

## Broadband in Nebraska: Availability

### Broadband Available to 88.9% of Nebraskans, 65.5% of Rural Nebraskans

Broadband availability in Nebraska improved in 2016 with 88.9% of Nebraskans and 65.5% of rural Nebraskans having access to broadband at 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up. Nebraska lags the U.S. with 92.3% of Americans and 69.3% of rural Americans having broadband access according to the FCC's [2018 Broadband Deployment Report](#).

Nebraska ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia on broadband availability—up two spots from 2015. Nebraska ranked in the middle of our neighboring states in broadband availability of 25 Mbps/3Mbps. (See Table 1.)

**Table 1**  
**% Population with Access to Fixed 25 Mbps/3 Mbps Service (2016)**  
**Ranked By Statewide Average**

	U.S./State (Urban and Rural)	Rural Areas	Urban Areas
United States	92.3%	69.3%	97.9%
Colorado	94.9%	72.1%	99.0%
Iowa	90.5%	77.4%	97.9%
Kansas	89.2%	66.5%	97.2%
Nebraska	88.9%	65.5%	97.5%
South Dakota	88.3%	75.1%	98.9%
Missouri	83.5%	49.5%	97.9%
Wyoming	78.2%	45.5%	97.6%

Table 2 shows data on fixed and mobile broadband availability for Nebraska counties. An analysis of the data shows that the gap in availability between rural and urban counties in Nebraska exists, but has narrowed since 2015. In 2016, over one-quarter (25 out of 93 counties) of Nebraska's counties had broadband of at least 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up available to over 90% of residents, up from 12 counties in 2015.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 1,460,000 people live in these 25 counties.

On the other side of the Digital Divide, broadband of at least 25 Mbps down and 3 Mbps up was **not** available to over 95% of residents in 10 Nebraska counties, down from 18 counties in 2015. Approximately 53,000 people live in these 10 counties.

**Table 2**  
**Nebraskans with Access to Fixed Terrestrial 25 Mbps/3 Mbps Services**  
**and/or Mobile LTE with a Minimum Advertised Speed of 5 Mbps/1 Mbps by State and County**  
**Ranked by % of Population with Fixed Broadband (Data as of December 2016)**

State, County or County Equivalent	Population Evaluated	% of Pop. with Fixed 25 Mbps/3 Mbps	% of Pop. with Mobile 5 Mbps /1 Mbps	% of Pop. with Fixed & Mobile	Population Density	Per Capita Income (\$2016)
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>1,903,270</b>	<b>88.90%</b>	<b>99.90%</b>	<b>88.90%</b>	<b>24.774</b>	<b>.</b>
<b>Nance County</b>	3,578	99.90%	99.80%	99.70%	8.102	\$26,179
<b>Polk County</b>	5,221	99.90%	100.00%	99.90%	11.911	\$30,947
<b>Kearney County</b>	6,557	99.30%	100.00%	99.30%	12.701	\$31,563
<b>Boyd County</b>	1,978	99.20%	91.40%	90.60%	3.663	\$25,507
<b>Buffalo County</b>	49,302	99.20%	100.00%	99.20%	50.926	\$27,218
<b>Phelps County</b>	9,267	99.20%	100.00%	99.20%	17.168	\$27,882
<b>Madison County</b>	34,955	98.90%	100.00%	98.90%	61.031	\$24,458
<b>Douglas County</b>	553,394	98.80%	100.00%	98.80%	1,684.84	\$30,548
<b>Dawson County</b>	23,632	98.40%	99.90%	98.30%	23.327	\$24,042
<b>Lancaster County</b>	308,802	98.20%	100.00%	98.20%	368.697	\$28,600
<b>Hall County</b>	61,494	98.10%	100.00%	98.10%	112.567	\$24,617
<b>Howard County</b>	6,434	97.70%	100.00%	97.70%	11.301	\$28,301
<b>Saunders County</b>	20,959	97.60%	100.00%	97.60%	27.937	\$30,348
<b>Keya Paha County</b>	794	96.90%	93.10%	90.80%	1.027	\$28,086
<b>Platte County</b>	32,800	96.20%	100.00%	96.20%	48.66	\$27,052
<b>Lincoln County</b>	35,576	95.70%	99.80%	95.50%	13.875	\$27,474
<b>Sarpy County</b>	178,092	94.80%	100.00%	94.80%	745.185	\$31,906
<b>Adams County</b>	31,703	93.90%	100.00%	93.90%	56.284	\$27,609
<b>Box Butte County</b>	11,226	93.90%	100.00%	93.90%	10.44	\$27,751
<b>Butler County</b>	8,072	93.30%	100.00%	93.30%	13.8	\$28,045
<b>York County</b>	13,805	93.00%	100.00%	93.00%	24.113	\$27,962

State, County or County Equivalent	Population Evaluated	% of Pop. with Fixed 25 Mbps/3 Mbps	% of Pop. with Mobile 5 Mbps /1 Mbps	% of Pop. with Fixed & Mobile	Population Density	Per Capita Income (\$2016)
Richardson County	8,061	92.00%	99.90%	91.90%	14.607	\$26,638
Seward County	17,232	90.80%	100.00%	90.80%	30.156	\$28,491
Dakota County	20,436	90.40%	100.00%	90.40%	77.335	\$21,710
Keith County	8,021	90.40%	100.00%	90.40%	7.556	\$26,699
Valley County	4,181	88.90%	99.90%	88.80%	7.36	\$26,384
Cheyenne County	10,078	87.90%	100.00%	87.90%	8.424	\$30,929
Stanton County	5,939	87.90%	100.00%	87.90%	13.878	\$29,282
Dodge County	36,785	85.90%	100.00%	85.90%	69.576	\$26,141
Scotts Bluff County	36,318	85.90%	100.00%	85.90%	49.118	\$25,863
Burt County	6,558	84.10%	100.00%	84.10%	13.341	\$24,613
Saline County	14,306	83.50%	100.00%	83.50%	24.923	\$21,880
Washington County	20,557	82.10%	100.00%	82.10%	52.716	\$31,776
Harlan County	3,478	81.90%	99.90%	81.90%	6.284	\$25,997
Brown County	2,956	80.80%	96.20%	79.90%	2.42	\$30,135
Dundy County	1,830	78.70%	87.70%	67.50%	1.99	\$28,161
Clay County	6,164	78.50%	100.00%	78.50%	10.771	\$25,472
Cass County	25,737	76.70%	100.00%	76.70%	46.169	\$30,637
Wayne County	9,351	74.20%	100.00%	74.20%	21.112	\$26,732
Pierce County	7,172	73.90%	99.90%	73.80%	12.511	\$27,386
Otoe County	16,055	73.60%	99.90%	73.60%	26.079	\$27,251
Gage County	21,814	72.80%	100.00%	72.80%	25.619	\$26,347
Antelope County	6,347	72.00%	100.00%	72.00%	7.404	\$27,048
Dixon County	5,785	71.10%	100.00%	71.10%	12.147	\$24,983
Nemaha County	6,972	69.40%	100.00%	69.40%	17.114	\$28,690
Kimball County	3,680	68.80%	99.90%	68.80%	3.866	\$23,727
Colfax County	10,393	66.80%	100.00%	66.80%	25.247	\$23,619
Johnson County	5,167	62.70%	100.00%	62.70%	13.74	\$21,890

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Cedar County	8,703	62.20%	99.90%	62.20%	11.756	\$28,663
Holt County	10,236	58.90%	99.20%	58.80%	4.243	\$26,267
Jefferson County	7,208	58.70%	99.70%	58.70%	12.642	\$26,305
Sherman County	3,057	55.50%	100.00%	55.50%	5.403	\$26,348
Cuming County	9,000	55.10%	100.00%	55.10%	15.772	\$26,061
Fillmore County	5,731	55.10%	100.00%	55.10%	9.961	\$29,361
Franklin County	3,007	55.00%	98.90%	54.50%	5.222	\$28,373
Morrill County	4,791	54.40%	98.90%	54.40%	3.365	\$24,216
Wheeler County	769	52.40%	99.60%	52.40%	1.337	\$30,800
Nuckolls County	4,259	51.60%	100.00%	51.60%	7.405	\$24,096
Cherry County	5,841	50.70%	92.70%	49.40%	0.98	\$27,891
Pawnee County	2,655	50.30%	100.00%	50.30%	6.159	\$27,039
Perkins County	2,888	48.60%	99.90%	48.60%	3.269	\$30,429
Deuel County	1,876	48.20%	100.00%	48.20%	4.265	\$28,640
Arthur County	465	47.70%	100.00%	47.70%	0.65	\$21,174
Thayer County	5,109	45.40%	99.80%	45.40%	8.904	\$30,057
Boone County	5,335	42.80%	100.00%	42.80%	7.771	\$28,288
Webster County	3,600	41.90%	99.60%	41.60%	6.262	\$24,534
Furnas County	4,794	40.60%	98.50%	40.60%	6.666	\$23,307
Gosper County	1,970	39.90%	100.00%	39.90%	4.3	\$29,393
Hitchcock County	2,838	33.60%	100.00%	33.60%	3.998	\$23,967
Blaine County	490	33.50%	82.40%	25.90%	0.689	\$23,001
Frontier County	2,621	32.10%	98.80%	31.70%	2.689	\$26,798
Greeley County	2,396	29.60%	100.00%	29.60%	4.205	\$25,054

State, County or County Equivalent	Population Evaluated	% of Pop. with Fixed 25 Mbps/3 Mbps	% of Pop. with Mobile 5 Mbps /1 Mbps	% of Pop. with Fixed & Mobile	Population Density	Per Capita Income (\$2016)
Thomas County	713	26.20%	100.00%	26.20%	1	\$30,746
Grant County	642	22.90%	98.10%	21.20%	0.827	\$21,925
Hamilton County	9,188	22.30%	100.00%	22.30%	16.925	\$31,565
Thurston County	7,097	18.90%	100.00%	18.90%	18.032	\$19,100
Hayes County	910	17.50%	99.10%	17.50%	1.276	\$27,080
Chase County	3,939	17.20%	99.60%	17.20%	4.404	\$29,239
Rock County	1,404	16.00%	94.70%	11.90%	1.392	\$30,247
Sioux County	1,240	8.70%	84.50%	7.20%	0.6	\$27,279
Red Willow County	10,725	7.20%	99.00%	6.80%	14.958	\$24,529
Garfield County	2,019	6.00%	97.50%	6.00%	3.543	\$24,379
Hooker County	709	3.90%	99.40%	3.90%	0.983	\$22,094
Dawes County	8,986	3.20%	100.00%	3.20%	6.435	\$23,307
Loup County	597	3.20%	98.50%	2.80%	1.051	\$28,063
Sheridan County	5,248	3.20%	96.50%	3.20%	2.15	\$25,077
Garden County	1,907	2.30%	97.30%	2.30%	1.119	\$30,900
Knox County	8,595	2.10%	98.00%	1.40%	7.755	\$26,675
Custer County	10,831	2.00%	99.90%	2.00%	4.205	\$29,986
Logan County	765	0.40%	100.00%	0.40%	1.341	\$24,693
Banner County	792	0.00%	99.40%	0.00%	1.061	\$30,095
McPherson County	495	0.00%	95.20%	0.00%	0.576	\$25,352

<sup>i</sup> The 2015 figure was calculated from the Digital Divide Index county dataset 2015 which was obtained using the FCC Form 477 December v2 data set. See the Nebraska Broadband Special Report: Nebraska and the Digital Divide Index available at [http://nitc.ne.gov/community\\_council/documents/newsletters/Nebraska\\_and\\_DDIApril2017.pdf](http://nitc.ne.gov/community_council/documents/newsletters/Nebraska_and_DDIApril2017.pdf)