

Global Broadband Statistics

Methodology and supporting material

Data collection

Point Topic offers the most complete, up-to-date and accurate source for world broadband statistics available. In order to do this, we collect quarterly subscriber number information from major primary suppliers of DSL, cable and FTTx services across the world. We also collate data from service providers who resell services provided by these primary suppliers. Many operators now publish quarterly numbers as part of their regular reporting cycle. Numerous others provide us with their numbers via email and personal communication.

Some operators release annual subscriber number reports as opposed to quarterly reports. Some also choose to aggregate subscriber trends into overall totals, avoiding break-downs by technology. In these cases, Point Topic has conservatively estimating broadband take-up based on historical data from the operator in question as well as current data from elsewhere in the relevant market including National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs). Despite difficulties that may arise as a consequence of the quarterly publication schedule, Point Topic will continue to provide the most up-to-date broadband statistics and estimates in our reports. In cases where these sources are unavailable, DSL and cable vendors often give useful indicators, as do estimates quoted by the trade press. Where we do have secondary estimates, we try as far as is possible to trace these to their original source.

During the research process for the latest quarterly statistics reports, we often return to preceding quarters with the aim of synchronising earlier estimates with official sources. Some changes to previously reported numbers were necessary and deviation from earlier reports is also possible. We shall continue to maintain close correspondence with broadband operators, national regulators and industry organisations in order to avoid ambiguities and also so as to minimise the number of restatements. Some of the historical statistics will be different from those published in earlier reports and contained within Excel spreadsheet datasets.

Point Topic's Global Broadband Statistics service (GBS) contains the most up-to-date information and we endeavour to continuously update its data entries on an ongoing basis. Generally speaking, precedence should be given to the figures contained within the most recent version of this report and the figures in GBS.

Restatement reports with details on updates made to figures are available on our website. The first in the series of restatement reports relates to our Q3 2011 broadband statistics. Subsequent reports are published on a quarterly basis, to coincide with the release of the latest set of broadband numbers. Data collected for individual operators may be aggregated in GBS in order to derive country and region totals, growth and penetration rates, market shares of operators and net additions. Full details at the operator level are also contained in the GBS service, which is available to Point Topic subscribers.