



Speed Tier Explanation

Maximum Advertised Download Speed represents the highest speed reported by any internet service provider for the street segment or area shown. Note that advertised speeds may not reflect actual speeds due to variances in overall network traffic, location of specific end-user premises, and other factors. Providers may also have upgraded service capacity since our last survey. As the ConnectingALABAMA project moves forward, we anticipate updates to service speeds and coverage information approximately every six months.

All internet services shown in this map meet the minimum FCC definition for broadband service - 768kbps download speed. Actual speeds required for applications such as photo sharing, streaming audio/video, online gaming, tele-medicine and other bandwidth intensive services are difficult to estimate due to the constantly changing nature of internet technology itself. However, the following bullets provide an overview of each speed tier's potential capabilities:

- 768kbps – 1.5mbps – generally considered sufficient for basic internet applications including email, light web surfing, sharing of lower resolution pictures, etc. The FCC definition of broadband 'starts at' 768kbps. Speeds below this level are not considered broadband in today's marketplace.
- 1.5mbps – 3.0mbps – generally considered a quality broadband service speed range. Enables a more robust web surfing experience (few noticeable delays), the sharing of larger files (in a timely fashion), and reasonable quality IPTV and streaming audio/video.
- 3.0mbps – 6.0mbps – generally considered a strong broadband service speed range in today's market. May only be available via technologies such as cable, fiber, and the latest generation wireless services. Typically sufficient for good quality two-way video streaming and IPTV, large file transfers (in a timely manner), a high quality web surfing experience, and online gaming.
- 6.0mbps – 10.0mbps – considered a very strong/fast service speed in today's market. Enables commercial grade file transmission, a very robust web surfing experience, high quality video/audio streaming for education and telemedicine applications, and robust online gaming.
- 10.0mbps – 25.0mbps – a very high-end consumer or commercial grade service in today's broadband market. Provides for very high quality (high definition) streaming audio/video experience, very fast file transfer capability, multi-player gaming, and other high bandwidth applications.