

# South Africa received more spam calls and SMSes in 2019 than ever before

 By [Andy Walker](#)

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Spam calls. You'd probably rather receive a lump of coal in your stock this Christmas, but it's an annoyance that affects all phone owners worldwide. In South Africa though, you may experience it more frequently than others.



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According to [Truecaller's Insights 2019](#), (which garnered its data anonymously from incoming calls marked as spam or automatically flagged by the company between January 2018 to the end of October 2019) more than 8.6-billion of its 116-billion calls globally were spam.

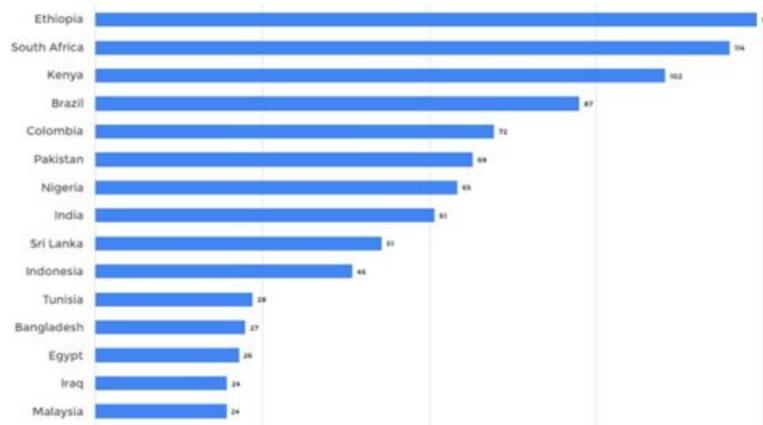
1.7-million South Africans that used Truecaller on average received 25 of these spam calls per month. It's also a huge jump since [Truecaller's 2017 report](#).

South Africa actually ranks sixth globally for spam call prevalence, behind Brazil, Peru, Indonesia, Mexico, and India.

## South Africa's plagued by spam SMSes

For spam SMSes, this changes dramatically.

## Top 20 Countries Affected by Spam SMS in 2019



While Ethiopia now takes the cake as the country most plagued by spam SMSes, South Africa ranks second with 114 messages received monthly, or four per day. That's just five less per month than Ethiopia.

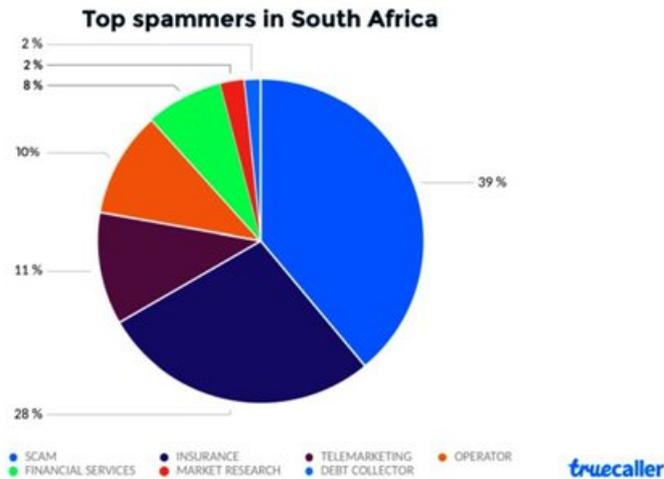
We're [so close to winning another thing in 2019](#), guys.

### Scam calls are big and getting bigger in SA

As for firms responsible for those spam calls, look no further than scammers who laid claim to 39% of all flagged calls.

Truecaller notes that these scam calls consist of tech-support fraud, job offer scams, and what it calls "one ring scam".

The latter uses "an unknown number (usually an international number) [that] gives you a missed call and when you call them back you get charged a hefty fee for calling to that number," the company explained.



“Lately, there have been complaints about insurance companies calling people to upsell car insurance — or scammers calling pretending that your car has been towed away and that you need to pay a fee to get it back,” it added.

This number seems high, sure, but considering that Malaysia (63%) and Australia (60%) both experience a much higher share of scam calls than most, we’re doing alright.

The remaining 61% of spam calls in South Africa consists of insurance sellers (28%), telemarketers (11%), and spam directly from your favourite mobile operators (10%).

## ABOUT ANDY WALKER

Camper by day, run-and-gunner by night, Andy is editor at Merneburn and prefers his toast like his coffee -- dark and crunchy. Specialising in spotting the next big Instagram cat star, Andy also dabbles in smartphone and game reviews over on Gearburn.

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