

AT&T, Verizon delay 5G rollout again

Article

The news: AT&T and Verizon accepted a request from Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and the FAA to further delay the launch of 5G wireless services because of potential interference with airplane cockpit safety systems, [per](#) Insider.

How we got here: AT&T and Verizon had already [pushed back](#) the December 5 rollout of new 5G C-band spectrum to January 5 in response to concerns from the Federal Aviation Administration.

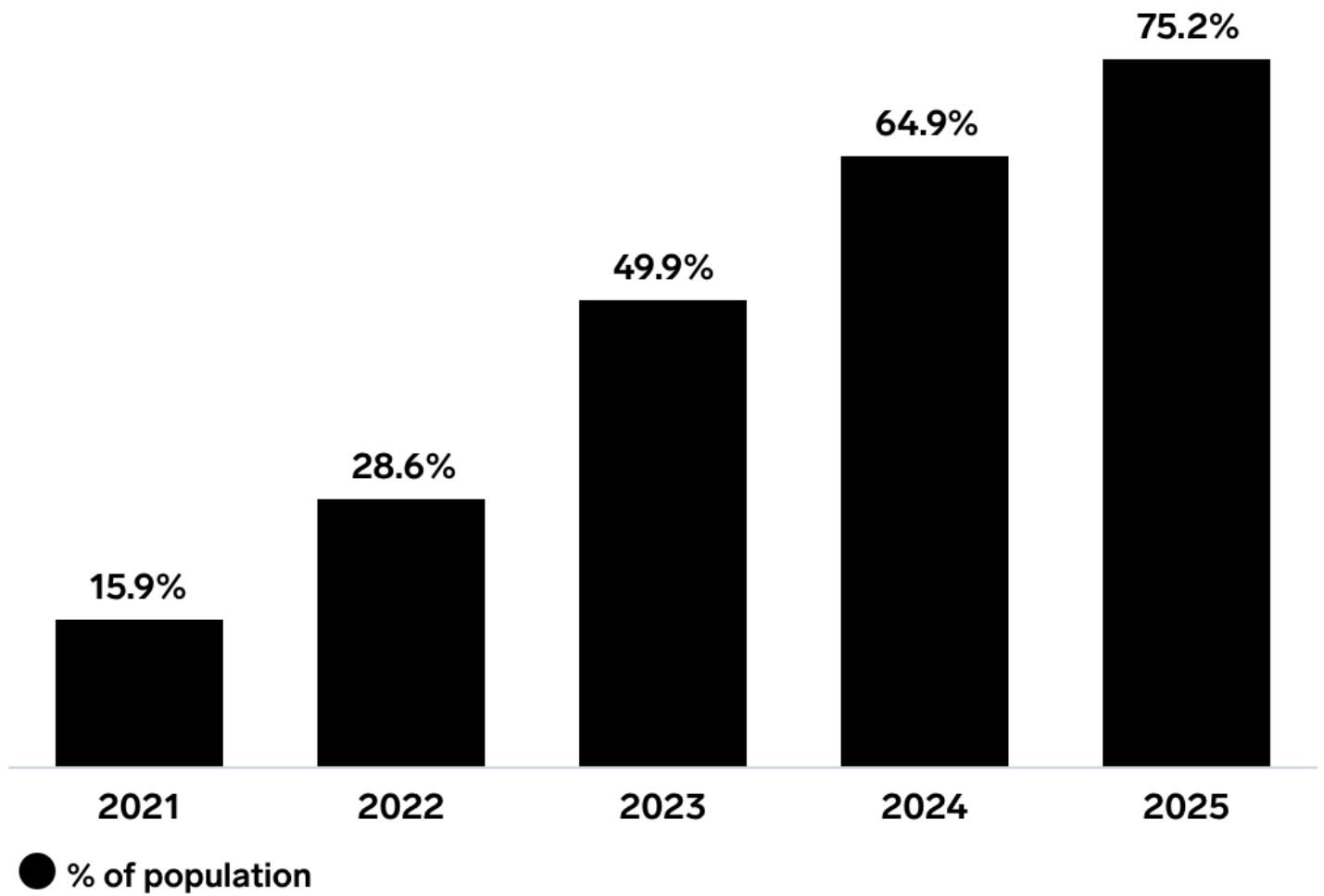
- A letter sent on Sunday from **AT&T CEO John Stankey** and **Verizon CEO Hans Vestberg** revealed that the companies intended to continue with their planned rollout of 5G Wednesday, after already agreeing to a "costly" delay from its previously scheduled launch date. However, the telecoms later reached a deal with the Department of Transportation to delay the launch to January 19.
- The joint letter from the telecoms was in response to a memo **Buttigieg** and **FAA Administrator Steve Dickson** sent last week outlining 5G's potential for "widespread and unacceptable disruption," followed by a request to delay the rollout for two more weeks. The Air Line Pilots Association also backed the delay.
- "A delay will cause real harm," said **CTIA CEO Meredith Attwell Baker**. "Pushing back deployment one year would subtract \$50 billion in economic growth, just as our nation recovers and rebuilds from the pandemic."
- Carriers are proposing "exclusion zones" around runways in airports where 5G's C-band signals are reduced by at least 10 times on the runway or during the last mile of final approach and takeoff.

The bigger picture: The FAA, airline operators, and the telecom industry will continue to battle over the 5G rollout as it relates to airline safety. [Airlines for America](#), a trade group representing **American Airlines, JetBlue, Delta, FedEx, and UPS**, among others, has threatened to go to court if the FCC does not take action to stop the 5G rollout.

**Editor's note: This article was updated on January 4, 2022, to reflect AT&T's and Verizon's most recent decision on delaying the 5G C-band rollout.*

5G Wireless Device Service Subscriptions

US, 2021-2025



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