

Virgin Mobile 'prepaid'	CellC Cy			Mtn Pay-as-you-go		Vodago
VO plan	EasyChat Standard	EasyChat per second	EasyChat all day	Classic	Per Second	
R2.35 first 5 min	Friends and Family Peak Costs			Peak		
R1.55 thereafter	CellC to CellC: R1.50	CellC to CellC: R1.50	CellC to CellC: R1.50	MTN to MTN: R 2.50	MTN to MTN: R 2.99	Same Network: R 2.55
R0.60 first 5 SMSs	to other R2.50	to other R 2.99	to other R 1.85	to Telkom: R 2.50	to Telkom: R 2.99	Other Mob: R2.85
R0.35 for rest SMSs	Friends and Family off-peak costs			to other: R 2.85	to other: R 2.99	Telkom: R2.55
R0.30 for Same network SMS	CellC to CellC: R0.75	CellC to CellC: R0.75	CellC to CellC: R0.75	SMS: R 0.75	SMS: R 0.75	Service Calls: R3.60
* Per Second	to other R1.30	to other R 1.00	to other R 1.85	Off Peak		SMS: R0.80
	Peak Call			MTN to MTN: R 1.40	MTN to MTN: R 1.15	
	CellC to CellC: R2.50	CellC to CellC: R 3.20	CellC to CellC: R 2.00	MTN to Telkom: R 1.40	MTN to Telkom: R 1.15	Same Network: R1.40
	to other mobile: R 2.85	to other mobile: R 3.50	to other mobile: R 2.00	MTN to other: R 1.60	MTN to other: R 1.15	Other Mob: R1.65
	to Telkom: R 2.50	to Telkom: R 3.20	to Telkom: R 2.00	SMS: R 0.75	SMS: R 0.35	Telkom: R1.40
	SMS: R 0.80	SMS: R 0.80	SMS: R 0.60	Standard Time		Service Calls: R1.08
	Off-Peak				MTN to MTN: R 1.99	SMS: R0.35
	CellC to CellC: R 1.40	CellC to CellC: R 1.05	CellC to CellC: R 2.00		to Telkom: R 1.99	
	to other mobile: R 1.60	to other mobile: R 1.30	to other mobile: R 2.00		to other: R 1.99	
	to Telkom: R 1.40	to Telkom: R 1.05	to Telkom: R 2.00		SMS: R 0.75	
	SMS: R 0.34	SMS: R 0.34	SMS: R 0.60			

Compare per-second:

I think this is what most people are after - so let's see which provider would be better for per-second ...

Virgin Mobile 'prepaid'	Cell C	MTN	Vodacom
VO plan	EasyChat per second	Per Second	4U (* I am not 100% sure that this is per-second)
R2.35 first 5 min	Friends and Family Peak Costs	Peak	Peak
R1.55 thereafter	CellC to CellC: R1.50	MTN to MTN: R 2.99	Same Network: R 2.99
R0.60 first 5 SMSs	to other R 2.99	to Telkom: R 2.99	Other Mob: R 2.99
R0.35 for rest SMSs	Friends and Family off-peak costs	to other: R 2.99	Telkom: R 2.99
R0.30 for Same network SMS	CellC to CellC: R0.75	SMS: R 0.75	Service Calls: R2.99
* Per Second	to other R 1.00	Off Peak	SMS: R0.80
	Peak Call	MTN to MTN: R 1.15	Off Peak
	CellC to CellC: R 3.20	MTN to Telkom: R 1.15	Same Network: R1.05
	to other mobile: R 3.50	MTN to other: R 1.15	Other Mob: R1.30
	to Telkom: R 3.20	SMS: R 0.35	Telkom: R1.05
	SMS: R 0.80	Standard Time	Service Calls: R1.08
	Off-Peak	MTN to MTN: R 1.99	SMS: R0.35
	CellC to CellC: R 1.05	to Telkom: R 1.99	
	to other mobile: R 1.30	to other: R 1.99	
	to Telkom: R 1.05	SMS: R 0.75	
	SMS: R 0.34		

Compare per-second between all networks...

Most people I presume want to be able to compare the cost of per-second for inter-network calls - I am guessing this is what most people need the most

Virgin Mobile 'prepaid'	Cell C*	MTN	Vodacom
All Time	Peak		
R2.35 first 5 min	to other R 2.99	to other: R 2.99	Other Mob: R 2.99
R1.55 thereafter	SMS: R 0.80	SMS: R 0.75	SMS: R0.80
R0.60 first 5 SMSs	Off-Peak		
R0.35 for rest SMSs	to other R 1.00	MTN to other: R 1.15	Other Mob: R1.30
	SMS: R 0.34	SMS: R 0.35	SMS: R0.35
	Standard Time		
		to other: R 1.99	

SMS: R 0.75

*For CellC I am allowing the Family and Friends costs as most people only call a few select people

Now finally let's put everything in a very comparable way ...

	Virgin before first 5min/sms	Virgin After first 5min/sms	Cell C*	MTN	Vodacom
<u>Peak Rates</u>					
Other network Calls	R 2.35	R 1.55	R 2.99	R 2.99	R 2.99
SMS	R 0.60	R 0.35	R 0.80	R 0.75	R 0.80
<u>Off-Peak Rates</u>					
Other network Calls	R 2.35	R 1.55	R 1.00	R 1.15	R 1.30
SMS	R 0.60	R 0.35	R 0.34	R 0.35	R 0.35

bold denotes cheapest in that category

<u>Standard Time</u>	
Other network Calls	R 1.99
SMS	R 0.75

Conclusion

During Peak hours

Virgin is easliest the cheapest - even before you have reached your 5 min / 5 sms

During Off-Peak hours

CellC is cheapest for calling - followed closely by MTN and then Vodacom in 15c increments respectively, here Virgin is almost a Rand more expensive even after 5 min

CellC is the cheapest for sms - although all the other networks are just 1c more expensive (when you have reached 5sms with Virgin)

For overall value I look at Virgin being the best - although personally I feel that 60c a sms is a bit much during off peak hours (It isn't that often that I send more than 5)

As I make very short calls most of the time the extra cost for them off-peak doesn't bother me that much - the peak rate looks nice though...

I guess that it is only the sms problem which is bugging me - if they start to sell bundles then I could consider it, my 10 free sms from CellC atm go down way to nicely (considering that I don't often send more than 5 in a day)

but hey - nice to see simpler and better costs...

Disclaimer: I may have made a mistake in copying prices - see the links for more...

Vodacom Prepaid	
Vodago Smartstep	4U
<u>Peak</u>	
Same Network: R2.70 - 1st minute, 1.55 - thereafter	Same Network: R 2.99
Other Mob: R2.70 - 1st minute, 1.55 - thereafter	Other Mob: R 2.99
Telkom: R2.70 - 1st minute, 1.55 - thereafter	Telkom: R 2.99
Service Calls: R 2.70 - 1st minute, 1.55 - thereafter	Service Calls: R2.99
SMS: R0.80	SMS: R0.80
<u>Off-Peak</u>	
Same Network: R2.70 - 1st minute, 1.55 - thereafter	Same Network: R1.05
Other Mob: R2.70 - 1st minute, 1.55 - thereafter	Other Mob: R1.30
Telkom: R2.70 - 1st minute, 1.55 - thereafter	Telkom: R1.05
Service Calls: R1.08	Service Calls: R1.08
SMS: R0.35	SMS: R0.35