

The State of Broadband

A Comprehensive Overview

July 2023



The State of Broadband

Welcome to our second edition of the State of Broadband Report – We provide a unique insight into the latest broadband statistics across the UK and intend to continue publishing quarterly updates. We will be tracking progress of key indicators and the wider broadband market.

In this edition, we will be updating the state of the nations, fibre coverage and progress towards the UK government Project Gigabit targets, with English regional breakdowns including the best and worst local authorities for full fibre coverage, as well as a snapshot of the average prices of consumer fibre packages and more.

Since March 2023 – The last report talked about the impending double digit price increases due out in April which saw many mainstream providers increase their costs, whilst other alt-nets used the opportunity to promise no mid-contract price increases. Given the rate of inflation at the time, customers of alt-nets were certainly grateful for this real terms price reduction.

Unless otherwise stated the data in this report was extracted between 16 and 21 July 2023 following the end of Q2/2023.

Please visit <https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local> for the most up-to-date data for your area.



About thinkbroadband

thinkbroadband is the UK's leading source of broadband news and analysis and home to the UK's largest community of users looking to get the most out of their home broadband. Run by a small team passionate about all things connectivity, we are independent of broadband providers and offer listings to any provider who meets our listing criteria, not based on whether they pay a commission.

Over the past two decades, we have created a wide range of free tools to help consumers understand how to make the most out of their broadband connection including speed tests, broadband maps, local broadband statistics, and our one-second resolution broadband quality monitor.

We have also developed a range of industry-specific solutions, such as our broadband availability API. This tool is designed to assist websites requiring information on broadband service availability in a particular area, enabling them to power their own services and deliver their users with accurate comparison listings.



thinkbroadband.com



[@thinkbroadband](https://twitter.com/thinkbroadband)

State of the Nations

Quarterly Statistics



Current UK FTTP ("full fibre") Coverage



FTTP 85% prediction

Aug 2025 🕒 Delay

FTTP 100% prediction

July 2026 🕒 No change




Current UK Gigabit Coverage



Gigabit 85% prediction




Sept 2024 🕒 No change

Data: July 2023; includes households and business premises

| Country |  Superfast Coverage 30 Mbps+ |  Gigabit Coverage (FTTP or DOCSIS 3.1) |  Full Fibre (FTTP) Coverage |
|------------------|--|--|---|
| England | <div><div></div></div> 97.9% | <div><div></div></div> 77.5% | <div><div></div></div> 52.6% |
| Wales | <div><div></div></div> 96.8% | <div><div></div></div> 62.7% | <div><div></div></div> 52.7% |
| Scotland | <div><div></div></div> 95.7% | <div><div></div></div> 70.3% | <div><div></div></div> 48.5% |
| Northern Ireland | <div><div></div></div> 96.8% | <div><div></div></div> 93.3% | <div><div></div></div> 92.6% |

Source: labs.thinkbroadband.com

English Region Breakdown

| English Region |  Superfast Coverage 30 Mbps+ |  Gigabit Coverage (FTTP or DOCSIS 3.1) |  Full Fibre (FTTP) Coverage |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| South East | <div><div></div></div> 97.9% | <div><div></div></div> 75.7% | <div><div></div></div> 50.7% |
| London | <div><div></div></div> 98.4% | <div><div></div></div> 88.4% | <div><div></div></div> 59.5% |
| North West | <div><div></div></div> 98.3% | <div><div></div></div> 78.2% | <div><div></div></div> 52.7% |
| East of England | <div><div></div></div> 98.1% | <div><div></div></div> 72.8% | <div><div></div></div> 48.9% |
| South West | <div><div></div></div> 96.5% | <div><div></div></div> 68.4% | <div><div></div></div> 52.3% |
| West Midlands | <div><div></div></div> 98.3% | <div><div></div></div> 80.7% | <div><div></div></div> 47.7% |
| Yorkshire and Humber | <div><div></div></div> 97.9% | <div><div></div></div> 78.6% | <div><div></div></div> 62.4% |
| East Midlands | <div><div></div></div> 97.9% | <div><div></div></div> 74.8% | <div><div></div></div> 49.8% |
| North East | <div><div></div></div> 97.8% | <div><div></div></div> 73.9% | <div><div></div></div> 42.5% |

Winners & Losers

Top 20 best and 10 worst local authorities for FTTP coverage. We also include a date for 85% and 100% FTTP prediction. Note that this is strictly 'full fibre' and areas with low fibre (which is future proof) may still receive Virgin Media 1Gbps services over DOCSIS 3.1.



↑ Top 20 Authorities by Full Fibre Rollout

| Authority | Code | Full Fibre % | 85% FTTP Prediction | 100% FTTP Prediction |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| City of Kingston upon Hull | E06000010 | <div><div></div></div> 99.7% | Achieved | - |
| Belfast | N09000003 | <div><div></div></div> 95.4% | Achieved | August 2026 |
| Mourne and Down | N09000010 | <div><div></div></div> 95.1% | Achieved | December 2023 |
| Coventry District | E08000026 | <div><div></div></div> 94.2% | Achieved | February 2026 |
| Ards and North Down | N09000011 | <div><div></div></div> 93.7% | Achieved | September 2025 |
| Milton Keynes | E06000042 | <div><div></div></div> 93.1% | Achieved | January 2027 |
| Lisburn and Castlereagh | N09000007 | <div><div></div></div> 93.1% | Achieved | September 2024 |
| Antrim and Newtownabbey | N09000001 | <div><div></div></div> 92.8% | Achieved | October 2024 |
| Derry and Strabane | N09000005 | <div><div></div></div> 92.6% | Achieved | June 2025 |
| Mid and East Antrim | N09000008 | <div><div></div></div> 91.9% | Achieved | October 2024 |
| Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon | N09000002 | <div><div></div></div> 91.8% | Achieved | May 2024 |
| Causeway Coast and Glens | N09000004 | <div><div></div></div> 91.6% | Achieved | May 2024 |
| Mid Ulster | N09000009 | <div><div></div></div> 89.9% | Achieved | March 2024 |
| City of Peterborough | E06000031 | <div><div></div></div> 89.6% | Achieved | February 2028 |
| Hyndburn District | E07000120 | <div><div></div></div> 88.8% | Achieved | September 2023 |
| Worthing District | E07000229 | <div><div></div></div> 88.4% | Achieved | March 2025 |
| West Northamptonshire | E06000062 | <div><div></div></div> 86.6% | Achieved | March 2024 |
| Fermanagh and Omagh | N09000006 | <div><div></div></div> 85.4% | Achieved | April 2024 |
| Wirral District | E08000015 | <div><div></div></div> 84.3% | 2023-08 | October 2024 |
| Hammersmith and Fulham | E09000013 | <div><div></div></div> 84.2% | 2023-08 | March 2025 |

Note: Where we cannot predict, no date is shown. Dates in far future are not necessarily likely as intervention may apply changing the likely dates. This information relates to 'full fibre' and does NOT include DOCSIS 3.1 cable services which can deliver 1Gbps broadband. **The prediction of future dates is based exclusively on the performance in the past 9 months; future performance is not necessarily based on past performance. We therefore recommend in particular that you are cautious about the 100% figures.**

↓ Bottom 10 Authorities by Full Fibre Rollout

| Authority | Code | Full Fibre % | 85% FTTP Prediction | 100% FTTP Prediction |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Oadby and Wigston District | E07000135 | <div><div></div></div> 10.5% | - | - |
| Rossendale District | E07000125 | <div><div></div></div> 10.4% | - | - |
| Melton District | E07000133 | <div><div></div></div> 10.1% | - | - |
| West Dunbartonshire | S12000039 | <div><div></div></div> 9.7% | - | - |
| Redcar and Cleveland | E06000003 | <div><div></div></div> 8.9% | - | - |
| Argyll and Bute | S12000035 | <div><div></div></div> 8.2% | - | - |
| Na h-Eileanan an Iar | S12000013 | <div><div></div></div> 6.3% | - | - |
| Shetland Islands | S12000027 | <div><div></div></div> 5.1% | - | - |
| Orkney Islands | S12000023 | <div><div></div></div> 4.3% | - | - |
| Isles of Scilly | E06000053 | <div><div></div></div> 2.6% | - | - |

↑ Top 5 Councils for Increase in FTTP Build Rates

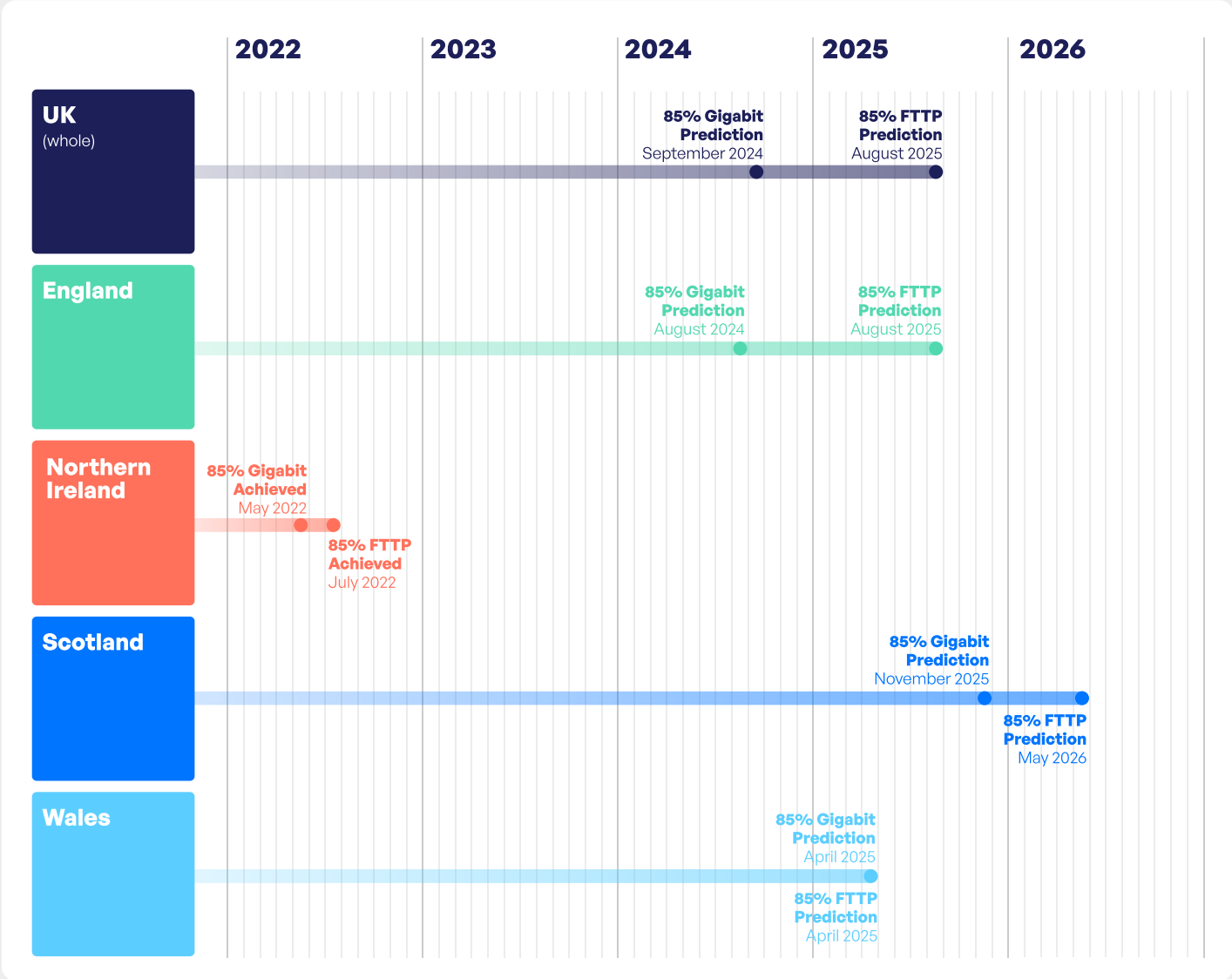
There are constant changes as new builds go up so these statistics change frequently.

| Authority | Code | 31 March 2023 | 16 July 2023 |
|-------------------|-----------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Burnley District | E07000117 | <div><div></div></div> 20.6% | <div><div></div></div> 54.2% |
| Hyndburn District | E07000120 | <div><div></div></div> 60.9% | <div><div></div></div> 88.8% |
| Conwy - Conwy | W06000003 | <div><div></div></div> 53.0% | <div><div></div></div> 75.9% |
| Havering | E09000016 | <div><div></div></div> 16.0% | <div><div></div></div> 36.9% |
| Trafford District | E08000009 | <div><div></div></div> 20.3% | <div><div></div></div> 40.9% |

Source: labs.thinkbroadband.com

UK Nations – Progress Towards Government Targets

Progress towards 85% Gigabit and 85% FTTP targets; Conservative manifesto promise from 2019 and as we head to 2024, this is important. Ofcom didn't do much in the way of projecting. We use nine months of data to project.

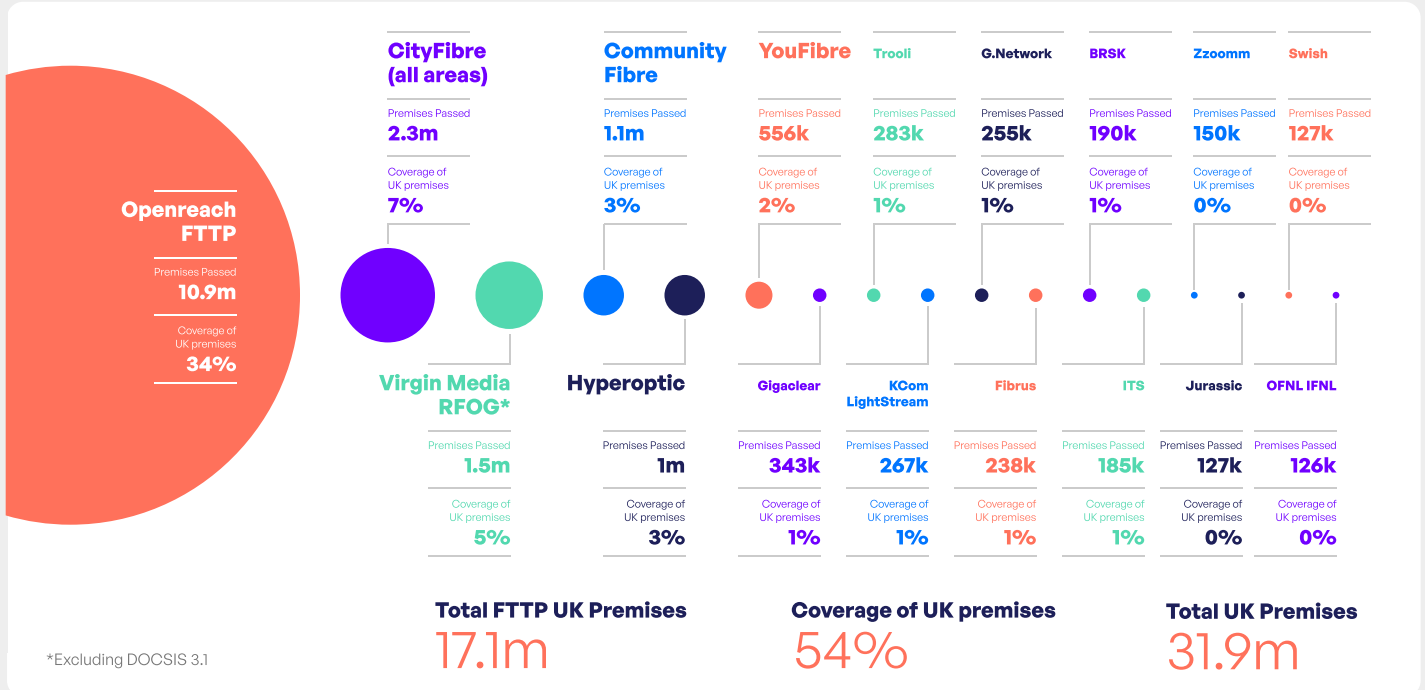


Source: labs.thinkbroadband.com; theoretical prediction is based on performance in the past 9 months.

Largest Full-Fibre Networks

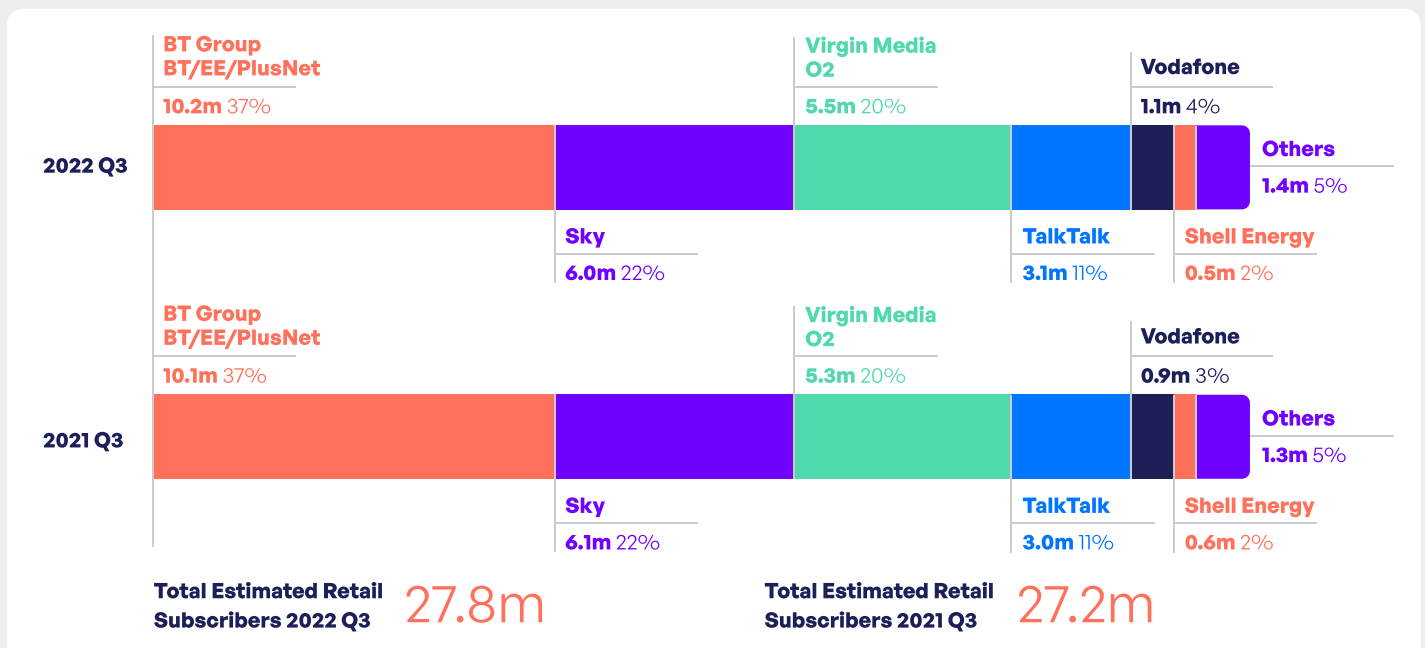
The UK has many alternative network operators (altnets), and competitors to the incumbent networks (Openreach and technically KCom in Hull). In spite being smaller in size, these altnets play a vital role where incumbent FTTP services are not available, providing an alternative commercial

proposition, which can often be superior to the consumer in terms of choice. Despite being less known, these smaller networks are an essential part of the UK's broadband infrastructure and provide a critical lifeline for local communities desperate for fast broadband.



Note: This refers to 'full fibre' (FTTP) networks and not gigabit-capable networks. As such the current Virgin Media DOCSIS 3.1 footprint (capable of delivering gigabit broadband) is not included. We expect Virgin Media will upgrade its network to RFOG (Radio Frequency over Glass) so this will increase Virgin's FTTP share in due course. **Data is based on our database which tracks 'available to order and deliver within a standard order timeframe'** (usually a couple of weeks). If a site requires additional wayleaves, this would not be considered live. Our criteria for inclusion is strict and therefore may not match information claimed by operators in press releases or financial results, however the methodology we use is consistent.

Relative Market Share of the Big Retail Providers



Source: Point-Topic UK Plus Data Set. Note: These figures will include estimates as not all providers publish information in a consistent manner. Only 'consumer' services are included. We note that BT Business has a significant lead in the business segment.

Average Prices of Consumer Fibre

We track average broadband prices by speed category for major providers to provide market guidance. There are always offers available as well as a wider selection of broadband providers, so these **prices are only guidelines and not intended to be used for selecting a provider.**



**50-80 Mbps
Downstream**
(5-21 Mbps upstream)

~~£25-30~~
March 2023

Now
£27-38
per month

**150 Mbps
Downstream**
(20-30 Mbps upstream)

~~£27-30~~
March 2023

Now
£27-36
per month

**500 Mbps
Downstream**
(36-73 Mbps upstream)

~~£31-45~~
March 2023

Now
£33-45
per month

**1 Gbps
Downstream**
(52-111 Mbps upstream)

~~£41-49~~
March 2023

Now
£41-58
per month

Most fibre-based services require an 12- to 24-month contract. Above prices are based on 18-24 month contracts.

| Category | Package | Download Speed | Upload Speed | Contract | Cost/month |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| Up to 80 Mbps* | BT Full Fibre 1 | 50 Mbps | 10 Mbps | 24 months | £30 |
| | BT Full Fibre 1 | 50 Mbps | 10 Mbps | 12 months | £35 + £30 p&p |
| | Sky Superfast | 59 Mbps | 16 Mbps | 18 months | £34.50 + £5 setup |
| | BT Full Fibre 2 | 74 Mbps | 20 Mbps | 24 months | £36 + £30 p&p |
| | BT Full Fibre 2 | 74 Mbps | 20 Mbps | 12 months | £39 + £30 p&p |
| | TalkTalk Fibre 65 | 74 Mbps | 20 Mbps | 24 months | £27 |
| | Virgin Media M50 | 54 Mbps | 5 Mbps | 30 days | £38 + £80 setup |
| 150 Mbps | Virgin Media M125 | 132 Mbps | 20 Mbps | 18 months | £26.50 |
| | Sky Ultrafast | 145 Mbps | 27 Mbps | 18 months | £38 |
| | BT Full Fibre 100 | 150 Mbps | 30 Mbps | 24 months | £30 |
| | TalkTalk Fibre 150 | 152 Mbps | 30 Mbps | 24 months | £30 |
| | Virgin Media M125 | 132 Mbps | 20 Mbps | 30 days | £44 + £80 setup |
| 500 Mbps | Sky Ultrafast+ | 500 Mbps | 60 Mbps | 18 months | £35 |
| | TalkTalk Fibre 500 | 520 Mbps | 71 - 73 Mbps | 24 months | £39 |
| | Virgin Media M500 | 516 Mbps | 52 Mbps | 18 months | £44.50 |
| | BT Full Fibre 500 | 500 Mbps | 73 Mbps | 24 months | £33 + £10 p&p |
| | BT Full Fibre 500 | 500 Mbps | 73 Mbps | 12 months | £51 + £30 p&p |
| 1 Gbps | TalkTalk Fibre 900 | 840 Mbps | 109 - 112 Mbps | 24 months | £49 |
| | Sky Gigafast | 900 Mbps | 90 Mbps | 18 months | £58 |
| | BT Full Fibre 900 | 900 Mbps | 110 Mbps | 24 months | £41 + £10 p&p |
| | Virgin Media Gig1 | 1,130 Mbps | 104 Mbps | 24 months | £50 |
| | BT Full Fibre 900 | 900 Mbps | 110 Mbps | 12 months | £61 + £30 p&p |

Methodology: Comparisons on 20/07/2023 based on provider websites for comparable products, noting that variations apply. We have not included promotions which include an initial period at a lower price, unless this is substantially less over contract length as the purpose of this report is to outline broad prices rather than recommend individual services. No bundling of other services (telephone, TV, mobile) is included. Pricing for services is likely to increase mid-contract in most cases annually, around April. Where speed ranges are quoted, we will use the marketed average figure or a mid-point rounded figure, so caution advised on minor variations (e.g. 74 vs 78 Mbps) as these are likely to be on the same underlying technology. This simplification has been provided for ease of comparison. Pricing may vary by location however our lookup is based on the

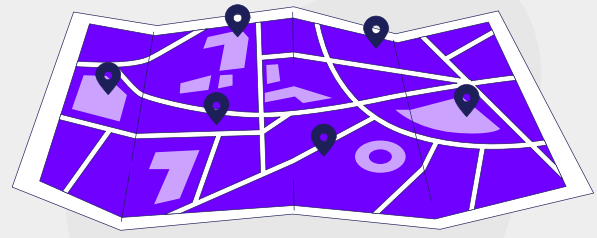
same address on an address we believe indicates a typical market for full fibre services. Pricing is rounded up to the nearest pound where it is close.

Do not use this table to select a provider for your personal circumstances – This list is provided as a guide to understand market pricing only. Please visit [thinkbroadband.com](https://www.thinkbroadband.com) and compare deals specific to your location and requirements.

* Virgin Media no longer offer a service in this speed category, except its Essential broadband plus (54Mbps) for £20/month as part of a Social Broadband Tariff (eligibility criteria apply; we are not comparing Social Tariffs in this table).

Altnet Prices

The UK has many 'altnets', or so called 'alternative network operators' which typically refers to challengers to the incumbent (BT Openreach and Virgin Media nationally). They often offer faster services at lower prices, so we have included a separate table of prices to track.



| Category | Package | Download Speed | Upload Speed | Contract | Cost/month |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 100 - 150 Mbps | Community Fibre 150 | 150 Mbps | 150 Mbps | 24 months | £20 |
| | Community Fibre 150 | 150 Mbps | 150 Mbps | 12 months | £22 |
| | Hyperoptic Superfast | 150 Mbps | 150 Mbps | 24 months | £32 + £19 setup |
| | Hyperoptic Superfast | 150 Mbps | 150 Mbps | 12 months | £32 + £29 setup |
| | Hyperoptic Superfast | 150 Mbps | 150 Mbps | 30 days | £35 + £39 setup |
| | YouFibre 150 | 150 Mbps | 150 Mbps | 24 months | £22 |
| | YouFibre 150 | 150 Mbps | 150 Mbps | 30 days | £25 |
| | G.Network 150 | 150 Mbps | 50 Mbps | 24 months | £22 + £29 setup |
| | G.Network 150 | 150 Mbps | 50 Mbps | 12 months | £27 + £29 setup |
| | G.Network 150 | 150 Mbps | 50 Mbps | 30 days | £31 + £29 setup |
| | Vodafone Full Fibre 100 (CityFibre) | 100 Mbps | 100 Mbps | 24 months | £23 |
| 300 - 500 Mbps | Hyperoptic Ultrafast | 500 Mbps | 500 Mbps | 24 months | £38 + £19 setup |
| | Hyperoptic Ultrafast | 500 Mbps | 500 Mbps | 12 months | £40 + £19 setup |
| | Hyperoptic Ultrafast | 500 Mbps | 500 Mbps | 30 days | £50 + £29 setup |
| | YouFibre 500 | 500 Mbps | 500 Mbps | 24 months | £28 |
| | YouFibre 500 | 500 Mbps | 500 Mbps | 30 days | £30 |
| | Gigaclear Ultrafast 300 | 300 Mbps | 300 Mbps | 18 months | £17 |
| | Gigaclear Ultrafast 400 | 400 Mbps | 400 Mbps | 18 months | £24 |
| | G.Network 300 | 300 Mbps | 100 Mbps | 24 months | £30 + £29 setup |
| | G.Network 300 | 300 Mbps | 100 Mbps | 12 months | £35 |
| | G.Network 300 | 300 Mbps | 100 Mbps | 30 days | £39 + £29 setup |
| | Vodafone Full Fibre 500 (CityFibre) | 500 Mbps | 500 Mbps | 24 months | £29 |
| 1 Gbps | Community Fibre 1Gbps | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 24 months | £25 |
| | Community Fibre 1Gbps | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 12 months | £27 |
| | Hyperoptic Hyperfast | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 24 months | £45 + £19 setup |
| | Hyperoptic Hyperfast | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 12 months | £36 + £19 setup |
| | Hyperoptic Hyperfast | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 30 days | £60 + £29 setup |
| | YouFibre 1000 | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 24 months | £30 |
| | YouFibre 1000 | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 30 days | £40 |
| | Gigaclear 900 | 900 Mbps | 900 Mbps | 18 months | £34 |
| | B4RN Residential | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 12 months | £33 + £60 setup |
| | G.Network 1Gbps | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 24 months | £48 + £29 setup |
| | G.Network 1Gbps | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 12 months | £53 + £29 setup |
| | G.Network 1Gbps | 1 Gbps | 1 Gbps | 30 days | £57 + £29 setup |
| | Vodafone Full Fibre 900 (CityFibre) | 910 Mbps | 910 Mbps | 24 months | £36 |
| 3 Gbps+ | Community Fibre 3Gbps | 3 Gbps | 3 Gbps | 24 months | £49 + £15 setup |
| | B4RN 10Gbps | 10 Gbps | 10 Gbps | 12 months | £150 + £360 setup |

Social Tariffs

Social Tariffs are special broadband packages which are available to recipients of certain benefits including Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, and income-based Employment Support Allowance. You may also be able to subscribe with some other benefits including Personal Independence Payment and Attendance Allowance however these are not universal. There are further restrictions which may apply.



| Category | Package | Download Speed | Contract | Cost/month |
|---------------|---|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Up to 20 Mbps | Virgin Media Essential Broadband | 15 Mbps | 30 days | £12.50 |
| | Community Fibre Essential Fibre Broadband | 20 Mbps | 12 months | £12.50 |
| 21 - 50 Mbps | Vodafone Fibre 1 Essentials | 38 Mbps | 12 months | £12 |
| | BT Home Essentials – Unlimited Fibre Essentials | 36 Mbps | 12 months | £15 |
| | Hyperoptic Fair Fibre Plan – Fast | 50 Mbps | 30 days | £15 |
| | YouFibre 50 | 50 Mbps | 24 months | £15 |
| | G.Network | 50 Mbps | 12 months | £15 |
| Over 50 Mbps | Virgin Media Essential Broadband Plus | 54 Mbps | 30 days | £20 |
| | BT Home Essentials – Unlimited Fibre | 67 Mbps | 12 months | £20 |
| | Vodafone Fibre 2 Essentials | 73 Mbps | 12 months | £20 |
| | Hyperoptic Fair Fibre Plan – SuperFast | 150 Mbps | 30 days | £20 |
| | B4RN Social Tariff | 1 Gbps | 12 months | £15 + £60 setup |

Do not use this table to select a provider for your personal circumstances – This list is provided as a guide to understand market pricing only and does not include all providers of social tariffs.

Broadband Speed Requirements

What speed broadband connection do you really need for most applications?

| Application | | | Recommended Bandwidth | |
|-------------|--|----------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| | | | Up | Down |
| | Video Streaming (Netflix / YouTube) | Standard Definition / SD | - | ↓ 1-2 Mbps |
| | | High Definition / HD | - | ↓ 3-5 Mbps |
| | | UHD / 4K | - | ↓ 15-20 Mbps |
| | Zoom Calls | 1080p Full HD ¹ | ↑ 4 Mbps | ↓ 3 Mbps |
| | | 720p | ↑ 1.2 Mbps | ↓ 1.2 Mbps |
| | | Standard Video | ↑ 0.6 Mbps | ↓ 0.6 Mbps |
| | VoIP Calls / Digital Voice | | ↑ 0.5 Mbps | ↓ 0.5 Mbps |
| | | | Actual usage may be less but more likely to be affected by other usage during call | |
| | Online Gaming (real-time multiplayer) | Fortnite | ↑ 3 Mbps | ↓ 5 Mbps ² |
| | | | "Gigabit fibre with [...] symmetrical upload and download speeds absolutely smashes those requirements out of the arena" | |
| | | Roblox | ↑ 4-8 Mbps | ↓ 4-8 Mbps ³ |
| | | Call of Duty MW2 | ↑ 4-8 Mbps | ↓ 4-8 Mbps |
| | Twitch Streaming / Broadcasting | | ↑ 3-10 Mbps | ↓ 20 Mbps |
| | | | Some recommendations increase upload speed to 25Mbps | |
| | Web Browsing, E-mail & Social Media | | ↑ 1 Mbps | ↓ 5 Mbps |
| | | | Once connection is above 40Mbps, unlikely to see much improvement as DNS lookups likely to be more of a factor than raw speed | |
| | Downloading Games and Large Content | | - | ↓ 100 Mbps |
| | | | 100 Mbps or faster is ideal but balance cost vs patience | |
| | Larger Households | | For real-time simultaneous use, you need to multiply the above. E.g. two people watching Netflix at 4K might need up to 40Mbps; a third is probably not going to be watching at the same time. | |

1 <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-Zoom-system-requirements-Windows-macOS-Linux>

2 <https://blog.frontier.com/2022/08/4-ways-fiber-helps-you-win-in-fortnite/>

3 <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312800-Computer-Hardware-Operating-System-Requirements>

Types of Broadband

ADSL (or variations thereof, e.g. ADSL2+)

Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Lines which means broadband though your phone line. The speed is determined by the distance between your property and the telephone exchange (usually up to a few kilometres) and the quality of your line. Asymmetric means the download speed is usually much faster than the upload speed, common in all consumer broadband. There are variants such as 'Annex M' which allow you to sacrifice some download speed for faster uploads. These were typically 'up to 8 meg' or 'up to 24 meg' type services depending on generation but speeds vary wildly based on the quality and length of the line.

"FTTC" or "VDSL2" or commonly called "fibre broadband"

Broadband where the fibre optic cable ends at the street cabinet, which is likely to be some distance from your house.

A phone line is then used for the final link to your house, similar to ADSL. VDSL is the underlying technology, "Very High Speed Digital Subscriber Line" which allows faster speeds than ADSL, but it is more limited by distance – a few hundred metres rather than kilometres.

"FTTP", "FTTH", "FTTB" or "full fibre"

Fibre to the premises/home/building. i.e. the entire circuit to the property is fibre. There may in some cases be copper wiring inside the building depending on the setup. The speed is usually not limited by the distance where you can get FTTP as this is delivered over a fibre optic wavelength.

"FTTx"

Combination of the 'fibre to the...' services, i.e. fibre to the home and fibre to the cabinet.

Cable & DOCSIS 3.1

Cable broadband (typically meaning Virgin Media) is broadband delivered through the copper co-axial network (in most cases; RFOG- excepted) used to deliver cable TV services. This has traditionally been capable of delivering faster speeds than phone line based services. The latest generation, DOCSIS 3.1, can deliver gigabit broadband services.

Satellite

Satellite broadband uses geostationary satellites in space to deliver broadband to hard-to-reach areas. Aside from cost the main disadvantage is latency, which makes satellite broadband services slower to use for very 'interactive' applications, such as online gaming. Starlink claims to reduce this significantly. If you're in an area with limited options, this may be worth considering however.

3G / LTE / 4G / 5G (mobile broadband)

These are mobile technologies, evolutions beyond GPRS (2G) and EDGE (2.5G) which were the first types of data used by mobile phones and offered much slower speeds. The later generations like 5G can deliver very fast connections, although the performance varies significantly based on where you are. Using a fixed 4G/5G setup can take advantage of a fixed antenna which will perform better. The difficulty lies when in a congested city environment using a mobile phone, where it's quite possible for a 5G service to perform slower than a 4G one, so newer isn't always better (in the real world).

Wireless

Some broadband providers use wireless technologies such as directional Wi-Fi and microwave links to deliver broadband, often across wide open rural areas, where laying cables could be prohibitively expensive.

Glossary

"meg" or Mbps

The speed of broadband services is these days measured in Megabits per second (or Mbps). It is commonly referred to (albeit technically incorrectly) as "meg". 1 Mbps is broadly speaking 1,000Kbps, and 1Gbps (gigabit per second) is around 1,000 Mbps (technically it's a multiplier of 1024 from binary, rather than 1000). Note in particular that a Megabit (Mb) and Megabyte (MB) are very different, 1MB/s = 8Mbps as there are 8 bits in 1 byte. Sometimes you may see speeds when downloading expressed as MB/s, but broadband speeds are referred to in Mbps.

"Gig" or "Gigabit" broadband

Broadband that is capable of achieving speeds of 1Gbps (gigabits per second) or thereabouts. In practice this usually means FTTP or DOCSIS 3.1 cable services.

"Premises passed"

Term used to describe a premise which is able to order a broadband service with a given provider.

"Decent" broadband

This is a definition used by Ofcom of a broadband connection capable of delivering 10 Mbps downstream, and 1 Mbps upstream.

"Take-up"

The ratio between premises that order a service and the total 'premises passed' (where a service is available). It should be noted that even if full fibre is available, it doesn't mean all services are provided at 1 Gbps speeds.

Recent Developments



Navigating the Web of Deception: A Comprehensive Guide to Online Scams & Traps

Many of our readers are avid early adopters of tech who are confident about how technology works, spotting scams of all kinds very quickly, but we all have colleagues, neighbours, children and other loved ones who may not be as technically astute. These people may come to us to ask for advice on all things tech, but what if they don't know they should be seeking advice? This isn't directly about broadband, but it affects every Internet user around the world.

Online scams are a massive problem, far bigger than many imagine. In its online fraud report, Ofcom reported in March 2023 that almost half of all adult Internet users have been drawn into engaging in an online scam or fraud, and many of us know people who have become victims.

Please read and share our comprehensive guide to online scams and traps.

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/online-scams>

10/07/2023

BT Group CEO announces intention to leave in the next 12 months

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/9619-bt-group-ceo-announces-intention-to-leave-in-next-12-months>

06/07/2023

Openreach say more than 700,000 premises across Wales can order FTTP

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/9615-openreach-say-more-than-700-000-premises-across-wales-can-order-ftp>

28/06/2023

Ofcom urges providers to promote broadband social tariffs

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/9606-ofcom-urges-providers-to-promote-broadband-social-tariffs>

28/06/2023

Are CPI+3.9 price increases for broadband and mobile services price gouging?

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/9605-are-cpi-3-9-price-increases-for-broadband-and-mobile-services-price-gouging>

24/05/2023

Openreach Equinox 2 FTTP pricing given go-ahead by Ofcom

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/9571-openreach-equinox-2-ftp-pricing-given-go-ahead-by-ofcom>

23/05/2023

Virgin Media Upload speeds increasing for M500 and Gig1 users

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/9570-virgin-media-upload-speeds-increasing-for-m500-and-gig1-users>

19/05/2023

Ofcom publishes its analysis of UK connectivity for January 2023

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/9569-ofcom-publishes-its-analysis-of-uk-connectivity-for-january-2023>

18/05/2023

BT announce 55,000 job losses by 2030 in financial results

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/9566-bt-announce-55-000-job-losses-by-2030-in-financial-results>

10/05/2023

Virgin Media says aim is 80% of UK serviced by its full fibre network

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/9557-virgin-media-says-aim-is-80-of-uk-serviced-by-its-full-fibre-network>

24/04/2023

Take-up of broadband social tariffs quadrupled since January 2022

<https://www.thinkbroadband.com/news/9546-take-up-of-broadband-social-tariffs-quadrupled-since-january-2022>

“When we began our journey to deliver broadband information twenty-three years ago, it was because we were eager to inform the public about the early stages of broadband developments. Since then, the Internet is no longer something we connect to once a day, but part of our everyday lives.

We have always strived to be different. We aren’t another comparison site. Hey, we don’t even consider ourselves a comparison site as most of the time, we aren’t trying to persuade users to switch providers. A lot of the tools we have written are designed to help you troubleshoot your broadband connection. We even work with providers to troubleshoot issues at times.

In 2023 we step into our twenty-fourth year of running the site, with the same passion as when we started, and we look forward to further improving what we offer. We are the most up-to-date source of broadband availability and speed information in the UK, and we want to provide the best and most unique tools to help you understand the performance of your Internet connection.

I am proud that after all this time, the team that was there in the first year is still the team that runs the website today.”

Sebastien Lahtinen Director



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