

Report Price: £3254.83 | \$4395.00 | €3662.99

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.



Wireless service marketing is challenging given that penetration is virtually universal and that the majority of subscribers are not interested in changing service. With limited opportunities for adding new subscribers and difficulty in poaching existing ones, focusing on increasing average revenue per user (ARPU) through new features is likely to be a chief thrust for the industry looking forward.

## This report looks at the following areas:

- No easy way out of mass advertising across traditional and digital
- Prepaid places lid on pricing
- Churn rates dauntingly low

With sales of \$237 billion dollars in 2017, the wireless market represents one of the largest service sectors in the US and some of its top advertisers. After three years of lean growth, the industry is poised for growth, driven by potential price changes subsequent to the merger of Sprint and T-Mobile, the launch of 5G mobile hotspots in 2018, as well as growth in interest in adding smartwatches, tablets, and vehicles to subscriptions.

# BUY THIS REPORT NOW

**VISIT:** store.mintel.com

**CALL:**EMEA
+44 (0) 20 7606 4533

Brazil 0800 095 9094

Americas +1 (312) 943 5250

+86 (21) 6032 7300

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

**EMAIL:** reports@mintel.com

**DID YOU KNOW?** 

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



Report Price: £3254.83 | \$4395.00 | €3662.99

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

#### **Table of Contents**

#### **Overview**

What you need to know

Definition

#### **Executive Summary**

Overview

The issues

No easy way out of mass advertising across traditional and digital

Figure 1: Role in service selection, March 2018

Prepaid places lid on pricing

Figure 2: Impression of prepaid services, March 2018

Churn rates dauntingly low

Figure 3: Postpaid churn rates, most recently reported financial quarter, April 2018

The opportunities

Additional services, devices, boosting revenue

Figure 4: Features subscribers would like to add, March 2018

Basic elements of service helping to create loyalty

Figure 5: Perception of provider among subscribers uninterested in changing carrier, March 2018

Promotions propel acquisitions

Figure 6: Interest in changing carriers and circumstances under which changing would be motivated, March 2018

What it means

#### The Market - What You Need to Know

Sales survive difficult conditions

No growth in service sales 2015-17

Vast majority participate in selection

## **Market Size**

Adverse conditions stall sales 2014-17

Figure 7: Total US sales and forecast of market, at current prices, 2012-18

## **Market Breakdown**

Service sales stall

Equipment revenue sees substantial growth

Figure 8: Wireless service sales vs equipment sales, 2015-17

## **Market Perspective**

Everyone is involved

Figure 9: Role in service selection, March 2018

No taint on prepaid



VISIT: store.mintel.com

**CALL:** EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100 | **EMAIL:** reports@mintel.com



Report Price: £3254.83 | \$4395.00 | €3662.99

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Figure 10: Impression of prepaid and smaller carriers, March 2018

#### **Market Factors**

#### Lower prices far and away leading reason to change carrier

Figure 11: Objectives in changing carrier, by carrier (AT&T/Verizon), March 2018

Figure 12: Objectives in changing carrier, by carrier (other brands), March 2018

#### Growth via acquisitions tough

Figure 13: Postpaid churn rates for most recently reported financial quarter, April 2018

#### **Key Players - What You Need to Know**

Four networks carry 88% of subscribers

Vanishing brand distinctions advantageous to smaller services

Merger, 5G create room for new second tier

#### What's Working?

#### Dominance tied to handsets

Figure 14: Subscriptions by provider (with subsidiaries included in parent share), March 2018

#### Campaigns lead perception

Figure 15: Perception of Verizon and AT&T among subscribers uninterested in changing carriers (AT&T/Verizon), March 2018

Figure 16: Perception of provider among subscribers uninterested in changing carriers, by carrier, excluding AT&T/Verizon, March 2018

## What's Struggling?

## Current strugglers likely to see gains from merger

Figure 17: Subscriptions by brand, March 2018

## What's Next?

5G coming to a hotspot near you

Competition with home internet service providers

T-Mobile and Sprint to merge

#### Additional devices retain potential

Figure 18: Features subscribers would like to add, March 2018

### The Consumer - What You Need to Know

Promotions, reviews critical to success

Customer service and reputation matter

Few planning to switch, but many open to it

Younger and lower-income demographics more inclined to switch

Eight in 10 cite price as reason to switch

#### **Influences on Carrier Selection**

### Personal experience tops marketing

Figure 19: Influences on carrier selection, March 2018

## Duopoly reliant on personal experience

Figure 20: Influences on carrier selection, by carrier (AT&T/Verizon), March 2018

BUY THIS REPORT NOW VISIT: store.mintel.com

**CALL:** EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100

**EMAIL:** reports@mintel.com



Report Price: £3254.83 | \$4395.00 | €3662.99

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Figure 21: Influences on carrier selection, by carrier (other carriers), March 2018

#### Urbanites more likely to have considered marketing

Figure 22: Influences on carrier selection, by area of residence, March 2018

#### Marketing carries less weight among highest-income group

Figure 23: Influences on carrier selection, by household income, March 2018

#### **How Loyal Subscribers Perceive their Carrier**

## Basics fulfilled for those uninterested in change

Figure 24: Perception of provider among subscribers uninterested in changing carrier, March 2018

#### Hispanics focus on price, customer service

Figure 25: Perception of provider among subscribers uninterested in changing carrier, by race and Hispanic origin, March 2018

#### With investment, shifts possible in rural and suburban areas

Figure 26: Perception of provider among subscribers uninterested in changing carriers, by area of location, March 2018

#### Older ages value customer service

Figure 27: Perception of provider among subscribers uninterested in changing carriers, by gender and age, March 2018

#### **Interest in Changing Carrier**

#### Nearly half of subscribers open to change

Figure 28: Interest in changing carriers and circumstances under which changing would be motivated, March 2018

#### Interest in change lower at smaller services

Figure 29: Interest in changing carriers, by current carrier, March 2018

## Top target by income: \$75K-99.9K

Figure 30: Interest in changing carriers, by household income, March 2018

#### Older ages staying put

Figure 31: Interest in changing carriers, by age, March 2018

#### Urbanites more likely to move

Figure 32: Interest in changing carriers, by area of residence, March 2018

#### Improved rewards can aid acquisitions

Figure 33: Interest in changing service, CHAID tree output, March 2018

## **Reasons to Switch**

#### Price, data, and speed

Figure 34: Objectives in changing carrier, March 2018

#### Younger ages less concerned with price

Figure 35: Objectives in changing carrier, by age, March 2018

### Lower-income groups less concerned with price

Figure 36: Objectives in changing carrier, by household income, March 2018

#### Dads motivated by speed, phones, features

Figure 37: Objectives in changing carrier, by parental status, March 2018

## **Appendix - Data Sources and Abbreviations**

Data sources

BUY THIS REPORT NOW **VISIT:** store.mintel.com

**CALL:** EMEA +44 (0) 20 7606 4533 | Brazil 0800 095 9094 Americas +1 (312) 943 5250 | China +86 (21) 6032 7300

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100 | **EMAIL:** reports@mintel.com



Report Price: £3254.83 | \$4395.00 | €3662.99

The above prices are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

Sales data

Consumer survey data

CHAID analysis methodology

Abbreviations and terms

Abbreviations

Terms

## **Appendix - The Market**

Figure 38: Total US sales and forecast of market, at inflation-adjusted prices, 2012-18

## **Appendix - Consumer**

## CHAID tree output

Figure 39: Interest in changing service, CHAID tree output, March 2018

APAC +61 (0) 2 8284 8100 | **EMAIL:** reports@mintel.com