



Annual Info-Comm and Transport Statistical Bulletin

(12th Edition, 2021)

**Policy and Planning Division
Ministry of Information and Communications
Royal Government of Bhutan**

10th February 2021

FOREWORD

The Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC) is pleased to present the 12th edition of the Annual Info-Comm and Transport Statistical Bulletin 2021. The data and other information provided in this annual bulletin is valid as of December end 2020.

Like in the past publications, this annual bulletin covers statistical data and information covering the ICT, Telecommunications, Media, Postal, Surface Transport and Civil Aviation sectors. The information has been compiled from various sectors, and MoIC wishes to thank all the agencies for their kind cooperation and support. The Annual Statistical Bulletin has been formatted for easy understanding and the information may be used freely for planning and other purposes. Every effort has been made to ensure consistency of the data with the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan and other similar publications with additional statistical information added for quick analysis. For sectoral consistency, all are requested to use the data provided herein.

For easier, wider and better access to information provided in this annual bulletin as well as to support the government's effort in reducing paper usage, MoIC is posting this publication online with no printed copies. As usual, MoIC welcomes feedback and suggestions on the content, structure or design of this bulletin from our partner agencies, stakeholders and users. Efforts are also being made to update the basic data every three months to ensure the availability of most recent data at any given time.

TASHI DELEK



Phuntsho Tobgay
Secretary
Ministry of Information and Communications

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I. ABOUT THE ANNUAL INFO-COMM AND TRANSPORT STATISTICAL BULLETIN

The Annual Info-Comm. and Transport Statistical Bulletin is aimed at disseminating up-to date and correct information and statistical data on ICT, Media, Transport and Postal services in the country.

The data in this report were collected and compiled by the Policy and Planning Division of the Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC). However, agencies dealing with ICT/telecom, Media, Transport and Postal services are the direct source of information concerning their respective areas.

The statistical bulletin provides data until December 2020, and therefore, valid as of that period. Attempt has been made to provide detailed statistical information keeping most parameters into account; however, there are many areas that still lack information. MoIC will continue its endeavour to improve and include missing information in subsequent publications.

This bulletin is divided into two chapters. Chapter One provides statistical information on information society broadly dealing with ICT, Telecommunications, Media and Postal sectors. Chapter Two deals with transport sector focusing on Civil Aviation and Surface Transport activities.

It is hoped that the information provided in this publication will prove useful for use by Government agencies, general public, development partners, training institutions and students alike.

II. SUMMARY OF ICT, MEDIA AND TRANSPORT SECTOR INDICATORS

Sectors	Data (as of December 2020)
ICT/Telecommunications Sector	
➤ Internet subscribers ¹	734,667 ² (818,612 in 2019): 10.3% decrease
➤ Proportion of population using internet	98.1% (110.4% in 2019): 11.1% decrease
➤ Fixed line telephone subscribers	22,987 (21,581 in 2019): 6.5% increase
➤ Number of Dzongkhags HQ's with Fixed line connections	All the 20 Dzongkhags
➤ Mobile cellular subscribers	745,137 (729,239 in 2019): 2.2% increase
➤ Proportion of population using mobile cellular services	99.5% (98.3% in 2019): 1.2% increase
➤ Number of Gewog HQ's with access to mobile network	All 205 Gewogs
➤ Number of Telecom operators	2
➤ Number of Internet Service Providers	7
Media Sector	
➤ Number of television stations	1 (BBS Channel 1 & 2)
➤ Number of radio stations	12 (including community and campus radio stations)
➤ Number of Newspaper	7
➤ Number of Magazines ³	4
➤ Number of publication houses	24

¹ Internet subscribers here refer to those household/organizations/individuals connected by Fixed Broadband, GPRS/EDGE/3G/4G and Lease line only. The figure does not take into account the actual number of internet users via their Offices, community centres, Internet Cafes or homes. Decrease in number of internet is mostly attributed to people deregistering for 3G services, and also due to decrease in fixed broadband services.

² Decrease in the total number of internet users is mainly due to foreign workers leaving the country, large number of mobile cellular passive users, and also due to fluctuation in the real time data generation issues with the Operator

³ The list excludes those magazines published by respective airlines

Surface Transport Sector	
➤ Total number of vehicles	112,058 (106,681 in 2019): 5% increase
➤ Total number of Taxis	5,782 (5,181 in 2019): 11.6% increase
➤ Total number of motor vehicle accidents	811 (1,470 in 2019): 44.8% decrease
➤ Total number of fatalities due to motor vehicle accidents	88 (94 in 2019): 6.4% decrease
➤ Total number of injuries due to motor vehicle accidents	459 (814 in 2019): 43.6% decrease
Air Transport Sector	
➤ Total number of domestic airports	3
➤ Total number of international airport	1
➤ Total number of airlines operating domestic routes	1
➤ Total number of airlines operating international routes	2
➤ Total number of international air passengers (excluding connecting sectors)	49,212 (368,023 in 2019): 86.6% decrease
➤ Total number of domestic air passengers	6,509 (15,906 in 2019): 59.1% decrease
➤ Total number of helicopter service operator	1

CHAPTER 1- INFORMATION SOCIETY

This Chapter deals with basic statistical information and comparison relating to the information society such as ICT, Telecommunication, Post and the Media.

A. ICT and Telecommunication Development

Since the introduction of internet and telecommunication services in the country, the country has experienced rapid development in the sector. Over the years, the country has licensed two telecommunication service providers and various Internet Service providers to provide telecommunication and internet services in the country. In 2020, the country had seven Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and two telecom service providers (TSPs).

The seven ISPs are Bhutan Telecom Limited (BTL), Tashi InfoComm Limited (TICL), DrukComm, Supernet InfoComm, Bitcom Systems, Datanet Wifi, and Nano⁴. Bhutan Telecom Limited is the sole provider of Fixed-line telecommunication services, while Cellular Mobile services are provided by B-Mobile (Bhutan Telecom Limited) and Tashi-Cell (Tashi InfoComm. Ltd). With the exception of Bhutan Telecom, which is a state-Owned Enterprise, all other ISPs and TSP are private sector ventures.

Table 1: Key ICT indicators- as of December 2020

Sl. No.	Indicators	Number
1	Fixed Telephone line subscribers	22,987
2	Mobile Cellular subscribers	745,137
3	Internet subscribers ⁵ :	734,667
	i. Lease line subscribers	3,751
	ii. Fixed Broadband subscribers	3,189
	iii. GPRS/EDGE subscribers	38,792
	iv. Mobile Broadband subscribers, of which:	688,935
	a. 4G subscribers	460,324
	b. 3G subscribers	228,611
4	No. of Gewogs with access to Mobile services	All 205 Gewogs
5	No. of Dzongkhags head-offices with Fixed line and Mobile services	All 20 Dzongkhags

⁴ License of Drangdhen Tshonglay cancelled

⁵ Dial up internet connection discontinued by all ISP providers. 3G and 4G users are clubbed together

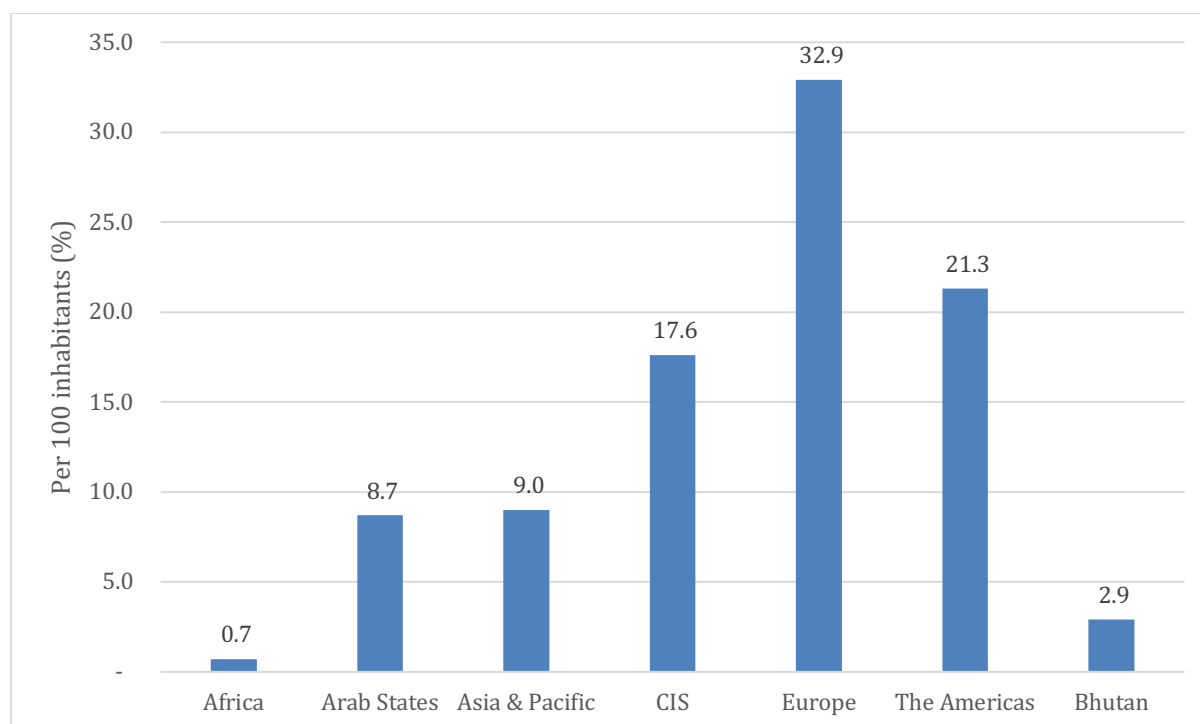
1.1. Fixed-Line Telephony

From among the various means of telecommunication services available, the fixed-telephone line is one of the oldest mode of telecommunication services used in the country. As of December end 2020, the Fixed-telephone line subscription saw an increase of about 6.5% in its subscriptions base in comparison to 2019. The total number of fixed telephone line subscriptions in 2020 was 22,987 i.e. 1,406 subscribers more than 2019 with 3.1 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants⁶.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) estimated that in 2019⁷, the European countries had 32.9 fixed telephone line subscriptions per 100 inhabitants followed by the Americas with 21.3, the CISs countries with 17.6 and the Asia Pacific Regional countries with 9 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. Additionally, the Land Locked countries were estimated to have 3.4 fixed telephone line subscriptions per 100 inhabitants by the ITU. In comparison, Bhutan had 2.9 subscription for 100 inhabitants in 2019 and 3.1 per 100 inhabitants in 2020.

Low level of fixed telephone line subscription is a global phenomenon and not specific to any country. In case of Bhutan, the low level of fixed telephone line uptake could be attributed to the rise in mobile cellular service.

Chart 1: Fixed-telephone line subscriptions per 100 inhabitants by global geographical location, 2019

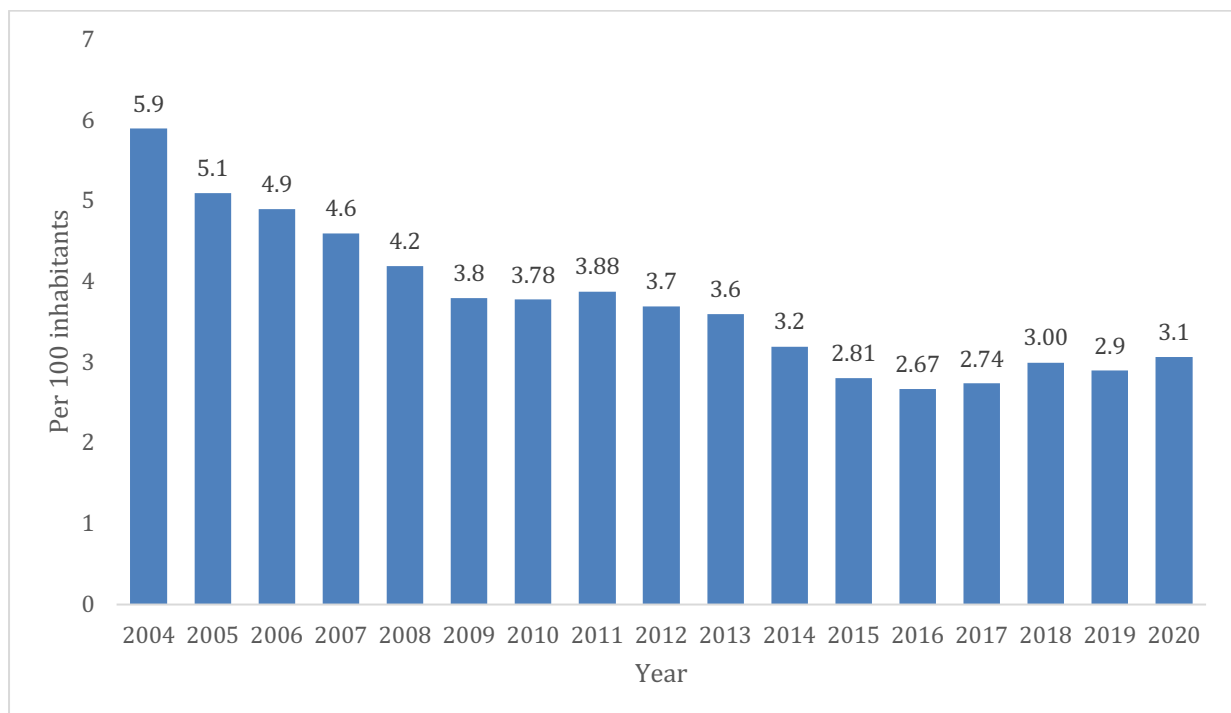


Source: International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

⁶ Total projected population of Bhutan as of 2020 December is taken as 748,931 (NSB-estimated projection)

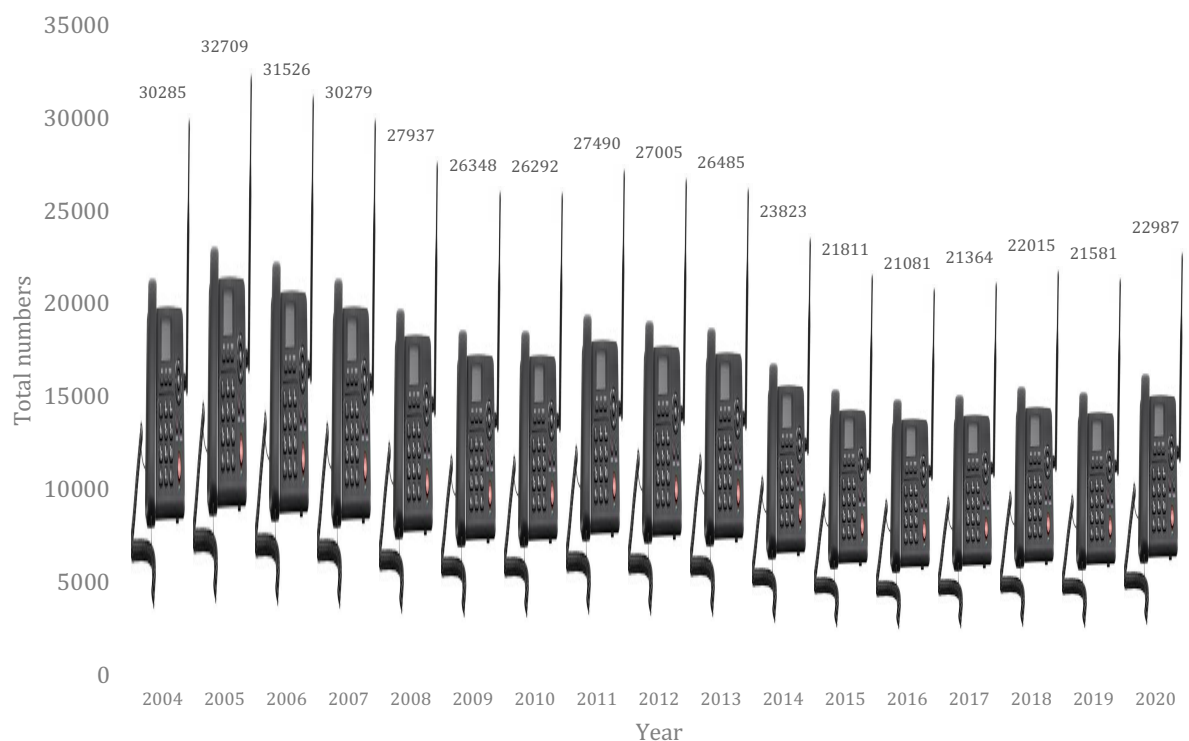
⁷ ITU has not estimated the Fixed-telephone subscription per 100 inhabitants for 2020.

Chart 2: Fixed-telephone line subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, Bhutan, 2004-2020



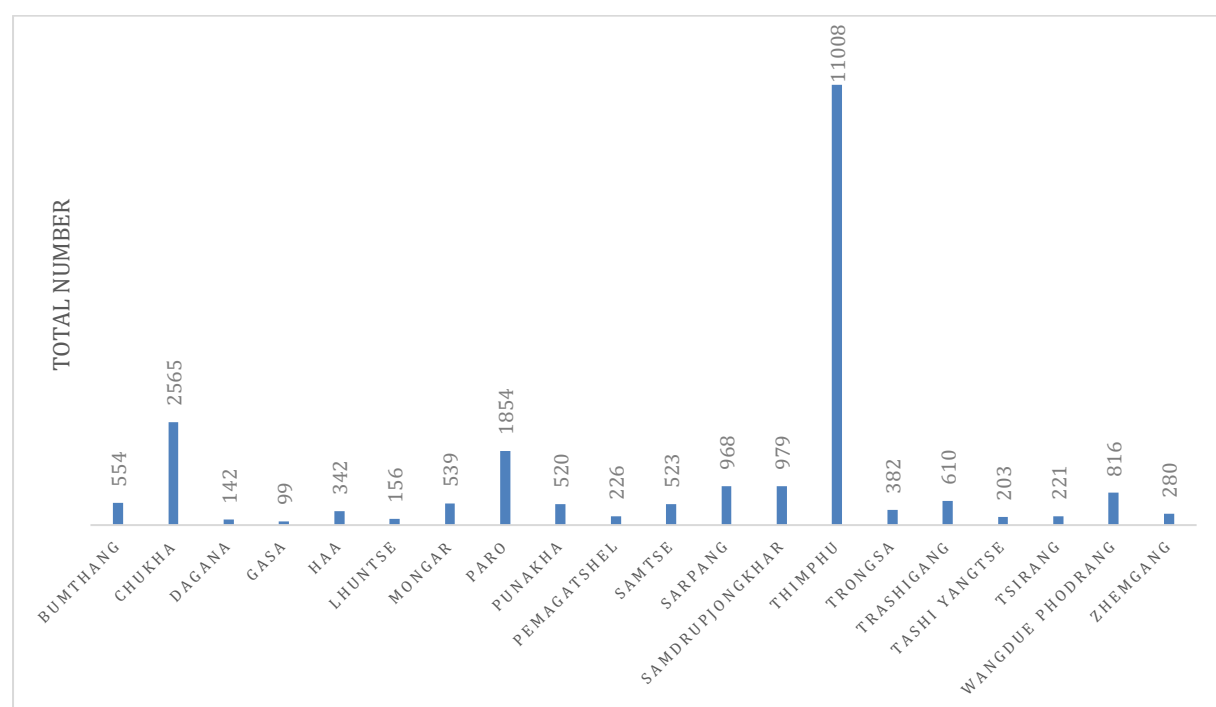
Source: Bhutan Telecom & MoIC

Chart 3: Yearly total Fixed-telephone Line Subscriptions trend, Bhutan 2004-2020



Source: Bhutan Telecom

Chart 4: Fixed-telephone line subscriptions share by Dzongkhags as of December 2020, Bhutan



Source: Bhutan Telecom

Table 2: Dzongkhag Fixed-telephone line subscriptions trend, Bhutan, 2014-2020

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Dec-2020	Dec-2019	Dec-2018	Dec-2017	Dec-2016	Dec-2015	Dec-2014
1	Bumthang	554	571	612	521	503	612	662
2	Chukha	2565	1492	2475	2,448	2,535	2,706	2,763
3	Dagana	142	170	176	179	172	103	183
4	Gasa	99	76	73	67	65	42	45
5	Haa	342	291	289	305	301	326	356
6	Lhuntse	156	141	134	123	136	138	128
7	Mongar	539	488	556	586	610	671	705
8	Paro	1854	1628	1621	1,737	1,689	1,560	1,768
9	Punakha	520	273	373	383	424	442	552
10	Pemagatshel	226	216	214	204	211	172	270
11	Samtse	523	584	560	540	557	620	723
12	Sarpang	968	957	985	984	1,031	1,218	1,217
13	Samdrup Jongkhar	979	1013	928	890	922	946	1,063

14	Thimphu	11008	11159	10525	9,993	9,445	9,578	10,417
15	Trongsa	382	478	375	363	380	377	416
16	Trashigang	610	597	637	643	675	761	784
17	Tashi Yangtse	203	190	189	173	167	152	159
18	Tsirang	221	227	217	197	224	250	272
19	Wangdue Phodrang	816	734	784	740	734	799	1,057
20	Zhemgang	280	296	292	288	300	338	283
	Total	22987	21581	22015	21364	21081	21811	23823

Source: Bhutan Telecom

1.2. Mobile Cellular Telephony

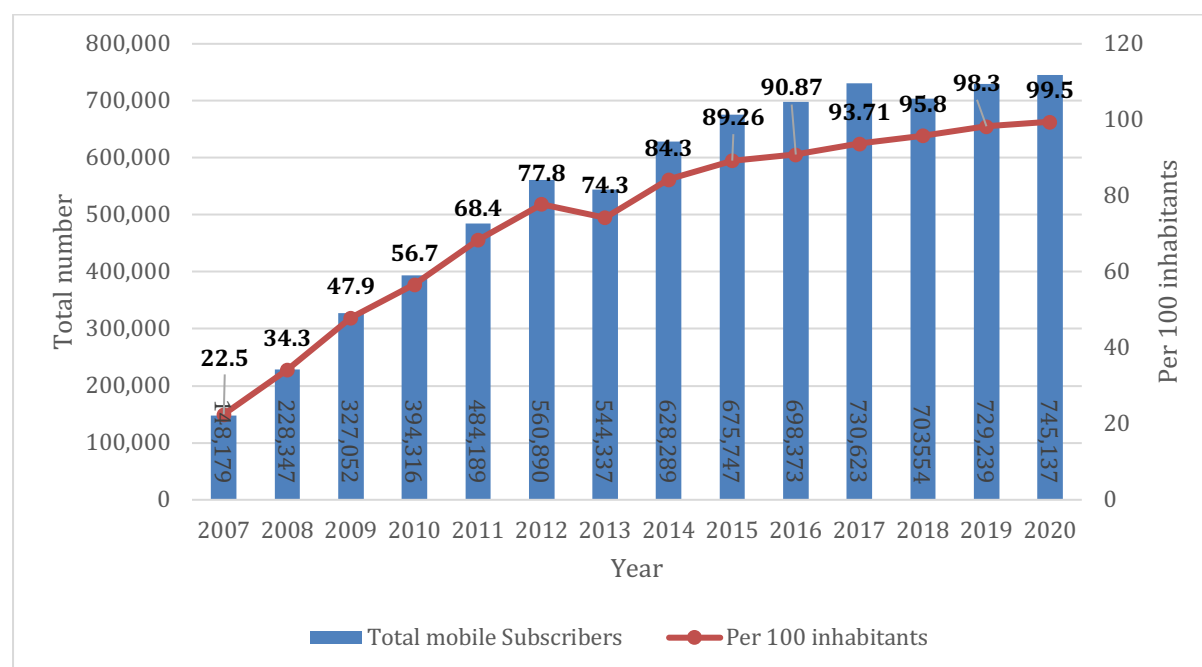
B-Mobile (Bhutan Telecom Ltd), a state owned enterprise and Tashi-Cell (Tashi Info-Comm. Ltd), a privately owned enterprise are the two mobile service providers in the country. Their mobile services are now available in all the 20 Dzongkhags and Gewogs except for few remote villages.

The two Operators had a combined subscription base of 745,137 as of 2020 end, i.e. an increase of 2.2 % from 2019. Separately, Bhutan Telecom had 466,796 and Tashi Cell had 278,341 mobile cellular subscribers. However, these subscriptions includes 43,776 and 36,980 passive subscriptions for Bhutan Telecom and T-cell respectively in 2020.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU)⁸ in 2020 estimated that the World, on average, had 105 mobile cellular subscription per 100 inhabitants. The Developed countries had 133.4 mobile cellular subscription per 100 inhabitants, the Developing countries had 99.3, the least developed countries had 74, and the land locked developing countries had 79.1 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. In comparison, Bhutan had 99.5 mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, which is better than the average of Developing countries, Least developing countries, African countries, and the Land locked countries. Nevertheless, we trail the Americas, Europe, Arab states and the average of the Asia and the Pacific region (see chart 6 and 7).

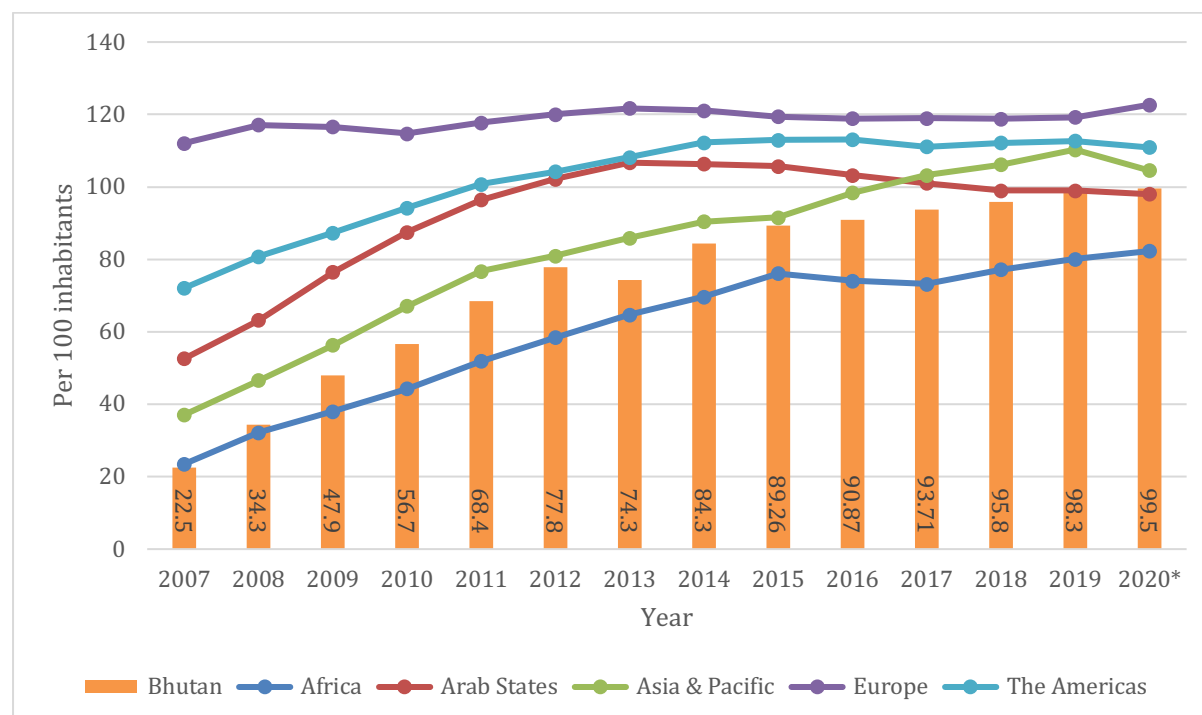
⁸ ITU estimates are available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/facts/FactsFigures2020.pdf>

Chart 5: Yearly total Mobile Cellular subscriptions and subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, Bhutan, 2007-2020



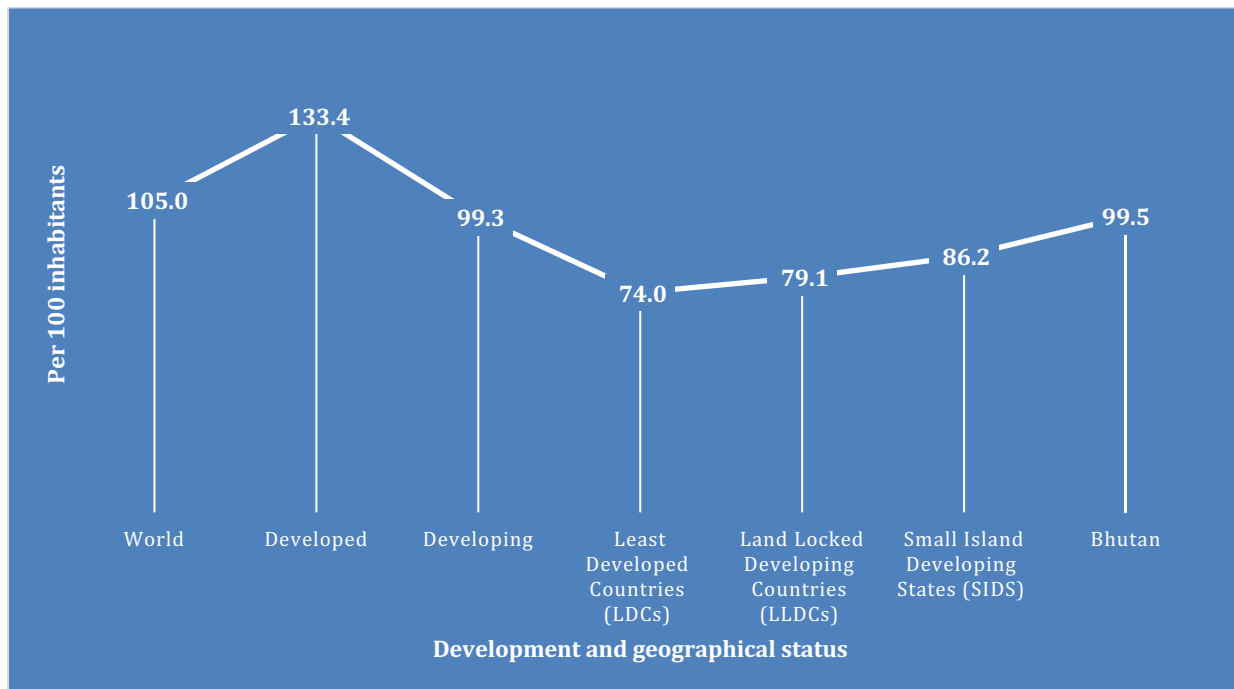
Source: Bhutan Telecom & Tashi Cell

Chart 6 : Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants by geographical location, 2007-2020



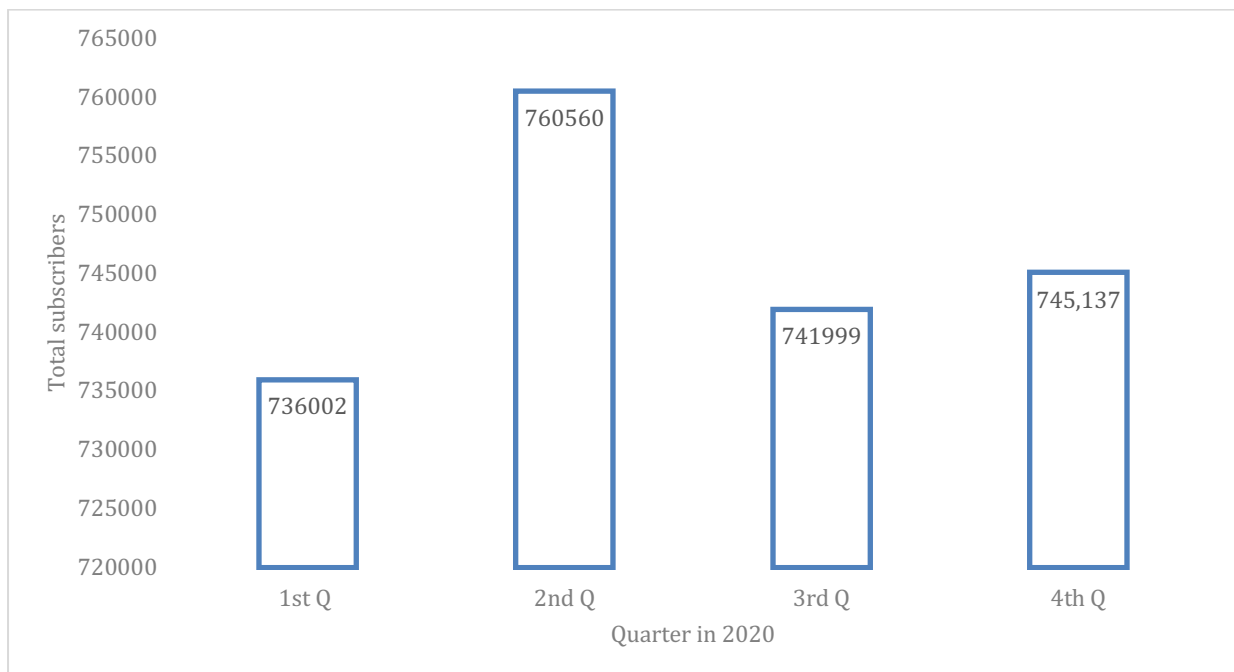
Source: ITU and MoIC

Chart 7 : Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by level of economic development, 2020



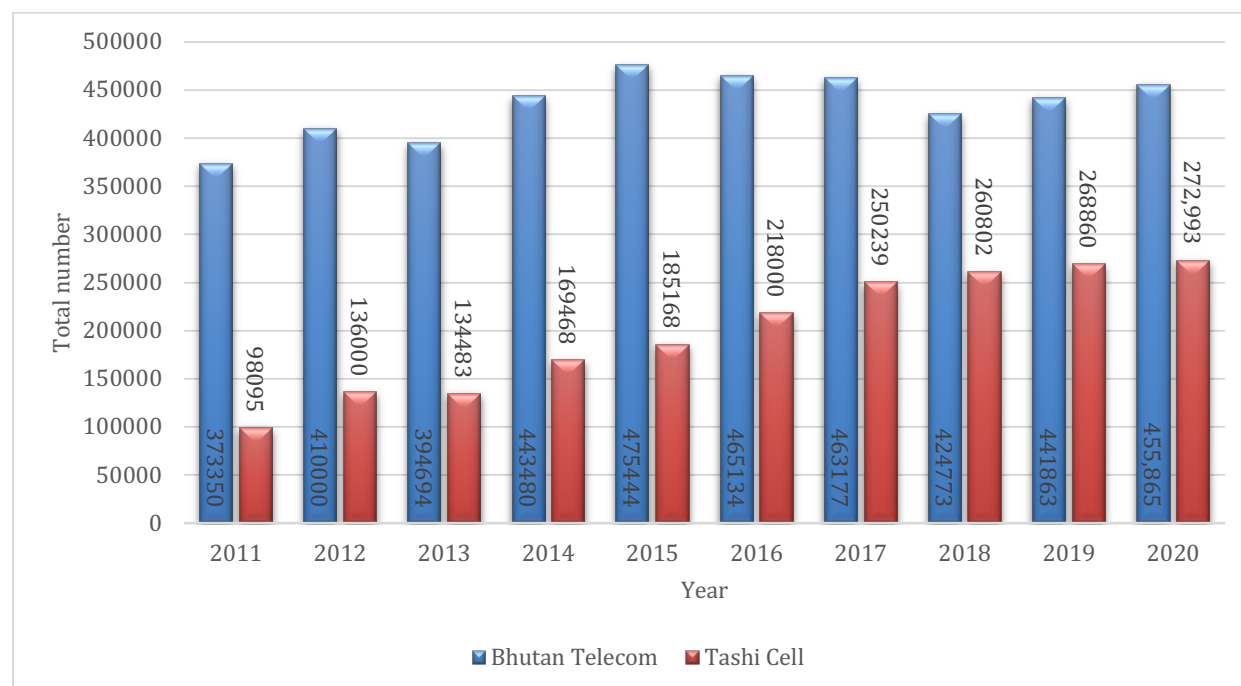
Source: ITU and MoIC

Chart 8: Quarterly mobile subscriptions for Bhutan in 2020



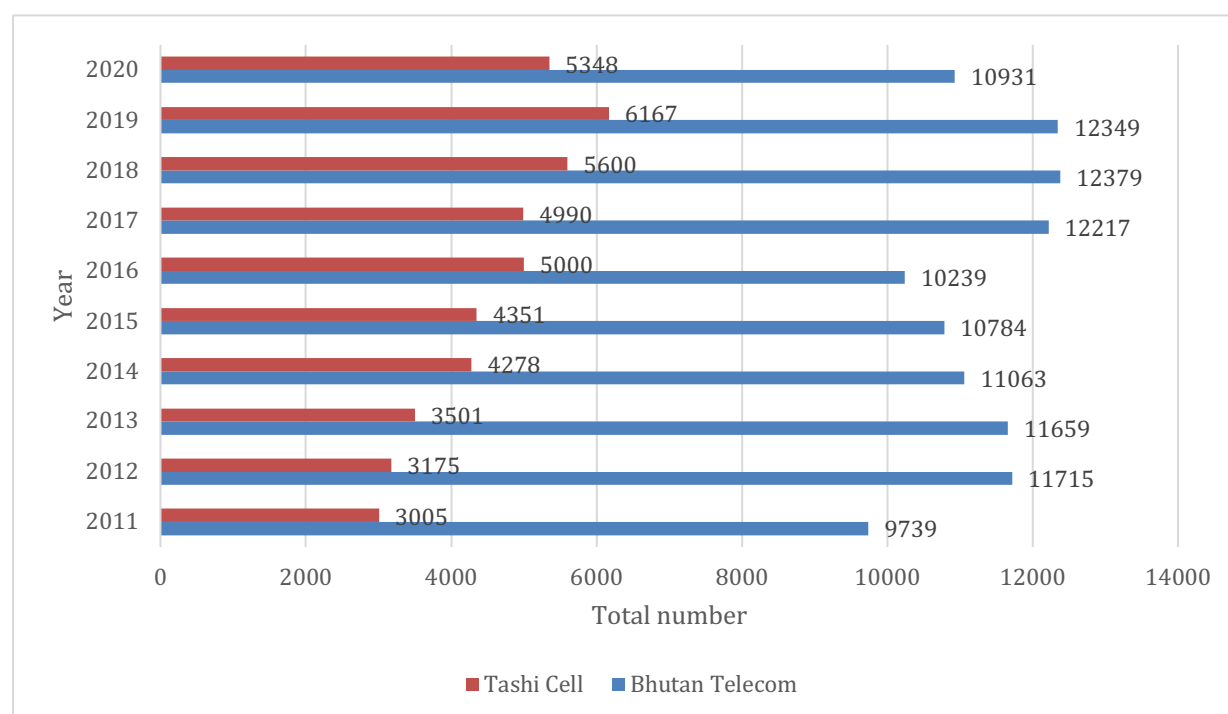
Source: Bhutan Telecom, Tashi Cell

Chart 9: Pre-paid mobile subscriptions trend, Bhutan, by Operator, 2011-2020



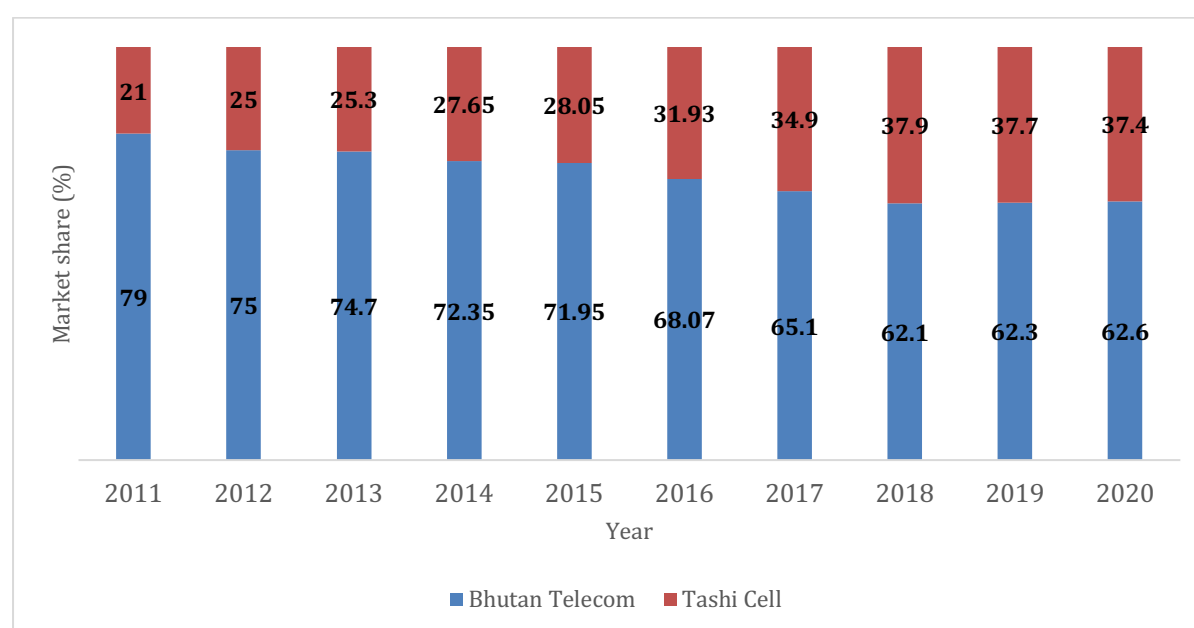
Source: Bhutan Telecom & Tashi Cell

Chart 10: Post-paid mobile subscriptions trend, Bhutan, by Operator, 2011-2020



Source: Bhutan Telecom and Tashi Cell

Chart 11: Mobile cellular subscriptions Market share trend, Bhutan, by operator, 2011-2020



Source: MoIC

1.3. Internet Services

Druknet (Bhutan Telecom), Drukcom, Tashi-Cell (Tashi Info-Comm. Ltd.), Supernet InfoComm, Bitcom Systems, Datanet Wifi, and Nano are the seven licensed Internet Service Providers (ISPs)⁹ in the country providing wide range of internet services as indicated below:

Table 3: Operators, service provided and coverage

Operators	Type of services provided	Coverage
Druknet, Bhutan Telecom Limited	Lease line	All 20 Dzongkhags
	Fixed broadband	Refer table 5 below
	EDGE/GPRS ¹⁰	All 20 Dzongkhags
	3G	All 20 Dzongkhags
	4G	Selected areas in all 20 Dzongkhags

⁹ Samden Tech discontinued providing internet services. License of Drangdhen Tshonglay cancelled

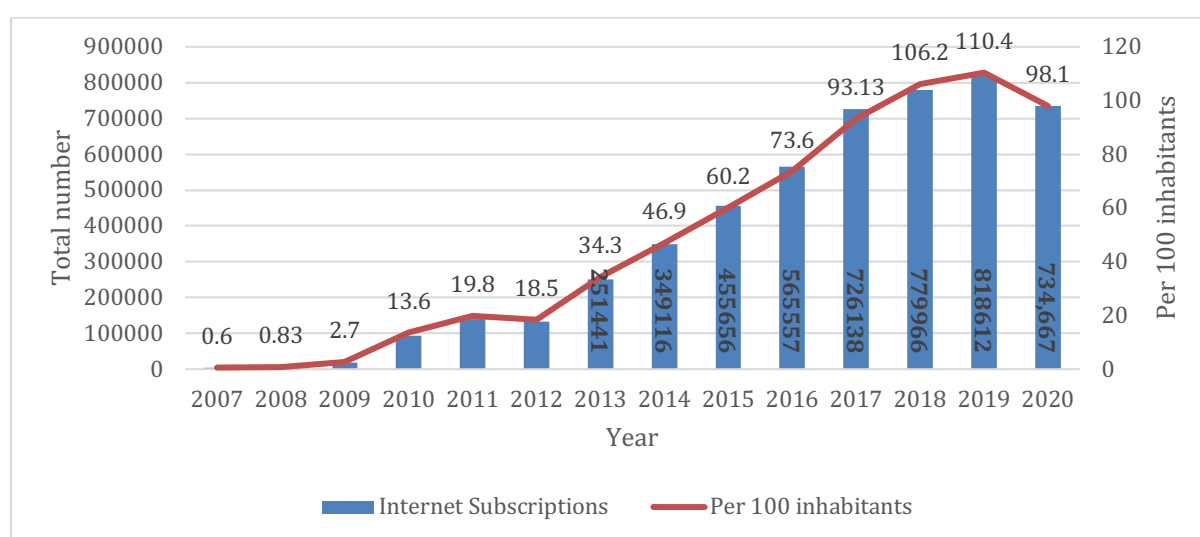
¹⁰ All subscribers now converted to 3G users

Tashi Cell	Leased Line	All 20 Dzongkhags (Depends on Line of Sight feasibility)
	EDGE/GPRS	All 20 Dzongkhags
	3G	All 20 Dzongkhags/
	4G	Selected areas in all 20 Dzongkhags
DrukCom Pvt. Enterprise	Leased Line	Thimphu and Phuentsholing
	Fixed broadband	
Supernet InfoComm	Lease Line Fixed Broadband	Phuentsholing
Bitcom System	Lease Line	Thimphu
Datanet Wifi	Lease Line	Phuentsholing
Nano	Lease Line	Nationwide (19 Dzongkhags)

Source: Internet Service Providers (Bhutan)

The overall internet subscriptions in the country as of December end 2020 stands at 734,667 subscriptions i.e a decrease of 10% in comparisons to 2019. Decrease in total number of internet subscriptions is attributed to large number of foreign worker leaving the country due to the Covid 19 pandemic, large number of passive mobile cellular users, and also due to rapid decrease in the fixed broadband subscriptions. Technical issues while segregating the real time data is one other issue.

Chart 12: Overall yearly Internet subscriptions trend, 20013-2020¹¹



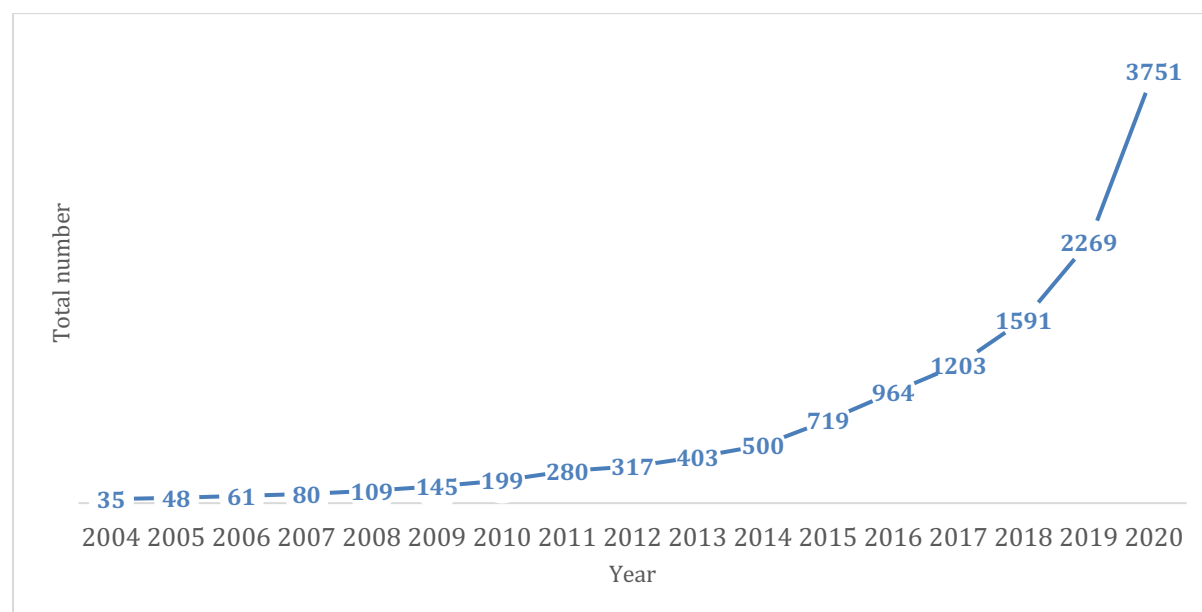
Source: Internet Service Providers (Bhutan)

¹¹ Only the actual numbers of Organizations/Households/individual Internet subscribers of ISPs are taken into account. Decrease is observed as Telecom operators have clubbed 3G and 4G users together.

Types of Internet connections:

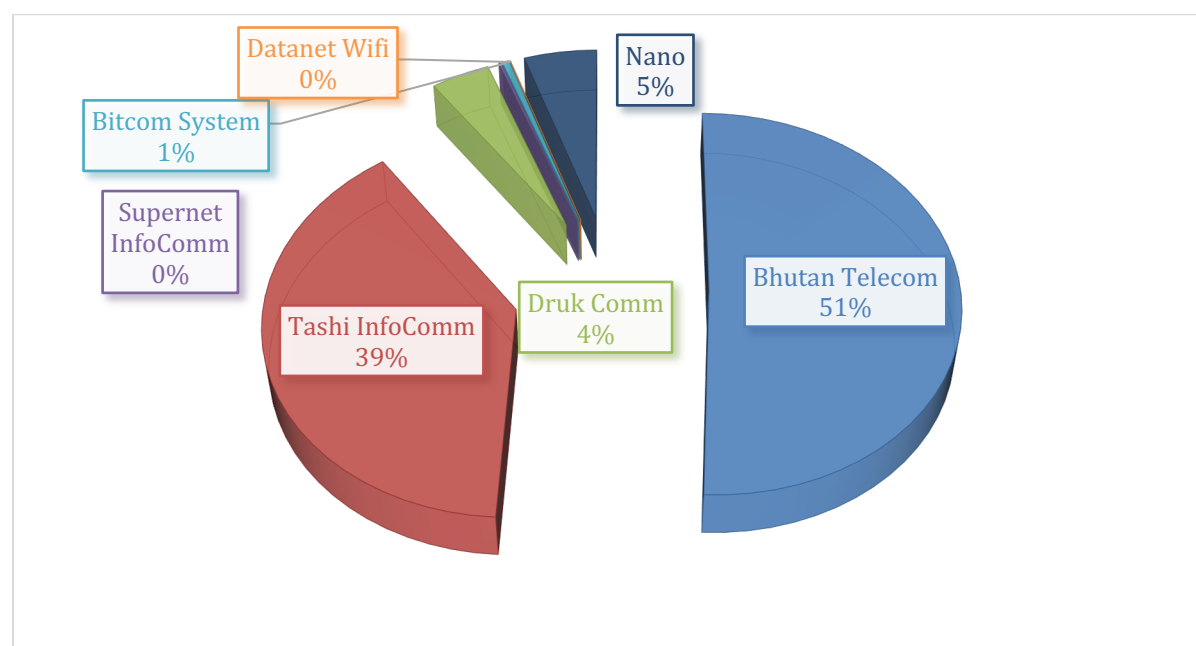
Lease Line Connection: Lease line internet subscription continues to grow at a steady rate despite the rapid rise of Mobile Broadband subscribers. 1,482 new Lease Line subscribers were added in 2020, taking the total number of Lease Line Household/Organization subscriptions to 3,751. Over the past one year, the lease line subscriptions has increased by over 65.3%.

Chart 13: Lease-line subscriptions trend, 2004-2020



Source: *Source: Internet Service Providers (Bhutan)*

Chart 14: Total Lease-line subscriptions share by ISPs, 2020



Source: *Source: Internet Service Providers (Bhutan)& MoIC*

Broadband Connection:

Broadband Internet services were first introduced in the country in 2008. The Broadband connections are generally classified into two: Fixed (wired) Broadband and Mobile Broadband (3G and 4G):

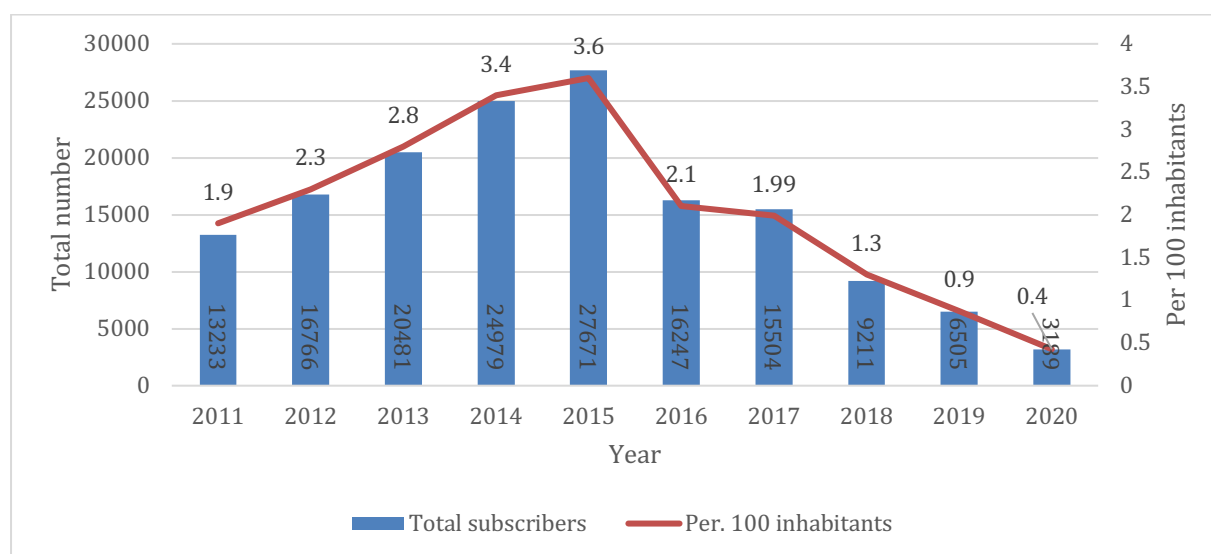
Fixed (wired) Broadband:

Druknet (Bhutan Telecom), Drukcom, Supernet InfoComm and Datanet Wifi are the four ISPs providing Fixed (wired) Broadband Internet services in the country. Fixed (wired) Broadband services are generally provided through ADSL or Fibre Optic.

Most countries around the globe, regardless of their development status or geographical location, continuous to experience rise in their fixed-broadband subscriptions. The ITU in 2020 estimated that the World, on average, had 15.2 fixed-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants with the Developing countries and the Land locked countries averaging 11.5 and 3.1 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants respectively. Further, the European countries, as per the ITU 2020 estimates have the highest subscription per 100 inhabitants with 32.9 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. Europe is closely followed by the Americas and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with 21.4 and 19.5 subscription per 100 inhabitants respectively. The Asia and the Pacific region, on average, had 15 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants. Among these regions, the African region in 2020, had a 0.4 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants.

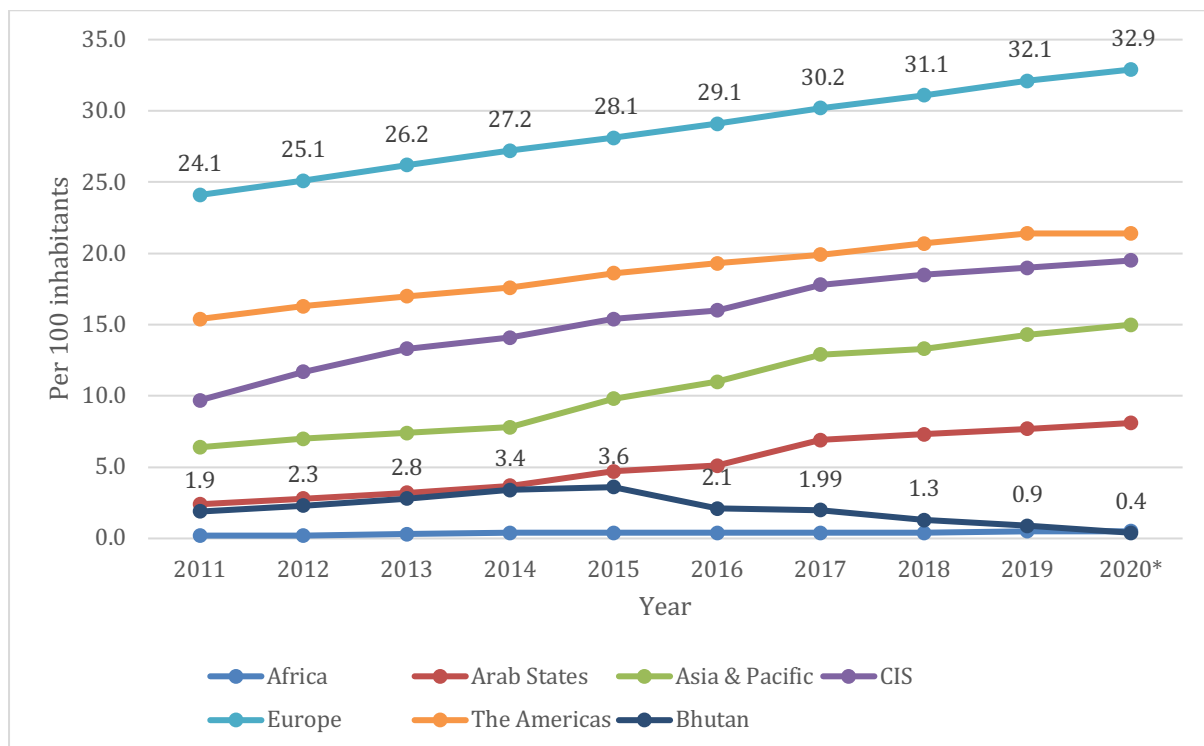
Contrarily, Bhutan continues to experience a drastic decrease in their fixed-broadband subscriptions. In 2020, the Fixed (wired) Broadband Internet subscriptions decreased by 51% in comparison to 2019. The total fixed-broadband subscriptions in 2020 was 3,189 subscriptions i.e. a decrease of about 3316 subscriptions from 2019. In 2020, the Fixed (wired) Broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants for Bhutan stands at 0.4 per 100 inhabitants. The decrease in Fixed (wired) Broadband Internet subscriptions may be attributed to increase in lease line subscriptions and increase in mobile broadband coverage and subscriptions.

Chart 15: Yearly Fixed (wired) Broadband subscriptions trend, Bhutan, 2011-2020



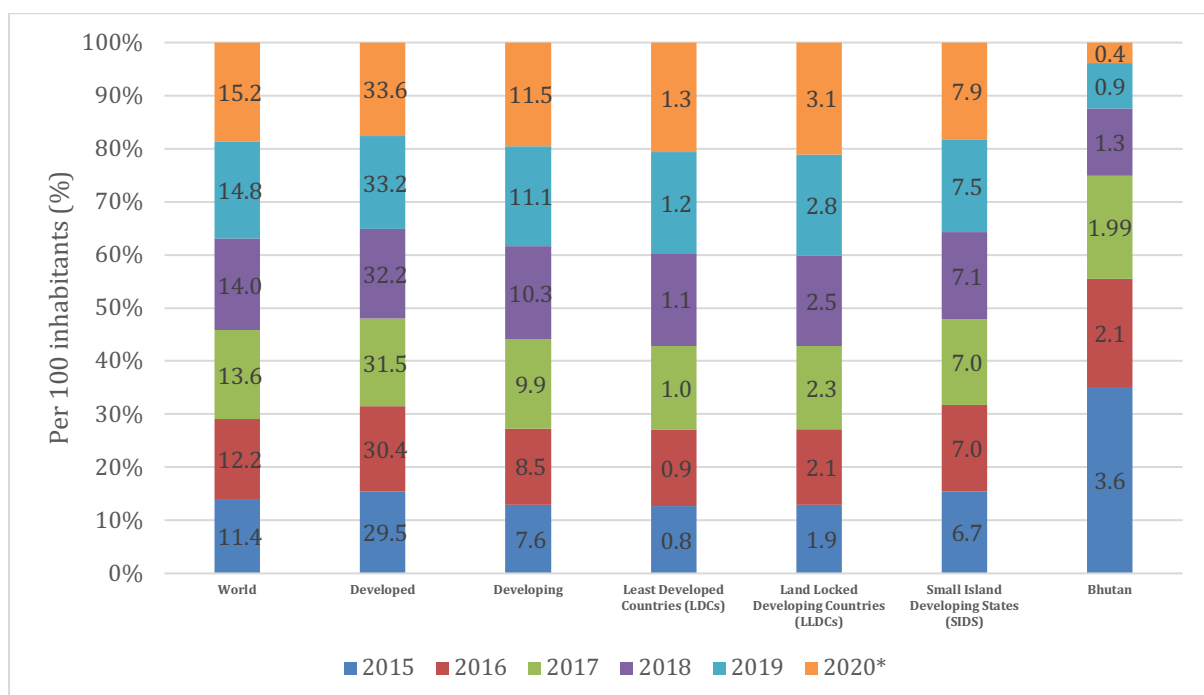
Source: Fixed Broadband ISPs (Bhutan), BICMA & MoIC

Chart 16: Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by global geographical locations, 2011-2020



Source: ITU 2020 estimates and MoIC

Chart 17: Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by global economic development level, 2015-2020

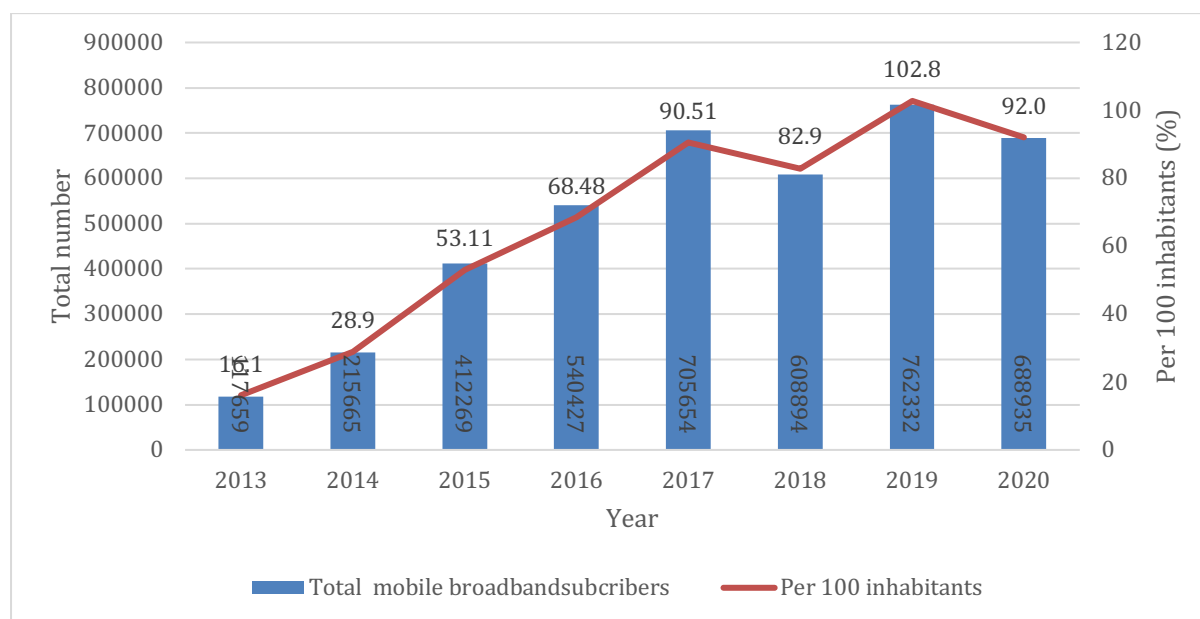


Source: ITU

Mobile Broadband:¹²

Mobile Broadband connections are generally classified as those connections having 3G or 4G connections. Active Mobile Broadband subscriptions in Bhutan in 2020 reached 688,935. The active mobile broadband subscription per 100 inhabitants in 2020 stands at 92 per 100 inhabitants. Decrease in active mobile broadband subscription is attributed foreign workers subscribing to mobile broadband services leaving the country due to the pandemic.

Chart 18: Yearly Mobile Broadband (3G/4G) subscriptions trend, Bhutan, 2013-2020



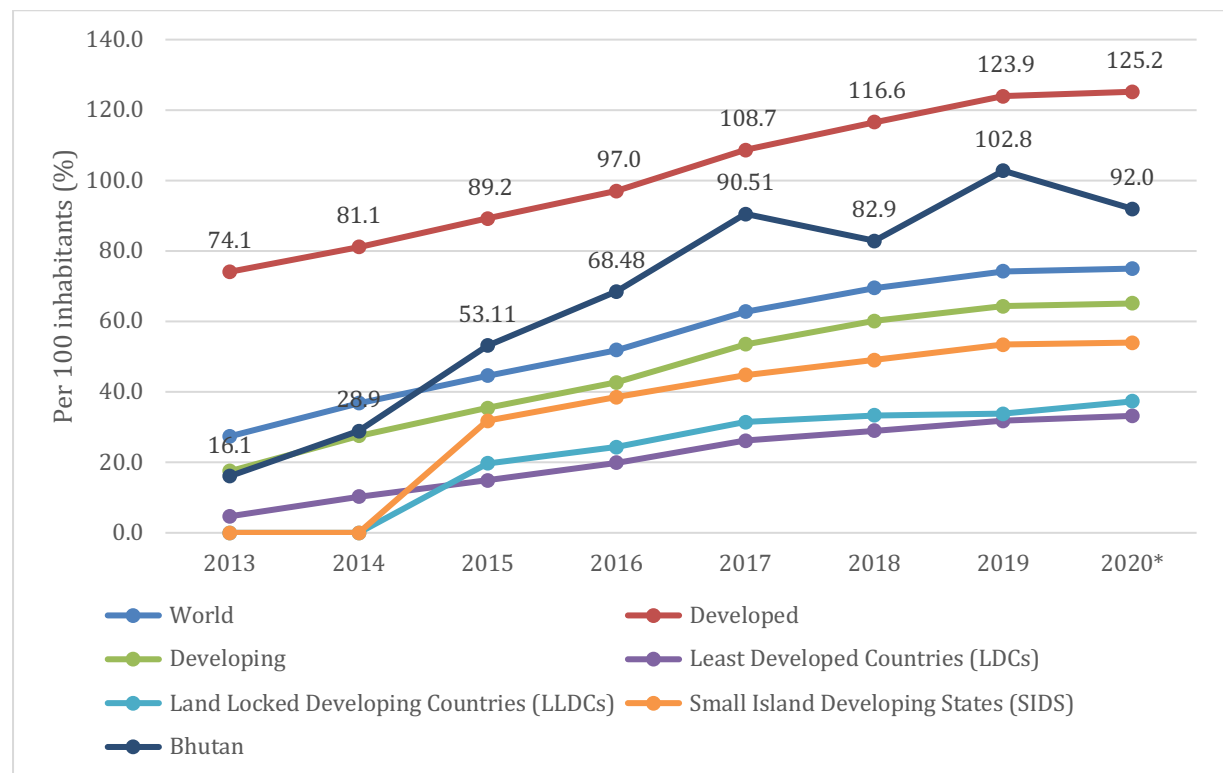
Source: Druknet (Bhutan Telecom), Tashi Cell, MoIC

Though active mobile broadband subscriptions decreased slightly over the past one year, Bhutan's average of 92 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants in 2020 is better than the World average of 75 mobile broadband subscription per 100 inhabitants, the Developing countries (65.1 subscription per 100 inhabitants), the Least Developing countries (33.2 per 100 inhabitants), the Land locked developing countries (37.3 per 100 inhabitants), and that of the Small Island developing states (54 per 100 inhabitants).

Similarly, Bhutan's 92 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants is better than the Asia and the Pacific region's average of 76.6 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, the subscriptions average of the Africa (33.1 per 100 inhabitants), the average of Arab states (60 per 100 inhabitants), and the average of CIS countries (87.7 per 100 inhabitants). However, our subscriptions is slightly lower than the European countries (99.9 per 100 inhabitants), the Americas (99.2 per 100 inhabitants) and the Developed countries (125.2 mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants).

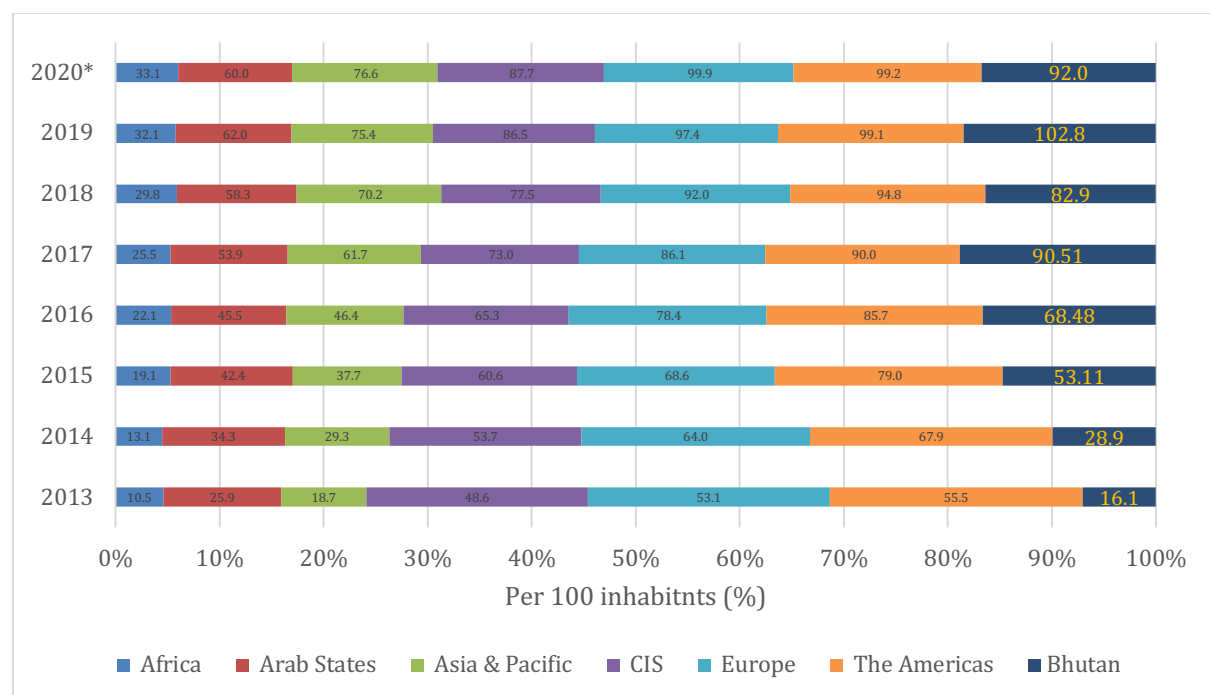
¹² Refers to all devices such as mobile phone, laptops, tablets and others which have 3G/4G internet connections

Chart 19: Active Mobile Broadband subscriptions, by economic development status, 2013-2020



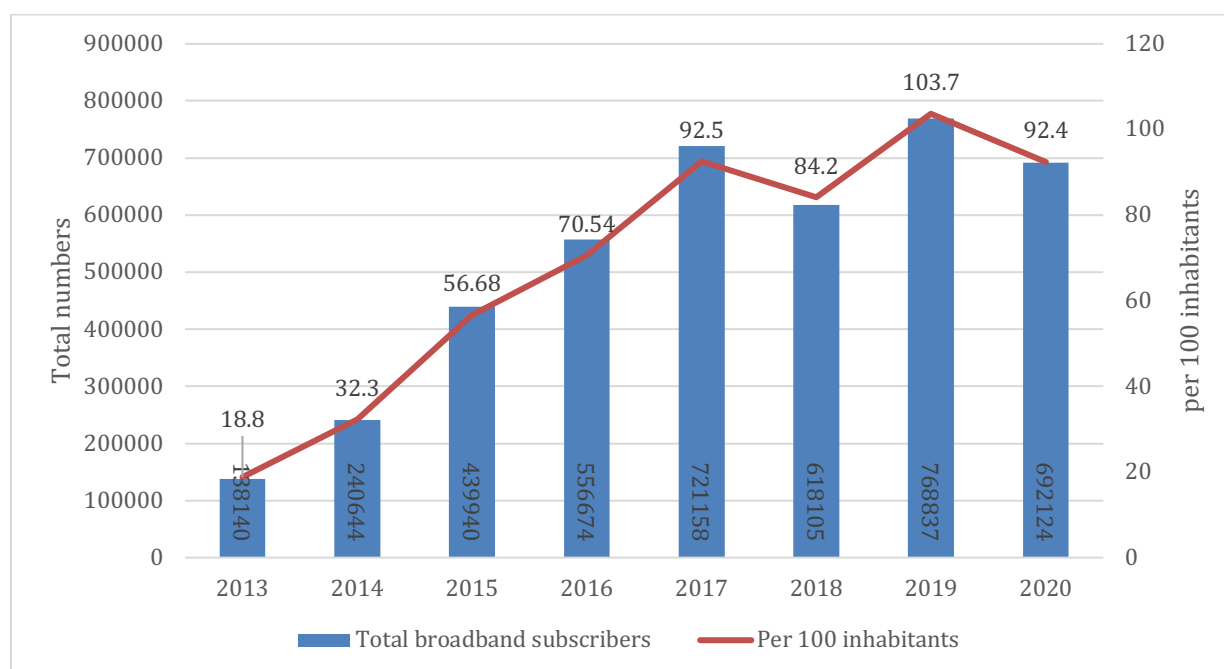
Source: ITU and MoIC

Chart 20: Active Mobile Broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by global geographical locations, 2013-2020



Source: ITU 2020 estimates and MoIC

Chart 21: Total Broadband subscriptions (Fixed -wired & Mobile) trend: Bhutan, 2013-2020



Source: *Internet Service Providers (Bhutan) & MoIC*

B. Basic Postal Infrastructure Information

The Postal Services in Bhutan were first launched on 10th October 1962 with the opening of a post office in Phuentsholing. In the same year, post offices were also opened in Paro and Thimphu. It was called the Department of Posts and Telegraphs and placed under the Ministry of Communications. This was the initial step taken by the Royal Government to provide a uniform means of communication throughout the country. In 1996 Bhutan Post became a State-Owned Enterprise and delinked from the Government. Today, the Postal network, operated by Bhutan Post Ltd. consists of 4 General Offices, 38 Post offices and 6 Community mail Offices providing postal services.

Table 4: Postal Infrastructure, 2010-2019, Bhutan

Postal Infrastructures	2018	2019	2020
General Post Offices ¹³	4	4	4
Post Offices ¹⁴	39	38	38
Community Mail Offices ¹⁵	6	6	6
Total	49	48	48

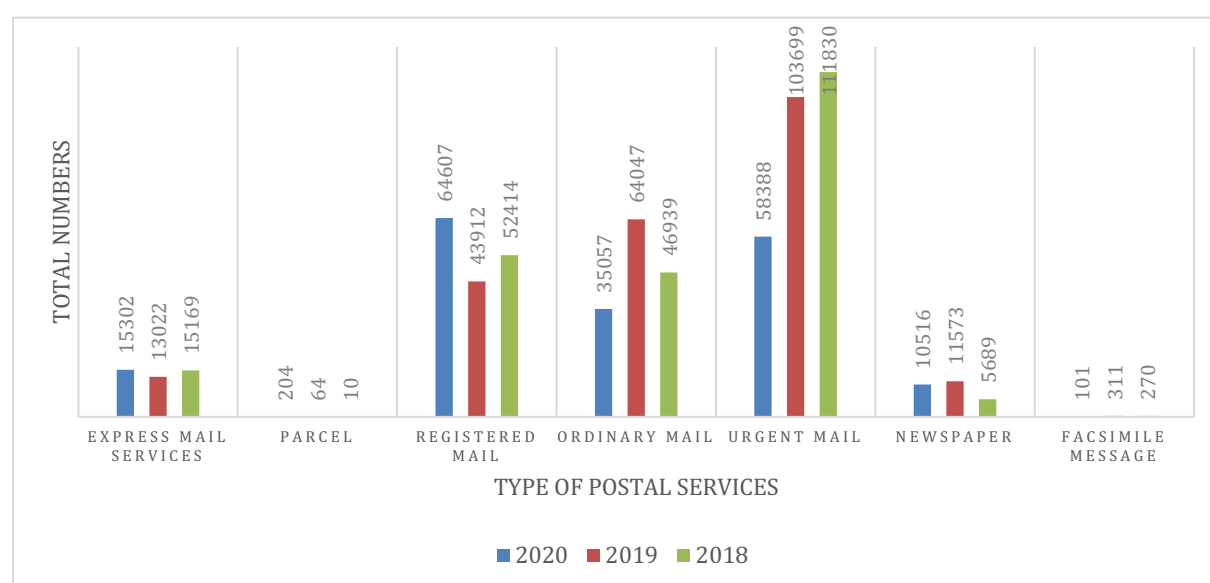
Source: *Bhutan Postal Corporation Ltd.*

¹³ General Post Offices located in Thimphu, Gelephu, Phuentsholing and Samdrup Jongkhar

¹⁴ Post Offices Covers- Dzongkhags, Dungkhags and some Satellite towns

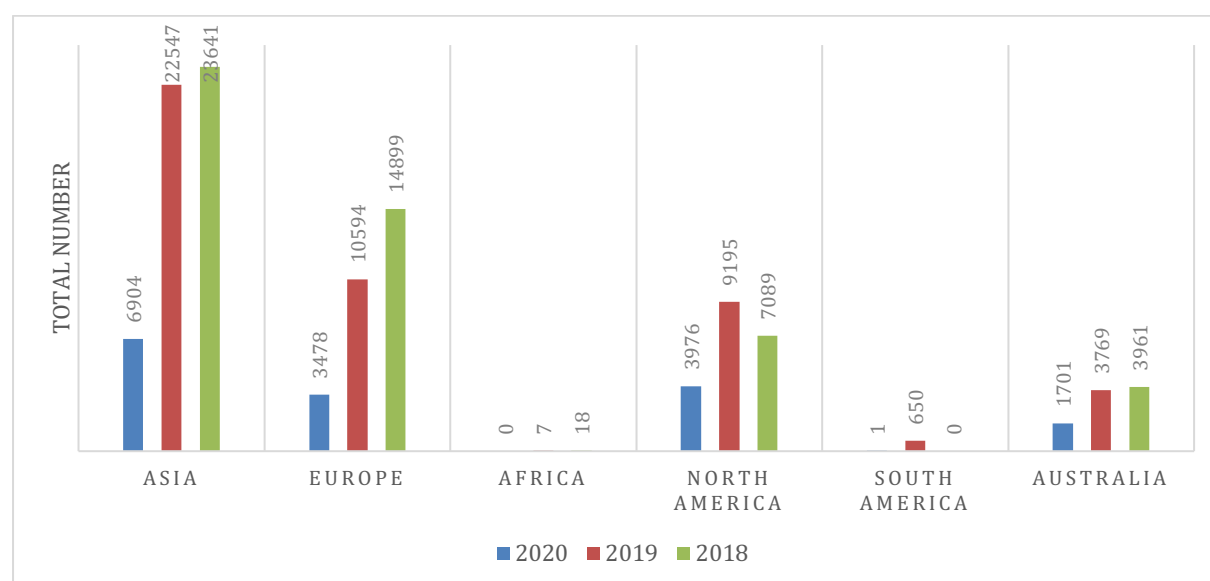
¹⁵ Community Mail Offices covers- Dungkhags and Gewogs

Chart 22: Domestic Postal services statistics by Bhutan Post, by type, 2018-2020



Source: Bhutan Post

Chart 23: International Postal services statistics by Bhutan Post, by Region, 2018-2020



Source: Bhutan Post

Table 5: Quarterly Postal service¹⁶ statistics by Bhutan Post, by type and Dzongkhag, 2020

Types	Dzongkhag/Region	Numbers				Total
		1st Q	2nd Q	3rd Q	4th Q	
Express Mail Services	Bumthang	23	26	23	59	131
	Chukha	66	40	29	441	576
	Dagana	84	113	33	105	335

¹⁶ For postal services provided by Bhutan Post Ltd. Only

	Gasa	17	2	2	8	29
	Haa	38	18	26	26	108
	Lhuntse	4	4	2	25	35
	Mongar	201	183	107	150	641
	Paro	320	225	57	335	937
	Punakha	9	29	25	46	109
	Pemagatshel	168	123	91	106	488
	Samtse	490	235	207	590	1522
	Sarpang	524	340	204	550	1618
	Samdrup Jongkhar	368	274	426	680	1748
	Thimphu	1111	854	641	1775	4381
	Trongsa	85	58	48	94	285
	Trashigang	515	314	181	356	1366
	Tashi Yangtse	76	81	54	97	308
	Tsirang	103	39	58	57	257
	Wangdue Phodrang	30	51	19	40	140
	Zhemgang	49	74	55	110	288
	Total	4281	3083	2288	5650	15302
Parcel	Bumthang	13	0	0	0	13
	Chukha	0	0	0	0	0
	Dagana	0	0	0	0	0
	Gasa	0	0	0	0	0
	Haa	0	0	0	0	0
	Lhuntse	0	0	0	0	0
	Mongar	7	8	5	2	22
	Paro	0	0	0	0	0
	Punakha	0	0	0	0	0
	Pemagatshel	0	0	0	0	0
	Samtse	0	0	0	0	0
	Sarpang	0	0	0	0	0
	Samdrup Jongkhar	25	0	0	0	25
	Thimphu	0	0	0	0	0
	Trongsa	0	0	0	0	0
	Trashigang	2	1	0	0	3
	Tashi Yangtse	54	39	33	0	126

	Tsirang	0	0	0	0	0
	Wangdue Phodrang	0	0	0	0	0
	Zhemgang	2	11	2	0	15
	Total	103	59	40	2	204
Registered Mail	Bumthang	171	68	50	68	357
	Chukha	435	266	270	2171	3142
	Dagana	119	173	126	206	624
	Gasa	22	27	45	35	129
	Haa	133	171	125	158	587
	Lhuntse	73	94	78	122	367
	Mongar	476	423	246	363	1508
	Paro	448	550	937	1496	3431
	Punakha	161	190	143	167	661
	Pemagatshel	186	146	46	160	538
	Samtse	936	363	336	656	2291
	Sarpang	341	636	486	1691	3154
	Samdrup Jongkhar	745	710	395	985	2835
	Thimphu	6981	6101	6157	9591	28830
	Trongsa	159	156	108	141	564
	Trashigang	748	459	276	9922	11405
	Tashi Yangtse	182	176	107	233	698
	Tsirang	210	94	162	245	711
	Wangdue Phodrang	470	669	417	621	2177
	Zhemgang	214	177	72	135	598
	Total	13210	11649	10582	29166	64607
Ordinary Mail	Bumthang	260	107	91	112	570
	Chukha	2675	929	631	819	5054
	Dagana	110	104	50	95	359
	Gasa	22	15	11	16	64
	Haa	21	18	12	16	67
	Lhuntse	226	96	56	68	446
	Mongar	347	347	278	573	1545
	Paro	0	0	0	26	26
	Punakha	83	97	109	59	348

	Pemagatshel	394	270	163	128	955
	Samtse	388	270	1650	73	2381
	Sarpang	3523	3379	2596	555	10053
	Samdrup Jongkhar	516	352	143	191	1202
	Thimphu	2887	2309	1004	980	7180
	Trongsa	117	265	140	135	657
	Trashigang	550	349	281	259	1439
	Tashi Yangtse	128	142	117	63	450
	Tsirang	132	72	76	78	358
	Wangdue Phodrang	453	349	338	357	1497
	Zhemgang	175	108	64	59	406
	Total	13007	9578	7810	4662	35057
Urgent Mail	Bumthang	0	0	0	0	0
	Chukha	0	0	55	27	82
	Dagana	0	0	0	0	0
	Gasa	0	0	0	0	0
	Haa	0	0	0	0	0
	Lhuntse	0	0	0	0	0
	Mongar	0	0	0	0	0
	Paro	0	0	0	0	0
	Punakha	0	0	0	0	0
	Pemagatshel	0	0	0	0	0
	Samtse	0	0	0	0	0
	Sarpang	0	0	0	0	0
	Samdrup Jongkhar	0	0	0	0	0
	Thimphu	21674	21090	13077	2465	58306
	Trongsa	0	0	0	0	0
	Trashigang	0	0	0	0	0
	Tashi Yangtse	0	0	0	0	0
	Tsirang	0	0	0	0	0
	Wangdue Phodrang	0	0	0	0	0
	Zhemgang	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	21674	21090	13132	2492	58388
Newspaper	Bumthang	30	8	0	0	38

	Chukha	592	624	288	0	1504
	Dagana	12	9	9	2	32
	Gasa	0	0	0	0	0
	Haa	0	0	0	0	0
	Lhuntse	0	0	0	0	0
	Mongar	0	12	36	4	52
	Paro	0	0	0	0	0
	Punakha	0	0	0	0	0
	Pemagatshel	0	0	0	0	0
	Samtse	0	0	0	0	0
	Sarpang	986	1110	485	0	2581
	Samdrup Jongkhar	2288	2282	887	0	5457
	Thimphu	9	49	5	374	437
	Trongsa	0	58	56	109	223
	Trashigang	0	0	0	0	0
	Tashi Yangtse	59	59	50	0	168
	Tsirang	0	18	6	0	24
	Wangdue Phodrang	0	0	0	0	0
	Zhemgang	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	3976	4229	1822	489	10516
Facsimile message	Bumthang	1	0	0	0	1
	Chukha	0	0	0	0	0
	Dagana	15	15	8	9	47
	Gasa	0	0	0	0	0
	Haa	0	0	0	0	0
	Lhuntse	0	0	0	0	0
	Mongar	0	3	4	0	7
	Paro	0	0	0	0	0
	Punakha	0	0	0	0	0
	Pemagatshel	0	0	0	0	0
	Samtse	1	1	0	25	27
	Sarpang	1	2	4	0	7
	Samdrup Jongkhar	2	0	0	0	2
	Thimphu	0	0	0	0	0
	Trongsa	0	0	0	0	0

	Trashigang	0	0	0	0	0
	Tashi Yangtse	0	0	0	0	0
	Tsirang	7	1	0	0	8
	Wangdue Phodrang	0	0	0	0	0
	Zhemgang	2	0	0	0	2
	Total	29	22	16	34	101
International Postal service Type and Region						
Express Mail Service	Asia	1762	93	353	785	2993
	Europe	83	0	2	35	120
	Africa	0	0	0	0	0
	North America	505	121	361	895	1882
	South America	0	0	0	0	0
	Australia	423	0	31	490	944
	Total	2773	214	747	2205	5939
FedEx	Asia	9	0	0	0	9
	Europe	5	0	0	2	7
	Africa	0	0	0	0	0
	North America	7	0	0	1	8
	South America	0	0	0	0	0
	Australia	6	0	0	0	6
	Total	27	0	0	3	30
Parcel	Asia	0	0	0	0	0
	Europe	0	0	0	1	1
	Africa	0	0	0	0	0
	North America	1	0	1	1	3
	South America	0	0	0	0	0
	Australia	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1	0	1	2	4
Registered Mail	Asia	994	82	48	136	1260
	Europe	0	0	0	0	0
	Africa	0	0	0	0	0
	North America	0	0	0	0	0
	South America	0	0	0	0	0

	Australia	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	994	82	48	136	1260
Ordinary Mail	Asia	2618	0	0	0	2618
	Europe	3350	0	0	0	3350
	Africa	0	0	0	0	0
	North America	2081	0	0	0	2081
	South America	0	0	0	0	0
	Australia	735	0	0	0	735
	Total	8784	0	0	0	8784
Post Overnight Courier	Asia	0	0	0	0	0
	Europe	0	0	0	0	0
	Africa	0	0	0	0	0
	North America	0	0	0	0	0
	South America	0	0	0	0	0
	Australia	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0
Facsimile message	Asia	0	0	0	0	0
	Europe	0	0	0	0	0
	Africa	0	0	0	0	0
	North America	0	0	0	0	0
	South America	0	0	0	0	0
	Australia	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0
TNT	Asia	0	15	0	9	24
	Europe	0	0	0	0	0
	Africa	0	0	0	0	0
	North America	0	2	0	0	2
	South America	0	1	0	0	1
	Australia	0	16	0	0	16
	Total	0	34	0	9	43

Source: Bhutan Post Ltd

C. Media Profile: Current scenario

Print media in Bhutan comprises mainly of newspapers, magazines and other similar publications. Currently, there are seven licensed newspapers, four magazine publishers, 12 radio stations including campus radios, and ninety three cable operators in the country. The details are listed in Table 6,7 and 8.

1.4. Print Media

Table 6: Newspapers outlets and their frequencies

Name of Newspaper	Started/launched	Frequency of publication	Remarks
Kuensel	1967	Started daily since 27 th April 2009	Launched as an internal Government bulletin
Bhutan Times	1 st April, 2006	Weekly (Sunday)	
Bhutan Today	30 th October, 2008	Weekly (Sunday)	
Business Bhutan	26 th September, 2009	Weekly (Saturday)	
The Journalist	20 th December, 2009	Weekly (Sunday)	
Druk Nyetshuel	29 th August, 2010	Weekly (Monday)	License cancelled
Gyalchi Sharshog	12 th November, 2011	Weekly (Sunday)	
The Bhutanese	21 st February, 2012	Weekly (Saturday)	

Source: Bhutan Info-Comm and Media Authority (BICMA)

1.5. Radio Broadcasters

Table 7: List of radio broadcasters

Sl. No	Name of Radio broadcaster	Started/lunched	Coverage	Remarks
1	Bhutan Broadcasting Services (BBS)	November, 1973	Nation wide	Additional channel (exclusive for Dzongkha) launched on 21 st February, 2013
2	Kuzoo FM	1 st September, 2006	Nation Wide	Two channels (Dzongkha and English)
3	Radio Valley	12 th April, 2007	Thimphu	
4	Centennial Radio	21 st September, 2008	Thimphu	

5	Sherubtse Community Radio	8 th May, 2009	On Campus	
6	Yiga Radio	17 th December, 2013	Thimphu	
7	CST Campus radio	12 th July 2016	On Campus	
8	Edi Community Radio (Tarayana Foundation)	23 rd June 2016	Dechen Pelri, Gelephu	
9	Lhop Community Radio (Tarayana Foundation)	23 rd June 2016	Lhotukuchu Village, Dorokha, Samtse	
10	KYD 91.1 Community Radio (READ Bhutan)	19 th July 2016	Khotakpa, Yalang and Denchi, Pemagatshel	
11	Taktse Campus Radio	12 th March 2018	College of Language and Culture Studies, Taktse, Trongsa	
12	Campus Sherig FM	18 th June 2020	Samtse College of Education, Samtse	

Source: MoIC & Bhutan Info-Comm and Media Authority (BICMA)

1.6. Magazines

Table 8: List of magazines and frequencies of publication

Name of Newspaper	Started/lunched	Frequency of publication
Yewong	1 st September, 2011	Tri-Annual
Happiness	14 th November 2017	Annually
Inspire	14 th March 2019	Bi-Annually
Bhutan Observer (BO) Focus	22 nd July 2016	Annually

Source: MoIC & Bhutan Info-Comm and Media Authority (BICMA)

1.7. Television Network

Bhutan Broadcasting Services (BBS) launched on 2nd June 1999 and currently has two channels: BBS 1 and BBS 2. Bhutan Broadcasting Service (BBS) is the sole nationwide television network operator in the country.

Table 9: Existing Television network stations, owned and operated by BBS, by Dzongkhag

Sl. No	Dzongkhag	No. of stations	Sl. No	Dzongkhag	No. of stations
1	Bumthang	1	11	Samtse	2
2	Chukha	2	12	Sarpang	2
3	Dagana	2	13	Samdrup Jongkhar	1
4	Gasa	1	14	Thimphu	2
5	Haa	1	15	Trongsa	1
6	Lhuntse	3	16	Trashigang	3
7	Monggar	1	17	Trashy Yangtse	1
8	Paro	1	18	Tsirang	1
9	Punakha	0	19	Wangdue Phodrang	1
10	Pema Gatshel	3	20	Zhemgang	2

Source: BBS (Bhutan Broadcasting Service)

1.8. Cable Television Services

In addition to BBS channels 1 & 2, international television channels are broadcasted through network of cable television (CATV) operators located throughout the country. The details are provided in Table 10.

Table 10: Cable Television Operators, Bhutan, 2020

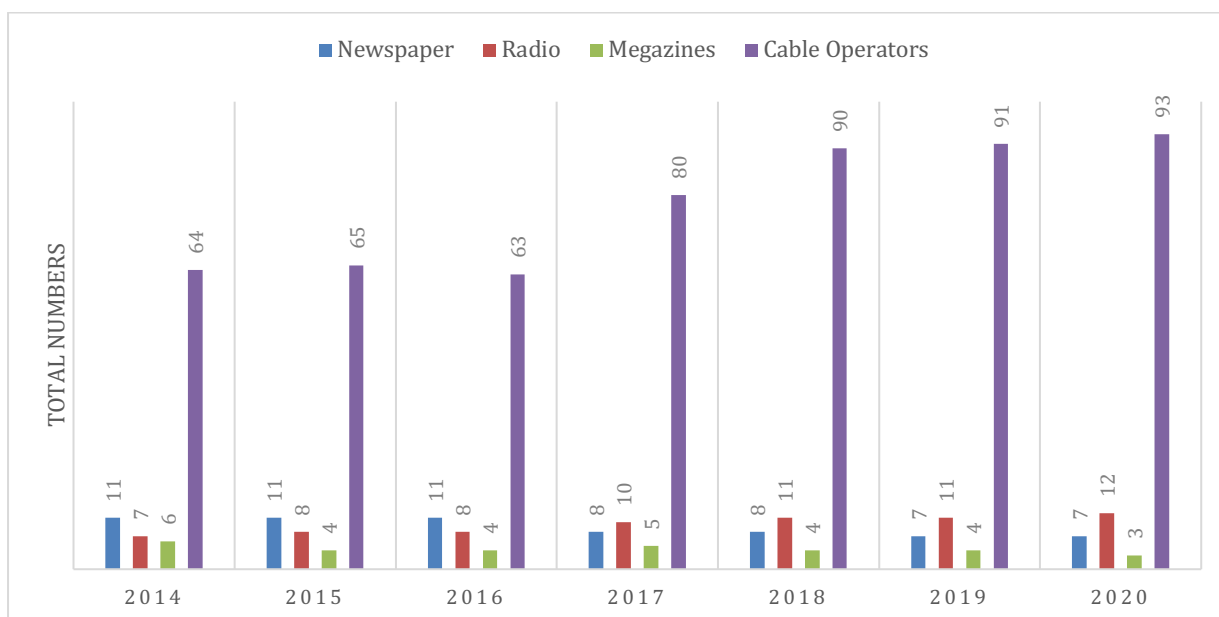
Dzongkhag	Number of operators	Name of the Cable TV	Dzongkhag	Number of operators	Name of the Cable TV
Bumthang	4	USD Cable Service	Paro	5	Dogar Cable Service
		TD Cable Service			Sigma Cable Service
		Gomchen Cable Service			TD Metho Cable Service
		Tashi Rabten Cable Service			KPJ Cable Service
Chukha	7	Cable Sat Club			Tshewang Cable Service
		Tshela Cable	Pemagatshel	5	Nima Cable Service
		DrukCom Digital Service			Dawa Cable Service
		Kharung Cable			Deojung Cable Service
		Karma Cable Service			Lekthong Cable Service

		GG Cable Service			
		Druk Samden Cable Service			Funso Cable Service
Dagana	4	Kalikhola Cable Service	Punakha	4	Buddha Cable Service
		T and T Cable Service			Damchen Cable Service
		CT Cable Service			Tshochay Cable Service
		Norbu Cable Service			Punab Cable Service
Gasa	1	Gasa Soechu Cable Service	Sarpang	10	Norla Cable Service
Haa	1	Lekey Cable Service			SNS Cable Service
Lhuntse	2	Namsel Norbu Cable Service			TT Cable Service
		Kuertop Cable Service			Yoezer Cable Service
Mongar	7	KR Cable Service			Talo Cable Service
		Jangchubling Cable Service			Yoetsel Cable Service
		Yeshi Darjeeling Cable Service			Tentsho Cable Service
		Gaden Cable Service			Techno Cable Service
		Chaskhar Cable Service			Goe Due Kuenjong Cable Service
		LT Cable Service			Subba Cable Service
		Leki Choden Cable Service			
Samtse	5	GurungCable Service	Samdrupjongkhar	7	Phakpa Cable Service
		Namkhai Cable Service			Anjan & Bro Cable Service
		RG Cable Service			ST Eastern Cable Service
		SKD Cable Service			Tashi Wangmo Cable Service
		Bishnu Cable Service			Gomdar Cable Service
					Arjun Cable
Trashigang	8	Tshering Norbu Cable Service	Wangduephodrang	6	Vajra Cable Service
		NP Cable service			TT Cable Service
		SC Cable Service			RC Cable Service
		Karma Zam Cable Service			

		Norphel Cable			Kuenphen Cable Service
		Jomo cable			Dragon Cable Service
		Sakteng Cable Service			Phuntsho Ngadhen Cable Service
		Kinga Cable Service			Lhendup Yarphel Cable Service
Trashiyangtse	2	Gaki Phuntso Cable Service			DWT Cable
		Damnyen Cable Service			DD Cable Service
Tsirang	3	Kuenzang Cable Service	Zhemgang	4	Dawa Cable Service
		Thongwai Gaden Cable			Kezang Cable Service
		Mendeygang Cable Service			Etho Metho Cable Service
Trongsa	4	Tangbi Cable Service	Thimphu	4	Norling Cable Service
		Phuensum Cable Service			DrukCom Digital Cable Service
		Sheja Rabsel Cable Service			Nakchung Cable Service
		Thinley Rabten Cable Service			
Remark				93 (excluding DrukCom service at Pling)	

Source: Bhutan Info-Comm. and Media Authority

Chart 24: Radio, Newspaper, Magazine scenario trend in Bhutan, 2014-2020



Source: Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority

CHAPTER 2 – AVIATION AND SURFACE TRANSPORT

A. Civil Aviation

2.1. Airlines, Aircraft and route

Table 11: Airlines in Bhutan, by History, Aircraft fleet and Route

Name of the Airline	Establishment Date	Aircraft fleet	Current operational routes	
			International	Domestic
Drukair (Royal Bhutan Airlines) - Drukair Corporation Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5th April, 1981 - International services launched on 11th February, 1983 - Domestic services launched on 17th December 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Airbus A319 – 3 (each with a seating capacity of 118 passengers). - ATR- 42 - 600: 1 - A320neo: 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Delhi, India - Kolkata, India - Guwahati, India - Bagdogra, India - Gaya, India - Mumbai, India - Dhaka, Bangladesh - Kathmandu, Nepal - Bangkok, Thailand - Singapore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bumthang - Yonphula - Gelephu
Tashi Air, (Bhutan Airlines)- Tashi Air Private Ltd.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4th December, 2011 - International services began on 10th October 2013. - Domestic services launched on 17th December, 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Airbus A319 - 2 (seating capacity of 126) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bangkok, Thailand via Kolkata, India - Kathmandu, Nepal - Delhi, India 	Operation suspended since May 2012
Royal Bhutan Helicopter Services Limited (RBHSL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established on August 10, 2015 - Service Operation commenced on November 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Airbus helicopter model –H130 (EC 130 T2) – 2 Nos. - Seating capacity 6 passenger and 1 pilot 	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-schedule flights. -Emergency services-medical evacuations and firefighting.

Source: Department of Air Transport, Druk Air, Bhutan Airlines & RBHSL

2.2 Airport Details

Table 12: Airport information, 2020

Type of airport(s)	Place	Altitude / Elevation above MSL	Runway length	Runway width	Aerodrome Reference Code
International airport	Paro	2237 m	2265 m	30 m	3C
Domestic	Yonphula	2573 m	1300 m	30 m	2C
Domestic	Bumthang	2550 m	1200 m	30 m	2C
Domestic	Gelephu	300 m	1500m	30 m	2C

Source: Department of Air Transport and Bhutan Civil Aviation Authority

2.3 International Air Services

Table 13: Routes, Destination country and launch date

Destinations/Country	Services launched	Remarks
Kolkata, India	11 th February, 1983	
New Delhi, India	26 th November, 1988	
Gaya, India	26 th October, 2003	
Bagdogra, India	26 th October, 2010	Inaugural flight on 18 th June, 2009
Guwahati, India	31 st October, 2010	Inaugural flight on 26 th October, 2010
Mumbai, India	1 st May, 2014	
Kathmandu, Nepal	April, 1989	Flight test familiarization on 25 th October, 1987
Bangkok, Thailand	28 th June, 1989	
Dhaka, Bangladesh	30 th October, 1989	
Yangon, Myanmar	6 th January, 1997	Suspended since 15 th December, 2004
Singapore	1 st September, 2012	

Source: Department of Air Transport

2.4. International Air Passengers

The Covid-19 pandemic impacted the airline industry the hardest in 2020. The national airline, Drukair, and the country's first privately owned airline Bhutan Airlines (Tashi Air), together carried 49,212 international air passengers, excluding passengers carried on international connecting routes, in 2020. On average, the airline sector saw a decrease of 86.6% international air passenger in 2020 in comparison to 2019. Nevertheless, as per the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)¹⁷, the World, on average also experienced a 60% reduction in international air passengers travel.

Table 14: Quarterly International Air Passenger flow by Sector, 2020¹⁸

From Paro to	1st Q	2nd Q	3rd Q	4th Q	Total
New Delhi	6166	3	26	615	6810
Bangkok	7162	7	73	245	7487
Kathmandu	3518	0	129	0	3647
Kolkata	4037	2	0	242	4281
Gaya	671	0	0	0	671
Dhaka	1030	0	0	0	1030
Bagdogra	295	0	0	12	307
Guwahati	456	0	0	0	456
Singapore	1055	24	42	0	1121
Mumbai	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total	24390	36	270	1114	25810
To Paro from					
New Delhi	6439	0	20	380	6839
Bangkok	5903	93	41	55	6092
Kathmandu	4466	12	0	0	4478
Kolkata	2151	68	125	143	2487
Gaya	799	0	0	0	799
Dhaka	1010	6	0	0	1016
Bagdogra	417	0	0	150	567

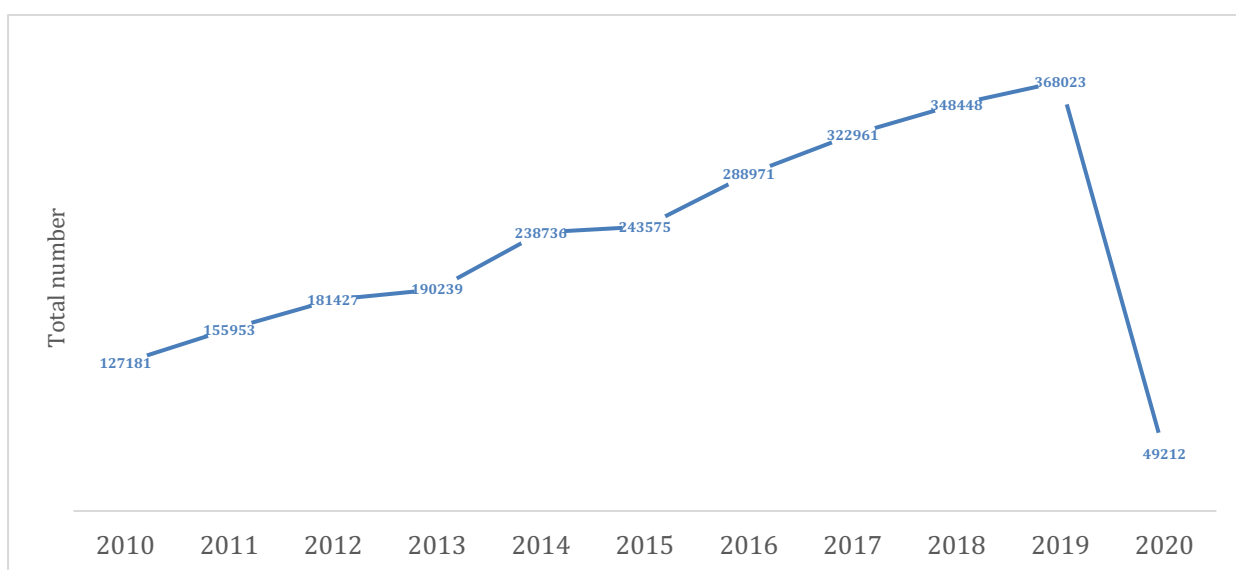
¹⁷ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/01/1082302>

¹⁸ The figure excludes connecting sector figures and chattered passengers

Guwahati	402	0	0	0	402
Singapore	635	0	70	0	705
Mumbai	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-Total	22222	179	256	728	23385
BAS	8	0	0	9	17
Grand total	46620	215	526	1851	49212

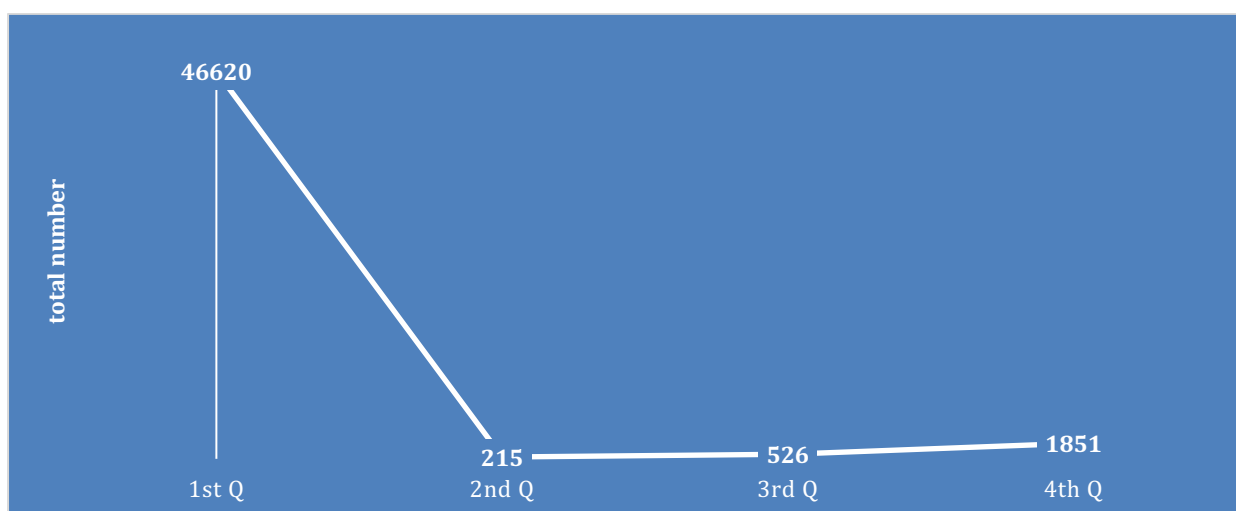
Source: Druk Air, Tashi Air & Department of Air Transport

Chart 25: Annual International Air Passenger Flow (International Routes, excluding international connecting routes), 2010-2020



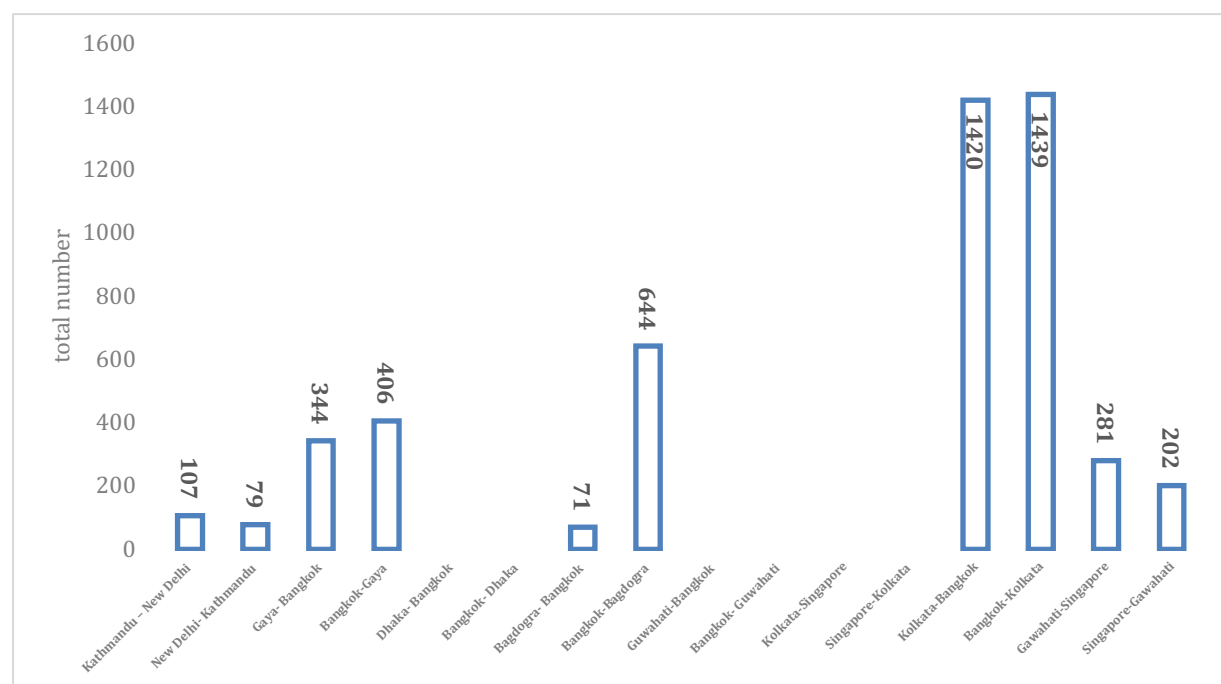
Source: Druk Air, Tashi Air and Bhutan Air Services

Chart 26: Quarter wise international air passenger flow in 2020



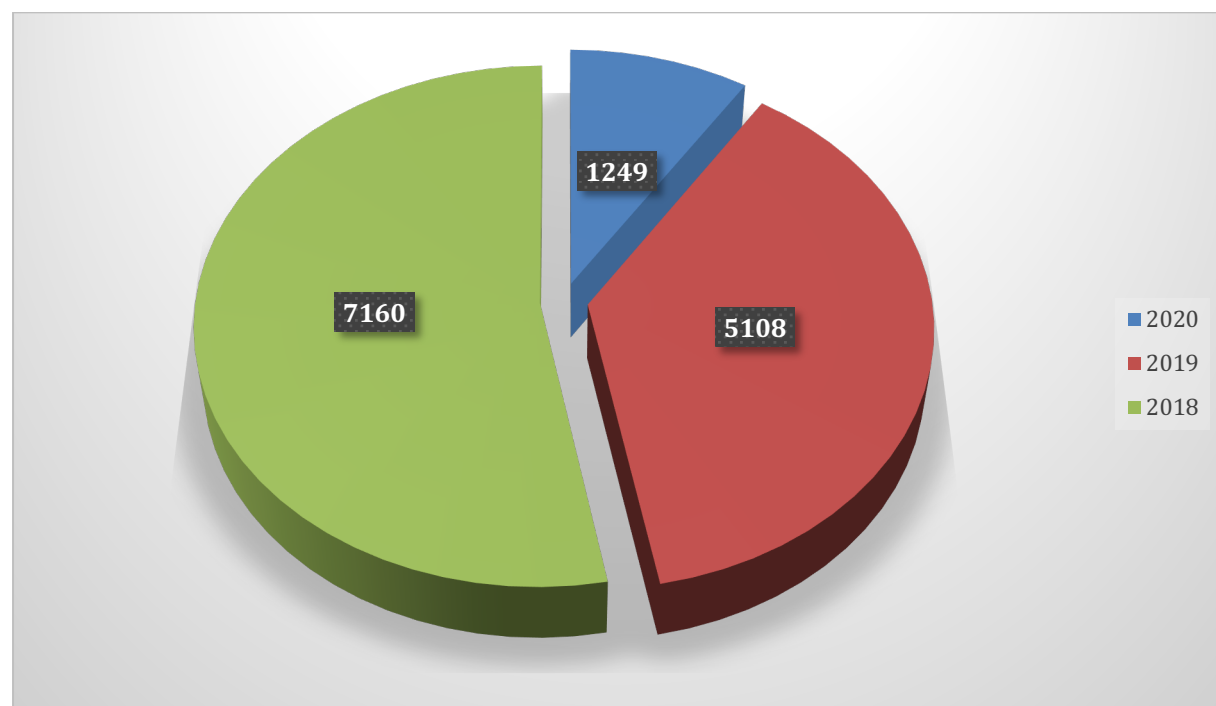
Source: Druk Air, Bhutan Airlines and BAS

Chart 27: Total number of international passengers using Bhutanese airlines for international connecting sectors, 2020



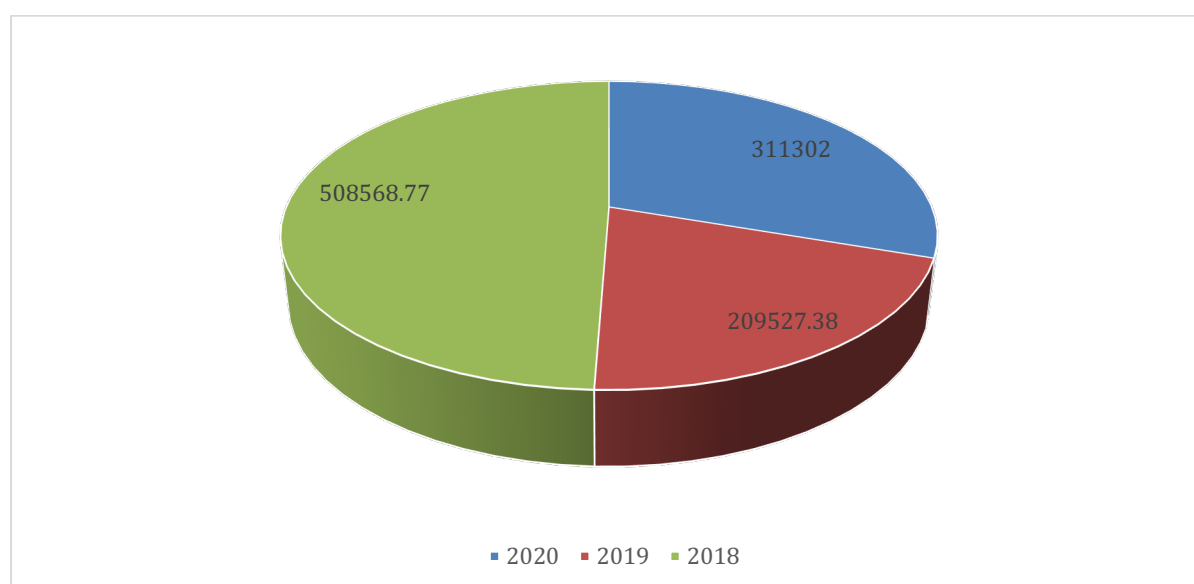
Source: Bhutan Airlines, Druk Air

Chart 28: Total number of international flights, 2018-2020



Source: DrukAir, Bhutan Airlines, BAS, Bhutan Air Services & Department of Air Transport

Chart 29: Total international cargo carried by the airlines, 2018-2020



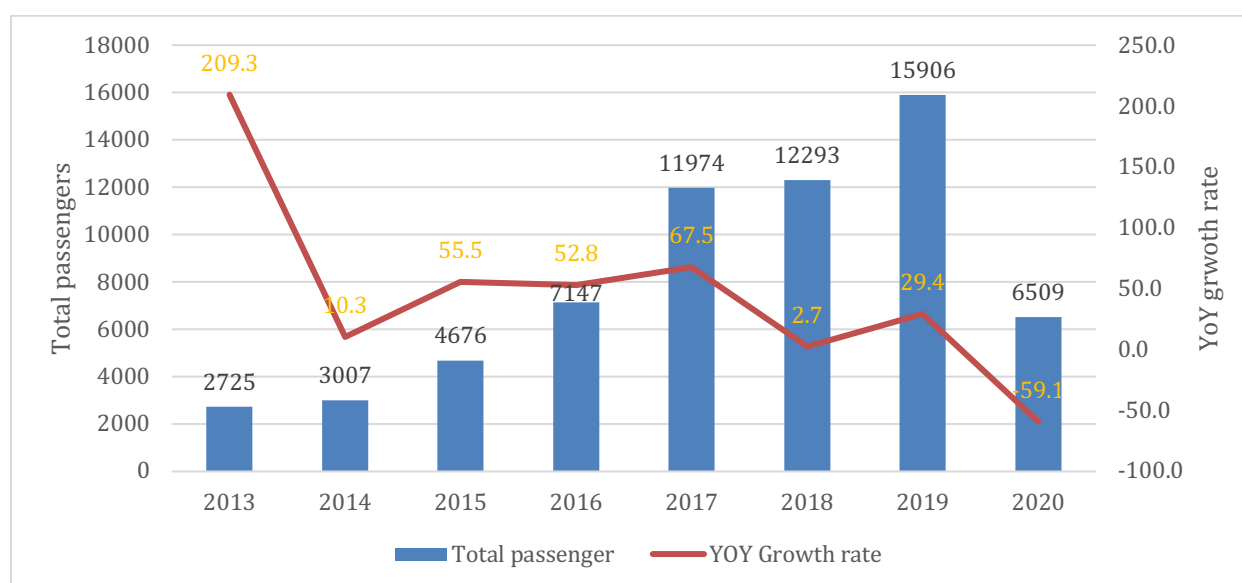
Source: DrukAir, Bhutan Airlines, BAS, Bhutan Air Services & Department of Air Transport

2.5. Domestic Air Services

Domestic Air Service in Bhutan started on 17th December, 2011 with flights to Bumthang and Yonphula followed by Gelephu on 25th October, 2012. Currently, Drukair is the only domestic fixed airwing air service provider as of now.

Like the international sector, the domestic sector also experienced a decline in its passengers. In 2020, the domestic air sector saw its passengers share decrease by about 59% in comparison to 2019. In total, 6,509 domestic passengers travelled in 2020.

Chart 30: Domestic air passengers and percentage change in ridership, 2013-2020



Source: Druk Air

Table 15: Monthly domestic air passenger flow, by Sector, 2020

Sector	PBH-BUT	BUT-PBH	PBH-GLU	GLU-PBH	YON-BUT	BUT-YON	GLU-YON	YON-GLU	PBH-YON	YON-PBH	Total
January	252	245	152	112	0	0	0	0	440	478	1679
February	217	169	58	81	0	0	0	0	401	343	1269
March	89	129	17	18	0	0	0	7	159	165	584
April	6	4	11	2	0	0	11	14	93	64	205
May	19	0	10	8	0	0	5	10	56	113	221
June	0	0	8	17	0	0	0	10	151	95	281
July	39	30	50	15	0	0	0	15	113	133	395
August	26	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	39	131
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	176	101	277
October	25	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	165	158	371
November	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	305	292	603
December	44	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	245	192	493
Total	717	638	306	253	1	11	16	56	2338	2173	6,509

Source: Department of Air Transport, Drukair

Table 16: Total number of monthly domestic flights undertaken by Sector , 2020

Sector	PBH-BUT	BUT-PBH	PBH-GLU	GLU-PBH	YON-BUT	BUT-YON	GLU-YON	YON-GLU	PBH-YON	YON-PBH	Total
January	24	24	10	9	0	0	0	0	17	17	84
February	13	13	7	6	0	0	0	0	12	12	51
March	12	12	4	3	0	0	0	1	6	6	38
April	2	2	3	3	0	0	3	3	4	4	24
May	4	4	5	5	0	0	4	5	6	6	39
June	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	3	4	4	13
July	4	4	5	5	0	0	0	2	6	6	26
August	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	5
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5
October	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	13

November	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	8	8	12
December	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	7	7	9
Grand Total	65	65	37	34	2	4	7	14	81	81	319

Source: Department of Air Transport, Drukair

2.6. Helicopter Services

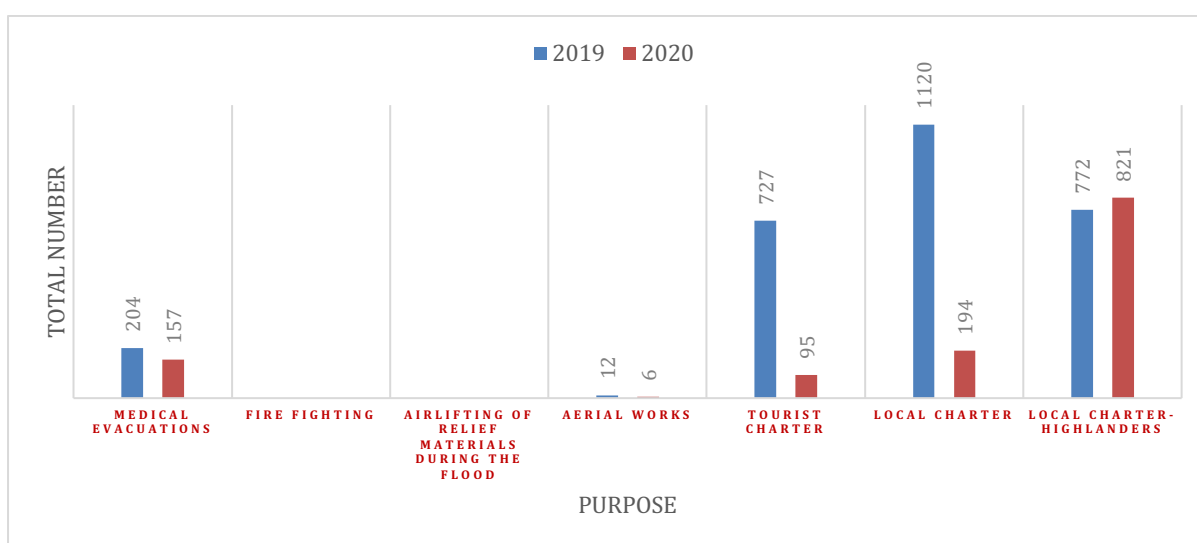
Helicopter services in the country is being operated by the Royal Bhutan Helicopter Services Limited (RBHSL). RBHSL is also the only helicopter service provider in the country providing helicopter services for medical evacuations, firefighting, airlifting of relief materials, local charter and tourist charter.

Table 17: Helicopter services, by purpose and number of flights, 2016-2020

Types	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Medical evacuations	133	159	180	119	83
Fire Fighting	6	4	20	0	2
Airlifting of relief materials during the flood	4	0	0	0	0
Aerial Works	45	20	3	3	8
Tourist Charter	121	110	173	173	26
Local Charter	117	85	106	110	40
Local charter-Highlanders	37	40	179	154	158

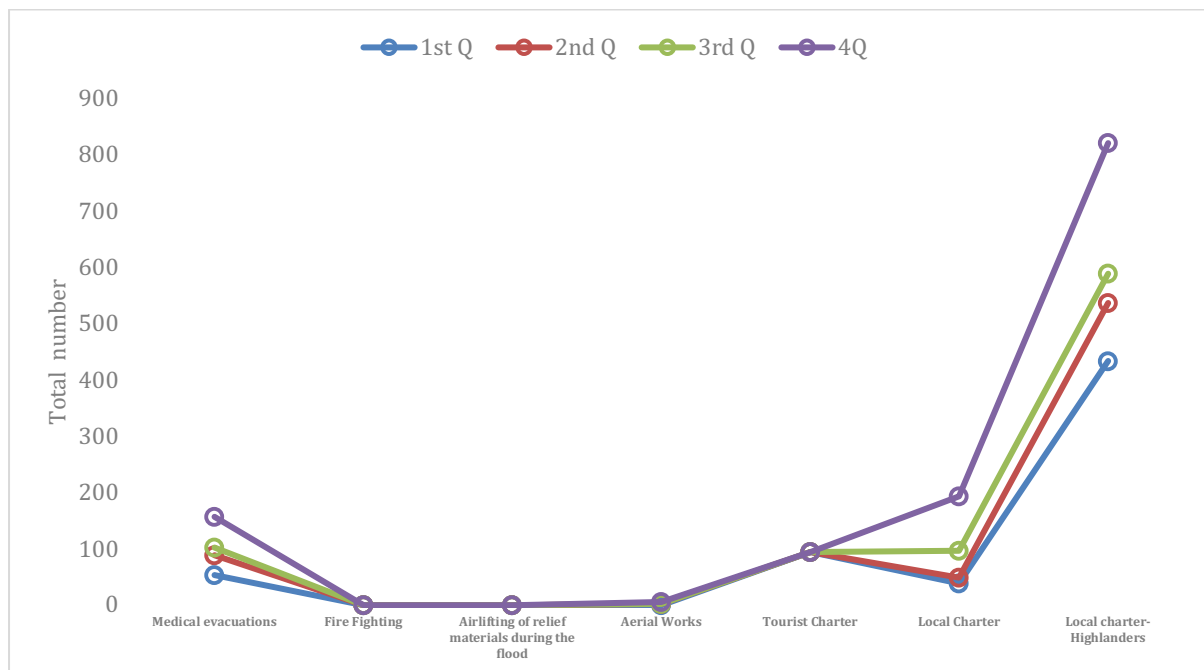
Source: Royal Bhutan Helicopter Services Ltd.

Chart 31: Helicopter flight passenger data, 2019-2020



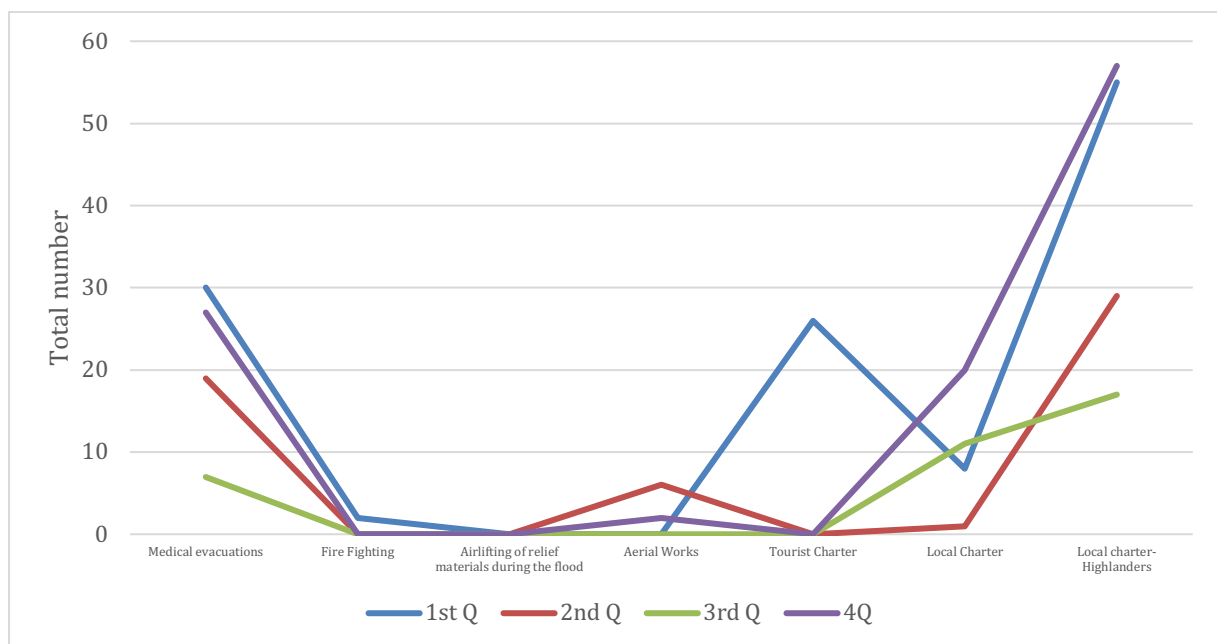
Source: Royal Bhutan Helicopter Service

Chart 32: Quarterly Helicopter service flight passengers, 2020



Source: Royal Bhutan Helicopter Service Ltd.

Chart 33: Quarterly helicopter flights by purpose, 2020



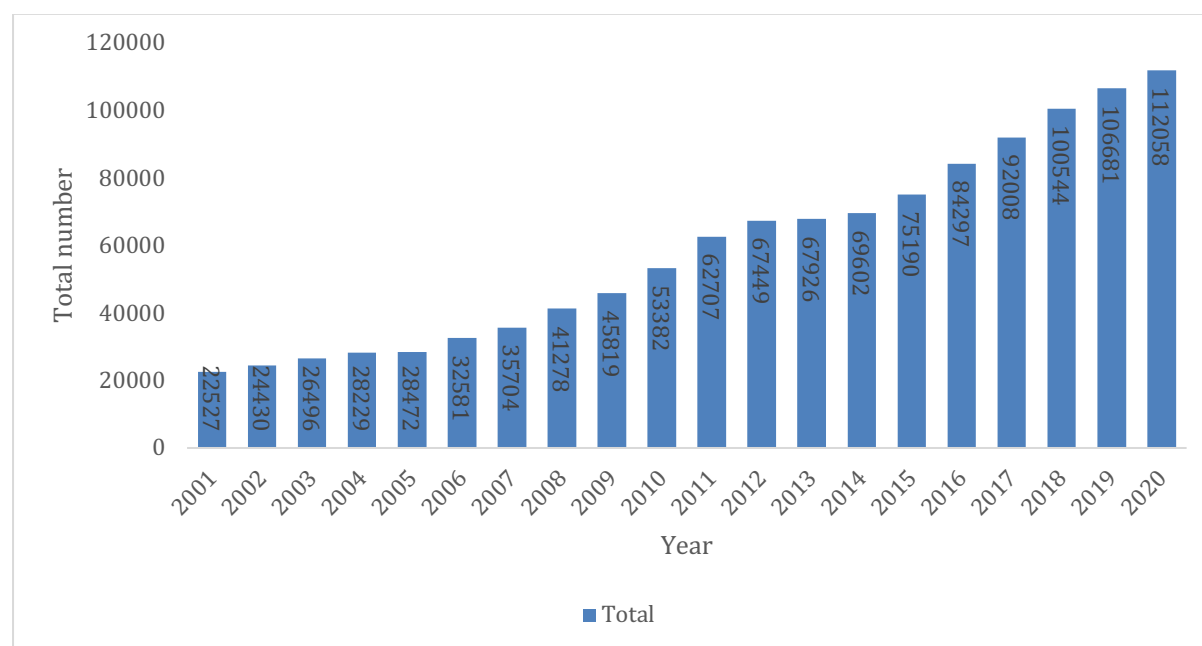
Source: Royal Bhutan Helicopter Service Ltd.

B. Surface Transport

2.7. Motor Vehicle growth trend

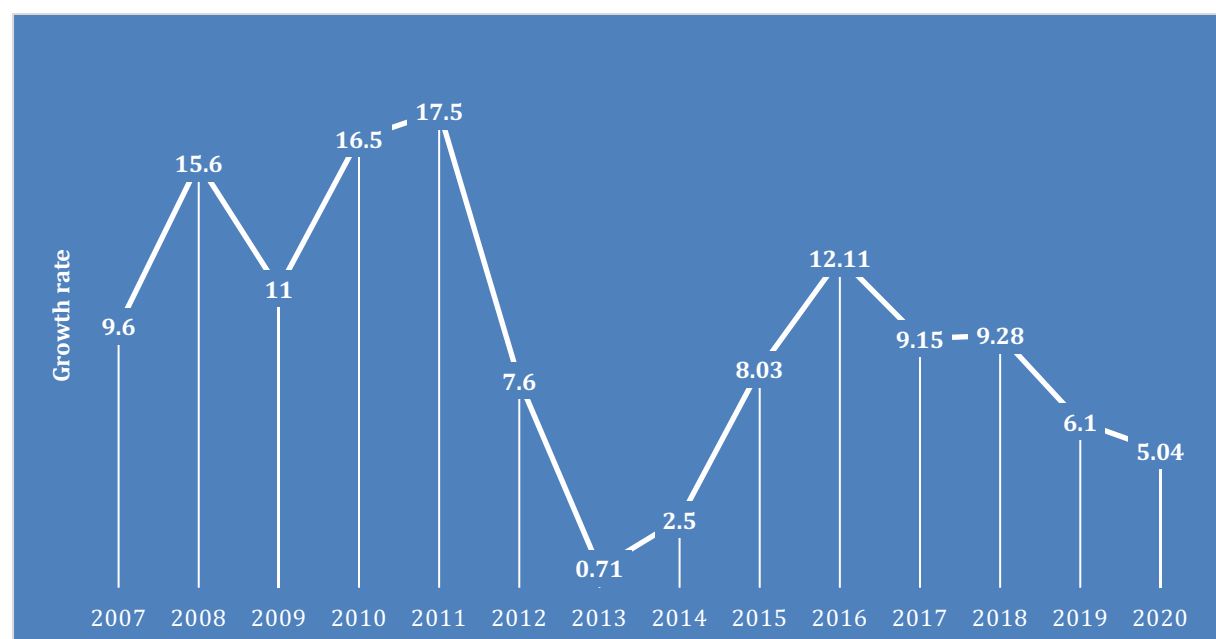
Total number of motor vehicles in the country as of December 2020 reached 112,058 compared to 106,681 vehicles in 2019, which is a 5% increase over the last one year.

Chart 34: Total number of vehicle growth by actual number, 2001-2020



Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

Chart 35: Annual Yearly Vehicle Growth Rate, 2007-2020



Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority, MoIC

Table 18: Total number of vehicles growth trend by Type, 2001-2020

Year	Category											
	Heavy	HB ¹⁹	Medium	MB	Light	TW	PT	Trac	EME	Other	EV	Taxi
2001	2863	n.a	697	n.a	9915	8165	n.a	n.a	408	278	n.a	201
2002	2747	n.a	770	n.a	10199	8371	n.a	n.a	464	456	n.a	1423
2003	4841	n.a	308	n.a	11575	7507	n.a	n.a	321	384	n.a	1560
2004	4345	n.a	n.a	n.a	12425	7707	n.a	n.a	1682	388	n.a	1682
2005	4352	n.a	n.a	n.a	14365	6703	n.a	n.a	511	491	n.a	2050
2006	4176	n.a	343	n.a	17355	7903	79	109	555	23	n.a	2038
2007	4547	n.a	467	n.a	19798	7458	109	474	633	n.a	n.a	2218
2008	4624	n.a	659	n.a	24244	7734	151	611	744	n.a	n.a	2511
2009	5198	n.a	786	n.a	27145	8027	692	183	929	n.a	n.a	2859
2010	6568	n.a	1007	n.a	31162	8820	756	210	1260	n.a	n.a	3599
2011	7996	n.a	1261	n.a	36150	9434	1030	278	1702	n.a	n.a	4856
2012	8443	n.a	1330	n.a	39254	9739	1128	283	1918	n.a	n.a	5354
2013	8544	n.a	1347	n.a	39596	9750	1209	318	1971	n.a	n.a	5191
2014	8474	n.a	1392	n.a	41924	9988	1381	329	2005	n.a	n.a	4109
2015	8566	n.a	1482	n.a	47734	8978	1715	384	2208	184	n.a	3939
2016	9480	n.a	1605	n.a	54280	9641	1944	421	2595	103	n.a	4228
2017	9766	428	1415	313	59653	10165	2213	462	3044	n.a	94	4455
2018	11152	479	1494	334	64925	10874	2758	487	3271	n.a	98	4672
2019	11678	539	1561	362	69075	11344	2948	495	3386	n.a	112	5181
2020	11800	555	1610	372	72818	11666	3280	507	3535	na	133	5782

Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

¹⁹ Reference: Heavy: Heavy Vehicles, HB: Heavy Buses, Medium: Medium Vehicles, MB: Medium Buses, Light: light vehicles, TW: Two Wheelers, PT: Power Tiller, Trac: Tractors, EME: Earth Moving Equipment vehicles, EV: Electric Vehicles

2.8. Vehicle Distribution and Ownership pattern, 2020

In terms of vehicle ownership and distribution, 53 % of the total vehicles are registered with Thimphu²⁰ region, 33.4% under Phuentsholing²¹ region, 6.6% under Gelephu²² region, 4.9% under Samdrup Jongkhar²³ region and 2.1% under Monggar region²⁴ respectively.

Table 19: Total number of vehicles registered by type and ownership as of December 2020

Region	O/ship	HV	HB	MV	MB	LV	TW	PT	TR	EME	EV	TAXI	Total
Thimphu	Govt	505	78	38	19	1751	483	511	71	161	24	0	3641
Pling		478	132	147	24	795	659	15	22	97	12	0	2381
Gelephu		63	15	19	3	229	120	68	11	101	0	0	629
S/Jongkhar		45	12	30	4	209	229	64	32	34	0	0	659
Monggar		3	10	11	2	89	9	50	2	1	0	0	177
Sub total			1094	247	245	52	3073	1500	708	138	394	36	0
Thimphu	Pvt	2742	120	272	212	41399	3779	2112	111	1104	76	3804	55731
Pling		6905	146	841	96	20388	3702	71	165	1603	15	1104	35036
Gelephu		510	28	171	9	3953	1159	129	56	178	4	584	6781
S/Jongkhar		459	10	48	0	2503	1210	244	28	185	0	106	4793
Monggar		90	4	33	3	1473	313	16	9	71	1	184	2197
Sub total			10706	308	1365	320	69716	10163	2572	369	3141	96	5782
Thimphu	Diplom at	0	0	0	0	29	3	0	0	0	1	0	33
Pling		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gelephu		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S/Jongkhar		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Monggar		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total			0	0	0	0	29	3	0	0	0	1	0
Grand Total		11800	555	1610	372	72818	11666	3280	507	3535	133	5782	112058

Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

²⁰ Covers six Dzongkhags: Thimphu, Paro, Haa, Wangdue, Punakha and Gasa

²¹ Covers two Dzongkhags: Chhukha and Samtse

²² Covers six Dzongkhags: Gelephu, Zhemgang, Trongsa, Bumthang, Tsirang and Dagana

²³ Covers two Dzongkhags: Samdrupjongkhar and Pema Gatshel. Since August 2014, Trashigang, Trashi Yangtse, Monggar and Lhuntse Dzongkhags were transferred to Monggar region. However, all vehicles registered and plying in this four Dzongkhags prior to August 2014 are recorded and kept with the Samdrup Jongkhar region.

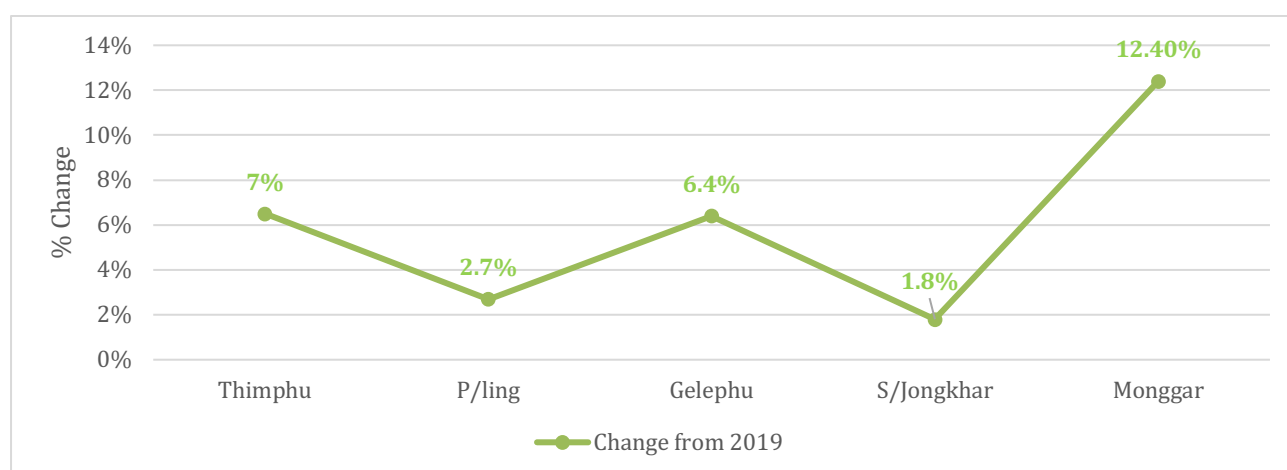
²⁴ Started functioning since August 2014 and will cover four Dzongkhags: Monggar, Trashigang, Trashi Yangtse and Lhuntse. Number of vehicles and % share of vehicles for Monggar region is very low as the data indicates the number of vehicles registered on or after august 2014 only.

Table 20: Total number of registered Vehicles by region and % Share from 2015-2020

Region	Total number of registered vehicles						% share of registered vehicles					
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Thimphu	59405	55801	52,322	47,753	43,652	38,760	53.0	52.04	52.04	51.9	51.78	51.55
P/ling	37417	36447	34,707	32,134	30,082	27,558	33.4	32.53	34.52	34.9	35.69	36.65
Gelephu	7410	6965	6,462	5,731	4,885	4,064	6.6	6.06	6.43	6.2	5.79	5.4
S/Jongkhar	5452	5356	5,194	4,938	4,627	4,329	4.9	4.87	5.17	5.3	5.49	5.76
Monggar	2374	2112	1,859	1,452	1,051	479	2.1	1.74	1.85	1.6	1.25	0.64
Total	112058	106681	100544	92008	84297	75190						

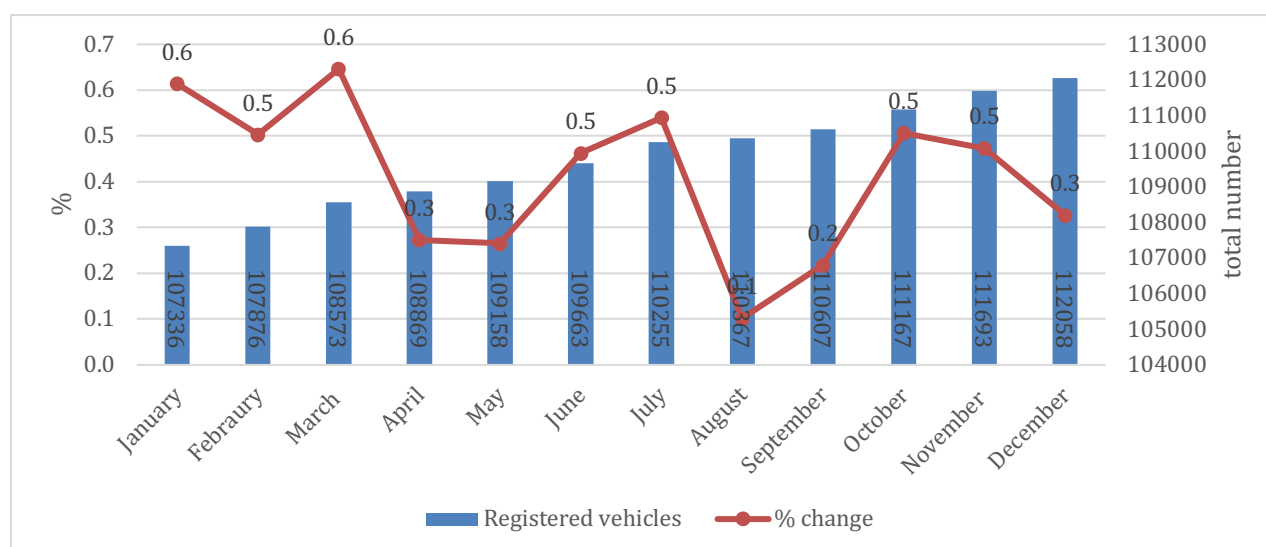
Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

Chart 36: % increase in regional vehicle registration in 2020 from 2019



Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

Chart 37: Monthly Vehicle registration trend and % change in registration in 2020



Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

Table 21: Total Vehicles owned by Government/ Public Sector Corporations, by Type from 2001-2020

Year	Category ²⁵												Total
	HV	HB	MV	MB	LV	TW	PT	TR	EME	Taxi	other	EV	
2001	618	n.a	193	n.a	1262	467	0	0	126	0	0	n.a	2666
2002	490	n.a	189	n.a	1234	560	0	0	131	0	0	n.a	2604
2003	692	n.a	78	n.a	1176	484	0	0	63	0	0	n.a	2493
2004	871	n.a	0	n.a	1267	506	0	0	63	0	0	n.a	2707
2005	952	n.a	0	n.a	1472	640	0	0	127	0	0	n.a	3191
2006	922	n.a	72	n.a	1517	1277	3	69	156	0	15	n.a	4031
2007	914	n.a	108	n.a	1604	715	30	13	168	0	0	n.a	3552
2008	903	n.a	139	n.a	1820	806	40	16	173	0	0	n.a	3897
2009	952	n.a	170	n.a	2000	839	40	17	192	0	0	n.a	4210
2010	992	n.a	192	n.a	2133	1047	43	17	198	0	0	n.a	4622
2011	1099	n.a	211	n.a	2278	1406	56	21	238	0	0	n.a	5309
2012	1132	n.a	226	n.a	2531	1460	58	21	241	0	0	n.a	5669
2013	1176	n.a	226	n.a	2510	1463	58	89	250	0	0	n.a	5772
2014	1176	n.a	231	n.a	2572	1454	162	91	253	0	0	n.a	5939
2015	1185	n.a	238	n.a	2512	1400	333	113	266	0	184	n.a	6231
2016	1237	n.a	259	n.a	2654	1417	388	119	278	0	29	n.a	6381
2017	1048	213	234	41	2914	1426	479	127	345	0	0	27	6,854
2018	1053	217	229	45	2889	1427	701	130	356	0	0	26	7,073
2019	1067	239	236	48	2966	1453	703	134	358	0	0	29	7,233
2020	1094	247	245	52	3073	1500	708	138	394	0	0	36	7487

Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

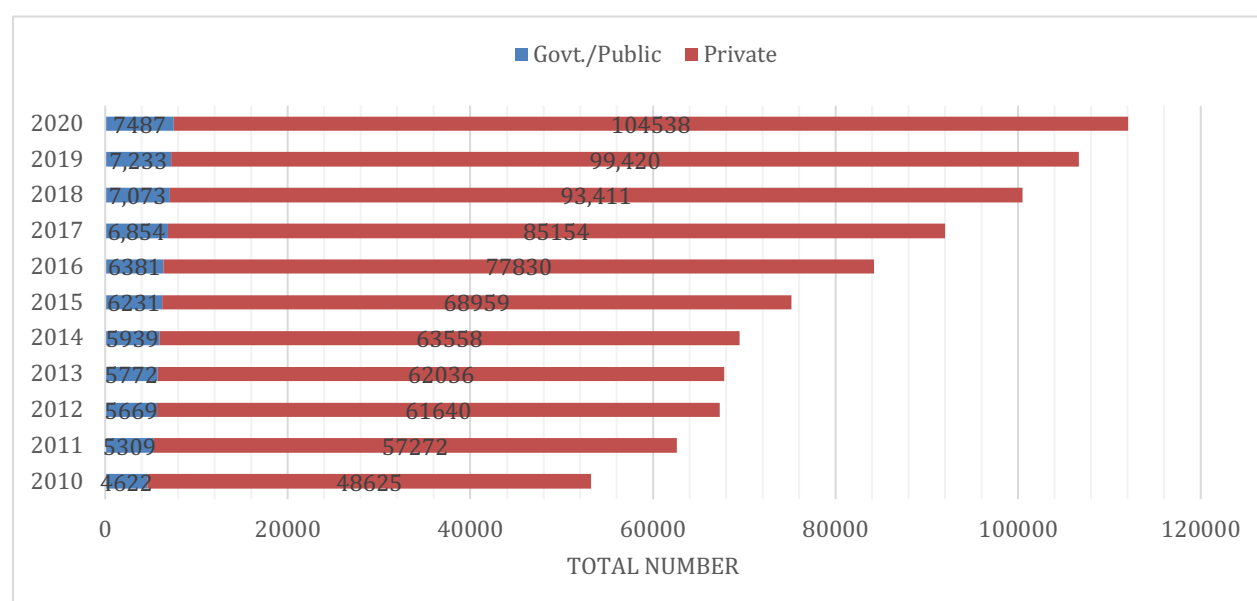
²⁵ HV: Heavy vehicles, HB: Heavy bus, MV: Medium vehicle, MB: Medium bus, LV: light vehicle, TW: Two wheeler, TR: Tractor, EME: Earth Moving equipment, OT: others

Table 22: Total number of vehicles owned by Private Organizations/Individuals, by type, 2001-2020

Year	Category												Total
	HV	HB	MV	MB	LV	TW	PT	TR	EME	Taxi	OT	EV	
2001	2244	n.a	505	n.a	7515	5989	0	0	282	1199	201	n.a	17935
2002	2255	n.a	581	n.a	8837	7811	0	0	333	1423	381	n.a	21621
2003	2799	n.a	230	n.a	10252	7023	0	0	258	1560	356	n.a	22478
2004	3474	n.a	0	n.a	11371	7201	0	0	258	1682	356	n.a	24342
2005	3400	n.a	0	n.a	12790	5998	0	0	382	2050	312	n.a	24932
2006	3236	n.a	271	n.a	15739	6626	76	40	399	2038	8	n.a	28433
2007	3633	n.a	359	n.a	18069	6743	79	460	465	2218	0	n.a	32026
2008	3721	n.a	520	n.a	22297	6928	111	595	561	2511	0	n.a	37244
2009	4246	n.a	616	n.a	25018	7180	143	675	737	2859	0	n.a	41474
2010	5576	n.a	815	n.a	28898	7769	167	739	1062	3599	0	n.a	48625
2011	6897	n.a	1050	n.a	33737	8023	222	1009	1478	4856	0	n.a	57272
2012	7311	n.a	1104	n.a	36588	8274	225	1107	1677	5354	0	n.a	61640
2013	7368	n.a	1121	n.a	36973	8282	1151	229	1721	5191	0	n.a	62036
2014	7298	n.a	1161	n.a	39252	8529	1219	238	1752	4109	0	n.a	63558
2015	7381	n.a	1244	n.a	45222	7578	1382	271	1942	3939	0	n.a	68959
2016	8243	n.a	1346	n.a	51541	8223	1556	302	2317	4228	74	n.a	77830
2017	8718	215	1181	272	56739	8739	1734	335	2699	4455	n.a	67	85154
2018	10,099	262	1,265	289	61,977	9,447	2,057	357	2915	5672	n.a	71	93,411
2019	10,611	300	1,325	314	69,075	9,889	2,245	361	3028	5181	n.a	82	99,420
2020	10706	308	1365	320	69,716	10163	2,572	369	3141	5782	na	96	104538

Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

Chart 38: Actual Vehicle ownership change by Govt./ Public entities and Private entities, 2010-2020



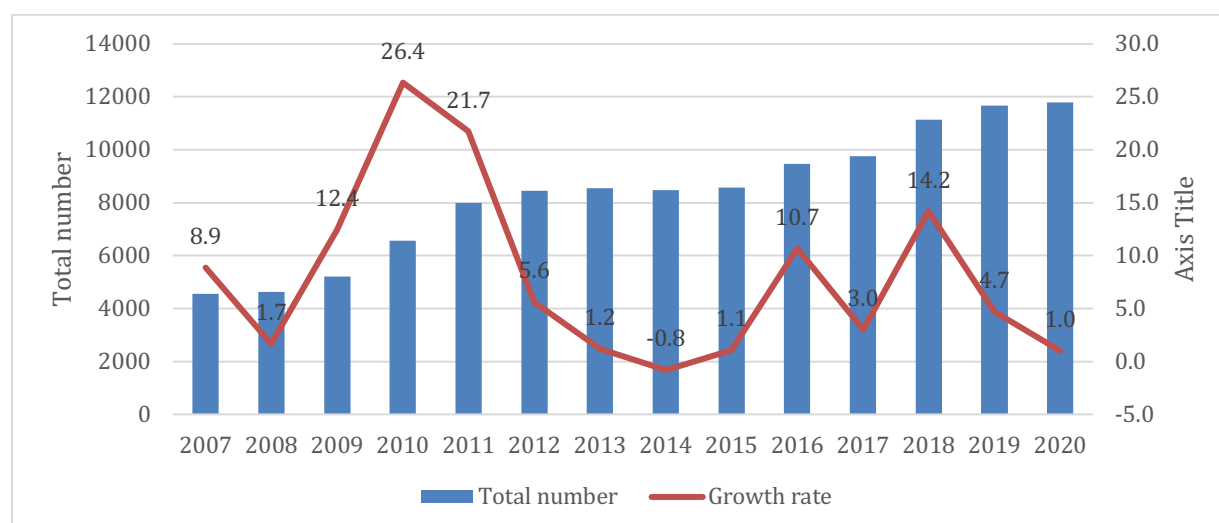
Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

2.9. Vehicle Growth Trend by type

Heavy Vehicles²⁶:

In 2020, the new Heavy vehicle category saw an increase of just 1% or 122 more vehicles after adjusting for new and off road vehicles from last year, thereby taking the total number of heavy vehicles in the country to 11,800.

Chart 39: Total number of Heavy Vehicles and % Annual Growth, 2007-2020



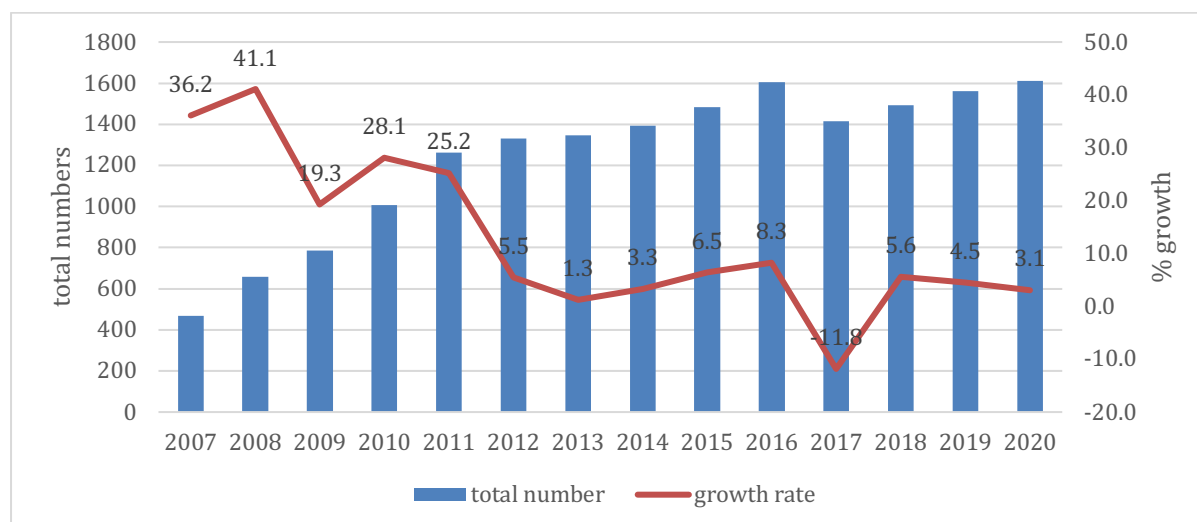
Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

²⁶ Heavy vehicle is defined as motor vehicles exceeding 10 tons gross vehicle weight or a bus seating more than 25 adults (including the driver) and these are generally trucks for freight and passenger buses (including buses owned by institutions and schools)

Medium Vehicles²⁷:

Total number of Medium vehicles in 2020, after adjusting new and off road vehicles, increased by about 16 numbers or by 3% compared to 2019.

Chart 40: Total number of Medium vehicles and % Annual Growth, 2007-2020

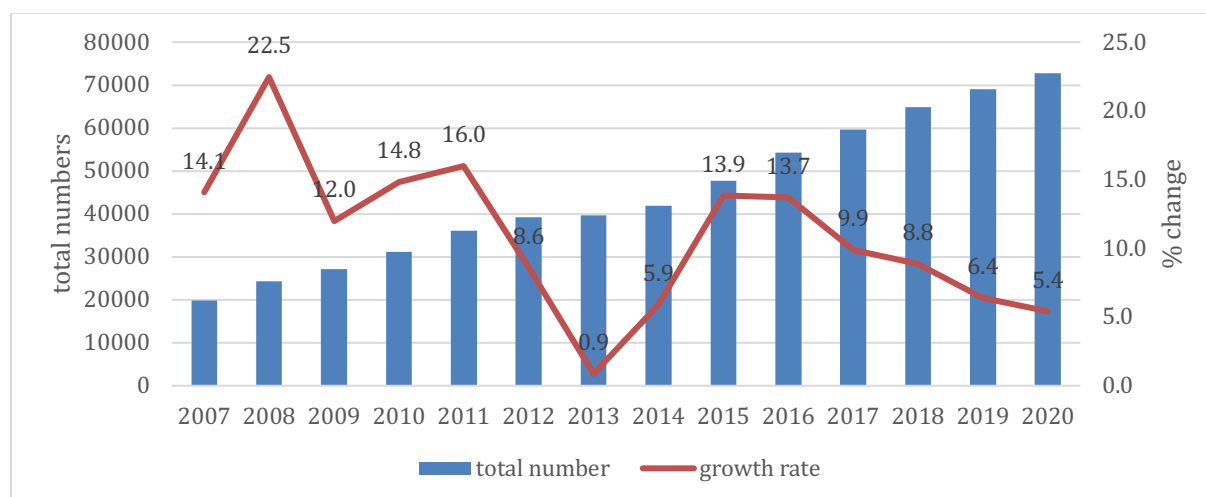


Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

Light Vehicles²⁸:

After adjusting new and off road vehicles, 3743 more light vehicles were registered in 2020 i.e. an increase of 5.4% from 2019, taking the total number of light vehicles to 72,818.

Chart 41: Total number of Light vehicles and % Annual Growth, 2007-2020



Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

²⁷ Medium vehicles mean a motor vehicle exceeding 3 tons but not exceeding 10 tons gross vehicle weight or a bus seating between 13 and 24 passengers

²⁸ Light vehicles mean a motor vehicle (which is not a two-wheeler) seating not more than 12 adults (including the driver) and not exceeding 3 tones gross vehicle weight

Two Wheelers²⁹:

In 2020, the Two-wheelers segment saw an increase of 322 numbers or 2.8 % after adjusting new and off road vehicles, taking the total number of two-wheelers to 11,666

Chart 42: Total number of two-wheelers and % growth, 2007-2020

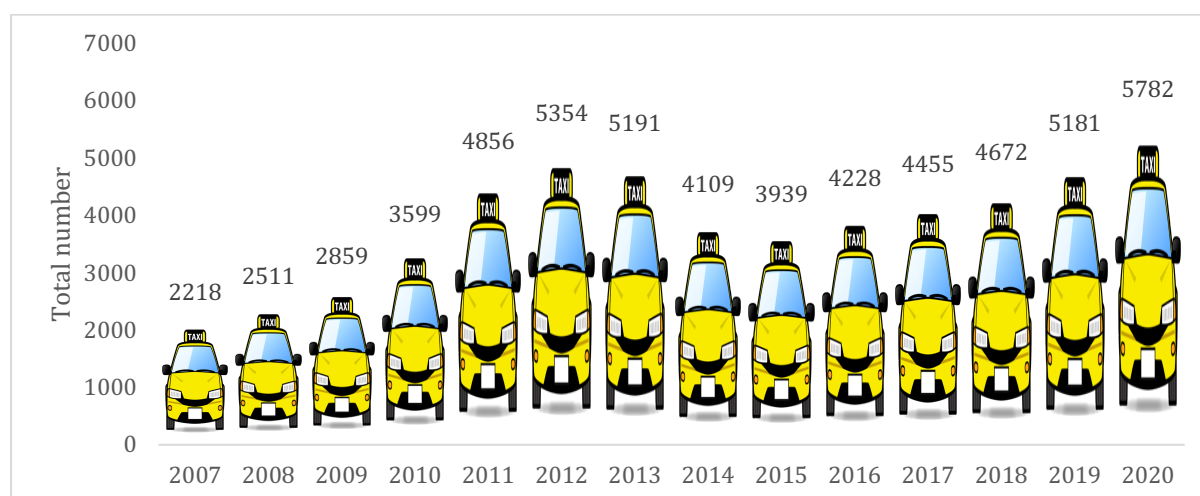


Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

Taxi

The total number of Taxis in the country increased by about 11.6% in 2020 or by 601 numbers compared to 2019. In 2020, Thimphu region saw an increase of 13.8 %, the highest increase in 2020 in comparison to other regions . Thimphu region is followed by Gelephu region with 9.4%, Mongar region by 8.2%, Samdrup Jongkhar region by 7.1%, and Phuentsholing region by 6.8%.

Chart 43: Total number of taxis³⁰, 2007-2020



Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

²⁹ Two wheelers mean a two-wheeled motor vehicle which has its own motive power but not human or animal power

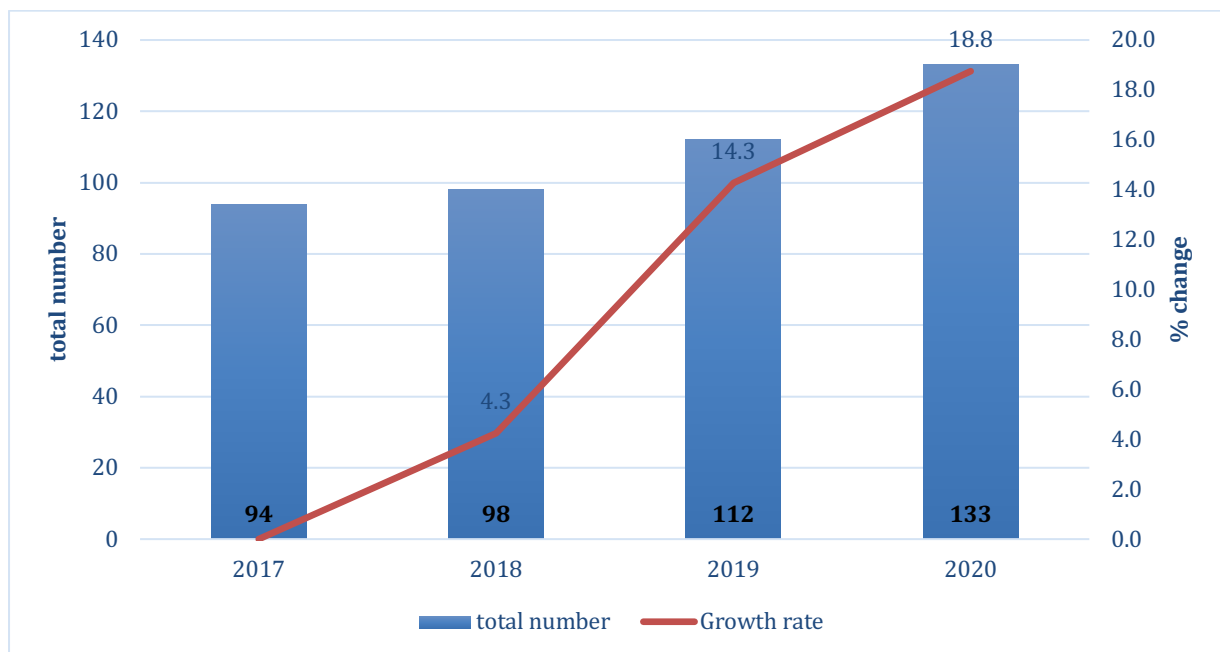
³⁰ Reverification of total number of taxis led to decrease in the total number in 2015

Table 23: Taxi ownership trend by Region, 2011-2020

Region	Number of Taxis									
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Nationwide	4856	5354	5191	4109	3939	4228	4455	4672	5181	5782
% Growth	34.9	10.3	-3.04	-20.8	-4.1	7.3	5.37	4.87	10.9	11.6
Thimphu	3305	3617	3508	2707	2652	2832	2926	3024	3344	3804
% Growth	32.84	9.4	-3.01	-22.8	-2.03	6.8	3.3	3.35	10.6	13.8
% Share (region wise)	68.1	67.6	67.6	65.9	67.33	66.98	65.68	64.73	64.5	65.8
P/Ling	1343	1514	1475	1192	1030	1015	969	938	1034	1104
% Growth	37.6	12.7	-2.6	-19.2	-13.59	-1.5	-4.5	-3.2	10.2	6.8
% Share (region wise)	27.7	28.3	28.4	29	26.15	24.01	21.8	20.08	19.96	19.09
Gelephu	151	160	149	156	195	289	394	470	534	584
% Growth	55.67	6	-6.9	4.7	25	48.2	36.33	19.29	13.6	9.4
% Share (region wise)	3.11	3	2.9	3.8	4.95	6.84	8.8	10.06	10.3	10.1
S/Jongkhar	57	63	59	54	44	43	68	89	99	106
% Growth	50	10.5	-6.3	-8.5	-18.5	-2.3	58.14	30.88	11.2	7.1
% Share (region wise)	1.17	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.12	1.02	1.5	1.9	1.9	1.8
Mongar	0	0	0	0	18	43	98	151	170	184
% Growth	-	-	-	-	-	138.9	127.9	54.08	12.6	8.2
% Share (region wise)	-	-	-	-	0.46	1.02	2.2	3.23	3.3	3.2

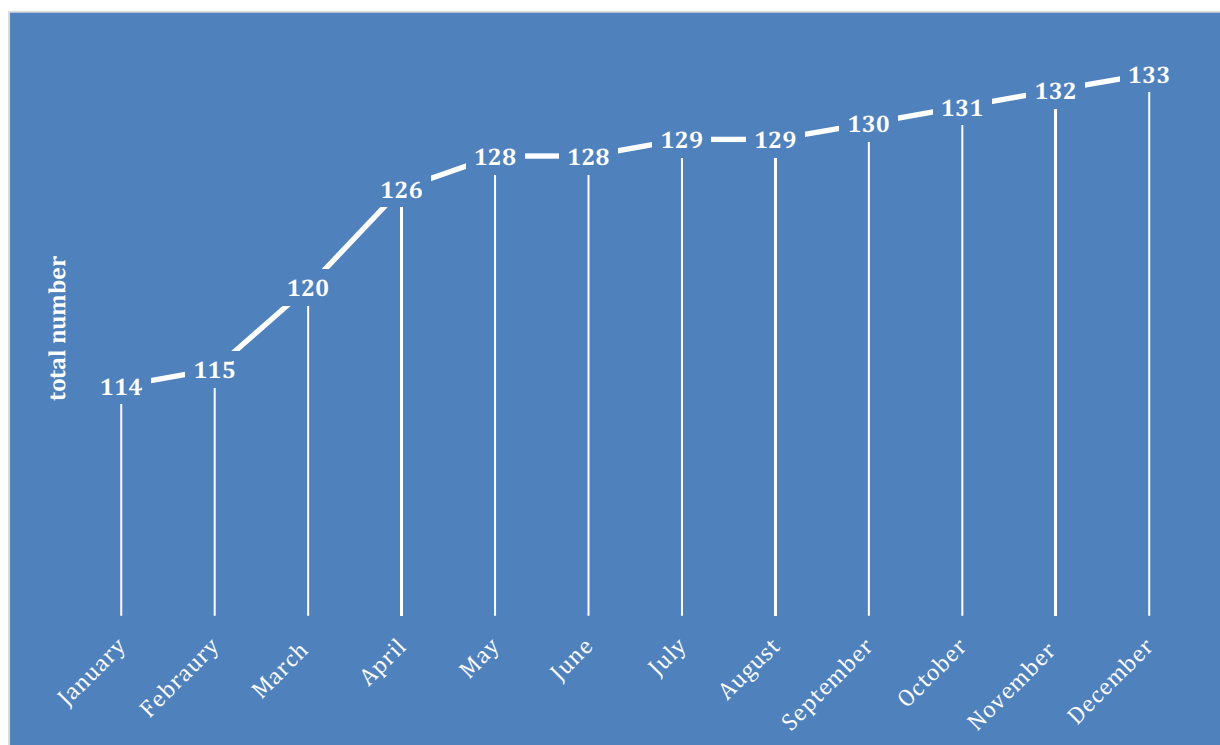
Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

Chart 44: Yearly Electric Vehicles registration trend, 2017-2020



Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

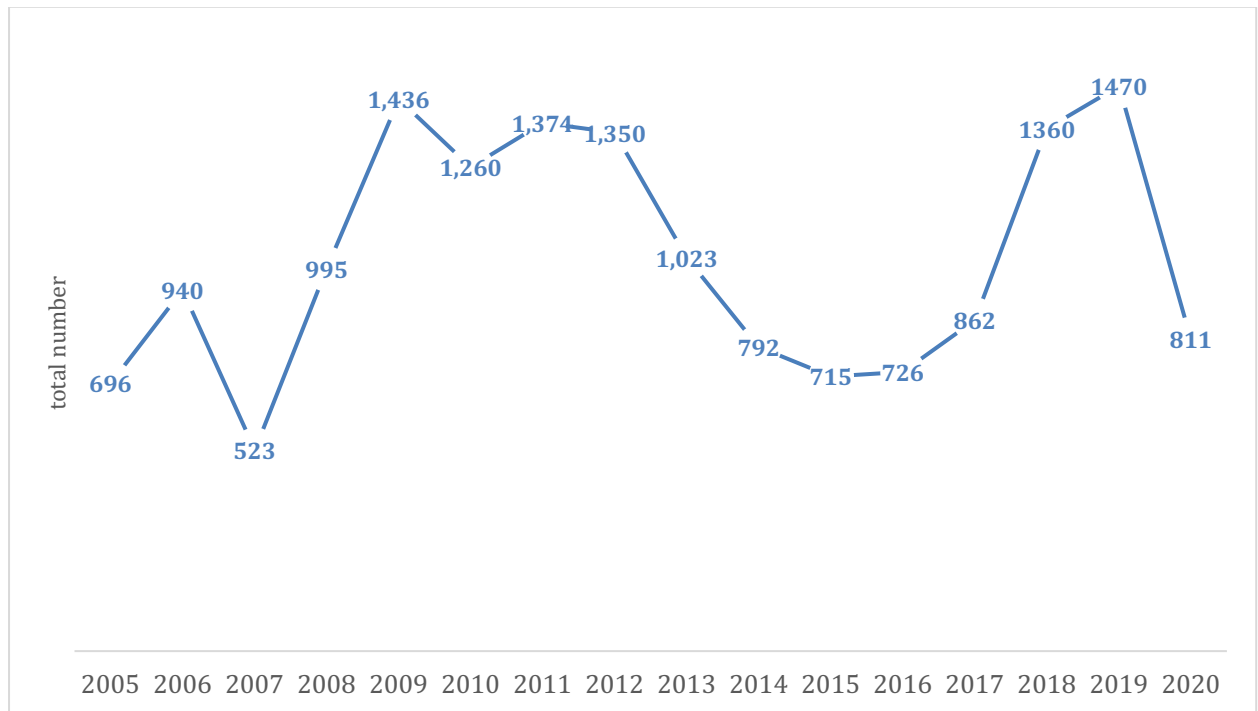
Chart 45: Monthly Electric Vehicle registration trend in 2020



Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

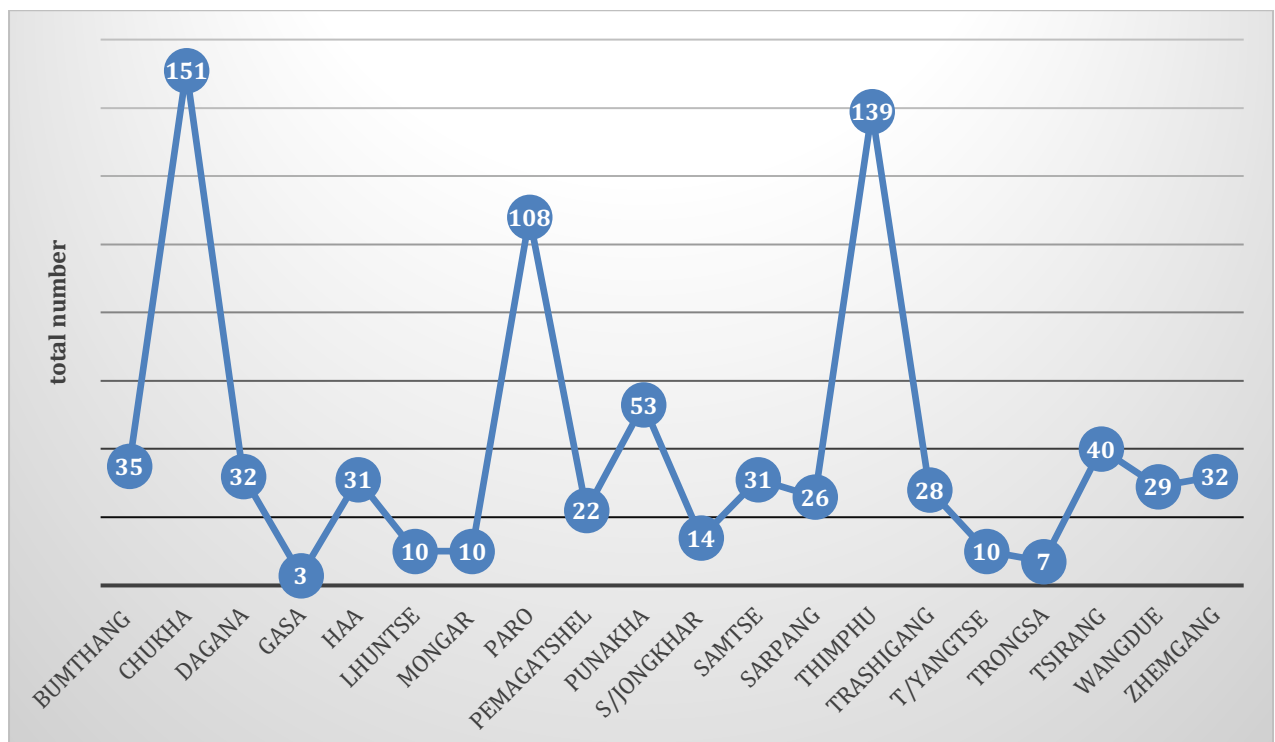
2.10. Motor Vehicle Crashes and Casualties

Chart 46: Motor vehicle related accident trend, 2005-2020



Source: Traffic Police, Royal Bhutan Police

Chart 47: Monthly motor vehicle accidents trend, by Dzongkhag in 2020



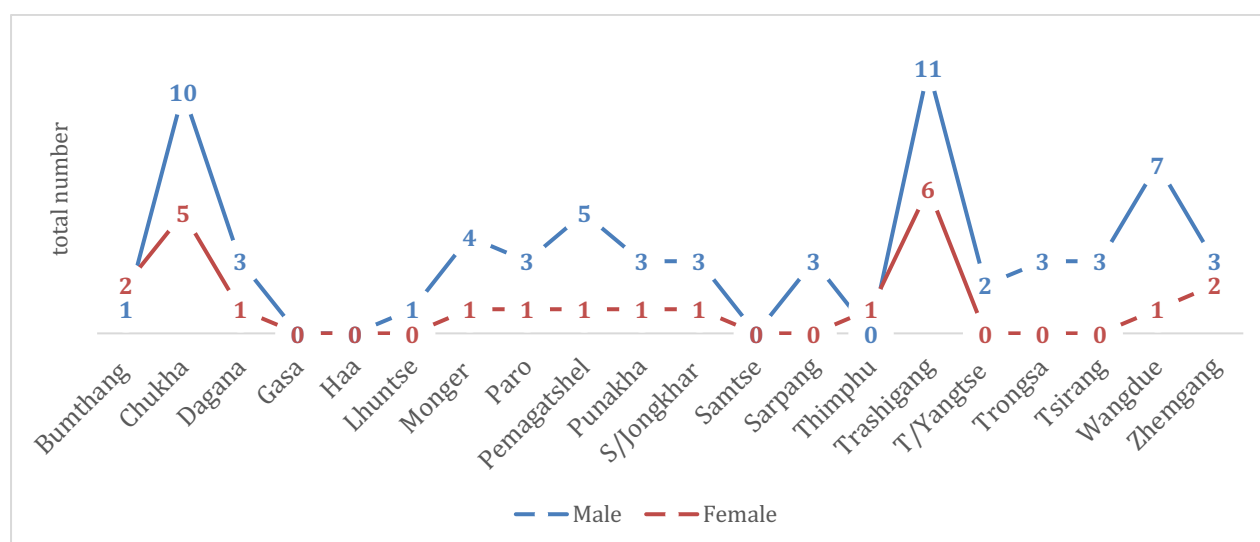
Source: Traffic Police, Royal Bhutan Police

Table 24: Monthly Motor vehicle accidents, Fatalities and injuries by Gender in 2020

Month	Gender	Fatalities	MVA	Injured
January	Male	19	120	39
	Female	7		24
February	Male	6	101	38
	Female	7		17
March	Male	1	81	49
	Female	0		14
April	Male	1	53	27
	Female	1		8
May	Male	0	59	31
	Female	1		8
June	Male	6	82	36
	Female	2		12
July	Male	5	72	27
	Female	0		9
August	Male	1	29	10
	Female	0		4
September	Male	5	46	19
	Female	0		5
October	Male	6	62	18
	Female	0		9
November	Male	9	66	21
	Female	4		10
December	Male	6	40	17
	Female	1		7
Total		88	811	459

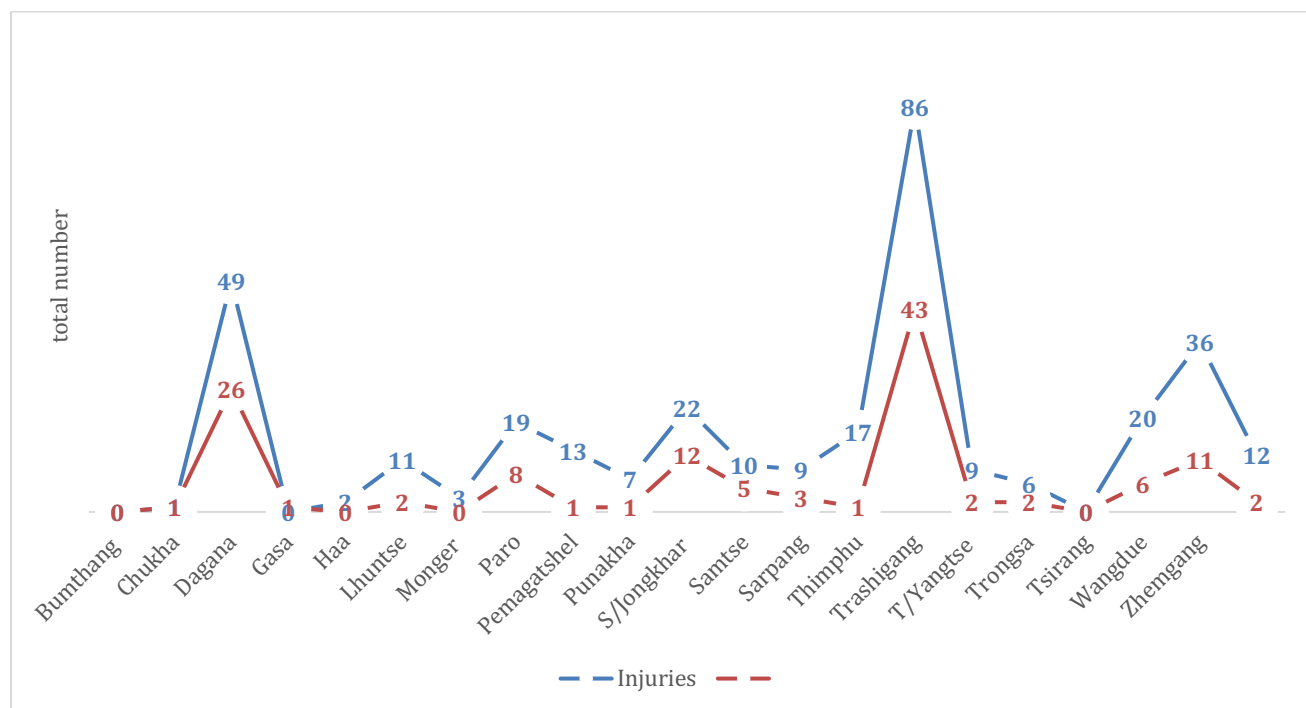
Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority and Traffic Police

Chart 48: Total number of fatalities by Dzongkhag and Gender in 2020



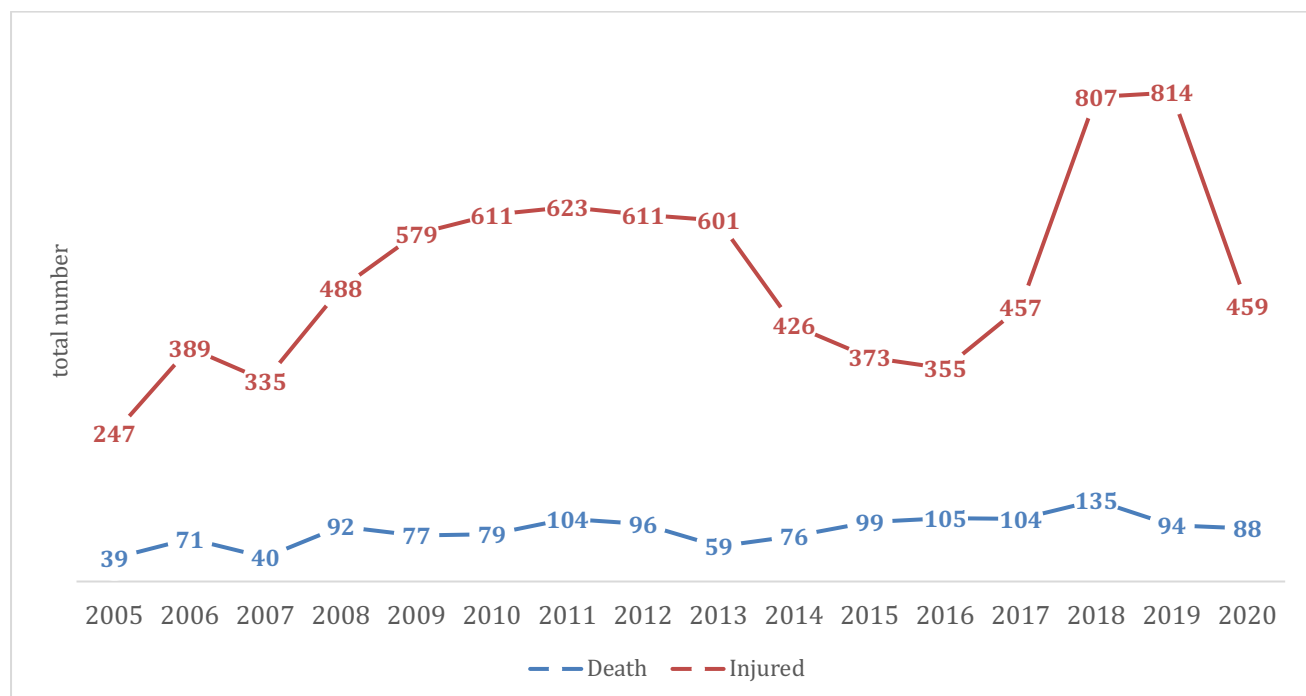
Source: Traffic Police, Royal Bhutan Police

Chart 49: Total number of injuries by Dzongkhag and Gender in 2020



Source: Traffic Police, Royal Bhutan Police

Chart 50: Total number of Motor vehicle related Deaths and Injuries trend, 2009-2020

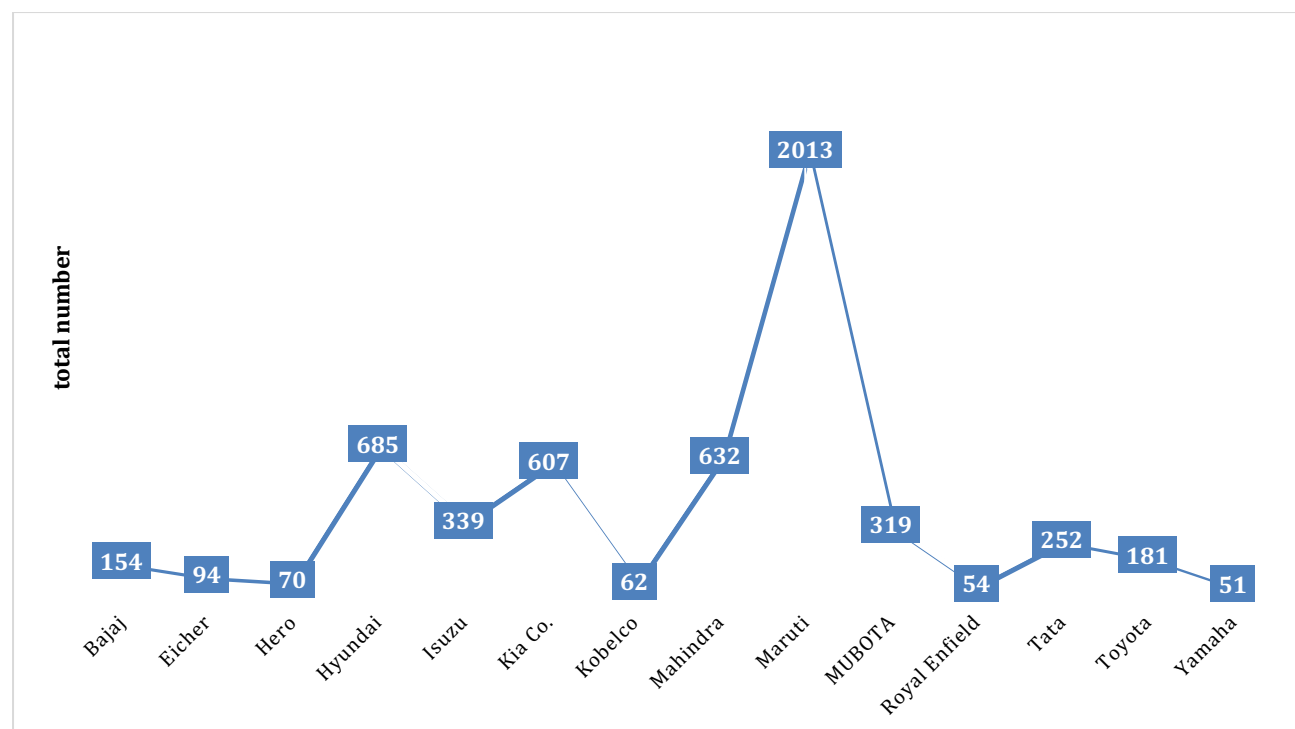


Source: Traffic Police, Royal Bhutan Police

2.11. Vehicle import by preference 2020

In 2020, the most preferred vehicle brand was Maruti followed by Hyundai, Mahindra and kia (Chart 51 for more details).

Chart 51: Most preferred vehicle brand by Bhutanese in 2020



Source: Road Safety and Transport Authority

III. TECHNICAL NOTES

1. Fixed Telephone Lines per 100 Inhabitants

Fixed Telephone lines refer to telephone lines connecting a customer's equipment i.e. telephone set to Public Switched Telephone Network and which have a dedicated port on public payphones. Fixed telephone line per 100 inhabitants is calculated by dividing the number of fixed lines by the population and multiplying by 100.

2. Mobile cellular per 100 inhabitants.

Mobile cellular per 100 inhabitants is obtained by dividing the number of mobile cellular subscriptions by number of mobile cellular subscriptions by the population and multiplying by 100.

3. Internet users per 100 inhabitants

Internet users in the bulletin refers only to those who are connected with either lease line or dial up connections. Internet users per 100 inhabitants is calculated number of users with internet connections by total population multiplied by 100.

4. Fixed Broadband Internet subscribers

Fixed broadband Internet subscribers refers to subscribers who pay for high speed access to the public Internet at speeds equals to, or greater than, 256 kbps. Fixed broadband internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants is calculated by dividing the population of the country and by multiplying by 100.

5. Mobile Broadband Subscriber per 100 inhabitants

Mobile broadband internet subscribers per 100 inhabitants is calculated by dividing the population of the country and by multiplying by 100.