



# Western US's Digital Divide Means Big Gaps in Internet Speed, Prices and Access

*Allconnect Evaluated Months of Data to Determine the State of Internet in the Region*

**FORT MILL, S.C. -- Apr. 29, 2021**— Allconnect.com, a leading broadband marketplace, released a new regional internet data report using a combination of proprietary data and Federal Communication Commission (FCC) data.

The team analyzed the data on download and upload speeds, median salary among the states as well as average plan cost across the West — focusing on speeds and access to the internet for residents.

“The team spent time reviewing internet speed, internet plan cost, and internet penetration data to determine the accessibility of fast and affordable internet to residents. With almost 20% of the region without internet access, there is a big disparity in accessibility for those in rural parts of the region. Some areas have better access and better internet,” said Joe Supan, broadband writer for Allconnect.com.

The report revealed that although the region has above-average internet speeds, it also has above-average plan costs and below-average internet access for residents. States like California and Utah have great speeds and decent prices, while states like Wyoming and Alaska have above-average costs for at or below-average speeds.

Additional findings include:

- Despite the region featuring above-average download speeds, many rural parts of this area are not getting the same speeds or as many provider options as their more urban counterparts - widening the digital divide in these areas.
- Higher average monthly internet plan cost combined with low internet penetration creates a gap in access to the internet
- This area features an average monthly price that is almost \$10 above the national average, with states like Wyoming and Alaska having prices over \$20 over the national average
- Wealth is a major factor: The top 10 cities in the West for download speed had an average household income of \$98,636, compared to \$47,393 for the bottom 10

“With the increased focus on the digital divide and internet accessibility, providing this data will help start larger conversations on the importance of fast and affordable internet that can begin to close our nation’s digital divide and hopefully provide information for more access to high-speed internet in underserved areas,” Supan adds.

The full report and methodology can be found here:

<https://www.allconnect.com/blog/regional-broadband-report-west>

**About Allconnect:** Allconnect is a free tool to help connect you and millions of others to the best deals on internet, TV, home security, electricity and more. We are also a resource for learning how to make the most of those services.

Press Contact:

Megan Mulrain

[press@allconnect.com](mailto:press@allconnect.com)