

UK broadband speed test results October 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 October 2021.

Fixed line home broadband providers

Average fixed line download & upload speeds (Mbps) – October 2021						
Rank	Was	Broadband Provider	Average Download		Average Upload	
			Speed	Change	Speed	Change
-	-	All home broadband	58.96	+1.76	13.74	+0.66
1	1	Virgin Media	126.57	+9.05	16.86	+0.83
2	2	Zen Broadband	54.48	-12.64	19.66	-5.21
3	3	BT	53.62	+2.68	12.76	+0.49
4	4	Vodafone Home	42.13	-1.16	12.5	+0.47
5	5	Sky / NOW Broadband	39.4	+0.35	10.35	-0.03
6	6	TalkTalk	34.01	+0.39	8.97	+0.33
7	7	EE Home	29.94	-0.43	7.35	+0.03
8	8	Plusnet / John Lewis	25.71	+0.17	5.99	-0.21

Overall, the average download speeds across all fixed line providers increased by 1.75Mbps to 58.96Mbps since last month, with upload speeds increasing by 0.66Mbps to 13.74Mbps.

Consumer mobile broadband providers

Average mobile download & upload speeds (Mbps) – October 2021						
Rank	Was	Broadband Provider	Average Download		Average Upload	
			Speed	Change	Speed	Change
-	-	All mobile broadband	38.06	+3.18	8.12	+0.32
1 ▲	2	EE Mobile	45.92	+13.13	10.06	+2.26
2 ▼	1	Three Mobile	34.54	-5.04	6.77	-1.04
3	3	Vodafone Mobile	30.34	+1.69	6.68	-0.5
4	4	O2 Mobile	18.14	+0.34	4.72	+0.19

Overall, the average download speeds across all mobile broadband providers increased by 3.18Mbps to 38.06Mbps since last month, with upload speeds increasing by 0.32Mbps to 8.12Mbps.

UK broadband speed test results October 2021

Combined home and mobile broadband rankings

Average broadband download & upload speeds (Mbps) – October 2021						
Rank	Was	Broadband Provider	Average Download		Average Upload	
			Speed	Change	Speed	Change
-	-	All home broadband	58.96	+1.76	13.74	+0.66
-	-	All mobile broadband	38.06	+3.18	8.12	+0.32
1	1	Virgin Media	126.57	+9.05	16.86	+0.83
2	2	Zen Broadband	54.48	-12.64	19.66	-5.21
3	3	BT	53.62	+2.68	12.76	+0.49
4 ▲	8	EE Mobile	45.92	+13.13	10.06	+2.26
5 ▼	4	Vodafone Home	42.13	-1.16	12.5	+0.47
6	6	Sky / NOW Broadband	39.4	+0.35	10.35	-0.03
7 ▼	5	Three Mobile	34.54	-5.04	6.77	-1.04
8 ▼	7	TalkTalk	34.01	+0.39	8.97	+0.33
9 ▲	10	Vodafone Mobile	30.34	+1.69	6.68	-0.5
10 ▼	9	EE Home	29.94	-0.43	7.35	+0.03
11	11	Plusnet / John Lewis	25.71	+0.17	5.99	-0.21
12	12	O2 Mobile	18.14	+0.34	4.72	+0.19

Overall speed performance of consumer mobile broadband is roughly comparable to that of many fixed line broadband providers. However, only 8.27% of the speed tests performed in October 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.

UK broadband speed test results October 2021

Combined UK broadband rankings by upload speed

Average broadband upload & download speeds (Mbps) – October 2021						
Rank	Was	Broadband Provider	Average Upload		Average Download	
			Speed	Change	Speed	Change
-	-	All home broadband	13.74	+0.66	58.96	+1.76
-	-	All mobile broadband	8.12	+0.32	38.06	+3.18
1	1	Zen Broadband	19.66	-5.21	54.48	-12.64
2	2	Virgin Media	16.86	+0.83	126.57	+9.05
3	3	BT	12.76	+0.49	53.62	+2.68
4	4	Vodafone Home	12.5	+0.47	42.13	-1.16
5	5	Sky / NOW Broadband	10.35	-0.03	39.4	+0.35
6 ▲	8	EE Mobile	10.06	+2.26	45.92	+13.13
7 ▼	6	TalkTalk	8.97	+0.33	34.01	+0.39
8 ▲	9	EE Home	7.35	+0.03	29.94	-0.43
9 ▼	7	Three Mobile	6.77	-1.04	34.54	-5.04
10	10	Vodafone Mobile	6.68	-0.5	30.34	+1.69
11	11	Plusnet / John Lewis	5.99	-0.21	25.71	+0.17
12	12	O2 Mobile	4.72	+0.19	18.14	+0.34

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 October 2021 average fixed line broadband download speed was 4.29 times faster than upload speed, while mobile broadband downloads averaged at 4.69 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.

UK broadband speed test results October 2021

Consumer broadband download speeds - time of day

Average download speeds (Mbps) split by time of day – October 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	59.87	58.42	59.85	58.96
All mobile broadband	67.91	35.02	31.54	38.06
Virgin Media	129.93	123.05	133.19	126.57
BT	58.45	53.74	51.53	53.62
EE Mobile	101.22	38.4	39.26	45.92
Vodafone Home	39.07	43.56	40.37	42.13
Sky / NOW Broadband	43.26	37.89	41.34	39.4
Three Mobile	48.97	34.47	28.36	34.54
TalkTalk	33.92	33.73	34.66	34.01
EE Home	32.27	29.76	29.53	29.94
Plusnet / John Lewis	28.77	24.98	26.05	25.71

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.

UK broadband speed test results October 2021

Supplemental UK broadband providers

Average download & upload speeds (Mbps) – October 2021		
Broadband Provider	Average Download	Average Upload
Gigaclear	107.59	93.1
TalkTalk Business	32.84	8.41
Post Office	20.78	3.76
Hyperoptic	147.32	124.09
Vodafone Wholesale	43.04	17.86
Virgin Media Business	77.88	18.3
Daisy	38.98	22
RM Broadband	96.59	75.91
KCOM	143.26	41.54
Fibrus	98.32	38.65

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.

UK broadband speed test results October 2021

Expanded UK broadband download speed rankings

Average download & upload speeds (Mbps) – October 2021			
Rank	Broadband Provider	Average Download	Average Upload
1	Hyperoptic	147.32	124.09
2	KCOM	143.26	41.54
3	Virgin Media	126.57	16.86
4	Gigaclear	107.59	93.1
5	Fibrus	98.32	38.65
6	RM Broadband	96.59	75.91
7	Virgin Media Business	77.88	18.3
8	Zen Broadband	54.48	19.66
9	BT	53.62	12.76
10	EE Mobile	45.92	10.06
11	Vodafone Wholesale	43.04	17.86
12	Vodafone Home	42.13	12.5
13	Sky / NOW Broadband	39.4	10.35
14	Daisy	38.98	22
15	Three Mobile	34.54	6.77
16	TalkTalk	34.01	8.97
17	TalkTalk Business	32.84	8.41
18	Vodafone Mobile	30.34	6.68
19	EE Home	29.94	7.35
20	Plusnet / John Lewis	25.71	5.99
21	Post Office	20.78	3.76
22	O2 Mobile	18.14	4.72

UK broadband speed test results October 2021

Expanded UK broadband upload speed rankings

Average upload & download speeds (Mbps) – October 2021			
Rank	Broadband Provider	Average Upload	Average Download
1	Hyperoptic	124.09	147.32
2	Gigaclear	93.1	107.59
3	RM Broadband	75.91	96.59
4	KCOM	41.54	143.26
5	Fibrus	38.65	98.32
6	Daisy	22	38.98
7	Zen Broadband	19.66	54.48
8	Virgin Media Business	18.3	77.88
9	Vodafone Wholesale	17.86	43.04
10	Virgin Media	16.86	126.57
11	BT	12.76	53.62
12	Vodafone Home	12.5	42.13
13	Sky / NOW Broadband	10.35	39.4
14	EE Mobile	10.06	45.92
15	TalkTalk	8.97	34.01
16	TalkTalk Business	8.41	32.84
17	EE Home	7.35	29.94
18	Three Mobile	6.77	34.54
19	Vodafone Mobile	6.68	30.34
20	Plusnet / John Lewis	5.99	25.71
21	O2 Mobile	4.72	18.14
22	Post Office	3.76	20.78

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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)
 - **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**
 - **Zen**
- 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 Chris Said via email at press@broadband.co.uk