# Telco Price War: The Best Provider For Each Budget?

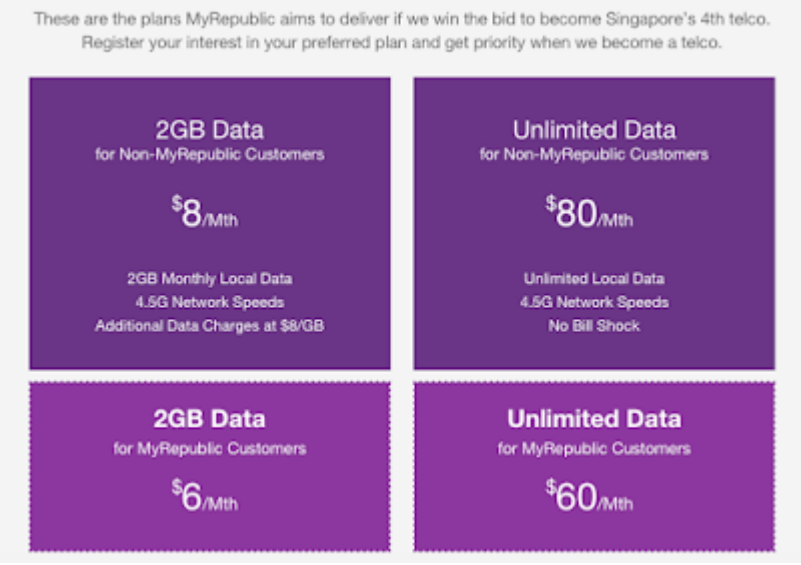
## Description




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Everyone knows by now that MyRepublic has plans to become Singaporeâ??s fourth telco and snatch a slice of the market share away from SingTel, StarHub and M1. Even their website (https://my4thtelco.sg) boldly claims this vision.

Shortly after it announced that it would give customers unlimited data for just $60 a month, or 2 GB for $6, the other three telcos launched into a price war within hours. The main aim is clearly to prevent those who are in the unique position of switching over to MyRepublic, as the new data offers are mostly limited to new customers or those eligible for a recontractâ?¦in other words, the same consumers MyRepublic is trying hard to woo.




When a price war erupts among the providers, we consumers benefit.

Iâ??m sure the majority of us would be in agreement that the minimum criteria we require in our plans today includes having sufficient data, free outgoing calls and caller ID. Since I happen to be eligible for a renewal (my contract coincidentally just expires in March), I thought Iâ??ll compare the different plans to see which provider currently offers the best value for each level of budget with these factors in mind.

## $50 BUDGET

| | Singtel | StarHub | m1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Plan | Combo 2 | 4G 3 | i/Lite+ |
| Data | 4 GB | 6 GB | 5 GB |
| Outgoing Talktime | 200 min | 150 min | 200 min |
| SMS | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| Caller ID | $5.35 | | |
| Total Bill | $42.90 +$5.35 + $5.90 = **$54.15** | $42.90 + $5.35 + $3 = **$51.25** | $42 + $5.35 + $5.90 = **$53.25** |

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If you only have a $50 budget to spare for your mobile phone plan each month, StarHub seems to provide the best value at 6 GB for the lowest price among the rest. The only downside is that you get 50 minutes less of talktime; this can be easily fixed if you sign up for their HappyTalk, which gives you an additional 300 minutes free.

**Winner: StarHub**

## $70 BUDGET

| | Singtel | StarHub | m1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Plan | Combo 3 | 4G 4 | i/Reg |
| Data | 6 GB | 7 GB | 7 GB |
| Outgoing Talktime | 300 min | 350 min | 300 min |
| SMS | 1200 | 1200 | 1200 |
| Caller ID | | $5.35 | |
| Price | $62.90 +$5.35 $5.90 = **$74.15** | $62.90 + $5.35 + $3 = **$71.25** | $62 + $5.35 + $5.90 = **$73.25** |

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If you tend to use more data and spend considerable time on phone calls (I know I do), then for a budget of approximately $70, StarHub once again triumphs. This time, thereâ??s no competition â?? StarHub wins hands down by offering the highest data and talktime.

**Winner: StarHub (thereâ??s no fight here!)**

## $100 BUDGET

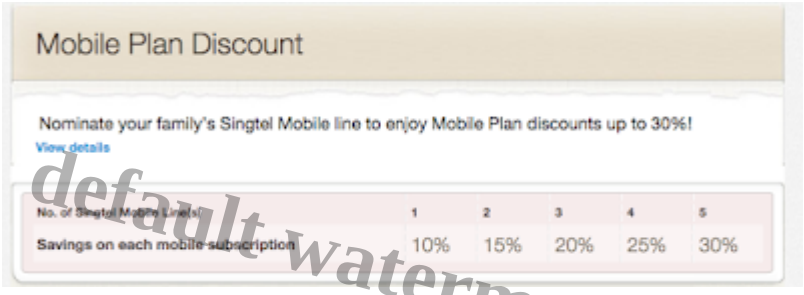
| | Singtel | StarHub | m1 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Plan | Combo 4 | 4G 5 | i/Reg+ |
| Data | 8 GB | 8 GB | 9 GB |
| Outgoing Talktime | 400 min | 450 min | 400 min |
| SMS | 1300 | 1300 | 1500 |
| Caller ID | | $5.35 | |
| Price | $82.90 +$5.35 $5.90 = **$94.15** | $82.90 + $5.35 + $3 = **$91.25** | $82 + $5.35 + $5.90 = **$93.25** |

For those who consume a lot of data and talk time each month, for a budget of about $100, it is a tie between StarHub and M1. The main choice you have to make here would be choosing between 50 minutes extra of outgoing talk time vs. 1 GB extra for a mere difference of $2.

**Winner: Itâ??s a tie between StarHub & M1**

Clearly, SingTel takes the cake for being the most expensive in each category without necessarily anything that justifies the higher price. From my experience, Iâ??ve found their customer service to be extremely slow and unhelpful â?? this was the exact feedback I gave them when they asked why I terminated my SingTel plan 2 years ago.

Their only saving grace is that if you have multiple family members on SingTel plans as well, you can potentially enjoy a family discount.




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Given how quickly SingTel, M1 and StarHub (in that order) responded after MyRepublicâ??s announcement, it makes me wonder how much our existing telcos have shortchanged us in the past. Iâ??ve been paying $20 extra each month for consuming an average of 1.2 GB above my planâ??s 2 GB threshold, so my bills hasnâ??t exactly been friendly to my wallet. It is certainly time for a change.

For those deliberating on the same, I hope these comparison tables help you decide whether you should stick or switch your telco provider. You can also head to their websites directly for more information on pricing:

Click here for SingTel *aka the expensive one*
Click here for M1
Click here for StarHub *aka the best value provider*

Which telco do you think offers the most value right now?

With love,
Budget Babe

**Category**

1. Family