



UK Broadband Speedtest Results December 2009

This press release gives the aggregated speedtest results from tests carried out by site users at www.broadband.co.uk for December 2009.

Average download & upload speeds - December 2009		
ISP	Average Download speed (Mbps)	Average Upload Speed (Mbps)
AOL	2.021	0.315
Be and O2*	5.143	0.753
BT	2.814	0.354
Eclipse	2.697	0.336
Orange	3.146	0.410
Plusnet	2.705	0.333
Sky	3.361	0.428
Talk Talk	3.418	0.488
Tiscali	2.788	0.335
Virgin Media	7.426	0.548
All providers	4.478	0.467

** Note that although O2 and Be share a common infrastructure they are separate trading entities*

During December 2009 Virgin Media have yet again extended their lead as the UK's fastest broadband supplier with a lead over their nearest rival O2/Be of over 2Mbps.

Overall we see a new record for average broadband speeds in the UK finishing the year 22% higher than at the end of 2008.

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Average download speeds split by time of day – December 2009			
ISP	Overnight (00:00 to 08:00) Average download speed (Mbps)	Daytime (08:00 to 18:00)Average download speed (Mbps)	Evening (18:00 to 00:00)Average download speed (Mbps)
AOL	2.035	2.064	1.852
Be and O2*	5.262	5.244	5.014
BT	2.787	2.944	2.563
Eclipse	1.974	3.004	2.689
Orange	3.598	3.241	2.553
Plusnet	3.429	2.668	2.491
Sky	3.645	3.390	3.081
Talk Talk	3.795	3.546	3.028
Tiscali	2.323	2.885	2.833
Virgin Media	7.283	7.602	7.216
All providers	4.822	4.517	4.172

Our average speed by time of day shows how the average broadband speed is heavily influenced by the time of day (and therefore likely level of network congestion).

The overnight levels show a significantly higher average speed than the evening peak period, with daytime use between the two. This clearly shows the effects of network congestion on the average broadband connection at peak hours.

Virgin again hold the top slots in all 3 time periods. AOL again limp in to last place in all three categories with the evening result being especially poor at under 2Mbps.



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Average throughput achieved by Suppliers

When a user has carried out a speedtest and provided us with their postcode we can work out the throughput as a percentage of the maximum speed we would expect them to achieve. So a user we expect to have a maximum speed of 4Mbps and who tests as 4Mbps gets a 100% throughput result.

ISP	Average throughput (as % of expected maximum speed)
AOL	61%
Be	139%
BT	67%
Eclipse	97%
O2	107%
Orange	70%
Plusnet	54%
Sky	82%
TalkTalk	82%
Tiscali	60%
Virgin Media – ADSL	129%
Virgin Media – fibre optic	179%
All suppliers	92%

As this test relies on users to select their own suppliers we can differentiate between O2 and Be, and also Virgin Media users using ADSL or fibre optic connections.

As some suppliers use ADSL2+ or fibre optic technology then they can achieve speed ratios of over 100% and this is to be expected.



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About the broadband.co.uk speedtest results

- Our results are taken from our website users performing speedtests using our speedchecker at <http://www.broadband.co.uk/broadband-speed-test/>
- We record tens of thousands of speedtests every month.
- Unlike other speedtest services we record the Internet Service Provider (ISP) by IP address making our ISP recording very accurate rather than relying on self selection
- We pick out the following ISP's for reporting every month
 - AOL
 - Be Broadband and O2 (O2 and Be are separate trading entities; however they share a common infrastructure)
 - BT
 - Eclipse
 - Orange
 - Plusnet
 - Sky
 - TalkTalk
 - Tiscali
 - Virgin

About [broadband.co.uk](http://www.broadband.co.uk)

- We are one of the original broadband information and comparison sites having been launched in 2004
- With well over 1 million visitors per year we are the UK's leading source of broadband information and advice
- We provide beginners guides to all areas of broadband along with discussion forums, speedtester and broadband postcode lookup functionality
- We provide a unique free "Ask the expert" service where our broadband expert answers any query related to broadband, technical, comparison and related

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