

2020 Broadband Capex Report

Broadband Industry Keeps Up High Pace of Investing

Despite Pandemic, Investment Pays off for Consumers with Resilient, Improved Networks at Lower Prices

Demonstrating its generational commitment to connecting the country, the U.S. broadband industry pumped another \$79.4 billion in capital expenditures in 2020 into the world-class networks and connectivity infrastructure that kept America face-to-face, streaming, learning and otherwise connected during the pandemic.

NETWORK CAPITAL INVESTMENT



Focusing on the period since 2018, it is clear how investment, spurred by a light-touch regulatory approach, has benefited consumers. Meanwhile, prices have dropped for broadband service at all speed tiers while broadband speeds have continued to skyrocket.

2020: THE YEAR IN BROADBAND

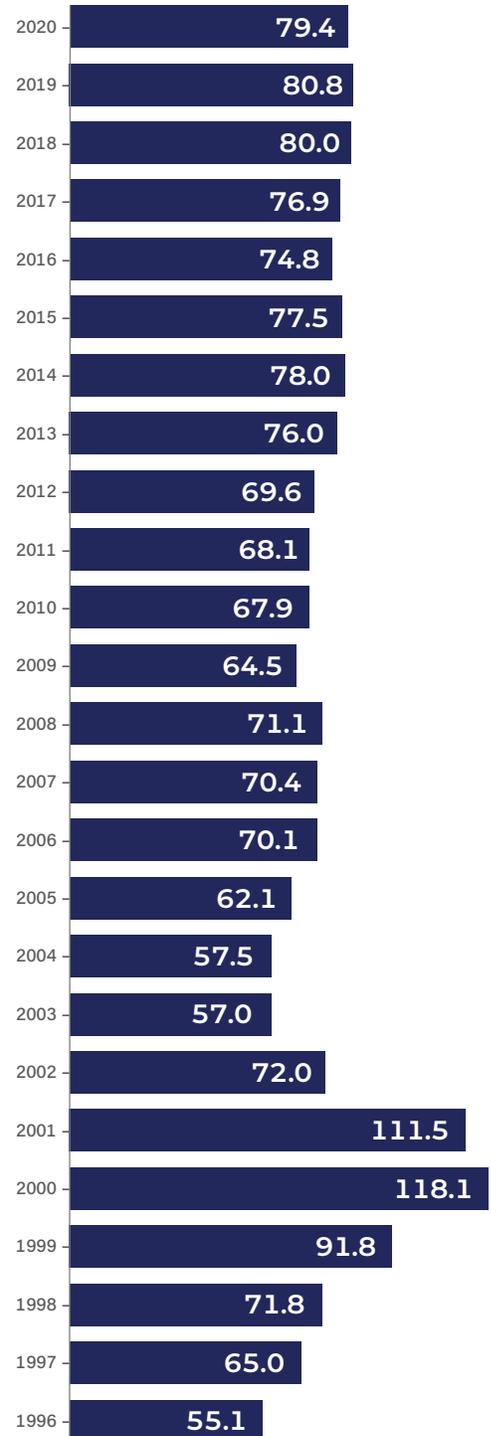


This investment has produced the world-leading networks that carried the country through the worst of the pandemic and delivered a technology and economic boon.

1 USTelecom's capital expenditures (capex) survey, consistent with our [methodology](#), collects capital expenditures data for wireline communications, wireless communications, and cable broadband providers in order to approximate an industry aggregate. The type of companies used in the past have been the major Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (ILECs), wireless providers, Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs) and Cable Companies. For the first time this year we have included Dish's wireless (not satellite) capex contributions. This study does not include capex expenditures by smaller wireline broadband providers or electric cooperatives, nor does it include satellite broadband provision. For sake of consistency, and the difficulty in obtaining reliable data, those broadband competitors remain outside the scope of our calculation though we estimate their capex contributions are at least \$2 billion in addition to 2020's \$79.4 billion total.

2 USTelecom has modified the capex total for 2019 due to previously understating certain capex.

U.S. BROADBAND PROVIDER CAPITAL EXPENDITURES, 1996-2020 (\$ BILLIONS)



Source: USTelecom. Figures are rounded.