

STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL TUESDAY 2 JULY 2019 AT 00:01 AM

2019's Worldwide Broadband Speed League unveiled – UK remains in bottom third of EU states

- 276 million broadband speed tests conducted across 207 countries reveal UK broadband speeds are behind 33 other – predominantly European – countries, gaining little to no ground in the 12 months since our last report. The UK ranks 34th overall, one spot behind Madagascar
- At 22.37Mbps, the UK lags behind 24 other European countries, 18 of them in the EU (putting the UK in the bottom third of EU member states), but comes ahead of 173 other countries globally, including Italy, Austria and Russia
- The Republic of Ireland has made substantial gains this year, surpassing the UK average for the first time since measurements began in 2016, coming in 29th place, up an impressive seven places from last year
- Taiwan has eclipsed Singapore this year to rank as the world's fastest country/territory, with average speeds of 85.02Mbps, with Yemen coming in last for the third year in a row at an average speed of just 0.38Mbps
- Global broadband speed has risen from 9.14Mbps in the 12 months to 10 May 2018 to 11.03Mbps in the 12 months to 8 May 2019 – a year-on-year increase of 20.65%, compared to a year-on-year increase of 23.35% during the previous period (2016-2017)
- You can download the full set of results as an Excel spreadsheet via [our dedicated research page](#)
- Once the embargo passes the data may be considered public domain. However, use of our research must, unless contrary to publication policy, must include a link to [the source page for this research](#)

Tuesday 2 July 2019: Analysis of over 276m broadband speed tests worldwide has revealed that the UK sits in 34th place, with an average speed of 22.37Mbps. The research was designed and compiled by Cable.co.uk, and the data gathered by M-Lab, an open source project with contributors from civil society organisations, educational institutions, and private sector companies. M-Lab is led by teams based at Code for Science and Society, New America's

Open Technology Institute, Google, Princeton University's PlanetLab, and other supporting partners.

The UK manages to trump 165 other countries, yet falls behind 33 others, coming in behind 24 European countries, 18 of which are in the European Union (EU). This puts the UK in the bottom third of EU member states when it comes to average broadband speed, gaining no ground on other EU states since the measurements were taken last year.

Last year, the five fastest countries had download speeds around 88 times faster than the five slowest. That gap is widening. This year the top five are 125 times faster than the five slowest. Taiwan tops the table at 85.02Mbps, compared to Yemen, which is 224 times slower at just 0.38Mbps.

As seen in the league table, downloading an HD movie of 5GB in size would take eight minutes and two seconds at the average speed experienced in table-topper Taiwan, while it would take over 30 hours in last-placed Yemen.

37 of the top 50 fastest-performing countries are located in Europe, with ten in Asia & Pacific, two in North America, and just one in Africa. By contrast, 25 of the 50 slowest-performing countries are located in Africa, 12 in the Arab States with ten in Asia & Pacific, and three in South/Latin America.

141 countries failed to achieve average speeds above 10Mbps, a speed deemed by telecoms watchdog Ofcom to be the minimum required to cope with the needs of a typical family or small business.

Commenting on the worldwide implications, Dan Howdle, consumer telecoms analyst at Cable.co.uk, said: "With average broadband speeds rising by 20.65% in the last year the global picture looks rosy. But the truth is faster countries are the ones lifting the average, pulling away at speed and leaving the slowest to stagnate. Last year, we measured the slowest five countries at 88 times slower than the five fastest. This year they are 125 times slower.

"Europe and parts of Asia are dominating the leaderboard once again thanks to largely excellent infrastructure. In all cases, those countries ranking highest are those with a strong focus on pure fibre (FTTP) networks, with those countries dawdling too much on FTTC and ADSL solutions slipping further down year-on-year."

Talking specifically about the UK, Dan Howdle, consumer telecoms analyst at Cable.co.uk, said: "It's been very interesting looking at the data for a third year running. It's our largest data set ever, and the results are reassuringly consistent.

"The obvious correlation is that countries and territories with a heavier reliance on or ongoing investment in pure fibre (FTTP) networks, or are upgrading to fibre or LTE from even more aged technologies, continue to see their averages rise. Those that are somewhat late to that particular party, however, have gone largely unchanged.

"Take the Republic of Ireland, for example. Its heavy investment in FTTP has seen its average speeds rise far faster than the average this year, lifting it a highly respectable seven spots up the table. The UK, meanwhile, remains in the 'experimental' stage of FTTP provision, (outside of Virgin Media) offering ultrafast in test locations while making noises about national rollout in the coming years. As such, it has lifted only one spot, while (somewhat embarrassingly perhaps) remaining one place behind Madagascar, and in the bottom third of all EU nations.

"The UK has few excuses here. There is nothing especially challenging about UK geography when compared to that of our EU counterparts. The UK is simply arriving later to FTTP than many of those doing better in the global league. Ultimately, the UK must accelerate full fibre rollout if it is to remain a competitive digital economy – especially so as Brexit looms."

Speaking on behalf of M-Lab, Chris Ritzo, Program Management & Community Lead at Measurement Lab, said: "Cable.co.uk's annual internet speed ranking using M-Lab data is a great example of open data being used to encourage public understanding of broadband speeds people receive around the world. Average speed rankings by country are a great starting point, and are a great starting point for deeper research and statistical analysis of the state of broadband using M-Lab's global broadband measurement datasets."

Notes for editors

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involvement means that, without a traceable path back to the source, articles can and do begin appearing without crediting our work. Please consider this when deciding whether or not to link to the source in your article, news story, feature or white paper

- An interactive map, along with further insights and downloadable versions of the data set, our full research methodology, and this press release can be found on our the research source page
- Cable.co.uk analysed data collected by M-Lab in a 12 month period up to 7 May 2019, including 207 countries and territories. Some countries have been excluded from the study due to very low sample sizes
- For additional information concerning these results, please email Dan Howdle (dan@cable.co.uk). For technical queries concerning data extraction and testing methodology, please email Mark Ashton (mark@cable.co.uk). Note that it is not our remit to analyse or interpret results for specific countries outside of the UK, and requests to do so will go unanswered