

UK broadband speed test results March 2021

This press release gives the aggregated speed test results from the hundreds of thousands of tests carried out by users of broadband.co.uk during March 2021.

Fixed line home broadband providers

Average fixed line download & upload speeds (Mbps) – March 2021						
Rank	Was	Broadband Provider	Average Download		Average Upload	
			Speed	Change	Speed	Change
-	-	All home broadband	50.66	+1.28	11.06	+0.6
1	1	Virgin Media	110.08	+4.59	14.88	+0.61
2	2	BT	47.69	+4.49	11.43	+1.16
3	3	Vodafone Home	41.86	+1.36	11.57	+0.3
4 ▲	8	Daisy / SSE	31.79	+12.53	14.21	+6.62
5 ▲	6	EE Home	31.4	+3.23	7.88	+0.8
6 ▼	4	Sky / NOW Broadband	30.7	+1.37	7.94	+0.33
7 ▼	5	TalkTalk	29.92	+1.47	7.11	+0.26
8 ▼	7	Plusnet / John Lewis	25.43	-0.04	6.17	-0.03

Overall, the average download speeds across all fixed line providers increased by 1.28Mbps to 50.66Mbps since last month, with upload speeds increasing by 0.6Mbps to 11.06Mbps.

Consumer mobile broadband providers

Average mobile download & upload speeds (Mbps) – March 2021						
Rank	Was	Broadband Provider	Average Download		Average Upload	
			Speed	Change	Speed	Change
-	-	All mobile broadband	32.91	+1.92	8.22	-0.41
1	1	EE Mobile	36.26	+0.54	9.12	-0.08
2 ▲	3	Three Mobile	34.04	+5.59	7.6	+0.01
3 ▼	2	Vodafone Mobile	32.82	-2.2	8.45	-2.1
4	4	O2 Mobile	14.41	-1.95	3.84	-0.74

Overall, the average download speeds across all mobile broadband providers increased by 1.92Mbps to 32.91Mbps since last month, with upload speeds decreasing by 0.41Mbps to 8.22Mbps.

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Combined home and mobile broadband rankings

Average broadband download & upload speeds (Mbps) – March 2021						
Rank	Was	Broadband Provider	Average Download		Average Upload	
			Speed	Change	Speed	Change
-	-	All home broadband	50.66	+1.28	11.06	+0.6
-	-	All mobile broadband	32.91	+1.92	8.22	-0.41
1	1	Virgin Media	110.08	+4.59	14.88	+0.61
2	2	BT	47.69	+4.49	11.43	+1.16
3	3	Vodafone Home	41.86	+1.36	11.57	+0.3
4	4	EE Mobile	36.26	+0.54	9.12	-0.08
5 ▲	8	Three Mobile	34.04	+5.59	7.6	+0.01
6 ▼	5	Vodafone Mobile	32.82	-2.2	8.45	-2.1
7 ▲	11	Daisy / SSE	31.79	+12.53	14.21	+6.62
8 ▲	9	EE Home	31.4	+3.23	7.88	+0.8
9 ▼	6	Sky / NOW Broadband	30.7	+1.37	7.94	+0.33
10 ▼	7	TalkTalk	29.92	+1.47	7.11	+0.26
11 ▼	10	Plusnet / John Lewis	25.43	-0.04	6.17	-0.03
12	12	O2 Mobile	14.41	-1.95	3.84	-0.74

Overall speed performance of consumer mobile broadband is roughly comparable to that of many fixed line broadband providers. However, only 7.79% of the speed tests performed in March 2021 took place over a mobile broadband connection.

While the availability of the fastest mobile data transfer protocols varies with location, and some tests will be performed on 3G or even 2.5G GPRS connections, the same is true for fixed line broadband providers whose flagship products may not be available in rural and remote areas, or may not be adopted by consumers preferring cheaper speed-limited alternatives.

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Combined UK broadband rankings by upload speed

Average broadband upload & download speeds (Mbps) – March 2021						
Rank	Was	Broadband Provider	Average Upload		Average Download	
			Speed	Change	Speed	Change
-	-	All home broadband	11.06	+0.6	50.66	+1.28
-	-	All mobile broadband	8.22	-0.41	32.91	+1.92
1	1	Virgin Media	14.88	+0.61	110.08	+4.59
2 ▲	8	Daisy / SSE	14.21	+6.62	31.79	+12.53
3 ▼	2	Vodafone Home	11.57	+0.3	41.86	+1.36
4	4	BT	11.43	+1.16	47.69	+4.49
5	5	EE Mobile	9.12	-0.08	36.26	+0.54
6 ▼	3	Vodafone Mobile	8.45	-2.1	32.82	-2.2
7 ▼	6	Sky / NOW Broadband	7.94	+0.33	30.7	+1.37
8 ▲	9	EE Home	7.88	+0.8	31.4	+3.23
9 ▼	7	Three Mobile	7.6	+0.01	34.04	+5.59
10	10	TalkTalk	7.11	+0.26	29.92	+1.47
11	11	Plusnet / John Lewis	6.17	-0.03	25.43	-0.04
12	12	O2 Mobile	3.84	-0.74	14.41	-1.95

While most UK broadband providers place much less marketing emphasis on upload speeds, this is an increasingly important factor in broadband satisfaction. As more and more storage moves to the cloud, being unable to quickly save or sync to servers on the internet increasingly impacts the user experience in apps. This is even more important to those who work from home, or who create online video content.

In March 2021 average fixed line broadband download speed was 4.58 times faster than upload speed, while mobile broadband downloads averaged at 4 times the speed achieved for mobile uploads.

The rollout and increasing adoption of full fibre broadband services will see the gap between download and upload performance shrink, especially from providers offering symmetric services.

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Consumer broadband download speeds - time of day

Average download speeds (Mbps) split by time of day – March 2021				
Broadband Provider	Overnight (00:00 to 07:59)	Daytime (08:00 to 17:59)	Evening (18:00 to 23:59)	Overall (00:00 to 23:59)
All home broadband	53.05	49.91	51.53	50.66
All mobile broadband	44.11	32.54	30.65	32.91
Virgin Media	119.82	106.82	113.68	110.08
BT	45.98	47.78	47.99	47.69
Vodafone Home	61.84	41.95	38.47	41.86
EE Mobile	46.16	34.91	36.47	36.26
Three Mobile	38.03	35.3	30.79	34.04
EE Home	28.54	32.05	30.83	31.4
Sky / NOW Broadband	31.46	31.35	29.37	30.7
TalkTalk	32.14	29.8	29.5	29.92
Plusnet / John Lewis	24.66	25.5	25.48	25.43

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

Fixed line broadband advertised speeds are now based on the speed achieved by 50% of customers during peak evening hours of 8pm to 10pm.

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Supplemental UK broadband providers

Average download & upload speeds (Mbps) – March 2021		
Broadband Provider	Average Download	Average Upload
Zen	50.2	19.88
TalkTalk Business	31.93	8.42
Post Office (rural/remote)	17.04	3.61
Gigaclear	118.49	91.24
Hyperoptic	129.02	101.7
Virgin Media Business	59	11.77
Vodafone Wholesale	38.32	15.66
Community Fibre	173.09	102.11
Eclipse/KCOM Business	27.09	7.83
KCOM	108.26	31.5

Here we list additional fixed line broadband providers with fewer customers making use of our speed test. All providers listed have sufficient test numbers across the month to make average speeds statistically significant, but not enough tests to be split by time of day. The lower down the list, the less confident we are about the overall accuracy of the average results.

It should be noted that some of these supplemental ISPs, such as Zen, primarily supply broadband to the business market, and so may utilize technologies not available to the vast majority of home broadband users.

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Expanded UK broadband download speed rankings

Average download & upload speeds (Mbps) – March 2021			
Rank	Broadband Provider	Average Download	Average Upload
1	Community Fibre	173.09	102.11
2	Hyperoptic	129.02	101.7
3	Gigaclear	118.49	91.24
4	Virgin Media	110.08	14.88
5	KCOM	108.26	31.5
6	Virgin Media Business	59	11.77
7	Zen	50.2	19.88
8	BT	47.69	11.43
9	Vodafone Home	41.86	11.57
10	Vodafone Wholesale	38.32	15.66
11	EE Mobile	36.26	9.12
12	Three Mobile	34.04	7.6
13	Vodafone Mobile	32.82	8.45
14	TalkTalk Business	31.93	8.42
15	Daisy / SSE	31.79	14.21
16	EE Home	31.4	7.88
17	Sky / NOW Broadband	30.7	7.94
18	TalkTalk	29.92	7.11
19	Eclipse/KCOM Business	27.09	7.83
20	Plusnet / John Lewis	25.43	6.17
21	Post Office (rural/remote)	17.04	3.61
22	O2 Mobile	14.41	3.84

UK broadband speed test results March 2021

Expanded UK broadband upload speed rankings

Average upload & download speeds (Mbps) – March 2021			
Rank	Broadband Provider	Average Upload	Average Download
1	Community Fibre	102.11	173.09
2	Hyperoptic	101.7	129.02
3	Gigaclear	91.24	118.49
4	KCOM	31.5	108.26
5	Zen	19.88	50.2
6	Vodafone Wholesale	15.66	38.32
7	Virgin Media	14.88	110.08
8	Daisy / SSE	14.21	31.79
9	Virgin Media Business	11.77	59
10	Vodafone Home	11.57	41.86
11	BT	11.43	47.69
12	EE Mobile	9.12	36.26
13	Vodafone Mobile	8.45	32.82
14	TalkTalk Business	8.42	31.93
15	Sky / NOW Broadband	7.94	30.7
16	EE Home	7.88	31.4
17	Eclipse/KCOM Business	7.83	27.09
18	Three Mobile	7.6	34.04
19	TalkTalk	7.11	29.92
20	Plusnet / John Lewis	6.17	25.43
21	O2 Mobile	3.84	14.41
22	Post Office (rural/remote)	3.61	17.04

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About the Broadband.co.uk speed test results

- Our results are taken from our website users performing speed tests using our speed checker at <https://www.broadband.co.uk/broadband-speedtest/>
- We record hundreds of thousands of speed tests every month
- Unlike other speed test services we record the Internet Service Provider (ISP) by IP address making our ISP recording very accurate rather than relying on self selection. Certain ISPs resell their services as a wholesale or white label product, in these cases the wholesale ISP is matched
- We pick out the following 'big 8' fixed line ISPs for detailed reporting every month:
 - **BT wholesale network** (used by several suppliers outside their own low cost network areas)
 - **Daisy wholesale network** (used by SSE and Fleur)
 - **EE** (excluding 4G mobile broadband)
 - **Plusnet wholesale network** (used by John Lewis)
 - **Sky** (also sold as NOW Broadband)
 - **TalkTalk wholesale network** (used by suppliers such as Utility Warehouse, Post Office Broadband and First Utility)
 - **Virgin Media**
 - **Vodafone**
- As our test is one of the few that will run on mobile devices and tablets, we're also able to report on the following mobile broadband networks:
 - **EE** (used by Virgin Mobile, Plusnet Mobile, Asda Mobile and Phone Co-Op)
 - **O2** (used by Tesco Mobile, Sky Mobile, TalkTalk Mobile and giffgaff)
 - **Three** (used by Superdrug Mobile, TPO Mobile and FreedomPop)
 - **Vodafone** (used by Talkmobile)

About Broadband.co.uk

- Our broadband price comparison is accredited by Ofcom as open, honest and transparent
- We are one of the original broadband information and comparison sites having been launched in 2004
- With millions of visitors each year we are one of the UK's leading sources of broadband information and advice
- We provide beginners guides to all areas of broadband along with detailed buyers guides to the major broadband providers, speed tester and broadband postcode look-up functionality
- We provide a free advice service where our broadband expert answers queries related to broadband, technical, comparison and related

For more information contact Fiona Conner via email at press@broadband.co.uk