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U.S. EDITION Thursday, October 4, 2012 As of 3:26 PM PDT

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WSJ BLOGS

November 17, 2011, 2:51 PM

Would-Be iPhone Customers Still Facing Weeks-Long Waits

Article

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By Greg Bensinger



More than a month after the Apple iPhone 4S went on sale, the three largest U.S. wireless carriers are still struggling to keep up with customer demand for it.

Verizon Wireless customers may have to wait more than three weeks for the device, according to the carrier's website. That compares with as much as 21 days at AT&T and up to 14 days at Sprint Nextel. While some tech blogs have suggested Apple's manufacturing isn't keeping pace, the carriers point to unexpectedly strong demand for the handset.



Tony Avelar/Bloomberg

An advertisement for the Apple Inc. iPhone 4S is displayed at a Sprint Nextel Corp. store in Palo Alto, Calif.

"We are having some supply issues in the sense that demand's huge," AT&T's president of emerging devices, Glenn Lurie, said Wednesday. "We have had just record-breaking sales on it."

The carriers are relying on the device to goose contract subscriber growth this quarter. Verizon Wireless and AT&T both reported slowdowns in iPhone activations in the most recent quarter, saying the more modest results were due to customers delaying action in anticipation

of the latest model's release.

U.S. retail sales rose 0.5% in October, beating expectations, and many economists said the fifth consecutive monthly increase for the indicator was due in part to the Oct. 14 introduction of the iPhone 4S model. The introduction helped spur a 3.7% increase in electronics sales. Apple may sell as many as 27 million iPhones globally in its fiscal first quarter, estimates Morgan Keegan analyst Tavis McCourt.

For Sprint, the device gives it an opportunity to boost contract subscriber rolls for the just the second three-month period since 2007. The Overland Park, Kan.-based carrier

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has shed 259,000 postpaid users this year, compared with gains of 712,000 at AT&T and 3 million for Verizon Wireless.

Jennifer Fritzsche, a Wells Fargo analyst, estimates Sprint could add 303,000 postpaid customers in the fourth quarter, largely on the strength of the iPhone.

A spokeswoman for Verizon Wireless, Brenda Raney, said the carrier is working with Apple to increase its inventory of iPhone 4S models. "Not only was the iPhone 4S popular when it was introduced, but the popularity continues to build," she said. "We don't want to keep our customers waiting for their purchases."

"iPhone 4S is off to a great start with more than 4 million sold in its first weekend—the most ever for a phone and more than double the iPhone 4 launch during its first three days," said Natalie Harrison, an Apple spokeswoman. She didn't provide additional comment.

Mark Siegel, an AT&T spokesman, said the carrier is able to get the device out to customers within 10 days in many cases. A representative for Sprint had no immediate comment.

The carriers disclose sales results only as part of their quarterly earnings reports.

Apple Chief Executive Tim Cook said last month he expects to set a record for iPhone sales in the current quarter. "We are working hard to get iPhone 4S in customers' hands as quickly as possible," Cook told analysts.

Wireless customers in the southeastern U.S. have another option if they want the device sooner, regional carrier C Spire Wireless. The company, with about 1 million customers, has no reported shipping delays for the 4S.

Apple, AT&T, iPhone, Sprint Nextel, Verizon

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12:28 am May 29, 2012

Gottfried wrote :

I think it's a game by Apple to create a demand on its new iphone ! Still, don't think that the device is really deserve to be in same levels as the ones launched recently by Samsung or HTC. <http://www.carshq.org/>

6:26 am March 12, 2012

mmniscyw wrote :

Though a sequel for "The Muppets" has been greenlit, a single star who was integral to bringing the franchise into the new millennium will not be a element of it, reports Collider. Jason Segel told the site he won't be signing up for another round with Kermit and Co. "It's true [that I won't be in the sequel]," mentioned Segel, "but it is totally amicable. My target was to bring the Muppets back and I did that, leaving them in quite good hands." Segel mentioned he desires "to pursue far more human-related projects," adding, "All I wanted to do was to set the stage for them to do whatever they wanted. I am certain I'll return in some capacity here and there, but that was half a decade of my life. 5 years of challenging work. I am prepared for somewhat puppet break."

4:23 am March 9, 2012

jaoepsce wrote :

Europe's top rated human rights watchdog has urged Germany to stop providing sexual offenders the alternative of surgical castration. The Council of Europe's anti-torture committee stated inside a report issued Wednesday that the practice, which aims to assist convicted sex criminals rein in their sex drives and lower their risk of reoffending, could easily be regarded as "degrading remedy." According to Germany's 1969 Law on Voluntary Castration, an individual over the age of 25 might be subjected to surgical castration if he "displays an abnormal sex drive, which ... gives purpose to suspect that he will commit 1 or far more criminal offenses." The controversial process is not mandatory plus a consensual offender can only have the operation after becoming informed of all the implications from the decision and following medical approval has been obtained, Germany stated in its response, adding that it would think about reviewing the issue. But Berlin also cited the treatment's effectiveness, saying that with the 104 people that underwent the procedure in the 1970s, only three men and women committed sexual crimes once again. Nearly half from the 53 others who refused or had been denied remedy eventually reoffended. Voluntary castration is still quite rare in Germany, with fewer than five situations per year inside the last decade. The only other nation within the 47-nation bloc in the Council of Europe that offers the procedure is the Czech Republic, which has also been the topic of criticism in recent years for allowing sex offenders to opt for castration, a procedure it uses far much more regularly than Germany.

12:04 pm February 23, 2012

Larissa wrote :

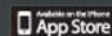
Hi Nancy Thanks for the qtisueon! To answer it, yes, the BlackBerry Bold 9000 on AT T does support OnMyWay. 😊 For a list of other devices that OnMyWay support, please follow this link: Best,Kenji

12:25 pm February 21, 2012

Reinhard wrote :

If this ridiculous deal goes through, Sprint will be the only low-priced post-paid national wireless carrier left in the United States. T-Mobile customers are already fleeing to Sprint because they know they won't get low prices from AT&T or Verizon. But AT&T and Verizon are two of the top corporate lobbyists in the country, so beware of how things could "mysteriously" turn in this case. <http://www.101realestate.net/>

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