

The internet in Mexico is slow and it does not guarantee universal coverage

While in Singapore the average broadband is 234.4 Mbps, in Mexico it barely reaches 46.77 Mbps, a number that is even under the global speed average of 98.67 Mbps

Every single day more Mexicans become internet users, however, the quality of that service is not the most ideal one, and in some cases the options to have it are limited. This situation affects mainly students and workers who had to do their activities at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Only five out of 10 houses have internet service in Mexico, but the service is so slow that it was rated in the 80th position in the “Monthly global rankings of mobile and fixed broadband speeds”, developed by the website SpeedTest, and updated on March 31, 2021.

It is worth mentioning that in Mexico, after the reform in Telecommunications promulgated in 2013, the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States recognizes the access to the internet as a right for every Mexican citizen. Meanwhile, the United Nations (UN) declared the access to the internet as a human right.

The General Assembly of the United Nations, in March 2006, proclaimed May 17 as the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, also known as the Internet Day, to recognize the importance of this element in areas such as education, information, entertainment and labour productivity.

A denied right

According to data included on the National Survey on Availability and Use of Information Technologies at Home (ENDUTIH) 2019, developed by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), 70.1 percent of the population over 6 is an active internet user.

Nevertheless, only 20.1 million homes (56.4 percent of the total number in the country) have an internet connection available. People with university studies represent 96.4 percent of people who get connected to the web, while only 59.1 percent of people with basic studies are able to do so.

The main activities performed on the internet in 2019 were: entertainment (91.5 percent), getting information (90.7 percent) and communicating (90.6 percent). Other activities like accessing social media and supporting education/training, showed percentages of 87.8 percent and 83.8 percent, respectively.



Global average in fixed broadband		Global average in mobile broadband	
Fixed broadband		Mobile broadband	
98.67 Mbps		48.40 Mbps	
Mexico		Mexico	
Fixed broadband		Mobile broadband	
46.77 Mbps		31.33 Mbps	
The top 5 countries with the highest speed		The top 5 countries with the highest speed	
Singapore	234.4	United Arab Emirates	178.52
Thailand	230.5	South Korea	170.52
Hong Kong	224.73	Qatar	167.4
Romania	210.82	China	150.4
Monaco	205.44	Saudi Arabia	133.73

Coverage is not available even for education

The National Institute for the Evaluation of Education in Mexico (INEE) mentioned in the report developed in 2019 “The Compulsory Education in Mexico”, that less than half of kindergarten and elementary schools have computers available for students, 28.4 and 43.1 percent respectively.

Meanwhile, the numbers increase in High Schools as 3 out of 4 facilities have equipment available. However, as expected, the internet available depends on the number of computers they own, only 37 percent of principals working in kindergarten reported that they had that service, 43.1 percent of elementary schools and 70.3 percent of High Schools.

“Nowadays we must guarantee that all the students have access to digital resources, due to the fact that they were declared in the Constitution as a right, and they are also fundamental in terms of equity if we take into consideration the current context of global information” INEE concludes.



CMT and the internet

In light of the importance of connectivity in the current lifestyle of the population and the needs that showed up after the sanitary contingency caused by COVID-19, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, A.C. (CMT) promotes strategies so that citizens enjoy the human right of having access to the internet.

As an example of that, CMT collaborated with authorities in the Federal Legislative Power, and through the Program of Supportive Contribution to Technology, they subsidized 50 computers to help 50 inhabitants in the municipality of Querétaro, Querétaro.

Either to work from home, to educate children, or to make activities related to entrepreneurship; the internet became an indispensable tool and CMT is aware of that. For that reason, in another implemented strategy it gave benefits to people with no access to the internet by providing them with mobile data plans with a speed over the national average, that is to say 31 Mbps.

Regarding technology and connectivity, as part of the Welfare Ecosystem Model and the Network of Education, CMT promotes integral solutions to help more schools to have the tools they need to guarantee a high-quality education. All that, after the development of infrastructure and subsidies to get technology resources in order to guarantee the same environment of equity that students have in other countries.

Internet users for kind of usage		
	91.5 percent of internet users in Mexico use it for entertainment such as audiovisual contents, reading the news, magazines or books.	90.6 percent to communicate with others.
		87.8 percent to access social media.
	90.7 percent to get specific information.	83.8 percent to support education/training.
	48.0 percent to download software.	
	35.6 percent to interact with the government.	22.1 percent to order and buy products online.
	19.4 percent to use the services available in the cloud.	9.3 percent to sale in the internet.
16.8 percent for bank transactions online		

Slow broadband speed

The report “Monthly global rankings of mobile and fixed broadband speeds”, updated on March 31, 2021; and posted on the website SpeedTest, shows that Mexico was rated on the 80th position in fixed broadband speed in a list of 177 countries, and in the 69th position in the mobile broadband speed in a list of 140 countries.

The comparison that draws the attention is the one regarding the global average of speed, as the speed in Mexico cannot compare even the speed average in most countries: the global broadband average in the world is 98.67 Megabytes per second (Mbps), while in Mexico it barely reaches 46.77 Mbps.