



UK Broadband Speedtest Results April 2009

This press release gives the aggregated speedtest results from tests carried out by site users at www.broadband.co.uk for April 2009.

Average download & upload speeds - April 2009		
ISP	Average Download speed (Mbps)	Average Upload Speed (Mbps)
AOL	2.249	0.311
Be and O2*	6.045	0.777
BT	2.762	0.320
Eclipse	2.681	0.381
Orange	3.033	0.386
Plusnet	3.002	0.340
Sky	3.337	0.393
Talk Talk	3.413	0.471
Tiscali	2.742	0.343
Virgin Media	6.190	0.477
All providers	4.137	0.427

** Note that although O2 and Be share a common infrastructure they are separate trading entities*

The big news for April 2009 is that the average broadband speed has now broken through the 4Mbps mark for the first time.

During April 2009 Virgin Media have managed to retain their lead as the UK's fastest broadband supplier. However O2 have pulled their average speed up by around 0.5Mbps meaning they are just a small margin behind in second place.

Despite a small fall in average speed, Orange broadband hold their position as the fastest of those providers whose best deals are in the "Up to 8Mbps" category.



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Average download speeds split by time of day – April 2009			
ISP	Overnight (00:00 to 08:00) Average download speed (Mbps)	Daytime (08:00 to 18:00) Average download speed (Mbps)	Evening (18:00 to 00:00) Average download speed (Mbps)
AOL	2.059	2.472	1.936
Be and O2*	6.266	6.106	5.924
BT	2.971	3.010	2.436
Eclipse	2.888	2.889	2.193
Orange	3.605	2.830	3.226
Plusnet	3.275	3.025	2.922
Sky	3.734	3.376	3.213
Talk Talk	3.551	3.578	3.168
Tiscali	3.552	3.007	2.287
Virgin Media	6.874	6.551	5.637
All providers	4.760	4.300	3.800

Our average speed by time of day shows how the average broadband speed is heavily influenced by the time of day (and therefore likely level of network congestion).

The overnight levels show a significantly higher average speed than the evening peak period, with daytime use between the two. This clearly shows the effects of network congestion on the average broadband connection at peak hours.

O2 have held the top slot in the peak evening slot. Another result that stands out is the poor showing of Tiscali in the evening slot compared to a good overnight result, with a difference of around 1.3Mbps between the two.



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Percentage of maximum speed achieved by Suppliers

A new metric we are introducing this month is a comparison of providers by how much of the maximum speed that's available they achieve. When a speedtest is carried out with the user providing a postcode and a provider we check the maximum ADSL Max speed available and compare it with the speedtest result. This allows us to compile the following table:

ISP	Percentage of maximum ADSL Max speed achieved over all tests
AOL	52%
Be	112%
BT	57%
Eclipse	49%
O2	107%
Orange	57%
Plusnet	72%
Sky	74%
TalkTalk	74%
Tiscali	49%
Virgin Media – ADSL	88%
Virgin Media – fibre optic	124%
All suppliers	77%

As this test relies on users to select their own suppliers we can differentiate between O2 and Be, and also Virgin Media users using ADSL or fibre optic connections.

As some suppliers use ADSL2+ or fibre optic technology then they can achieve speed ratios of over 100% and this is to be expected.



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About the broadband.co.uk speedtest results

- Our results are taken from our website users performing speedtests using our speedchecker at <http://www.broadband.co.uk/broadband-speed-test/>
- We record tens of thousands of speedtests every month.
- Unlike other speedtest services we record the Internet Service Provider (ISP) by IP address making our ISP recording very accurate rather than relying on self selection
- We pick out the following ISP's for reporting every month
 - AOL
 - Be Broadband and O2 (O2 and Be are separate trading entities; however they share a common infrastructure)
 - BT
 - Eclipse
 - Orange
 - Plusnet
 - Sky
 - TalkTalk
 - Tiscali
 - Virgin

About [broadband.co.uk](http://www.broadband.co.uk)

- We are one of the original broadband information and comparison sites having been launched in 2004
- With well over 1 million visitors per year we are the UK's leading source of broadband information and advice
- We provide beginners guides to all areas of broadband along with discussion forums, speedtester and broadband postcode lookup functionality
- We provide a unique free "Ask the expert" service where our broadband expert answers any query related to broadband, technical, comparison and related

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