

Article Overview

Sri Lanka's broadband landscape combines fiber-optic networks, widespread 4G mobile coverage, and emerging 5G and satellite services, with urban areas well-connected and rural penetration steadily increasing.

Fixed Broadband Infrastructure

High-speed fixed broadband in Sri Lanka is primarily delivered via fiber-optic networks, supplemented by DSL and fixed wireless broadband in some areas. The main providers are Sri Lanka Telecom (SLT) and Dialog Broadband, which together serve the majority of the country's 2.54 million fixed broadband subscriptions. SLT has built a national fiber backbone of approximately 45,000 km, connecting all 25 districts and linking to multiple international submarine cables, supporting both fixed broadband and mobile backhaul. Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) services are concentrated in urban centers like Colombo, Kandy, and Galle, with gradual expansion to smaller towns. Lanka Bell and smaller ISPs hold a minor share of the fixed broadband market, which remains relatively low in penetration but is growing steadily .

Mobile Broadband

Sri Lanka has 29.3 million mobile subscriptions, exceeding the population due to multi-SIM usage. 4G LTE coverage reaches nearly 100% of the population, while 2G coverage is almost universal. Dialog Axiata and Mobitel have begun pre-commercial 5G trials in Colombo, delivering speeds over 500 Mbps. Mobile data is among the cheapest globally, with 1 GB costing around \$0.25, typically under 0.5% of monthly GNI per capita . Mobile broadband accounts for a significant portion of the country's nearly 23 million broadband subscriptions when combining fixed and mobile connections.

Satellite and Emerging Technologies

In August 2024, the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka (TRCSL) licensed SpaceX Starlink Lanka to provide nationwide satellite broadband. However, the rollout was paused in March 2025 due to national security and lawful intercept requirements. Satellite broadband remains a potential solution for rural and underserved areas .

Rural Connectivity and Public Initiatives

Approximately 80% of Sri Lanka's population lives in rural areas, with rural internet penetration around 56% in 2024. The government supports connectivity through over 800 Nenasala rural IT centers and the Free Public Wi-Fi program, which operates in about 1,000 locations. These initiatives aim to bridge the digital divide and provide access to education, government services, and e-commerce .

Pricing and Market Overview

The broadband market is competitive, with multiple ISPs offering fixed and mobile services. SLT and Dialog dominate fiber broadband, while mobile operators like Dialog, Mobitel, and Hutch provide extensive mobile broadband coverage. Pricing is affordable, particularly for mobile data, supporting widespread adoption even in rural areas .

Future Outlook

Sri Lanka is actively preparing for 5G deployment, with spectrum allocation and network planning underway. The government's digital policy emphasizes universal service, rural broadband expansion, and next-generation network readiness, ensuring that both urban and rural populations benefit from improved connectivity . The combination of fiber, mobile, and satellite technologies positions Sri Lanka for continued growth in broadband access and digital services.

For a country trying to build a digital economy, the quality of the connection matters as much as the number of

Sri Lanka has seen a very strong increase in mobile broadband penetration over the past six years, driven by rising

Sri Lanka's telecom market continues to experience the effects of economic turmoil Sri Lanka's telecom sector has suffered from the

According to the government's National Digital Strategy, an estimated \$1 billion investment is required by 2030 to

Number of Licenses granted under Section 17 of the Sri Lanka Telecommunications Act ... SLT PLC, Lanka Bell, Dialog Broadband

Telecommunications in Sri Lanka commenced in 1858 after the first telegraphic circuit between Colombo and Galle was commenced.

In Sri Lanka, the mobile sector receives higher scores than the fixed sector for all dimensions excepting interconnection. The

Coverage may differ depending on your location. This map is intended as a general guide and does not guarantee precise signal

In today's digitally driven world, having reliable internet access is essential for both personal and professional use.

Anytime broadband packages are subjected to in-advance billing. The Fibre Starter package does not include a Separate line rental

The Cabinet of Ministers on Monday approved a revised reimbursement framework to fast-track the implementation of

The demand for mobile broadband services in Sri Lanka remains strong, consistent with global trends. The demand is due to both

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The Sri Lankan telecom sector is experiencing a significant growth phase, driven by a confluence of rising consumer demand,

We wish to highlight that the national projects have been established to ensure broadband access across the country, including

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