

4G LTE Penetration Rate Higher in North America than Any Other Region

More than 90% of the population uses the mobile broadband standard

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The 4G LTE standard is responsible for ushering in the modern mobile experience—one in which data-intensive activities like video viewing have finally become a reality.

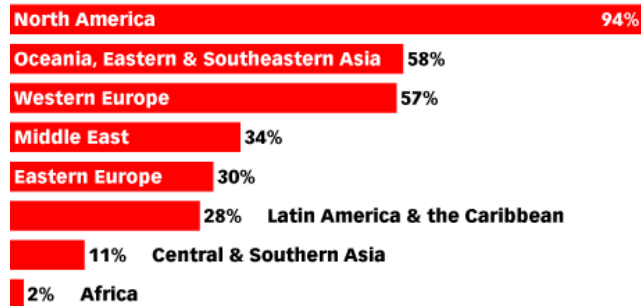
According to [5G Americas](#) and [Ovum](#), worldwide 4G LTE subscription numbers continued to grow substantially during the yearlong period ending in Q3 2017, increasing by 838 million to hit a total of 2.5 billion.

The two companies reported that 4G LTE accounted for nearly one-third of all mobile phone subscriptions by the end of 2017's third quarter.

The mobile data standard's penetration rate was highest in North America, at 94%.

4G LTE Connection Penetration Worldwide, by Region, Sep 2017

% of population



Source: Ovum and 5G Americas, Dec 7, 2017

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That was significantly higher than the penetration seen in the second-ranked region, Oceania and Eastern and Southeastern Asia, at 58%.

North America also accounted for the highest proportion—73%—of 4G LTE subscriptions worldwide.

While 4G continues to make strides, uptake of the newer, faster 5G mobile broadband standard is close on the horizon. A recent study from [Strategy Analytics](#) estimated there will be **1.5 billion 5G-enabled smartphones** shipped in 2025, up from 2 million in 2019.

[Ericsson](#) also expects a fast uptake of 5G over the coming year, projecting that there will be 1 billion subscriptions by the end of 2023.

5G Americas took note of the potential of 5G to upend the mobile broadband landscape, but remained bullish on 4G LTE's short-term prospects.

"Currently operators are deploying more advanced LTE capabilities, and LTE subscriptions are continuing to grow at a fantastic rate," said Chris Pearson, president of 5G Americas.