



GBOS



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Acronyms and Abbreviations

GAMCEL	Gambia Cellular Company Limited
GAMTEL	Gambia Telecommunication Company Limited
GMD	Gambian Dalasi
GRTS	Gambia Radio and Television Services
GSM	Global System for Mobile communications
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDI	ICT Development Index
ISPs	Internet Service Providers
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
PURA	Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
SMS	Short Message Service

Foreword

This report provides Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Statistics of The Gambia for the period 2016-2020. It presents the state of ICT infrastructure, access and use for the period under review. Most of the data in this report is from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA), data on access to the media is from the 2018 Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS V1) report and the data on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is from the Gambia Bureau of Statistics, National Accounts Unit. PURA is mandated by an act to provide guidelines on rates and fees to ensure that public services are regulated and to protect the interest of the consumers and public utilities. Thus, it currently regulates the Telecommunication, Energy, Water and Sewage and Electricity sectors in the country.

The report contains data on internet subscription, volume of calls, tariffs charged, employment, the number and types of broadcasting media, the proportion of the population that had access to ICT. This report can be accessed on the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) website (<https://www.gbosdata.org/>). Users who have specific data needs can contact the Tourism, Transport and Communication Statistics Unit of GBoS for assistance.

On behalf of the Bureau of Statistics, I wish to express my profound gratitude to PURA, and the telecommunication operators for making available the necessary data for the compilation of the ICT Statistics. My special thanks to the entire staff of the Tourism, Transport and Communication Statistics Unit. I am also thankful to the Director of the Economic Statistics directorate, for facilitating the preparation of this report. I hope that users will find this report useful.

Nyakassi M.B. Sanyang

Statistician General

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Statistics Report- 2016-2020

1: Introduction

This is the fourth report on Information and Communication indicators prepared by the Tourism, Transport and Communication Statistics unit of GBoS. The report highlights the use of and access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure in terms of internet subscription, volume of calls, tariffs charged, employment, number and types of broadcasting media, proportion of the population that had access to ICT.

The importance of ICT in a country cannot be overemphasized as it can help boost various sectors of an economy, such as health, education, agriculture, tourism and the like. Improved communication network enhances the dissemination of information and has made the world a global village. Social relationships have improved through the use of ICT products and services. In addition, learning has become easier for the population at large, thus, it is important to report on the state of ICT in the country to enable better planning.

2. ICT Infrastructure and Access

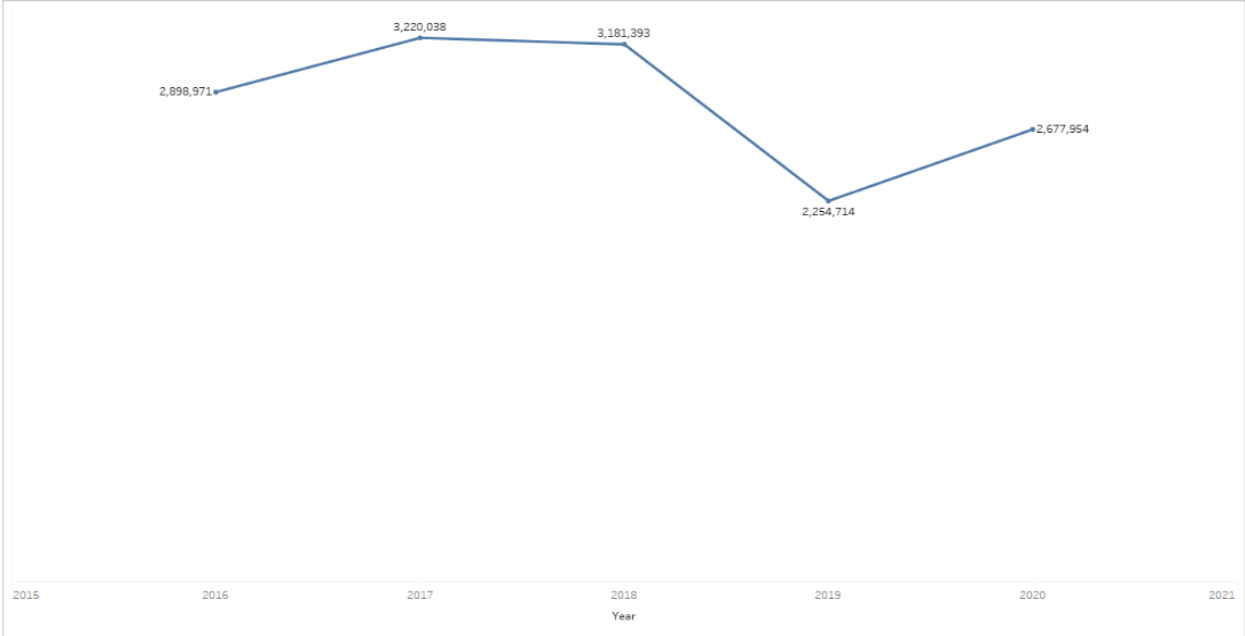
2.1 Service providers and available infrastructure

There has been significant growth in the telecommunication industry over the years. There are still four mobile cellular service providers (Gamcel, Africell, Comium and Qcell) while Gamtel is the only fixed line telephone provider. Qcell and Gamtel in addition to Unique Solutions, Netpage, Insist Global, Africell, Comium and Leap make up the Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the country.

2.2 Mobile cellular subscriptions

The number of active mobile subscribers has risen from approximately 2.2 million in 2019 to about 2.6 million subscribers in 2020. The large number of subscribers is attributed to the use of more than one sim card by some subscribers and the availability of dual sim phones in the market. Also some subscribers have more than one phone

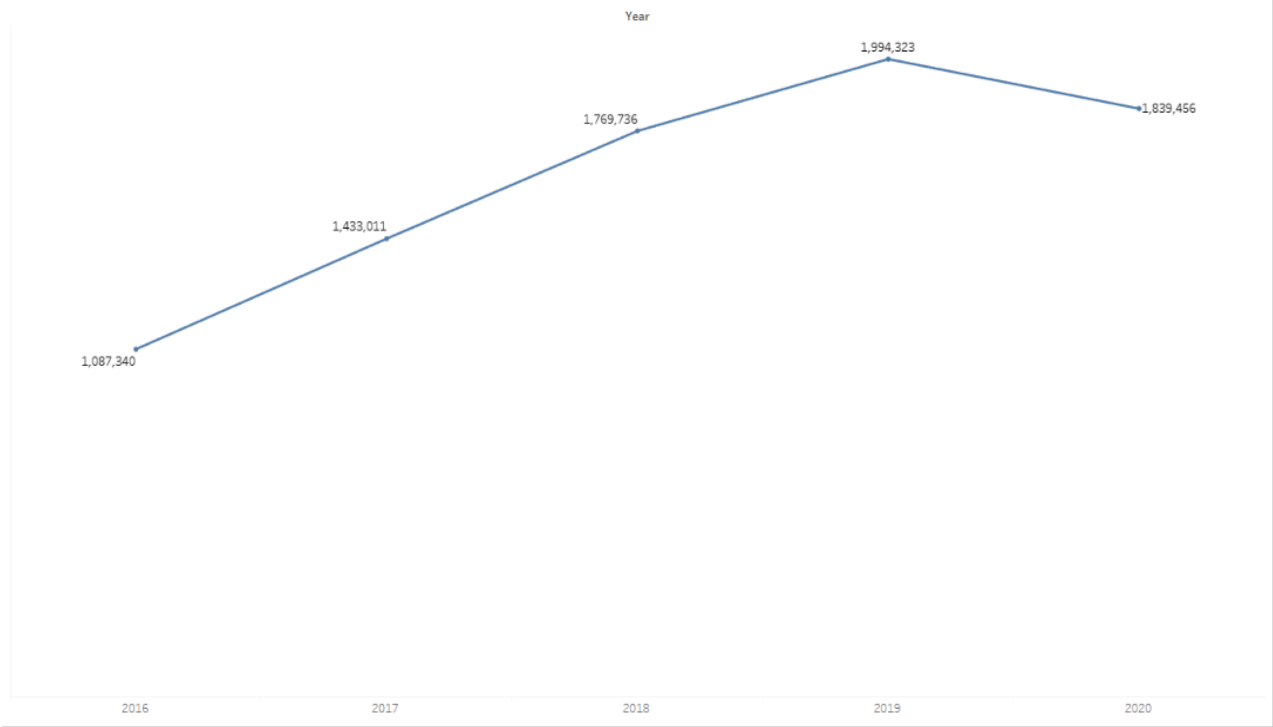
Figure 1: Mobile Active Subscribers



2.3 Internet Subscriptions

The Figure below shows a decline in the total number of mobile internet subscribers in the country. This could be due to the Covid-19 pandemic that causes the closure of schools and work places for long period of time. The number of mobile internet subscribers decreases from about 1.9 million in 2019 to approximately 1.8 million subscribers in 2020.

Figure 2: Mobile Internet Subscriptions

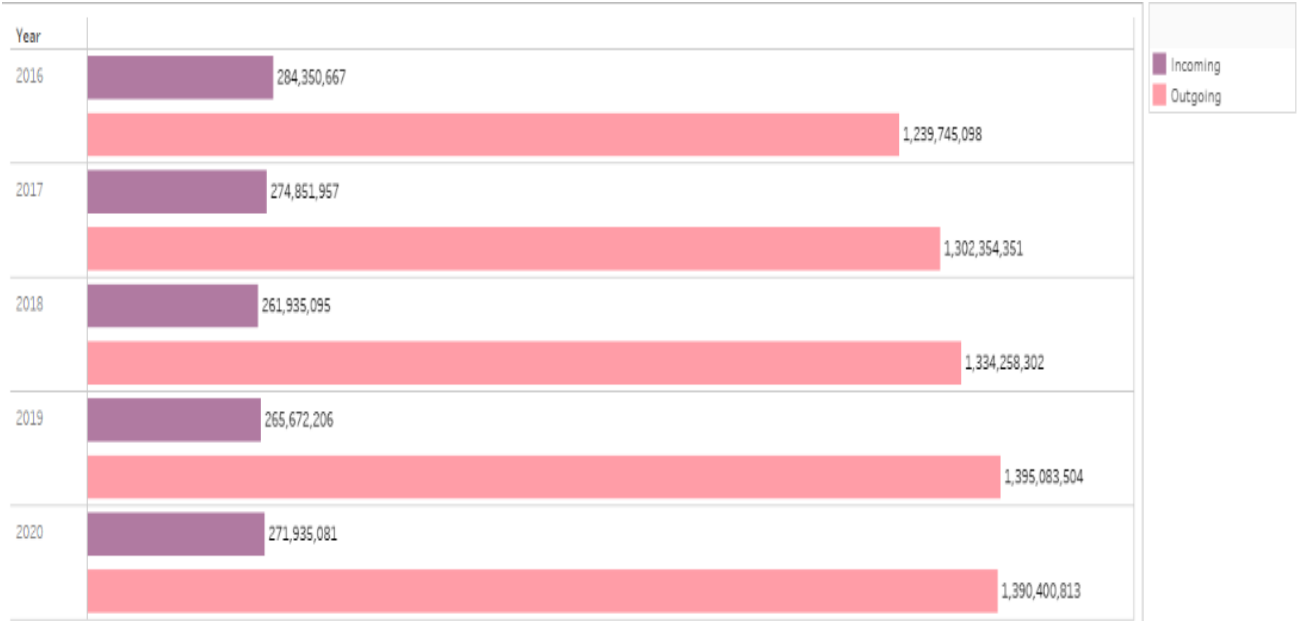


2.4 Communication Traffic

2.4.1 Local calls

The Figure below shows that the volume of local calls has increased over the years. The minutes on incoming calls in 2020 (271 billion) were about 6.2 million more than the minutes in 2019 (265 billion). For the outgoing local calls, the minutes of calls slightly decreased from 2019 to 2020 respectively by a difference of about 5.6 million.

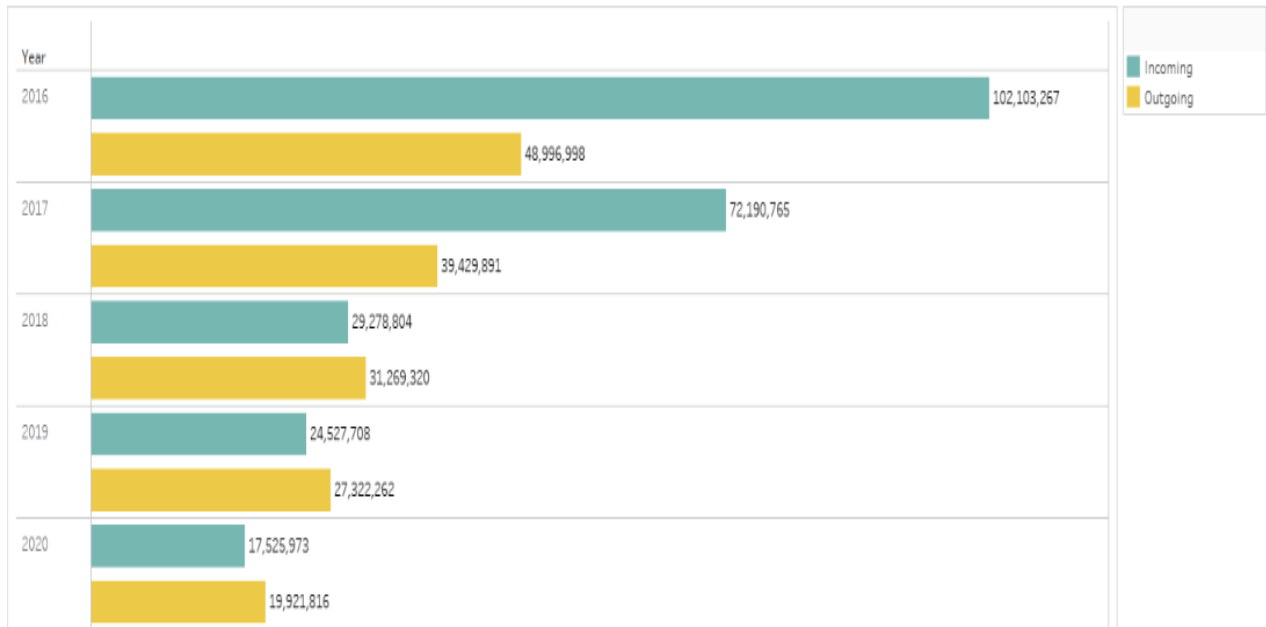
Figure 3: Volume of Local Calls (in minutes)



2.4.2 International calls

The traffic for international calls has been decreasing over the years as shown in the figure below. This could be due to the increase in the use of the social media platforms especially WhatsApp, Viber and Facebook as other means of communication. The minutes on incoming international calls decreased from about 24 million minutes in 2019 to about 17 million minutes in 2020. In the same vein, the traffic for outgoing international calls decreased from about 27 million minutes in 2019 to about 19 million minutes in 2020

Figure 4: Volume of International Calls (in minutes)

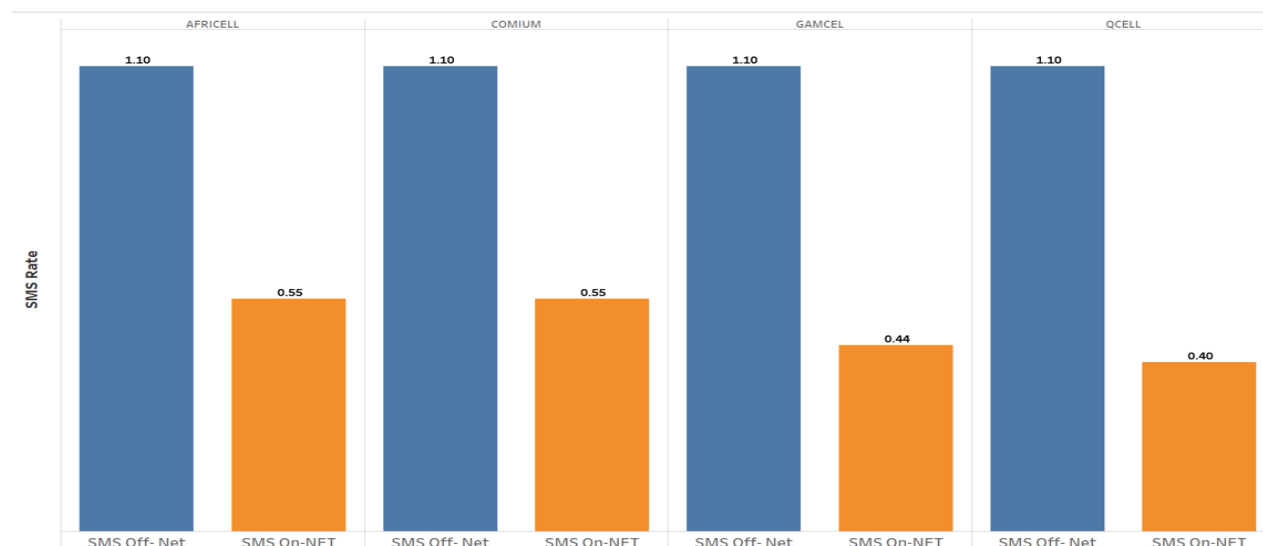


2.5 Tariffs

2.5.1 Short Message Service (SMS)

The Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) operators charged the same tariffs for Short Message Service (SMS) in both 2019 and 2020 for prepaid services. The average rate charge by all the GSM operators is GMD 1.1 per SMS for off-net (different network) SMS. However, for on-net (same network) SMS, Qcell charges a relatively smaller rate of GMD 0.40 per SMS than the other operators who charge GMD 0.44(Gamcel) and GMD 0.55 by both Africell and Comium (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Short Message Service Rates (in GMD)



3. ICT access and use

3.1 ICT access by households

During the 2018 Gambia Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 7,405 households were interviewed to assess the level of access to ICT infrastructure within households. The MICS result shows that, 69.3 per cent of households have a radio, and 52.6 per cent a TV. Slightly above 98.0 per cent of households have a telephone (fixed line or mobile phone). About 19.0 per cent of the households have a computer and the proportion of the households who reported to have access to the internet by any device from home is 63.3 per cent.

4. Contribution of ICT sector to the economy

4.1 Employment

The number of people employed by the telecommunication service providers was 3,984 in 2019, in the year 2020 it drop to 3,926 employees, with a difference of 58 employees less. Gamtel is still the largest employer of all the service providers in the industry with a number of 2,174 employees in both years, followed by Qcell which also maintained 578 employees for both 2019 and 2020. Gamcel, Africel and Comium have 478, 469 and 227 employees respectively, with a decrease of 37, 9 and 12 employees individually from 2019 to 2020.

4.2: ICT Contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Gross Domestic Product is the market value of the final products of goods and services produced in an economy in a specific time period. Thus, it is the addition of value added of various sectors such as Agriculture, Manufacturing and other service sectors such as Education, Trade, Transport and ICT.

In The Gambia the ICT industry generated a gross value added in current prices of about GMD 3.1 billion in 2020¹ compared to about GMD 2.8 billion in 2019. In terms of percentage contribution, the ICT sector contributed 3.5 per cent to GDP in 2019 and 3.7 in 2020.

5: Broadcasting Media

5.1: Television Stations

There were four television stations in the country as of 2019, With GRTS being the first since 1995 while in 2020 there is now an addition of one television station making it six television stations namely GRTS, QTV, Paradise TV, MTV, Star TV and Eye Africa TV.

5.2: FM Stations: Commercial and Community Radio Stations

There has been an increased in the number of commercial radio stations from 40 in 2019 to 42 in 2020. There are still 9 community radio stations in the country as of 2019 and 2020.

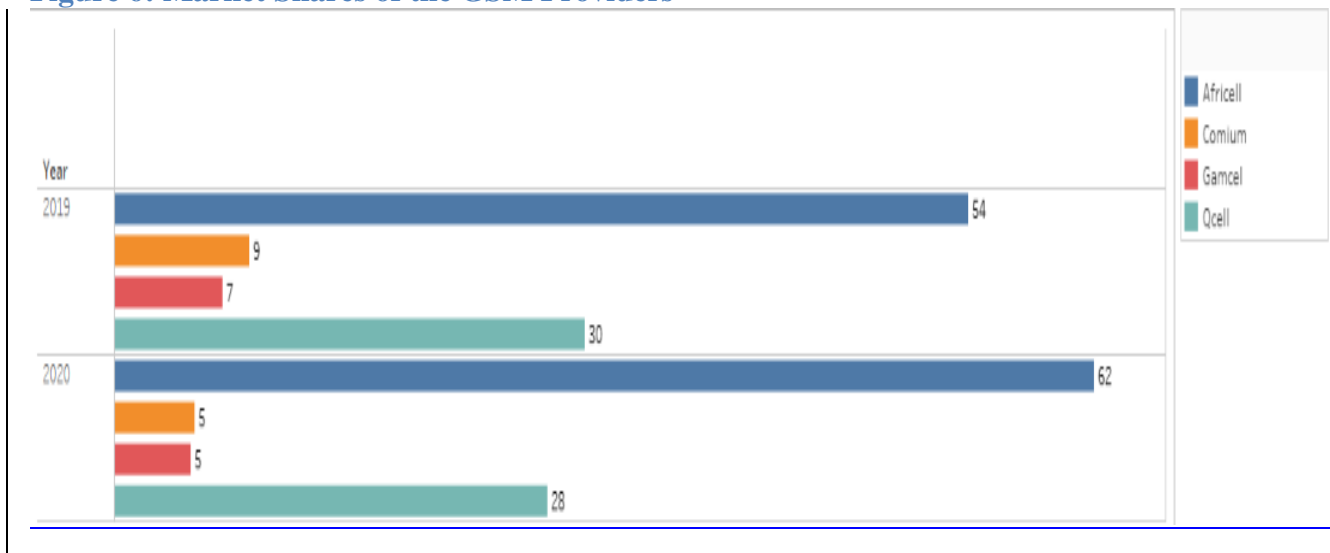
¹ GDP figures for 2020 are all provisional

6: Market Shares

The market shares were calculated using the number of active subscribers of the GSM operators. In terms of ranking, in 2020, Africell still continues to dominate with 62 per cent, followed by Qcell with 28 per cent, while Comium and Gamcel are both with 5 per cent each.

Comparing 2019 to 2020, Africell and Qcell maintain first and second positions respectively while Comium maintain third and Gamcel still on fourth in terms of market shares. Africel registered 8 per cent increase in 2020, while Comium observe a decrease by 4 per cents, Gamcel and Qcell each had a decreased of 2 per cents. (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Market Shares of the GSM Providers



Appendix

Table 1: Mobile Active Subscribers 2016 – 2020

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mobile	2,898,971	3,220,038	3,181,393	2,254,714	2,677,954

Source: PURA, 2020

Table 2: Mobile Internet Subscribers 2016 - 2020

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mobile Internet Subscribers	1,087,340	1,433,011	1,769,736	1,994,323	1,839,456

Source: PURA, 2020

Table 3: Local Call Traffic (Minutes) 2016 - 2020

Year	Incoming	Outgoing
2016	284,350,667.3	123,9745,098
2017	274,851,957.4	1,302,354,351
2018	261,935,094.9	1,334,258,301.9
2019	265,672,205.7	1,395,083,503.9
2020	271,935,081.4	1,390,400,813.4

Source: PURA, 2020

Table 4: International Call Traffic (Minutes) 2016 - 2020

Year	Incoming	Outgoing
2016	102,103,266.6	48,996,998.16
2017	72,190,764.84	39,429,891.42
2018	29,278,804.04	31,269,320.06
2019	24,527,707.53	27,322,261.93
2020	17,525,973.4	19,921,816.5

Source: PURA, 2020

Table 5: SMS Rates 2020

PREPAID	Gamcel	Africel	Comium	Qcell
SMS On-NET	0.44	0.55	0.55	0.4
SMS Off- Net	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1

Source: PURA, 2020

Table 6: EMPLOYEES OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE PROVIDERS 2016 - 2020

YEAR	Gamtel	Africel	Gamcel	Qcell	Comium	Total
2016	1,100	295	484	250	133	2,262
2017	949	491	499	297	139	2,375
2018	1,156	493	500	561	280	2,990
2019	2,174	478	515	578	239	3,984
2020	2,174	469	478	578	227	3,926

Source: PURA, 2020

Table 7: Television Stations 2016 - 2020

No.	Name	Location
1.	GRTS	Kanifing
2.	QTV	Bijilo
3.	PTV	Pipeline
4.	MTV	Serre Kunda
5.	Star TV	Serre kunda
6.	Eye Africa TV	Serre Kunda

Source: PURA, 2020

Table 8: Commercial FM Radio stations 2016 - 2020

No	Name	Location	Frequency
1.	RFI	Abuko	89.0 MHz
2.	Light FM		89.6 MHz
3.	Senn FM	West Field	90.5 MHz
4.	Deeggo FM	Kairaba Avenue	91.5 MHz
5.	West Coast 2	Kotu	92.1 MHz
6.	City Limit	Kairaba Avenue	93.6 MHz
7.	West Coast 1	Kotu	95.3 MHz
8.	Star FM	Ebo Town	96.6 MHz
9.	Taranga FM	Sinchu Alhagie	97.5 MHz
10.	GRTS FM	Mile 7	98.6 MHz
11.	DHK	Coastal Road	99.5 MHz
12.	Capital FM	Kairaba Avenue	100.4 MHz
13.	Unique FM	Bakau New Town	100.7 MHz
14.	Janneh Koto FM	Gunjur	100.1 MHz
15.	Unique FM	Basse	101.7 MHz
16.	GRTS FM	GRTS Mile 7	102.6 MHz
17.	Radio 1 FM	Fajara Booster Station	102.1 MHz
18.	Kora FM	Kanifing South	103.9 MHz
19.	Hot FM	Bakau New Town	104.3 MHz
20.	Hill Top FM	Sukuta	104.7 MHz
21.	Paradise FM	Pipe Line near BSTS	105.7 MHz
22.	Paradise FM	Basse	105.8 MHz
23.	Paradise FM	Farafeni	105.5 MHz
24.	Vibes FM	Manjai	106.1 MHz
25.	Nexus	Sanchaba Junction Ba	106.4 MHz
26.	GRTS	Abuko	106.7 MHz
27.	AL FALAH FM	MDI Road kanifing	107.2 MHz
28.	Afri Radio	Kairaba Avenue	106.7 MHz
29.	Exit FM	Bakoteh	96.9 MHz
30.	Sahed Group FM	MDI Road, Kanifing	88.5 MHz
31.	Choice FM	Sanchaba Sullay Jobe	103.6 MHz
32.	SKY FM	Old Yundum	96.9 MHz
33.	Qradio	Qcity Bijilo	103.3 MHz
34.	Abraxas Talk Radio	Kerr Seringe	
35.	Taxi FM	Brusubi Phase 2	
36.	Libidorr	Brusubi Phase 2	
37.	Veritas	Latri Kunda German	
38.	Home Digital Radio	Brikama, WCR	
39.	Banjul FM	Independence Drive, Banjul.	
40.	Foroya FM	Kombo Sillah Drive, Opp Fire Service Stn	
41.	Bolunda FM		
42.	Fayda One Fm	Wellingara	90.9MHz

Table 9: Community FM Radio stations 2016 - 2020

No.	Name	Location	Frequency
1.	Soma Community FM	Soma	88.8 MHz
2.	Bwiam Community FM	Bwiam	91.9 MHz
3.	Kerewan Community FM	Kerewan	100.5 MHz
4.	Bansang Community FM	Bansang	107.2 MHz
5.	Brikama Community FM	Brikamaba	96.8 MHz
6.	Brikama Community FM	Brikama	98.0 MHz
7.	Farafenni Community FM	Farafenni	99.9 MHz
8.	Kauranyning FM	Kuloro	107.9 MHz
9.	Poliso FM	Banjul	95.7 MHz

Source: PURA, 2020

Table 10: Percentage Market Shares of the GSM Providers, 2019 and 2020

OPERATORS	2019	2020
Gamcel	7.0	5.0
Africell	54.0	62.0
Comium	9.0	5.0
Qcell	30.0	28.0
Grand Total	100.0	100.0

Source: PURA, 2020