Communications Regulatory Authority of Namibia

QUARTERLY STATISTICS NEWSLETTER

Q4 OF 2022

Information obtained from Telecommunications and Broadcasting Service Licensees (as per their licence conditions) is utilised to compile this report for the period 01 October 2022 to 31 December 2022.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY			
SUBSCRIBERS	**TRAFFIC**	**BROADCASTERS**	**POSTAL**
Mobile broadband band increased by 3%, year on year. Fixed line subscriptions continue to experience a downward trend.	Mobile Traffic slightly increased by up to 29%.	The number of broadcasting licenses stood at 37. Broadcasting revenue increased by 6%.	38% of letterboxes are rented, whereas, 47% of private bags are occupied.

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1. Mobile Subscribers

- During the fourth quarter of 2022, the number of active SIM cards remained almost constant compared to the same period in the previous year. However, there was a slight increase in overall broadband subscriptions.

- Approximately 68% of mobile SIM cards were used for internet access, which represents a 3% increase from 2021.

Table 2: Mobile subscriber numbers in 1000s		2021 Q4	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	% change (Q4_2022 - Q4_2021)
Active SIM cards ('000)	Prepaid	2,716	2,705	2,694	2,701	2,706	-0%
	Postpaid	199	205	204	205	200	0%
	Total	2,915	2,910	2,898	2,906	2,906	-0%
Mobile Broadband ('000)	Mobile Phone	1,894	1,887	1,905	1,925	1,965	4%
	Dongle / Routers	28	24	19	23	22	-20%
	Total	1,922	1,911	1,923	1,948	1,987	3%
% of SIM using Internet		65%	65%	66%	66%	68%	3%

2. Fixed-line Subscribers

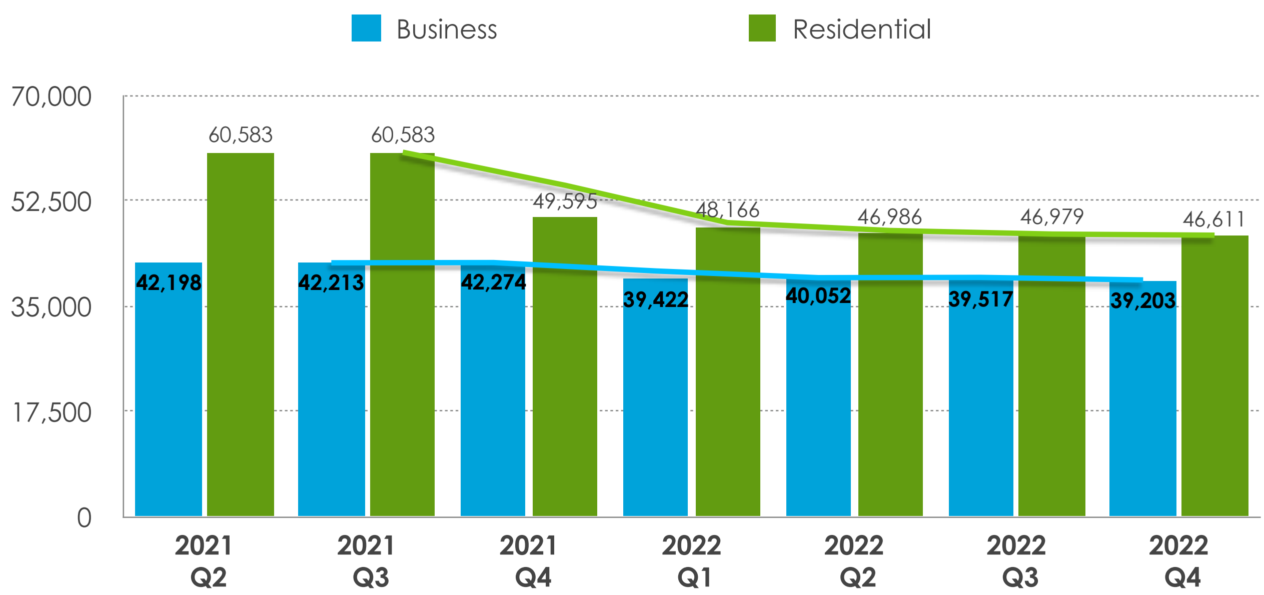


Figure 1: Fixed-line Subscribers

- The demand for fixed-line subscriptions continues to decline.

3. Other Subscribers

- During Q4 2022, fixed internet subscriptions increased significantly, with growth ranging from 22% to 89% compared to the same period in the previous year.
- However, subscriptions for lower-speed internet connections showed a decline This trend suggests consumers' growing preference for higher-speed internet services, potentially driven by an increasing reliance on digital technologies for work and leisure activities.

Table 3: Other subscribers		2021 Q4	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	% change (Q4_2022 - Q4_2021)
ADSL	10 Mbps and above	6,010	61,11	6,464	6,947	7,322	22%
	2 to 10 Mbps	65,095	61,186	61,580	62,328	62,885	-3%
	below 2Mbps	1,231	696	625	596	582	-53%
	Total	72,336	61,882	68,669	69,871	70,789	-2%
Fibre to the home		7,052	8,330	9,445	9,968	11,073	57%
MetroNet (ethernet)		214	227	157	147	147	-31%
Leased lines		2,953	2,597	2,354	2,207	2,082	-29%
Other wireless		5,930	6,960	9,512	9,940	10,950	85%
Satellite / VSAT		692	787	1,177	1,333	1,308	89%
VoIP		3,269	3,342	3,310	3,395	3,395	4%

4. Traffic

- Q4 2022 data reveals a slight overall increase in mobile minutes, with a growth rate ranging from 4% to 29% compared to the same period in the previous year. However, there has been a decline in international mobile minutes, potentially driven by the use of over-the-top (OTT) services for voice communication.
- Mobile data usage has increased by 8%, while the number of SMS messages sent remained fairly constant during the review period.
- Fixed-line outgoing minutes experienced a decline of 8%, which is consistent with the trend of decreased demand for fixed-line subscriptions for voice communication and a preference for data-driven services.

Table 4: Traffic		2021 Q4	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	% change (Q4_2022 - Q4_2021)
Mobile outgoing ('000)	On net minutes	2,103,327	1,985,466	2,002,409	2,153,453	2,177,490	4%
	Off-net mobile minutes	55,741	60,287	62,874	68,701	71,771	29%
	Off-net fixed-line minutes	20,072	19,837	18,711	19,480	19,826	-1%
	International minutes	3,285	2,586	2,595	2,619	2,867	-13%
	SMS send	2,350,057	2,311,307	2,289,619	2,314,126	2,348,651	-0%
Mobile Data use in GB ('000)		20,227	19,753	20,816	20,958	21,872	8%
Fixed line Outgoing minutes ('000)		24,725	24,290	22,536	24,035	22,701	-8%

5. Telecommunication Revenue

- In the telecommunication sector, revenue generated from data remains the most profitable segment, while SMS revenue is typically the least profitable.

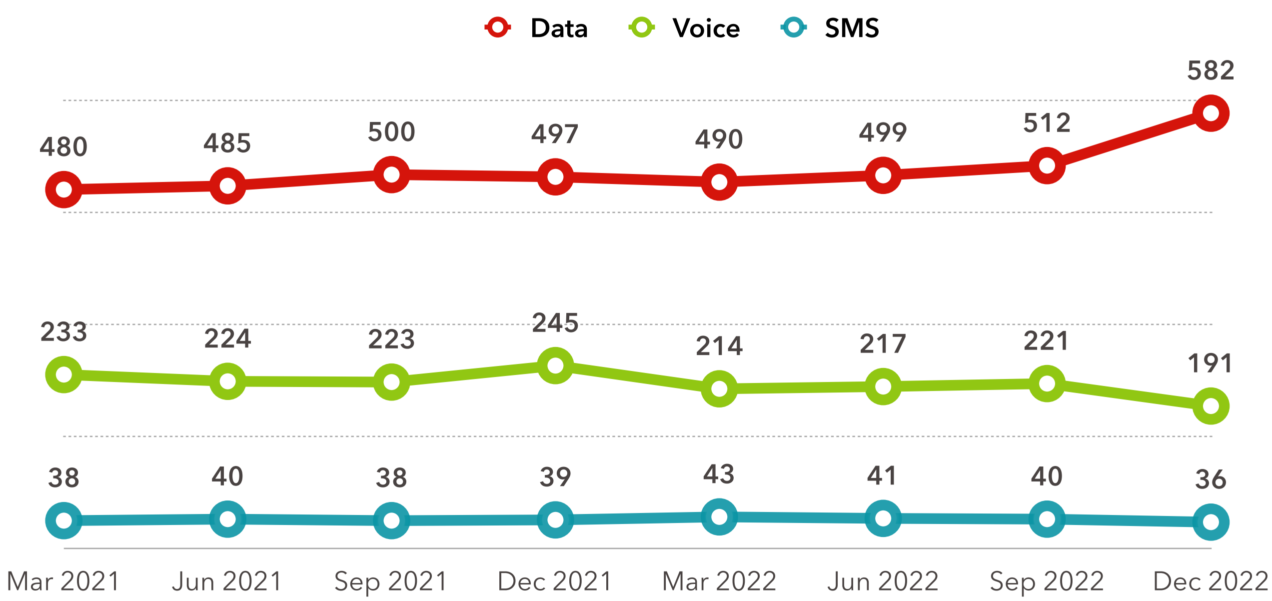


Figure 2: Data, Voice & SMS Revenue in million

6. Telecommunication Investment

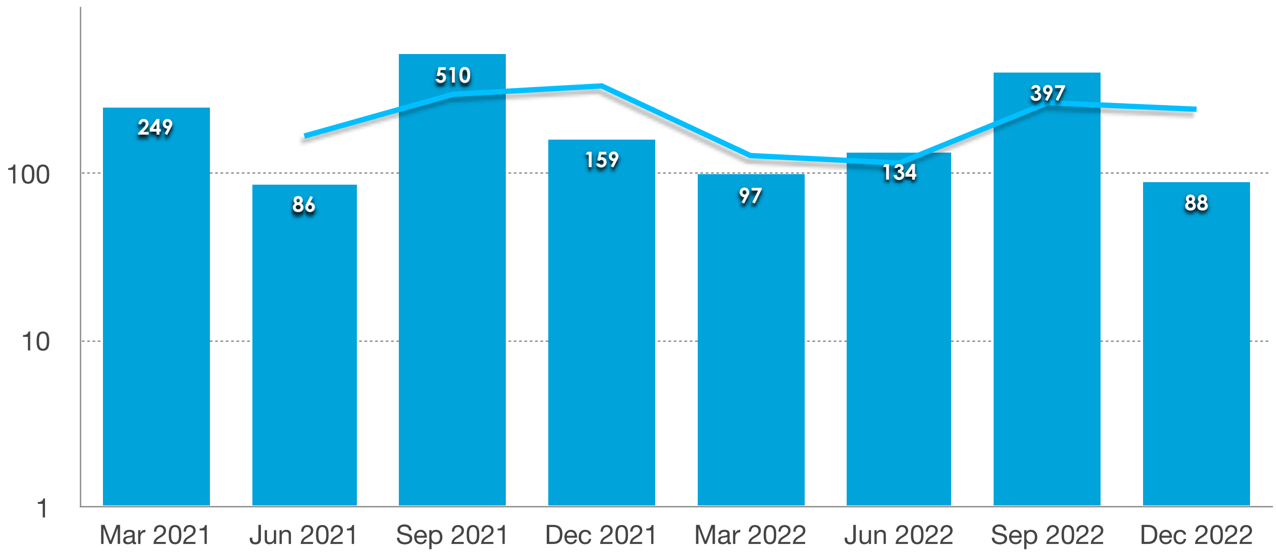


Figure 3: Telecommunication Investment in millions

- The telecommunications sector takes a plunge as total investment declines in Q4 2022.

7. Broadcasters

- As of the end of Q4 of 2022, the total number of active broadcasting licenses issued amounted to 37.

Table 5: Licensed Broadcasters		2021 Q4	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4
Category	Signal distributors	1	1	1	1	1
	Public broadcasters	1	1	1	1	1
	Commercial broadcasters	21	21	21	20	21
	Community broadcasters	15	15	14	13	14
Total		38	38	37	35	37

- The broadcasting sector experienced a 6% growth in revenue during Q4 of 2022 compared to the same quarter in the previous year.
- Advertisement revenue had a significant increase of 35% when compared to Q4 2021, but only accounted for a 6% portion of the total revenue generated by broadcasters.

Table 6: Broadcasters Revenue	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	Change (%)
Advertisement revenue ("000")	14,584	18,358	16,724	20,895	18,409	22,828	17,009	22,882	**35%**
Other Revenue ("000")	216,542	215,172	216,455	216,147	204,641	208,144	208,773	215,381	**3%**
Total Revenue ("000")	231,126	233,530	233,179	237,042	223,050	230,972	225,782	238,263	**6%**
Advertisement as % of total	6.3%	7.9%	7.2%	8.8%	8.3%	9.9%	7.5%	9.6%	**1%**

- Digital Mobile & Terrestrial subscriptions experienced a significant decline of 22% and 33%, respectively, during Q4 of 2022 as compared to the same period in 2021. However, DSTV subscriptions observed a minimal decline of only 1%.

Table 7: Pay TV Subscribers	2021 Q1	2021 Q2	2021 Q3	2021 Q4	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4	Change (%)
Digital Mobile	23,863	28,687	126,034	109,662	210,128	221,126	207,566	162,057	-22%
Digital Terrestrial	115,753	115,668	113,674	107,751	90,732	79,430	75,029	50,039	-33%
Satellite TV (DSTV)	132,458	129,421	131,723	125,688	128,356	120,238	124,703	123,456	-1%
Total	272,074	273,776	371,431	343,101	429,216	420,794	407,298	335,552	-18%

8. Postal

- In Q4 2022, there has been a noteworthy drop in the rental of letterboxes, with at least 38% currently rented, representing a substantial decline of 29% from Q3 2022.
- Additionally, the number of occupied private bags has also decreased by 8% during the same period.

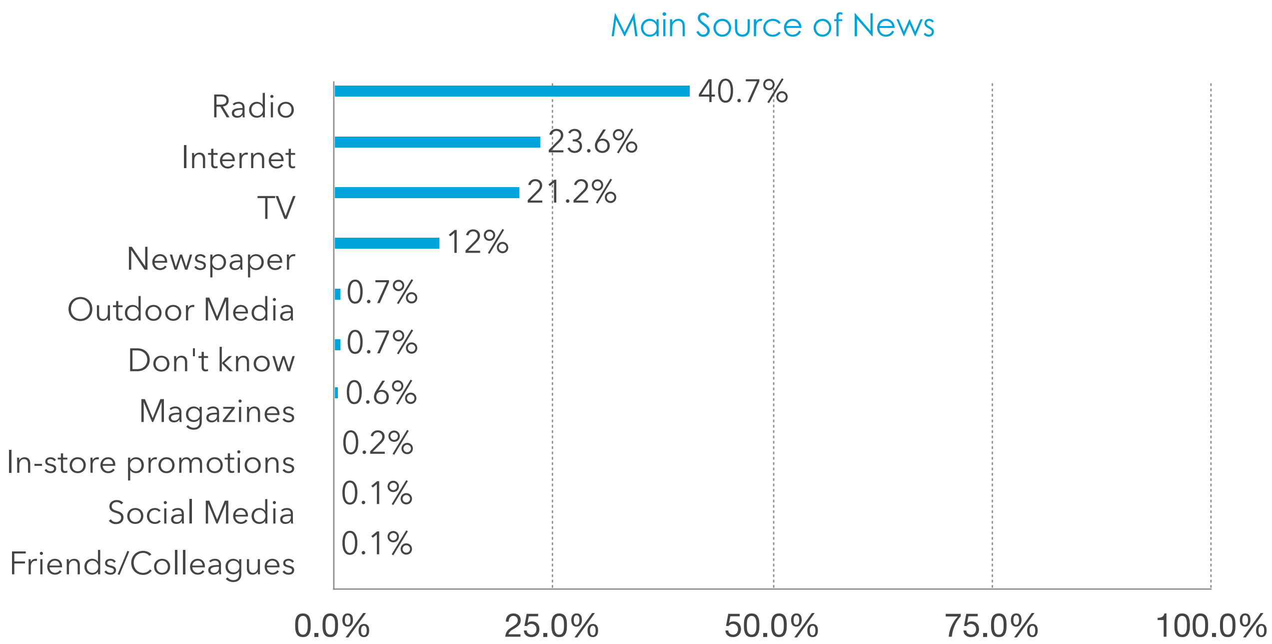
Table 8: Post Boxes	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4
Number of Letterboxes	124,210	124,210	124,210	124,210

Table 8: Post Boxes	2022 Q1	2022 Q2	2022 Q3	2022 Q4
Number of Postboxes occupied	81,332	83,269	83,269	47,171
Occupancy %	65%	67%	67%	38%
Number of Private bags	871	877	877	883
Number of Private bags occupied	421	437	456	385
Occupancy %	48%	50%	52%	44%
Number of Post Offices	133	134	133	133
Post Offices in rural areas (including mobile post offices)	116	116	116	116
% of Post Office services in rural areas	87%	87%	87%	87%

9. Broadcasting and Media Survey 2022

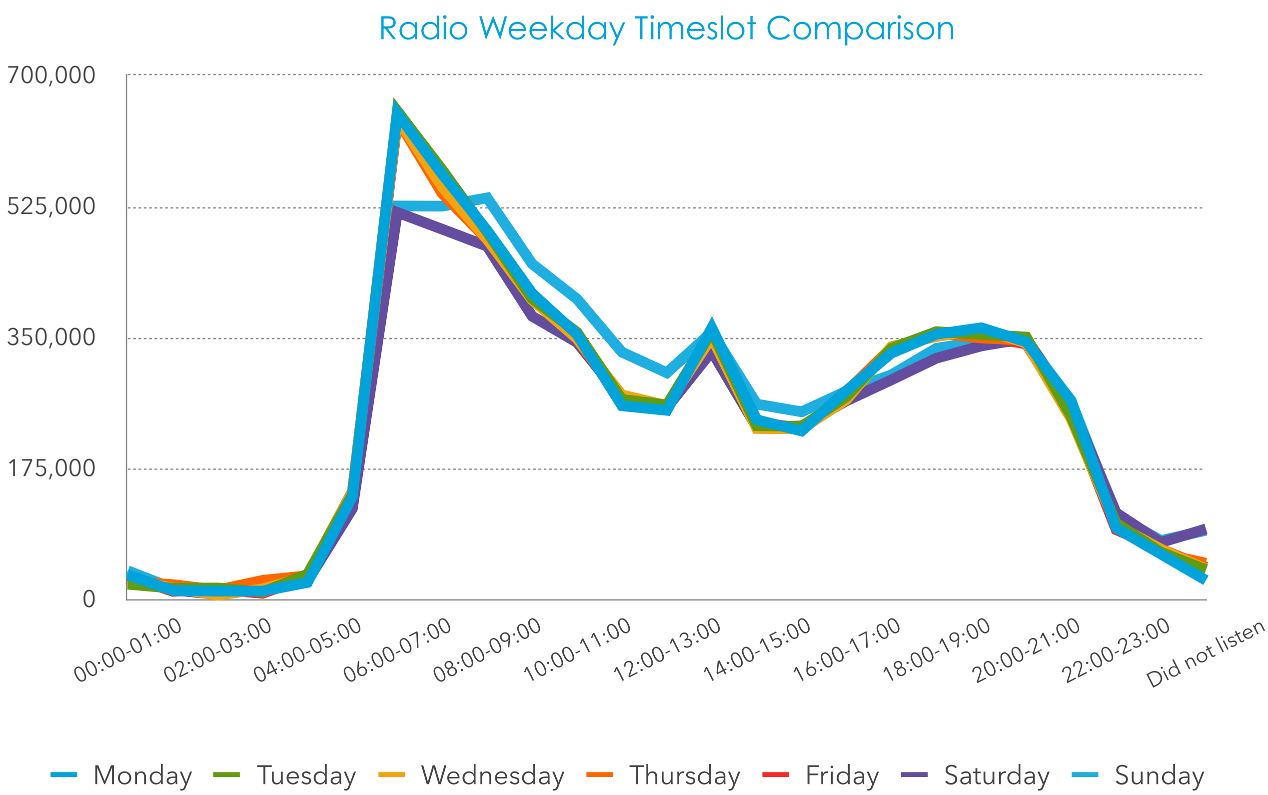
Broadcasting and media play a crucial role in shaping public opinion and informing people about current events. With the rise of digital media and mobile technology, people have access to a vast array of news and messaging apps at their fingertips.

A survey was conducted by Vision Africa Research Services in 2022 to uncover people's media consumption habits, identify the popular sources of news and messaging apps, and explore how people use these platforms to stay informed and connected. The survey results are presented below:



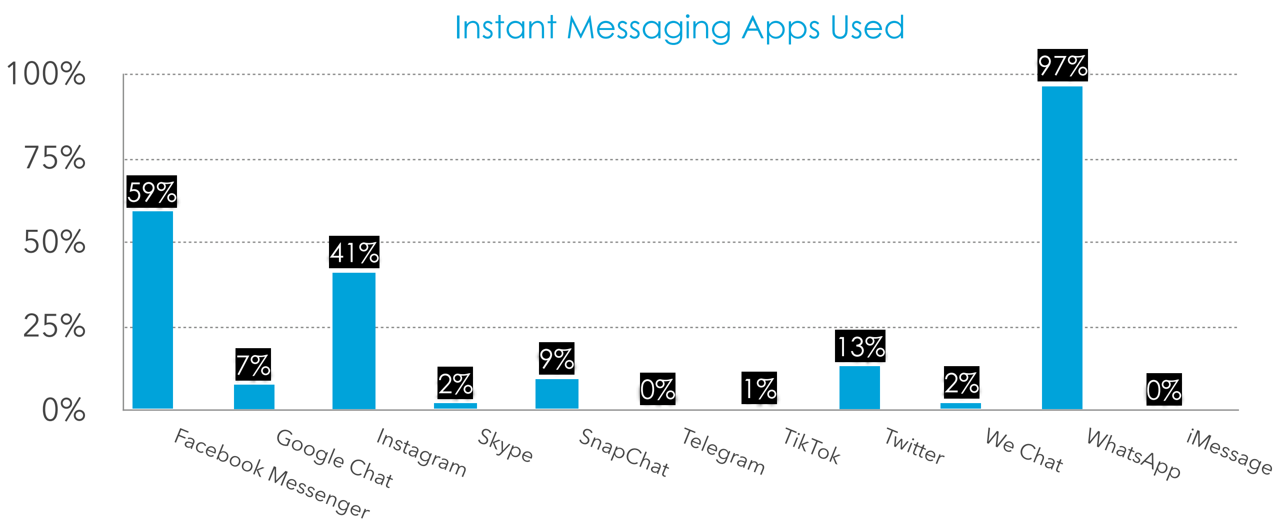
Source: Vision Africa Research Services

- The survey suggests that radio is the preferred medium for receiving news among consumers, followed by the Internet and television respectively.



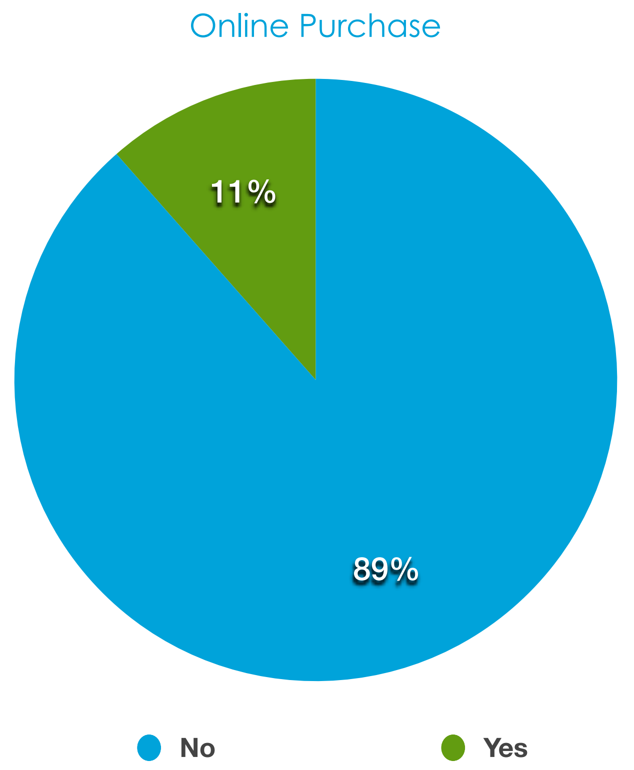
Source: Vision Africa Research Services

- The majority of radio listeners tune in to the radio during the hours of 5 am to 8 am.



Source: Vision Africa Research Services

- According to the results of the interviews conducted, a significant proportion, specifically 97%, of the respondents reported using WhatsApp as their preferred instant messaging application.



Source: Vision Africa Research Services

- Out of the individuals who were interviewed in the survey, 89% expressed a preference for abstaining from online purchases.

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