



● UK DATA REFERENCE · JUNE 2026

THE NUMBERS, VERIFIED

Monday, 8 June 2026

# UK Broadband Statistics

## 2026 reference.

The state of UK broadband in one place: coverage, speeds, prices, switching, complaints and the mobile picture. Every figure is sourced and dated, so you can cite it with confidence.

**82%**

**FULL-FIBRE READY**

24.9m premises, Ofcom Spring 2026

**285**

**MBIT/S AVERAGE MAX**

Up 28% on 2024, Ofcom

**2M+**

**ONE TOUCH SWITCHES**

Since Sept 2024, Ofcom

Written by **Dr Alex J. Martin-Smith**  
Reviewed by **Adrian James**  
Next review within 90 days

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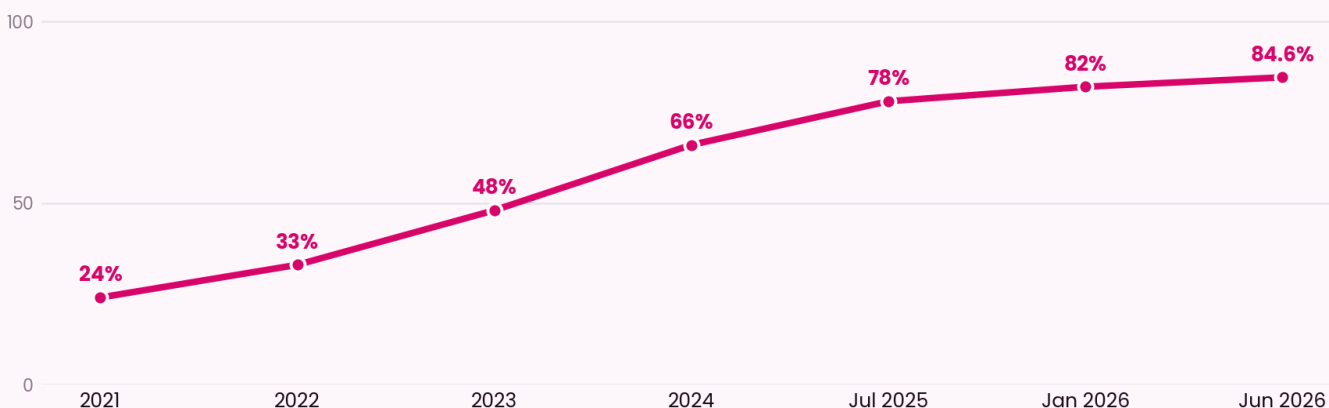
SECTION 01 · COVERAGE

# Coverage and infrastructure

## IN SHORT

On Ofcom's latest interim data (Spring 2026), full fibre reaches **82% of UK homes** and gigabit-capable networks reach **89%**. thinkbroadband's live tracker put full fibre a little higher at **84.6%** on 7 June 2026; Ofcom remains the official baseline.

The UK is in the final stretch of its full-fibre build, from a quarter of homes in 2021 to more than four in five today.



UK full-fibre availability, 2021 to June 2026. Early points are Ofcom annual data; the June 2026 point is thinkbroadband's all-premises tracker (mixed basis).

## Headline coverage figures

MEASURE	LATEST FIGURE	SOURCE AND DATE
Full fibre (FTTP)	<b>82%</b> · 24.9m homes	Ofcom Spring 2026 (Jan 2026 data)
Gigabit-capable	<b>89%</b> · 27.1m homes	Ofcom Spring 2026
Superfast (30 Mbit/s+)	<b>98%</b>	Ofcom Connected Nations 2025
Full-fibre take-up	47% where available	Ofcom Spring 2026 (12.4m connections)

Three networks dominate: **Openreach** (22.5m premises, about 67% of the UK), **Virgin Media O2** (18.7m, all gigabit-capable) and the **altnets combined** (19.7m per INCA). These overlap heavily, so are not additive.

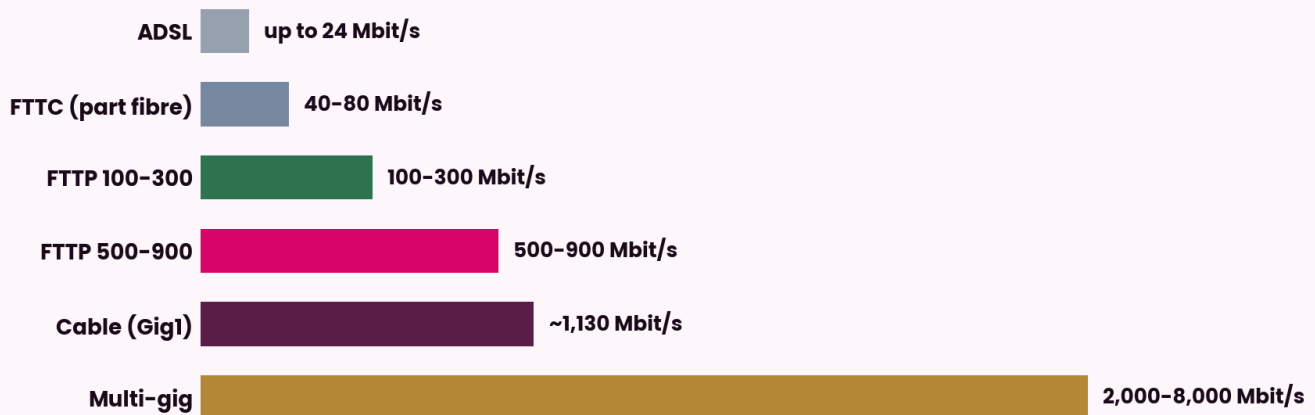
### THE COPPER SWITCH-OFF

The UK's old copper phone network (PSTN) is being retired, with final switch-off on **31 January 2027**. As each exchange passes 75% full-fibre coverage, copper is withdrawn for new orders, and legacy line costs are rising steeply through 2026.

## SECTION 02 · SPEEDS AND USAGE

# Speeds and how we use them

The average UK home has far more speed available than two years ago, and uses far more data. The technology your line runs on sets the ceiling.



Typical real-world speed range (scaled for display)

Typical real-world speed ranges by access technology, 2026. Bars are scaled for display; read the labelled ranges for true figures.

## Speed at a glance

MEASURE	FIGURE	SOURCE
Average max download	285 Mbit/s	Ofcom CN2025, Jul 2025 (up 28%)
Fastest nation	Northern Ireland, 325 Mbit/s	Ofcom CN2025, Jul 2025
Fastest widely available	~1,130 Mbit/s (cable Gig1)	Virgin Media; multi-gig to 8 Gbps on altnets
Data per connection	583 GB /month	Ofcom CN2025 (738 GB on full fibre)

## How busy the average home is

- ✓ **2.35 people** in the average UK household, across 28.6 million households (ONS, 2024).
- ✓ **583 GB** of data used per connection each month, rising to **738 GB** on full-fibre lines, almost 30% more (Ofcom, 2025).
- ✓ **95% of UK adults** have internet access at home (Ofcom, 2025), and a typical evening layers streaming, video calls, gaming and smart-home devices at once. Upload speed, strongest on full fibre, increasingly matters as much as download.

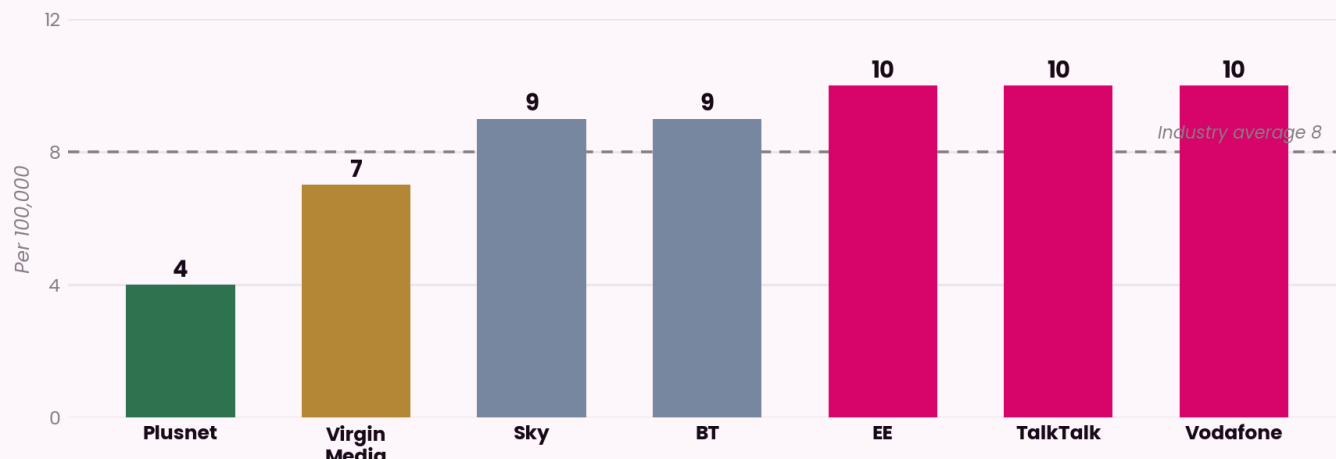
Curious what speed you actually get? Check what is available at **your postcode** and compare live deals on every network.

[Compare now →](#)

SECTION 03 · SWITCHING AND SERVICE

# Switching, complaints and fairness

Switching has never been easier, and service quality has never been better measured. One Touch Switch passed two million switches in its first 16 months, and complaints are at historic lows.



Broadband complaints per 100,000 customers, Q3 2025. Industry average was 8. Source: Ofcom complaints data, published 19 February 2026.

## Switching and value

MEASURE	FIGURE	SOURCE
One Touch switches	2m+	Ofcom, Sept 2024 to end 2025
Providers signed up	300+	TOTSCo
Typical switcher saving	£184 to £329 / year	Broadband Genie; Uswitch
Out-of-contract premium	£7 to £9 / month more	Ofcom Pricing Report 2026
Out of contract now	28% of customers	Ofcom Pricing Report 2026

### AUTOMATIC COMPENSATION (FROM 1 APRIL 2026)

If your provider lets you down, payment is automatic: **£10.34/day** for a delayed repair after loss of service, **£32.31** for a missed engineer appointment, and **£6.46/day** for a delayed start to a new service. The scheme covers around 91% of broadband customers and paid out £62.4m in 2024.

### SOCIAL TARIFFS: THE AWARENESS GAP

More than **30 social tariffs** are now available from £12.50 a month, yet only **532,000 households** use one, just 8.6% of those eligible. Around 70% of eligible households do not know they exist. If you receive Universal Credit or Pension Credit, a social tariff can save roughly £200 a year.

## SECTION 04 · MOBILE AND 5G

# The mobile picture

Mobile increasingly overlaps with home broadband, both through 5G home broadband as an alternative where full fibre has not arrived, and through the bundles that now dominate the market. Here is the UK mobile landscape in 2026.

## Mobile coverage and the market

MEASURE	FIGURE	SOURCE
5G outdoors (any operator)	97%	Ofcom CN2025
5G standalone (population)	83%	Ofcom CN2025
4G indoors (any operator)	~99% of premises	Ofcom CN2025
Mobile data per month	1.2bn GB, up 18%	Ofcom CN2025
Main networks	EE, Virgin Media O2, VodafoneThree	VodafoneThree merged 31 May 2025

## 5G home broadband as an alternative

Where full fibre has not reached you, fixed wireless 5G home broadband can be a strong stopgap, with no engineer visit and short contracts.

- ✓ **Vodafone 5G Broadband** launched in May 2026, advertising full-fibre-like speeds up to **150 Mbit/s** to around **3.7 million homes** without full fibre.
- ✓ **Three's fixed-wireless footprint** covers roughly **2.5 million premises**, often the easiest plug-and-play option for renters and short tenancies.
- ✓ **Watch the local signal.** 5G home broadband speed depends entirely on the mast serving your address, so a postcode check matters even more than usual.

### SME ANGLE

For a small business waiting on a full-fibre install, a 5G home or business broadband line on a rolling contract can keep you trading without locking you into a long term. Compare it against a temporary FTTC line on total cost, not headline speed.

Fixed or wireless, full fibre or cable, see exactly what reaches **your address** and the live deals on each.

[Compare now →](#)

## SECTION · REFERENCES

# References and sources



Written by **Dr Alex J. Martin-Smith** (CMgr, MBA, LL.M, DBA), Lead Editor. Reviewed by **Adrian James**.  
Published 8 June 2026, next review within 90 days. Every figure is sourced below and logged in our public corrections process.

Every statistic in this reference is backed by a publicly verifiable source, listed in APA 7th edition format. Coverage figures use Ofcom as the regulatory baseline and thinkbroadband as the live indicator; each is dated because the two legitimately differ.

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**REMEMBER**

National statistics describe the country, not your street. Coverage, speed and price all vary by address, so a 10-second postcode check at [broadbandswitch.uk/compare](https://broadbandswitch.uk/compare) is always the place to start.

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