NZ Telecommunications Customer Satisfaction Tracking

6 monthly report January – June 2024



Purpose of this research

The purpose of this research is to monitor satisfaction with Retail Service Quality (RSQ) among consumers of Retail Service Providers (RSPs) across mobile and broadband. Allowing the Commerce Commission to gather consumer insights to identify future RSQ matters for improvement and to measure the success of the Commission's RSQ solutions.

As part of the RSQ Programme, the Commerce Commission has worked with Insights HQ to implement this ongoing monitoring programme to meet the requirements of section 9A of the Telecommunications Act, 2001. The aim of this programme is to provide information to consumers, gain consumer insight to identify future RSQ matters for improvement and measure the success of RSQ solutions.

By publishing this data, the Commission aims to increase competition and transparency among providers and empower consumers to include service quality in their decision-making, which will in turn impact the customer acquisition and retention rates of poorly performing RSPs.

Additional information and data may be available on request, including the questionnaire.

Methodology

Respondents were invited to complete a 15-minute online survey about telecommunications.

RESIDENTIAL Jan – June 2024

2,419 broadband customers 2,454 mobile customers

The residential sample was an adult sample (18+) nationally representative of the New Zealand population (age, gender, region).

Fieldwork was conducted monthly with this deck focusing on the 6 months from Jan – June 2024.

Sample qualification criteria

- Main decision maker OR shared responsibility for making decisions about broadband internet service at home
- Main decision maker OR shared responsibility for making decisions mobile phone plan / monthly payment / pre-pay.
- Currently have broadband internet at home OR mobile provider and telecommunications provider is known

SME Jan – June 2024

943 broadband customers

972 mobile customers

The SME sample talked to businesses with up to 50 full time employees and was nationally representative of the New Zealand SME population (Business size, region).

Fieldwork was conducted monthly with this deck focusing on the 6 months from Jan – June 2024.

Sample qualification criteria

- Main decision maker OR shared responsibility for making decisions about Internet at the business/company you work for or own
- Business has its own business plan with broadband ad current broadband provider is known
- Main decision maker OR shared responsibility for making decisions mobile phone plan / monthly payment / pre-pay for the business
- Business has its own business plan with mobile and current mobile provider is known

Methodological change

Previous to May 2024, the NZ Telecommunications Customer Satisfaction Tracking research was managed by Perceptive Research. From May 2024 onwards the research has been managed by Insights HQ.

As part of this change, a review of the fieldwork and research methodology was conducted to ensure the results reported are representative of the New Zealand market. The size of the sample remained the same (approximately 400 residential and 200 SME's per month) as this was deemed a sufficiently robust base. The questionnaire also remained the same, excepting some minor changes.

However, changes to the quota and weighting structure were recommended and made as follows:

- The Residential survey moved to an interlocked quota cell design for greater representativeness of the population.
 This will likely have minimal impacts on total base results but may impact the results when viewed at the subsegment level, e.g., age groups, regions
- Previously SME data was unweighted and skewed towards larger FTE businesses so not reflective of the NZ SME population. Insights HQ employed a quota and weighting design to ensure the sample is representative. This represents a material change and therefore historical (trend) SME data is not included in the report.

Weighting methodology is outlined on the following slide

Weighting methodology

RESIDENTIAL

Weighted to ensure nationally representative sample by age, gender and region

		Auckland	Canterb ury	Wellingt on	Rest of North Island	Rest of South Island
	18-24	3.0%	1.0%	0.7%	2.5%	0.7%
	25-34	3.5%	1.2%	1.0%	2.5%	0.7%
D.O.J.	35-44	2.7%	1.0%	1.0%	2.2%	0.7%
Male	45-54	2.7%	1.2%	1.0%	2.5%	1.0%
	55-64	2.2%	1.0%	0.7%	2.5%	1.0%
	65+	2.2%	1.2%	1.0%	3.5%	1.0%
	18-24	2.7%	1.0%	0.7%	2.2%	0.7%
	18-24	3.5%	1.0%	1.0%	2.5%	0.7%
Female	35-44	2.7%	1.0%	1.0%	2.5%	0.7%
	45-54	2.7%	1.2%	1.0%	2.7%	1.0%
	55-64	2.2%	1.0%	0.7%	2.7%	1.0%
	65+	2.5%	1.5%	1.0%	3.5%	1.2%

SME Weighted to ensure nationally representative sample by region and FTE

REGION	FTE	%
Auckland	1	22%
Auckland	2-5	9%
Auckland	6-49	5%
RONI	1	24%
RONI	2-5	11%
RONI	6-49	6%
South Island	1	14%
South Island	2-5	7%
South Island	6-49	4%

An interlocking quota cell methodology was employed, whereby representative quotas are set for each cell, e.g., 18-24 year-old males in Northland. Weighting is then used to 'balance' any cells that are slightly under or over quota to ensure the final sample and all reported data is nationally representative.

Note: prior to May 2024 no quota or weighting was applied to SME data.

What is a 'favourable' score

The data and report includes NPS and Satisfaction scores, with commentary highlighting what is and is not a 'favourable' score.

NPS measures the loyalty of customers to a company, based on their ratings on a 0-10 scale, customers are classified into three categories:

Promoters (9-10), Passives (7-8), Detractors (0-6). NPS is then calculated using the following formula: NPS = (Percentage of Promoters - Percentage of Detractors).

NPS scores range from -100 (all customers are detractors) to +100 (all customers are promoters). Bain & Co, the creators of the NPS metric, consider a score above 20 is favourable, above 50 is excellent, and above 80 is world class.

Satisfaction is measured using a five point, and we measure the satisfaction score using the % of respondents who returned a rating within the top 2 box (4-5 on the 5 point scale).

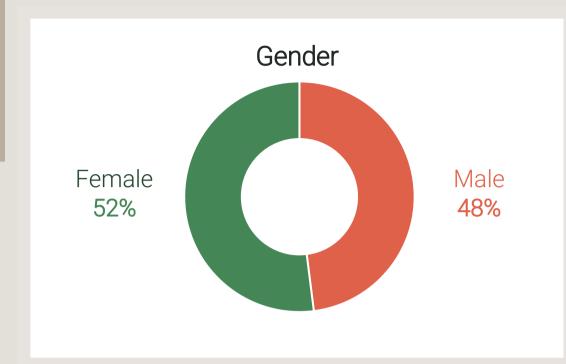
After a review of literature and comparable scores across industries in New Zealand, the Commerce Commission consider a **favourable satisfaction score to be 80% or above**.

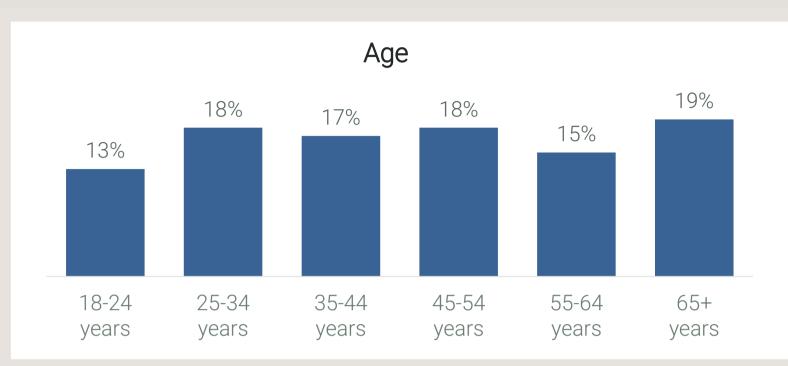


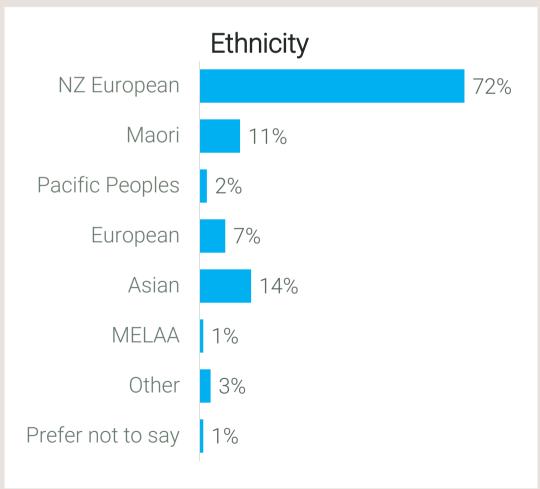
RESIDENTIAL INSIGHTS

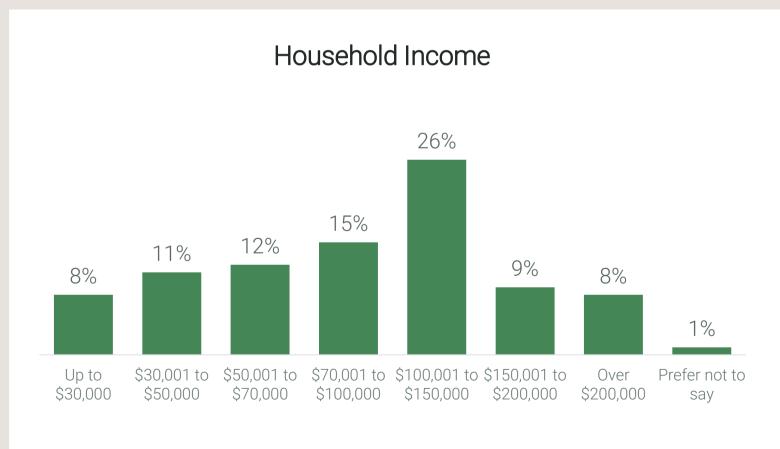
NPS and Satisfaction

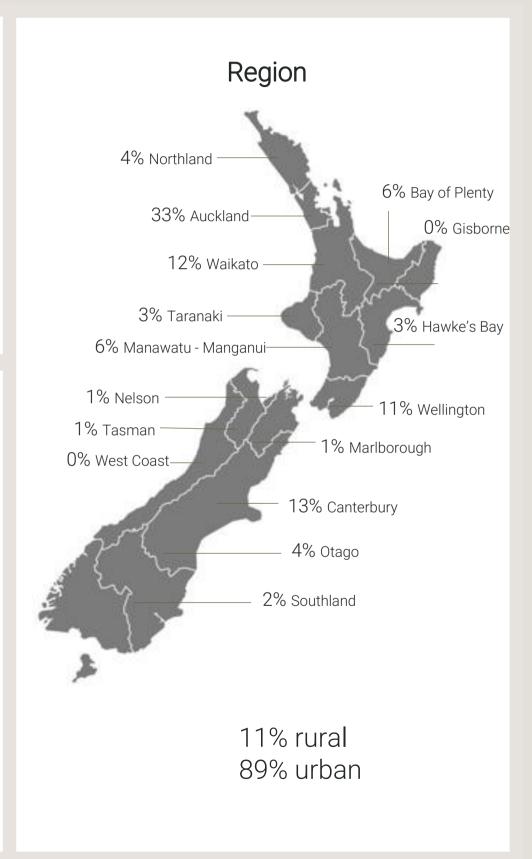
Demographics - Residential



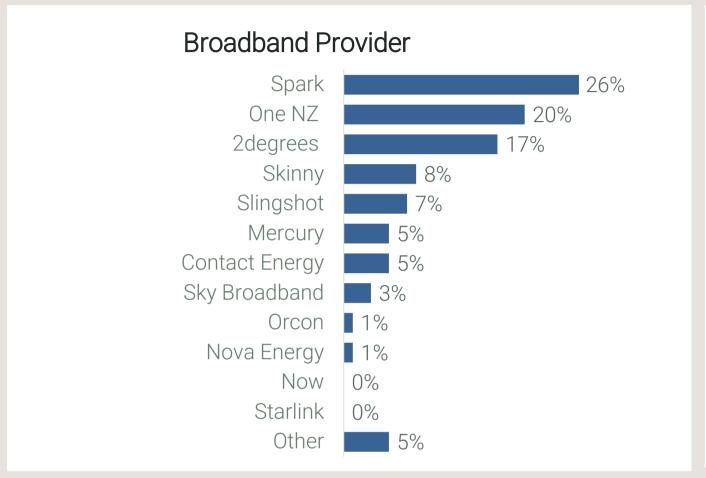


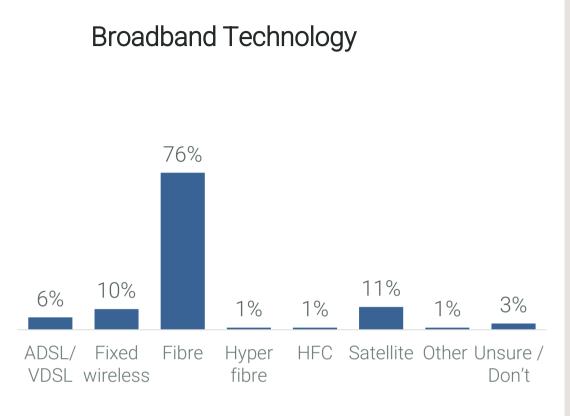


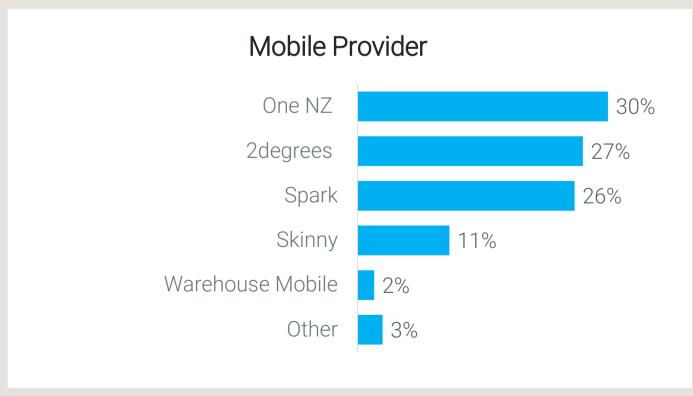


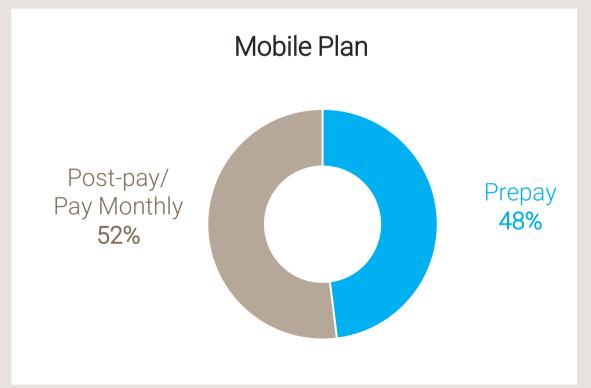


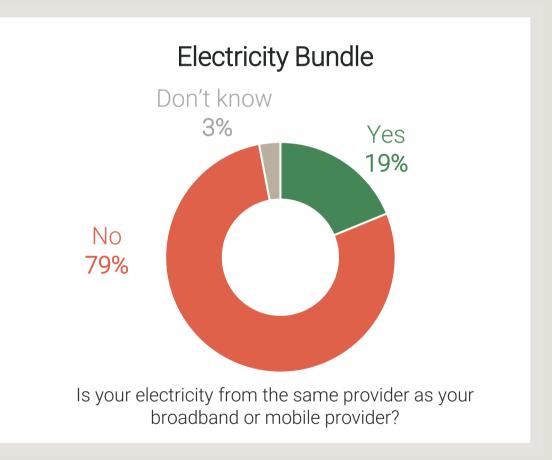
Products and Providers - Residential











RESIDENTIAL SUMMARY Jan-June 2024

Neither mobile nor broadband results hit the favourable threshold of +20. Broadband posts a negative NPS of -4 while mobile has an NPS of +8.

83% of mobile customers are satisfied, however broadband (at 76% satisfaction) does not meet the favourable threshold of 80% satisfaction.

Looking at aspects of their provider relationship; for mobile consumers coverage and reliability meet the 80% satisfaction benchmark. Broadband consumers are most satisfied with reliability though it does not meet the benchmark, at 77%. Most areas have remained relatively stable though we have seen significant increases in satisfaction with broadband billing in this round of results.

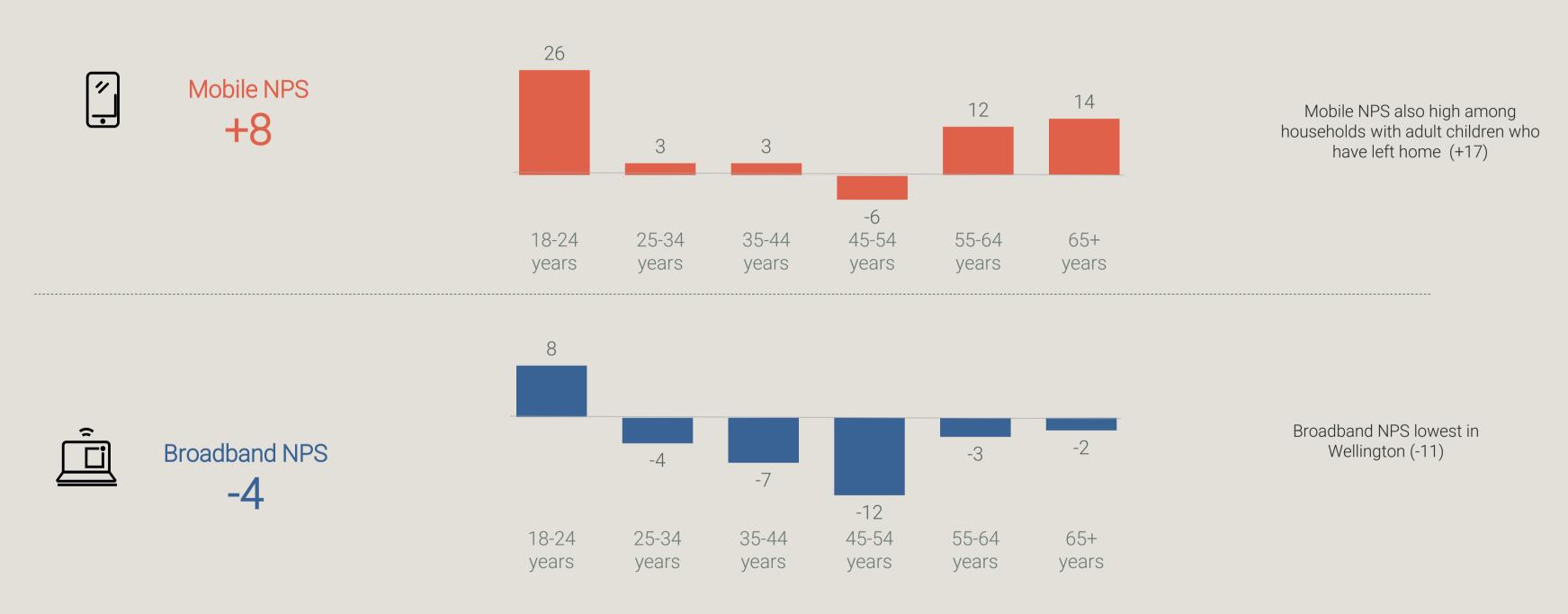
When prompted, 32% of mobile and 37% of broadband customers cite more competitive pricing as the one thing their provider could do to improve service.

Switching provider is not common, with only 11% of consumers switching broadband provider and 5% switching mobile provider in the last 12 months. Overall satisfaction with switching meets the 80% satisfaction for mobile (84%) but not for broadband (77%).

26% of mobile customers have experienced an issue with their mobile service, and 39% of broadband customers have experienced an issue with their broadband internet service in the past 6 months

Net Promoter Score

Neither mobile nor broadband hit the favourable threshold of +20. Broadband posts a negative NPS of -4 while Mobile has an NPS of +8.



NPS measures the loyalty of customers to a company, based on their ratings on a 0-10 scale, customers are classified into three categories:

Promoters (9-10), Passives (7-8), Detractors (0-6). NPS is then calculated using the following formula: NPS = (Percentage of Promoters -Percentage of Detractors).

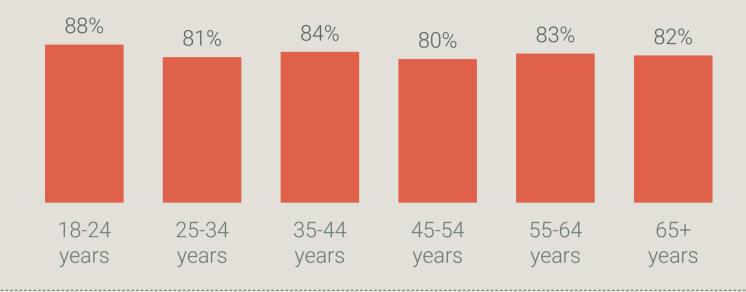
NPS scores range from -100 (all customers are detractors) to +100 (all customers are promoters). Bain & Co, the creators of the NPS metric, consider a score above 20 is favourable, above 50 is excellent, and above 80 is world class

Overall satisfaction

83% of Mobile customers are satisfied, however Broadband does not meet the favourable threshold of 80% satisfaction.



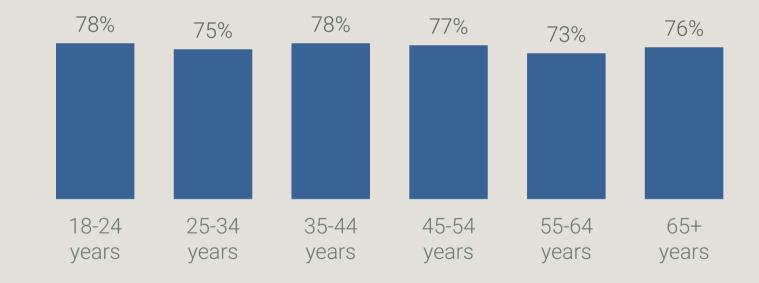
Mobile Satisfaction 83%



Mobile satisfaction relatively consistent across regions, gender, and household situation



Broadband Satisfaction 76%



Broadband satisfaction lower in Canterbury (72%) and higher among empty nester households where children have left home (80%)

NPS and satisfaction trended

We have seen significant decreases in NPS for both Mobile and Broadband

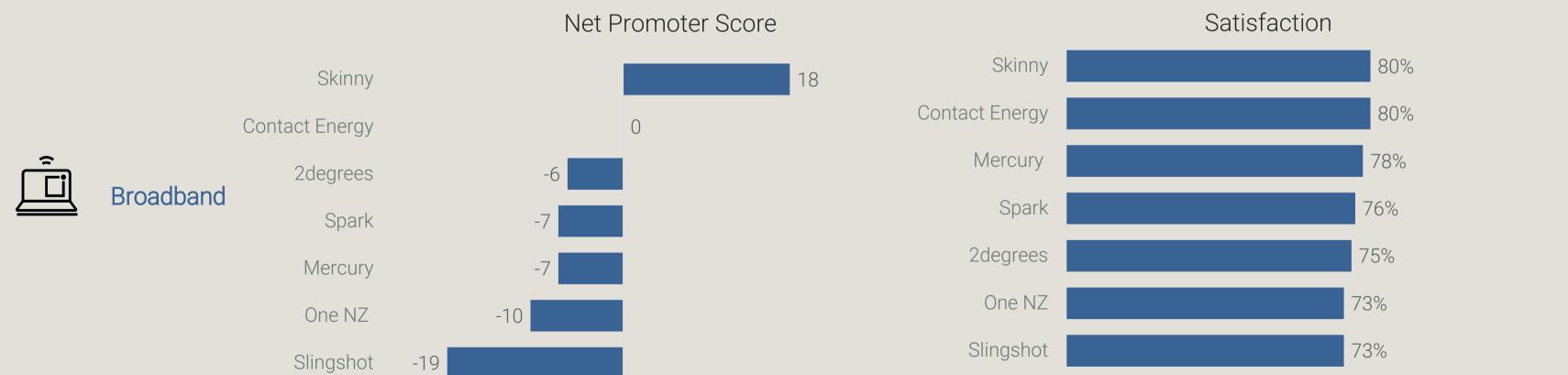




NPS and satisfaction by provider

Skinny have market leading scores in both mobile and broadband. In mobile only Skinny meets the favourable NPS of +20 while no broadband provider meets the favourable NPS score





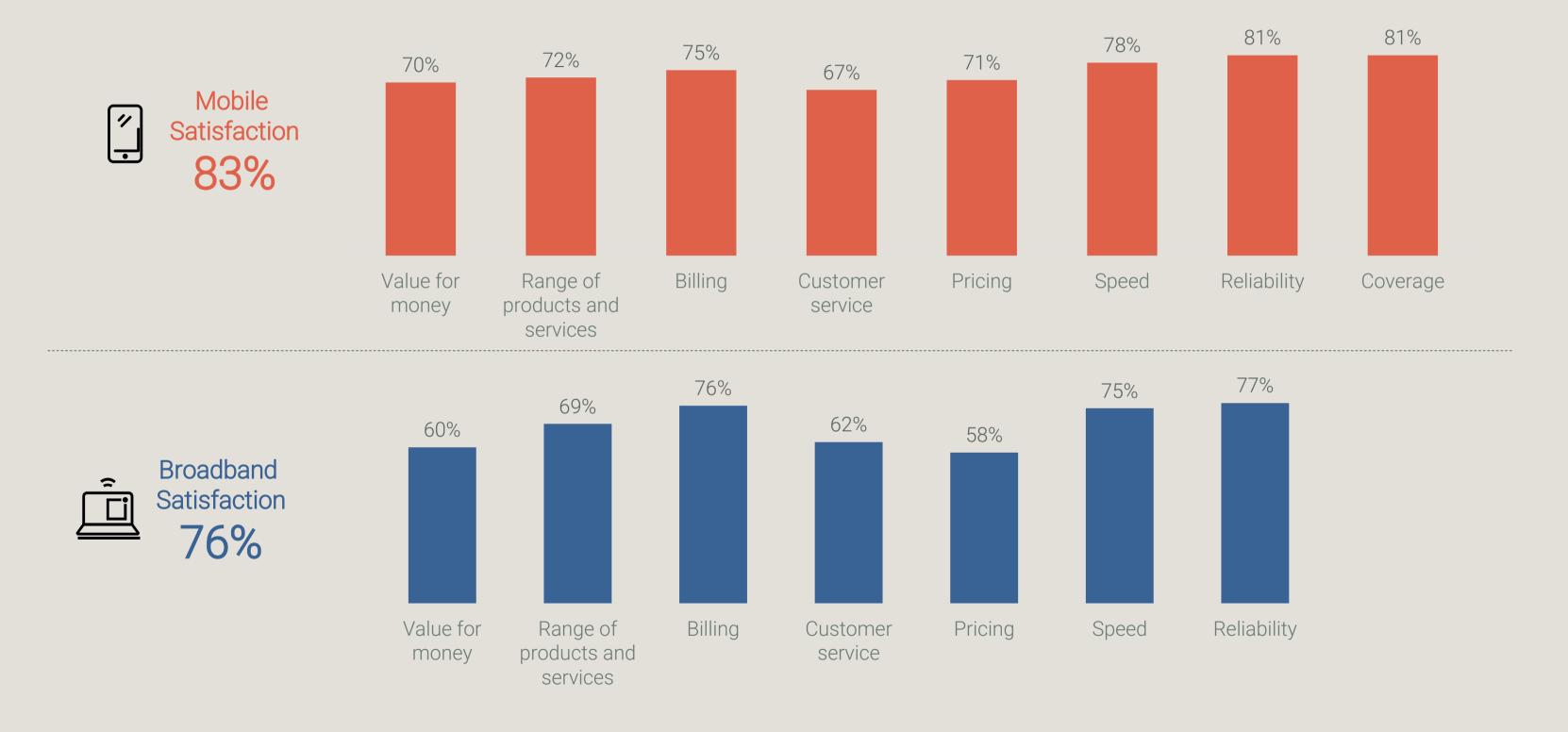
Considering your experience with your provider, how likely would you be to recommend them to a friend or family member? (Scale 0-10)

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your provider for your broadband/ household internet service / mobile service? Please take into account their products and services, as well as your experience of dealing with them. (Scale 1-5)

Base: Jan-June 2024 Spark mobile customers n=659, One NZ mobile customers n=764, 2degrees mobile customers n=644, Skinny mobile customers n=274
Spark broadband customers n=628, One NZ broadband customers n=185, Mercury broadband customers n=118, Contact Energy broadband customers n=150.

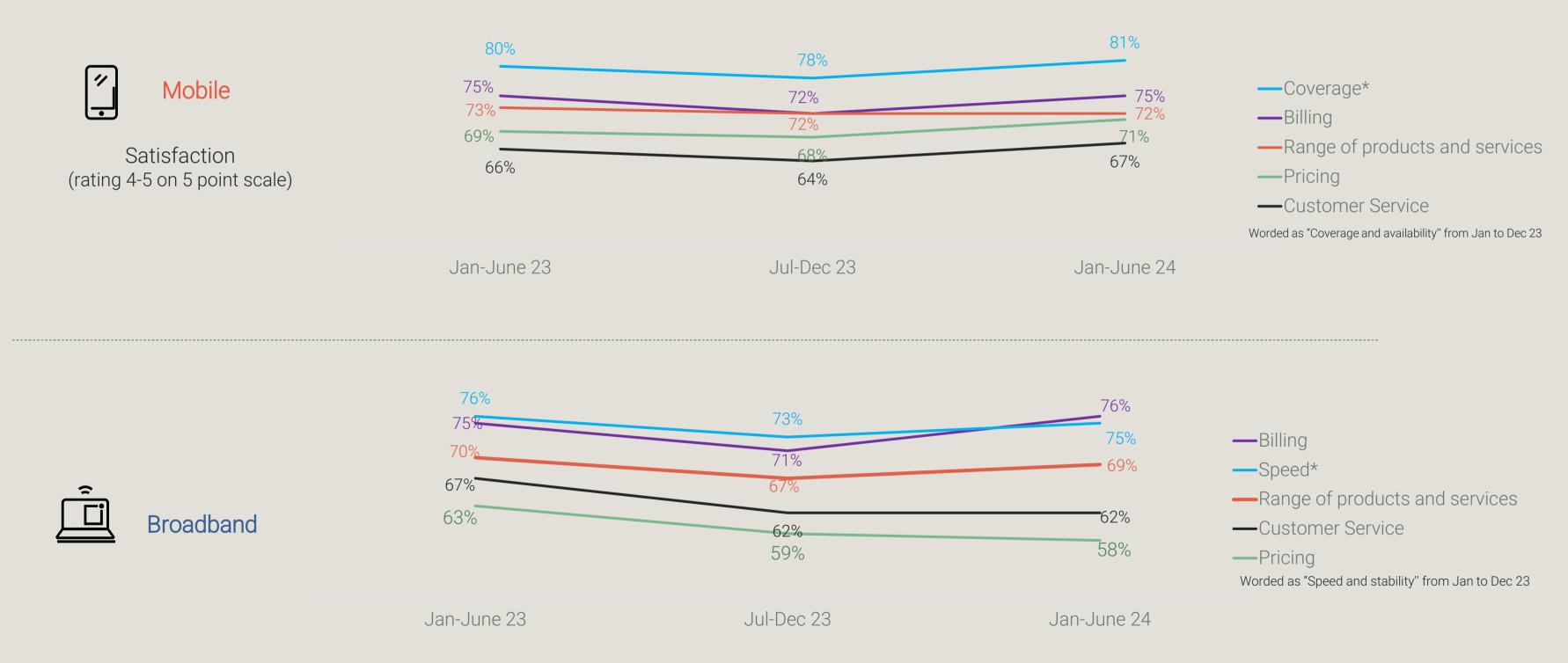
Satisfaction (rating 4-5 on 5 point scale)

For mobile consumers, coverage and reliability meet the 80% satisfaction benchmark. For broadband consumers, they are most satisfied with reliability though it does not meet the benchmark, at 77%.



Satisfaction Trended

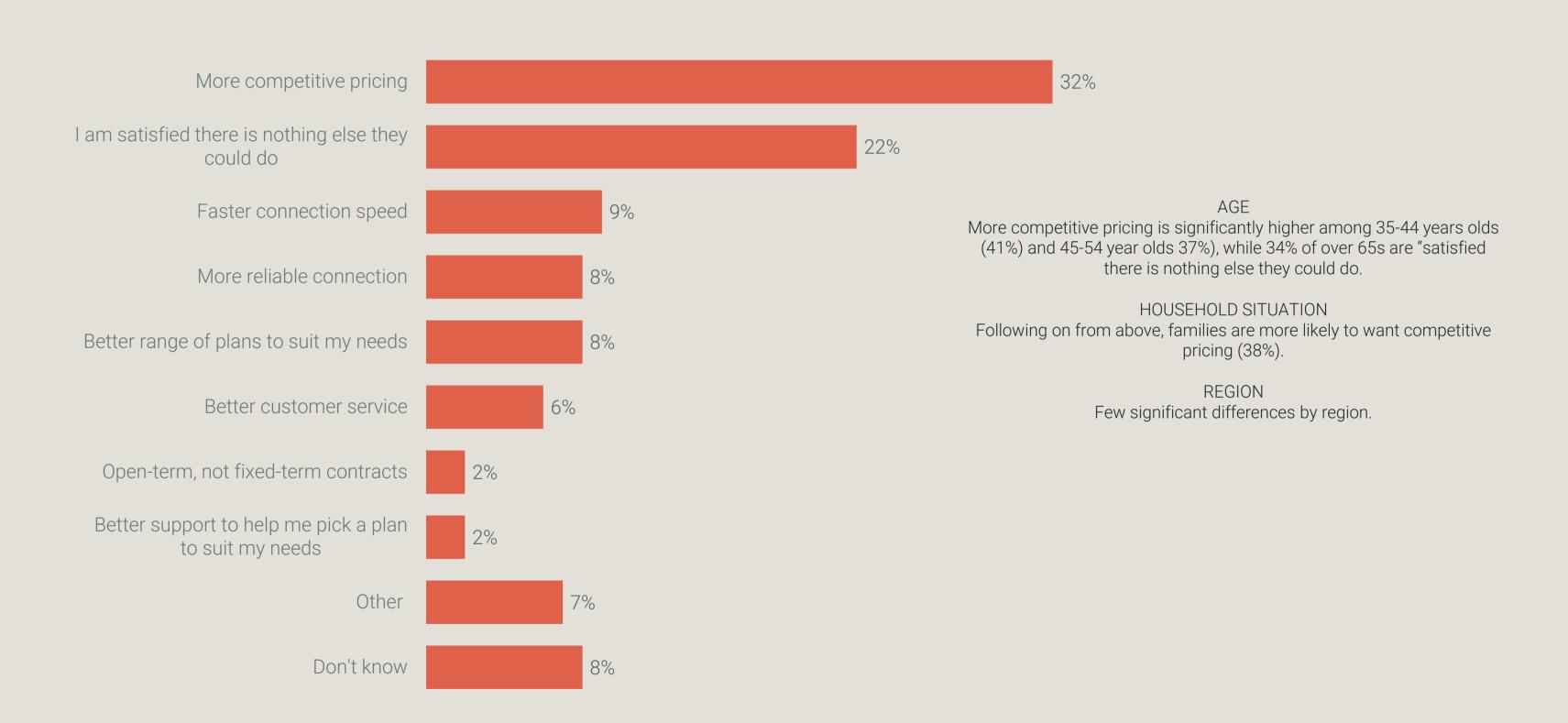
Most areas have remained relatively stable though we have seen significant increases in satisfaction with broadband billing in this round of results.



Note: Satisfaction scale changed for both broadband and mobile in Jan 2024 to a 5-point scale (T2B showing) from a 10-point scale (T4B showing)

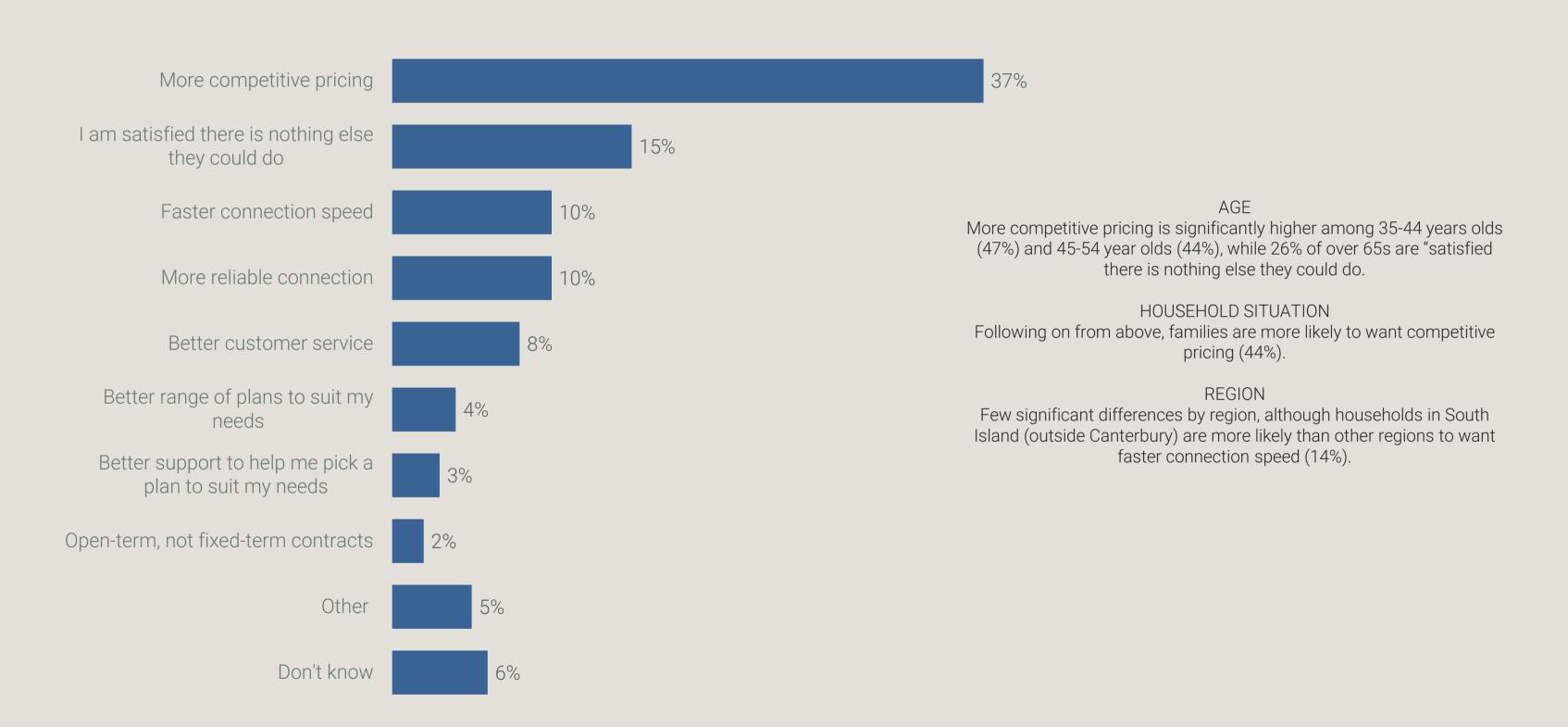
How to improve mobile satisfaction

When prompted, 32% of mobile customers cite more competitive pricing as the one thing their provider could do to improve service. Over a fifth (22%) state there is nothing else their provider could do.



How to improve broadband satisfaction

When prompted 37% of broadband customers cite more competitive pricing as the one thing their provider could do to improve service.





RESIDENTIAL INSIGHTS

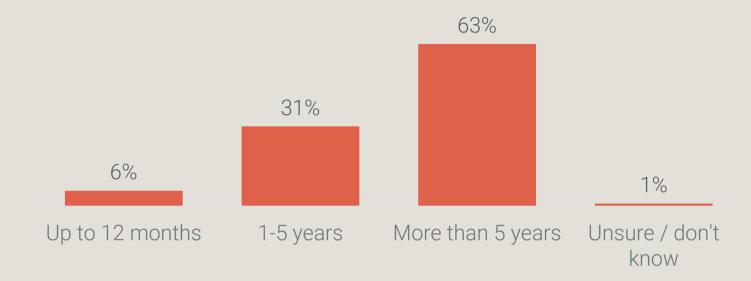
Tenure and Switching Behaviour

Tenure

Mobile consumers have a longer tenure with their provider than broadband consumers. 63% of mobile consumers have been with their current provider for more than 5 years, compared to 43% for broadband.

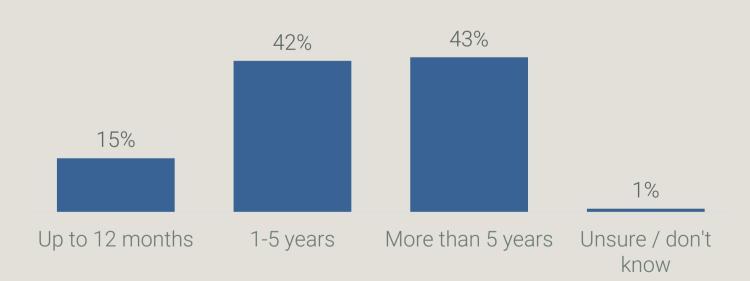


Mobile





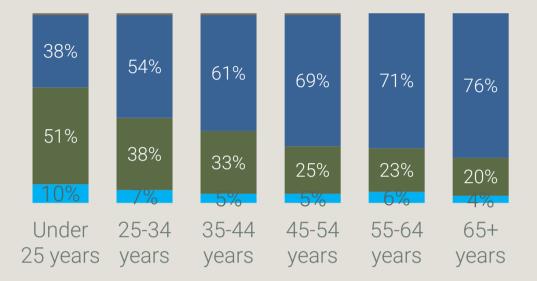
Broadband

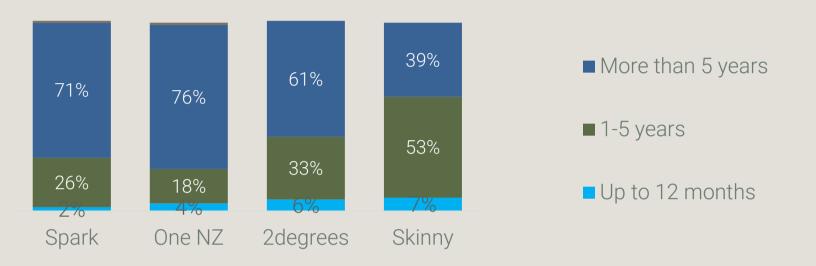


Tenure

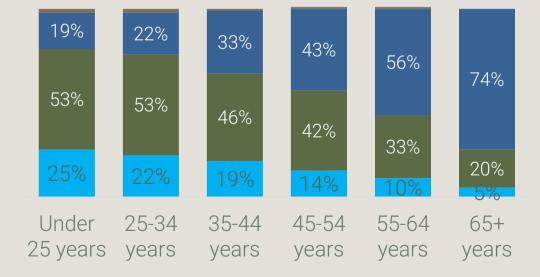
Mobile and broadband provider tenure correlates strongly with age; the majority of over 65 customers have been with their provider for more than 5 years. Spark and One NZ, followed by 2degrees (in mobile) have the longest tenure customers.

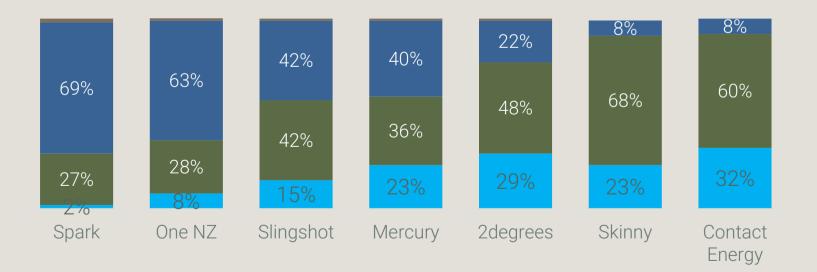












Switching plans with same provider

Switching mobile and broadband plans with the same provider is low. Neither mobile nor broadband hit the 80% overall satisfaction with switching plans benchmark.



10% switched mobile plans in last 12 months

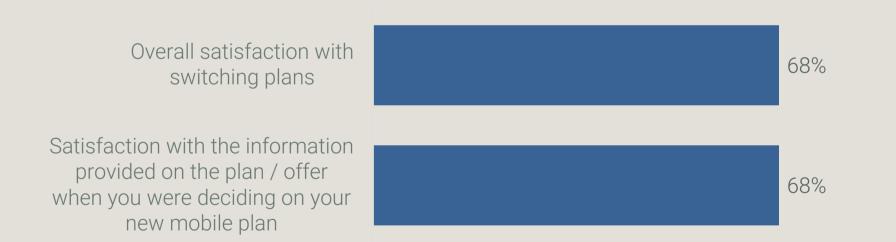
(17% switched plans July-December 2023)





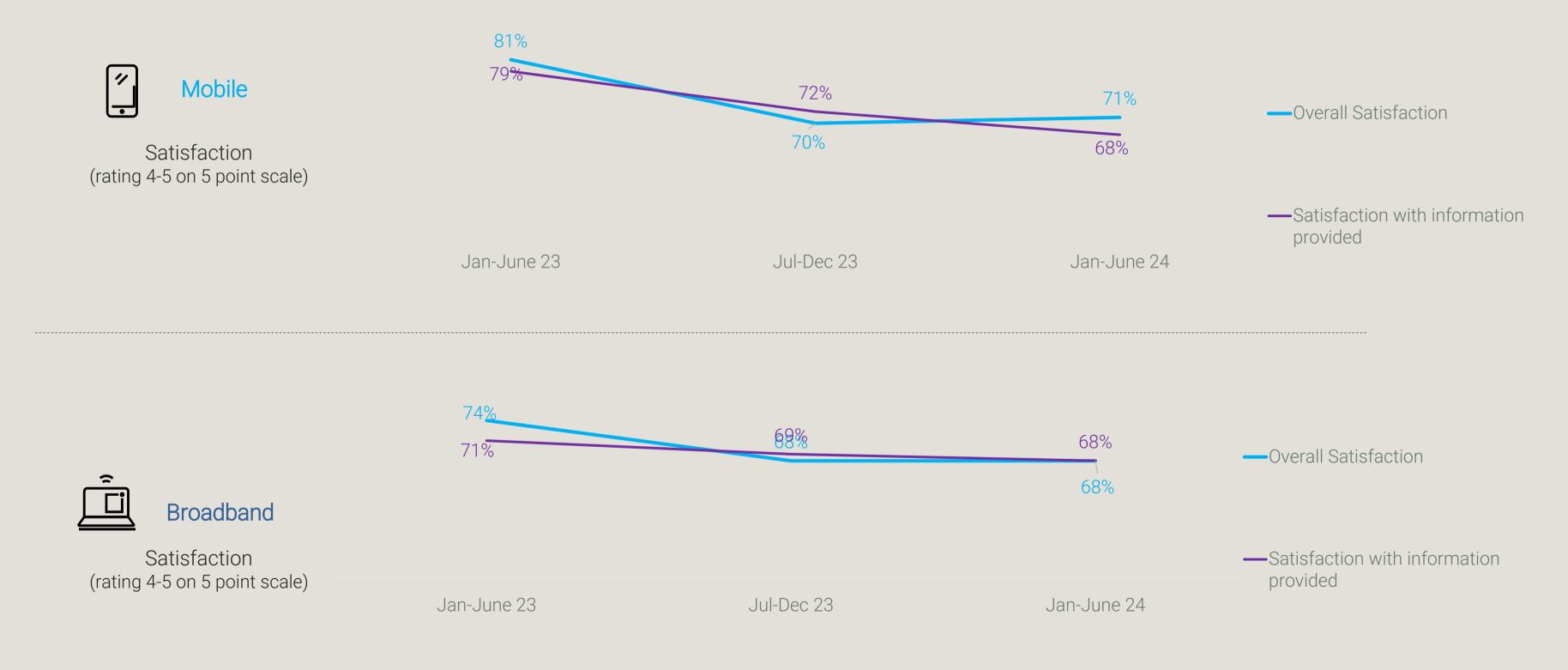
11% switched broadband plans in last 12 months

(16% switched plans July-December 2023)



Switching plans with same provider – trended satisfaction

Satisfaction with switching mobile plans has declined, significantly with the information provided. Satisfaction with switching broadband plans has remained relatively stable



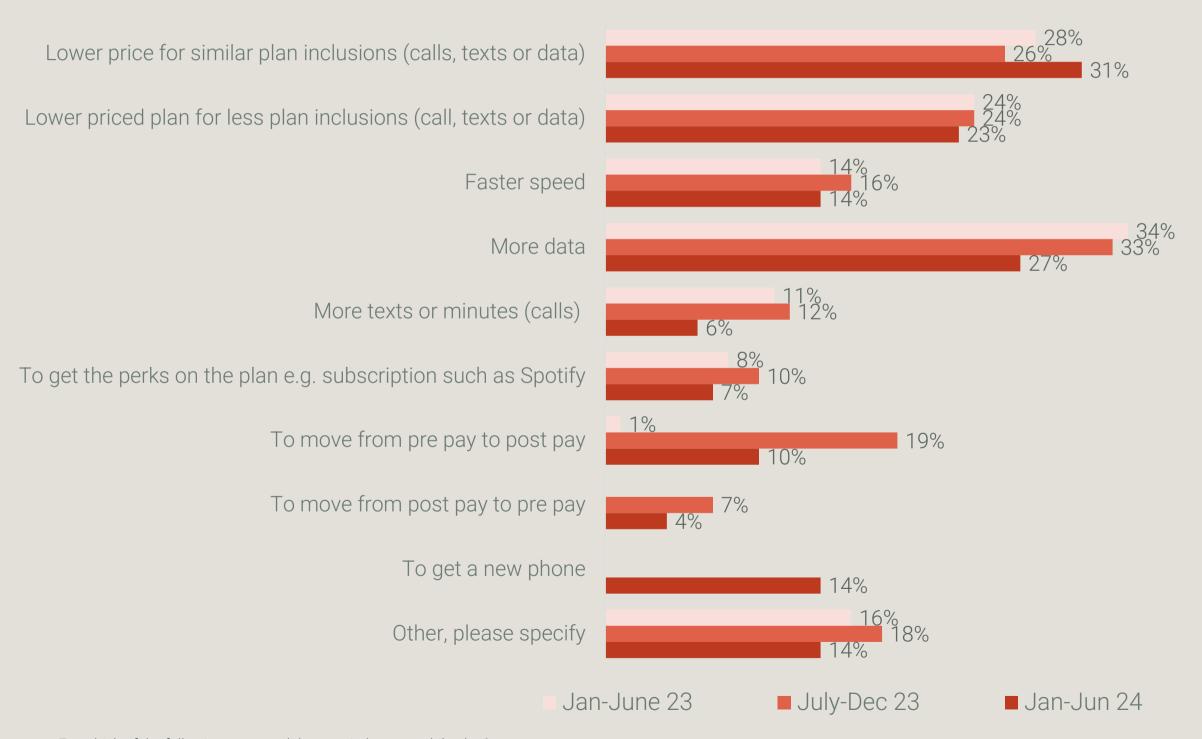
Reasons for switching mobile plans with same provider

Lower prices remains one of the main reasons for mobile consumers switching plans, and this has increased over the last reporting period.



10% switched mobile plans in last 12 months

(17% switched plans July-December 2023)



Reasons for switching broadband plans with same provider

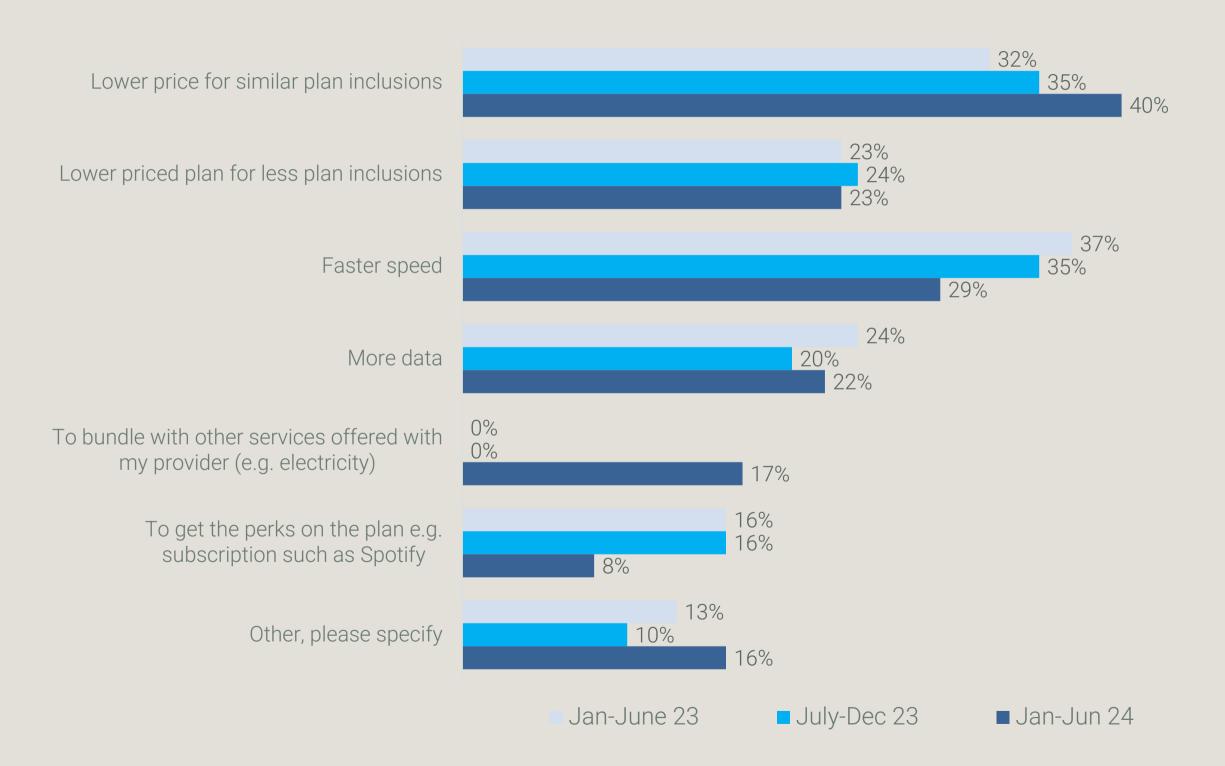
Faster speed now less of a driver for switching plans with same provider, we see an increase in the number of consumers saying they are switching plans to get a lower price.

11%



switched broadband plans in last 12 months

(16% switched plans July-December 2023)



Switching provider

Switching provider is even less common than switching plan, with only 11% of consumers switching broadband provider and 5% switching mobile provider in the last 12 months. Overall satisfaction with switching meets the 80% satisfaction benchmark for both mobile and broadband while other areas fall short.



5% switched mobile provider in last 12 months

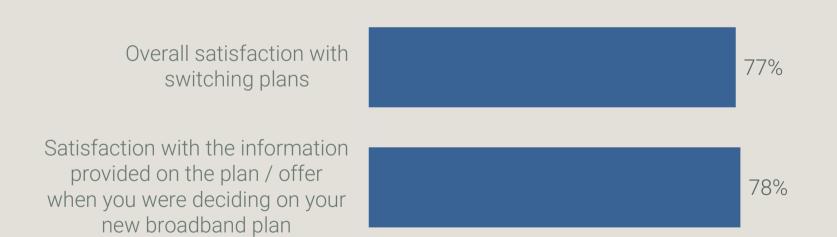
(6% switched provider July-December 2023)





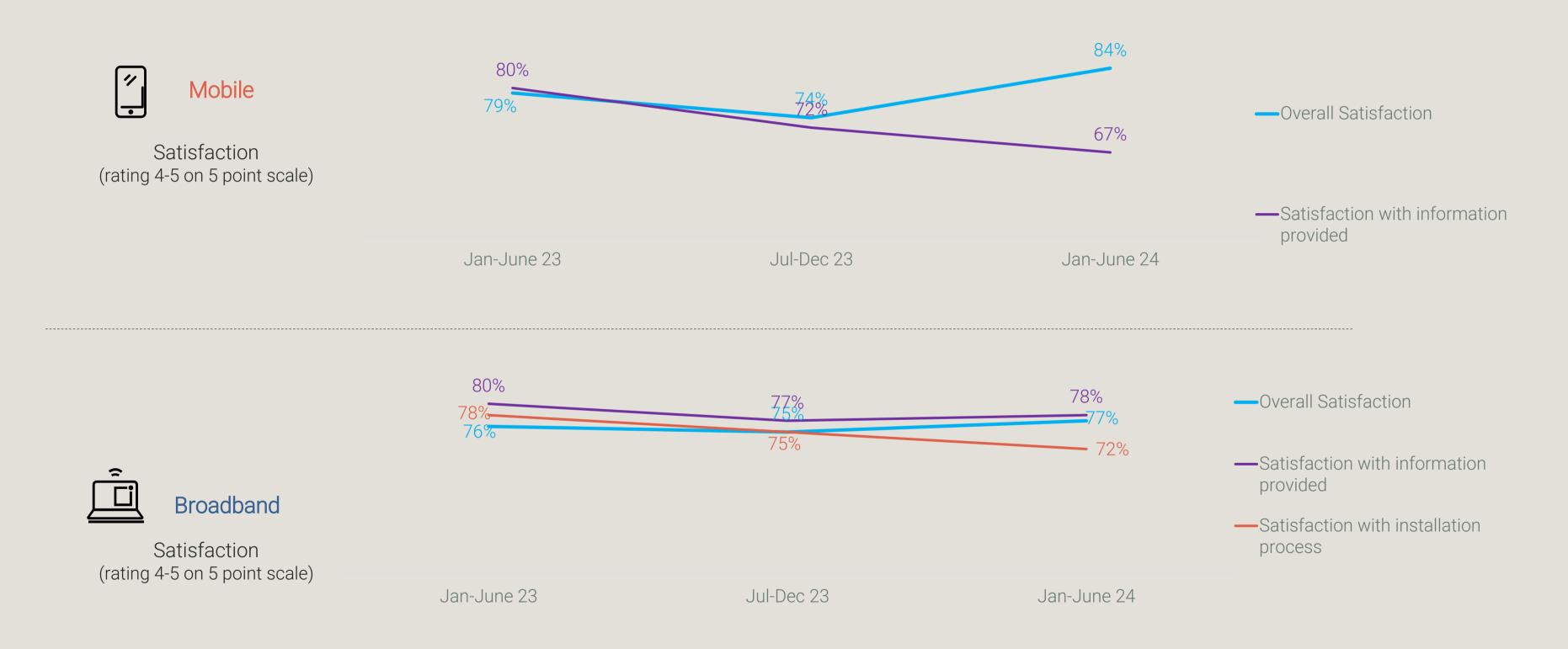
11% switched broadband provider in last 12 months

(12% switched provider July-December 2023)



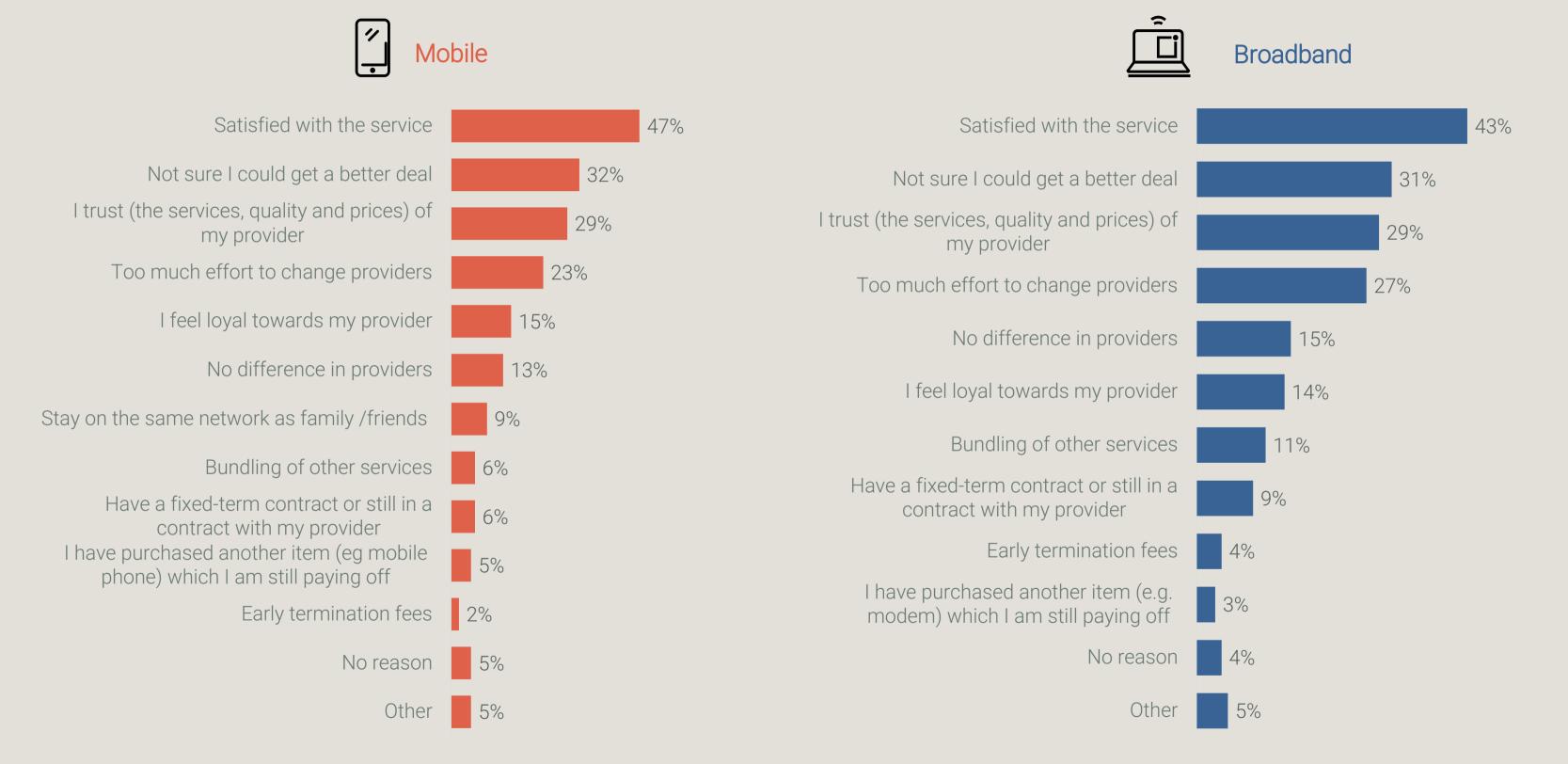
Switching provider - trended satisfaction

Satisfaction with broadband provider switching is relatively consistent. However, overall satisfaction with switching mobile provider has increased.



Reasons for staying with current provider

The main reasons consumers are staying with their current provider is because they are satisfied with the service, and the perceived hassle of switching

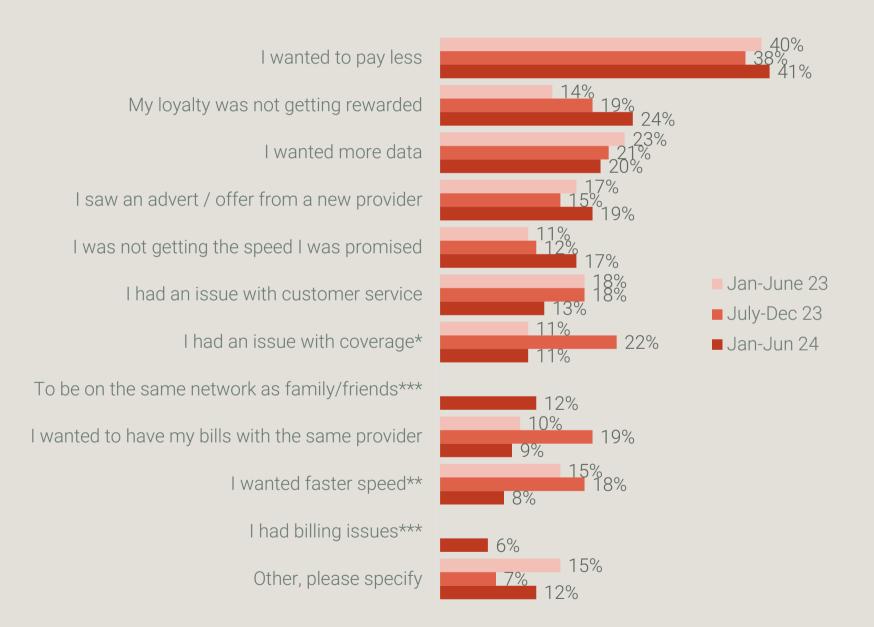


Reasons for leaving provider

Paying less is the main driver of consumers leaving their mobile and/or broadband provider.



switched **mobile** provider in last 12 months (6% switched provider July-December 2023)





11% switched broadband provider in last 12 months (12% switched provider July-December 2023)



^{*}Previously "I had an issues with reliability

Please note that adding options can have an impact on comparability

^{**}Previously 'I wanted higher speed'

^{***}Options not asked previously

Reasons for choosing new provider

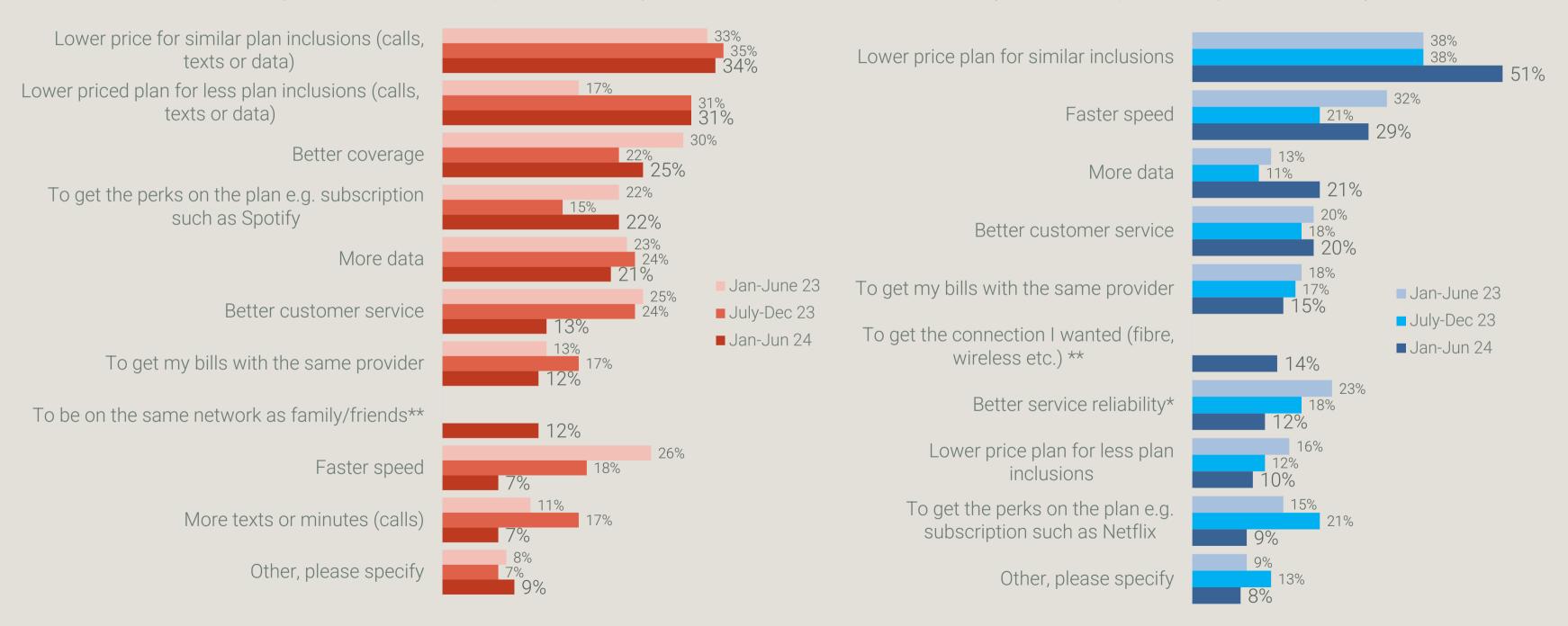
When choosing a new mobile provider, consumers are mainly influenced by lower prices for less inclusions, fewer are switching for faster speeds. Most consumers who switch broadband plans are motivated by lower prices.



switched **mobile** provider in last 12 months (6% switched provider July-December 2023)



switched **broadband** provider in last 12 months (12% switched provider July-December 2023)



^{*}Previously worded as "Better coverage"

^{**}Not asked previously

Please note that adding options can have an impact on comparability

Satisfaction when joining new provider

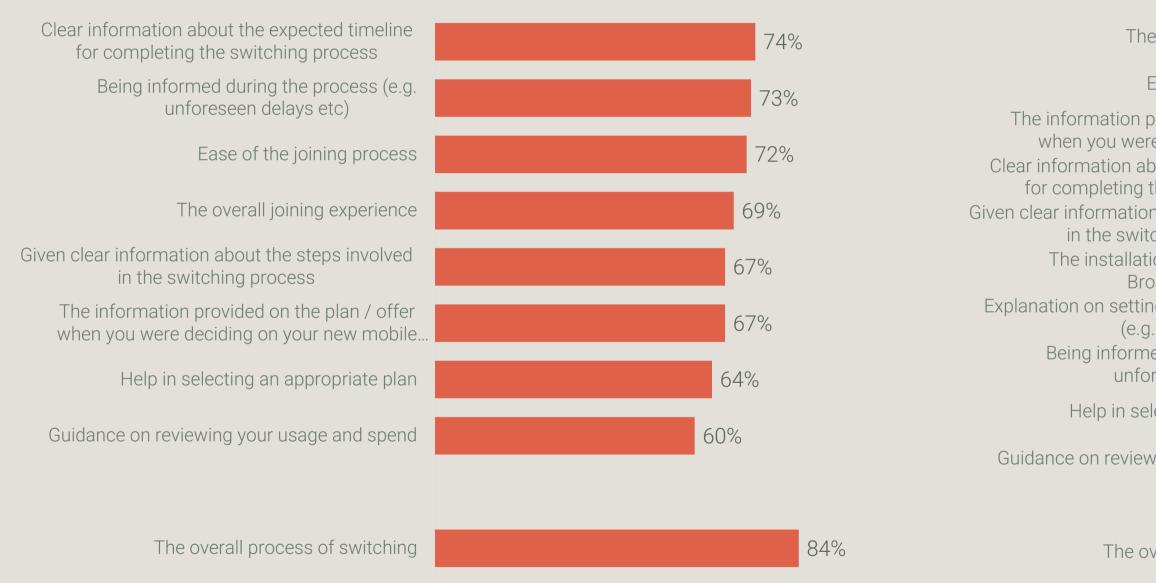
Lowest satisfaction for both mobile and broadband switching was guidance on reviewing usage and spend and help in selecting the appropriate plan.

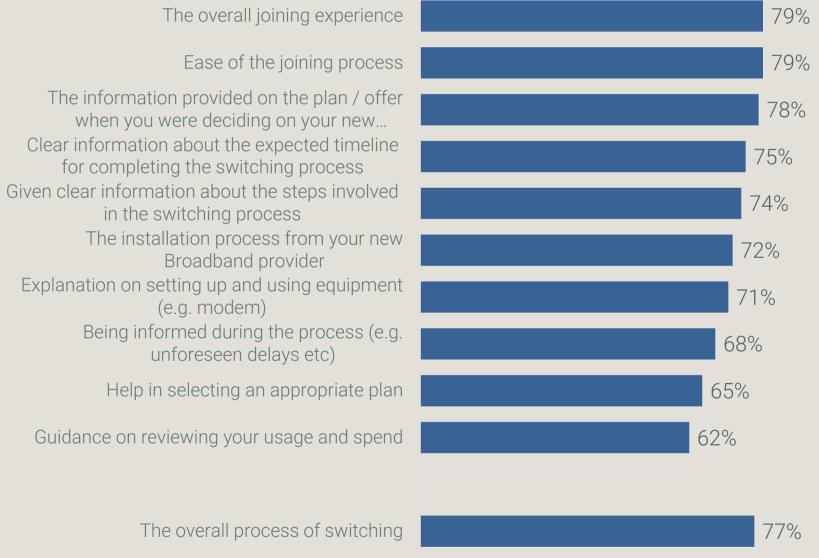


5% switched mobile provider in last 12 months (6% switched provider July-December 2023)



1 1% switched broadband provider in last 12 months (12% switched provider July-December 2023)







RESIDENTIAL INSIGHTS

Issues and Response

Mobile Issues

26%

of Mobile customers have

experienced an issue with

their mobile service in the

past 6 months

The most common issues experienced with mobile service are issues to do with mobile coverage.

Service coverage issues are more

prevalent in the South Island

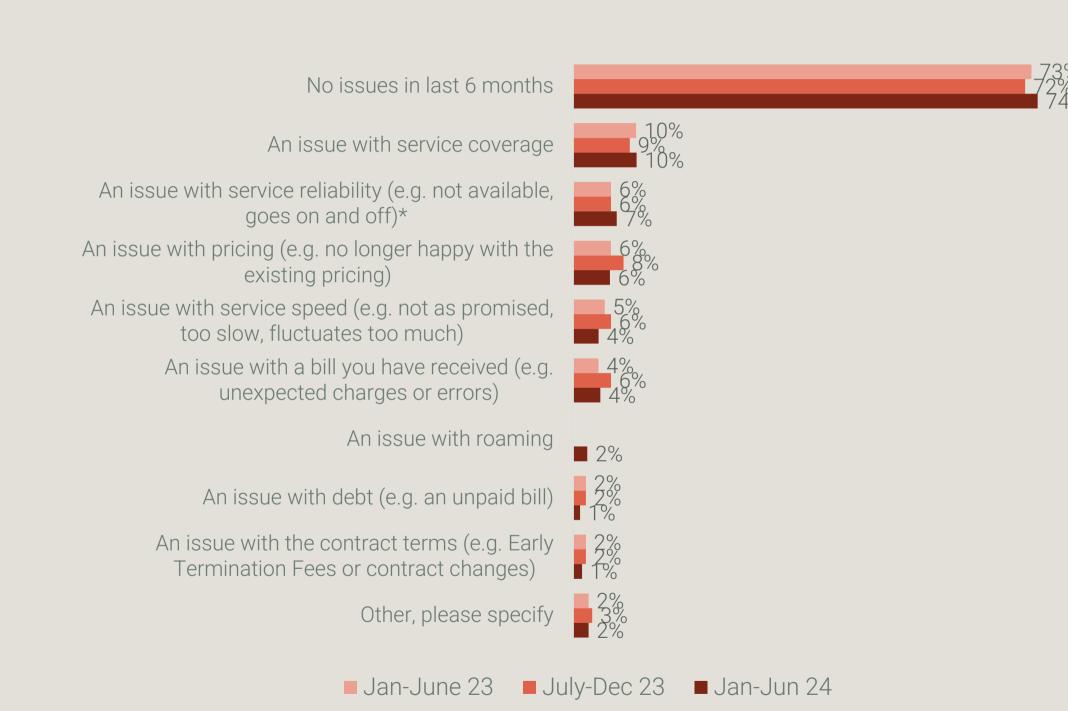
(excluding Canterbury) where 16%

have experienced an issue

Under 25s are more likely than

other age groups to have

experienced an issues with pricing (11%) or billing (10%)



Please note that adding options can have an impact on comparability

Broadband Issues

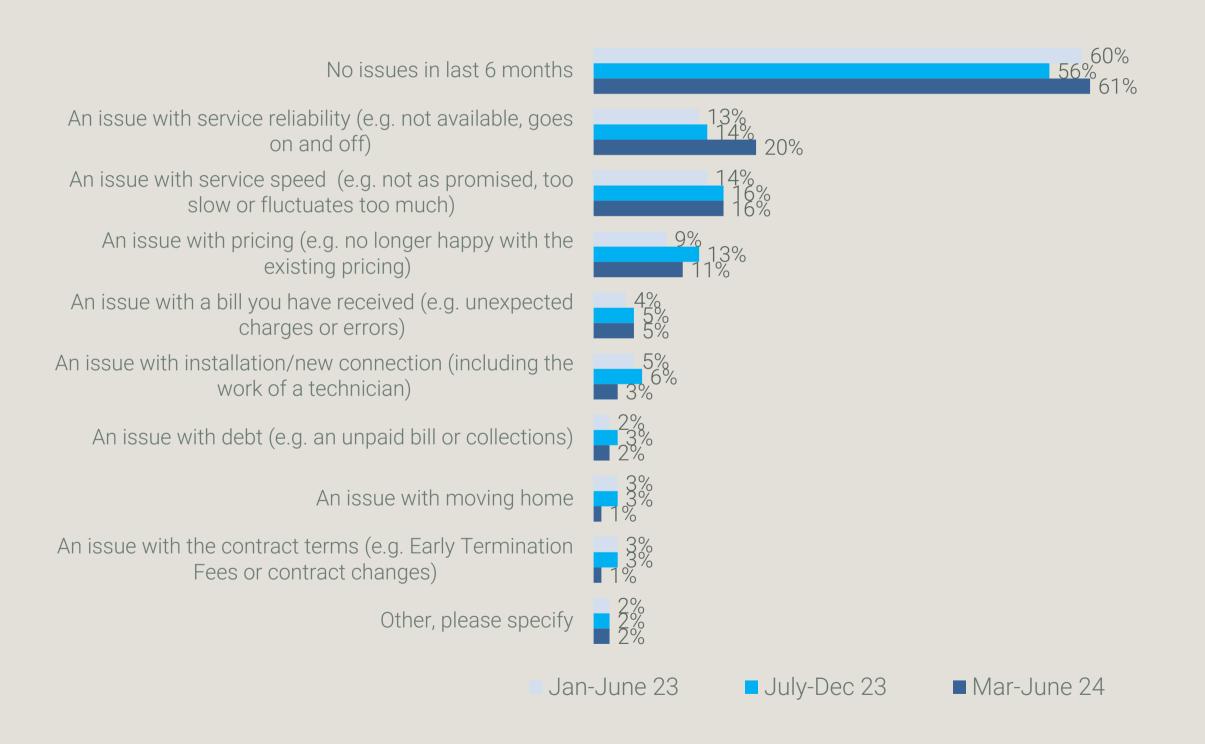
39% of consumers have had issues with their broadband services in the last six months.



39%

of broadband customers have experienced an issue with their broadband internet service in the

past 6 months

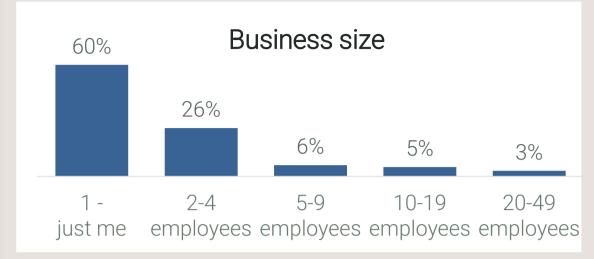


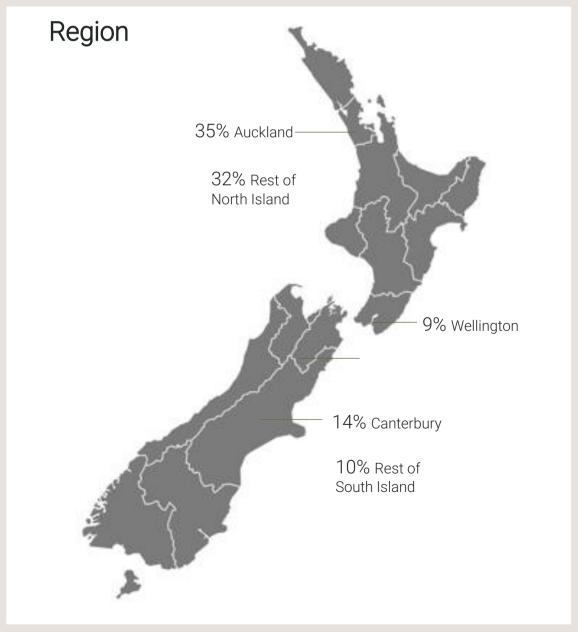


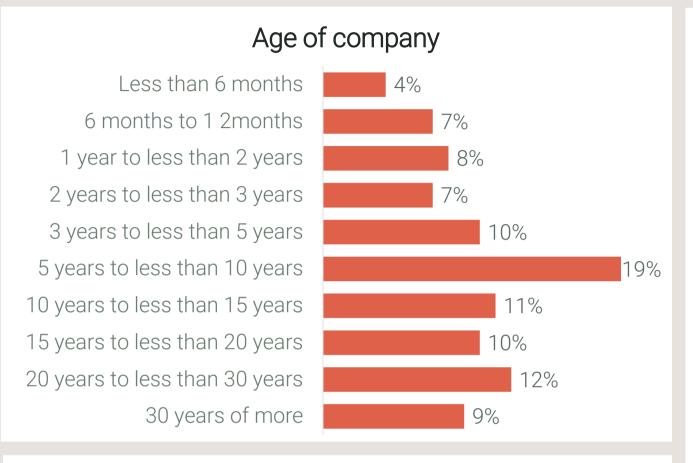
SME Insights

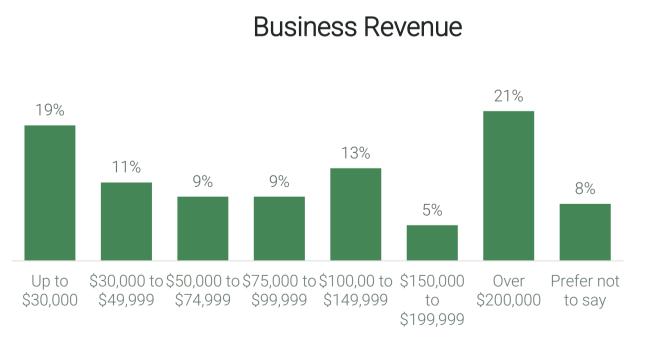
NPS and Satisfaction

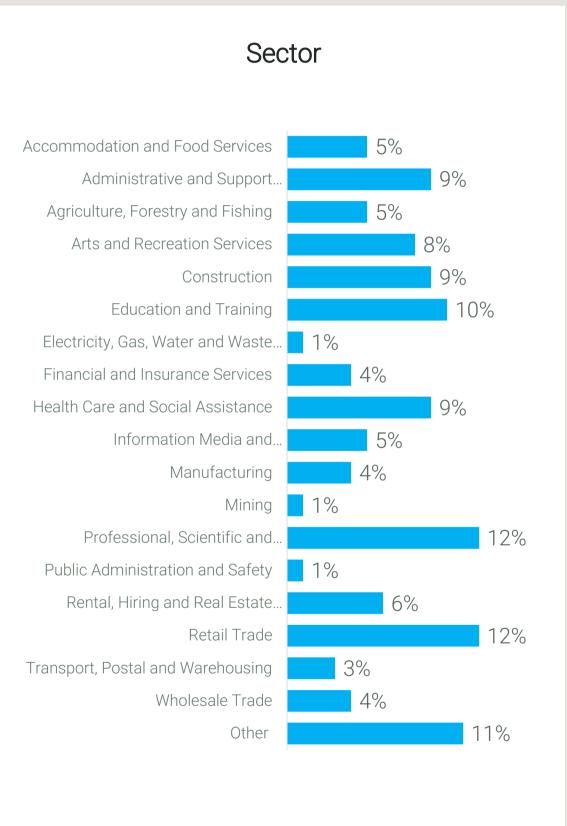
Firmographics - Business



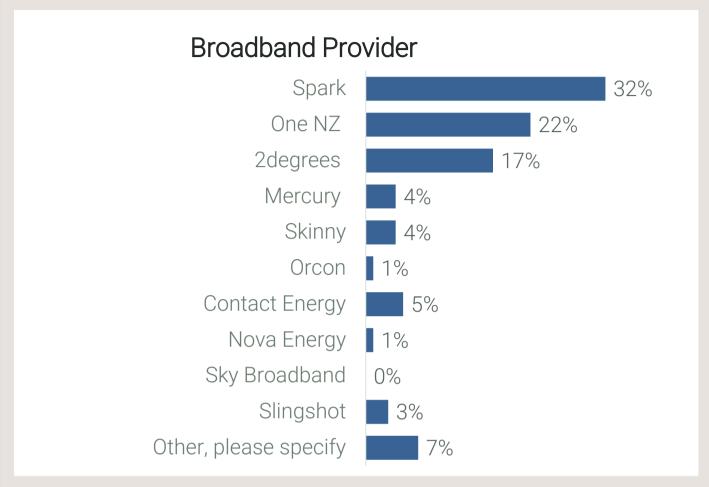


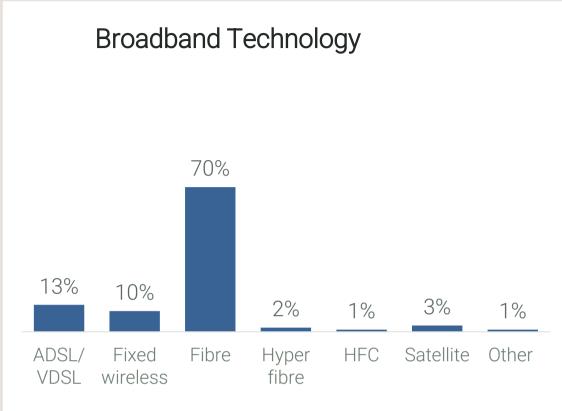


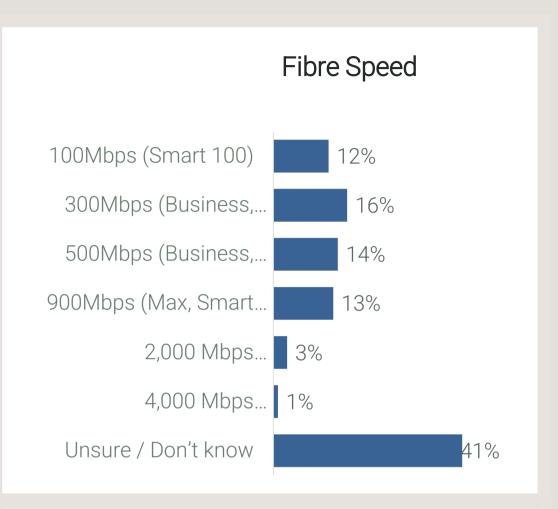


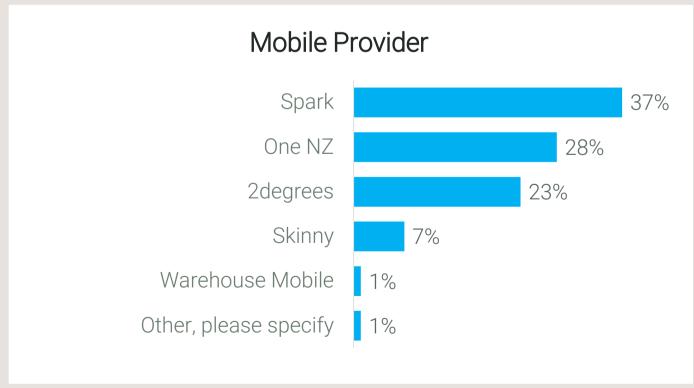


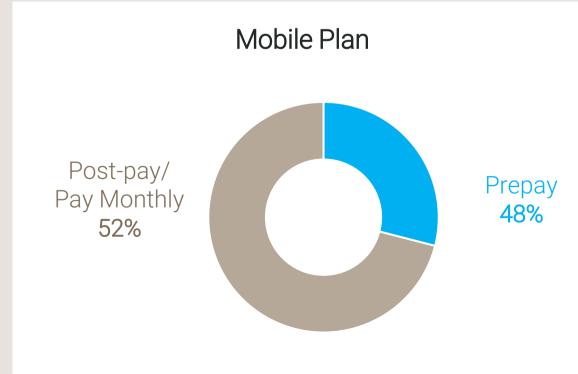
Products and Providers - SME

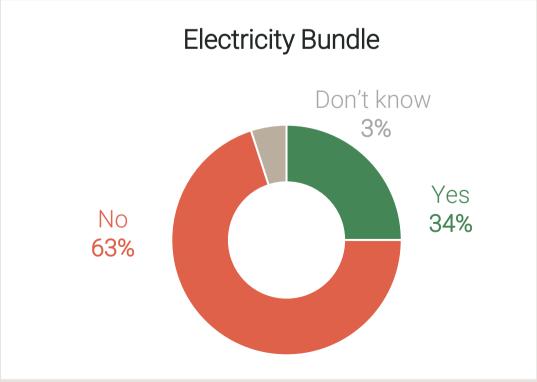












SME SUMMARY – Jan to June 2024

Neither mobile nor broadband hit the favourable NPS threshold of +20. Broadband posts a negative NPS of -8, while mobile NPS is at +1.

Just over three quarters of broadband customers (78%), and 79% of mobile customers said they were satisfied with their provider. This is just shy of the 80% 'favourable' threshold.

Providers receive low scores for value for money, customer service and pricing among both broadband and mobile SME customers. Satisfaction with customer service has continued to decline for both broadband and mobile SME customers.

When prompted 30% of mobile customers and 34% of broadband customers cite more competitive pricing as the one thing their provider could do to improve service.

14% of mobile customers and 14% of broadband customers switched plans with the same provider in the last 12 months.

80% of mobile customers were satisfied when switching plans, however only 55% of broadband customers were satisfied. Satisfaction with switching broadband plans has fallen significantly.

12% of broadband consumers switched broadband provider and 10% switched mobile provider in the last 12 months.

68% of mobile customers have experienced an issue with their mobile service in the past 6 months. 33% experienced an issue with roaming, the most common issue by far.

45% of broadband customers have experienced an issue with their broadband internet service in the past 6 months.

Net Promoter Score

Neither mobile nor broadband hit the favourable threshold of +20. Broadband posts a negative NPS of -8, while mobile NPS is at +1.



NPS measures the loyalty of customers to a company, based on their ratings on a 0-10 scale, customers are classified into three categories:

Promoters (9-10), Passives (7-8), Detractors (0-6). NPS is then calculated using the following formula: NPS = (Percentage of Promoters -Percentage of Detractors).

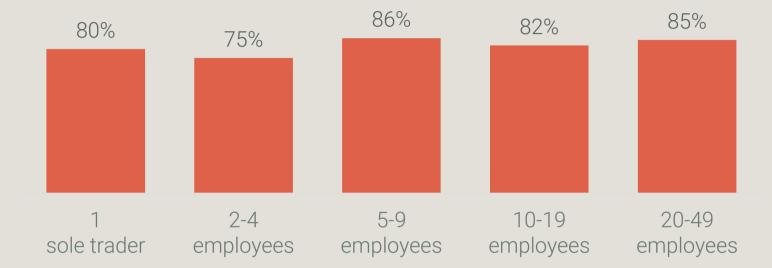
NPS scores range from -100 (all customers are detractors) to +100 (all customers are promoters). Bain & Co, the creators of the NPS metric, consider a score above 20 is favourable, above 50 is excellent, and above 80 is world class

Overall satisfaction

Just over three quarters of broadband customers (78%), and 79% of mobile customers said they were satisfied with their provider. Satisfaction has remained relatively steady.

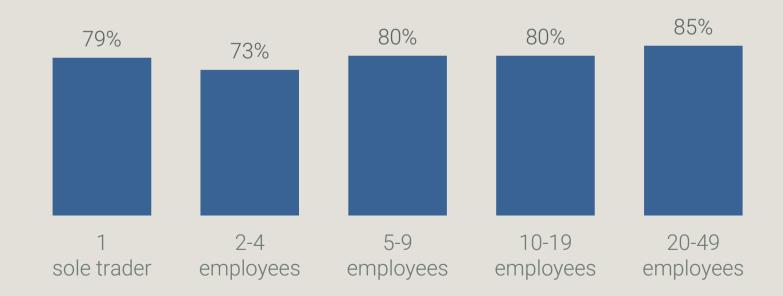


Mobile Satisfaction 79%



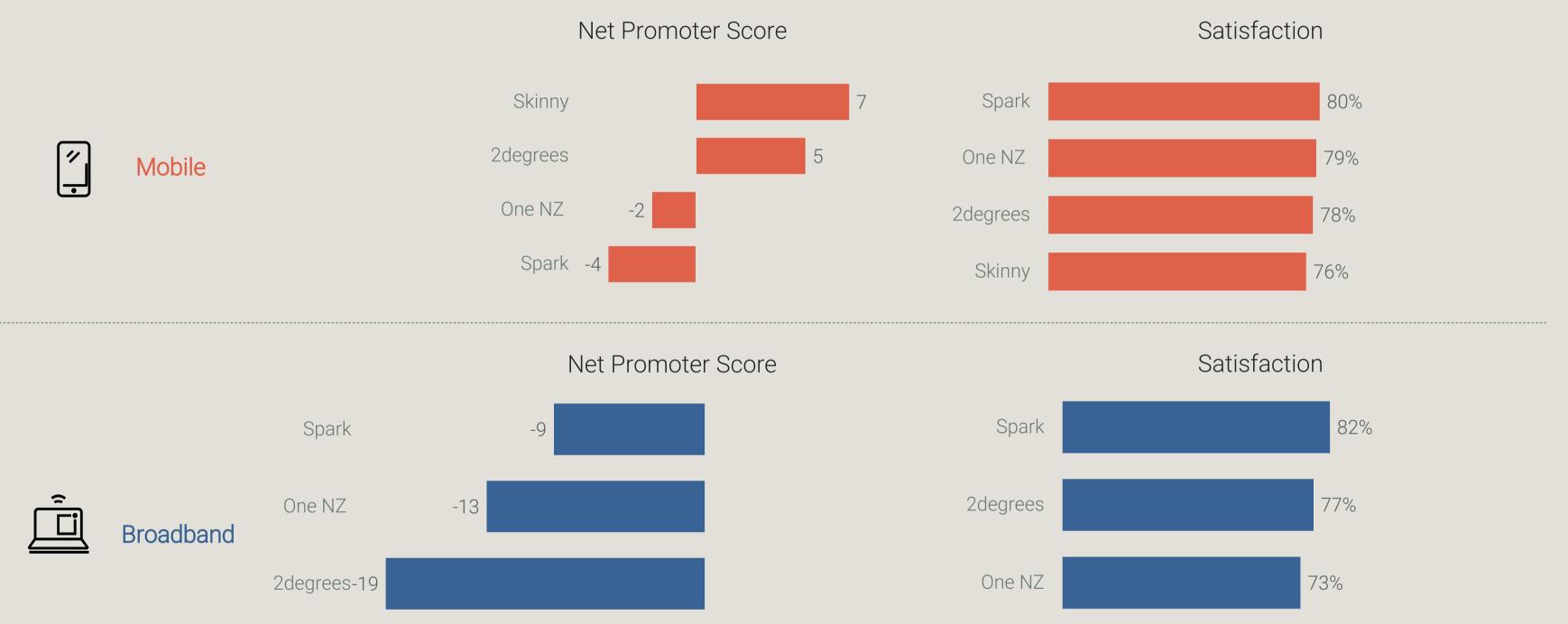


Broadband Satisfaction 78%



NPS and satisfaction by provider

Skinny and 2degrees have positive NPS scores for mobile, but 2degees has the lowest NPS for broadband. No mobile or broadband provider meets the favourable threshold of +20.

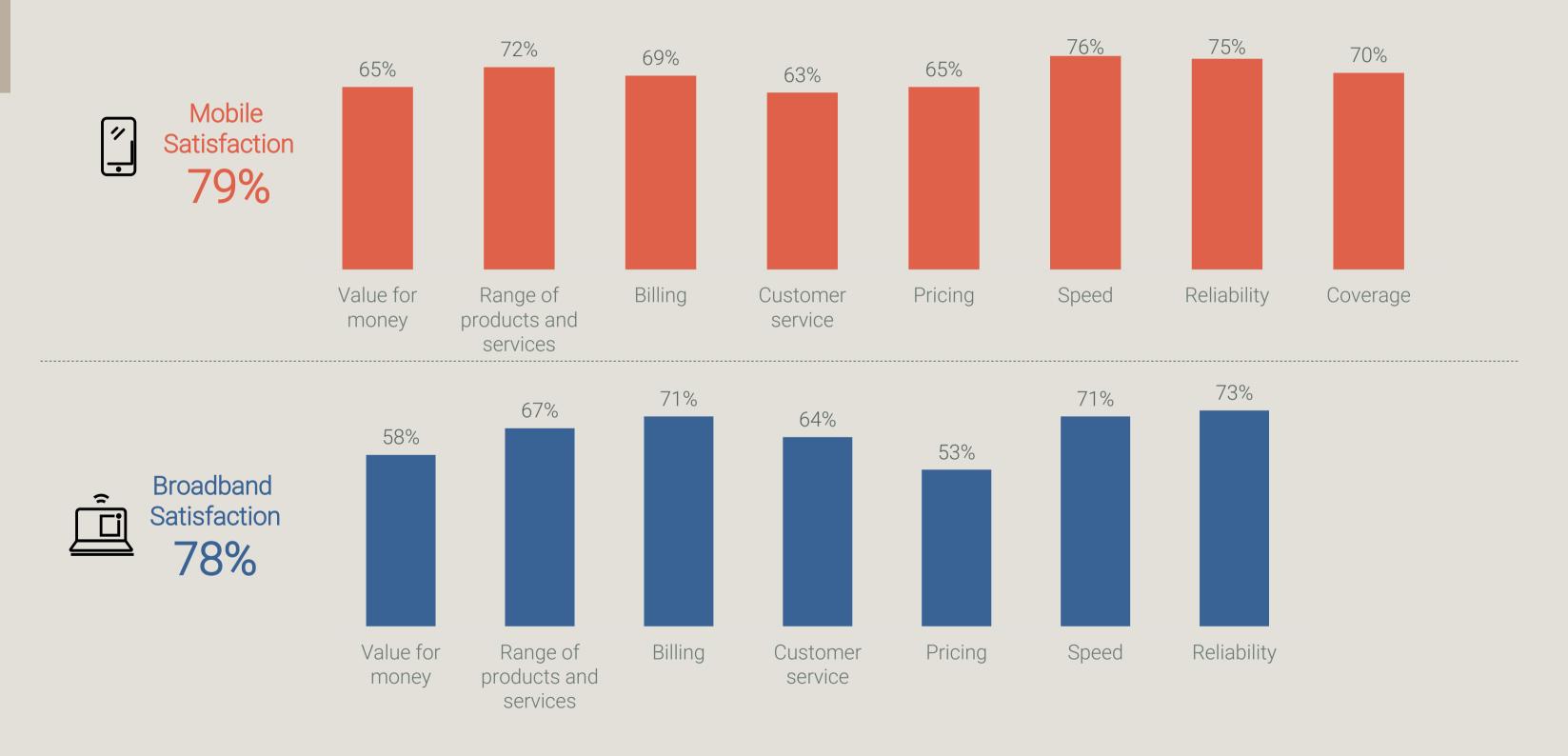


Considering your experience with your provider, how likely would you be to recommend them to a friend or family member? (Scale 0-10)

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your provider for your broadband/ household internet service / mobile service? Please take into account their products and services, as well as your experience of dealing with them. (Scale 1-5)

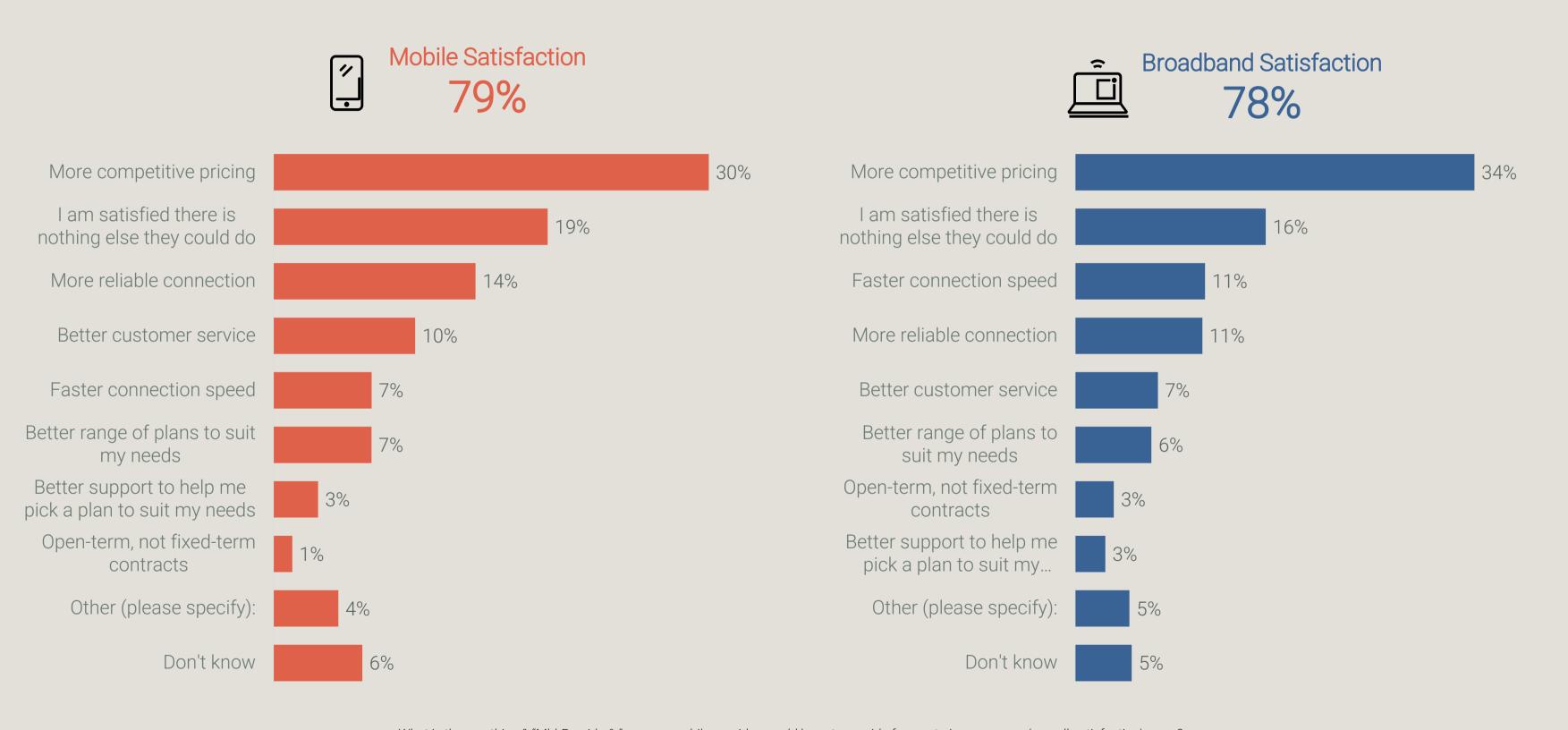
Satisfaction (rating 4-5 on 5 point scale)

Providers receive low scores for value for money, customer service and pricing among both broadband and mobile SME customers. All aspects of mobile and broadband satisfaction fall below the favourable threshold of 80%.



How to improve When prompted, 30% of mobile customers and 34% provider satisfaction one thing their provider could do to improve service.

When prompted, 30% of mobile customers and 34% of broadband customers cite more competitive pricing as the one thing their provider could do to improve service.





SME Insights

Tenure and Switching Behaviour

Tenure

Mobile consumers have a slightly longer tenure with their provider than broadband consumers. 48% of mobile consumers have been with their current provider for more than 5 years, compared to 38% for broadband.



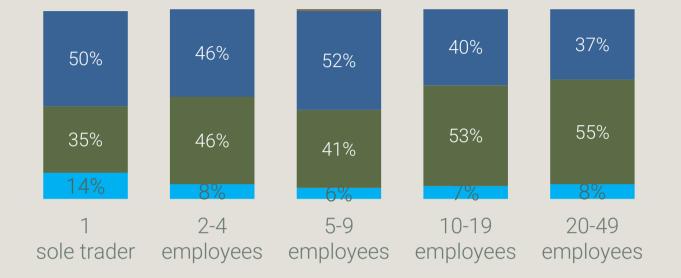


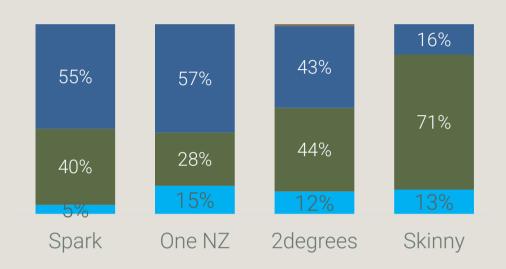
Tenure

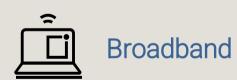
Mobile and broadband provider tenure does not correlate strongly with business size. Spark and One NZ have the longest tenure customers, 2degrees have shorter tenure customers in broadband.

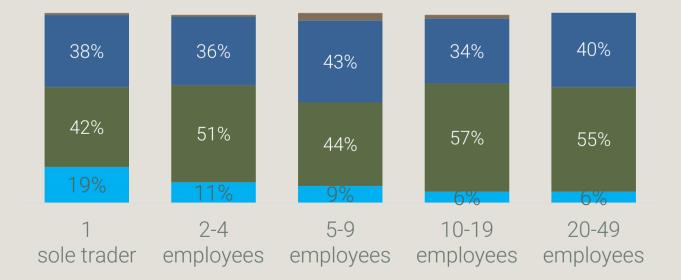


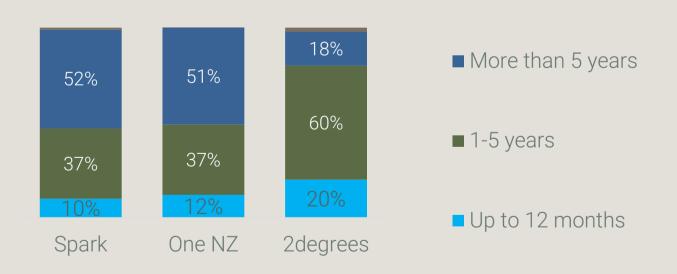
Mobile











Switching plans with same provider

Switching mobile and broadband plans with the same provider is low. Satisfaction with switching broadband plans is significantly lower than mobile and well below the target threshold of 80%.

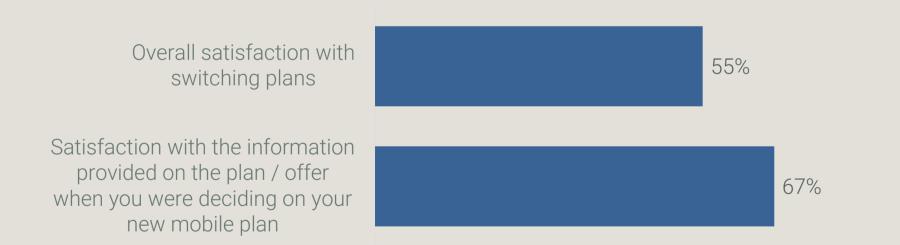


14% switched mobile plans in last 12 months



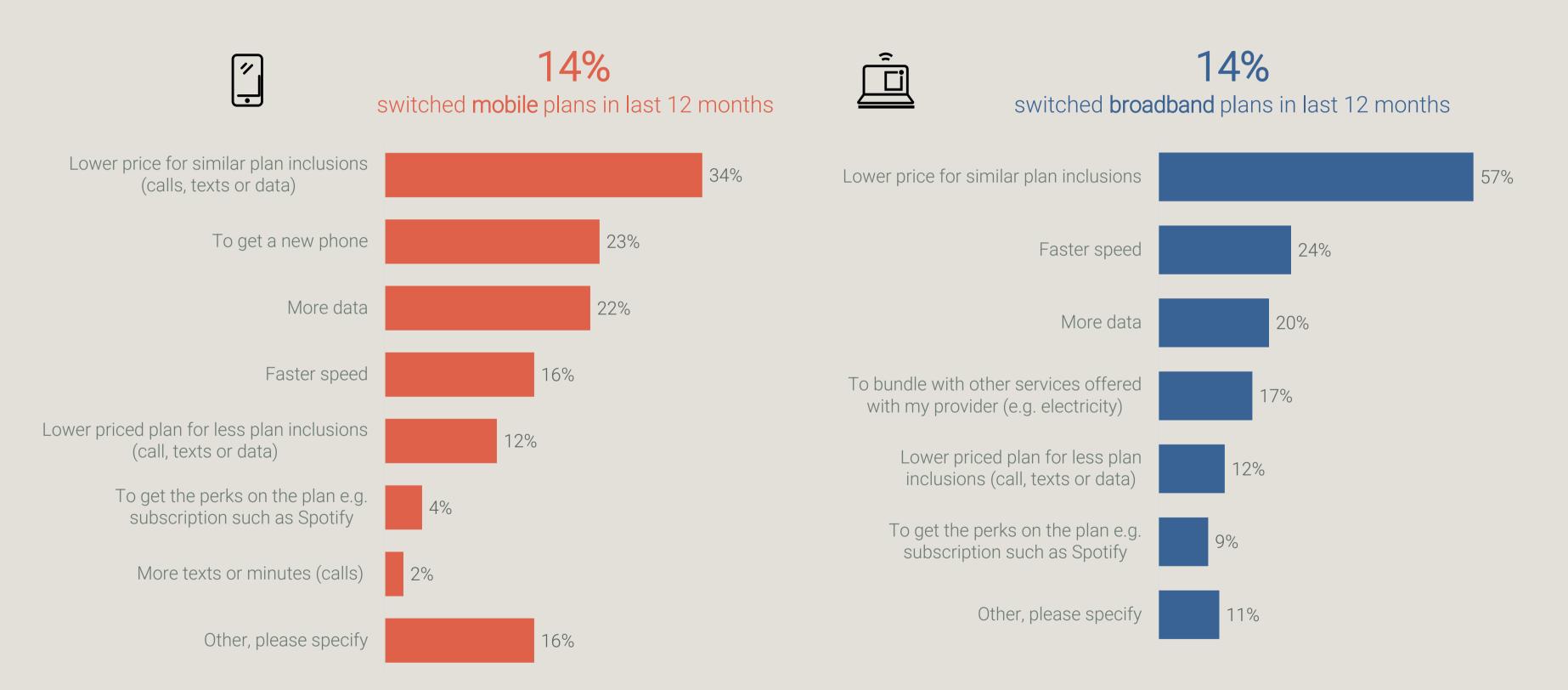


14% switched broadband plans in last 12 months



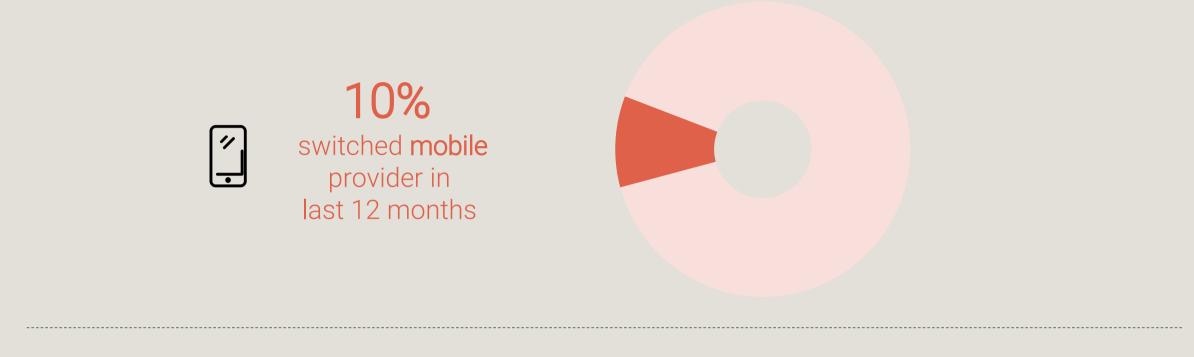
Reasons for switching plans with same provider

Lower prices is the main driver of switching plans with the same provider.



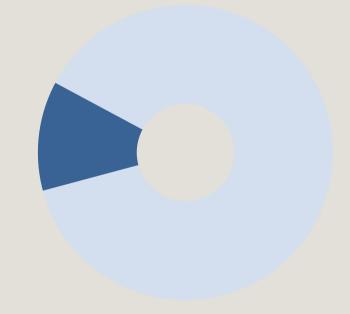
Switching provider

12% of broadband consumers switched broadband provider and 10% switched mobile provider in the last 12 months.



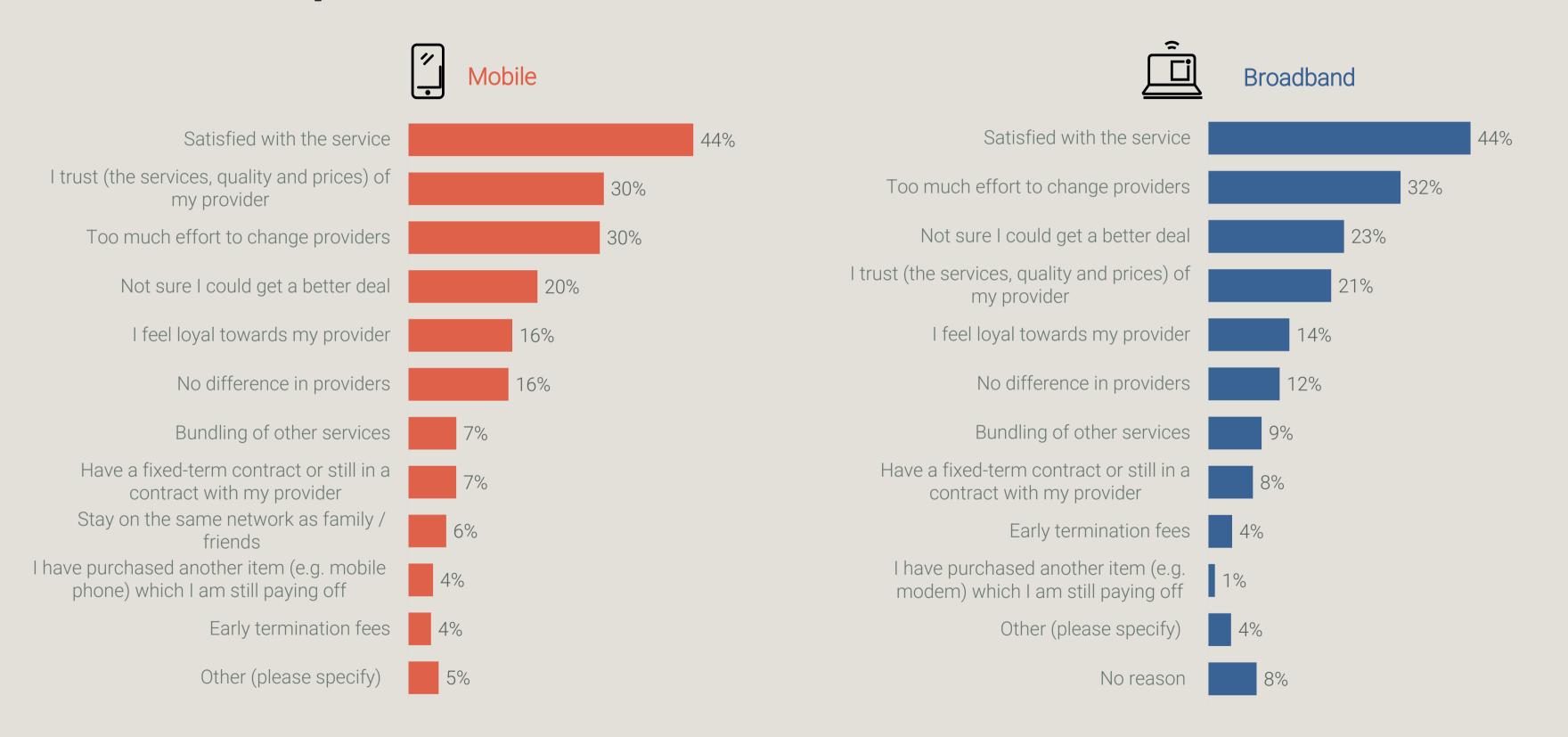


12% switched broadband provider in last 12 months



Reasons for staying with current provider

The main reasons consumers are staying with their current provider is because they are satisfied with the service, and perceived hassle of switching





SME Insights

Issues and Response

Mobile Issues

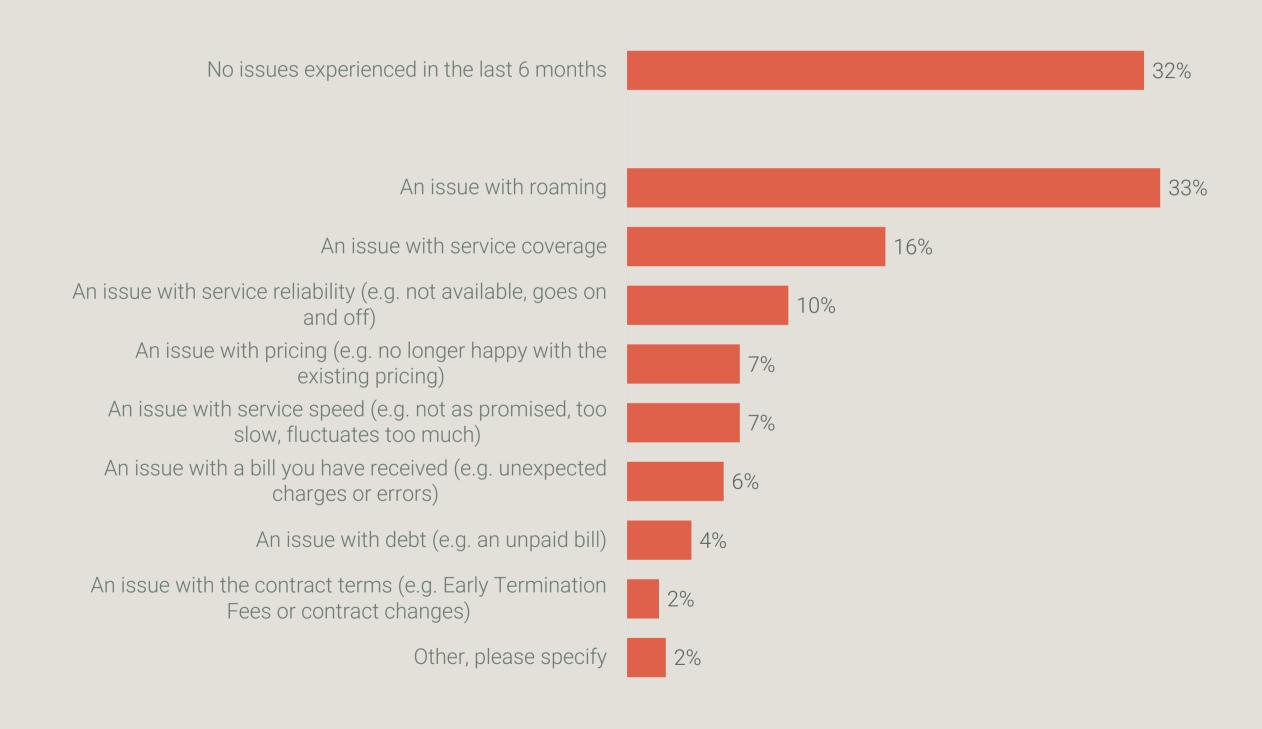
The most common issues experienced with mobile service are issues to do with roaming.



68%

of Mobile customers have experienced an issue with their mobile service in the

past 6 months



Broadband Issues

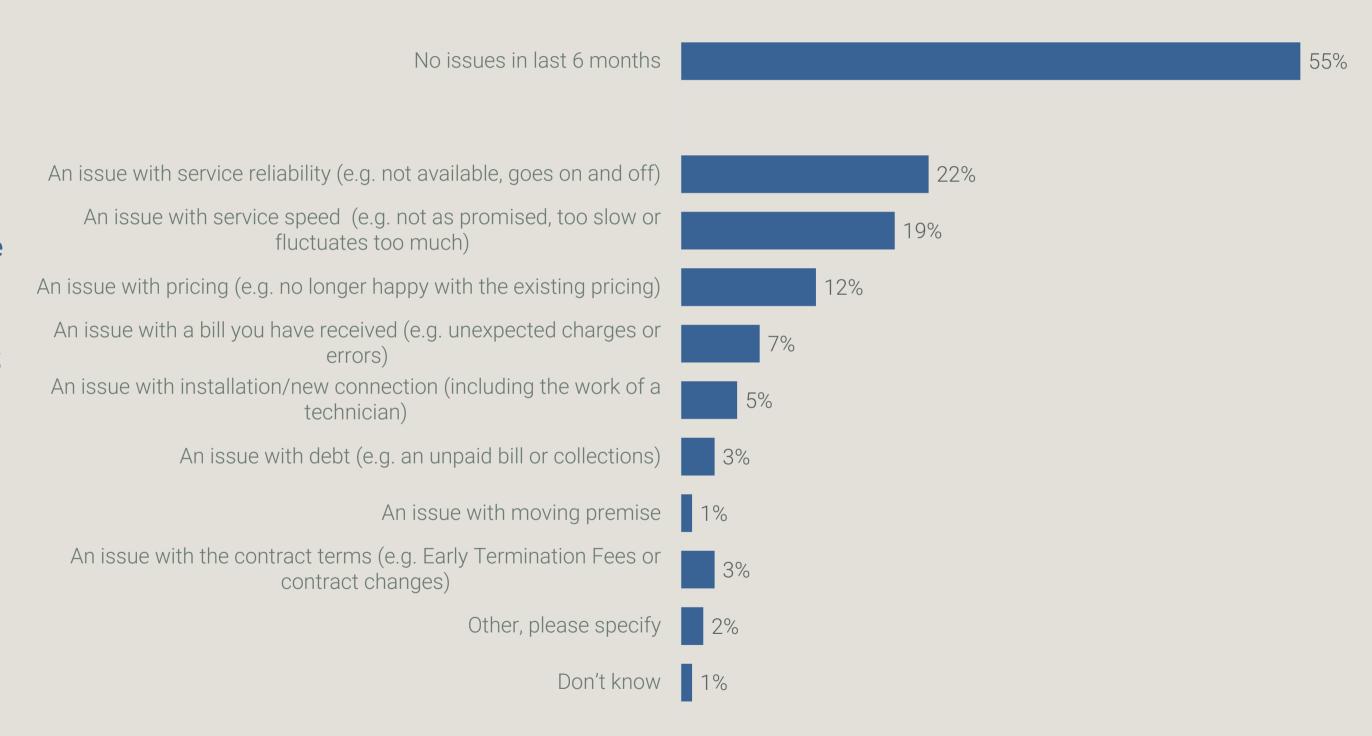
45% of consumers have had issues with their broadband services in the last six months. The number of customers experiencing issues with service reliability and speed has risen since 2023.



45%

of broadband customers
have experienced an issue
with their broadband
internet service in the

past 6 months



Thank you

Insights HQ