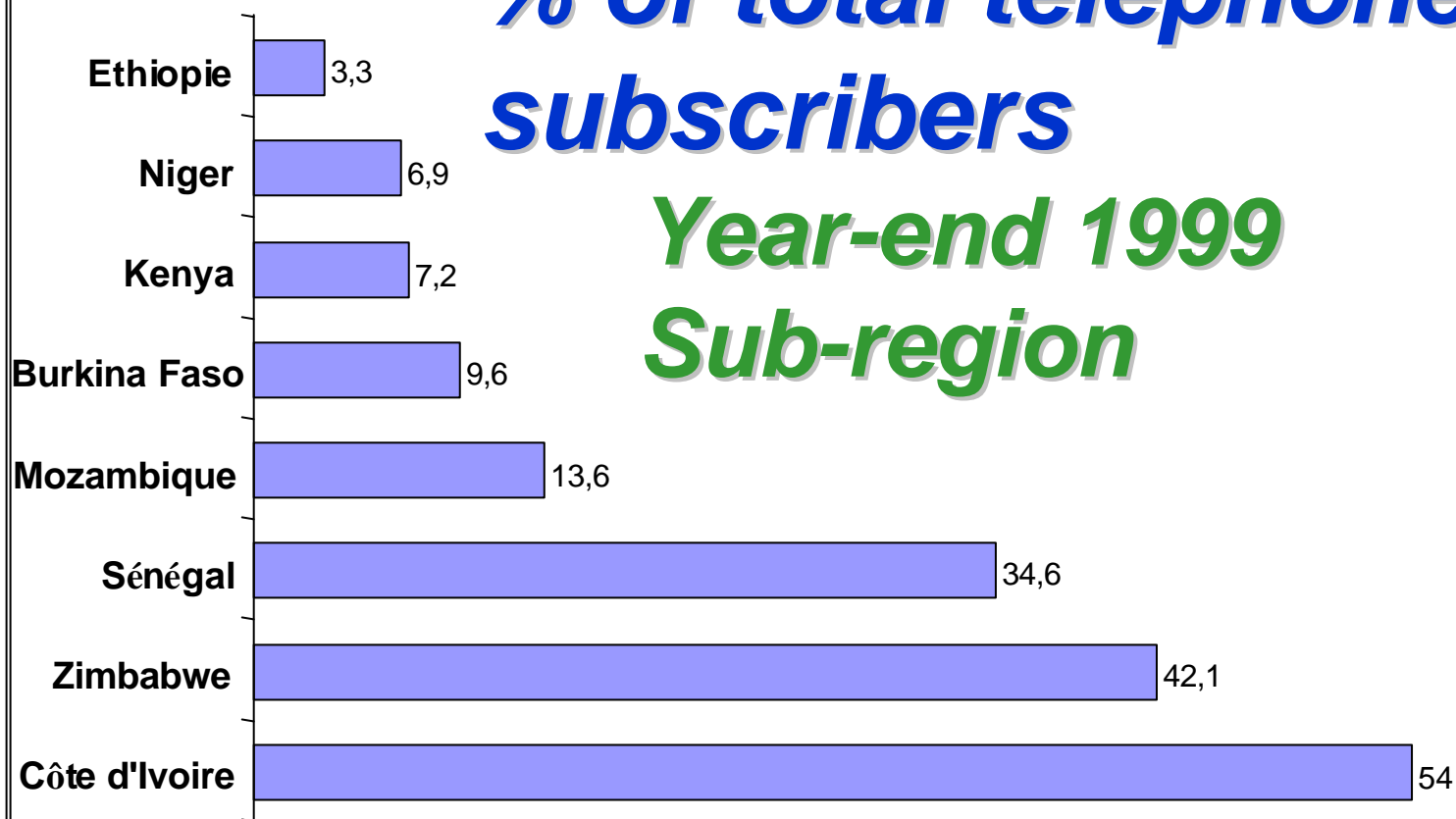
### **Sub-region**



Source: ITU World Telecommunication Indicators Database.

# ***Mobile subscribers as % of total telephone subscribers***

***Year-end 1999  
Sub-region***





# The secret of mobile success

- Why is mobile currently **growing ten times faster** (~55% p.a.) worldwide than fixed lines networks (~5.5% p.a.)?
- Why is the average mobile user **much younger** than the average fixed-line user?
- Why do users **make calls using a mobilephone** even when a fixed-line telephone is available and cheaper?
- What is the **secret** of the success of mobile?

## Price Options

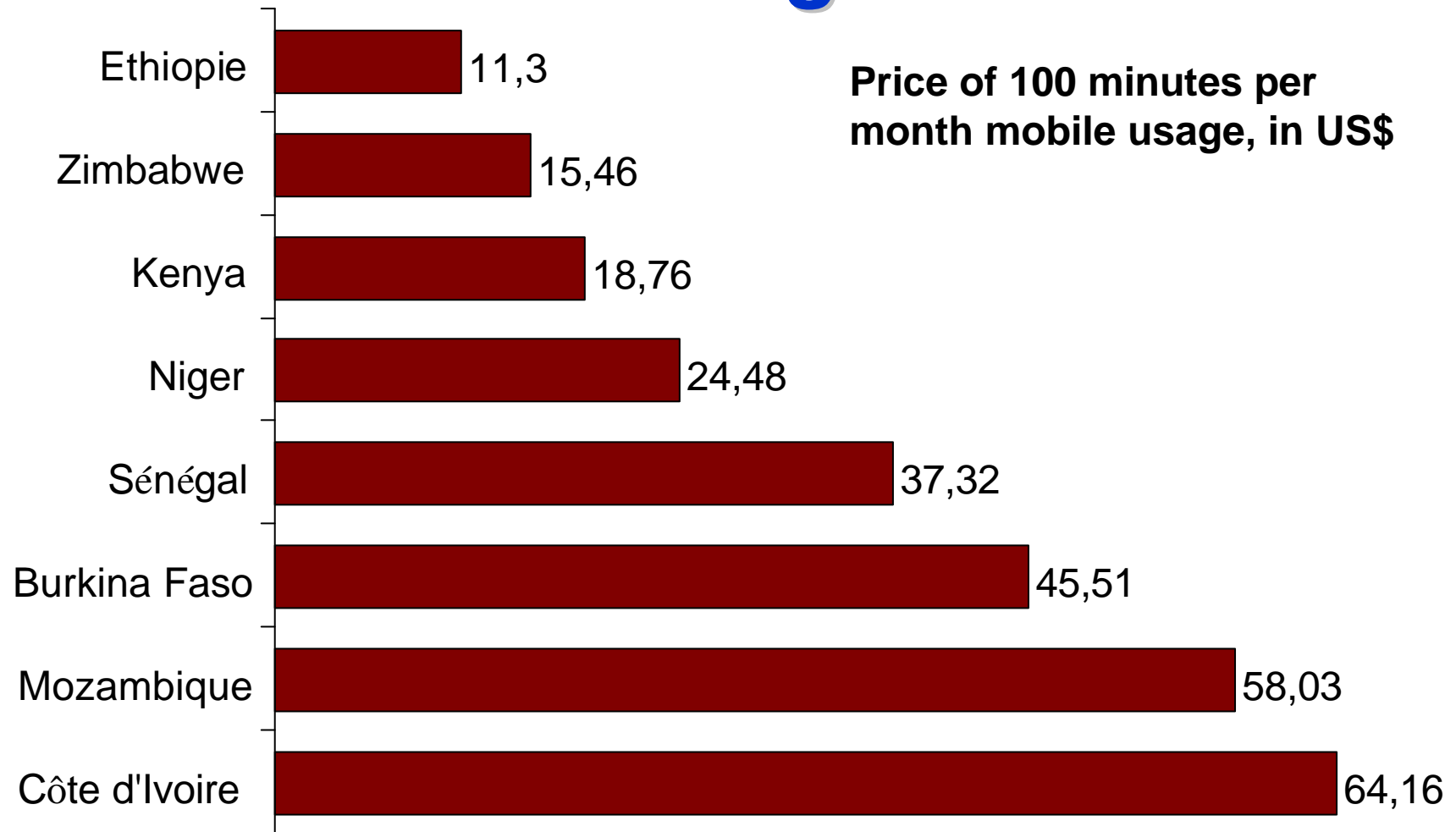
# ***A selection of price options***

## ***From Orange (UK)***

Plan name	Monthly charge for single phone	Standard talk time included (per month)	Peak time call charges (per minute)	Off-peak call charges (per minute)
Chat 60	£17.63	60 off-peak minutes	40p	5p
Talk 30	£17.50	30 minutes	30p	5p
Talk 120	£25.00	120 minutes	24p	5p
Talk 400	£58.75	400 minutes	22p	5p
Talk 1300	£176.25	1'300 minutes	17p	5p
Talk 3700	£470.00	3'700 minutes	15p	5p
Talk 7500	£940.00	7'500 minutes	15p	5p
Everyday 50	50p/day	50 minutes/day	40p	1p

Source: <http://www.uk.orange.net/kit/index.html>.

# Pricing Mobile

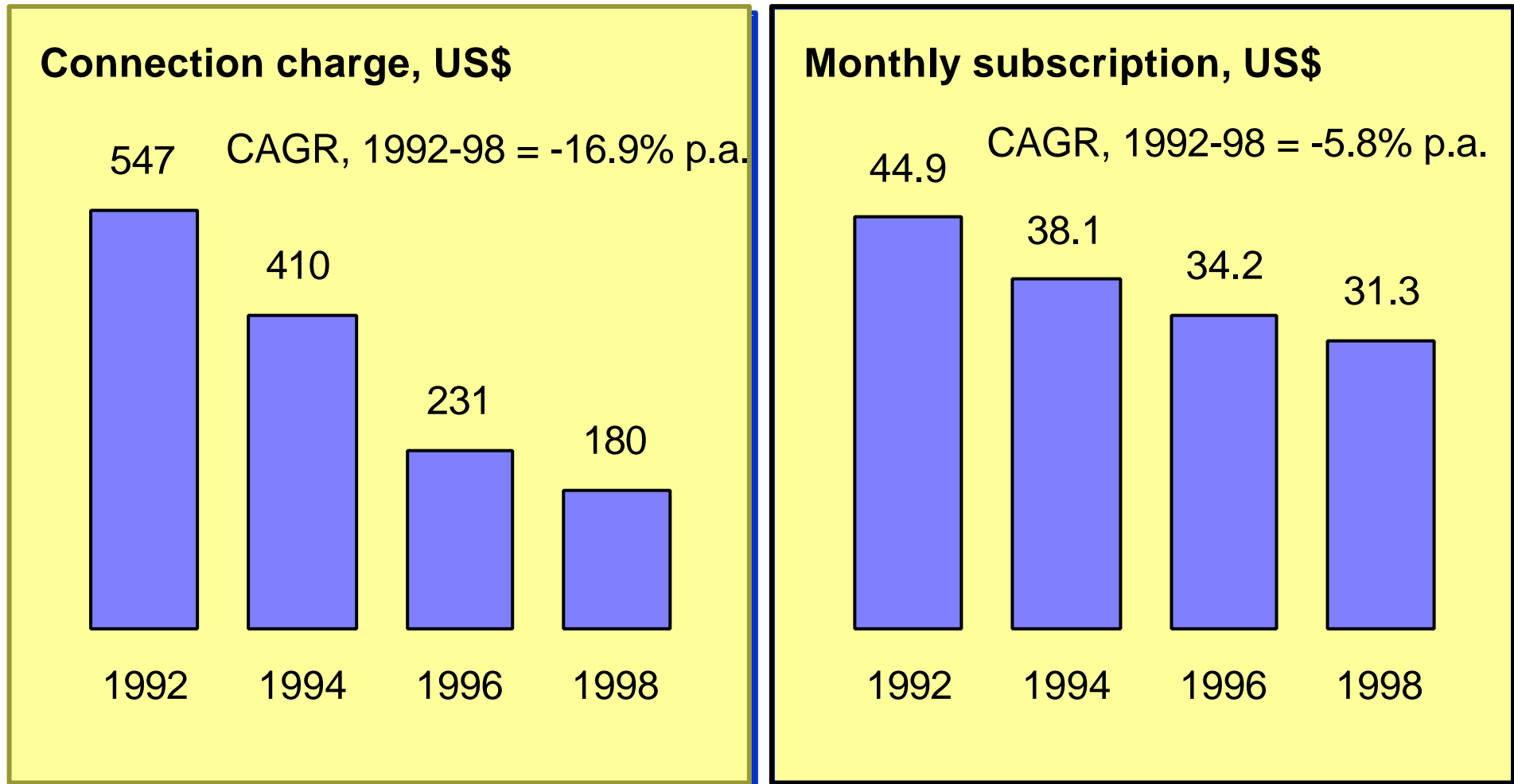


*Note: Price basket based on monthly subscription plus 50 mins peak and 50 mins off-peak use.*

*Source: ITU World Telecommunication Indicators Database.*



# Declining prices for mobile access, global average, in US\$, 1992-98

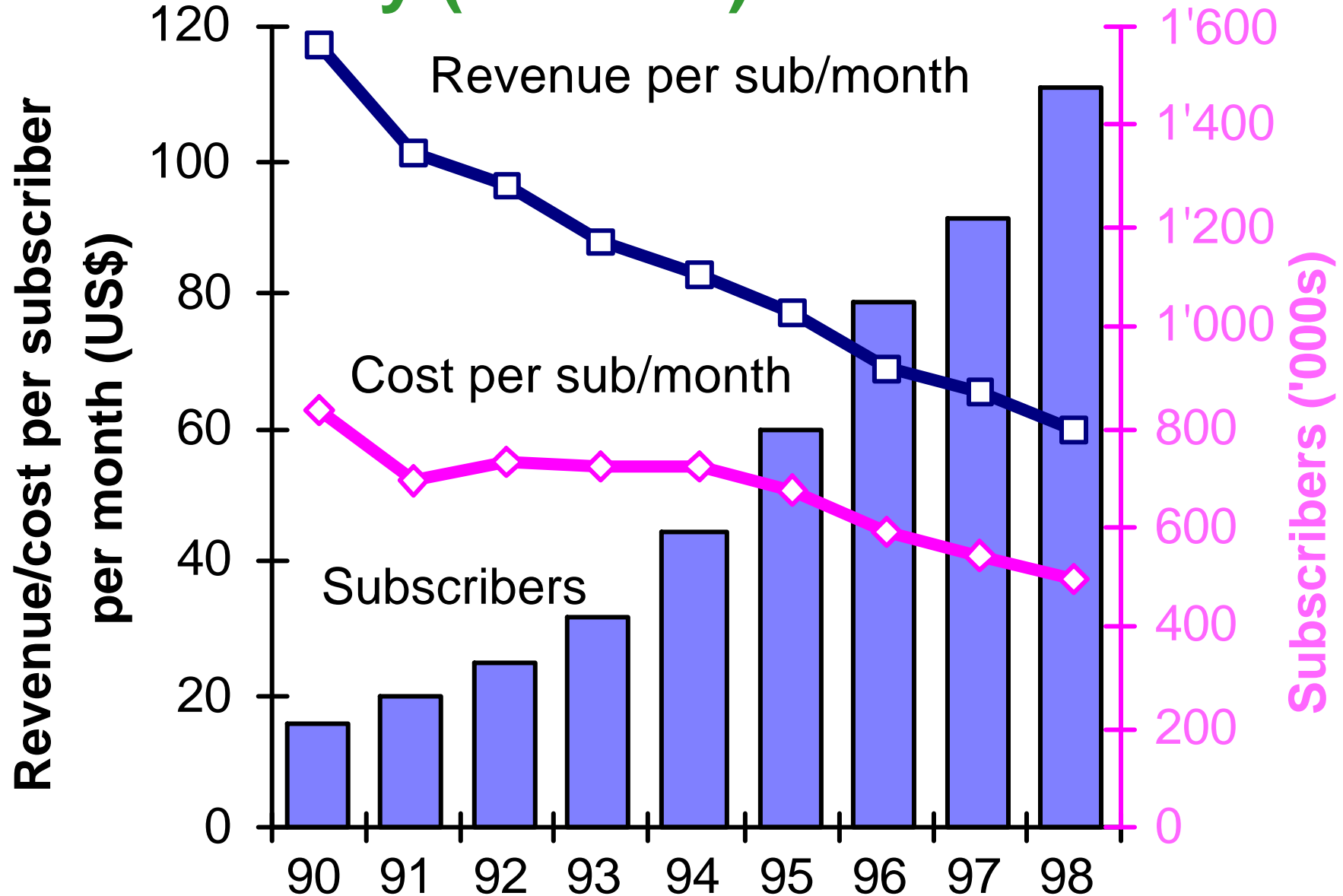


Note: CAGR = Compound Annual Growth rate.

Source: ITU "World Telecommunication Development Report 1999: Mobile cellular"

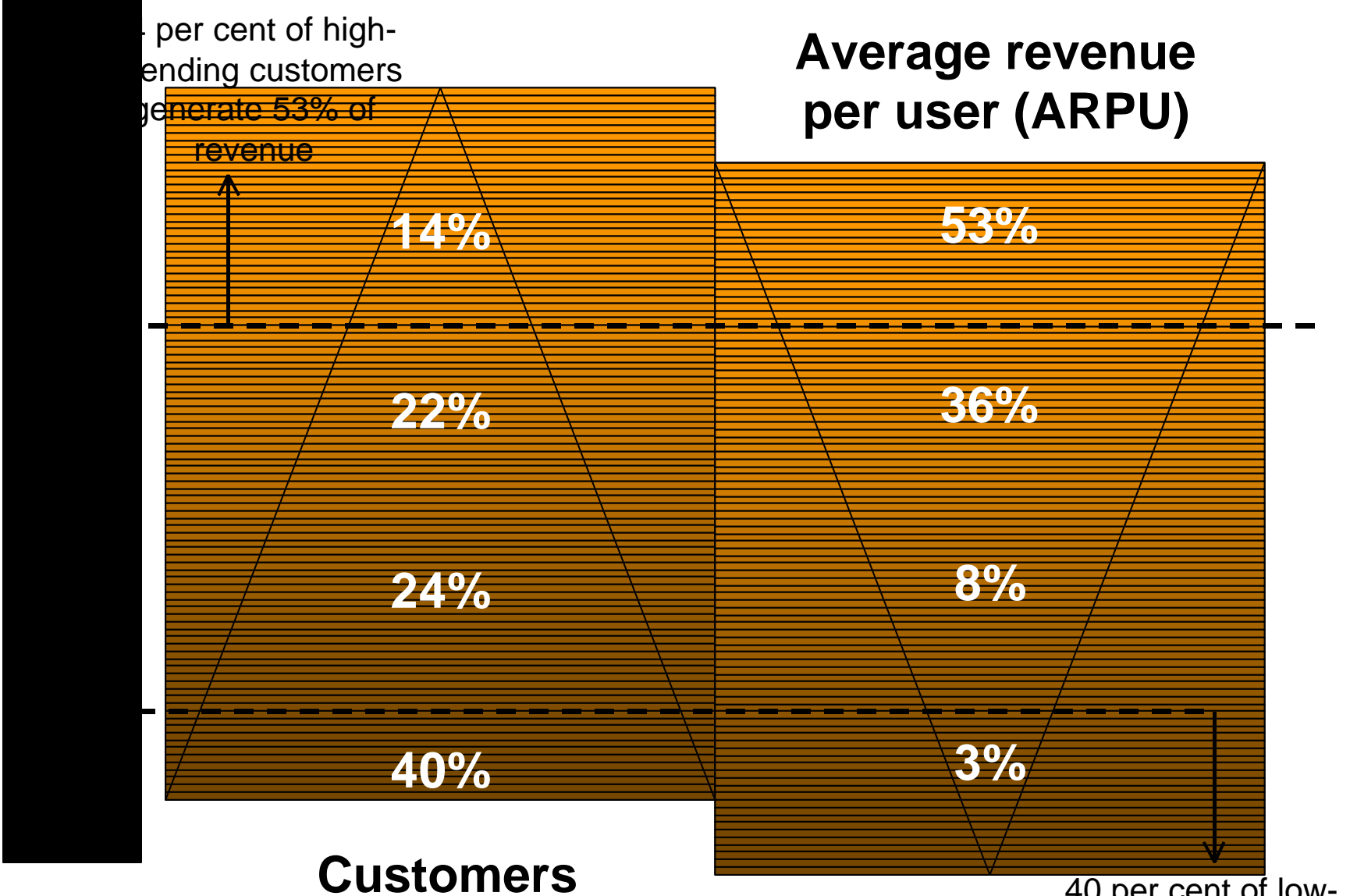
# Average revenue per user (ARPU)

## Bell Mobility (Canada)



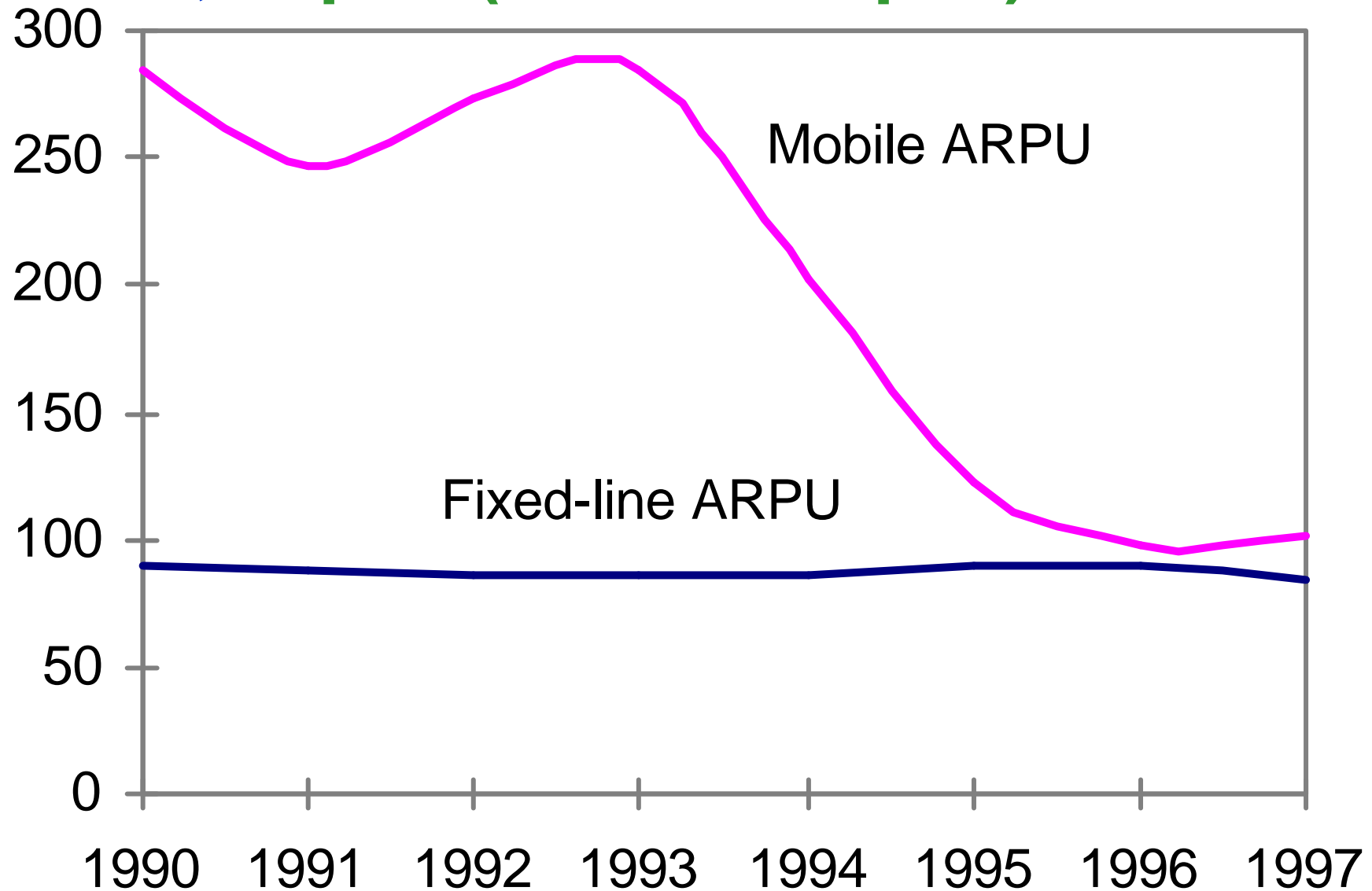
Source: ITU "World Telecommunication Development Report 1999: Mobile cellular"

# Cultivate the high-spenders



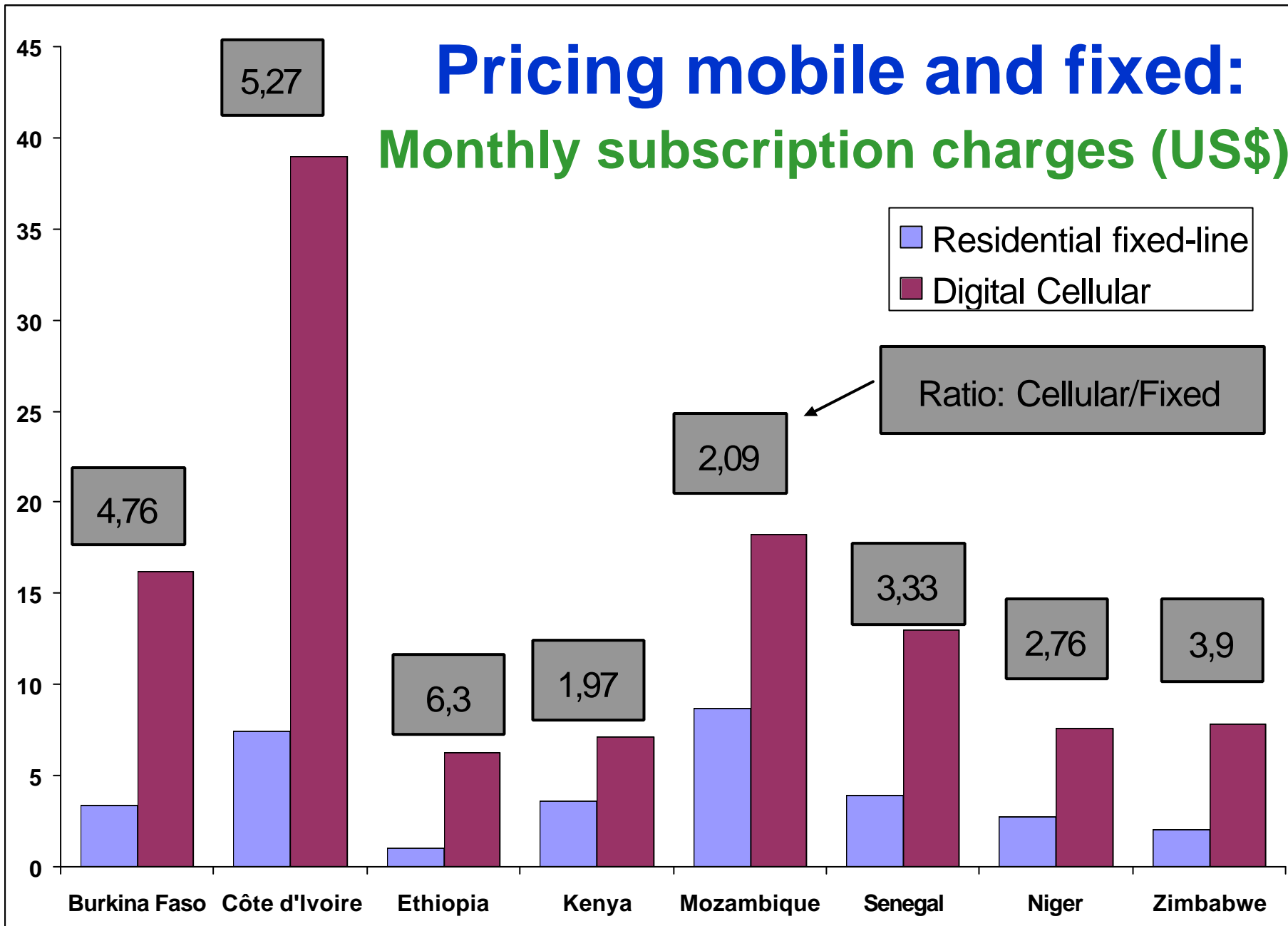
Source: Price Waterhouse Coopers, based on Canadian data.

# Mobile ARPU converging with Fixed-line ARPU, Japan (Yen '000s p.a.)



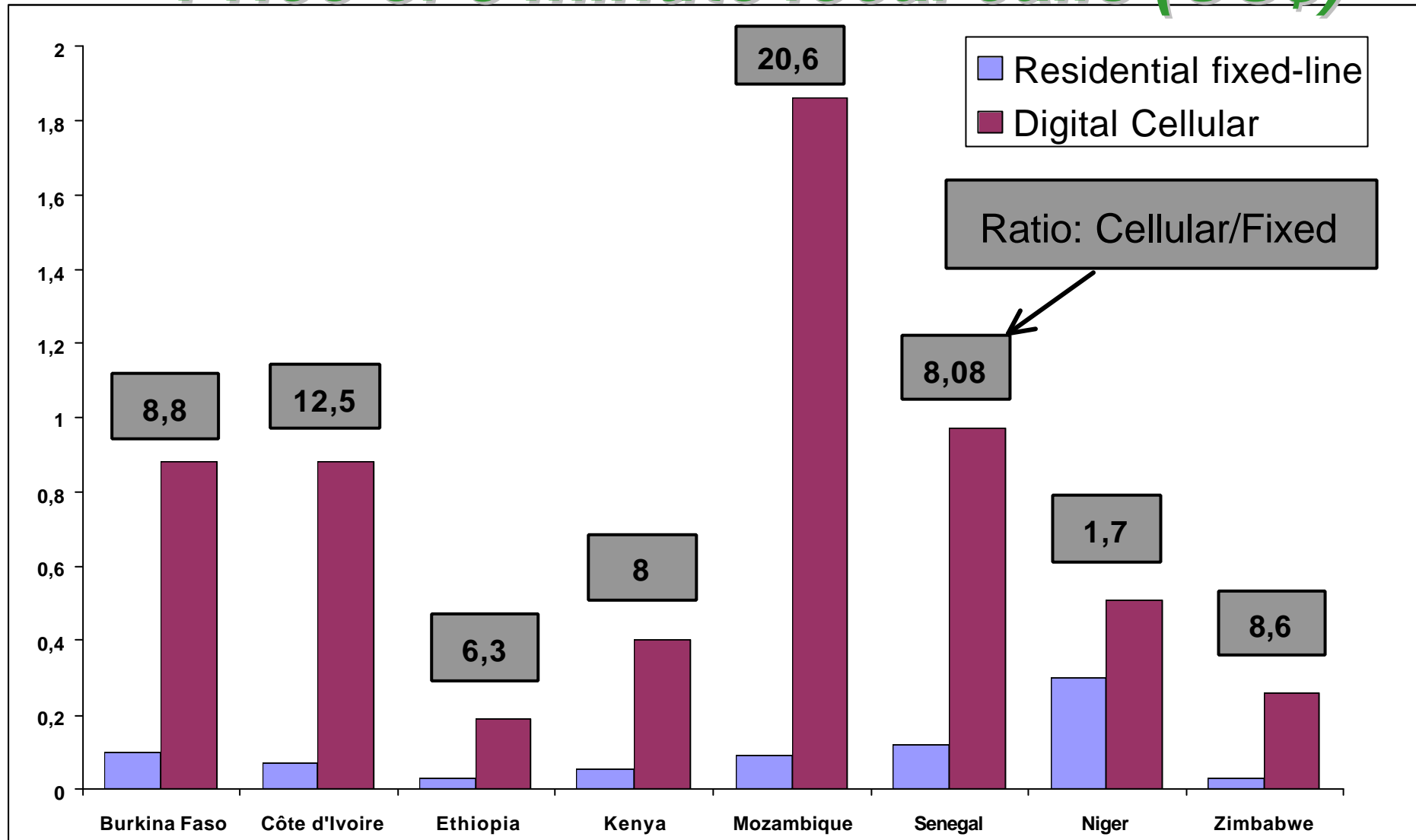
Source: ITU "World Telecommunication Development Report 1999: Mobile cellular"

# Pricing mobile and fixed: Monthly subscription charges (US\$)



# Pricing mobile and fixed:

## Price of 3 minute local calls (US\$)



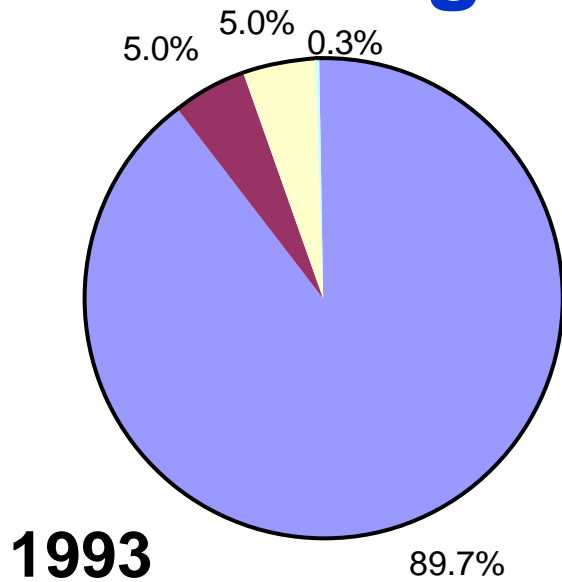


# Fixed-Mobile Interconnection

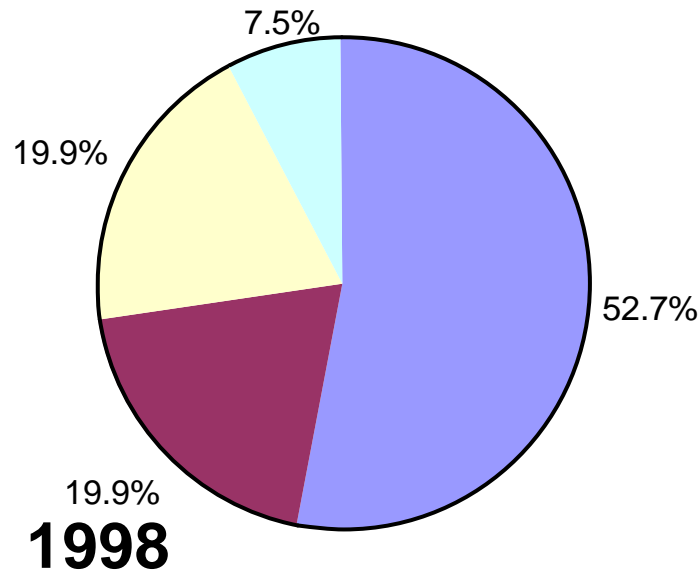
- **Interconnect prices are a major determinant of retail prices**
- **Evidence of “market failure”**
  - ⇒ **Interconnect prices are variable but generally very high**
  - ⇒ **In Calling Party-Pays environments, caller may not be aware of the charge they will be paying**
  - ⇒ **Calling party does not have a choice of operator to terminate the call**
- **Fixed-to-mobile and mobile-to-fixed highly asymmetric**
- **By 2005, 75% of all calls worldwide will involve a mobile**



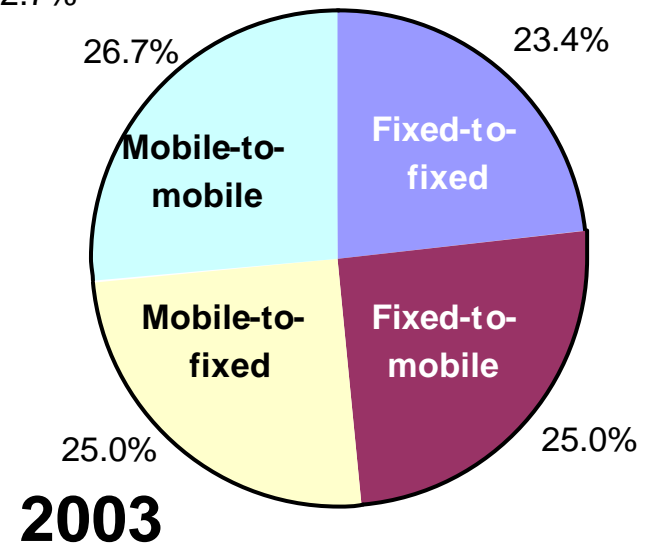
## Calling opportunities worldwide



**1993**



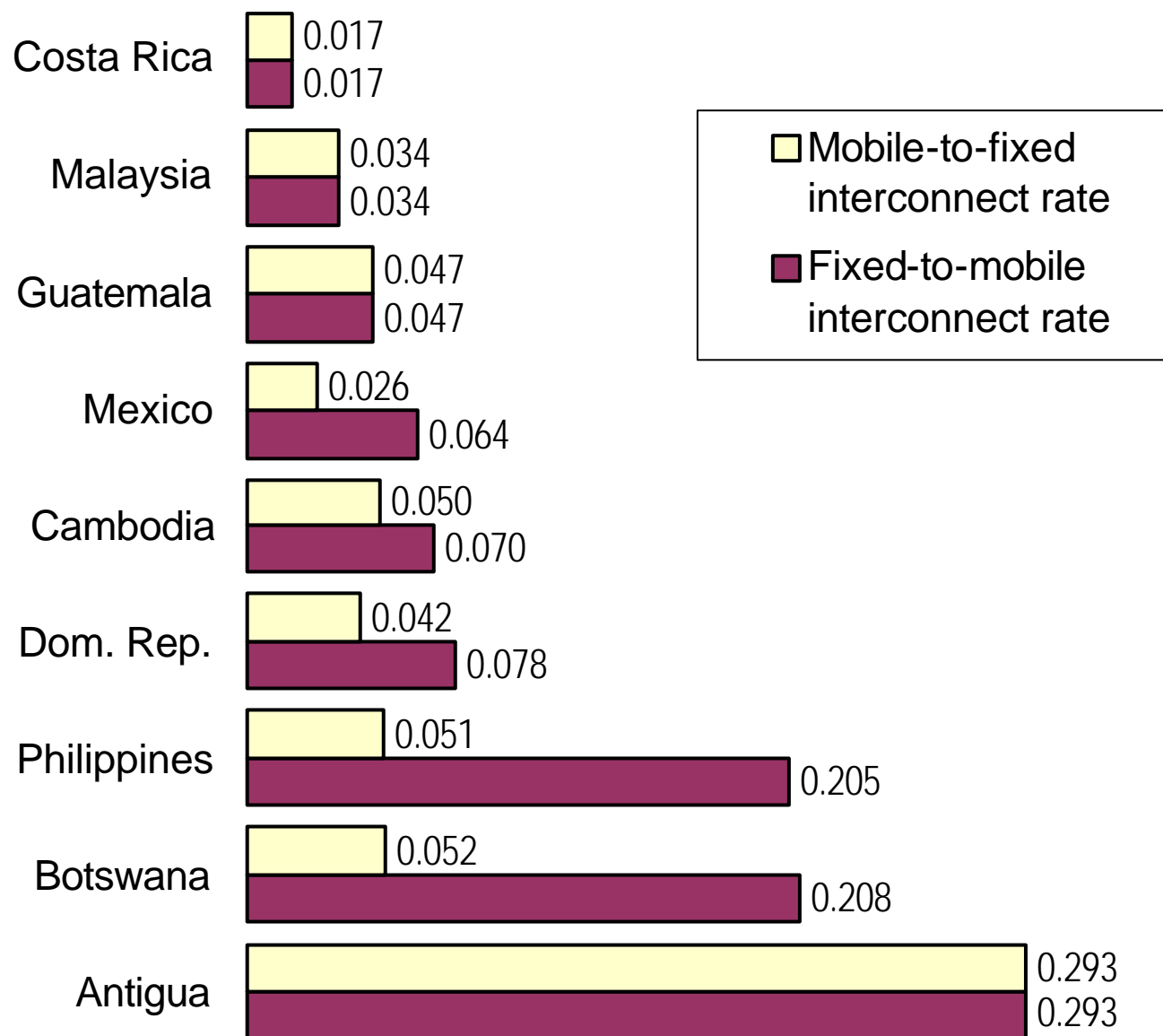
**1998**



**2003**



# Fixed/Mobile interconnect rates in selected calling-party-pays countries



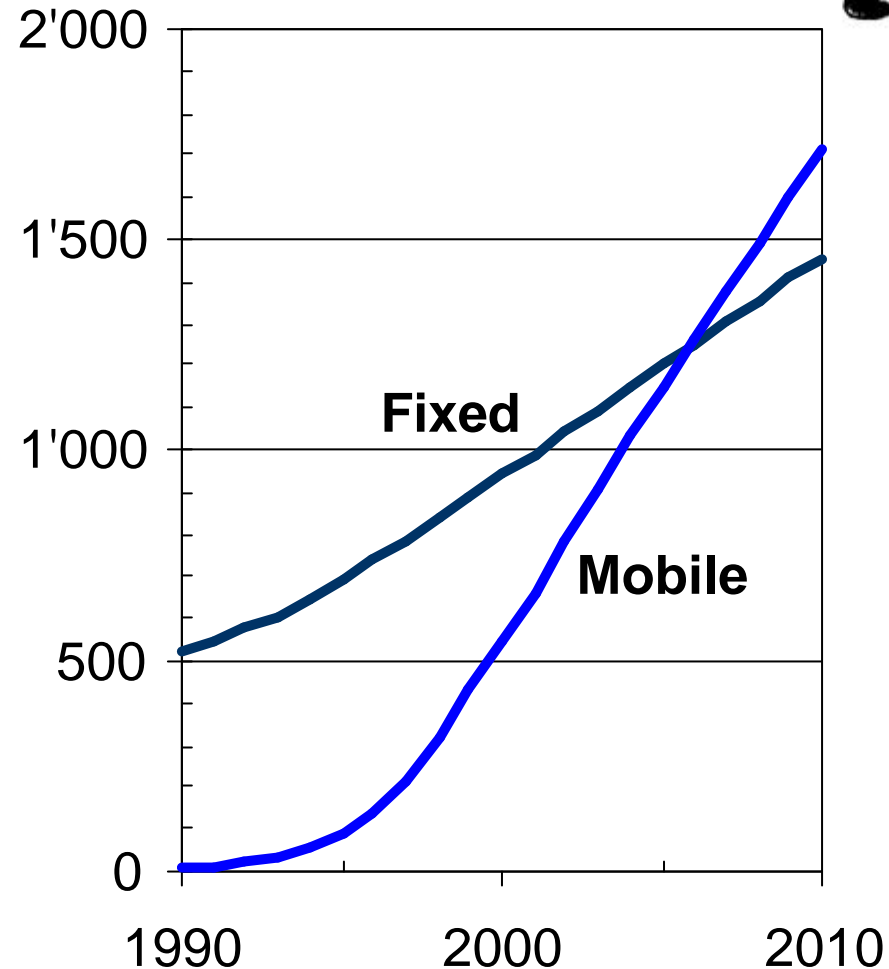
Source: ITU.

# A mobile future

*Actual and projected subscriber growth, fixed-lines and mobile, millions, 1990-2010*

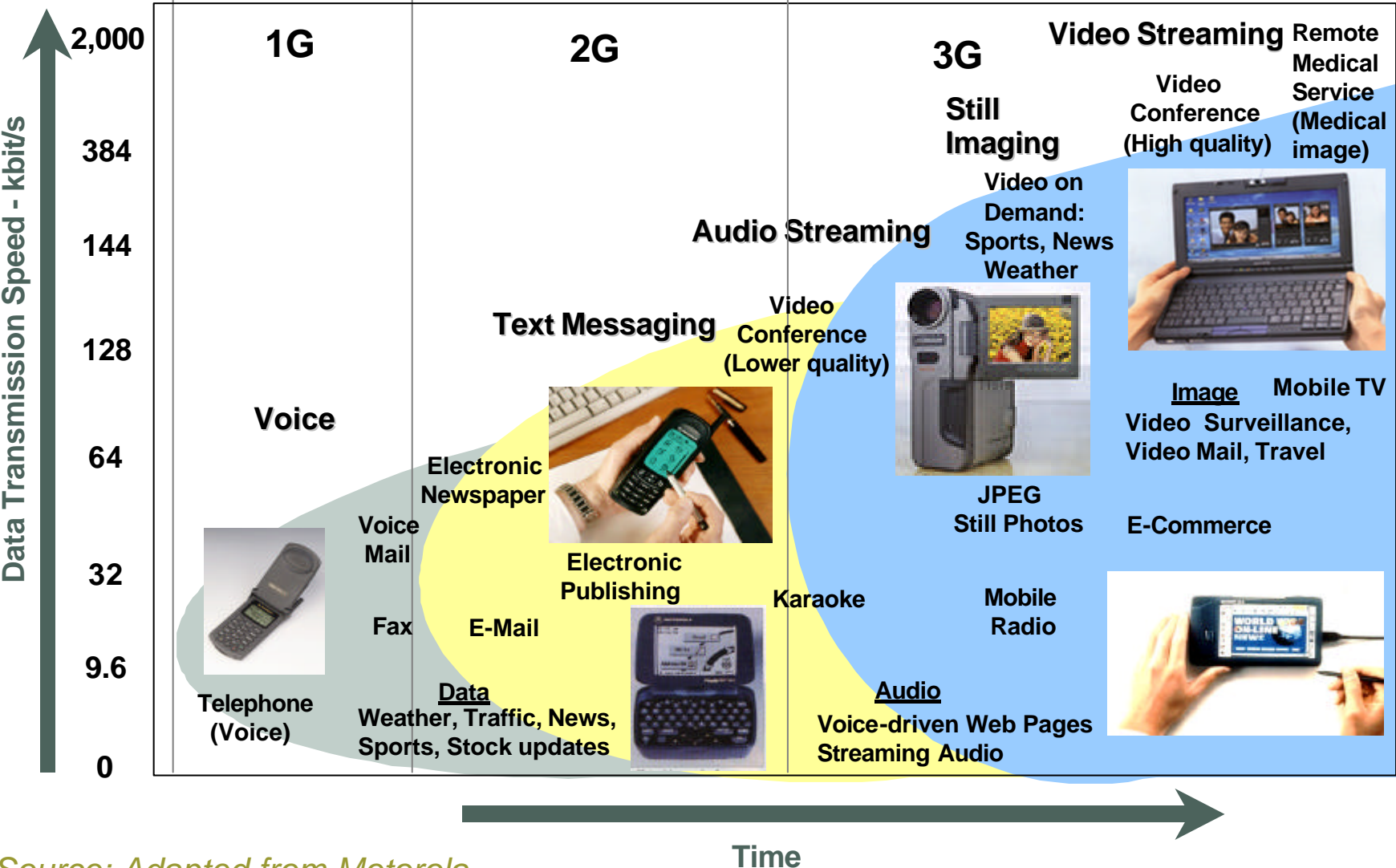


- Mobile has overtaken fixed-lines in Cambodia, Finland, Italy, Korea
- Mobile subscribers to overtake fixed-line worldwide before 2005?
- Mobile revenue to overtake fixed-line after 2004?
- Fastest growth in developing countries

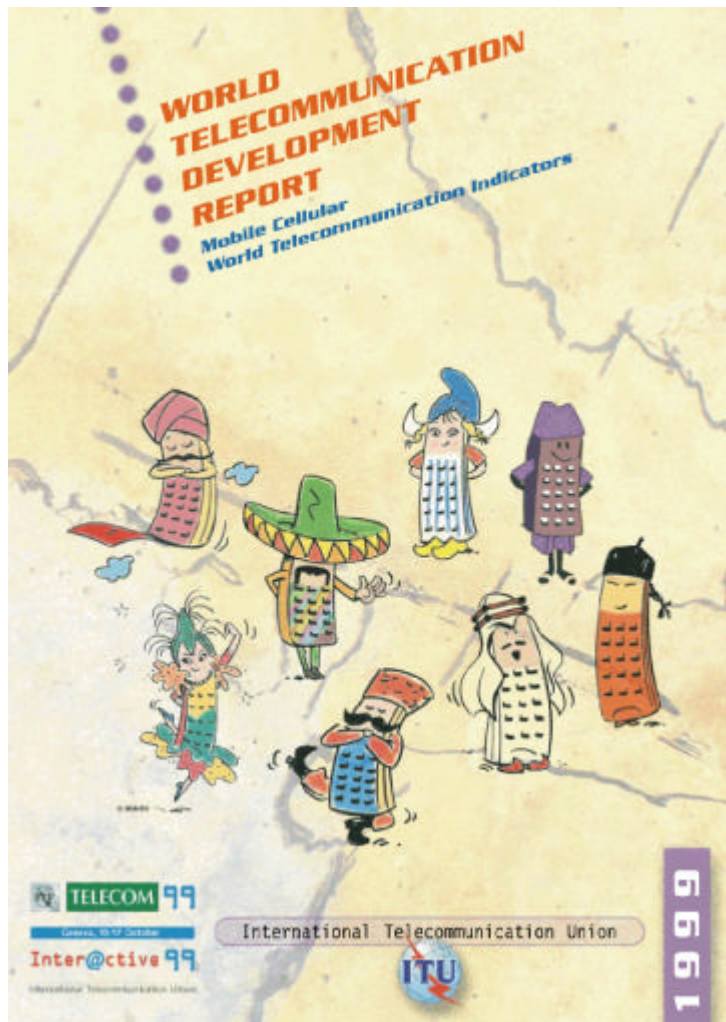


*Source: 1990-1998 data from ITU World Telecommunication Indicators Database. 1999-2010 ITU projections.*

# The race for 3rd Generation mobiles: **IMT-2000**



Source: Adapted from Motorola.



## ***For more information ...***

- **Publication launch:  
10 October 1999  
(TELECOM '99)**
- **Available on paper and  
online (PDF format)**
- **World Telecom Indicators  
Database available online**
- **Website:**

**<http://www.itu.int/ti>**

## ***Other reports launched at TELECOM '99***

- **Direction of Traffic 1999: Trading Telecom Minutes**
- **Trends in Telecom Reform 1999: Convergence**
- **Internet for Development (updated with latest data)**