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2021 Worldwide Broadband Speed League revealed – internet speeds compared in 224 countries

- Over 1.1 billion broadband speed tests conducted across 224 countries were analysed Cable.co.uk to create this 2021 global internet speed league table
- Western Europe dominates the global speed table, containing eight of the top ten fastest countries in the world for broadband. The self-governing dependency of Jersey offers the fastest broadband in Europe (and in the world) with an average speed of 274.27Mbps
- Macau (128.56Mbps) and Hungary (104.07Mbps) are the only two states to make it into the top ten fastest in the world outside of Western Europe
- Countries in Northern Africa collectively had the lowest average speed in the world (5.68Mbps), while Western European nations collectively exhibited the highest average speed regionally (90.56Mbps)
- You can download the full data set including both country and regional figures, a detailed research methodology description, and use our interactive

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ap via this study's landing page – please link either to this or to our homepage if you intend to use our data. Please see the editor's notes for more information concerning this request

- We have also released a study recently showing how global network speeds were affected by stringent COVID-19 lockdown periods

(Embargoed until) TBC: Analysis of over 1.1 billion broadband speed tests worldwide has revealed where almost every country, territory and region sits in terms of its internet speeds. The research was designed and compiled by Cable.co.uk, and the data gathered by M-Lab, an open source project with contributors from civil society organisations, educational institutions, and private sector companies. M-Lab is led by teams based at Code for Science and Society, New America's Open Technology Institute, Google, Princeton University's PlanetLab, and other supporting partners.

Last year, the five fastest countries had download speeds around 276 times faster than the five slowest. That gap is narrowing for the first time since the study began in 2017. This year the top five are 202 times faster than the five slowest. This indicates that the fastest countries are slowing in terms of speed growth, while the slowest countries are gathering speed.

As seen in the league table, downloading an HD movie of 5GB in size would take 2m 29s at the average speed experienced in table-topper Jersey, while it would take 22h

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4m in last-placed Turkmenistan.

34 of the top 50 fastest-performing countries are located in Europe (Eastern, Western and Baltics), with seven in Asia (Ex. Near East), three in the Caribbean region, four in Northern America, one in Sub-Saharan Africa and one in Oceania. By contrast, 31 of the 50 slowest-performing countries are located in Sub-Saharan or Northern Africa, six are in Asia (Ex. Near East), four are in the Near East, two are in the CIS (Former USSR) region, five are in Oceania, and one each in South America and the Caribbean region.

94 countries failed to achieve average speeds of 10Mbps or greater, the speed deemed by UK telecoms watchdog Ofcom to be the minimum required to cope with the needs of a typical family or small business. This is down from 109 countries in 2020, indicating significant speed improvements in many parts of the world.

Northern Africa recorded the lowest overall internet speeds as a collective region, with all six qualifying countries in the bottom half of the table. Mauritania (2.54Mbps) recorded the slowest speed in 203rd place, followed by Algeria (3.08Mbps, 194th), and Libya (3.73Mbps, 188th). Morocco (10.33Mbps, 129th), Tunisia (7.46Mbps, 153rd), and Egypt (6.94Mbps, 162nd) offered the fastest speed in the region.

49 countries were measured in the second-slowest region Sub-Saharan Africa, 46 of which found themselves in the lowest 50% of countries in the league table. Going

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gainst the trend somewhat were Réunion (43.62Mbps, 50th), South Africa (19.94Mbps, 90th), and Madagascar (16.28Mbps, 105th). Meanwhile, Ethiopia (1.20Mbps, 222nd), Guinea Bissau (1.24Mbps, 221st), Equatorial Guinea (1.30Mbps, 220th), South Sudan (1.40Mbps, 218th), Djibouti (1.46Mbps, 216th), and Somalia (1.59Mbps, 215th) all fell within the bottom ten countries in the world for network speed.

Most Central American countries found themselves toward the middle of the league table. The region as a whole has an average speed of 16.03Mbps, but there are winners and losers in the region. The fastest average speeds can be found in Panama (30.58Mbps, 72nd), Belize (23.12Mbps, 79th), and Costa Rica (19.02Mbps, 97th). Meanwhile, Honduras (7.17Mbps, 159th), Nicaragua (9.75Mbps, 134th), and Guatemala (9.85Mbps, 133rd) all performed comparatively poorly.

27 countries were measured in the Asia (ex. Near East) region, which clocked in a regional average speed of 29.11Mbps. The fastest average speeds were measured in Macau (128.56Mbps, 7th), Singapore (97.61Mbps, 11th), and Japan (96.36Mbps, 13th). Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (1.33Mbps, 219th), Afghanistan (1.41Mbps, 217th), and China (2.06Mbps, 209th) were the slowest in the region, with Timor-Leste and Afghanistan finding themselves in the bottom ten countries in the world.

The 13 countries measured in South America span from the middle to the lower end of the table, with a regional average speed of 13.02Mbps. The fastest internet in South

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merica can be found in Brazil (33.34Mbps, 68th), Uruguay (21.73Mbps, 82nd), Paraguay (19.41Mbps, 94th). Venezuela (2.62Mbps, 201st), Bolivia (7.36Mbps, 157th), and Suriname (7.44Mbps, 156th) were the slowest in the region.

Of the 15 qualifying countries in Oceania, most were in the bottom half of the speed table. The region has an overall average of 16.95Mbps. Leading the regional table here is New Zealand (85.95Mbps, 20th), which trounces second-place (in the region) Australia (40.50Mbps, 55th), and New Caledonia (31.79Mbps, 69th). The slowest in the region were the Federated States of Micronesia (1.63Mbps, 214th), Vanuatu (2.90Mbps, 198th) and Palau (4.48Mbps, 182nd).

Of the 11 CIS (former USSR) nations in the table, most can be found from the middle of the table downwards. The region had an average speed of 12.87Mbps. The top-three fastest nations in the region were Russian Federation (35.73Mbps, 66th), Ukraine (25.26Mbps, 77th), and Belarus (19.86Mbps, 92nd). The slowest countries in the region were Turkmenistan (also slowest in the world – 0.50Mbps, 224th), Tajikistan (1.82Mbps, 211th) and Kazakhstan (5.83Mbps, 173rd). Both Tajikistan and Turkmenistan were among the slowest ten places in the world.

All 29 countries measured in Western Europe were in the top half of the table, with countries in the region taking eight of the top ten spots in the world for internet speed. The regional average speed of 90.56Mbps makes it the

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astest of the 13 global regions overall. Impressive average speeds were measured for regional top-three Jersey (274.27Mbps, 1st in the world), Liechtenstein (211.26Mbps, 2nd) and Iceland (191.83Mbps, 3rd). The slowest places in the region were Faroe Islands (21.59Mbps, 83rd), Guernsey (31.20Mbps, 71st), and Italy (36.69Mbps, 61st).

Five countries were measured in Northern America, all of which were in the top quarter of the table. The region as a whole has an average speed of 71.68Mbps. Bermuda (96.54Mbps, 12th) and the United States (92.42Mbps, 14th) led the region with impressive averages. Meanwhile, Canada (79.96Mbps, 24th), Saint Pierre and Miquelon (47.92Mbps, 48th), and Greenland (41.56Mbps, 52nd) were the slowest in the region, but none of them were 'slow' compared to the rest of the world.

The 15 countries in the Near East measured for this year's speed league table span the middle to the bottom of the table. The average speed for the region is 15.38Mbps. The fastest countries were Israel (34.97Mbps, 67th), United Arab Emirates (29.90Mbps, 73rd) and Cyprus (28.30Mbps, 76th). The slowest were Yemen (0.68Mbps, 223rd), Syrian Arab Republic (1.67Mbps, 213th) and Palestine (3.65Mbps, 190th).

There are 16 qualifying countries in the Eastern Europe region, all of which are in the top half of the table, with one (Hungary) making it into the top ten, and six others in the top 50. Overall the region averages 46.22Mbps. The fastest three were Hungary (104.07Mbps, 10th), Romania

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67.40Mbps, 29th) and Slovenia (67.20Mbps, 30th). The slowest three were North Macedonia (15.38Mbps, 107th), Albania (19.36Mbps, 96th), and Kosovo (22.21Mbps, 81st).

The Baltics, comprising three qualifying countries, ranked entirely within the top 50, and have an overall regional average of 68.06Mbps. Estonia fared best in 22nd place overall and with an average speed of 84.72Mbps. Lithuania (56.17Mbps, 37th), and Latvia (63.28Mbps, 33rd) followed behind fairly closely.

Overall the Caribbean region fared well for what are essentially island nations, with three of its 27 countries featuring in the top 50 fastest countries in the world. Overall, the region offers a respectable 26.40Mbps on average. At the faster end, Cayman Islands (71.47Mbps, 27th), Aruba (70.66Mbps, 28th), and Barbados (55.92Mbps, 38th) led the way, while Cuba (2.92Mbps, 196th), Sint Maarten (6.15Mbps, 170th), and Antigua and Barbuda (8.69Mbps, 141st) were the slowest.

Commenting on the worldwide rankings, Dan Howdle, consumer telecoms analyst at Cable.co.uk, said:

"The acceleration of the fastest countries in the world has finally plateaued this year as they reach FTTP pure fibre saturation. Increases in speed among the elite performers, then, can be attributed in greater part to uptake in many cases than to network upgrades.

"Meanwhile, though the countries occupying the bottom end of the table still suffer from extremely poor speeds,

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021's figures do indicate that the situation is improving.

"Europe absolutely dominates the leaderboard once again thanks to largely excellent infrastructure. In all cases, those countries ranking highest are those with a strong focus on pure fibre (FTTP) networks, with those countries dawdling too much on FTTC and ADSL solutions slipping further down year-on-year."

Notes for editors

- **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** When using our research it is vital you link to the source page for this project. While we respect individual editorial policy, the dissemination of our research from one site to another without our involvement means that, without a traceable path back to the source, articles can and do begin appearing without crediting our work. This in turn leads to an inundation of queries at our end from people wishing to find the data source themselves. And that can often mean more work than our small team can handle. Please consider this, and your readers, when deciding whether or not to link to the source in your article, news story, feature or white paper
- Other annual research designed and conducted by Cable.co.uk includes worldwide broadband pricing, and worldwide mobile data pricing, and how global network speeds were affected by stringent COVID-19 lockdown periods.
- An interactive map, along with further insights and

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ownloadable versions of the data set, our full research methodology, and this press release can be found on the research source page

- Cable.co.uk analysed data collected by M-Lab in a 12 month period up to 30 June 2021, including 224 countries and territories. Some countries have been excluded from the study due to very low sample sizes. You can find the data for them regardless, in the separate tab of the spreadsheet labelled 'Excluded countries'
- Note that it is not our remit to analyse or interpret results within specific countries outside of the UK, merely to provide a starting point for others to do so. Requests to expound on an individual country basis beyond the UK will therefore go unanswered. The answers to most questions beyond that are found in the methodology document, downloadable via the research source page. For anything else, please email Dan Howdle (dan@cable.co.uk), project head and consumer telecoms analyst. For purely technical queries concerning data extraction and speed-testing methodology, please email Mark Ashton (mark@cable.co.uk), head of research and development