

In this document: [Household Broadband Service Guide](#) and [Broadband Speeds by Activity](#)

Household Broadband Service Guide

Use the chart below to compare minimum download speed (Mbps) needs for typical household use with one, two, three or four devices at a time (such as a laptop, tablet, game console or HD smart TV).

You can also compare typical online activities with the minimum Mbps needed for adequate performance for each application by linking to the [Broadband Speeds by Activity](#) guide presented later in this document.

	Light Use Basic functions only: email, web surfing, basic streaming video	Moderate Use Basic functions <i>plus</i> <u>one</u> high-demand activity: streaming HD, video conferencing OR online gaming	High Use* Basic functions <i>plus</i> <u>more than one</u> high demand activity running at the same time
1 user on 1 device (e.g., laptop, tablet, or game console)	Basic	Basic	Medium
2 users or devices at a time	Basic	Basic	Medium / Advanced*
3 users or devices at a time	Basic	Basic / Medium	Advanced*
4 users or devices at a time	Basic / Medium	Medium	Advanced*

Basic Service = 1 to 2 Mbps

Medium Service = 6 to 15 Mbps

Advanced Service = More than 15 Mbps

Mbps (Megabits per second) is the standard measure of broadband speed. It refers to the speed with which information packets are downloaded from, or uploaded to, the internet.

***Extremely high use households using multiple high demand activities may need faster speeds than the Advanced Service for better performance.**

Broadband Speeds by Activity

Compare typical online activities with **the minimum download speed** (Megabits per second, or Mbps) needed for adequate performance for each application. Additional speed may enhance performance. Speeds are based on running one activity at a time.

Return to the [Household Broadband Service Guide](#).

Typical Activities	Minimum Download Speed (Mbps)
Email	0.5
Web browsing	
Job searching, navigating government websites	0.5
Interactive pages and short educational videos	1
Streaming radio	Less than 0.5
Phone calls (VoIP)	Less than 0.5
Watching video	
Standard streaming videos	0.7
Streaming feature movies	1.5
HD-quality streaming movie or university lecture	4
Video conferencing	
Basic video conferencing	1
HD video conference and telelearning	4
Gaming	
Game console connecting to the Internet	1
Two-way online gaming in HD (activity may require faster upload speeds as well)	4