The State of US Broadband

A comprehensive view of broadband coverage, construction, and competition

June 2026

Cartesian®
A Bounteous Company

The State of US Broadband

Cartesian's report *The State of US Broadband* covers the past, present, and future of consumer fixed Internet in the US. It is based on FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC) as of December 31, 2025.

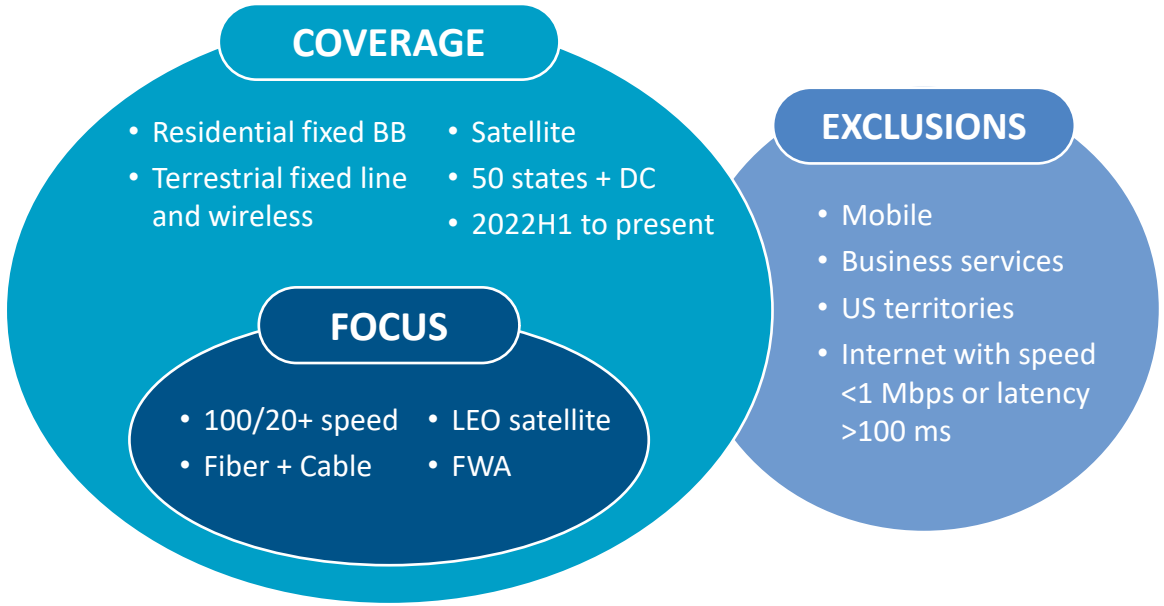
Our goal with this report is to make the FCC's broadband coverage dataset *accessible* and *digestible*. We do this in a *timely* manner, soon after each twice-yearly major BDC release.

We offer this report to help readers in a number of areas:

- Market Analysis
- Public Policy & Advocacy
- Competitive Intelligence
- Business Case Development
- Market Selection & Build Planning
- M&A Target Identification

This report addresses 3 questions about US consumer broadband:

- What Is the Current State of Broadband Availability?
- Who Is Building Broadband?
- Where Is Broadband Investment Going?



Cartesian® A Bounteous Company

Executive Summary | 2025H2 Broadband Trends

Residential broadband availability expanded in 2025H2, with both fiber and FWA deployment growing modestly

Current State of Broadband

- **Competition deepened:** More than 50% of U.S. residential locations now have 2+ fiber or cable providers available
- **Coverage gains continued:** Per-location coverage rose at or above the recent pace, especially for locations with 2 or 3 competitors
- **Symmetrical gigabit accelerated:** Symmetrical gigabit availability increased faster than the prior three-year trend, reinforcing the shift toward higher-capacity broadband
- **FWA growth skewed lower-speed:** Major MNO FWA growth was concentrated in the 25/3 to 100/20 Mbps tier, with 2-provider FWA availability reaching 38% of residential locations
- **LEO satellite was stable:** LEO satellite coverage and reported speeds were unchanged vs. 2025H1

Who Is Building Broadband

- **AT&T led fiber construction:** AT&T remained the top fiber builder, while deployment broadened across ILECs, MSOs, overbuilders, and T-Mobile-affiliated builders.
- **Top builders accelerated:** Nearly all top 25 fiber builders increased their 2025H2 pace versus their three-year average.
- **MSOs stayed prominent:** MSOs accounted for 6 of the top 25 fiber builders.
- **T-Mobile expanded through deals:** JVs and acquisitions continued to grow T-Mobile's effective fiber footprint.
- **Verizon led FWA growth:** Verizon drove the largest reported FWA expansion, mainly in the 25/3 to 100/20 Mbps tier.

Where Broadband Is Going

- **Most fiber builds were first-to-fiber:** Most fiber construction remained "first to fiber," with ~4.7M locations gaining first fiber availability versus ~1.3M gaining a second or third fiber provider
- **Phoenix and Chicago led fiber growth:** Phoenix and Chicago had the largest DMA-level increases in fiber-served locations in 2025H2
- **Investment opportunities remain segmented:** Public investment opportunities remain concentrated in zero-provider fiber/cable areas, while private investment continues targeting one-provider and overbuild-prone markets

Broader Market Themes

- **Broadband gaps continued to shrink:** Broadband investment continued reducing the number of residential locations lacking broadband access, with the share of underserved locations declining in 48 states plus DC between 2025H1 and 2025H2
- **Consolidation continued reshaping scale:** Consolidation and partnerships continued to reshape provider scale, with nearly all of the largest ISPs except Comcast having announced or recently completed M&A
- **Reported footprints may understate reach:** BDC-reported footprints may understate the effective reach of major ISPs because JVs, partnerships, and wholesale/open-access arrangements are not always fully reflected as owned coverage

Contents

Broadband Coverage by Technology | 100/20+ Mbps Speeds

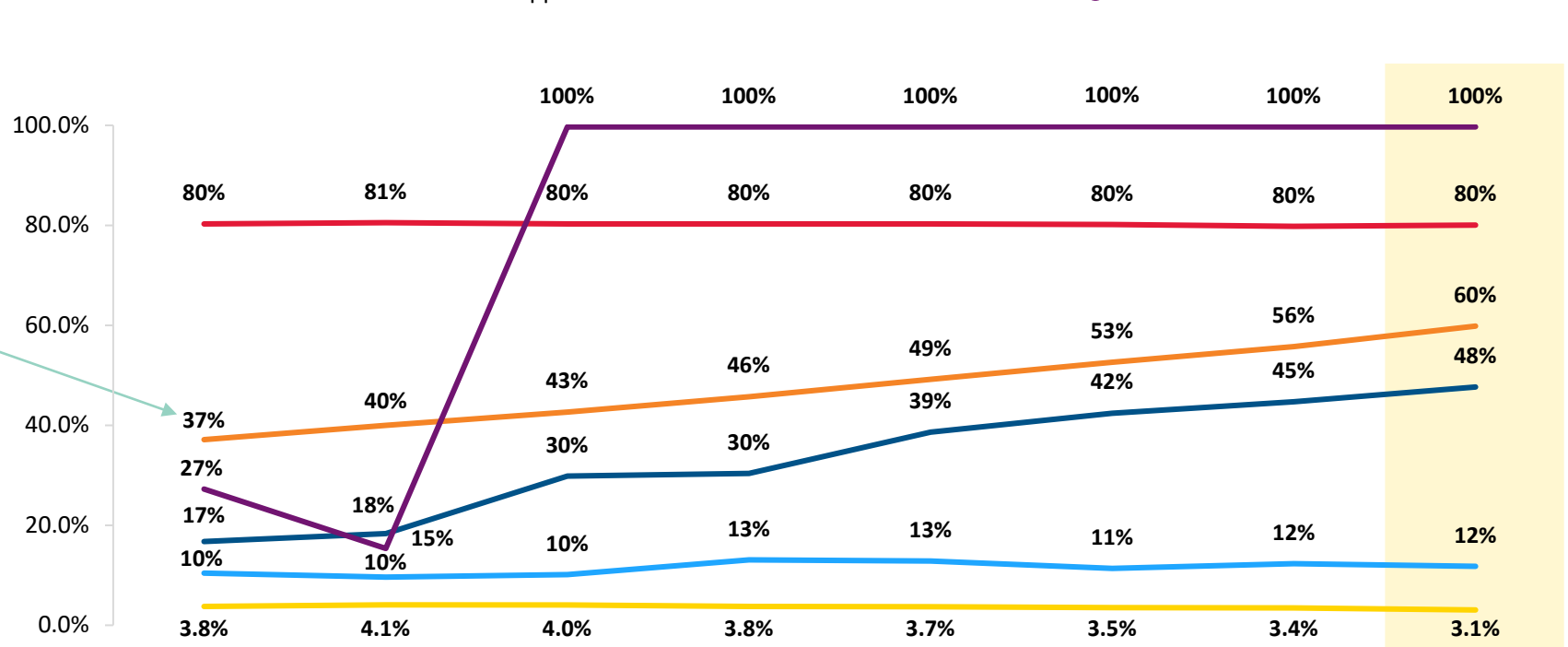
What share of residential locations is served by each broadband technology?

Included Technologies: Fiber, Cable, Copper, Licensed FWA, Unlicensed FWA, LEO Satellite

How to read this chart

In **2022H1**, 37% of residential locations in the US were offered fiber by at least 1 provider.

In **2025H2**, that percentage of residential locations increased to 60%.



% of Residential Locations	2022H1	2022H2	2023H1	2023H2	2024H1	2024H2	2025H1	2025H2	Change (Locations)	
									RECENT CHANGE 6-Months	3-Years
Fiber	80%	81%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%	+0.0pp (+59K)	+84pp (+97.4M)
Cable	37%	40%	43%	46%	49%	53%	56%	60%	+0.2pp (+321K)	-0.5pp (+971K)
Licensed FWA	17%	18%	30%	30%	39%	42%	45%	48%	+4.1pp (+4.8M)	+20pp (+23.6M)
Unlicensed FWA	10%	10%	10%	13%	13%	11%	12%	12%	+2.9pp (+3.4M)	+29pp (+34.1M)
LEO Satellite	27%	15%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	-0.5pp (-614K)	+2.2pp (+2.7M)
Copper	3.8%	4.1%	4.0%	3.8%	3.7%	3.5%	3.4%	3.1%	-0.4pp (-439K)	-1.0pp (-1.1M)

Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes <100ms latency 100/20+ Mbps service to residential locations and excludes U.S. territories.

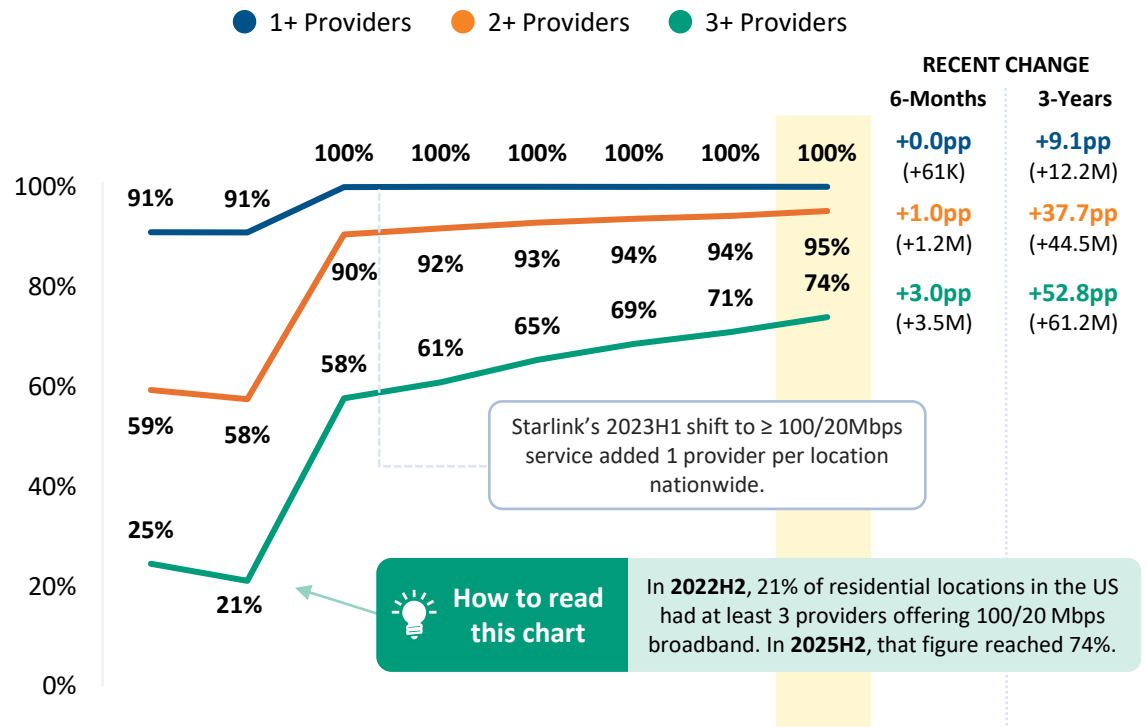
Cartesian A Bounteous Company

Broadband Providers per Location | 100/20+ Mbps Speeds

How competitive is the broadband market?

All Technologies

Included Technologies: Fiber, Cable, Copper, Licensed FWA, Unlicensed FWA, LEO Sat.

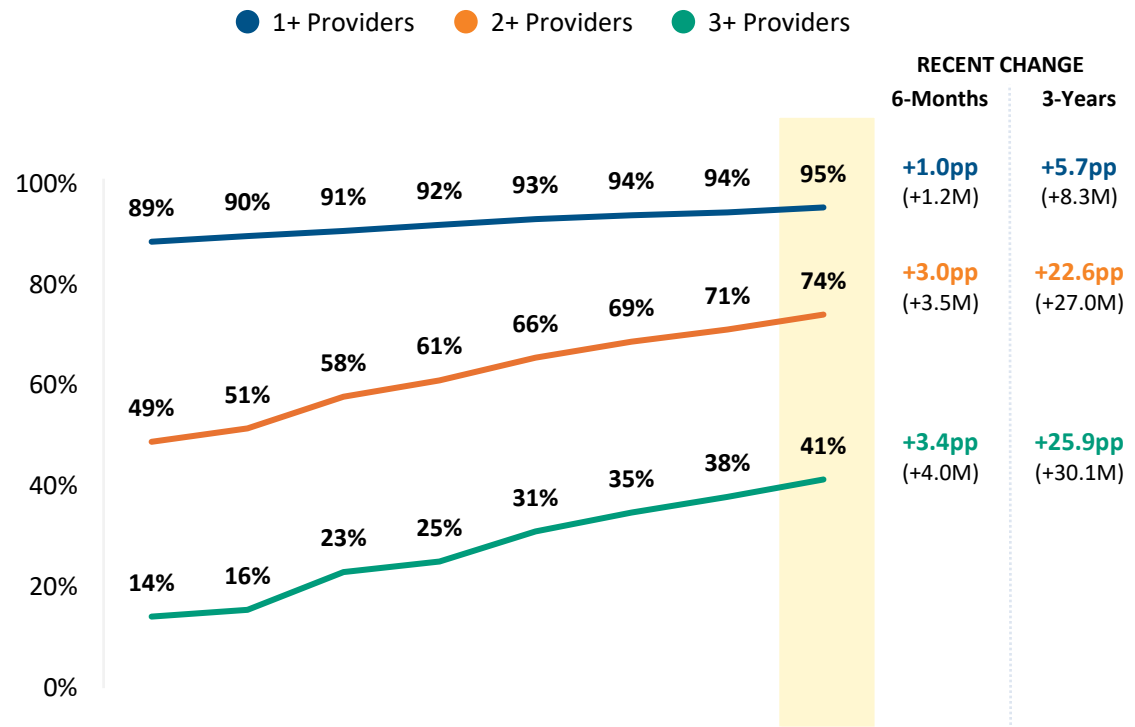


RECENT CHANGE	6-Months	3-Years
1+ Providers	+0.0pp (+61K)	+9.1pp (+12.2M)
2+ Providers	+1.0pp (+1.2M)	+37.7pp (+44.5M)
3+ Providers	+3.0pp (+3.5M)	+52.8pp (+61.2M)

% of Residential Locations	2022H1	2022H2	2023H1	2023H2	2024H1	2024H2	2025H1	2025H2	Change (Locations)
1+ Providers	91%	91%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	+0.0pp (+61K)
2+ Providers	59%	58%	90%	92%	93%	94%	94%	95%	+1.0pp (+1.2M)
3+ Providers	25%	21%	58%	61%	65%	69%	71%	74%	+3.0pp (+3.5M)

Terrestrial Technologies

Included Technologies: Fiber, Cable, Copper, Licensed FWA, Unlicensed FWA



RECENT CHANGE	6-Months	3-Years
1+ Providers	+1.0pp (+1.2M)	+5.7pp (+8.3M)
2+ Providers	+3.0pp (+3.5M)	+22.6pp (+27.0M)
3+ Providers	+3.4pp (+4.0M)	+25.9pp (+30.1M)

% of Residential Locations	2022H1	2022H2	2023H1	2023H2	2024H1	2024H2	2025H1	2025H2	Change (Locations)
1+ Providers	89%	90%	91%	92%	93%	94%	94%	95%	+1.0pp (+1.2M)
2+ Providers	49%	51%	58%	61%	66%	69%	71%	74%	+3.0pp (+3.5M)
3+ Providers	14%	16%	23%	25%	31%	35%	38%	41%	+3.4pp (+4.0M)

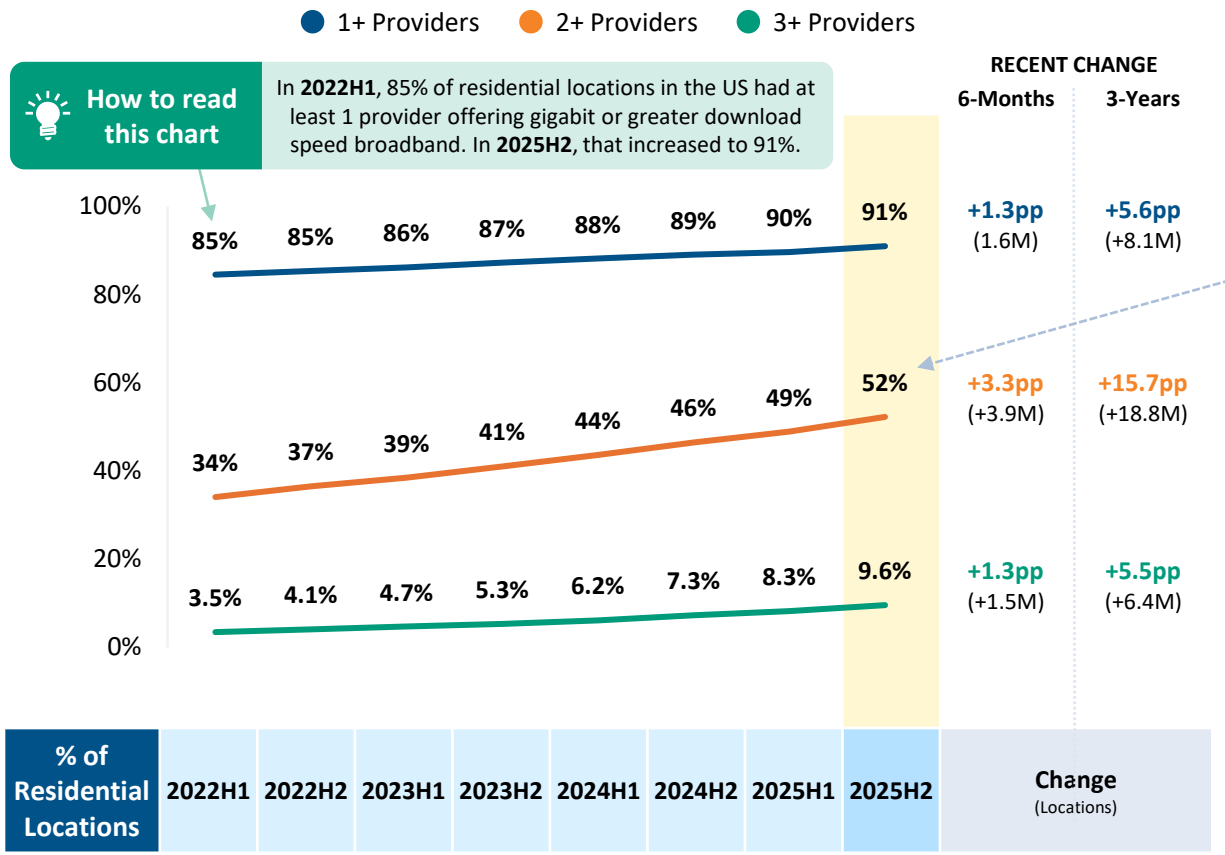
Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes <100ms latency 100/20+ Mbps at residential locations excluding U.S. territories.

Broadband Providers per Location | Gigabit Speed Availability

How prevalent are gigabit downstream and symmetrical gigabit options?

Gigabit Downstream Availability

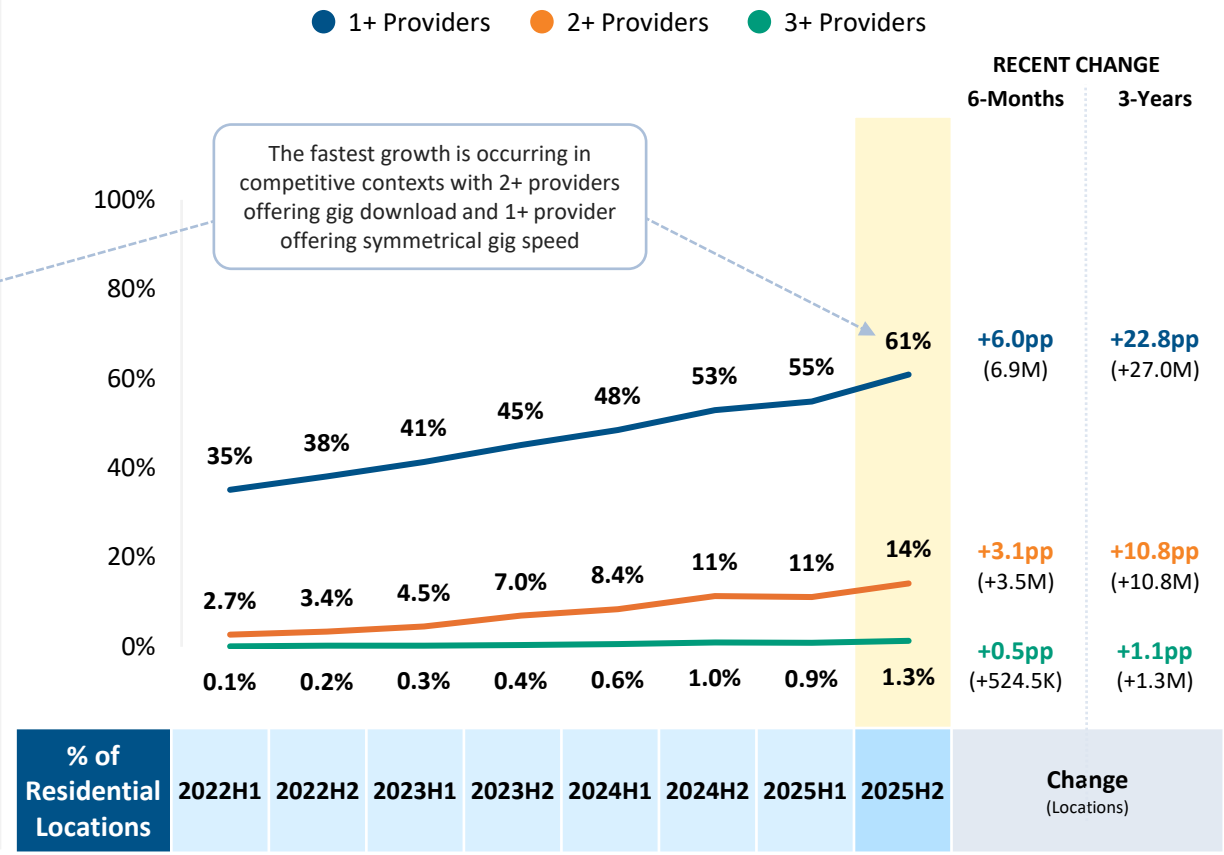
Included Technologies: Fiber, Cable, Copper, Licensed FWA



% of Residential Locations	2022H1	2022H2	2023H1	2023H2	2024H1	2024H2	2025H1	2025H2	Change (Locations)

Symmetrical Gigabit Availability

Included Technologies: Fiber, Cable, Copper, Licensed FWA



% of Residential Locations	2022H1	2022H2	2023H1	2023H2	2024H1	2024H2	2025H1	2025H2	Change (Locations)

Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Gigabit speeds defined as 940+ Mbps down / 880+ Mbps up at residential locations excluding U.S. territories. Satellite internet and unlicensed FWA are excluded.

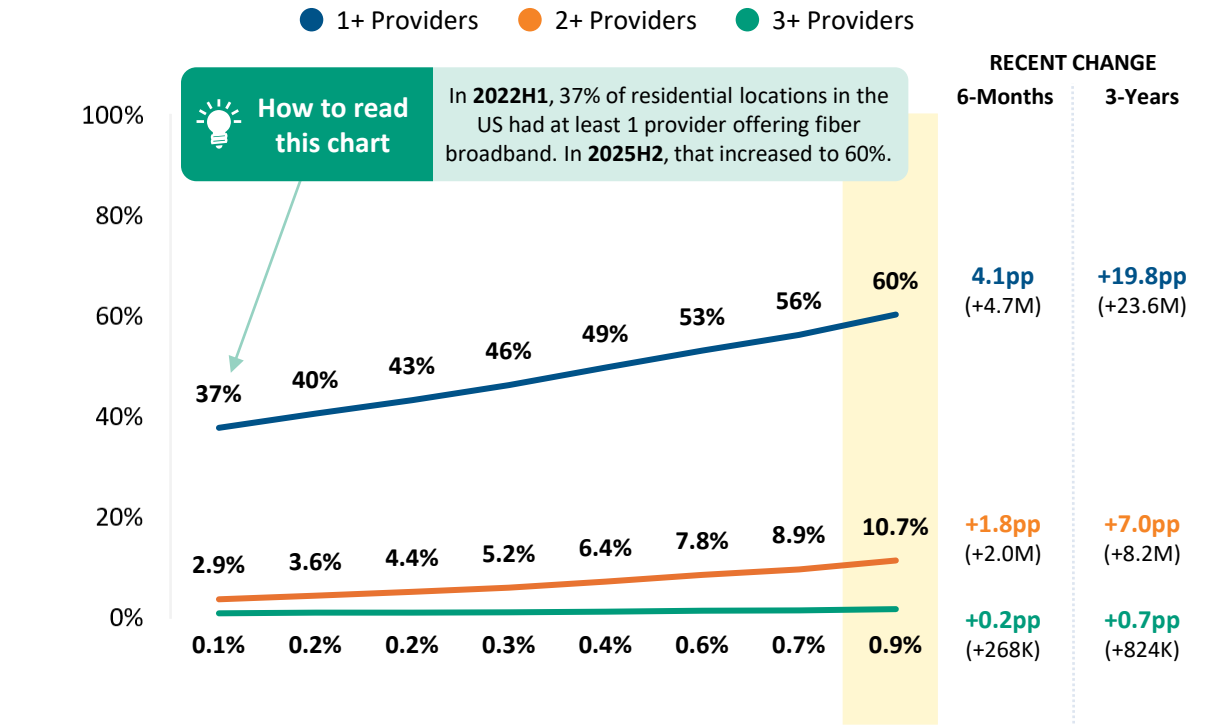
Cartesian A Bounteous Company

Broadband Providers per Location | Fiber and Cable Availability

How prevalent are fiber and cable options?

Fiber Availability

Included Technologies: Fiber

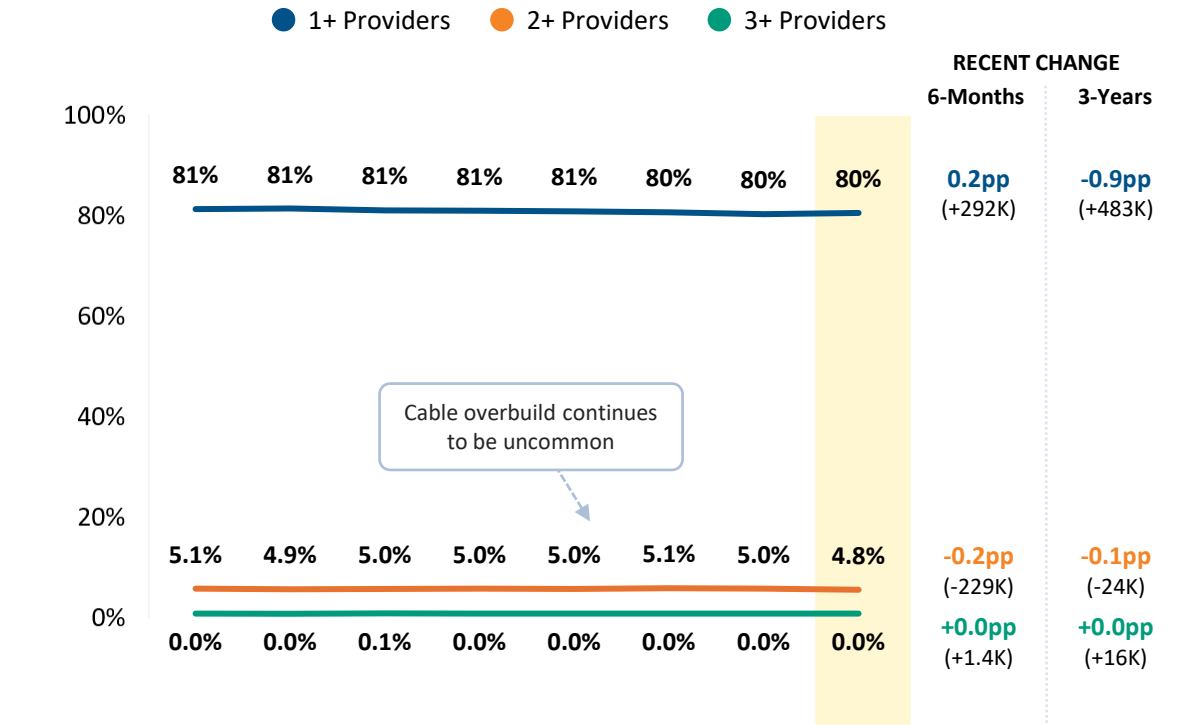


RECENT CHANGE	6-Months	3-Years
1+ Providers	4.1pp (+4.7M)	+19.8pp (+23.6M)
2+ Providers	+1.8pp (+2.0M)	+7.0pp (+8.2M)
3+ Providers	+0.2pp (+268K)	+0.7pp (+824K)

% of Residential Locations	2022H1	2022H2	2023H1	2023H2	2024H1	2024H2	2025H1	2025H2	Change (Locations)

Cable Availability

Included Technologies: Cable



RECENT CHANGE	6-Months	3-Years
1+ Providers	0.2pp (+292K)	-0.9pp (+483K)
2+ Providers	-0.2pp (-229K)	-0.1pp (-24K)
3+ Providers	+0.0pp (+1.4K)	+0.0pp (+16K)

% of Residential Locations	2022H1	2022H2	2023H1	2023H2	2024H1	2024H2	2025H1	2025H2	Change (Locations)

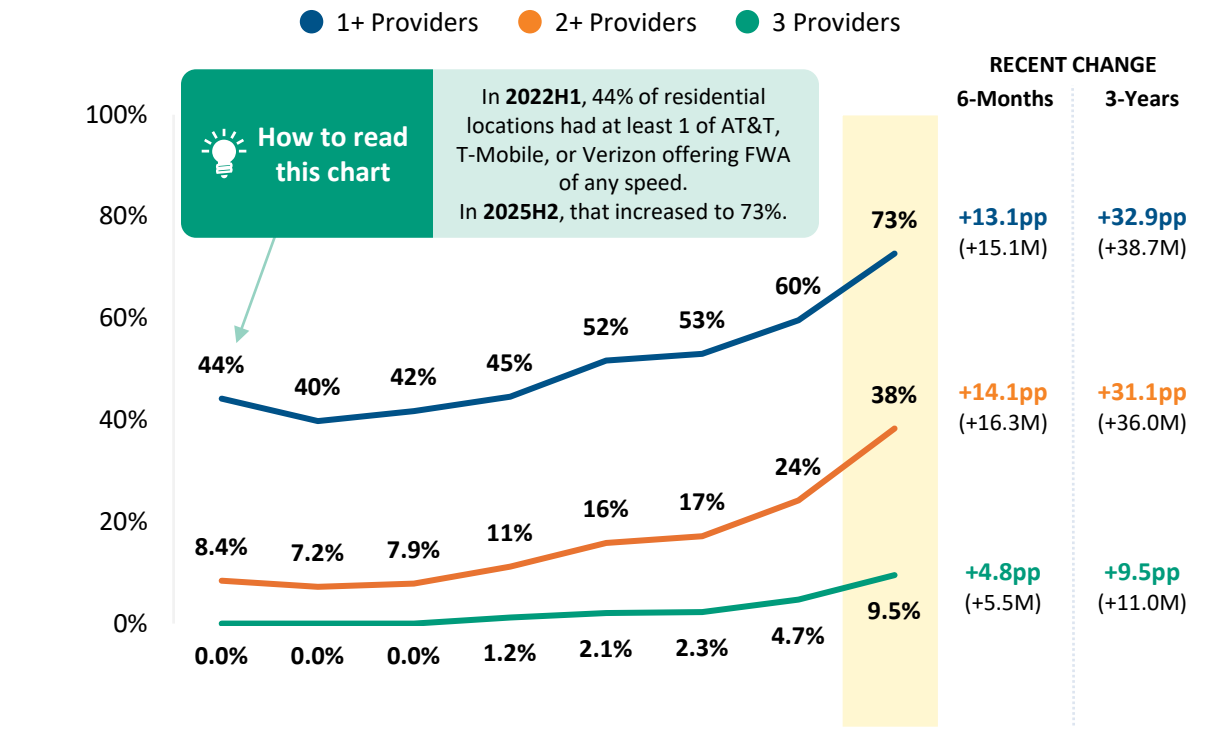
Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes residential locations and excludes U.S. territories and high-latency service.

FWA Providers per Location | AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile

How widely have the national MNOs deployed FWA at different speed tiers?

Any Speed FWA Availability

Included Technologies: Licensed FWA

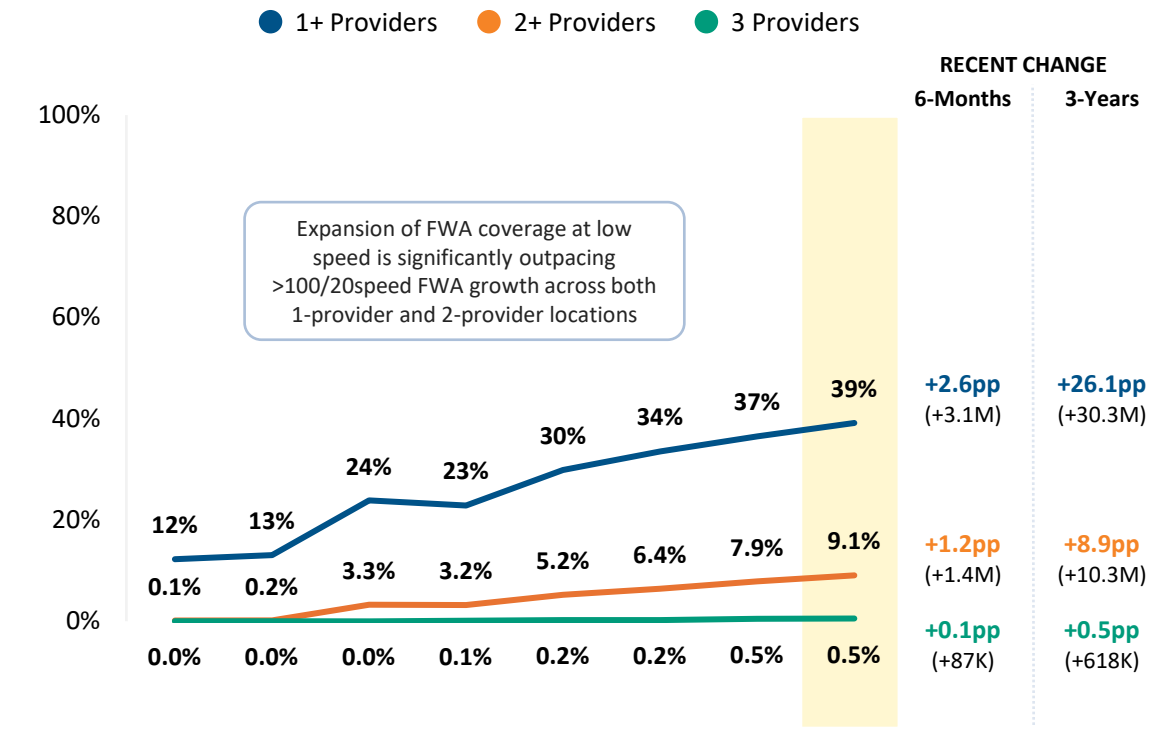


RECENT CHANGE	6-Months	3-Years
1+ Providers	+13.1pp (+15.1M)	+32.9pp (+38.7M)
2+ Providers	+14.1pp (+16.3M)	+31.1pp (+36.0M)
3 Providers	+4.8pp (+5.5M)	+9.5pp (+11.0M)

% of Residential Locations	2022H1	2022H2	2023H1	2023H2	2024H1	2024H2	2025H1	2025H2	Change (Locations)

100/20+ Mbps Speed FWA Availability

Included Technologies: Licensed FWA



RECENT CHANGE	6-Months	3-Years
1+ Providers	+2.6pp (+3.1M)	+26.1pp (+30.3M)
2+ Providers	+1.2pp (+1.4M)	+8.9pp (+10.3M)
3 Providers	+0.1pp (+87K)	+0.5pp (+618K)

% of Residential Locations	2022H1	2022H2	2023H1	2023H2	2024H1	2024H2	2025H1	2025H2	Change (Locations)

Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes residential locations and excludes U.S. territories. Service is limited to <100ms latency AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon Licensed FWA service.

Starlink LEO | Share of Residential Locations Served by Speed

How is LEO satellite service evolving in terms of speed and coverage?

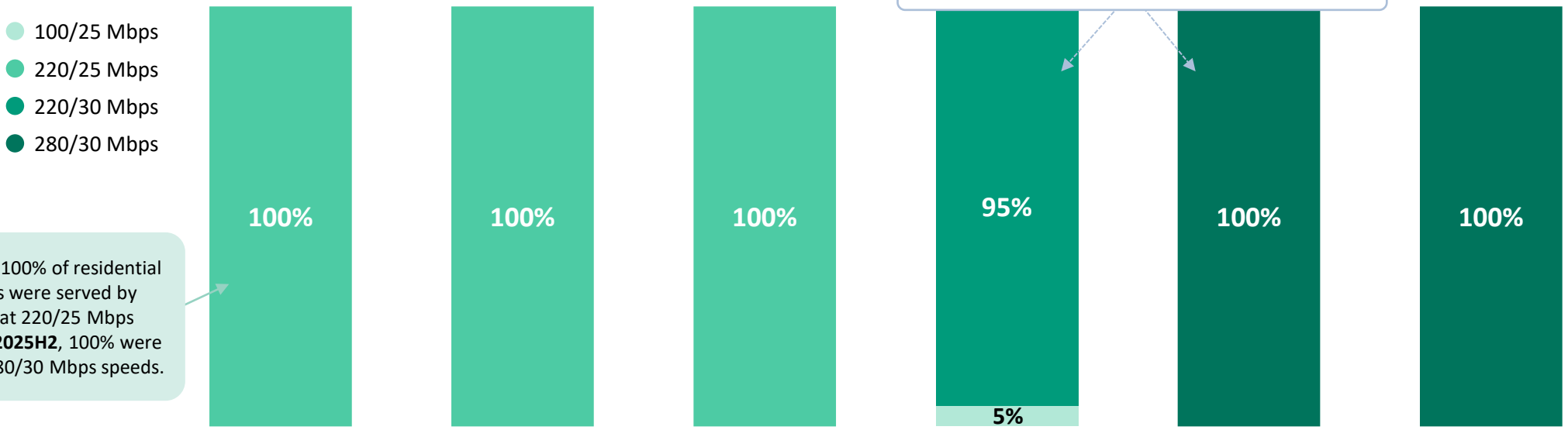
Included Technologies: LEO Satellite

With the upcoming launch of Amazon LEO and continued LEO technology evolution, it will be important to monitor LEO coverage and speed

How to read this chart

In **2023H1**, 100% of residential locations were served by Starlink at 220/25 Mbps speeds. In **2025H2**, 100% were served at 280/30 Mbps speeds.

Starlink reported regional speed differences in 2024H2, but returned to a single speed across 100% of locations in 2025H1 and 2025H2



	2023H1	2023H2	2024H1	2024H2	2025H1	2025H2
Avg Download Speed	220	220	220	160	280	280
Avg Upload Speed	25	25	25	27.5	30	30

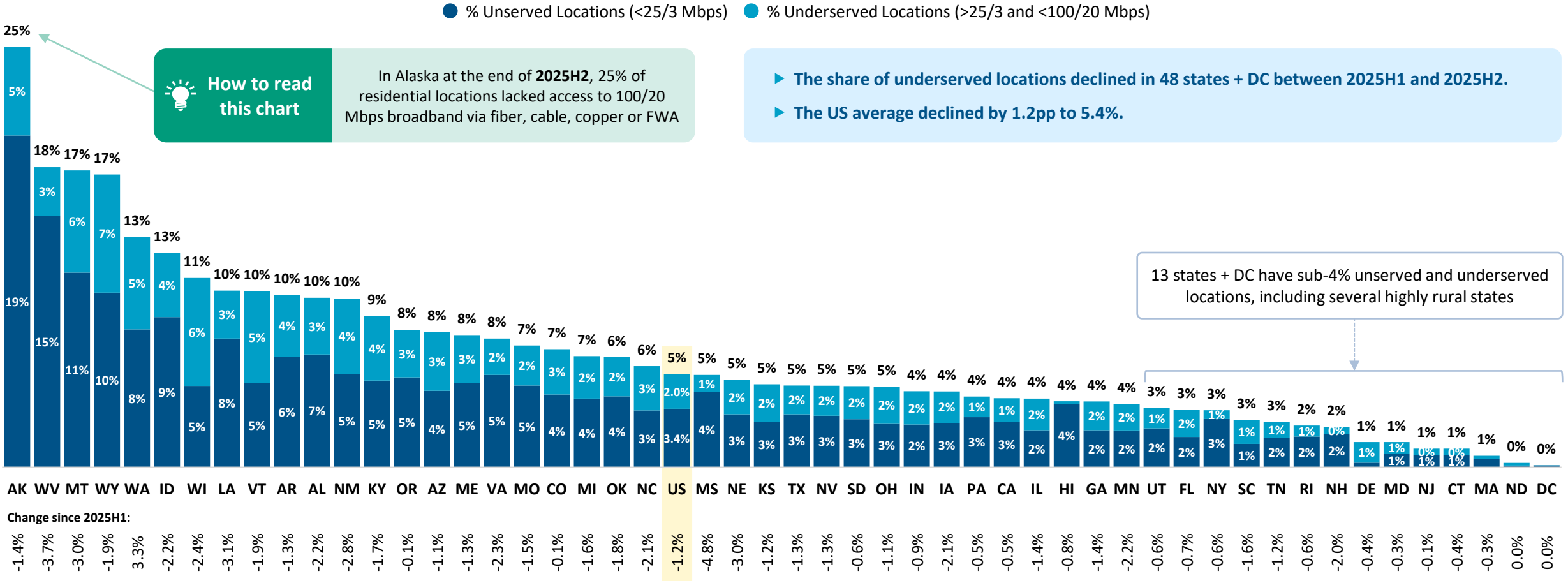
Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes residential locations and excludes U.S. territories and >100ms latency service.

Unserved & Underserved Locations | Share of Residential Locations by State

How do states compare in their share of unserved and underserved residential locations?

As of 2025H2

Included Technologies: Fiber, Cable, Copper, Licensed FWA



Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes residential locations and excludes U.S. territories. Satellite internet, unlicensed FWA, and >100ms latency service are excluded.

Additional info and downloadable data available at: www.cartesian.com/state-of-us-broadband-june-2026-data/

Cartesian A Bounteous Company

Fiber & Cable Competitors per Location | Rankings by DMA

How do DMAs compare in competitive intensity?

As of 2025H2

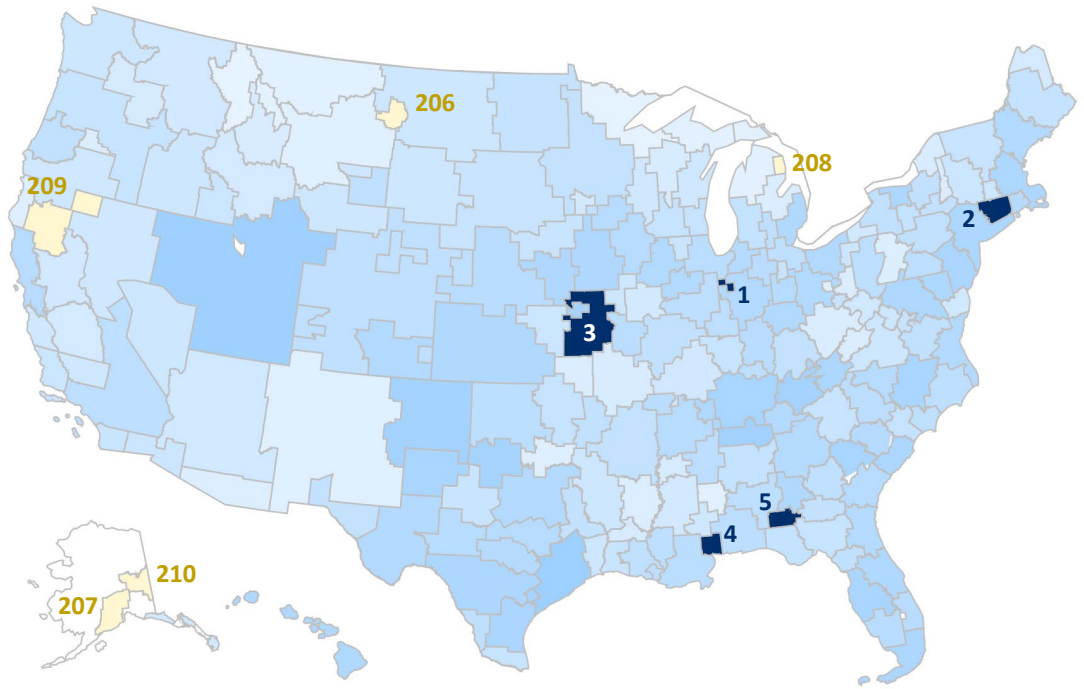
Included Technologies: Fiber Cable

Ranked By:

DMA Rank	DMA Name	Average Provider Count	% 0 Provider Locations	% 1 Provider Locations	% 2 Provider Locations	% 3+ Provider Locations
USA		**1.5**	**9%**	**39%**	**43%**	**9%**
1	Lafayette IN	2.2	3%	21%	34%	43%
2	Hartford & New Haven CT	2.2	1%	19%	43%	37%
3	Kansas City MO	2.2	7%	18%	37%	38%
4	Biloxi-Gulfport MS	2.1	1%	20%	47%	32%
5	Dothan AL	2.1	7%	29%	28%	36%
⋮						
206	Glendive MT	0.8	16%	84%	0%	0%
207	Anchorage AK	0.8	29%	63%	8%	0%
208	Alpena MI	0.8	31%	60%	8%	1%
209	Chico-Redding CA	0.8	32%	59%	8%	1%
210	Fairbanks AK	0.7	39%	53%	7%	0%

How to read this chart

Lafayette, Indiana averages 2.2 fiber or cable providers per location, the most of any DMA in 2025H2



Average Provider Count: Top 5 DMAs 2.0 1.5 1.0 .5 Bottom 5 DMAs

Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes <100ms latency 100/20+ Mbps service to residential locations, excluding U.S. territories.

Additional info and downloadable data available at: www.cartesian.com/state-of-us-broadband-june-2026-data/

Cartesian A Bounteous Company

Contents

Recent Fiber Deployment | New Fiber Location Rankings by Provider

Who is building the most fiber, and how is the deployment ranking changing?

Included Technologies: Fiber

How to read this chart

Charter built the 2nd most fiber locations in **2025H2** (2nd to AT&T). Relative to 2025H1, Charter climbed 3 spots on the leaderboard of top fiber builders.

- A number of ISPs have risen quickly up the ranks of top fiber builders, including Lumos, Mediacom, TDS, Bluepeak, Ziply, Optimum, GoNetSpeed, Intrepid, Swyft, and IQ Fiber
- AT&T's build pace is far outpacing all other ISPs, adding +1.3M builds in 2025H2

Rank		Provider	ISP Type	2025H1 Fiber Locations	2025H2 Fiber Locations	Net Fiber Growth *2025H1 vs. 2025H2*	Avg. Period Growth[1] *2022 H1 to 2025 H2*
Current	6-Month Change						
1	--	**AT&T**	ILEC	18.0M	19.3M	+1.3M	+1.0M
2	▲ +3	**Charter**	MSO	1.6M	2.3M	+672.4K	+301.4K
3	▲ +1	**Frontier** *(now Verizon)*	ILEC	6.0M	6.5M	+483.5K	+382.5K
4	▼ -1	**Brightspeed**	ILEC	1.4M	1.7M	+349.4K	+256.2K
5	▲ +12	**Lumos / T-Mobile**	Overbuilder	318.2K	604.1K	+285.9K	+69.8K
6	▼ -4	**Metronet / T-Mobile**	Overbuilder	2.3M	2.6M	+283.1K	+241.6K
7	▲ +7	**Cox**	MSO	623K	852.8K	+229.6K	+65.9K
8	▲ +2	**CenturyLink** *(now AT&T)*	ILEC	2.9M	3.1M	+204.3K	+159.5K
9	▼ -3	**Comcast**	MSO	776.7K	940.5k	+163.7K	+131.2K
10	▲ +143	**Mediacom**	MSO	13.3K	150.8k	+137.4K	+21.5K
11	▼ -2	**Verizon**	ILEC	9.2M	9.3M	+137.2K	+147.5K
12	▼ -4	**Google Fiber**	Overbuilder	1.7M	1.8M	+112.0K	+128.4K
13	▲ +2	**Ezee Fiber**	Overbuilder	267.3K	373.2K	+105.8K	+51.8K
14	▲ +17	**TDS**	ILEC	760.0K	851.4K	+91.3K	+61.4K
15	▼ -2	**Windstream**	ILEC	1.3M	1.4M	+88.6K	+81.6K
16	▼ -5	**Fidium**	ILEC	952.1K	1.0M	+81.6K	+76.2K
17	▲ +29	**Bluepeak**	Overbuilder	175.9K	249.7K	+73.8K	+33.9K
18	▲ +1,643	**Ziply**	ILEC	704.8K	763.9K	+59.1K	+19.8K
19	▲ +14	**Optimum**	MSO	2.2M	2.2M	+55.3K	+129.9K
20	▲ +5	**Greenlight**	Overbuilder	234.0K	286.8K	+52.8K	+28.9K
21	▼ -9	**Ripple Fiber**	Overbuilder	156.4K	206.1K	+49.6K	+29.3K
22	▲ +14	**GoNetSpeed**	Overbuilder	487.1K	534.1K	+47.0K	+46.6K
23	▲ +14	**Intrepid**	Overbuilder	82.1K	125.9K	+43.8K	+17.9K
24	▲ +1,640	**Swyft**	MSO	54.1K	97.3K	+43.1K	+12.1K
25	▲ +45	**IQ Fiber**	Overbuilder	102.0K	145.1K	+43.1K	+20.7K

1: Net change in fiber locations from 2022H1 to 2025H2 divided by seven intervals.
Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes residential locations and excludes U.S. territories.

Additional info and downloadable data available at:
www.cartesian.com/state-of-us-broadband-june-2026-data/

Recent Fiber Deployment | Top 25 Local Fiber Builds

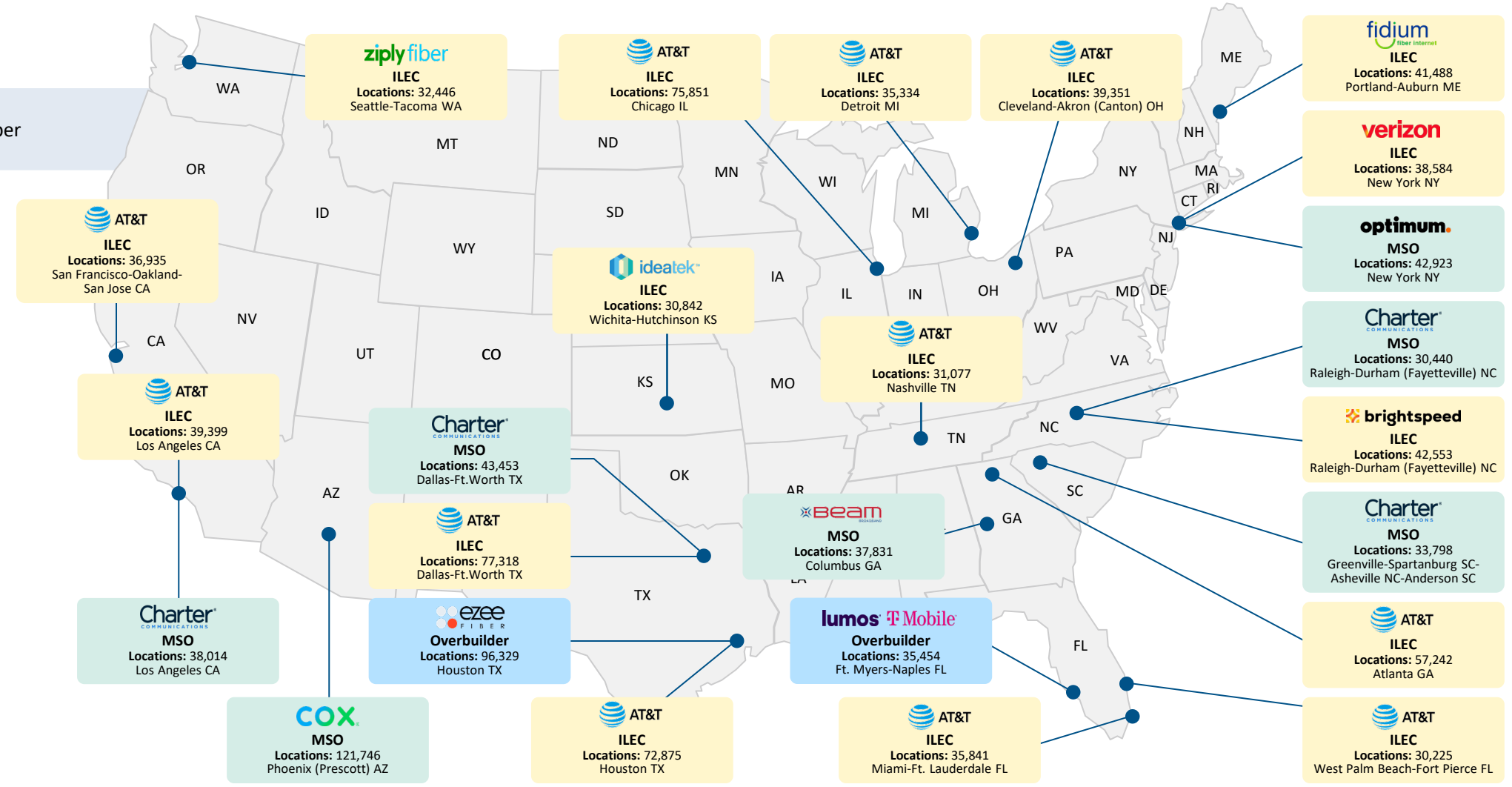
Where were the largest local fiber builds in 2025H2, and who is building them?

As of 2025H2

Included Tech: Fiber

- ILEC
- MSO
- Overbuilder

The largest local fiber builds are being driven mostly by major ISPs, and by a mix of ISP types: ILECs (16), MSOs (7), Overbuilders (2)



Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes Fiber service to residential locations, excluding U.S. territories and remote non-DMA locations.

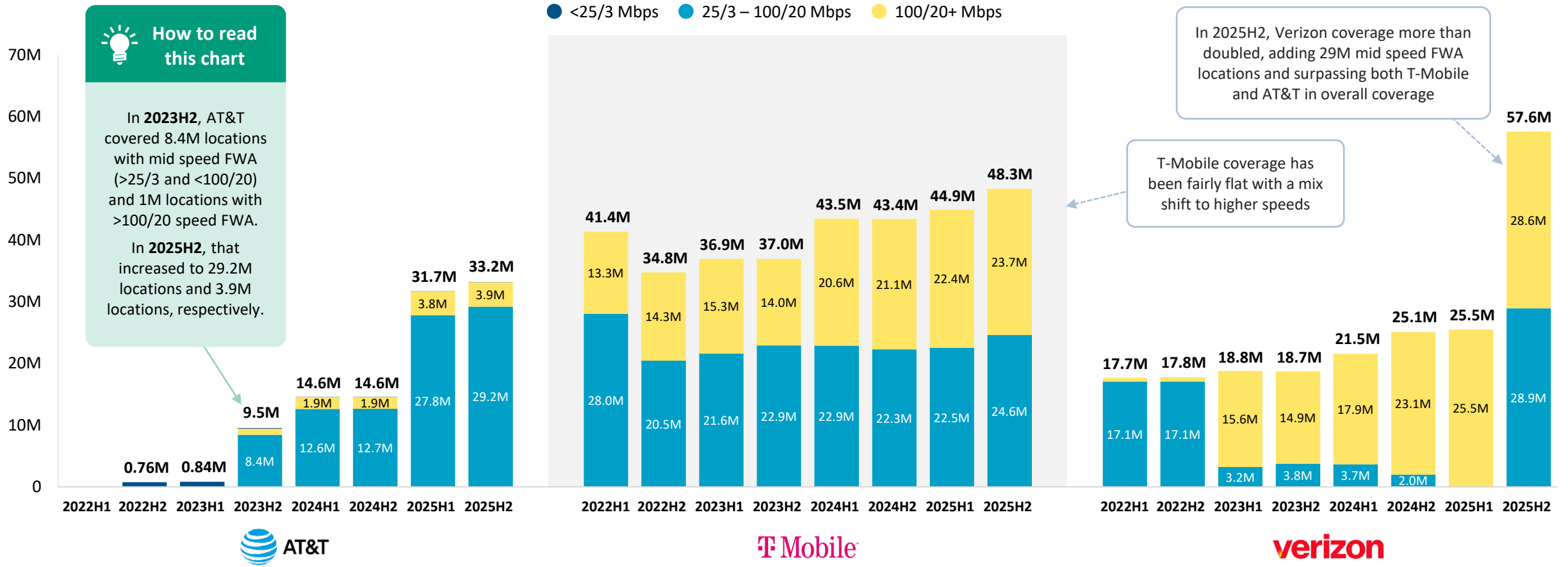
Additional info and downloadable data available at:
www.cartesian.com/state-of-us-broadband-june-2026-data/

Cartesian
A Bounteous Company

FWA Availability | AT&T, Verizon & T-Mobile Residential Location Coverage

How is each of the national MNOs evolving its FWA coverage and speed?

Included Technologies: Licensed FWA



Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes residential locations and excludes U.S. territories. Limited to <100ms latency AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon Licensed FWA service at reported speeds > 0Mbps.

Cartesian A Bounteous Company

Network Investment | ILEC Broadband Footprints

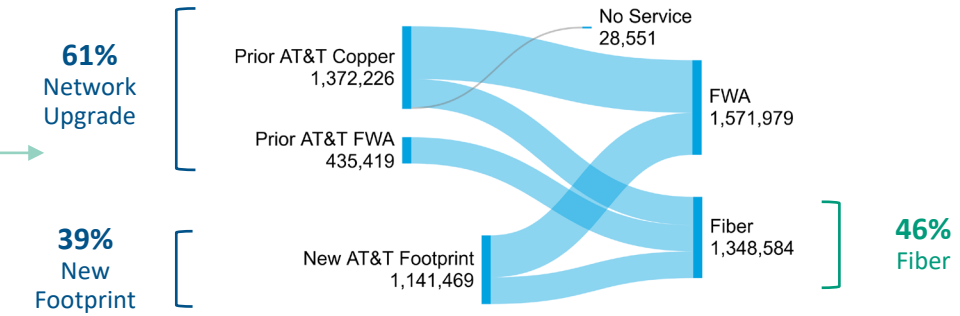
How is each major ILEC expanding, decommissioning, and upgrading its residential broadband network?

How to read this chart

Between **2025H1** and **2025H2**, AT&T added 1.1M locations; just over half offer FWA and the rest offer fiber.

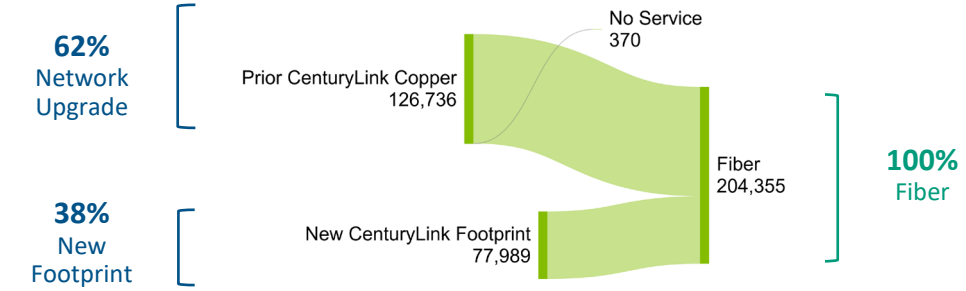
AT&T

2025H1: 56.1M locations → 2025H2: 57.2M locations



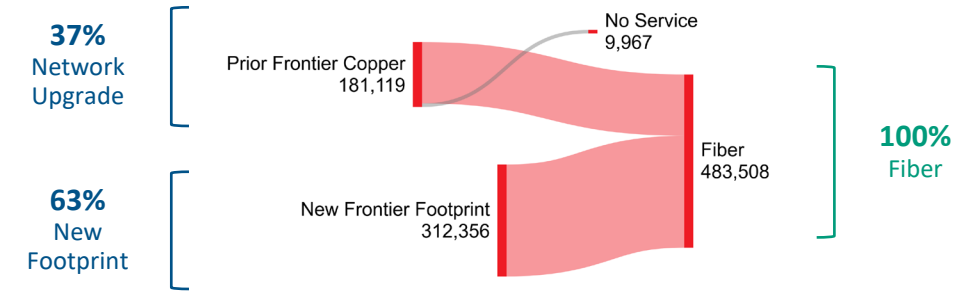
CenturyLink

2025H1: 9.55M locations → 2025H2: 9.63M locations



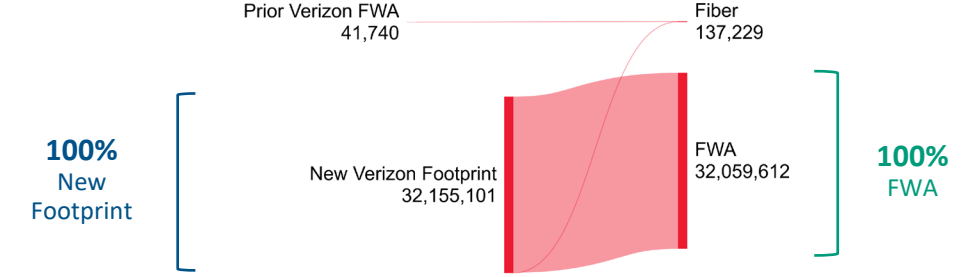
Frontier

8.06M locations → 8.36M locations



Verizon

34.6M locations → 66.8M locations



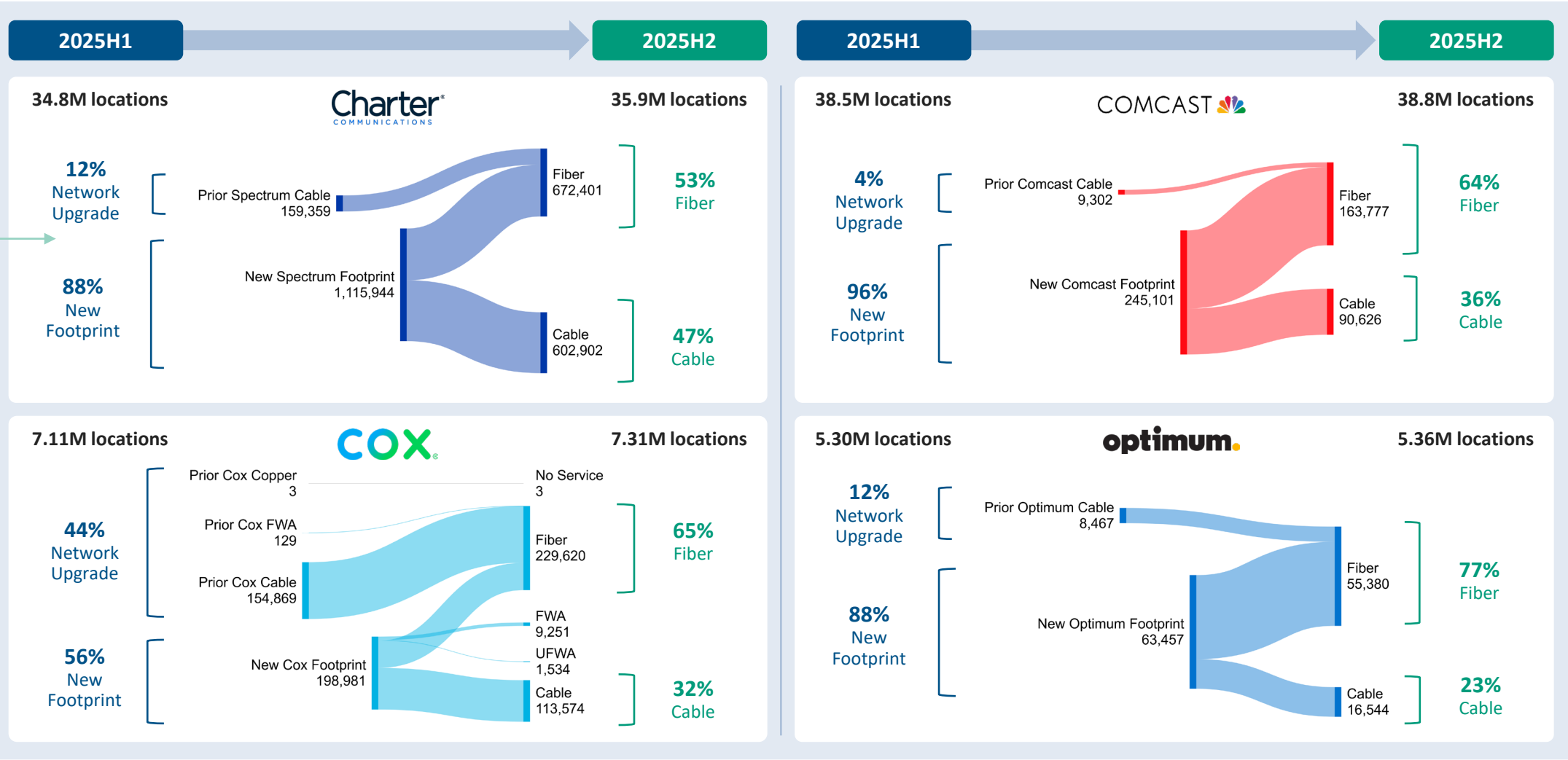
Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes residential locations and excludes U.S. territories and >100ms latency service.
This page shows the "best available" technology at each location according to the following logic: 1. Fiber, 2. Cable, 3.Licensed FWA, 4. Copper, 5. Unlicensed FWA

Network Investment | MSO Broadband Footprints

How is each major MSO expanding and upgrading its network?

How to read this chart

Between **2025H1** and **2025H2**, Charter added 1.1M locations, with about 1/2 becoming fiber locations and the other 1/2 becoming cable locations.



Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes residential locations and excludes U.S. territories and >100ms latency service.
This page shows the "best available" technology at each location according to the following logic: 1. Fiber, 2. Cable, 3. Licensed FWA, 4. Copper, 5. Unlicensed FWA

Cartesian A Bounteous Company

ISP Rankings by Locations Served | Post-Announced M&A

What scale have major ISP consolidators reached, and who are the likely next acquisition targets?

As of 2025H2

Included Technologies: Fiber, Cable, Copper

How to read this chart

Location counts for ISPs in shaded blue rows reflect announced M&A not yet recorded in BDC

Pending or completed acquisition

Rank	ISP	ISP Type	Total Locations (Fiber + Cable + Copper)	Fiber Locations	Cable Locations	M&A Locations
1	**Charter + Cox**	MSO	43.2M	3.1M	40.1M	▲7.2M
2	**Comcast**	MSO	38.7M	940K	37.8M	-
3	**AT&T + CenturyLink** *(fiber only)*	ILEC	37.4M	22.5M	-	▲3.1M
4	**Verizon + Frontier + Starry**	ILEC	17.7M	15.9M	-	▲9.1M
5	**CenturyLink** *(copper only)*	ILEC	9.7M	-	-	
6	**Optimum**	MSO	5.3M	2.2M	3.0M	-
7	**Brightspeed**	ILEC	5.0M	1.7M	-	-
8	**T-Mobile + Metronet + Lumos + i3 + Greenlight + GoNetSpeed**	Overbuilder	4.4M	4.3M	22.6K	▲1.2M
9	**Astound + G Fiber**	Overbuilder	3.8M	2.1M	1.6M	▲1.8M
10	**Sparklight + Vyve + Point Broadband**	MSO	3.2M	639K	2.5M	▲908K
11	**Windstream**	ILEC	2.9M	1.4M	82.5K	-
12	**Mediacom**	MSO	2.6M	150.8K	2.5M	-
13	**WOW**	Overbuilder	1.7M	150.1K	1.5M	-
14	**Fidium**	ILEC	1.6 M	1.0M	2.3K	-
15	**TDS**	ILEC	1.3M	851.4K	262.1K	-
16	**Breezeline**	MSO	1.3M	89.1K	1.2M	-
17	**Altafiber**	ILEC	982.4K	953.5K	2	-
18	**Ziply**	ILEC	791.9K	763.9K	-	-
19	**Midco**	MSO	650.9K	121.8K	529.1K	-
20	**Shentel**	MSO	532.9K	360.2K	170.1K	-
21	**Armstrong**	MSO	459.7K	186.8K	271.2K	-
22	**Allo**	Overbuilder	436.6K	436.6K	-	-
23	**Service Electric**	MSO	424.9K	18.0K	406.8K	-
24	**Conexon Connect**	Overbuilder	415.6K	415.6K	-	-
25	**Sonic**	Overbuilder	406.2K	406.2K	-	-

Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes Fiber, Cable, and Copper service to residential locations, excluding U.S. territories and >100ms latency service.

Additional info and downloadable data available at: www.cartesian.com/state-of-us-broadband-june-2026-data/

Cartesian A Bounteous Company

Contents

Fiber Investment | Rankings by DMA

Which local areas saw the greatest recent fiber investment, and how is this changing?

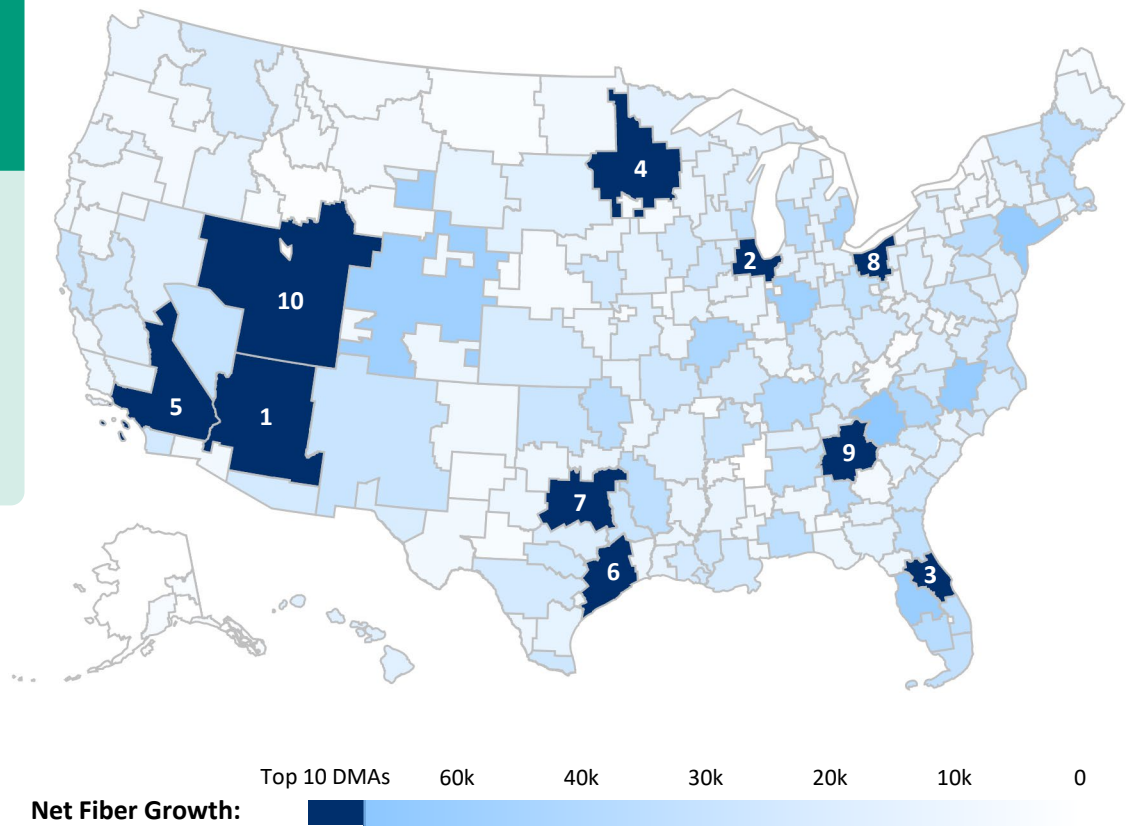
Included Technologies: Fiber

Ranked By:

DMA Rank		DMA Name	2025H1 Fiber Locations	2025H2 Fiber Locations	Net Fiber Growth 2025H1 to 2025H2	Percent Change
Current	Change					
1	▲ +7	Phoenix (Prescott) AZ	743K	919K	176K	24%
2	▲ +11	Chicago IL	858K	998K	140K	16%
3	▼ -1	Orlando-Daytona Beach-Melbourne FL	922K	1.1M	131K	14%
4	▲ +11	Minneapolis-St. Paul MN	955K	1.1M	119K	12%
5	▲ +4	Los Angeles CA	2.2M	2.4M	118K	5%
6	▼ -5	Houston TX	1.9M	2.0M	105K	6%
7	▼ -4	Dallas-Ft.Worth TX	2.1M	2.2M	104K	5%
8	▼ -2	Cleveland-Akron (Canton) OH	764K	857K	93K	12%
9	▼ -4	Atlanta GA	1.6M	1.7M	92K	6%
10	▲ +14	Salt Lake City UT	731K	813K	82K	11%

How to read this chart

Pheonix was the top DMA in terms of new fiber locations in **2025H2** (+176k locations). Pheonix was ranked 7th in this category in **2025H1**.



Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes Fiber service to residential locations, excluding U.S. territories, remote non-DMA locations, and >100ms latency service.

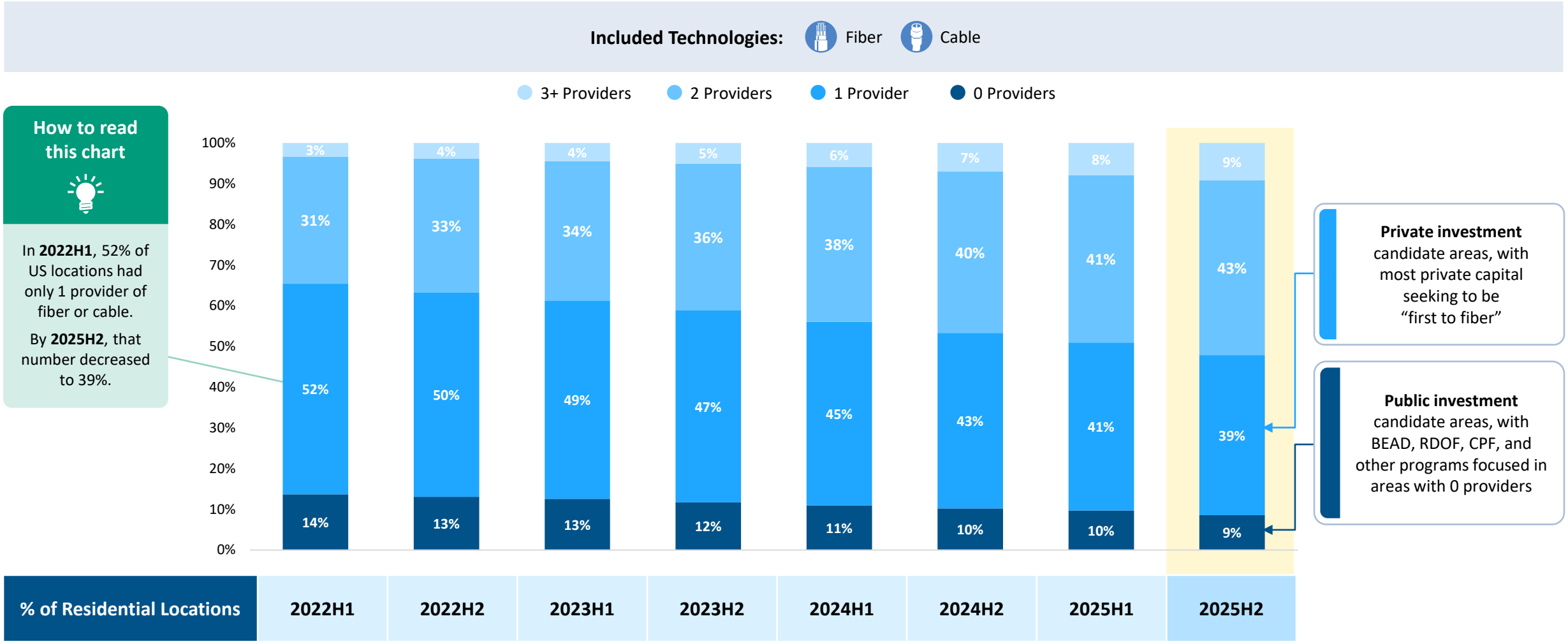
Additional info and downloadable data available at:
www.cartesian.com/state-of-us-broadband-june-2026-data/

Cartesian A Bounteous Company

Fiber & Cable | Providers per Location

What share of locations are candidates for public or private investment?

Included Technologies: Fiber Cable



How to read this chart

In **2022H1**, 52% of US locations had only 1 provider of fiber or cable.

By **2025H2**, that number decreased to 39%.

Private investment candidate areas, with most private capital seeking to be "first to fiber"

Public investment candidate areas, with BEAD, RDOF, CPF, and other programs focused in areas with 0 providers

Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes Fiber and cable service to residential locations, excluding U.S. territories and >100ms latency service.

Cartesian A Bounteous Company

Locations without Fiber or Cable Broadband | Rankings by DMA

Which local areas are the best candidates for public broadband investment?

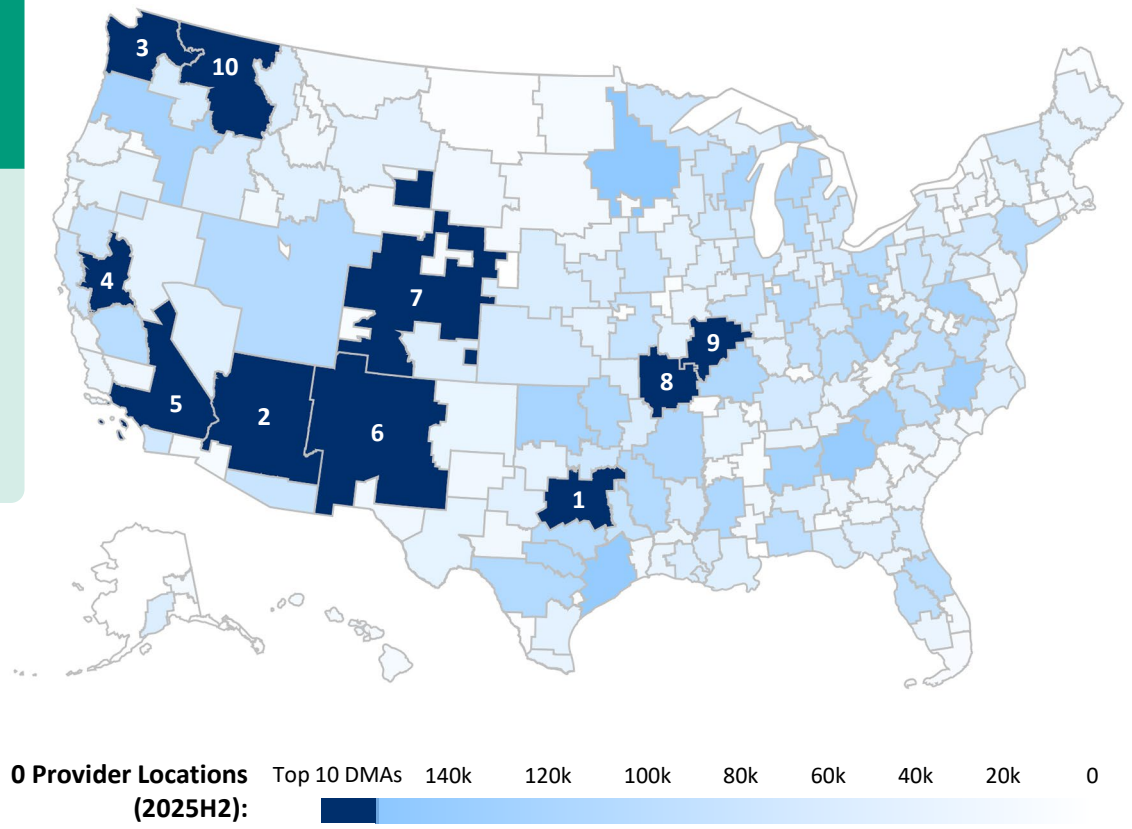
Included Technologies: Fiber Cable

Ranked By:

DMA Rank		DMA Name	2025H1 0 Provider Locations	2025H2 0 Provider Locations	Net Change 2025H1 to 2025H2	Percent Change
Current	Change					
USA			11.3M	9.9M	- 1.4M	-12%
1	--	Dallas-Ft.Worth TX	335K	298K	- 36K	-11%
2	--	Phoenix (Prescott) AZ	318K	280K	- 38K	-12%
3	▲ +8	Seattle-Tacoma WA	150K	270K	120K	80%
4	▲ +5	Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto CA	161K	221K	60K	37%
5	▼ -2	Los Angeles CA	247K	210K	- 37K	-15%
6	▼ -1	Albuquerque-Santa Fe NM	184K	184K	0.8K	0%
7	▼ -1	Denver CO	180K	172K	- 8.3K	-5%
8	▼ -1	Springfield MO	175K	164K	- 12K	-7%
9	▼ -5	St. Louis MO	184K	162K	- 21K	-12%
10	▼ -2	Spokane WA	165K	155K	- 10K	-6%

How to read this chart

Dallas is the top DMA in terms of locations with no fiber or cable providers in **2025H2** with 298K locations, 36K fewer than in **2025H1.**



Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes <100ms latency 100/20+ Mbps fiber and cable service to residential locations, excluding U.S. territories and non-DMA locations.

Additional info and downloadable data available at:
www.cartesian.com/state-of-us-broadband-june-2026-data/

Cartesian A Bounteous Company

Locations with 1 Fiber or Cable Provider | Rankings by DMA

Which local areas are the best candidates for private investment?

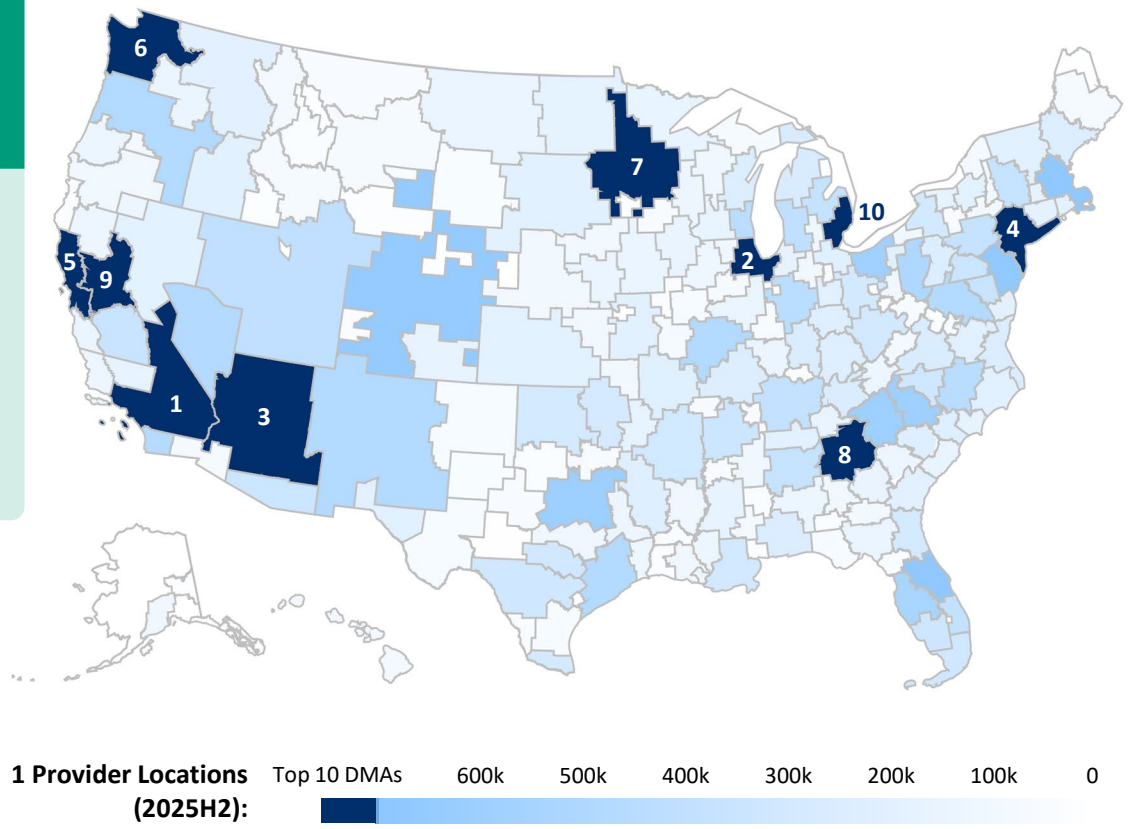
Included Technologies: Fiber Cable

Ranked By:

DMA Rank		DMA Name	2025H1 1 Provider Locations	2025H2 1 Provider Locations	Net Change 2025H1 to 2025H2	Percent Change
Current	Change					
USA			47.6M	45.4M	- 2.1M	-5%
1	--	Los Angeles CA	1.8M	1.8M	- 51K	-3%
2	--	Chicago IL	1.4M	1.3M	- 87K	-6%
3	--	Phoenix (Prescott) AZ	1.3M	1.3M	- 21K	-2%
4	--	New York NY	1.2M	1.1M	- 87K	-7%
5	▲ +2	San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose CA	920K	935K	14K	2%
6	▼ -1	Seattle-Tacoma WA	941K	891K	- 50K	-5%
7	▼ -1	Minneapolis-St. Paul MN	923K	854K	- 69K	-7%
8	--	Atlanta GA	868K	823K	- 45K	-5%
9	--	Sacramento-Stockton-Modesto CA	837K	793K	- 43K	-5%
10	--	Detroit MI	781K	748K	- 32K	-4%

How to read this chart

Los Angeles is the top DMA in terms of locations with 1 fiber or cable provider in **2025H2** with 1.8M locations, 51K fewer than in **2025H1.**



Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes <100ms latency 100/20+ Mbps fiber and cable service to residential locations, excluding U.S. territories and non-DMA locations.

Additional info and downloadable data available at:
www.cartesian.com/state-of-us-broadband-june-2026-data/

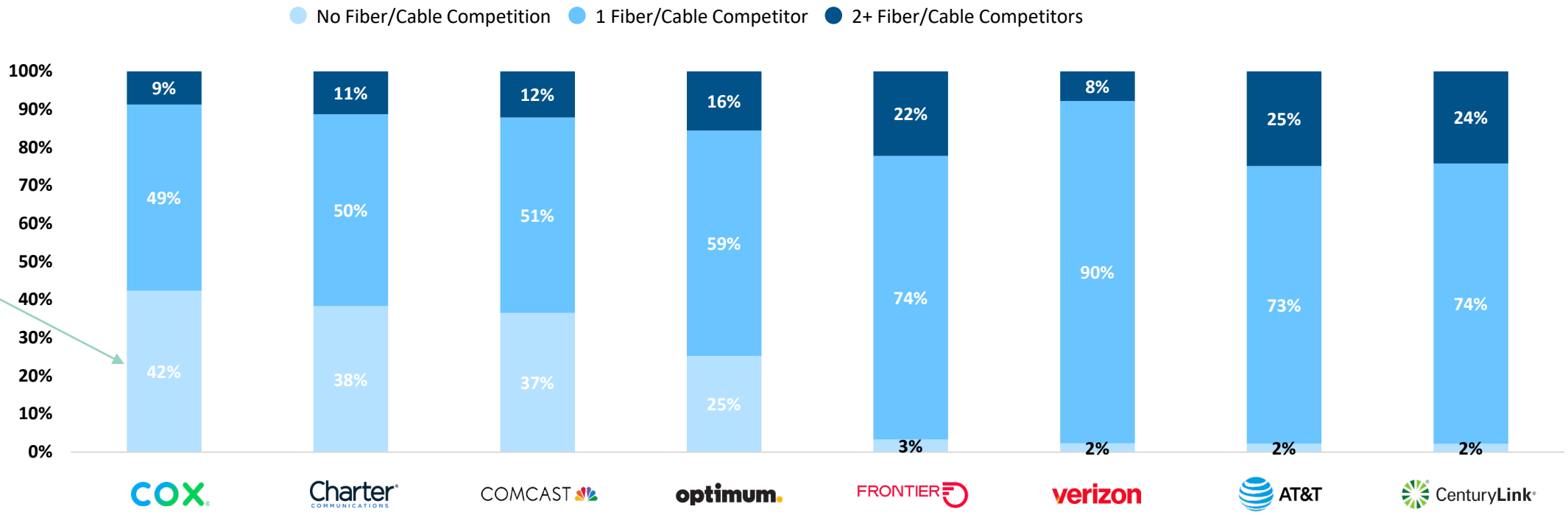
Cartesian A Bounteous Company

Competitors per Location | 2025H2 Major ISP Broadband Footprints

How do the major ISPs compare in terms of fiber/cable overbuild risk?

As of 2025H2

Included Technologies: Fiber Cable



How to read this chart

Of locations served by Cox in **2025H2**, 42% have no fiber or cable competitor.

	COX	Charter	COMCAST	optimum.	FRONTIER	verizon	AT&T	CenturyLink
Fiber/Cable Location Count	7.3M	35.9M	38.8M	5.4M	6.5M	9.4M	19.4M	3.2M
	MSO				ILEC			

Source: FCC; Cartesian analysis. Includes <100ms latency Fiber and Cable service to residential locations, excluding U.S. territories.

Cartesian A Bounteous Company

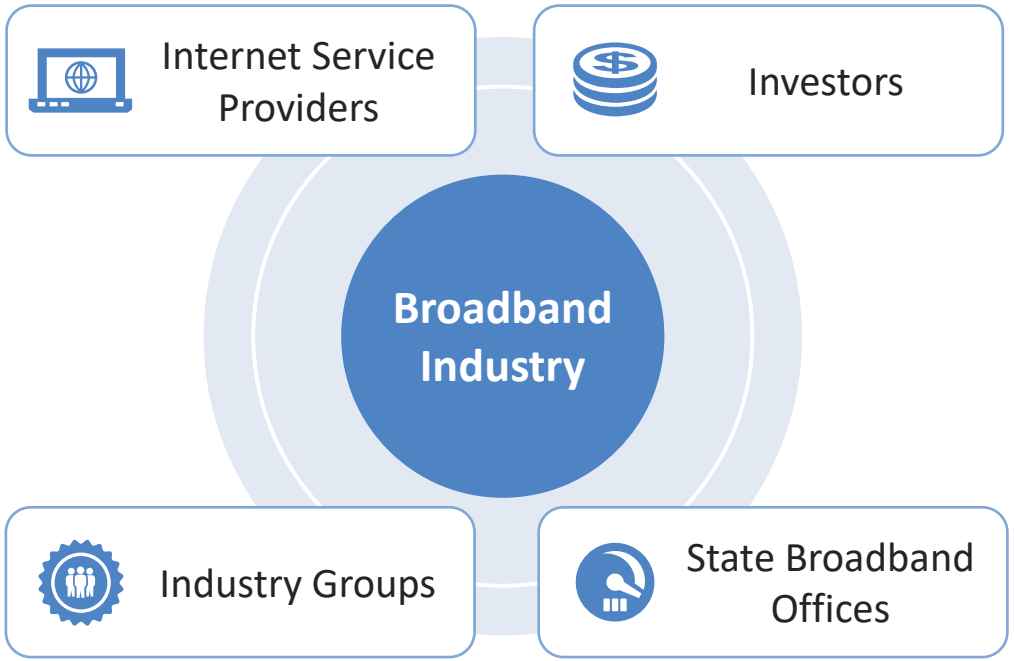
Contents

How Cartesian Can Help Your Organization

Cartesian® A Bounteous Company

- Specialist provider of strategy & analytics consulting
- Communications industry focus
- 35+ years of providing our clients with actionable results

Our Clients



Select Examples of Our Work in Broadband

- Monitor competition and forecast competitive builds
- Prioritize geographies for expansion and network investment
- Identify top-of-funnel M&A prospects, including small targets absent from FCC BDC reporting
- Deliver data and reporting to Business Intelligence teams
- Develop economic and market analysis for public advocacy and public policy

Methodology

This report relies primarily on FCC BDC data:

- Fixed broadband only
- Residential only
- All location counts are based on BSLs (broadband serviceable locations) as defined by the FCC
- ISP coverage through December 31, 2025

Despite its many strengths, there are inherent limitations in BDC data:

- Lag of approx. 5 months at the time of publication
- A single broadband location can represent multiple passed housing units in multifamily properties
- The FCC BDC challenge process is not reflected upon initial BDC data release
- ISPs vary in the quality of their own coverage data and how they map their coverage to locations
- Speeds are advertised speeds, not actual speeds
- There are structural gaps in BDC reporting from some ISP types (e.g., resellers, wholesale open access)

Cartesian® A Bounteous Company

Cartesian enhances BDC data to provide additional context and insight

Cartesian processes BDC data using in-house rules that are applied consistently over time and across geography

FCC BDC Data		
Time Period	Data As-Of	BDC Release Used in This Report
2025H2	12/31/2025	5/4/2026
2025H1	6/30/2025	4/29/2026
2024H2	12/31/2024	4/9/2026
2024H1	6/30/2024	12/27/2025
2023H2	12/31/2023	12/25/2025
2023H1	6/30/2023	1/8/2026
2022H2	12/31/2022	5/14/2025
2022H1	6/30/2022	5/14/2025

For advice on using BDC and detail on our methodology, please contact Cartesian

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Terms Used in This Report

BEAD	Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program
CPF	Capital Projects Fund
DMA	Designated Marketing Area
FWA	Fixed Wireless Access
ILEC	Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier
ISP	Internet Service Provider
LEO Satellite	Low Earth Orbit Satellite
M&A	Mergers and Acquisitions
MNO	Mobile Network Operator
MSO	Multiple System Operator
Overbuilder	ISP primarily competing as a non-ILEC and non-MSO
RDOF	Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

Cartesian has over three decades of telecom strategy and analytics experience helping internet service providers, investors, industry groups, and state governments navigate the changing, competitive landscape of broadband internet access and network investment in the United States.

Contact us today to learn how we can help your team:

- Monitor competition and model competitive builds
- Prioritize geographies for network expansion and investment
- Identify top-of-funnel M&A targets and conduct due diligence
- Deliver insightful data and reporting to key teams and stakeholders
- Conduct economic and market analyses for public policy and advocacy work

www.**cartesian**.com

Cartesian®
A **Bounteous** Company

David Young
david.young@cartesian.com
+1 617 461-3742

Samuel Kornstein
samuel.kornstein@cartesian.com
+1 617 999-1121

Chris Tomasevich
chris.tomasevich@cartesian.com
+1 203 815-0369