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## Area internet speeds among slowest

### Study: Kentucky 45th fastest in country, United States 20th fastest worldwide

BY JESSE JONES  
THE EAGLE POST

For our online readers, we'll pause for a second to let the webpage finish loading.

A new study indicates Kentucky is 45th among states in average internet speed, with a 13.15Mbps mean download speed. The information was gathered from more than 330,000 tests performed in the Commonwealth by Cable.co.uk, which compiled

the information from Measurement Lab, Christian County fared worse. Cities generally fared better than smaller towns, but county seat Hopkinsville averaged just 11.83Mbps.

The average speed could change drastically without a far drive. Nearby Clarksville's mean speed was almost 23Mbps. It would take the average Clarksvillian a little more than 44 minutes to download a 7.5GB high-definition movie.

The same movie in Hopkinsville would take more than an hour and 26 minutes.

"I think it's the infrastructure amongst the providers," said Richard Shaw, telecommunications manager at Hopkinsville Electric Service, which offers fiber-optic speeds up to 1Gbps. "It would be up to providers to upgrade their infrastructure, upgrade their facilities and make that available. We're looking at that scenario at HES."

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# SPEED

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Shaw said the company hoped to expand its fiber-optic service to more customers and may have some news on that front next year.

"I think as we look toward moving to more fiber connectivity, those issues will go away," he said of slower average internet speeds.

Christian County fared better as a whole than most Kentucky counties. Average speeds in the state appeared to be much higher near the Ohio border near Cincinnati than in much of the state. In Trigg County, Cadiz's average speed was 9.4Mbps. In Todd County, Elktion's was just 5.71Mbps. It would take almost three hours for the 7.5GB movie to download there.

Of nearly 10,000 U.S. cities analyzed, Kentucky's fastest average internet connection came in Alexandria in Campbell County with speeds of 29.49Mbps, good for 1,688th place. Its slowest was tiny Centertown in Ohio County, with speeds reaching just 1.5Mbps — or 9,881st in a test of 9,895 towns.

Kentucky as a whole fell well short of the average median of states like Rhode Island (36.69Mbps), Washington (34.25Mbps) and Massachusetts (34.06Mbps). The majority of the fastest connections were on the East Coast.

"This analysis provides an excellent insight into how the quality and adoption of broadband internet services varies substantially across the United States. Urban areas, particularly on the coasts, have exceptional access compared to the Midwest and rural areas, reflecting social, geographic and economic divides," said Collin Anderson, independent researcher at M-Lab, in the release.

In August, a similar study found of worldwide average speeds found that the U.S. as a whole finished 21st in average speed (20Mbps), just behind Macau (20.52Mbps) and well short of world leaders Singapore (55.13Mbps).