UK Broadband Speedtest Results February 2010

This press release gives the aggregated speedtest results from tests carried out by site users at www.broadband.co.uk for February 2010.

Average download & upload speeds – February 2010		
ISP	**Average Download speed (Mbps)**	**Average Upload Speed (Mbps)**
AOL	2.321	0.321
Be and O2*	5.204	0.709
BT	2.941	0.363
Eclipse	2.834	0.362
Orange	3.484	0.426
Plusnet	2.671	0.322
Sky	3.569	0.464
Talk Talk	3.765	0.487
Tiscali	2.837	0.335
TalkTalk/Tiscali combined	3.441	0.435
Virgin Media	8.249	0.559
All providers	**4.659**	**0.463**

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

Virgin media have become the first broadband supplier to break through the 8Mbps barrier posting an impressive 8.249Mbps average which is a clear 3Mbps above their nearest rival O2/Be.

Overall the average of all suppliers sets a new record average speed, reaching 4.659Mbps.

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Average download speeds split by time of day – February 2010			
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	2.848	2.479	2.081
Be and O2*	5.773	5.540	4.860
BT	3.190	3.170	2.698
Eclipse	2.863	3.023	2.496
Orange	4.095	3.694	3.169
Plusnet	2.654	2.669	2.676
Sky	3.914	3.618	3.507
Talk Talk	4.301	3.927	3.494
Tiscali	2.774	2.880	2.825
TalkTalk/Tiscali combined	3.820	3.570	3.258
Virgin Media	10.362	8.953	7.438
All providers	5.525	4.860	4.393

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.

Virgin become the first supplier ever to get into double figures for a time period pulling an average of over 10Mbps during the overnight period.

UK Broadband Speedtest Results February 2010

Average throughput achieved by Suppliers

When a user has carried out a speedtest and provided us with their postcode we can work out the throughput as a percentage of the maximum speed we would expect them to achieve. So a user we expect to have a maximum speed of 4Mbps and who tests as 4Mbps gets a 100% throughput result.

ISP	Average throughput (as % of expected maximum speed)
AOL	56%
Be	124%
BT	70%
Eclipse	73%
O2	110%
Orange	71%
Plusnet	57%
Sky	81%
TalkTalk	79%
Tiscali	62%
Virgin Media – ADSL	111%
Virgin Media – fibre optic	174%
All suppliers	95%

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
  - Tiscali and Talk Talk combined (as TalkTalk purchased Tiscali and began merging the brands in January 2010).
  - Virgin

About 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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