

# US and Canada out of global top 10 list for fastest mobile and broadband speeds—expanding infrastructure will be a challenge

Article

**The news:** The US and Canada have fallen out of the Top 10 list for fastest mobile and broadband speeds even as global mobile and broadband speeds have surged, [per](#) PCMag.

**The results:** Ookla's [Speedtest Global Index](#) survey showed that global mobile and broadband speeds have jumped **60%** and **32%**, respectively over the last year despite increased demand due to the pandemic and the transition to 5G.

- The US ranked 8th back in 2019, fell from 9th in 2020, to missing the top 10 completely in 2021—Ookla also found the US [trailing](#) behind in 5G speeds in January.
- Canada fell off the mobile speeds Top 10 in 2021.
- For mobile, the fastest countries are **United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Qatar, China, Cyprus, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Australia, and Bulgaria.**
- For broadband, the world's fastest countries are **Monaco, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Romania, Switzerland, South Korea, Chile, Denmark, and Liechtenstein.**

**Why it's worth watching:** According to the report, part of the problem in the US is inaccurate coverage maps for both broadband and mobile; and low speed requirements for broadband.

- The FCC recently put out its [first mobile coverage maps](#) earlier this year, and plans to do the same for broadband.
- Senators have called on the FCC to raise the standard for baseline broadband from 25 Mbps to 100 Mbps, per Ars Technica.
- The US Senate's sprawling \$1 trillion infrastructure [package](#) is seeking **\$65 billion for investment for the next five years** in reliable high-speed internet, particularly in remote and underserved areas which could improve overall broadband speeds.

**The bigger picture:** Years-long [supply chain delays](#) and [fiber shortages](#) will greatly complicate the update efforts for broadband and 5G infrastructure, which will have a knock-on effect for Internet speeds.

- As the rest of the world's overall speeds increase, the US and Canada falling behind puts pressure on governments and service providers to fast-track building necessary infrastructure to remain competitive.

## Leading Reasons US Adults Do Not Have Home Broadband Service, 2015, 2019, & 2021

% of respondents

	2015	2019	2021
<b>Smartphone does everything they need</b>			
—A reason	27%	45%	45%
—The most important reason	12%	23%	19%
<b>Monthly cost of home broadband subscription is too expensive</b>			
—A reason	59%	50%	45%
—The most important reason	33%	21%	20%
<b>Have other options for internet access outside of home</b>			
—A reason	46%	43%	46%
—The most important reason	10%	11%	9%
<b>Service is not available or speed is unacceptable</b>			
—A reason	23%	22%	25%
—The most important reason	5%	7%	9%
<b>Cost of computer is too expensive</b>			
—A reason	45%	31%	37%
—The most important reason	10%	6%	7%
<b>Some other reason</b>			
—A reason	25%	17%	27%
—The most important reason	16%	13%	22%

Note: ages 18+ who do not have home broadband service; respondents who did not give an answer not shown

Source: Pew Research Center, "Mobile Technology and Home Broadband 2021," June 3, 2021

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