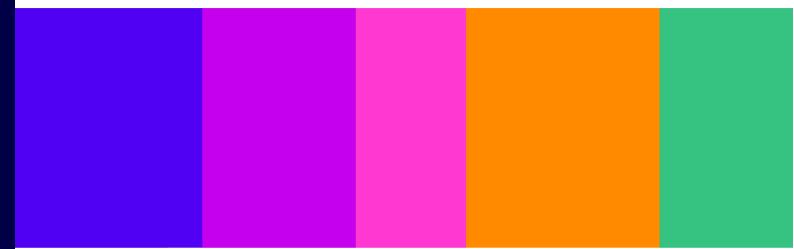


The International Broadband Scorecard

Confirmation of cessation of publication

Statement

Published 15 February 2024



Overview

This document confirms the cessation of Ofcom's International Broadband Scorecard reporting.

The International Broadband Scorecard was proposed by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK), now <u>Building Digital UK</u>, an executive agency sponsored by the <u>Department for Science</u>, <u>Innovation and</u> <u>Technology (DSIT)</u>, and its intended purpose was to assess progress towards the UK Government's ambition to have <u>the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015</u>.

Ofcom has been publishing <u>The International Broadband Scorecard</u> (and its predecessor <u>The</u> <u>European Broadband Scorecard</u>) since 2013. The Scorecard is intended to report metrics on availability, take-up, use and prices of fixed and mobile broadband performance across countries for the purpose of measuring and comparing the UK's relative performance.

As Ofcom only collects data from UK telecoms operators, data from the Scorecard is sourced from a third-party provider which is appointed following a competitive tender process. The current supplier is global research company <u>Omdia-Informa Tech</u>. Ofcom supplements this data with a comparatively small amount of data regarding the UK market and international price comparisons.

As UK data will continue to be available in other Ofcom publications and international data is available from Omdia-Informa Tech and similar telecoms research companies (albeit for a fee), it is Ofcom's view that stopping the publication of the International Broadband Scorecard will not hinder stakeholders' ability to benchmark the UK broadband market internationally.

The International Broadband Scorecard was last published in December 2023.

What we have decided - in brief

We have decided to:

• Stop Ofcom's International Broadband Scorecard reporting, meaning there will be no future publications.

If you have any queries, please email MID@ofcom.org.uk

Confirmed cessation of Ofcom's International Broadband Scorecard

Ofcom has published The International Scorecard (and previously The European Broadband Scorecard) since 2013. The research was originally initiated to provide evidence of progress towards the UK Government's ambition at the time that the UK should have the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

In producing the Scorecard, Ofcom currently repurposes data purchased from Omdia-Informa Tech with some adjustments to the UK data to ensure consistency with Ofcom data included in other Ofcom publications such as <u>Communications Market Reports</u> and <u>Connected Nations reports</u>, and the addition of international price data.

We have reviewed Ofcom's programme of telecoms-related research and publications, in doing so seeking to identify areas we can make more efficient use of our resources and improve our ability to inform Ofcom's policy work and identify areas of potential consumer harm. This enables us to support Ofcom's priorities and contribute to improved consumer outcomes in areas such as pricing and affordability.

As UK data will continue to be available in other Ofcom publications and international data is available from Omdia-Informa Tech and similar telecoms research companies (albeit for a fee), it is Ofcom's view that stopping the publication of the International Broadband Scorecard will not hinder stakeholders' ability to benchmark the UK broadband market internationally.

Ofcom's Connected Nations research will continue to report on progress in the availability of broadband services in the UK, including the roll-out of gigabit-capable and full-fibre networks, and we will continue to compare UK prices with those in France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and the US in our <u>Pricing Trends for Communications Services</u> reports.

Separate to the consultation, Ofcom engaged with DSIT regarding the proposal to cease publication of the International Broadband Scorecard.

Comments on the proposed changes

No responses to the consultation were received.

Our decision

We have decided to proceed with the cessation of Ofcom's International Broadband Scorecard reporting.