

# Blandin on Broadband

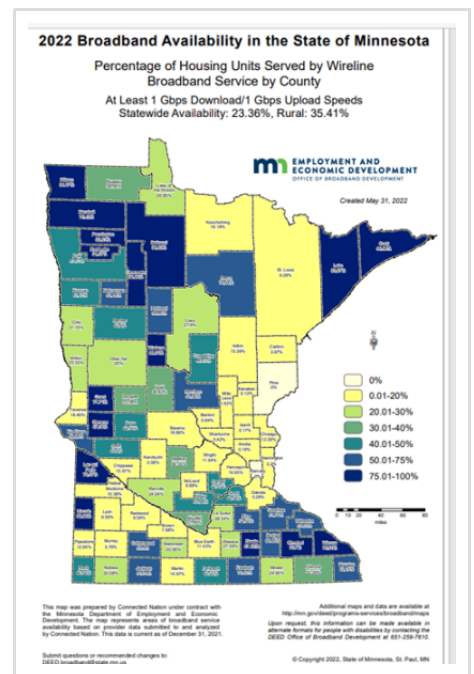
News and information on broadband use, policy, and trends

## How does your MN county rank for broadband gig access?

Posted on **October 11, 2022** by **Ann Treacy**

Last week, I looked at how Minnesota Counties [ranked for access to 100 Mbps down and 20 up](#), which is the state speed goal for 2026. Today I wanted to look at ranking for access to gig access. I'm always surprised at how the ranking goes, even though I look at it every year. Counties that consistently do well with other speeds are no where near the top. Urban counties are not necessarily in the top; in fact sometimes they are at the bottom. The folks who do well for gig access are in good shape for future broadband needs. The folks who do not do well, may feel like they are in a good position, but as more and more daily tasks and opportunities move online, they will hit bandwidth barriers. This is something to remember as folks vie for access to federal funds for broadband improvements. Gig should be the gold standard.

Here are the top 10 ranked counties:



County	Percent	2022 Ranking
Lincoln	99.99	1
Clearwater	98.85	2
Beltrami	98.82	3

Stevens	97.08	4
Red Lake	94.37	5
Pennington	93.33	6
Cook	90.98	7
Wadena	89.61	8
Steele	87.12	9
Kittson	84.19	10

Wadena and Steele counties are new to the top 10 list. Congrats to them. Steele bumped up one place from last year and Wadena actually bumped up 6. Lincoln county bumped up 7 spots to take the top ranking. Worth noting that the top 10 counties have more than 84 percent gig coverage. Statewide, that percentage is 23.36.

Here are the 10 bottom ranked counties:

County	Percent	2022 Ranking
Carlton	3.97	78
Kandiyohi	2.08	79
Mille Lacs	1.62	80
Benton	0.84	81
Washington	0.2	82
Isanti	0.17	83
Anoka	0.16	84
Kanabec	0.12	85
Pine	0	86
Ramsey	0	87

There's not much to say about the bottom counties. Clearly, they all have less than 4 percent gig coverage. And three of the ten counties are metro: Washington, Anoka and Ramsey. These counties aren't entirely urban but certainly Ramsey county has a much higher population density that most other counties in the state.

What might be more interesting than digging into the lower ranked counties is to look at the 10 most improved:

County	Percent	2022 Ranking	2021 ranking	Improvement
Faribault	40.22	40	80	40
Le Sueur	28.34	47	69	22
Martin	14.97	64	84	20
Meeker	36.55	44	61	17
Yellow Medicine	10.38	69	77	8
Lincoln	99.99	1	8	7
Nicollet	31.45	46	53	7
Blue Earth	11.43	68	75	7
Wadena	89.61	8	14	6
Marshall	76.42	15	21	6

I'll take a deeper dive into why some counties improve and why some don't later this year when I do the county profiles but quickly Faribault was part of almost [\\$2 million in Border to Border grants in 2021](#); presumably that helped. They also [looked at using CARES funding](#) for broadband and again that would help.

Below is a list of how all of the counties rank; you [can also get that in excel](#).

County	Percent	2022 Ranking
Lincoln	99.99	1
Clearwater	98.85	2
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Pennington	93.33	6
Cook	90.98	7

Wadena	89.61	8
Steele	87.12	9
Kittson	84.19	10
Lake	83.97	11
Olmsted	83.7	12
Lac qui Parle	78.37	13
Grant	77.71	14
Marshall	76.42	15
Winona	76.31	16
Itasca	74.64	17
Freeborn	72.62	18
Dodge	69.85	19
Wabasha	67.03	20
Houston	62.15	21
Jackson	61.79	22
Goodhue	61.77	23
Hubbard	58.86	24
Big Stone	56.28	25
Rice	54.56	26
Morrison	51.36	27
Mahnomen	51.14	28
Cottonwood	50.9	29
Pope	49.35	30
Sibley	47.94	31
Polk	47.51	32

Swift	47.2	33
Rock	46.64	34
Carver	46.21	35
Crow Wing	46.13	36
Scott	44.34	37
Becker	42.6	38
Norman	41.11	39
Faribault	40.22	40
Roseau	38.58	41
Douglas	37.38	42
Todd	36.82	43
Meeker	36.55	44
Fillmore	33.05	45
Nicollet	31.45	46
Le Sueur	28.34	47
Cass	27.6	48
Waseca	27.39	49
Lake of the Woods	26.85	50
Wilkin	25.33	51
Otter Tail	25	52
Mower	24.95	53
Renville	24.04	54
Clay	21.74	55
Nobles	20.08	56
Watonwan	20.06	57

Hennepin	19.93	58
Traverse	18.49	59
Stearns	16.89	60
Koochiching	16.18	61
Chippewa	15.97	62
Aiktin	15.39	63
Martin	14.97	64
Pipestone	12.64	65
Chisago	12.29	66
Wright	11.94	67
Blue Earth	11.43	68
Yellow Medicine	10.38	69
Lyon	9.56	70
St. Louis	9.29	71
McLeod	8.69	72
Brown	7.98	73
Redwood	6.56	74
Murray	5.79	75
Sherburne	5.42	76
Dakota	5.28	77
Carlton	3.97	78
Kandiyohi	2.08	79
Mille Lacs	1.62	80
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### About Ann Treacy

Librarian who follows rural broadband in MN and good uses of new technology ([blandinonbroadband.org](http://blandinonbroadband.org)), hosts a radio show on MN music ([mostlyminnesota.com](http://mostlyminnesota.com)), supports people experiencing homelessness in Minnesota ([elimstrongtowershelters.org](http://elimstrongtowershelters.org)) and helps with social justice issues through Women's March MN.

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