

Most Expensive Countries for Internet revealed: UAE charges 12x more per Mbps than UK

March 3, 2025. Jastra Kranjec.



Since 2020, global internet usage has surged by over a billion people, reaching 5.56 billion, or 68 percent of the world’s population by January this year. While it’s easy to assume that countries with lower internet adoption face the steepest costs, the reality is far more surprising. In fact, some of the world’s wealthiest nations rank among the most expensive for internet access, revealing unexpected contrasts in global pricing.

According to data presented by TechGaged.com, the UAE leads the list, charging a staggering USD 4.31 per Mbps, which is nearly 12 times more than the UK, where the cost is USD 0.36 per Mbps. Overall, the UAE’s figures are far above global averages. Here’s how other nations compare in internet costs.

Switzerland’s internet costs twice as much as Kenya and Morocco, while Germans pay 50 percent more than Pakistanis and 80 percent more than Egyptians

The stark differences in global internet costs can be surprising, with some of the world’s most developed nations charging shockingly high prices. In most of them, limited competition allows a handful of major providers to dominate the market and

dictate pricing.

At the same time, infrastructure costs, especially in countries with aging networks and large rural areas, further drive up expenses for maintaining high-speed connections. Finally, government policies play a crucial role. While some countries invest in affordable internet access as a public service, others impose high licensing fees and taxes that drive costs to shocking highs.

The UEA is the ultimate example of this trend in action. With just two state-controlled providers, strict regulations, and high infrastructure and licensing costs, the country has become the most expensive place in the world for internet access.

According to Digital 2025: Global Overview Report, Emiratis pay an eye-watering USD 4.21 per Mbps for fixed broadband, 20 times more than the European average, 53 times more than Americans, and 143 times more than internet users in Singapore.

Ghana takes second place on this infamous list, with an average internet cost of USD 2.58 per Mbps, nearly 40 percent cheaper than the UAE. Statistics show Switzerland is the third most expensive country for internet, where users pay USD 2.07 per Mbps. That is double the costs in Kenya and Morocco, which round the top five at USD 1.54 and USD 1.16 per Mbps, respectively.

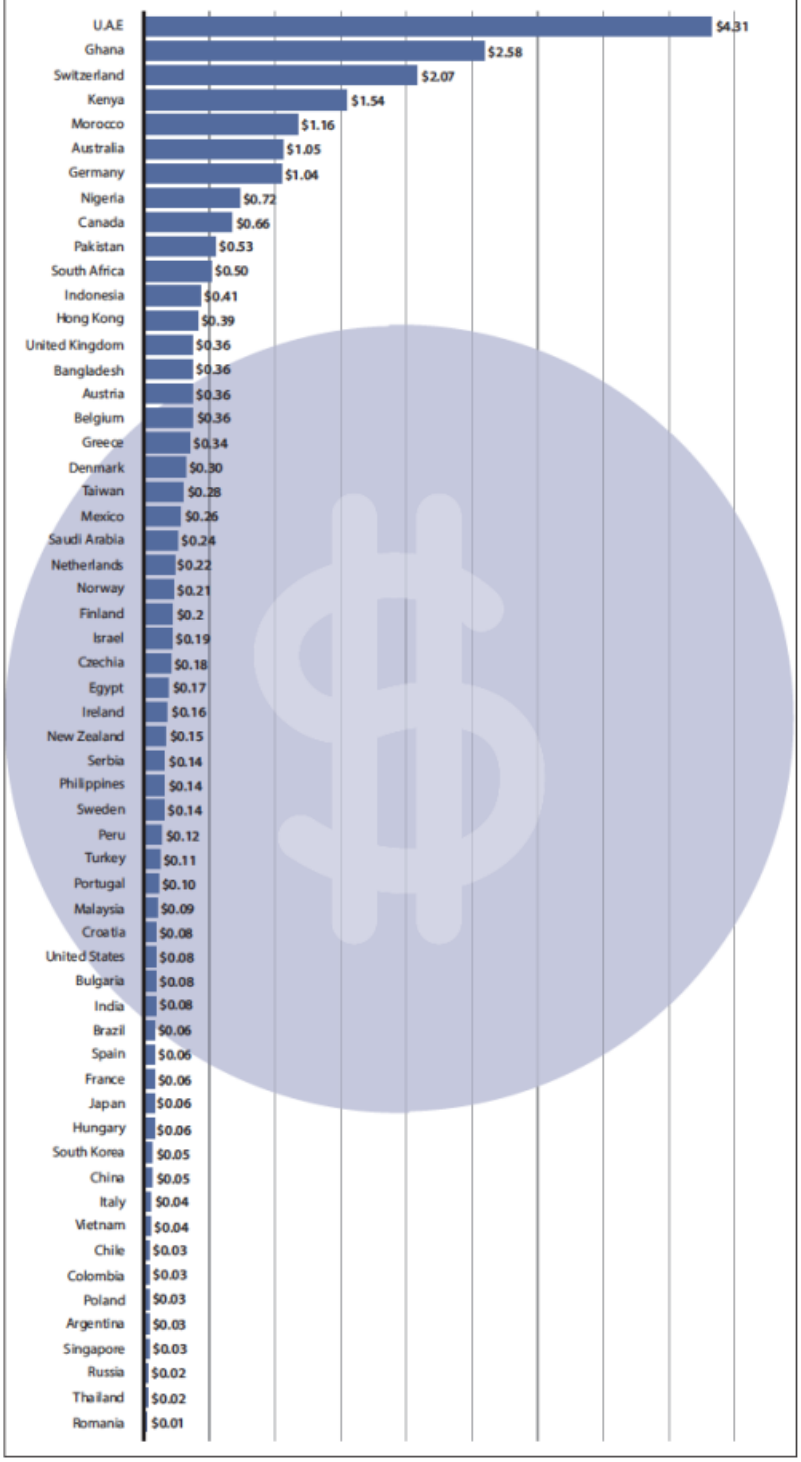
The rest of the list revealed several shocking price gaps. For instance, Germany, the seventh most-expensive country for internet, has a median price of USD 1.04 per Mbps, or 50 percent more than Pakistan (USD 0.53) and 80 percent more than Egypt (USD 0.17).

Other wealthy nations with expensive internet costs include Australia (USD 1.05) and Canada (USD 0.66), while most European nations fall within a more reasonable range of USD 0.20 to USD 0.40 per Mbps.

Cost of fixed data around the world: average price per Mbps

FMedian price per megabit per second of fixed broadband bandwidth in selected countries (in U.S. dollars)

Source: Digital 2025: Global Overview Report



The United States, India, and China rank among the most affordable countries for internet

Unlike these nations, the United States, India, and China are among the least expensive countries for the internet. As of 2025, Americans pay an average of just USD 0.08 per Mbps, just like users in Croatia, Bulgaria, and India, placing them in the lower half of the global ranking. China and South Korea enjoy even cheaper rates at USD 0.05 per Mbps, followed by Italy and Vietnam at USD 0.04.

Surprisingly, Chile, Colombia, Poland, Argentina, and Singapore boast an average price of just USD 0.03 per Mbps, nearly three times lower than the U.S. and six times cheaper than most European nations. However, the absolute lowest internet costs were found in Russia, Thailand, and Romania, where users pay an astonishing USD 0.02 and USD 0.01 per Mbps, respectively, making them the most budget-friendly countries for internet access worldwide.

Jastra is an editor, writer, and PR specialist with years of experience in news, research, and report writing. Over the years, she has covered different topics and markets, including social media, digital content, the creator economy and the entertainment industry.